



Experience a different 9 to 5

with a summer job at the

Department of Conservation

Photo: Petrus Hedman

Ranger (Hut Warden)

Location	Te Anau, Fiordland District
Dates of Employment	5 October 2026 to 4 May 2026
Salary	Salary range based on skills and experience is \$61,189 - \$67,446

Mō te tūranga | About the role

As a Hut Warden based in Te Anau within the Heritage and Visitor work group, this role supports the operation of Fiordland's Great Walk huts. The position focuses on delivering high-quality visitor experiences, maintaining hut facilities, and ensuring visitor safety across the Milford, Kepler, and Routeburn Great Walks. You will live and work in remote backcountry locations, acting as DOC's on-site representative and ensuring huts operate to a high standard throughout the summer season.

Key Tasks

- Clean huts, campsites, and facilities daily
- Undertake track maintenance including gravelling and vegetation clearing
- Carry out routine hut and infrastructure maintenance
- Manage and monitor water, sewage, and solar systems
- Deliver evening conservation talks and (where required) guided nature talks
- Ensure visitor safety (e.g. weather hazards, avalanche risk, helicopter control)
- Complete reporting and timesheets using mobile applications
- Carry out compliance and law enforcement activities as required
- Undertake weed control and general site upkeep

Ngā pūkenga me ngā wheako | Skills and experience

- High level of physical fitness for sustained backcountry work
- Experience in hut, track, or facility maintenance
- Strong communication skills, including public speaking and visitor engagement
- Ability to work independently in isolated environments and as part of a wider team
- Backcountry experience and confidence living and working remotely
- Ability to manage multiple tasks and prioritise workload effectively
- Sound decision-making skills, particularly in emergency situations

- Ability to use mobile technology for reporting and operational tasks
- Knowledge of water, sewage, and solar systems (or willingness to learn)
- Cash handling experience (for some huts)
- Experience delivering interpretation or guided talks
- Full New Zealand driver's licence

Mō te tīma | About the team/Location

The Heritage and Visitor team manages huts, tracks, campsites, and visitor infrastructure across Fiordland National Park.

Fiordland is home to three of New Zealand's Great Walks—Milford, Kepler, and Routeburn—featuring seven huts and three campsites. These are among the country's premier walking experiences, requiring high service standards and careful visitor management.

Additional Information

Roster: 8 days on and 6 days off. Includes some weekends and public holidays.

Accommodation:

Each hut has fully equipped staff quarters which include shower, toilet, lighting and gas facilities. You supply your own bedding, linen, food and personal items. Rangers are expected to walk to and from their respective huts on changeover day from the nearest entry point to which transport is provided. Rangers will carry their fresh food and personal gear to and from their hut although the bulk of their gear and dry food will be flown in at the beginning of the season and during hut re-supply in January 2027.

A non-taxable field food allowance is paid for days worked in the field. Uniform and personal protective equipment is provided including costs towards tramping boots as required.

Full training will be provided.

For further information on our Great Walk huts and tracks follow the link below <http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/great-walks/>

Number of Position: 2

Me he pātai anō, whakapā mai | For further enquiries

Please contact Seasonal Jobs seasonaljobs@doc.govt.nz