



The Provincial Forest Extension Program

Knowledge-based solutions for SFM

What is Extension?

Extension is the process of empowering people with knowledge. Extension professionals engage information providers and users in various strategies to move information along a continuum from questions to solutions.

by Chris Hollstedt, CEO, FORREX

FORREX, in partnership with the British Columbia provincial government's Forest Science and Mountain Pine Beetle programs, is honoured and energized to continue to deliver the Provincial Forest Extension Program (the Program). The Program plan defines goals, outcome objectives, and strategies that contribute to the provincial goal of world leadership in environmental stewardship, a globally competitive forest sector, public confidence and trust in forest-sector competence, and the ability to achieve sustainable forest management goals.

The 2006–2007 Program activities focus on contributing to six medium-term outcome objectives. These objectives were defined in 2005–2006 following a comprehensive provincial client needs assessment, and analysis of past research and extension investments.

The following lists the 2006–2007 planned projects by objective. A comprehensive description of each project can be viewed at: http://www.forrex.org/corporate/annual_plan.asp

1. **Increasing awareness by forestry professionals of current scientific, experiential, and indigenous knowledge.**

2. **Increased trust in information products and providers.**

- Ecosystem Management and Conservation Biology technology transfer
Contact: **Susan Leech**
- Maintaining access to Forest Resources Dynamics science and innovation
Contact: **Kathie Swift**
- Publishing quality science-based information
Contact: **Julie Schooling**
- Watershed Management publications
Contact: **Robin Pike**
- Improving access and synthesis of Forest Science Program innovations.
Contact: **Susanne Barker**
- Watershed Management listserv and Web site
Contact: **Robin Pike**
- Maintaining access to science-based information
Contact: **Jesse Piccin**
- Sustainable forestry extension for small tenures
Contact: **Socio-economics Extension Specialist**



Maintaining access to information

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3. Increased knowledge and skills of current and relevant scientific, experiential, and indigenous knowledge relating to sustainable forest management.

- Profiling innovation in forest research and extension
Contact: **Chris Hollstedt**
- Watershed Management communities of practice
Contact: **Rob Scherer**
- Socio-economics science and innovations
Contact: **Socio-economics Extension Specialist**
- Extending ecosystem management and conservation innovations in planning, implementation, and monitoring
Contact: **Susan Leech**
- Forest Resources Dynamics programming to improve timber value and to achieve sustainable forest management
Contact: **Kathie Swift**

4. Increased science-based policy, plans, and practices decisions that result in reduced risk and uncertainty, and increased competitiveness.

- Ecosystem Management and Conservation Biology policies and practices
Contact: **Susan Leech**
- Engaging communities in practices of participatory extension programming to improve sustainable forest management planning, practices, and monitoring
Contact: **Kathie Swift**
- Indigenous knowledge, and forest policy and planning
Contact: **Aboriginal Forestry Extension Specialist**
- Watershed sustainability: Bridging the gap between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem management knowledge, policy, and practices
Contact: **Rob Scherer**

5. Forest managers and the public will aspire to use ecosystem management principles and adopt an improved way of defining values and strategies to manage for these values to reduce risk and uncertainty.

- Regional science forums
Contact: **Chris Hollstedt**
- Extension support for planning and public consultation
Contact: **Socio-economics Extension Specialist**


6. Improved effectiveness and efficiency in co-operative sustainable forest management continuing education and extension program planning and delivery.

- Support for Forest Science Program Advisory Committees
Contact: **Kathie Swift**
- Sustainable forestry and continuing education in British Columbia: Strategy and partnerships
Contact: **Chris Hollstedt**
- Enabling a knowledge-based natural resource sector
Contact: **Chris Hollstedt**
- Extension leadership and capacity building in the conservation community
Contact: **Susan Leech**
- Extension programming leadership
Contact: **Kathie Swift**

In addition to the core Program, FORREX will help to improve access to and use of biophysical science and innovations by developing and delivering mountain pine beetle (MPB) extension projects. Projects will contribute to science-based solutions that will:

- develop measures to reduce the spread of MPB,
- protect sensitive fish streams/rivers and species at risk, and
- address fuel management on lands surrounding high-risk communities.

Contact: **Alan Wiensczyk**

FORREX is pleased to continue to work with the Forest Science Program and our partners to link the natural resource community with credible and relevant scientific, indigenous, and experiential knowledge that will enable knowledge-based innovative solutions to sustainable forest management policies, plans, and practices. 

Contact information for staff members in this article can be found at <http://www.forrex.org/corporate/team.asp>

Forest Science is one of seven programs funded through British Columbia's Forest Investment Account (FIA) to promote sustainable forest management. The program funds forest science initiatives that address the critical knowledge needed to enable science-based sustainable management of British Columbia's forest resources.

MPB Program

The Mountain Pine Beetle Program, funded through a \$100 million payment from the federal government to the Province of British Columbia, is designed to:

1. Deliver additional control measures to reduce the spread (of Mountain Pine Beetle)
2. Protect sensitive fish streams/rivers and species at risk
3. Undertake fuel management on lands surrounding high risk communities
4. Continue development of additional markets and products.