



Photo: Petrus Hedman

Experience a different 9 to 5

with a summer job at the

Department of Conservation

Ranger (Heritage and Visitor)

Location	Haast, South Westland District
Dates of Employment	27 October 2026 to 30 April 2027
Salary	Salary range based on skills and experience is \$61,189 - \$67,446

Mō te tūranga | About the role

As a Heritage and Visitor Ranger based in Haast within the Heritage and Visitor work group, these roles support the delivery of visitor services and facility maintenance across the South Westland District. The positions focus on maintaining tracks, huts, and visitor amenities across both front-country and backcountry sites, while supporting visitor safety and conservation outcomes. You will work across a range of iconic locations, contributing to the upkeep and management of high-use visitor areas.

Key Tasks

- Maintain front-country amenities and tracks
- Undertake backcountry track and hut maintenance
- Provide visitor information and support visitor safety
- Complete work reports and timesheets using mobile applications
- Monitor and manage risks in high-use visitor areas
- Support emergency response and decision-making when required
- Contribute to the upkeep of key sites including huts and campgrounds including toilet cleaning

Ngā pūkenga me ngā wheako | Skills and experience

- Ability to work both independently and as part of a small team
- Strong practical, hands-on skills for field-based work
- Experience in visitor risk and hazard monitoring (desirable)
- Good communication skills and ability to engage with visitors
- High level of physical fitness for fieldwork in remote environments
- Ability to use mobile technology for reporting and operational tasks
- Strong health and safety awareness

- Full New Zealand driver's licence
- Experience with trailers (desirable)

Mō te tīma | About the team/Location

The South Westland Operations team consists of approximately 36 staff working across heritage and visitor, biodiversity, and community programmes. The Heritage and Visitor team includes 13 permanent staff across multiple sites, supported by seasonal staff during peak periods.

The district spans a large and diverse area from Haast Pass to the Waitaha River, including significant parts of the Te Wāhipounamu World Heritage Area. Key locations include Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers, Lake Matheson, Ship Creek, and the Copland Valley.

Haast is a small, remote township surrounded by rainforest, rivers, beaches, and wetlands, and is a gateway to both Mount Aspiring National Park and Westland Tai Poutini National Park. With a population of approximately 100 people, this number rises in the busier summer months. A vehicle is highly recommended; essentially no public transport is available. It is a 2-hour drive from Haast to Wānaka. The town is serviced by the Intercity bus which goes north to Greymouth and south to Queenstown daily. It provides both a passenger and limited freight service. There are several weekday courier services. Haast has all the services necessary such as medical centre, small grocery store, community hall facilities, church services. For day-to-day living, and for airport access it is four hours to Hokitika, or two and a half hours to Queenstown.

Additional Information

Roster: Includes rostered weekend and public holiday work; may include multi-day backcountry trips. Standard hours of work are 8.00am to 4.30pm. Full training will be provided. Applicants must be able to complete the full period of employment from 1 October 2026 to 31 May 2027.

Accommodation: There is Departmental accommodation available in a furnished, shared occupancy two- or three-bedroom property. Rental is set at market rates as determined by Valuation NZ. Private rental accommodation options may be available in the area.

Number of positions: 1

Me he pātai anō, whakapā mai | For further enquiries

Please contact Seasonal Jobs seasonaljobs@doc.govt.nz