



Photo: Petrus Hedman

Experience a different 9 to 5
with a summer job at the
Department of Conservation

Biodiversity Ranger

Location	Geraldine, Raukapuka District
Dates of Employment	1 September 2026 to 30 June 2027
Salary	Salary range based on skills and experience is \$65,590 - \$76,589

Mō te tūranga | About the role

This role focuses on delivering field-based conservation work across a range of habitats and species programmes in the breathtaking Canterbury high country. A significant focus of your work will be protection of the critically endangered white-bellied skink. This project currently involves maintenance of an extensive trap and bait station network as well as monitoring predator numbers using trail cameras and an annual skink monitoring trip in late November.

We have an integrated biodiversity team where staff work across a range of programmes and you will be required to work across a range of biodiversity projects. You will also be required to spend up to four nights a week at our field bases in the Hakatere Conservation Park and should expect to be staying out in the field from 4-12 nights per month. You will work in remote environments and contribute to the protection of nationally significant biodiversity values amongst some of the most scenic environments in Aotearoa.

Key Tasks

- Undertake animal pest control (trapping and bait station maintenance) and lead teams undertaking such work.
- Monitor threatened reptiles and other species (e.g. braided river birds)
- Plan and organise components of the work (approximately 1-2 days per week in the office)
Collect and record field data accurately
- Work across remote environments

Ngā pūkenga me ngā wheako | Skills and experience

Essential

- Backcountry experience and confidence working in remote and steep environments
- A high level of physical fitness.
- Strong off-track navigation and river crossing skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a small team
- Ability to lead field teams
- Good data recording and attention to detail
- Strong time management and organisational skills
- Practical field skills and a hands-on approach to conservation work
- Full New Zealand driver's licence

Desirable

- Experience with 4WD driving (NZQA 4x4 unit standards)
- Experience with LUV driving (relevant NZQA unit standards required)
- Experience with reptile handling and monitoring
- Experience operating and maintaining a range of animal traps
- Current First Aid certificate

Mō te tīma | About the team/Location

The Geraldine District spans from the Southern Alps to the coast between the Rakaia and Waitaki Rivers, encompassing a wide range of ecosystems and recreational opportunities. Geraldine is less than 2 hours from Christchurch and just 35 minutes from Timaru. The role is primarily field-based, with work occurring across remote environments with regular overnight stays in DOC field bases (with hot showers and wi-fi) or backcountry huts or tents.

For a taste of how the Raukapuka team roll and what we do, check out this video [Raukapuka Thrives - YouTube](#)

Additional Information

Roster: Regular hours of work are 8.00 – 4.30 Monday to Friday, although some weekend work may occasionally be required.

Accommodation: Not provided (except when working in the field)

Number of positions: 1

Me he pātai anō, whakapā mai | For further enquiries

Please contact Seasonal Jobs seasonaljobs@doc.govt.nz