



Watershed

Spring 2009

This publication is produced by the Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society, dedicated to ecosystem research, public education and sustainable community forestry and the Harrop-Procter Community Co-op, conducting sustainable economic development in Harrop-Procter, BC.

Update on East Harrop Logging

The Harrop-Procter Community Co-operative has been very busy in East Harrop (Mill) Creek for the past few years. In 2004, the HPCC began initial planning and field work in the area behind the Harrop Fire Hall. Community information and planning meetings, field assessments, and layout were conducted in 2005 and 2006.

Finally, plans were made operational with a road building and logging contract signed in the spring of 2007. Road building was completed in the summer and fall of 2007, and logging operations in East Harrop Creek have been active for the past two winters. These operations are now nearly concluded, with some log hauling and trail deactivation/clean-up remaining to be completed over the next few months. Over the next few years, the HPCC will be continuing our work in East Harrop Creek.

A total of nine kilometres of road have been built and four cut blocks have been logged, using a combination of low and high retention silvicultural systems. High retention logging was conducted on all north aspects. Upper elevation and west-facing areas with a high percentage of beetle-infested lodgepole pine were logged more heavily, with dispersed retention of mature fir and larch, as shown in the adjacent photo. A series of reserves was also established to ensure protection of a wide range of ecosystem types and wildlife habitat.

When you are on the ferry coming home, and look up at the broad ridge between Harrop and Slater Creeks (to the left and above the private logging), you are looking directly at our road and logging operations—but you will have difficulty finding them. This is primarily due to our design for a narrow road with a minimal clearing width. In keeping with our primary mandate to ensure continued protection of drinking water, no logging or road building was done near any creeks.



Logging operations and fir/larch retention in pine stand at 8 km on East Harrop Creek road.

Please contact Erik Leslie at 250-229-2271 if you have any questions or concerns regarding forest planning or operations in the Community Forest.

Local Ecology Tour Planned

Are you interested in learning more about the ecology of our area?

The author of the ecology guide that covers the Harrop-Procter Community Forest, Tom Braumandl, now resides in Procter and he will be conducting a field tour this summer to discuss the local plant ecology and explore some of the local flora.

To find out more, or to share your ideas about interesting areas on the south shore, please contact Tom at 250-229-4447 or by email at tom@biome.ca.

Further details on the date, time and location of the tour will be announced shortly, and will be posted on community bulletin boards and through the community email distribution list. Hope to see you there!



Everyone is invited to attend the

Annual General Meeting of the Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society

Date: July 23, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm

At the Procter Schoolhouse, Procter, BC

News from the Harrop-Procter Community Co-op (HPCC)

Last summer, the HPCC held a very important public signing of our perpetually renewable 25-Year Agreement with the BC Ministry of Forests and Range (MOFR). It was a historic moment for us and confirmed the Ministry's confidence that Harrop-Procter was capable of managing our Community Forest. This new agreement allows for long term sustainable planning and the ability to manage our forests for years into the future.

I would like to thank the directors and volunteers of the Harrop-Procter Community Cooperative for the many hours they have given to keep the organization operating smoothly.

If you are interested in serving as a director or as a member on one of our various committees, please contact our office. We are always in need of new energy to maintain our momentum as an organization and we welcome everyone to become involved. There is great satisfaction in ensuring that our forests remain intact and our watersheds are kept in a pristine state through the kind of forest stewardship we pride ourselves in providing.

Other News

□ The HPCC would like to acknowledge a grant from the Columbia Basin Trust which enabled us to renew our certification under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). This means that we can continue to offer eco-certified logs and value-added products with the FSC stamp of approval.

□ Although the HPCC has not been in a position to make monetary contributions to the community, there have been requests for donations in kind from several community groups. We now feel that we are in a position to consider such requests. (An example of a community project is the shelter and notice board erected at the Harrop Ferry landing.)

□ The BC Community Forest Association has recently sponsored the production of a video featuring six community forests in British Columbia, including the Harrop-Procter Community Forest. This production provides us with an excellent means to increase our profile and convey to our customers and supporters, in a professional manner, the story behind our Community Forest.

Submitted by Dave Johnson, HPCC Chairperson

Keeping on Eye on our Watersheds

Do you know that the planning and management of logging operations in our Community Forest are undertaken in keeping with principles adopted by the Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society (HPWPS) at the time of its incorporation in 1996? These principles are: 1) the protection of all our watersheds; and 2) the development of forests within these watersheds according to ecologically based forest management principles.

When the Harrop-Procter Community Co-op was incorporated in 1999 to conduct forest operations in Harrop-Procter, its incorporators made the site-sensitive, ecologically based forestry practices approved by the HPWPS its primary purpose. To ensure this, one of the Co-op's rules states that at least one-half of the Co-op's directors must come from the ranks of the HPWPS directors.

Will the values of the HPWPS prevail in our community forest well into the future? The answer in my view is yes—the indicators being the above provisions in the Co-op's constitution, the 25-Year Community Forest Agreement negotiated with the MOFR (which recognizes our ecologically based forestry practices), and the Co-op's successful 10 year track record

That said, the HPWPS still has a valuable role to play in Harrop-Procter. Don't forget that logging is not the only human activity in our forest which can have an impact on water sources. The HPWPS is an easily accessible community-wide organization—a good place to share your concerns regarding watersheds and the quality of your water.

It is in your interest to become a member of the Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society. By joining, you show your commitment to clean, plentiful water from a working forest managed with water protection as a primary objective.

Submitted by David Miller, President, HPWPS

A Public Tour of the Community Forest and Public Meeting

Conducted by Erik Leslie, Forest Manager
Will take place on
Saturday, September 26, 2009

*Look for posters in later summer for details
or check out our website:
www.hpcommunityforest.org*



HARROP-PROCTER FOREST PRODUCTS

Our value-added division, Harrop-Procter Forest Products, continues to gain market share, working towards achieving its goal of becoming a successful lumber and finished products supplier. As the focus of our business shifts from selling raw logs to finished products, we are adding value to the trees we are cutting, creating more local employment, as well as increasing the margins for our overall business. The goal of all this is to “do more with less”.

NOW IN STOCK: We now have a wide variety of rough sawn cedar lumber, as well as an inventory of cedar decking, siding, and paneling at competitive prices.

We are currently manufacturing timbers, which can be used in a variety of applications from timber-frame homes to bridge construction. These are available in fir, larch or cedar.

ON SALE: We also have a mix of fir and larch lumber at sale prices for Harrop-Procter residents. This is a bi-product of larger timber orders, and we need to sell it fast to create more space in our lumberyard.

In addition, we are now pleased to offer a 10% discount to Harrop-Procter Community Cooperative members on all wood products

Please call (250) 551-5452 to purchase wood or for further information.

Community Forest Strategic Planning Process

The Board of Directors of both The Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society (HPWPS) and the Harrop-Procter Community Co-op (HPCC) are currently involved in a strategic planning process.

This strategic plan, once finalized, will establish goals to improve business and forest planning operations. The discussion also involves how to return benefits to the Harrop-Procter community in the coming years.

The current planning process will update the strategic plan drafted in 2005. The plan will be reviewed this July, and presented to the community at the Annual General Meeting of the HPCC in October 2009.

If you are interested in learning more about this process, please contact Pamela Dykstra at 250-229-4447 or by email at dykstra@biome.ca, and be sure to attend the Harrop-Procter Community Co-op's AGM in October to review and comment on the new strategic plan.

Support Your Local Community Forest

The Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society and the Harrop-Procter Community Cooperative are both involved in the long term success of our community forest.

A strong membership in these organizations indicates to government, funders, educators, and all of the many other groups and organizations interested in the Harrop-Procter Community Forest that it is supported by the local population.

You can show your support by purchasing:

□ *Lifetime Membership in the Harrop-Procter Community Co-op for \$25.00,*

and/or

□ *Annual Membership in the Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society for \$10.00/person - \$20.00/family*

To get your HPWPS or HPCC membership or for more information, please contact Michele at 250-229-2228 or the Community Forest Office at 250-229-2221.