

# FORREX welcomes new team members

FORREX and the En'owkin Centre are very pleased that **Ellen Simmons** has joined our team as an Aboriginal Forestry and Indigenous Knowledge Extension Specialist. She will be helping to design and implement a program that will build collaborative linkages with partner organizations among the clients and research organizations in the Southern Interior. Ensuring that partners and clients, with an emphasis on aboriginal communities, have access to the best available information and extension services to address their resource management hurdles is the program's main priority.

Before joining FORREX, Ellen worked with the BC Ministry of Environment, Mountain Pine Beetle Ecosystem Restoration Team as a mountain pine beetle biologist and outreach organizer. Previously, she developed a forestry consulting company in the Northwest Territories that specialized in ecosystem restoration, which included ongoing working relationships with members of the Dene Nation in the Sahtu region of the Northwest Territories, as well as working for Weyerhaeuser in Alberta in their genetic tree improvement program for trembling aspen. Ellen holds a Bachelor of Science in forest management from the University of British Columbia and is a Forester in Training. Additionally, she represents the En'owkin Centre on the board for the Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance. Her interests and expertise range from the flora of boreal forests to silviculture, ecosystem restoration, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

Ellen is partnered with the En'owkin Centre and can be reached at [\*\*Ellen.Simmons@forrex.org\*\*](mailto:Ellen.Simmons@forrex.org) or [\*\*ecomunity@vip.net\*\*](mailto:ecomunity@vip.net).

**Kevin Bladon** joined FORREX this fall as a Watershed Management Extension Specialist. In partnership with the University of British Columbia–Okanagan, he and teammate Todd Redding are responsible for identifying information needs and developing and co-ordinating extension programming and services related to sustainable watersheds. Kevin is also involved in conducting research and in synthesizing and integrating research results/knowledge into sound and practical approaches to solve complex watershed management challenges of resource managers.

Prior to joining FORREX, Kevin worked at the University of Alberta as an Ecohydrologist on the Southern Rockies Watershed Project in the eastern slopes of Alberta's Rocky Mountains. This work provided him with an extensive background in natural (wildfire and mountain pine beetle) and anthropogenic (conventional and salvage logging) disturbance impacts on water quantity, water quality, and aquatic ecology. He has also been employed as a natural resource consultant, working closely with various stakeholders to develop sustainable solutions to watershed management issues. Kevin has a PhD in ecohydrology from the University of Alberta, which addressed tree-water relations and microclimate change. Kevin will be based in Kelowna at the University of British Columbia–Okanagan and can be reached at [\*\*Kevin.Bladon@forrex.org\*\*](mailto:Kevin.Bladon@forrex.org) 