

The 1973 national forest inventory reported an area of 3.2 million square kilometres of forest land (Table 10.1). Of this total, 131 140 km² are reserved by legislation for primary uses other than timber production. Currently, about 75% of the non-reserved forest land of Canada has been inventoried in the sense of gathering statistically reliable information on area and forest cover.

Provincial Crown forest land constitutes 69% of the non-reserved forest land of Canada, leaving 23% under federal jurisdiction and 8% in private ownership. Although precise use of private forest land is a matter of speculation, individual studies and limited statistics suggest that timber production still predominates despite a tendency to convert some of this land to recreational use.

The estimates of volumes of timber, given by province in Table 10.1, are also subject to constant revision as more accurate and complete inventories are compiled. The volumes reported in the 1973 national forest inventory are somewhat larger than those reported previously due to updating of inventories in some provinces. The estimates, however, are low because timber volumes for Labrador, the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories are not available and because British Columbia has adopted procedures whereby data on volume of mature timber only were compiled.

10.1.1.3 Land use

The lands directorate of the fisheries and the environment department is responsible for investigating national aspects of land use in terms of management, research, planning and environmental concerns.

In support of resource management, the directorate operates a number of mapping programs. The largest is the Canada Land Inventory (CLI). Under federal-provincial agreement, all settled lands of Canada have been classified according to their capabilities for agriculture, forestry, recreation, wildlife, sportfish and present land use (circa 1967). These data, widely used for land-use planning at the regional level, have been placed in a computer system known as the Canada Geographic Information System (CGIS), enabling the production of statistics on land capability at the national level. In response to the need for other mapping techniques for those areas not covered by the CLI program, a biophysical land classification system has been developed and applied in the James Bay area. Further development of ecological (biophysical) land classification methodologies through the application of satellite imagery and high-altitude aerial photography is a major area of concentration. A map series on northern land use information, in co-operation with the Indian and northern affairs department, provides information regarding current land-use patterns and activities at a reconnaissance scale of 1:250,000 for the Yukon Territory and the Mackenzie District of the Northwest Territories.

National research programs have focused on trends and factors affecting land use. A map folio is being produced to define, locate and describe Canada's most important lands for agriculture, forestry, recreation, wildlife, urban growth and energy, in the form of a national perspective.

The directorate provides a secretarial service and plays an active role in a committee on ecological (biophysical) land classification. This federal-provincial committee is developing a national ecological land classification system. The directorate provides the leadership for an interdepartmental task force on land-use policy. The task force is preparing a paper with respect to a federal policy on land use in Canada. It will deal with land-use problems, the role of the federal government in land use and opportunities for the federal government to help resolve the problems.

The directorate plays the lead federal role in the federal-provincial agreement to conduct baseline environmental studies in Northern Quebec. This agreement, commonly known as the James Bay environmental studies, was extended to March 1979. The directorate is also involved in the negotiation of native land claims in various parts of Canada.

10.1.2 Forest depletion

The average annual forest utilization by cutting is shown in Table 10.2. The primary sources of Canada's current wood production are the areas of non-reserved Crown