



## **Jodi Romyn**

*Sustainability Project Manager*

### **Career Description**

A Sustainability Project Manager coordinates practical, project-based solutions that strengthen the long-term sustainability of a community or region.

### **Profile**

As the assistant regional manager for a non-profit organization dedicated to “improving sustainability” within the Fraser River Watershed, Jodi Romyn says her career is about making the province a better place for the next generation.

“We define sustainability as a ‘three-legged stool’ that includes social well-being, economic prosperity and environmental health,” she explains. The challenge is to translate these ideals into practical, on-the-ground projects that produce tangible results. For Jodi, who is based in Kamloops, those projects span the entire Thompson Region.

One of her main projects involves the installation of climate stations and wireless soil moisture meters, which help farmers and ranchers to conserve water by irrigating more efficiently. She also plans stewardship workshops and supervises streambank restorations that help to prevent soil erosion and improve water quality.

“There’s a large educational component to what I do as well,” Jodi adds, noting she is often asked to share her insights at workshops and other events. “And I spend about 25 per cent of my time coordinating a committee that helps to control the spread of invasive plant species through improved regulation and compliance.”

Jodi’s role is to plan and administer each project to make sure it stays on track and within budget. She also supervises any contractors hired to do the work. A big part of her job is simply connecting people in the community – from individual citizens right up to government departments.

“We’re a neutral body so it’s easy for us to bring together the right people and get them talking about the issues and arriving at sustainable decisions,” she explains, stressing the importance of good communication skills. “It’s a fantastic environment to work in.”

“It definitely helps to understand how natural systems function across the landscape,” adds the natural resource sciences grad. “It allows me to provide the big picture perspective.”

### **Key Quote**

“I love working with people to solve problems and find sustainable solutions that benefit everyone. It’s about making the province a better place to live.”

**Ask Jodi: What can I do outside of school to help me prepare?**

“Take advantage of any courses or hands-on opportunities to develop your leadership and communication skills. Public speaking is important for me and I learned that through 4-H. Or you could volunteer at a community roundtable – anything to start building your list of contacts.”

**Primary Location**

- All regions

**Interest/Skills**

- Strategic thinking
- Communication
- Supervision
- Project management
- Facilitation

**Suggested Qualifications**

- Degree in Natural Resource Science, Environment or Agriculture

**Related High School Subjects**

- Biology
- Geography
- History

**Related Careers**

- Range Agrologist
- Conservation Manager
- Land Use Planner

**Did you know?**

- Nearly one in four farms within the Fraser River Watershed use an irrigation system.  
(Source: Fraser Basin Council)