

Section 5.—Forest Administration, Research and Conservation

Subsection 1.—Federal Forestry Program

Administration.—The Federal Government is responsible through several departments and agencies for the protection and administration of the forest resources of the Yukon and Northwest Territories and of other federal lands such as the National Parks, Indian reserves, military areas and forest experiment stations.

Under the Department of Forestry Act (SC 1960, c. 41), the Minister of Forestry's duties, powers and functions extend to and include "all matters over which the Parliament of Canada has jurisdiction relating to the forest resources of Canada". The main functions of the Department in the forestry sphere include: (1) provision for the conduct of research relating to the protection, management and utilization of the forest resources of Canada and the better utilization of forest products; (2) undertaking, promoting or recommending measures for the encouragement of public co-operation in the protection and wise use of the forest resources of Canada; (3) co-operating with provincial governments and others by means of agreements relating to forestry matters; (4) provision of forest surveys and advice relating to the protection and management of federally administered forest lands; and (5) assuming responsibility for forest protection and management on federal lands at the request of the department or agency concerned. The Act provides for the establishment of research facilities and of forest experimental areas on federal lands.

Effective Apr. 1, 1965, recommendations of a major departmental reorganization study were implemented, eliminating the previous Branch structure of the Department and creating a framework designed to produce better co-ordination of research effort.* To meet its forestry responsibilities, the Department now maintains an Advisory Group to the Deputy Minister, whose main responsibilities are to develop policies and long-range plans for forest research, forest products research, forest economics and other such matters as federal-provincial relations and liaison with the forest industries and the academic community. A Directorate of Program Co-ordination provides national co-ordination of forestry research programs and supervises national research services at Ottawa. Research institutes and laboratories plan and execute fundamental research within prescribed fields, supporting and complementing the regional research programs carried out in the Department's seven administrative regions—Newfoundland, the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba-Saskatchewan, Alberta-Yukon Territory-Northwest Territories, and British Columbia. The Department conducts forest surveys on federal lands throughout Canada and provides advice and assistance regarding forest management to the administering agencies. It also provides for the management of forests including timber disposal in certain areas on behalf of other government departments, the most important of these being the military training area, Camp Gagetown, in New Brunswick. Co-operation is extended to the External Aid Office in administering technical assistance programs involving forest surveys in other countries. The Department maintains comprehensive information, editorial and library services. The public information program includes the production and distribution of a number of publications designed to increase public awareness of the importance of Canada's forest resources and the need for conserving them; the distribution of research publications and the interpretation of the scientific work of the Department to industry and the general public; the dissemination of departmental and forestry information to the press, radio and television; the production of exhibits, displays and posters; and the maintenance of a photographic library dealing with forestry subjects.

The Department's Research functions and the Federal-Provincial Forestry Agreements program are described in the following paragraphs.

* The Department of Forestry also includes, under the administration of a separate Assistant Deputy Minister, a division responsible for rural development under authority of the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act (ARDA) and the Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Act, described at pp. 448-450; the administration of the Feed Grain Assistance Regulations, described at p. 466, is also a responsibility of the Department.