

protection of existing resources;

- Promote education, training and research to satisfy personnel and technological needs;
- Promote an awareness about forestry among the population;
- Encourage rural development; and
- Promote the co-operation of private, public and state entities.

The Secretariat of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources (SARH) is the administrative body responsible for the enforcement of the law and for multilateral agreements. It is also responsible for the preparation of an inventory of existing resources (the most recent one was done in 1975) and of statistical data, and for policy guidelines and development programs. Basically, the SARH is in charge of regulating, developing and overseeing all aspects related to the exploitation, preservation and reforestation of forestry resources, and distribution and industrial transformation.

Any change in the use of forestry land towards agricultural, cattle raising, urban, recreational or other uses requires the preparation of a technical, socioeconomic study to evaluate the feasibility of such a change and the conformity with existing regulations. Unless the study is approved, the changes cannot be made.

The exploitation of forestry resources is reserved exclusively to Mexican citizens and is subject to a permit granted by SARH based on "studies for integral management". This includes for permanent, temporary or eventual (building a road) exploitation, and for scientific, construction or plantation purposes. The study for integral management should consider the use and exploitation of forestry resources towards the highest possible productivity and without damage to the environment. No permit is granted without an approved study.

SARH also provides technical services to the forestry sector, mostly through concessions granted to the landowners or professionals who are in charge of overseeing the integral management as stipulated in the study and of conducting the exploitation of forestry resources. These services are paid for by the exploitation permit holders.

5.2 Forestry Law Regulations

The regulations were designed to spell out and enforce the *Forestry Law*. They regulate the following items:¹

- Preparation of the inventory of forestry resources by SARH;
- Preparation of the Forestry Sector Program by SARH;
- Co-ordination of agreements with state and municipal governments, parastate companies, ejidos, communities, and social and private organizations;
- The Forestry Development Fund for the promotion of financing and investment programs;
- The division of the national territory into regions, each of which is to be managed based on individual studies, prepared with the co-operation of SARH, the state and municipal governments, the private and social sector, to define areas used for forestry exploitation, reserves, reforestation, roads, etc.;
- The requirements to change the use of land from forestry to other uses, including an application and a technical study with specifications;
- National forestry reserves and areas to be used for conservation;
- The prevention of fires and responsibilities for fighting them by the federal, state, municipal governments and landowners;
- Sanitary measures to prevent and fight disease in forested areas;
- The determination of closed seasons;
- The reforestation and restoration of forests by SARH;
- How forestry resources are exploited;
- Who is responsible for the regeneration of vegetation in the exploited area (exploitation permit holders);

1. *The exploitation of forestry resources in cold and temperate climates can be done by four methods: total cut, with father trees, with successive or protection cuts (dividing the total area and rotating the zones exploited), and with selective cuts (cutting only certain trees within the whole area). Which one is used depends on the characteristics of the land and forest, and on the integral management studies. The exploitation of tropical forests needs to be complemented by improvement measures such as cutting old and malformed trees, reforestation with high value species, cleaning and sanitary cuts.*