

prepared for leased and licensed Crown lands, preparation and execution of forest management plans, and disposal of Crown timber. The Branch also carries on silvicultural programs, processes applications, takes inventories of forest resources, inspects cutting areas to ensure proper logging and utilization practices, and collects dues and fees.

The Forest Protection Branch is in charge of all phases of protection including prevention, detection and suppression of wild fires. This Branch includes a number of specialists such as a meteorologist, a telecommunications officer and an Aircraft Dispatch Section to assist in the over-all protection program.

The Construction and Maintenance Branch constructs and maintains all road, airstrip and building facilities within the area of the Service's jurisdiction and administers and operates three licensed public airports.

The Forest Land Use Branch is responsible for the planning and supervision of proper land-use practices in the forested area, including grazing, recreation and watershed management, particularly on the east slopes of the Rocky Mountains containing the North and South Saskatchewan rivers. The Forestry Training Branch provides facilities and instructions for the second year of a two-year forest technology course given by the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. It also conducts in-service training programs for all the Branches in the Forest Service and other divisions of the Department.

Basic research in all phases of the forestry program is generally carried out by the Canadian Forestry Service. A new federal research laboratory has been completed in Edmonton to improve the research service that is provided.

British Columbia. Of the 366,255 sq miles in British Columbia somewhat over 215,744 sq miles are inventoried as forest land. This includes 276,068 MM cu ft of mature merchantable timber, most of it coniferous species.

For administrative purposes, the province is divided into six Forest Districts with regional headquarters at Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Prince George, Kamloops, Williams Lake, and Nelson. Further decentralization of authority is effected by subdivision into Ranger Districts, of which there are 101 throughout the province. Ten 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 scale of approximately 1,997 MM cu ft (1971), the total inventory would appear sufficient to support current 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. In 1971, the wet belt forests on the coast accounted for about 50.1% of the total forest cut and the interior for 49.9%. For all practical purposes, the entire interior forest is publicly owned; a large proportion of the privately owned, leased or licensed forests are on the coast.

Several systems of timber disposal are in effect. The Tree Farm Licence is a contract between the government and a company or individual whereby the latter agrees to manage, protect and harvest an area of forest land, including any privately held forest land, on a sustained-yield basis. Tree Farm Licences are subject to re-examination for renewal every 21 years. Public Sustained-Yield Units are areas within which the Forest Service manages the Crown timber on a sustained-yield basis. Within the Public Sustained-Yield Units, recognized established logging operators can apply for Timber Sale Licences or Timber Sale Harvesting Licences which entitle them to log at a given rate per year, based on a number of factors including the operator's average rate of production at the time the unit was established.

Forest fire prevention techniques and organization for effective forest fire suppression are vital aspects of planned sustained-yield management. Extensive use is made of aircraft under various terms of contract. Air tankers and fire-spotter aircraft are employed during the fire season and helicopters and other aircraft are employed under contract for patrol duties and for the transport of fire suppression crews. The rugged topography and the many remote and sparsely populated areas of the province demand the availability of a variety of transportation methods to achieve early discovery of and attack on forest fires.

Close liaison with the Forest Branch of the federal Department of the Environment through facilities at Victoria provides detailed information on insect and fungal enemies of the forest and on fire research.