

2009 Award Winner



Forester of the Year – Chris Hollstedt, RPF

Encouraged by her father during many a family outing to conservation areas and wildland sites, Chris Hollstedt spent her childhood studying plants and learning their names. It wasn't until she started thinking about university at 17 that she learned forestry could be both a career and a calling. She certainly picked the right path. This year she won the Association of BC Forest Professional's Forester of the Year which recognizes outstanding, recent service to the forestry profession.

Chris is the founding CEO of FORREX (Forum of Research and Extension in Natural Resources), a charitable non-share corporation founded in 1998 to help people develop science and knowledge-based solutions to complex natural resource challenges. She is passionate about taking research and expert knowledge and applying them to on-the-ground forest policy and practices.

"In a general way, FORREX has been a critical part in making science and expert information more available. The people are accessing this information and actually using it to help make decisions," said Chris. *"In 1998, this was a real barrier – people didn't have easy access to research or experts. Now current research is being used to make science based decisions and practitioners are more engaged as a community in learning and adapting forest practices."*

Chris was completely surprised when she found out she'd won the prestigious award. *"They kept it a very good secret. It took me aback a little bit,"* said Chris. *"I certainly didn't set out to win an award and I feel honoured and reassured to know that other people think I'm on the right track."*