

Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board. The Board comprises one federal and two provincial members. This reserve includes part of the headwaters of the main prairie provinces river system.

Research in general is carried out by the federal Department of Forestry, which maintains the Kananaskis Experiment Station.

British Columbia.—The productive forest land of British Columbia in 1958 was inventoried at 203,411 sq. miles and, in addition, there were 59,227 sq. miles of forest land classed as non-productive. Of the productive area, immature timber occurred on 95,739 sq. miles; 84,275 sq. miles carried matured timber with a total volume of 251,000,000,000 cu. feet; 28,397 sq. miles, including areas of recent burn, cut-over or windfall not yet re-stocked, were unclassified.

For administrative purposes, the province is divided into five Forest Districts with regional headquarters at Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Prince George, Kamloops and Nelson. Further decentralization of authority is effected by subdivision of the Forest Districts into Ranger Districts. There are approximately 25 Ranger Districts in each Forest District. Twelve directional, servicing or policy-forming divisions constitute the head office of the Forest Service at Victoria.

Efforts continue to bring British Columbia's forest resources under sustained-yield management and the forest industries are making progress toward more complete utilization of their raw materials. The problem is urgent despite the fact that, with a present annual cut of approximately 1,340,000,000 cu. feet, the total inventory would appear sufficient to support present needs in perpetuity. One of the more spectacular results of sustained-yield administration has been the swinging of a greater proportion of the annual forest harvest to the interior of the province. The over-cut coast (wet belt) forests now account for about 58 p.c. of the total forest cut each year and the interior cut for almost 42 p.c. For all practical purposes, the entire interior forest is publicly owned; the great majority of privately owned, leased or licensed forests are on the coast.

Several systems of timber disposal are in effect. The most publicized is the Tree Farm Licence, which constitutes a contract between the government and a company or individual whereby the latter agrees to manage, protect and harvest an area of forest land for the best possible return, in exchange for the right to the timber crop on the area. Tree Farm Licences are subject to re-examination for renewal every 21 years. Provincial Forests, Public Working Circles, and Sustained-Yield Units are the governmental equivalent of the Tree Farm Licence with the timber, when it is ready for cutting, being disposed of by public auction. Of major interest is the establishment of the first "pulp harvesting" area in the vicinity of Prince George. This plan is unique in North America, calling for the integration of a "saw-log" economy with a new pulp industry. Management, silviculture, roadbuilding and protection on such areas are the responsibility of the Forest Service. Other tenures of lesser importance are Tree Farms, Farm Woodlot Licences, and those Timber Sales issued outside 'regulated' areas.

Forest fire prevention techniques and organization for effective forest fire suppression are important aspects of planned, sustained-yield management of the forest resource, and these are constantly under review by the Forest Service. Although the Forest Service does not operate its own fleet of aircraft, extensive use is made of air tankers, patrol and reconnaissance aircraft, and helicopters under seasonal contracts. The predominantly rugged topography of the province and its extensive sparsely populated areas present problems in fire detection and accessibility to fires, and aircraft are playing an increasingly important part in the key initial discovery and attack period by supplementing the fixed lookout system and ground suppression organization. Close liaison with the federal Department of Forestry, which maintains laboratories in Vernon and Victoria, provides information about insect and fungal enemies of the forest.