

The provinces carry the chief responsibility in the management of wildlife resources. They develop and enforce the regulations which affect the majority of hunters, trappers, and fresh water fishermen. This involves difficult problems in balancing the interest of sportsmen, naturalists, farmers and stockmen, and other groups of people with special concerns. It is not easy to secure the optimum economic and recreational benefits of wildlife for residents and their visitors.

Regulations cannot be effective without public understanding and sympathy. This implies that the rules must be based upon a solid foundation of practical information gained through research. It also implies effective public education programmes.

Each province has established a department responsible for the administration of wildlife resources, often in association with other renewable resources such as forests. The progress made in wildlife management reflects the competence of these agencies and the effectiveness of their personnel engaged in research, enforcement, and education.

Provincial and federal wildlife activities are supplemented by a great number of private and public associations active in wildlife conservation. Fish and game associations composed of hunters and fishermen study and practise wildlife conservation with intense interest. Provincial federations of fish and game clubs now have a national voice in Ottawa, the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Youth organizations like, the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides, introduce their members to wildlife conservation as part of their experience of the outdoors.

The Canadian Audubon Society fosters a deeper appreciation of bird life and supports measures for its protection. Provincial museums and the National Museum of Canada stimulate public interest in animals, fish and birds and carry out basic biological and taxonomic research.

All these agencies - federal, provincial, or private - are closely concerned with aspects of wildlife management. Effective co-operation between them is essential in dealing with many wildlife problems. This co-operation has been achieved not only through formal meetings like the annual Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conference, but also through the development of effective working arrangements to exchange information and co-ordinate activities. For example, the Canadian Wildlife Service publishes a directory to wildlife research projects being carried out by the Service and provincial game agencies.

A survey of the economic aspects of fishing and hunting in Canada was carried out by the Canadian Wildlife Service in 1961. It revealed that 12.6 per cent of Canadians over 14 hunted or fished or both that year, and spent a total of \$275 million on equipment, licences, travel, accommodation, and supplies. Hunting and fishing provided 31 million days of recreation. Non-resident hunters provide significant additional revenue.