



FORREX 10th AGM a virtual success!

FORREX announces name change

FORREX Forest Research Extension Partnership is a brand trusted in British Columbia and beyond to provide objective knowledge-based, information and services to support sustainable natural resource management decisions. While the Society's constitution describes the natural resource context, and research, development, extension, and information management as the main service areas, the name led people to believe FORREX only served the forestry sector, and only in extension. While this sector is a priority focus, and extension services are a mainstay of the organization, FORREX wants to communicate our full mandate and expand services to meet the needs of the broader natural resource community. So a name change is in order. Welcome **FORREX Forum for Research and Extension in Natural Resources Society** (still FORREX for short).

by Annette van Niejenhuis and Chris Hollstedt

Meeting participants are lauding FORREX's efforts to reduce travel time and carbon consumption by hosting its 10th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on July 18, 2008 via a virtual web-based meeting space. **Gord Austen** of FORREX estimated the reduction in carbon emissions attributable to the AGM at 3.5 tons of carbon on travel, and an additional 0.3 tons of carbon on hotel rooms for out-of-town participants to Kamloops.¹

In addition to enjoying reduced carbon emissions, meeting participants accepted the annual progress report and discussed a new strategic direction for the organization.

Dr. David Wilford (FORREX Chair) reflected on the organization's success in the past 10 years through changing business environments. Wilford said that emerging issues and priorities have required FORREX to adaptively manage its organizational capacity. While re-focusing permits FORREX to continue to deliver programs and services to meet demand, challenges and business realities in the natural resources management sectors also require products and delivery models to be redesigned and improved. In the future, capacity will be directed to emerging issues such as bio-economy and creating a new business relationship with First Nations. This year, renewing the FORREX governance model, including enhancing partner involvement through the Board and Regional Steering Committees, will revitalize the FORREX brand and assist in marketing to new partnerships. Empowering the professional staff and recruiting new capacity will also enhance FORREX's ability to meet its mandate.

Annette van Niejenhuis (Chair of Finance) reported that FORREX continues to succeed financially, with another positive year-end position. Many administrative barriers were addressed this year, she said. However, the FORREX business portfolio needs to be expanded and diversified to enhance the contributions from the Forest Investment Account-Forest Science Program. van Niejenhuis challenged individuals, as well as partner agencies, to contribute charitably to the Ecosystem Legacy Fund.

Chris Hollstedt (CEO) also issued a challenge to participants: To recognize the success that FORREX has achieved. The need for science and knowledge to inform policy and economic decisions is urgent, she said, and enabling the sharing of knowledge, ideas, and collaborative solutions influences change in institutions. FORREX is in the best position to lead initiatives to demonstrate that new solutions can deliver results which meet the values, principles, and protocols of institutions. FORREX's model is complex, she added, and requires knowledge, skills, wisdom, and patience to lead, follow, and support new solutions. FORREX will continue to enable and empower leaders with knowledge, skills, and tools to effect positive change in natural resources management.

Well-established and 10-years young, FORREX's clear vision of a society of continuous learners making decisions to support sustainable ecosystems and communities guides its activities. Proven and adaptable strategies result from listening, learning, and sharing knowledge about the natural resources sector. Hollstedt said that FORREX adapts to the changing business environment, and nurtures a learning culture through effective, honest, thoughtful communication.

FORREX partnerships are key to delivering initiatives; successfully integrating knowledge into management practice is increased by collaborative delivery. FORREX's programming has expanded in critical areas, said Hollstedt, and clients recognize the value of timely information at an appropriate level of detail. 🌲

For more information about FORREX's progress, please visit http://www.forrex.org/publications/other/corporate/FORREX_Annual_Report_2007-08.pdf

Old directors honored, new directors named

Look to page 32 for our new suite of Directors.

Thank you also to the following Directors for their many years of dedication and service:

Jeremy Boyd
Gerry Fraser
Chris Ortner

Scott Dionne
John Mann
Leo Stillas

¹ Based on Sustainable Travel International (from the David Suzuki Foundation website) http://www.sustainabletravelinternational.org/documents/op_carboncalcs.html