Harrop-Procter Community Forest
Co-operative forestry, advocacy, and research

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Outline
1. Landbase and community
2. History and governance
3. Forestry and milling operations
4. Advocacy and research

The Harrop-Procter Forest
- 11,000 hectares
- 100 year old coniferous forests
- Steep, sensitive terrain
- Domestic watersheds

The Harrop-Procter Community
- Diverse rural community
- Limited First Nations presence
- Mixed economy
- Independent, volunteer spirit
- Concerns about industrial clearcutting
1980’s and 90’s: The ‘War in the Woods’

- Watershed Protection Society applies for CF in 1998
- Broad community support—survey
- Plan for ecosystem-based forest management
- Ambitious business plan: forestry, VA, NTFP’s
- Offered community forest in 1999
- Small pilot experiment
- Co-op created in 2000 to run the business
- Run forestry and value-added divisions
- Operating for 14 years

History of the community forest

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- Broad community support—survey
- Plan for ecosystem-based forest management
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Co-operative governance

- Member-owned not-for-profit co-op
  - No municipal, industry, or stakeholder representation
  - Active volunteer boards
  - HPWPS objectives
    - Watershed protection
    - Research and advocacy
  - Co-op objectives:
    - Ecosystem-based forestry
    - Local employment

Ecosystem-based forestry

- Comprehensive reserve network
  - Riparian
  - Old growth
  - Rare ecosystems
  - Connectivity
  - Zoning for multiple uses
  - Site-sensitive logging, partial cutting
  - Climate change adaptation

The business—forestry

- 10,000 m³ AAC
- 100% in-house planning, layout, supervision
- Strong relationships with area mills
- 10 – 20% of logs to HPCC mill
- FSC certification

The business—value-added

- Higher-value logs
- 2 bandsaw mills, edger, kiln, moulder
- Storage shed, delivery truck
- Cedar and Douglas-fir lumber; custom timbers
- Primarily local retail market, some regional/wholesale
The business—overview
- $1,000,000 revenue
  - Small profits after start-up losses
  - Job creation
  - Strong community support
  - Many challenges

Advocacy
- Advocacy long before management
- Part of a broader, and more fundamental, social movement
- Oppositional politics created the space
- Nuance and compromise to run a forestry business
  - Advocacy fades as operations demand attention
  - Power of a working model
  - Advocates need HPCC and others
  - BCCFA advocates with provincial government
  - HPCC active participant on BCCFA board

Research
- Part of HPWPS mandate
- Have engaged with researchers over many years
  - Social, environmental, and economic aspects
  - Limited capacity to engage—time and money
- Research in HP often derived from advocacy
- Opportunities for research
  - Governance and community engagement/ support
  - Issues of scale—size matters
  - Measuring the benefits of community forests

Final thoughts
- Maturing organizations, maturing research?
- Theory ↔ practice
  - Need theory grounded in practice
- Governance: medium is the message?
- Scope and strength of management rights
- Small community groups can succeed where traditional enterprises fail

Thank you!
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