# Chapter 10
# Renewable resources

## 10.1 Forestry

The forests of Canada are largely coniferous and comprise 35% of the total land area; of this forest, 74% is suitable for regular harvest. In 1971, 4,227 million cu ft of roundwood were cut. The harvesting and processing of this timber generated work for 259,000 persons with a payment of $2,091 million in salaries and wages. The "value added" by processing beyond the raw materials stage amounted to $3,520 million which was 9.1% of the value added of all goods-producing industries.

Canada is a major exporter of forest products. Exports of wood, wood products and paper in 1971 amounted to $3,140 million which was 18% of the value of all commodity exports. Paper and paperboard constituted 40% of all forest products exports; newsprint alone accounted for 35%.

British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec are the most important timber-producing provinces. In 1971 British Columbia sawmills produced 70% of all lumber in Canada and most of the sulphate pulp and softwood plywood while Ontario and Quebec produced most of the groundwood pulp and hardwood plywood.

There is a growing awareness of the importance of the forest in such areas as recreation, wildlife habitat and streamflow regulation. The recognition of these values is fostering a broader and more realistic concept of forestry.

### 10.1.1 Forest resources

#### 10.1.1.1 Forest regions

The forests of Canada cover a vast area in the north temperate climatic zone but wide variations in physiographic, soil and climatic conditions cause marked differences in their character; hence, eight fairly well-defined forest regions may be recognized. By far the largest of these is the Boreal Region which represents 82% of the total forested area. The Great Lakes—St. Lawrence Region covers 6.5% and the Subalpine Region 3.7%. The Montane, Coast, and Acadian regions each account for approximately 2% while the remaining Columbia and Deciduous regions each represent less than 1%.

**Boreal Forest Region**. This Region comprises the greater part of the forested area of Canada. It forms a continuous belt from Newfoundland and the Labrador coast westward to the Rocky Mountains and northwestward to Alaska. White spruce and black spruce are characteristic species; other prominent conifers are tamarack which ranges generally throughout, balsam fir and jack pine in the eastern and central portions, and alpine fir and lodgepole pine in the western and northwestern parts. Although the Boreal forests are primarily coniferous there is a general admixture of deciduous trees such as white birch and poplar; these are important in the central and south-central portions, particularly along the edge of the prairie. In turn, the proportion of spruce and larch increases to the north and, with the more rigorous climate, the close forest gives way to an open lichen-woodland which finally changes into tundra. In the eastern section, along the southern border of the Region, there is a considerable intermixture of species from the Great Lakes — St. Lawrence forest, such as eastern white pine, red pine, yellow birch, sugar maple, black ash and eastern white cedar.

**Great Lakes—St. Lawrence Forest Region**. Extending inland from the edges of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River lies a forest of a very mixed nature which is characterized by eastern white pine, red pine, eastern hemlock and yellow birch. With these are associated certain dominant broadleaved species common to the Deciduous Forest Region, including sugar maple, red maple, red oak, basswood and white elm. Other species with wide ranges are the eastern white cedar and largetooth aspen and, to a lesser extent, beech, white oak, butternut and white ash. Boreal species such as white spruce, black spruce, balsam fir, jack pine, poplars, and white birch are intermixed, and red spruce is abundant in certain central and eastern portions. This Region extends in a westward direction into southeastern Manitoba but does not include the area north of Lake Superior.