

## 6.2 Non-Timber Forest Products

### 6.21 Management

Herbal supplements and remedies are rapidly gaining popularity and markets exist in Canada and the United States for herbs growing in the Harrop-Procter Community Forest. Horsetail, Oregon grape, kinnikinnik, devil's club and fireweed root are present and have economic value when sold bulk as dried herbs. Herbs that grow close to existing and new logging roads and have predictable harvest seasons will be of particular interest. Rare or fragile herbs or herbs growing in fragile ecosystems will not be considered for harvesting. The greatest return from medicinal herbs is to add value by producing tinctures and lotions locally.

The harvesting of edible mushrooms is currently a hobby for local residents who use them as a food source. It is possible to stimulate the growth of a variety of species in order to initiate a local mushroom supply business.

Other wild-crafting opportunities include harvest of birch, willow and alder whips for bentwood furniture makers, collecting cedar bark for basket making, and collecting a variety of materials for crafts and floral use.

Sunshine Bay Botanicals is a registered company within the Harrop-Procter Community Cooperative currently involved in the agroforestry industry. Herbs are grown on and collected from private land and various products are continuously being developed. Products include tinctures, teas and aromatic oils. This business venture may expand to incorporate products with ingredients collected from the community forest land base. The previously described inventory is the first step in investigating these opportunities.

#### **Objectives:**

- Maximize economic potential of the landbase for the community by encouraging controlled development of various wild-crafting and agro-forestry ventures.
- Increase capability as a supplier of medicinal herbs, craft materials, floral materials and food products.

#### **Strategies:**

- Inventory community forest landbase for non-timber forest products assessing occurrence, volume and economic potential.
- Require field testing of regeneration capabilities to determine sustainability of herbs targeted for harvest.
- Continue to investigate markets for non-timber forest products.
- Research cultivation on farms and in greenhouses of medicinal herb species.
- Investigate market opportunities for by-products of logging such as cedar and pine boughs for the Christmas home decorating market.
- Investigate opportunities for harvesting cedar branches for the production of cedar oil.

### 6.22 Harvesting

There are no plans at this time for commercial harvest of any non-timber forest products. Due to the diversity of potential products, harvesting strategies will be developed for each species prior to commercial harvest. It will be the responsibility of the potential

harvester to provide the Agreement Holder with the following information regarding the potential crop plant or plant part: location, sustainable harvest level, economic viability, //

### ***Proposed Methodology to Develop Harvest Rates***

Sustainable harvest rates for non-timber resources must be determined prior to commercial harvest. Species must be identified that have current markets, abundance and location of these species must be identified, and regeneration rates must be determined.

Research is required to ensure sustainable use of non-timber resources is realized. These strategies include field testing of regeneration capabilities of targeted herb and fungi species to determine sustainability of herbs which may be harvested. Literature will also be reviewed and ecology and wild-crafting experts (including Ktunaxa elders) interviewed such that this opportunity can be available as quickly as possible.

## **6.23 Charging**

At the present time, the Agreement Holder has not been approached by wild-harvesters or other non-timber forest products businesses for utilization of the Harrop-Procter Agreement Area. The question of sustainable yield is, as mentioned above, an important consideration when developing a business strategy for non-timber forest products. Presently the Harrop-Procter Community Co-operative (HPCC) has, with permission of the District Manager of Forests, conducted harvesting trials on forest-growing species of medicinal plants in selected areas and recorded:

- length of time to access identified patches,
- length of time to harvest identified species,
- volume of harvest,
- volume of finished product available for sale.

This data will be reviewed in light of further study to determine presence and rate of re-growth in the harvested areas.

From these trials HPCC hopes to gain information relevant to the economic potential of medicinal herbs in the Agreement Area and also to attribute a fee for licensing that is fair and reasonable within the standards of the industry. Self- employed harvesters can earn between \$75.00- \$100.00 per day. At this point HPCC believes that training and hiring harvesters to harvest medicinal products from the forest would be preferable to licensing and monitoring or contracting harvesters due to sustainability issues.

Because non-timber forest product resources are a diverse group of products, it is logical that HPCC will not enter all realms of business possible on the land-base. Products such as cedar boughs, and Christmas trees would be suitable for community entrepreneurs. In this case, after assessing a viable business plan drawn up by the proponent, The Agreement Holder would enter some form of licensing in the case of boughs or area-based lease agreement in the case of Christmas trees and floral greens. The Agreement holder would determine the cost of such licenses or leases after an assessment of industry standards. Guidelines regarding monitoring, sustainability and rehabilitation of the resource would be established and the cost of the Agreement Holder's responsibilities included in the fees.

