

The area covered by the Chinchaga River map sheet lies in northwest Alberta and is bordered on the west by British Columbia. The area includes about 5100 square miles and is virtually uninhabited. The central part of the area is a level to undulating plain that extends to

the southwest to the northeast. A ground moraine with gently rolling to hilly topography covers the northwestern and southeastern parts of the area. The western extension of the Naylor Hills in the east-central part is a prominent geological feature of the area. Elevation varies from over 3300 feet above sea level in the northwestern and south-central parts to less than 1400 feet along the Chinchaga River in the north.

The Chinchaga River in the north. The Chinchaga River and its many small tributaries drain most of the central and northern parts of the area. The Notikewin, Hotchkiss, and Meikle rivers, which belong to the Peace River drainage system, drain the southern and eastern parts.

Many ponds and small lakes are scattered throughout, especially in the southwest. Extensive bogs and muskegs occur throughout the area.

At present, none of the area is under cultivation and very little of it is suited for future agricultural development. Some small-scale lumbering and trapping occur.

The average annual precipitation is about 12 inches, much of which occurs as spring and summer rain. The mean temperatures for January and July are  $-2^{\circ}$  F and  $60^{\circ}$  F. The average annual frost-free period is about 60 to 65 days in this area.

At one time the entire area was covered by Hudson Bay glaciation. Upper Cretaceous shale is the underlying bedrock throughout this region. Glacial till is the parent material of most of the soils, but lacustrine sediments were mixed in with or deposited over the till in some places and are the parent materials in some parts of the area.

The area lies within the Gray Wooded soil zone. About one-third of the area is very poorly drained and organic soils are common. Clay loam is the most

### **Lower Foot**

Region, and the central and northeastern parts are in the Mixedwood Section. The dominant tree species in older mature stands is white spruce (*Picea glauca*). Trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and balsam poplar (*P. balsamifera*) are very common and widespread. Closely associated trees and shrubs include lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*), white birch (*Betula papyrifera*), willows (*Salix* spp.), wild roses (*Rosa* spp.), and bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*). Spruce and aspen bogs are very common throughout, especially on

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in close association with tamarack (*Larix laricina*), willows, cranberry (*Viburnum* spp.), and dwarf birch (*Betula glandulosa*). Ground cover consists mainly of sedges (*Carex* spp.), horsetails (*Equisetum* spp.), and mosses such as *Sphagnum* and *Drepanocladus*.

(*Nuphar variegatum*), bladderwort (*Utricularia vulgaris*), northern water milfoil (*Myriophyllum exaltatum*), mare's tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*), and mosses. Duckweeds (*Lemna* spp.) and algae often form dense floating mats on sheltered waters.

**WATERFOWL CLASSIFICATION**

The area furnishes very little suitable habitat for nesting waterfowl. There are no large lakes and the area has little appeal to migrating birds. A few Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*), Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*), Bufflehead (*B. albeola*), and Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) nest in the better parts of the area.

Most of the area is rated as Class 6 and 7 for waterfowl production, with small Class 5 units scattered throughout. The main limitations are adverse topography and poor soil and water fertility. The Class 5 units are also limited by reduced marsh edge.

The best waterfowl habitat is in the southwestern part of the area, where several small units of Class 3 and a large block of Class 4 land are found.

The main limitations are low fertility and reduced edge.  
Access into the area is extremely limited and hunting pressure on the small number of birds in the area is insignificant.

## **CHINCHAGA RIVER—**

Le territoire représenté sur la feuille de Chinchaga River situé au nord-ouest de l'Alberta, est borné à l'ouest par la Colombie-Britannique. Presque inhabité, il couvre environ 5100 milles carrés.

La rivière Chinchaga et ses nombreux petits affluents drainent la plus grande partie du centre et du nord du territoire. Les rivières Notikewin, Hotchkiss et Meikle qui font partie du réseau de la rivière de la Paix, drainent le sud et l'est.

De multiples étangs et petits lacs sont épargnés un peu partout, surtout au sud-ouest. On trouve aussi partout de vastes tourbières et marécages. Actuellement, aucune portion du territoire n'est cultivée et très peu de terres pourraient être mises en culture. On pratique l'exploitation forestière et le piégeage à une petite échelle.

## **CLIMAT**

100

**ECOLOGIE**

La masse glaciaire Hudson Bay couvrait autrefois le territoire. Des schistes du crétacé supérieur forment partout la roche en place. Du till glaciaire constitue le matériau d'origine de la plupart des sols. Cependant des sédiments lacustres se mélangent au till ou le recouvrent par endroits et forment alors le matériau originel.

Le territoire se trouve dans la zone des sols gris forestiers. Un tiers des sols sont très pauvres et très mal drainés et les sols organiques sont

territoire approximativement est très mal drainé et les sols organiques sont communs. Les sols minces les plus caractéristiques sont des loams argileux.

(*Populus tremuloides*) et le peuplier baumier (*P. balsamifera*) sont également très répandus. Parmi les arbres et arbustes étroitement associés, on trouve le pin de Murray (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*), le bouleau à papier (*Betula papyrifera*), le saule (*Salix* spp.), le rosier (*Rosa* spp.) et le raisin d'ours (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*). Les tourbières moussues sont fréquentes partout, surtout dans la plaine centrale au relief plat. Les principaux arbres et arbustes y sont l'épinette

particularité (*Lemna*, *Utricularia*, *Myriophyllum*, *Hydrocharis*, *Elodea*, *Hydrostachys exalbescens*), l'hippure (*Hippuris vulgaris*) et les mousses. La lentille d'eau (*Lemna* spp.) et les algues couvrent d'un épais tapis les eaux abritées.

La majeure partie du territoire entre dans les classes 6 et 7 pour la production de la sauvagine, à l'exception de petites superficies de classe 5, réparties un peu partout. Le relief défavorable et le peu de fertilité du sol et l'eau constituent les principales limitations. L'étroitesse des franges mar-

La région sud-ouest est la plus propice à l'habitat de la sauvagine et