

**Saskatchewan.** The forests of Saskatchewan cover 136,000 sq miles (352,000 km<sup>2</sup>) of which 44,500 sq miles (115,000 km<sup>2</sup>) are productive and suitable for regular harvest. Provincial forests constitute approximately 96% of all forest land.

The Forestry Branch of the Department of Tourism and Renewable Resources consists of four sections — forest management, wood products and operations, inventory and silviculture — and develops and evaluates forest policies and management programs which are carried out by regional authorities. For purposes of resource administration, the province is divided into seven regions. These are subdivided into conservation officer districts which vary in size according to resource base and population to be served. The Department of Northern Saskatchewan administers the northern forested area. The Fire Control Division of this department is responsible for development of techniques in prevention, detection and suppression of forest fires.

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. In order to increase provincial forest protection capabilities, six land-based Tracker aircraft have been acquired and are being converted to deliver and discharge long-term fire retardants.

**Alberta.** The 148,167 sq miles (383,751 km<sup>2</sup>) of forest lands in Alberta include 106,755 sq miles (276,494 km<sup>2</sup>) which are capable of producing forest crops. The Alberta Forest Service of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources through its five branches (Administration, Timber Management, Forest Protection, 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 timber management, fire, land use, construction and communications. These forests are further subdivided into ranger districts under a district forest officer responsible to the superintendent.

The Timber Management Branch is responsible for the timber quota system, management and annual operating plans for leased and licensed Crown lands, forest management plans and disposal of Crown timber. The branch carries on silvicultural programs, processes applications, takes inventories of forest resources, inspects cutting areas to ensure proper logging 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 specialists such as a meteorologist, a telecommunications officer and an Aircraft Dispatch Section to assist in the overall protection program.

The Forest Land Use Branch is responsible for planning and supervising land-use practices in the forested area including grazing, recreation and watershed management, particularly on the east slopes of the Rocky Mountains containing the headwaters of the North and South Saskatchewan rivers. The Forestry Training Branch provides facilities and instruction 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 for all the branches in the Forest Service and other divisions of the department.

Basic research in the forestry program is generally carried out by the Canadian Forestry Service. A federal research laboratory in Edmonton provides much of this research service.

**British Columbia.** Over 210,394 sq miles (544,918 km<sup>2</sup>) or 60% of British Columbia's area, is inventoried as forest land. This includes over 276 million cu ft (7.82 million m<sup>3</sup>) of mature merchantable timber, most of it coniferous species. Of the provincial forest land 95% is publicly owned and managed by the British