

A warm FORREX welcome to Suzan Lapp

Suzan Lapp joined FORREX in August as our new Watershed Management lead, based in Kelowna at the University of British Columbia – Okanagan campus. In partnership with this university, she is responsible for identifying the information needs related to sustainable watersheds, developing and coordinating extension activities using the best science and expertise to address those needs, and facilitating the building of co-operative research partnerships where new information is needed. Suzan will ensure that research results and knowledge are synthesized and integrated into useful and practical management tools and identify innovative applications, to solve the complex watershed challenges of resource managers. Watershed management encompasses a broader sector than those directly associated with water, such as the economics, socio-economics, and sustainability facets; therefore, part of Suzan's role will be to collaborate within these areas and incorporate the full scope of research, information, and knowledge into her extension services and outreach.

Before joining FORREX, Suzan worked as a Research Fellow on the Institutional Adaptations to Climate Change

project at the University of Regina. This collaborative research project, between Chilean and Canadian research institutions, provided her with a background in assessing the future climate scenarios for southern Alberta and Saskatchewan and their potential impact to the vulnerabilities identified by local stakeholders. She has also been involved in various water quantity and water quality projects in the Alberta oil sands and southern Alberta agricultural region and has assisted local watershed groups in promoting sustainability.

Suzan is currently completing her PhD in Geography through the University of Regina. Her focus is on the pre-instrumental and future hydroclimatic variability of western North America. She is very passionate about water and assisting in the implementation of sustainable environmental practices. Combining her education and experience, Suzan is keen to address the needs of the natural resource partners and clients, and to engage local researchers in implementing a comprehensive extension program.

Suzan Lapp can be reached at leadwatershed@forrex.org