Harrop-Procter Community Forest
Co-operative forest governance and management
Northwest Community Forest Forum
Portland, Oregon
May 10, 2016

Erik Leslie, RPF
Forest Manager, HPCC
President, BCCFA
Outline

1. History and governance
2. Forest management approach
3. Results—business and community
4. Challenges and opportunities
The Harrop-Procter Forest

- 28,000 acres
- Mature forests: Douglas-fir, larch, lodgepole pine, cedar, hemlock, spruce,
- Steep, sensitive terrain
- Caribou habitat
- Domestic watersheds
The Harrop-Procter Community

- Small, diverse rural community
- Mixed economy
- Independent, volunteer spirit
- Concerns about industrial clearcutting
1980’s and 90’s: The ‘War in the Woods’
History of the community forest

- Watershed Protection Society applies in 1998
  - Ecosystem-based management plan
  - Ambitious business plan: forestry, milling, botanicals
  - Broad community support (25 – 50 – 25)
- Offered community forest in 1999
  - ‘Pilot’ experiment
- Co-op created in 2000
- 25-year replaceable license
Governance—HPCC

- Not-for-profit co-operative
- Board elected directly from membership
- Objectives:
  - Water protection through ecosystem-based forestry
  - Local employment
  - Community wildfire protection (since 2003)
Forest Management

Harvest area
Climate change adaptation project

- Analyze risks
  - Infrastructure, drinking water, biodiversity, timber
- Specific strategies
  - Fuel breaks
  - Harvesting/Silviculture
  - AAC
- Community discussion
- Outreach
The business—forestry

- 10,000 m³ AAC (2.5 M bd.ft.)
- 100% in-house planning, layout, supervision
- Local loggers
- Strong relationships with area mills
- 20% of logs to HPCC mill
- FSC certification
• ~500,000 bd.ft./yr
• Higher-value logs
• Bandsaw mill, kiln, moulder
• Cedar and Douglas-fir lumber; custom timbers
• Primarily local retail market
Results—business and jobs

- $1.3 M annual revenue
  - Small profits after start-up losses
- Local job creation
  - Jobs/ m³
Results—community benefits

- Clean water
- Fire protection
- Recreation
- Donations
- Social capital
Challenges

- Landbase is allocated
- Tenure system
  - Limited management rights
- Tough economics, cyclical industry
- Potential for conflict
Opportunities

- Community building and engagement
  - Direct and meaningful—risks and benefits
- Local economic development
  - Multiplier effects
- Demonstration of alternatives
  - Ability to innovate
BC Community Forest Association

- 51 members; 90+ communities
- Advocacy
- Member support
- Education
- Indicators report
Final thoughts

- Social movement
- Power of working models
- Every community forest is different
- Community groups can succeed where traditional enterprises fail
Thank you!  

ErikL@netidea.com  
www.hpcommunityforest.org