

Planning); Finance and Administration (Administrative Services, Financial Management, Information, Legal Services, Northern Affairs, and Personnel); Lands (Lands Administration, Land Use Co-ordination, and Surveys and Mapping); Field Services (Air Service, Forest Fire Control and Engineering Services). There is also a Conservation Authorities Branch and a Policy Research Branch.

One of the objectives of the new organization is to serve the public more effectively through decentralization to regional and local levels. Four groups are established within the Ministry: Resources and Recreation; Lands and Waters; Northern Ontario; and Southern Ontario. The first two groups are primarily concerned with policy development while the others are primarily concerned with policy implementation.

The Forest Management Branch is responsible for the regeneration, tending and improvement of the forests on Crown lands, Agreement Forests and private land under the Woodlands Improvement Act. In addition, the Branch has the important task of promoting forestry on privately owned lands through its extension program.

The Branch operates ten forest tree nurseries (with supporting tree seed collection, treatment and storage plant) with a current production target of about 80.5 million trees. Complementing this are up-to-date tree improvement and nursery soil management programs. The Branch, directly or indirectly, supervises all planting projects on Crown lands but regeneration agreements have been signed with all major licensees under which the latter assume responsibility for planting projects and are paid at an agreed rate for work completed. Other work, such as site preparation for planting, may be performed by the companies under the same agreement.

During 1971, 60.5 million nursery-produced trees were planted on about 80,300 acres of Crown and Agreement lands, and 9.9 million tubed seedlings were planted on about 9,950 acres. Other silvicultural treatments included the direct seeding of 22,200 acres, treatment for natural regeneration on 57,250 acres and stand improvement (cleaning, spraying, thinning, pruning, etc.) on 88,100 acres. In all, 257,800 acres of Crown and Agreement lands were silviculturally treated in 1971 to promote regeneration or to improve the forests.

Owners of private land may purchase planting stock for forestry purposes from government nurseries at nominal prices and may also receive free professional advice on any forestry matter, including silviculture, harvesting and marketing. In 1971 (spring and fall), planting stock furnished for private lands totalled 15.7 million units. Under the Woodlands Improvement Act, it is possible to have planting and improvement work carried out completely under government direction and mainly at public expense. Since its inception in 1966, the program has provided assistance for 128,700 acres (as at April 1, 1972) of privately owned land.

For half a century, Ontario has had enabling legislation that permits municipalities and, within the past 20 years, conservation authorities to place abandoned and submarginal agricultural lands to which they have acquired title under agreement with the Ministry, which undertakes to plant and manage the properties for a specified period of between 20 and 50 years. Nearly 245,000 acres under such agreements are managed intensively and the older plantations are receiving regular thinnings. The trees removed are in demand for pulpwood, posts, poles and sawlogs, making the undertakings financially attractive. In addition, properties close to centres of population have acquired tremendous value as recreational areas.

The Timber Sales Branch co-ordinates and supervises preparation of management plans for Crown management units and approves the plans prepared for company management units. Forest inventory requirements and priorities for such plans are determined by the Branch. As at March 31, 1972, 203 plans (86 Crown units, 57 company units and 60 Agreement forests) were completed or in process of completion for approximately 190,900 sq miles. Forest access is most important in the implementation of management plans and the forest access roads program is part of the Branch's responsibilities.

The Branch arranges for the orderly sale and disposition of timber and the measurement (scale) of the products removed. Sawmills are licensed and directories prepared. Information is collected and analyzed on the production, transportation and marketing of timber and the data provided to the forest industry.

The Forest Fire Control Branch is responsible for the area under organized forest protection in Ontario totalling 180,275 sq miles and including the main central band of accessible forests. This area is organized into 20 fire districts and subdivided into 50 chief