

Applicant Information Sheet

About the Group

The Operations Group is responsible for delivering conservation work on the ground through our biodiversity, heritage and visitors, community engagement and visitor centre teams. The Operations Group is organised into nine regions across New Zealand.

Each region is led by an Operations Director based in Whangarei, Auckland, Hamilton, Taupo, Palmerston North, Christchurch, Nelson, Hokitika and Queenstown.

About the Team

The Operations team in Hokitika consists of up to 27 permanent staff and a number of seasonal fixed term positions and contractors. Scheduling of work is done by Principal Rangers, Programme Leads and Operations Advisors, with field staff in the district reporting directly to these positions. Principal Rangers, Programme Leads and Operations Advisors report to the Operations Manager.

The Hokitika District Operations work and team is organised under three main functions being Community & Regional Biodiversity, Visitor and Heritage and Biodiversity. The area of our district operation is between the Taramakau River in the north, the Bonar Ridge south of the Waitaha River in the south, and the main divide of the Southern Alps in the east. This includes part of Arthurs Pass National Park.

The district has important biodiversity values (including a whoio security site in nearby river catchments and plant and animal pest control programmes), a large backcountry network of huts and tracks to manage, some great front country visitor assets (including the Hokitika Gorge short walk and facilities at Lake Kaniere and Mahinapua), and a large amount of commercial activities such as tourism, mining and grazing to manage on public conservation land.

Being centrally based in the Western South Island region, the Hokitika District office includes some regionally based teams who operate across all four of the region's districts

- Buller in the north
- Greymouth and Hokitika centrally and
- South Westland district to the south.

These regionally based teams include a building team, wild animal control work, a marine specialist role and this freshwater ranger role. Regional roles span a 600km distance between Karamea and Haast, and within the region 84% of the land is Public Conservation Land.

The advertised role fits in the regionally delivered work within the biodiversity function, and reports to the Principal Ranger Community & Regional Biodiversity. The role was established to deliver a national freshwater programme based around improving population security of four migratory fish species, as well as managing key freshwater biosecurity pressures. Working under the same National Freshwater Programme, the Migratory Fish



Coordinator for the South Island, based in the Hokitika District office, provides close operational support to the Freshwater Ranger role.

Role Requirements

This position has a dual focus on both securing migratory fish species and freshwater biosecurity. An annual plan, informed by input from National Freshwater Programme Coordinators and technical advisors, guides work planning each year.

It is a full-time role. It requires spending time working in the field alongside contractors and or staff and at times working alone. This role has been in place for five years and over that time significant work has been completed, notably focused on shortjaw kōkopu, kanakana and inanga, with strong data sets now recorded. While there will be a continuation of parts of this work, the role will shift focus towards decision-making and restoration efforts to improve security for these species across the region.

There is a need for a reasonable amount of office work with the relative proportion of office to field being highly variable across the year. Overall, we expect the role to be in the region of 50/50 office to field.

Location

Hokitika District 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 around 3.5 hours' drive north to Karamea and 3.5 hours south to Haast, and 3.5 hours' drive to Christchurch.

The Hokitika District is renowned for hosting the densest backcountry network in the county, with the West Coast Region having over 140 huts. The area provides ample opportunities in outdoor pursuits, such as hiking, biking, and fishing. The area spans a wide range of habitat types from beech forest to the north and south, mature lowland podocarp forest in the more western regions with large areas of mixed broadleaf. The backcountry has extensive alpine areas, with a lot of the country being big, rugged, and captivating.

Pre-Employment Background Checks

Should you be the successful applicant for a position, you may be required to undertake a range of pre-employment background checks. The level of background checks required will depend on the level and type of position you are appointed to. *These could include one or more of the following:*

- Reference checks
- Pre-employment drug testing
- Pre-employment health questionnaire
- Ministry of Justice (MOJ) criminal conviction history check
- Safety checks

Workforce Assurance checks (for anyone who has worked in the public sector in the last three years)