



Community Forest News

Winter 2026

Progressive Forestry Quality Wood Community Owned

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.

In the Community

Harrop Creek Debris Flow

Following heavy rains and snow melt last week, there was a debris flow into Harrop Creek approximately one kilometre upstream from domestic water intakes (Harrop Creek gauge shown below is 150 metres upstream). Starting at noon on Friday, Harrop Creek became very muddy as sand and silt from the debris flow was washed downstream. By late afternoon on Friday the debris deposits had been washed away and the creek was clearing up. By Saturday water quality appeared close to normal for the spring season.

We do not expect any lasting impacts to the stream channel or water quality. A thorough geotechnical field assessment of the debris flow was completed the day after the event, and a detailed report will be available soon.



Anne Ward Memorial Scholarship Program

Grade XII students in the Outlet area are reminded that the cooperative offers scholarships/bursaries on a merit basis to those planning to attend a post-secondary facility in the fall.

HPCC received a \$10,000 award from the provincial government for community forestry excellence in 2017. Those funds have been dedicated to creating the scholarship fund specific to Outlet area students.

Priority is given to West Arm south side graduating students, students from the community already enrolled in post-secondary studies and/or those studying forestry, environment, ecology, or other sciences. The annual amount available is around \$3000, depending on the number of applicants and the decisions made by the Scholarship sub-committee.

The deadline to apply for this year's funding is **April 24, 2026**. You can apply by going to hpcommunityforest.org and filling out the application form or by calling the HPCC office at 250-229-2271. Our administrator is only in the office part-time; Erika will call back if you leave a voice message.

Donations

Circus Arts Festival (sponsorship)	\$500.00
Crawford Bay School (lumber)	\$68.00
Nelson Food Bank	\$3000.00
West Kootenay Backcountry Wilderness Society (operations)	\$1000.00
Total:	\$4568.00

Forest Operations

Last summer, HPCC completed a fuel break block in the Slater/Alyeo area, immediately upslope of private land. Retention levels were moderate (around 30 per cent) in much of the block. However, retention was lower in the central part of the block due to active Douglas-fir beetle infestation.

Because of extremely mild, in some cases record-setting, temperatures in November and December, precipitation was predominantly rain. On December 17th at 7:00 am, after several weeks of heavy rains, an extreme windstorm blew down many of the remaining trees in the central portion of the block where the retention rate was lower (The same windstorm caused major power outages, closed schools - and some highways, due to fallen trees - across the West Kootenay). It is an unfortunate occurrence, certainly.

The downed trees will be sent to Harrop Procter Forest Products later this spring for milling. Salvage (about five or more truckloads) and clean-up of the block will occur before a planned low intensity broadcast burn is undertaken.

This summer, HPCC is planning to develop two narrow blocks that are designed to function as fuel breaks between Slater Creek and East Harrop. The intent is to widen and extend an existing fuel break on the Slater/East Harrop ridge, and also develop a fuel break between lower Slater Creek and East Harrop face.

The upper ridge fuel break is located at the top of the East Harrop Ridge Road. The fuel break was started in 2009 and an emergency fire guard was subsequently constructed in 2017 to the edge of the Harrop wildfire. The unit is located on a very dry ridge with extensive areas of dead lodgepole pine.

The lower East Harrop face/Slater Creek unit is located at 2.5 km on the East Harrop road and follows a dry ridge along the edge of the Slater watershed. It overlaps a partial cut area from 2010, as well as an area with extensive mortality from Douglas-fir beetle. There are dense cedar/hemlock understory fuels in this area (as pictured).

The planned fuel treatments will remove most of the flammable and drought-intolerant cedar/hemlock and dense understory trees,



Typical forest structure and fuels in lower East Harrop Face/ Slater Ridge

while retaining the largest and healthiest Douglas-fir and larch, along with deciduous trees. Following the partial harvest and fuel cleanup, larch and ponderosa pine will be planted and deciduous herb and shrub growth promoted for long-term ecosystem and fire resilience.



Planned cut blocks outlined in white

Out On A Limb is a series of short videos funded by the Silviculture Innovation Program and the British Columbia Community Forest Association. The series spotlights trailblazers in

Forest Operations (cont'd)

BC communities who are leading innovative management practices for the betterment of the forests of tomorrow.

The most recent short film in the series focuses on Harrop Procter Community Cooperative's Climate Adaptation Project. In the 10 minute video, Forest Operations Manager Erik Leslie provides an overview of the rationale and specific approaches of the adaptation project.

[Out on a Limb with Harrop-Procter Community Forest - Silviculture Innovation Program](#)

Harrop Procter Forest Products (HPFP)

The milling division of the cooperative continues to be a busy place. Perhaps in part because of the mild winter, sales have been robust throughout the fall and into the new year. In 2025, nearly half a million board feet of lumber was produced; sales were just under \$1,000,000. The staff continue to work hard at improving both production and sales numbers this year.

In this regard, there are changes at the management level. Jonathan Chaplow-Hansen is now the general manager at HPFP, effective March 2. Britta Barteski is the Administration and Sales Manager, reporting to Jonathan. Former acting manager Rami Rothkop will advise and assist Jonathan and Britta on an as-needed basis as they take on their additional responsibilities.

The renovation of the building containing the new moulder is nearing completion. Interior work (finishing carpentry, insulation, wiring etc.) is ongoing in the extension built to house the dust collection system.

The cost of the renovation - exterior enclosure, the expansion and new concrete floors - will be covered by a holdback amount of \$93,000 from the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund. This amount will be released upon approval of HPCC's final report for its Mill Revitalization project, recently submitted to the provincial government program.



The new moulder on site

**HARROP - PROCTER
FOREST PRODUCTS**
730 Ogilvie Road, Harrop, B.C.
250-551-5452

ONGOING LIFT SALE
Harrop Procter Residents Receive 10% Off
FREE Slab Bundles & Sawdust
Products - Cedar/Fir:
Timbers, siding (channel, bevel, shiplap), fencing, decking, fir
flooring, tongue & groove (shadowline & vjoint), rough 1x's and 2x's
(yard grade & higher grade), S4S (planed all four sides)

HPFP is a member of the Canadian Mill Services
Association (Lumber Grading and Stamping)

www.hpcommunityforest.org
sales@hpcommunityforest.org 250-551-5452

In the Community

The Community Engagement Committee (CEC) met on February 20, 2026 to review the initial applications for project/improvements funding assistance from the cooperative's Community Support Fund (CSF).

There were fifteen applications submitted totalling over \$65,000 worth of requests. As the initial budget for the program was capped at \$15,000, the determinations were difficult even with an additional \$5000 approved by the board.

Applicants who did not receive approval are encouraged to reapply in the future.

Successful applicants, the projects and funds approved (mostly partial) are as follows:

Businesses

Appledore Farm

Wood for greenhouse base \$1223

Dreamcatcher Farm

Wood for goat fencing/ shed \$1700

Dupas Designs

Kiln shed \$1276

Dutchman's Legacy Farm

Wood for livestock handling facility \$4500

Hillbilly Heights Farm

Equipment \$766

CONTACT US

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Mending Roots Herb Farm

Processing area expansion \$1957

Triple Rose Arts and Crafts

Advertising \$250

Homeowners

Marjorie Davidson

Wood for fence replacement \$3000

Valerie Farcelais

Water damage \$470

Ruth Prosser

Professional danger tree mitigation \$3000

Sean Rodman

Professional danger tree mitigation \$1300

Due to the number of applications, the committee will be putting forward a proposal for a second grant to the HPCC Board of Directors at the monthly meeting on March 18. The hope is to double the annual available funding and create two distinct grants - one focused on economic development and one for home improvements for seniors and those with a limited income.

Follow Harrop Procter Forest Products on social media



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