



Photo: Fraser Rudman

Ranger Project Lead, Community

Location	Hokitika, Western South Island
Salary	Salary range based on skills and experience is \$69,429 to \$88,181

Mō te tūranga | About the role

In this role, you'll be part of the Hokitika Operations Team, working across the district to lead or support statutory, advocacy, and community conservation programmes. You'll work with a variety of parties internally and externally and mentor colleagues and represent DOC in cross-agency and community initiatives.

Key Tasks

- Statutory Management – assess applications for, and manage, complex or high-risk activities on public conservation land.
- Advocacy and Outreach – represent DOC's conservation interests in statutory planning, policy and Resource Management Act processes, while building community awareness and support for conservation.
- Monitoring and Compliance – undertake site inspections to assess compliance with approvals and conditions, and responding to findings as required.
- Stakeholder Engagement – build and maintain relationships with Treaty partners, concessionaires, local authorities, businesses, schools, community organisations, and other stakeholders.
- District Collaboration – work alongside biodiversity, recreation, visitor, heritage, compliance, and operations teams to deliver integrated conservation outcomes.

Ngā pūkenga me ngā wheako | Skills and experience

If you have some of following, we are keen to hear from you:

- Strong background and/or capability in statutory processes, resource management, concessions and compliance monitoring.
- Strong relationship management and negotiation skills, and experience working with a diverse range of stakeholders.

- Experience in community engagement, consultation, or event planning.
- Ability to interpret and communicate technical information clearly.
- Strong planning, analytical, and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent writing skills, including preparing clear and concise reports, assessments, and correspondence.
- Understanding of Te Tiriti partnership and comfort engaging with tangata whenua.
- A current full New Zealand driver licence.
- Drone pilot experience, 4WD certification and knowledge of mining operations would be advantageous.

Mō te tīma | About the team/Location

The Hokitika District Operations team consists of approximately 27 permanent staff, supported by seasonal employees and contractors. Work programmes are led by Principal Rangers, Programme Leads, and Operations Advisors, who provide direction and support across the district.

The Hokitika district work, and team, is organised under three main functions being Community & Regional Biodiversity, Visitor & Heritage, and Biodiversity. The district team is responsible for managing a diverse range of conservation values and activities between the Taramakau River in the north, Bonar Ridge (south of the Waitaha River) in the south, and the Main Divide of the Southern Alps in the east, including part of Arthur's Pass National Park. The district lies within the Western South Island region, stretching from Karamea to Haast, of which 84% of land is public conservation land.

Examples of key management areas for the district team include commercial activities on public conservation land, such as tourism, mining, grazing and concessions; significant biodiversity programmes, including a whio security site and plant and animal pest control initiatives; and a diverse range of visitor assets, from the district's extensive backcountry hut and track network to popular destinations such as Hokitika Gorge, Lake Kaniere and Lake Mahinapua.

In addition, being centrally based in the Department's Western South Island (WSI) region, the Hokitika District office includes some regional rangers who operate across all four of the region's districts; Buller in the north, Greymouth and Hokitika centrally, and South Westland to the south. These include a building team, wild animal control work, and a marine, freshwater and heritage specialist roles.

Hokitika town also hosts the Hokitika WSI Regional office and various national and distributed staff, meaning the Department is one of the largest employers in Hokitika.

As Ranger Project Lead Community, you will sit within the Community & Regional Biodiversity team and report to the Principal Ranger Community & Regional Biodiversity. The role leads complex statutory work, monitoring, advocacy, and stakeholder engagement across the district, working closely with operational teams, technical specialists, Treaty partners, local authorities, concessionaires, industry, and community groups. There are opportunities to be involved in regional and national initiatives around policy, improvement, and outreach events.

Hokitika is a great place to call home. The district contains the towns of Kumara, Hokitika and Ross, and various small settlements including Otira, Lake Kaniere, and Kokatahi. Hokitika is centrally located being 3.5 hours' drive north to Karamaea, south to Haast, and east to Christchurch. The Hokitika area is renowned for providing access to the densest backcountry hut network in the country (with over 70 huts in the district) and a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, including tramping, hunting, mountain biking, fishing, and kayaking. It spans a wide range of habitat types from beech forest to the north and south and mature lowland podocarp forest in the more western regions with large areas of mixed broadleaf. With rugged alpine environments, extensive forest ecosystems, wild rivers, and a strong community spirit, the district offers an outstanding lifestyle alongside meaningful conservation work.

Additional Information

Being a smaller town, accommodation options are more limited; However, the Department has a large presence in Hokitika, meaning local staff network can often find rental options and help new team members establish themselves in the community.

Me he pātai anō, whakapā mai | For further enquiries

Please contact Celine Stokowski, Principal Ranger Community and Regional Biodiversity, cstokowski@doc.govt.nz