

lookout towers and supporting air and ground patrols. Approximately 90,000 sq miles are covered by aerial patrols.

Public education in the fields of fire prevention and forest conservation is carried out through extensive use of radio, television, newspapers, pamphlets, signs, film tours and talks. The Mines and Departmental Services Division provides accounting and clerical services for the other two divisions, and is responsible for issuing permits, licences and leases relative to forestry projects and activities.

Saskatchewan. The forests of Saskatchewan cover 136,000 sq miles of which 44,500 sq miles are productive forest land and are suitable for regular harvest. Provincial forests constitute approximately 96% of all forest land in the province and are managed and developed by the Forestry Branch of the Department of Tourism and Renewable Resources.

The Forestry Branch, consisting of three sections — forest management, inventory and silviculture — develops and evaluates forest policies and management programs which are carried out by the various regional administrative authorities. For purposes of resource administration, the province is divided into five regions, each directed by a superintendent. The regions are subdivided into conservation officer districts which vary in size according to resource base and population to be served. Close liaison is maintained between the Forestry Branch and the various regional authorities.

The newly formed Department of Northern Saskatchewan administers approximately the northern three quarters of the forested area of the province. The Forest Protection Division of the Resource Development Branch of this Department is responsible for development of techniques in prevention, detection and suppression of forest fires. The Department maintains a forest protection capability in each of its regions.

A network of 75 lookout towers equipped with two-way radios is maintained throughout the province and is supplemented by aircraft on regular patrol duty during high-hazard periods. The Department of Northern Saskatchewan communication system is being converted to VHF. Two-way radio sets, operated in towers, vehicles, aircraft and bush camps, are used for the detection and suppression of forest fires; helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft capable of water-dropping provide aerial support. Outside help may be requested when available and necessary.

Alberta. The 148,167 sq miles of forest lands in Alberta include 106,755 sq miles which are considered productive. The Alberta Forest Service of the Department of Lands and Forests through its six Branches (Administration, Timber Management, Forest Protection, Construction and Maintenance, Land Use and Training) is responsible for their administration. Jurisdiction is decentralized into 10 Forests, each responsible for the forest area within its boundaries. Each Forest is under the control of a superintendent supported by specialists in the fields of timber management, fire, land use, construction and communications, as well as by other clerical and casual staff. These Forests are further subdivided into Ranger Districts under a district forest officer responsible to the superintendent. District officers may have several assistant rangers in addition to other staff under their charge.

The Timber Management Branch is responsible for implementation and supervision of the timber quota system, acceptance and approval of management and annual operating plans 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