SOIL CONSULTANTS IN MAINE MAP SOILS
FOR TIMBER COMPANIES

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In 1969 the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission was established to extend the principles of sound planning, zoning, and subdivision control to the 10.5 million acres of Maine's wildlands in its Unorganized Towns. This is a vast forested area, relatively uninhabited and used mainly for growing pulp and saw timber.

Before owners of land above 2500 ft elevation can harvest timber they must obtain a permit from the Land Use Regulation Commission. The Commission requires a soil survey as a primary exhibit for timber harvest permits. Since this requirement has been in effect, several large timberland owners have hired soil consultant firms to do the soil surveying. New England Soil Consultants, headed by Bruce Whitney, former Soil Conservation Service soil scientist, has done most of the mapping. Bruce says, "We are currently working on a 10,000 acre mapping contract for the Brown Paper Company on scattered mountain top areas in northwestern Maine. Our 4-man party uses all available means of transportation such as the 4-wheel drive pickup camper (Fig. 1). All the areas mapped so far have been in the remote and classic

Figure 1. Four-wheel drive vehicle used in soil mapping work.

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