

distribution of hunting and trapping pressure by setting definite seasons and bag limits is one of the major management tools utilized. Considerable effort is also being directed toward wildlife habitat acquisition and development.

**Saskatchewan.** Management of the province's wildlife resource is administered by the Fisheries and Wildlife Branch of the Department of Natural Resources. Legislative authority is provided through the Game Act and the Fur Act. The objective of the Department's wildlife management program is to provide maximum viewing, recreational hunting and commercial fur harvesting opportunities to residents of the province, compatible with the wildlife resource and its habitat. To achieve this objective, the Branch administers a wildlife research and management program. Research projects are undertaken to determine production of the most important wildlife species; determine habitat conditions for wildlife; investigate effects of land use practices on the wildlife resource; study limiting factors of some wildlife populations; determine diseases of certain wildlife species and their relative importance on wildlife populations; and develop techniques which will facilitate the maximum utilization of the wildlife resource on a sustained-yield basis. Thus, the Wildlife Research Unit is able to provide basic information on the resource to the Game Administrative, Game Surveys and Fur Units who then have the responsibility to develop and implement the necessary development programs.

Reduction of wildlife habitat, a result of intensive agricultural practices, is at present a major concern. A Wildlife Development Fund has been established. It is financed from game licences which provide approximately \$230,000 annually for the acquisition, development and improvement of wildlife lands. A Game Advisory Committee, having representation from various interest groups, is consulted yearly on proposed game seasons, bag limits and management programs.

**Alberta.** The conservation and management of wildlife resources in Alberta are under the jurisdiction of the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Lands and Forests. The Division initiated several new research projects in 1972: the determination of the condition of whitefish in Lesser Slave Lake; testing experimental techniques, other than by gill-nets, to improve harvesting efficiency; studies of the walleye population in the Athabasca Delta; and the evaluation of stream management projects.

Construction proceeded on a new fish hatchery in Calgary to replace a hatchery formerly located on private property.

A Habitat Protection and Development Section was formed setting conditions on development applications for mines, highways, exploration, etc. A Wildlife Habitat Protection and Development program assembled a map to indicate prime and winter ranges for ungulates and key production and staging areas for waterfowl. A number of habitat development projects were initiated, including controlled burning of elk range for higher forage production, creation of pheasant habitat and a waterfowl area. Research projects continued on pheasants, geese, deer and sheep.

The Division entered into a program to reduce the frequency of night-lighting in certain regions of the province. The use of aircraft at night was incorporated into the program and has proved to be effective in this special area of enforcement work. A study to assess the white-tailed deer population response to season closure and saturation enforcement control was continued for the second year. A research program has been initiated to develop a method of positive identification of meat samples by species.

**British Columbia.** The Fish and Wildlife Branch of the Department of Recreation and Conservation is responsible for the protection, enhancement and wise use of the wildlife and freshwater fish resources of British Columbia. Administrative and technical headquarters are in Victoria, with six regional headquarters in the main centres of population, as well as 44 district offices, three fish hatcheries and a number of permanent field stations throughout the province.

The Branch promotes the wise and orderly use of upland birds, game animals and sport fish by licensing hunters and anglers and by determining and enforcing closed seasons, bag limits and other regulatory measures. It licenses and regulates the trapping of fur-bearing animals, the commercial propagation of game birds and fish, the activities of big-game guides and generally acts as manager of the province's wildlife.