



Map 1.4
Standard time zones

1.6 Land use

The lands directorate of Environment Canada investigates from a national perspective problems of land use and management. It provides information on land use, socio-economic and environmental concerns relating to the land resource, and means of dealing with these concerns. A federal policy on land use provides guidelines to federal departments and agencies. The directorate undertakes research on the impact of federal policies and programs on land use and prepares publications on resource lands. Studies have investigated agricultural land-use change, mining and the environment, planning land for natural heritage, and land/water planning.

The directorate operates a Canada land inventory (CLI). Under federal-provincial agreements, all settled lands have been classified according to their capabilities for agriculture, forestry, recreation, wildlife, sport fishing, and land use (circa 1967). These data, used for regional planning, have been entered into a computerized Canada land data system (CLDS). More than 3,000 CLI maps are available, as well as census data, information on federal land holdings, watershed boundaries and ecological land data. For information not covered by the CLI program, an ecological land classifica-

tion system has been designed. A northern land-use information mapping program has been completed for Yukon and most of Northwest Territories. The directorate is developing an ecodistrict data base for all Canada.

A Canada land-use monitoring program (CLUMP) concentrates on regions with prime resource lands. The urban-centred component provides a national perspective on land-use change for fringe areas of major urban regions with populations over 25,000. The prime resource component monitors land-use changes in the prime agricultural and fruitland areas.

1.7 Heritage resources

1.7.1 Federal parks

National parks. Canada's national parks system, encompassing more than 180 000 km², is one of the largest in the world.

In 1885 the Canadian government reserved from private ownership the mineral hot springs of Sulphur Mountain in what is now Banff National Park. Two years later this reserve was extended and named Rocky Mountains Park, the first federal park in Canada. At present, there is at least one national park in each province and territory.