

associated with development projects affecting terrestrial and aquatic resources. The harvest of commercial species in Alberta in 1975-76 totalled almost 4.3 million lb. (2.0 million kg), which was a decrease from the previous year's total of 5.2 million lb. (2.4 million kg).

Wildlife populations are managed for aesthetic, recreational and economic purposes. To ensure sustained optimum yields and harvests, the following methods are utilized: determination of population inventories and production, delineation and modification of limiting factors through habitat protection and development, intensive enforcement and public education.

During 1975, species management plans were completed for pheasants and moose. Research and management efforts continued on ungulates, waterfowl and upland birds. Key habitat areas for ungulates were identified and mapped, and land capabilities for fur bearers and upland birds were classified as part of the Alberta Land Inventory program. Through participation in the Alberta Oil Sands Environmental Program, research projects were begun in the Athabasca oil sands area on moose, fur bearers, rare and endangered species, and recreational use of the wildlife resource. A review of biocide effects on wildlife populations was initiated, and continued into 1976. The ground work was completed for a program to intensify ungulate production in the boreal forest area, with future efforts to continue over the next several years. In early 1975, the first annual big game harvest survey questionnaire was mailed to a random selection of Alberta hunters to determine harvest and recreational opportunity provided by the hunting of four major game species. Results indicated approximately 465,000 hunter-days in the 1974 harvest, with a further 5% increase (to 490,000 hunter-days) recorded for the 1975 season.

British Columbia. The Fish and Wildlife Branch of the Department of Recreation and Conservation is responsible for the protection, enhancement and use of wildlife and freshwater fish resources of British Columbia. Administrative and technical headquarters are in Victoria, with seven regional headquarters in the main centres of population, 59 district offices, three fish hatcheries and a number of permanent field stations throughout the province. The branch licenses hunters and anglers and enforces closed seasons, bag limits and other regulatory measures. It licenses and regulates trapping of fur-bearing animals, commercial propagation of game birds and fish, and activities of big-game guides.

Through liaison with other government agencies and with private concerns involved in mining, forestry, agriculture, water use and transportation, the branch fosters the preservation of a suitable land and water environment for wildlife and recreation. The branch enhances the abundance and health of desirable species of animals by the acquisition of key areas of range for big game and waterfowl and by the operation of fish hatcheries and the stocking of lakes.

The branch's objective is to contribute to the economy of British Columbia through wise management of game resources and of non-tidal fisheries, paying attention to such matters as pollution and integrated use of lands for forestry, agriculture and wildlife. The branch conducts programs of education and information to make the public aware of the value of wildlife resources and of the principles of wise management.

10.4.3 Territorial wildlife management

Yukon Territory. The Yukon Game Branch of the Department of Tourism, Conservation and Information is responsible for management of the Yukon's wildlife resource. It administers and enforces the Game Ordinance and Fur Export Ordinance, and assists federal agencies with the enforcement of the Migratory Birds Convention Act, Canada Wildlife Act, International Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears, International Agreement of Trade in Endangered Species, the Game Export Act and the Freshwater Fishery Regulations. It also administers the Brands Ordinance and Pounds Ordinance.