

Habitat loss continues to be a major problem and initiatives are being undertaken to arrest this loss. A new habitat protection and development division has been created. Aquatic habitat protection guidelines are currently being applied throughout the forested area of the province. Funds from hunting licences have permitted acquisition of more than 16 000 hectares of prime wildlife habitat. Attempts are under way to improve hunter-landowner relations with season manipulation and good hunting habits. A special program is in place to reduce grain crop losses caused by waterfowl.

Fur management stresses conservation, utilization and development of the fur resources. Training sessions update trappers on humane trapping techniques and quality pelt preparation.

Current fisheries studies evaluate reasons for fish population fluctuations and investigate productivity of selected waters. Aquatic wildlife projects are currently under way on land use as it affects wildlife. Specific projects on the basic ecological requirements of moose, elk and game birds are in progress. Special fisheries and wildlife studies have been completed in connection with a comprehensive Qu'Appelle Valley land-use evaluation and development plan. Implementation of recommendations is under way.

Alberta. The management of the fish and wildlife resources of Alberta is under the jurisdiction of the fish and wildlife division of the recreation, parks and wildlife department.

The fisheries branch is responsible for the maintenance and enhancement of fish populations and habitat. Fisheries management staff at seven centres administer the fisheries resource in their areas by conducting surveys, setting catch limits and monitoring land-use developments.

Fisheries habitat protection staff continued to review applications associated with industry development projects while habitat development staff had five major projects approved for improvement of fish habitat. The fisheries research section attempted to develop a trout stocking formula for pothole fisheries; investigated the causes and possible remedies to reduce mortality of trout during transportation for stocking; and developed a method of fish tagging for aerial monitoring of fish migration. The fish culture section produced 5.34 million trout for stocking in province waters while an aquaculture specialist and a commercial fisheries co-ordinator provided liaison between the government and the private sector.

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

Research and management efforts continued on ungulates, waterfowl and upland birds. Mapping of key habitat areas for ungulates and fur bearers is now centring on the eastern slopes of the Rockies as a result of the government's recently adopted zoning policy. As part of a fur-bearer management program, a questionnaire has been sent to 3,000 registered Alberta trappers. A computer analysis of trapline harvests from 1970 was also conducted. In 1976 the first annual game bird survey questionnaire was mailed to a random selection of Alberta hunters to determine harvest and recreational opportunity provided by the hunting of pheasant, Hungarian partridge, and ruffed, spruce, blue, sage and sharp-tailed grouse. Results indicated approximately 307,000 hunter-days in the 1976 season. Hunter-days in 1976 totalled 362,000 for moose, elk and deer.

British Columbia. The fish and wildlife branch of the recreation and conservation ministry is responsible for the protection, enhancement and use of wildlife and freshwater fish resources of British Columbia. Administrative and technical headquarters are in Victoria; seven regional headquarters in the main centres of population, 59 district offices, three fish hatcheries and a number of permanent field stations operate throughout the province. The branch licenses hunters and anglers and enforces closed seasons, bag limits and other measures. It licenses and regulates trapping of fur-bearing