

in the upper Fraser Valley and to some extent at upper levels in the rest of the region. At lower elevations the forest merges with the montane forest region and in places borders directly on grassland.

Deciduous forest region. Northern limits of the deciduous forest, widespread in the United States, extend into southwestern Ontario between lakes Huron, Erie and Ontario. Here, with trees common to the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence forest region, such as sugar maple, beech, white elm, basswood, red ash, white oak and butternut, are scattered other deciduous species. These include the tulip tree, cucumber tree, pawpaw, red mulberry, Kentucky coffee tree, redbud, black gum, blue ash, sassafras, mockernut hickory, pignut hickory, black oak and pin oak. Black walnut, sycamore and swamp white oak are confined largely to this region. Conifers are few but there is scattered distribution of eastern white pine, tamarack, eastern red cedar and eastern hemlock.

Grasslands. Although not a forest region, the prairies of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta support several species of trees. Trembling aspen forms groves around wet depressions and continuous dense stands along the northern boundary. Several other species of poplar grow along rivers and in moist locations, along with willows and some white spruce. There are sporadic stands of white birch, Manitoba maple, bur oak and ash. In British Columbia, where grasslands are confined to deep valleys and low areas of the interior, there are scattered ponderosa pine, birch, poplar, spruce and mountain alder.

Forest land

10.1.1.2

Inventories of Canadian forest resources are made periodically by provincial forest authorities and, with their co-operation, the Canadian Forestry Service of Environment Canada compiles national statistics.

The 1976 national forest inventory reported in detail on an area of 3.4 million square kilometres (km²) of forest land (Table 10.1). Of this total, 96 000 km² are reserved by law for uses other than timber production. Currently, almost 100% of the production forest land of Canada has been inventoried.

Provincial Crown forest land constitutes 83% of the production forest land of Canada, leaving 11% under federal jurisdiction and 6% in private ownership. Although precise use of private forest land is a matter of speculation, individual studies and limited statistics suggest that wood production still predominates despite a tendency to convert some of this land to recreational use.

The estimates of wood volume of timber, given in Table 10.1, are also subject to constant revision as more accurate and complete inventories are compiled. The volumes reported in the 1976 national forest inventory are only about 1% larger than those reported previously even though estimates for Labrador, Yukon and Northwest Territories were included. The reasons for this include: more specific definitions than were used previously, more recent provincial forest inventories, and estimates of wood volume based only on productive forest land. The estimates, however, are low because British Columbia has adopted procedures whereby data on volume of mature timber only were compiled.

Land use

10.1.1.3

The lands directorate of Environment Canada investigates national aspects of land use in terms of management, research, planning and environmental concerns. The directorate provides the leadership for an interdepartmental task force on land-use policy. The task force has prepared a federal policy on land use that provides guidelines to federal agencies for their policies and programs.

Research programs have focused on trends and factors affecting land use. A map folio has been produced to define, locate and describe Canada's lands in terms of agriculture, forestry, recreation, wildlife, urban growth and energy, in the form of a national perspective. Land problems have been analyzed and publications have been produced on such topics as foreign ownership legislation in Prince Edward Island and the impact of British Columbia's agricultural land reserves. Other research programs include a study of the relationship between Canada's best agricultural lands and the