



Harrop Procter Community Co-Op
Progressive Forestry. Quality Wood. Community Owned

Community Forest News

Winter 2025

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.

Harrop Procter Community Co-operative

Anne Ward Memorial Scholarship

Applications for this year's scholarship/bursaries must be received in the HPCC office by **5:00 pm on Friday, April 25** this year. This is in accordance with a request from the LV Rogers Scholarship program administration.

HPCC's annual funding for Outlet-area (Kokanee Provincial Park to Coffee Creek and the West Arm south shore communities) graduating Grade XII students accepted for post-secondary education, as well as those already attending post-secondary institutions, honours a founding long-term member of the HPCC Board of Directors.

The scholarship program was initiated in 2017 after the cooperative won the provincial Robin Hood Memorial award and the \$10,000 that accompanied it. Rather than put it into general revenue the scholarship program was created.

The scholarship program was expanded and renamed to honour long-time Treasurer and Director Anne Ward several years after its inception.

Applications and regulations can be found at hpcommunityforest.org, under the Co-op banner. They can also be accessed by calling (229-2271), stopping by the HPCC office in the old Procter Schoolhouse or by emailing coordinator@hpcommunityforest.org.

Lumber Sale at HPFP

Spring is upon us and here's the opportunity to save on springtime building/gardening products! Don't delay in calling the community mill at 250-551-5452 to place your order. The sale is for a limited time and there is a limited supply of sale materials! Order now!

Cedar Fencing & Garden Packages

Fencing Package: **25% OFF**

Rough or Planed
2x4, 1x6, 4x4
8, 10 & 12 FT lengths

Garden Package: **25% OFF**

#3 Rough
5/4x6, 1x4, 1x8, 2x6, 2x8
8, 10 & 12 FT lengths

Sale on until April 30, 2025
Call 250-551-5452 for a quote or to place your order

Harrop Procter Forest Products/Strategic Planning

Mill Operations

Due to a number of convergent factors - extended down time, depreciation and expenditures on new replacement equipment, the cost of upgrading to three phase power and building permit requirements sharply increasing architectural/engineering consulting costs, among others - HPFP expenditures rose considerably and sales were less than targeted in 2024.

To this end, the Board of Directors - working through the Finance and Strategic Planning Committees alongside mill management and staff - has redoubled monthly efforts to achieve budget projections through tracking production, sales, requests for quotes converting to actual orders, inventory levels/management and many other pertinent factors.

The marketing budget has been increased fivefold from a minimal annual amount previously in an effort to boost sales. Donations will likely be reduced from previous years and operating costs are being pared where possible.

Consideration of outside economic and political impacts is essential too. Factors far beyond our control are likely going to impact the bottom line moving forward. All of the above is part of the effort of managing the mill - and creating local employment - as flexibly as possible in an always challenging industry.

On a more positive note, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) has finally approved one of the building permits, with the other expected in the very near future.

The erection of a permanent steel roof linking the two main buildings will greatly improve working conditions and increase efficiency. This project is expected to begin on April 21 and take about a week to complete. Unfortunately, the long delay in permit approval has necessitated a further extension to fully complete the mill resilience project and receive final withheld funding from Manufacturing Jobs BC.

Lastly, long-time employee Robert Skof has ended his time with HPFP. The Board of Directors, staff and contractors wish him the very best in future endeavours and thank him for his diligent years of service at the mill.

Strategic Planning

In addition to working on refreshing our strategic plans for the next few years, the Strategic Planning Committee has also undertaken analysis of mill operation benchmarks with a view to improving the overall understanding of the operations of our community sawmill. Strategic planning is focused on four key areas identified in a facilitated long term planning session and follow-up with the board and managers. The sessions were held in November and December. The Board of Directors are using this long range vision to inform our action plans within each of the components - Forest, Community, Land, Mill/Operations - over the coming months.

The board took an initial look at the Land component at the March board meeting.

Considerations included:

- Species diversity and native plants;
- Fire management planning with local coordination/input;
- Recreation strategy - a range of ability-based accessibility;
- Stewardship through a number of connections/partnerships including private land, impacts of humans, private/community enterprises;
- Leadership - by HPCC and involving individuals, organizations, community.

There will undoubtedly be more work done on this and the other components over the coming year(s). Public input and involvement are important factors to this ongoing planning. Please contact the HPCC office (229-2271) if you would like to be involved.

Forest Operations/HPWPS

Small prescribed burn above Harrop planned for later this spring

HPCC is working with BC Wildfire Service to conduct an eleven hectare (27 acre) planned burn above Harrop later this spring. The planned burn area is on a dry, gentle northwest-facing slope that was partial-cut harvested last year. The prescribed low-intensity fire will reduce forest fuels and promote the development of a less flammable deciduous understory. Large Douglas-fir and larch trees were retained in this cut block and will be protected.



Location of planned burn above Harrop

The planned burn is designed to mimic the natural fires that typically burned at low-to-moderate intensity in our area prior to the modern era of fire suppression. Scattered large Douglas-fir and larch trees in the planned burn area have old fire scars from a natural fire that burned many decades ago.

The fire is planned for later this spring, when woody surface fuels are sufficiently dry to carry a fire, but soils below the duff layer are still moist. Fire weather and venting indices will be closely monitored to determine if and when conditions are right to conduct the burn safely. Smoke will be highly visible from the Harrop ferry and north shore during the burn. The fire will die down within hours though and smoke is expected to disperse quickly.

The burn will be conducted by Kootenay Lake Fire Zone staff in collaboration with HPCC's Forest Manager Erik Leslie. When we see a burn window approaching (likely in late April or May), HPCC and BC Wildfire Service will provide regular public updates.



Retained trees and ground fuels within planned burn area above Harrop

Harrop Procter Watershed Protection Society

Following the Annual General Meeting in late November, the January 2025 board meeting confirmed the election/reaffirmation of the following officers:

President Rich Newton
Vice-President Tim Davis
Treasurer Diane Gamble
Secretary Britta Barteski

Outgoing officers Debbie Crichton and Bill Macpherson were thanked for their time spent as Treasurer and President, respectively. The board also affirmed Ricky Cappe as a Director as nominated at the AGM.

The board reconvened for a regular meeting on March 26, 2025. Discussion focused on a review of water monitoring efforts, funding sources, and outreach/education efforts towards the community and beyond.

HPWPS (continued)

Water monitoring: An additional creek - Alyeo - has been added to the water monitoring program. Also being monitored on an intermittent basis is the Procter Spring.

There continue to be issues with the data readers, even after installing a different brand. This is being investigated by our contract hydrological company Kootenay Environmental Innovations. A review of the program has resulted in some potential minor changes identified (improved site monitoring/testing through upgraded equipment) to better ensure water quality and optimum measurement results, particularly at freshet.

If your water source is not one of the four major creeks being monitored, samples of water can be brought to the HPCC office for testing of conductivity, PH levels and turbidity. There is no cost to members. Contact the office at 229-2271 or coordinator@hpcommunityforest.org to enable this service.

Funding/Fundraising: A sub-committee is focusing on grants and fundraising opportunities to move away from the current single-source funding over the past several years. This will enable more education, community involvement, oversight and research to be done by HPWPS moving forward. Check out HPWPS' website at: www.hpwps.org

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

hpcommunityforest.org

Donations:

East Shore Men's Shed - lumber for campground picnic tables \$1,152.00

Harrop Procter Ferry Committee Society - fundraising \$5000.00

Nelson Community Food Centre - \$200 monthly donation \$2,400.00

Nelson Soccer Association - team sponsorship \$400.00

Procter Community Society - HPFP gift certificate for fundraiser \$300.00

Total/Year to date: \$9,252.00



HPCC donated \$5000.00 to the Ferry committee at the February 8th fundraiser.

L to R: Britta Barteski (HPCC), Ina Pockrass (President, HP Ferry Committee), Penny Ballance (Treasurer, HP Ferry Committee), Bill Macpherson (HPCC)

Follow Harrop Procter Forest Products on social media

 @hpsawmill

 Harrop Procter Forest Products

Local residents get a 10% discount, 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