



Community Forest News

Winter 2022-2023

The Community Forest is comprised of two organizations:
the Harrop Procter Community Co-operative, which manages the forest tenure and mill,
and the Harrop Procter Watershed Protection Society, a stewardship body that undertakes monitoring of
HPCC plans and activities, water monitoring, education and outreach.

Forest Operations

Private Land Access

Our community forest borders private land all the way from Lasca Road in the west to Procter Point in the east. This northern edge of HPCC's tenure area is over 12 kilometres long and adjacent to over 50 parcels of private land.

Along this extensive boundary, HPCC has only four points of public access. These are near the eastern and western boundaries of the community (the top of Lewis Road, the Harrop firehall road, Victor Road, and Alexander Road). There are no public access points between Slater Creek and Narrows Creek, a stretch of over three kilometres. This means significant areas within the community forest are only accessible through private land.

To reduce the risk of wildfires, HPCC has been working for over a decade to develop an east-west network of fuel breaks, close to the private land boundary. To be effective, fuel breaks need to be connected, and enable long-term access for ongoing inspection and maintenance.

Over the past 17 years, HPCC has worked collaboratively on road access with several neighbouring landowners. These include Marie Chanton, Dan Chanton, Hugo Sutmuller, Nick and Mary Dosenberger, Russell and Dawn Precious and Kevin and Karin Shepherd. In each instance, HPCC has developed landowner-specific agreements regarding road construction, upgrades and maintenance, access controls, and safety.

Sometimes HPCC upgrades old roads on private land to improve safety; other times, a fee is paid to landowners for each load of logs hauled through their property. Each agreement depends on the specific circumstances and joint interests of HPCC and the landowners.

Currently HPCC is upgrading or maintaining access through the Chanton's property as well as through land jointly owned by Sam & Erin Kingsland and Mike & Fée Drinkwater. Both of these land parcels share a border over a kilometre long with HPCC, and both provide access to important low-elevation areas and fuel breaks within the community forest. Access through the Chanton property was first developed in 2006, and is now being reused for a second partial cut harvest and fuel treatment.

HPCC intends to continue to work with our community neighbours on shared access issues. If you own land that is adjacent to the community forest, please feel free to contact Erik Leslie, HPCC's Forest Manager (505-3311) to discuss potential collaboration on access and/or fuel treatment opportunities.

Donations

Nelson Community Food Centre (operations)	\$2500.00
Nelson Cares Society (lumber for furniture, toys)	\$140.00
Harrop & District Community Centre Society (community sign repair)	\$280.00
Total	\$2920.00

Harrop-Procter Forest Products

Operations Review

In August, the cooperative put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a preliminary examination of operations at Harrop Procter Forest Products (HPFP). This was initiated for a number of reasons - equipment wear/replacement, future timber supply, site and operational workflow improvements, and waste product opportunities to name a few.

Changing climate conditions and their impact on the community forest as well as awareness of a number of upcoming big ticket items like site access realignment, expansion potential and three phase power installation were other reasons to conduct the initial review.

Local company The Traditional Timber Framing Company Ltd. was awarded the contract and started the review in October.

After numerous meetings/discussions with managers and staff along with considerable hours of observation at the mill, the interim findings have identified some key areas the board of directors and management will need to address. These include:

- Enhanced roofing over production and storage areas
- Efficiencies through equipment configuration;
- Selective equipment replacement over time (priority sequencing);
- Site access;
- Marketing/branding changes;
- Enhanced waste processing improvements - biochar, shaving bales, etc.

Three phase power - currently planned for implementation within two years -will be an expensive (\$200-250k) but necessary installation. It will immediately improve efficiencies by enabling saws and other equipment to run simultaneously. This is a key component of the overall operational review. A final report and recommendations for phase one of the review will be delivered to the board at the end of February.

Log Yard Improvements

Efficiencies in the log yard portion of the mill will be realized thanks to the removal of a number of trees.

When the mill property was purchased from the Johnsons in 2016, a covenant protecting a grove of cedars and firs was agreed to. The trees in question were on the periphery of those covered - three of them of a diameter which prohibits them being cut. However, Dave Johnson has agreed to allow them to be removed in return for their wood; a number of smaller diameter trees will also be removed along with several dead/dying trees.

Gord Hale of Hale Storm Holdings Ltd. was working on the adjoining property so the timing was fortuitous to remove them. The end result is more room and maneuverability within the log sort area. The vast majority of the trees covered by the covenant remain in place.



The expanded log sort area at Harrop Procter Forest Products

Harrop Procter Watershed Protection Society (HPWPS)

Recent fieldwork by hydrometric technician Rory Gallagher and board member Bill Macpherson was conducted on January 17, 2023. The primary reason was the re-installation of water level data loggers at all four sites.

Temporary data loggers had to be installed in the fall due to software malfunctions, resulting in lost data. The data loggers were returned to the manufacturer's Vancouver office, recalibrated and repaired, and then shipped back at no cost.

Level survey sightings of benchmarks at all four creeks were taken and recorded and a salt dilution flow measurement was taken at Harrop Creek in the course of the day.

Pacific Regeneration Technologies (PRT) are sampling the Slater Creek site at no cost to the society; they recently installed a new bridge at the gauge site. This makes accessing it for sampling purposes easier and safer. Thanks go out to the company and their staff for the new installation, and their ongoing participation in the water monitoring program.

The compilation of year-long data from various sources is underway and the annual water monitoring report will be available to members - and community residents, if requested - shortly.



Hydrometric technician Rory Gallagher recording data at Narrows Creek

Anne Ward Memorial Scholarship

Outlet area parents of students in Grade 12 - or those who have a child already in post-secondary studies - should be aware of HPCC's scholarship program application process and deadline to apply.

The deadline to apply is **April 30, 2023**. The application form and regulations are available on the cooperative's website www.hpcommunityforest.org/the-co-op/. You can also call the office at 229-2271 or email our administrator: coordinator@hpcommunityforest.org.

Earning a \$10,000 award for progressive forestry practices from the province in 2017, the cooperative has dedicated those funds to its scholarship program. Established in 2018, the scholarship program is an ongoing commitment of financial assistance for community and area youth entering and enrolled in post-secondary education.

To date, \$6500 has been awarded in varying amounts. The regulations were revamped in 2020 to be more inclusive geographically and to boost the annual amount awarded. The cooperative intends to fund the scholarship program into the future, well beyond the initial amount set aside for this purpose.

In the Community - HPCC Survey

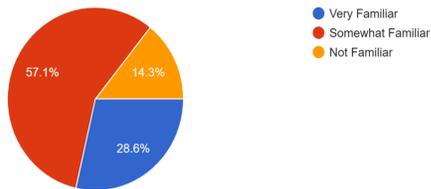
This short survey was initiated by HPCC's Community Engagement Committee (CEC) and distributed electronically in mid-January. Respondents were asked to reply by the end of the month. A total of 106 community members responded.

Three prizes of \$100 worth of lumber were offered as an incentive to fill out the survey. The winners of the draw are: Lisa Dosenberger, Ken Foot and Don Gibbons. Thank you to all who responded!

Below is a summary of some of the results, compiled by administrator and CEC member Carly Dow:

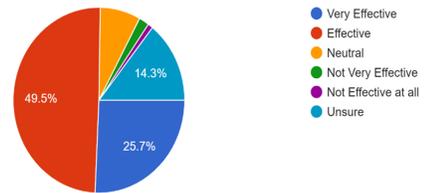
How familiar are you with the HPCC (mandate, membership benefits, community contributions, etc)?

105 responses

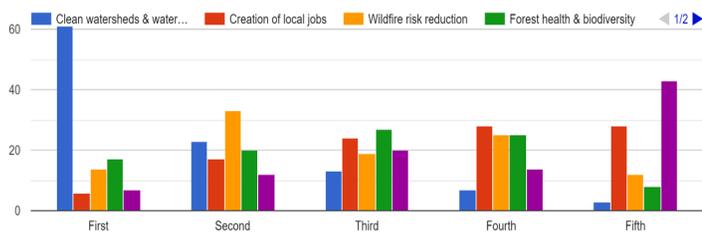


How effective is HPCC's environmentally progressive forest practice?

105 responses

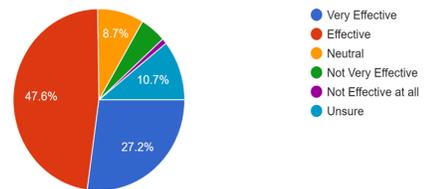


Please rank the following topics in order of personal importance:



How effective is the HPCC (and the Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society) at protecting local watersheds?

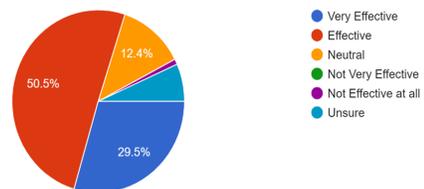
103 responses



Clean watersheds and watershed protection are by far the number one priority of responding community members. Second is wildfire risk reduction, third is forest health and biodiversity, fourth is creation of local jobs, and last is climate change adaptation (purple).

How effective is the HPCC at providing sustainable jobs in our community?

105 responses



CONTACT US

HPCC
202 - 284 3rd Avenue
Procter, B.C.
V1L 0B8
coordinator@hpcommunityforest.org
(250) 229-2271

HPFP
730 S. Ogilvie Road
Harrop, B.C.
V1L 6P9
sales@hpcommunityforest.org
(250) 551-5452

www.hpcommunityforest.org

HPCC members get a 10% discount, so send us your email address if you would like to be informed of upcoming specials!



To request a donation, not-for-profit groups simply need to provide details of the project and community benefits on their letterhead and submit to: coordinator@hpcommunityforest.org