



Wildlands

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Harnessing the Wind, Protecting Nature

Wildland Consultants has extensive experience carrying out ecological constraints and effects assessments for wind farm developments across New Zealand. By engaging our team early in the planning process, our team can identify ecological constraints and advise on adjustments to turbine layouts that will reduce consenting risks and cut the cost of ecological investigations across the life of the project.

We strive to provide practical solutions to avoid, minimise, and mitigate impacts, and support clients through consenting with robust, science-based advice. We are proud to be working on several wind farms and other renewable energy projects, and to be helping to de-carbonise New Zealand's electricity supply while ensuring appropriate care is taken to protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity. Our input has resulted in consents being granted for several wind farms, including through the 'fast-track' consenting process.

Leading the Way in Bat Management

During the 2025-2026 field season Wildlands' expert bat team was involved in a wide variety of infrastructure and development projects, including roading, mining, renewable energy, and both small and large-scale subdivisions.

Our team employs the latest research, protocols, and technology to ensure that harm to bats is minimised. This includes everything from undertaking initial bat habitat and constraints assessments, to acoustic surveys and radio-tracking, overseeing high-risk activities including tree felling, and providing practical effects management advice. Wildlands is dedicated to finding solutions to provide critical infrastructure, while still supporting and protecting Aotearoa's threatened species and their habitats.

A highlight for our team has been working on pekapeka surveys and management for multiple wind and solar farm projects, spanning across the North, South and even Stewart Islands.



Wildlands Ecologist Jode Page-Corney examining the wing of a long-tailed bat (*Chalinolobus tuberculatus*).



Jode using the radio receiver to locate the roost of a radio tagged long-tailed bat.



The flourishing revegetation planting, new walking track, and interpretation signage at Western Springs.

Ecology in Action at Western Springs

Our Senior Principal Ecologist Nick Goldwater recently received some wonderful feedback on our work for the Western Springs pine tree removal project. Peter Kensington, Planner and Landscape Architect from KPLC, said...

"Just wanted to drop you a note of congratulations on delivering a successful outcome at Western Springs. I happened to take a wander through this area over the Matariki weekend, after not having been back since before the pine trees were removed.

Exactly what was predicted at the outset is occurring. The revegetation appears to be going well, the new track is a popular addition and with excellent interpretation panels, seats and outlook. What a hugely impressive effort, in my opinion – well done!"

Thank you Peter for your kind words! We are proud to have contributed to the great ecological outcomes of the Western Springs pine tree removal project. Our team provided specialist advice and on the ground restoration services to balance the removal of ageing, exotic pine trees with the protection of ecological values, wildlife, and the long-term health of this iconic park. By working closely with project partners, we helped identify, assess, and manage potential ecological effects while supporting the restoration of native habitats. The project represents an important step towards creating a more resilient, biodiverse landscape that will benefit both people and nature for generations to come.



Wildlands Restoration team members (left to right) Alice Hangartner, Chris Duff and Brad Garfield at Ōmana Regional Park.

Another Successful Year Caring for Auckland's Regional Parks

Wildlands' Auckland Restoration team is proud to celebrate another successful year delivering pest plant and pest animal control across Auckland's Regional Parks. For over a decade, our dedicated teams have worked together to protect and enhance some of the region's most treasured natural spaces.

During the past year, our crews have carried out restoration work across 11 regional parks. This achievement included 190 nights away for our teams—a remarkable commitment that reflects their passion and dedication.

While the work is demanding, our teams relish the opportunity to make a lasting difference in some of Auckland's most spectacular landscapes. Their high-quality fieldwork, detailed reporting, and on-the-ground recommendations continue to support effective park management and strengthen the ecological integrity of these valued public spaces. We look forward to another productive season in 2026–27.

Our Senior Staff



Nick Goldwater

Senior Principal Ecologist

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Nick is an experienced ecologist who has been with Wildlands for over 18 years. Nick is a qualified drone pilot and works across a broad range of areas within terrestrial and aquatic ecology. He has extensive experience carrying out ecological impact assessments and developing effects management packages for large-scale projects, including motorways, windfarms, and quarries. He is experienced in the development of Biodiversity Offset Accounting Models (BOAMs) to ensure effects can be managed to achieve a 'no-net-loss' of ecological values. Nick's range of expertise extends to fauna surveys (fish, lizards, birds), wetland ecology, stream ecological valuations, and vegetation monitoring.



Sarah Budd

Principal Ecologist, Auckland Regional Manager

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Sarah has worked as an ecological consultant on a diverse range of projects for over 15 years, including undertaking Ecological Impact Assessments for a range of developments such as public pathways, tourist attractions, wastewater treatment plants, quarries, stop bank upgrades, subdivisions, and dwellings, and has experience with ecological monitoring and restoration. Sarah oversees and coordinates the projects undertaken by the Auckland office and is dedicated to ensuring we continue to provide excellent ecological advice to our clients, on time, and on budget.



Nick Ranger

Principal Restoration Ecologist, COO

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Nick has more than 25 years experience in ecological consultancy. His key areas of expertise are project management and client liaison; ecological management and preparation restoration plans; indigenous planting and revegetation, pest plant and pest animal management, and ensuring practical solutions. Nick has a key role in peer reviewing management plans for Wildlands and external clients to ensure they are both ecologically appropriate and practical to implement. Nick led the establishment of the company's Toitū Enviromark diamond certified Environmental Management System.



Brent Henry

Associate Principal Ecologist, Bat Specialist

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Brent is Wildlands' bat expert and resident Texan. He has managed and led several bat surveys throughout New Zealand, during which he has applied methods and techniques such as ABM deployment and analysis, placement of harp traps (free standing and at roost entrances), handling, banding, radio tracking to locate roost trees, and emergence counts. Brent is a Department of Conservation-certified bat ecologist and is certified for 'High-risk activities – roost felling' and Bat handling competencies. Recently he has provided advice regarding potential effects on bats for a range of large renewable energy projects.

Richard Storey

Associate Principal Freshwater Ecologist



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Richard has 24 years' professional experience researching the ecology of lakes, wetlands and streams, and applying ecological knowledge to monitor, understand, mitigate and reverse the impacts of human activities on fresh waters. His experience includes 15 years in the Freshwater Ecology Group of NIWA (the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research) and two years in the Aquatic Ecology Centre of Kathmandu University, Nepal. His roles have ranged from field data collection and analysis to project management, client liaison, reporting, and academic publishing. Richard has worked with Wildland Consultants since 2023, and has developed a strong working knowledge of the Auckland Unitary Plan, the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater and the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.



Blair Balsom
Senior Herpetologist
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Blair has a wealth of experience in herpetofauna survey, salvage, and management. Blair leads the Auckland based herpetology team and has oversight of all lizard salvage work throughout the North Island. This experience includes numerous surveys, salvage, and translocation operations throughout Auckland (including islands in the Hauraki Gulf), Northland, Waikato, Canterbury, and Otago. Blair has led the survey, identification, and translocation of hundreds of indigenous lizards, including copper skink, ornate skink, moko skink, Pacific gecko, elegant gecko, and forest gecko within the Auckland region.



Joshua Thoresen
Senior Ecologist
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Josh is an experienced Senior Ecologist and biostatistician with over ten years of experience working in academic research and as a consultant on a variety of projects. He completed his Masters in conservation biology in 2012 and his PhD at the Auckland University of Technology (AUT) in 2017. He has an extensive background in biostatistics and modelling, including generalised linear and non-linear models (GLMs) and mixed effects models (GLMMs), network analysis, piecewise structural equation models (SEMs), permutational analyses of variance (PERMANOVA), non-metric multidimensional scaling (NMDS), and dissimilarity indices. Joshua is also an experienced ecologist with a wide variety of ecological skillsets including experience in ecological monitoring across New Zealand and South Africa for forests, wetlands, streams, grasslands, savannahs, invertebrates, mammals, fish, birds, and lizards.



Phoebe Andrews
Senior Ecologist
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Phoebe is a Senior Ecologist with a strong background in ecological assessment and biodiversity management. Phoebe has contributed to a wide range of projects, developing particular expertise in Ecological Assessments. She has prepared numerous Ecological Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Significance Assessments for a variety of development projects and has a sound understanding of the EIANZ guidelines for assessing ecological effects. Phoebe regularly undertakes peer reviews of freshwater and terrestrial EIAs for Auckland Council, Significance Assessments, and Ecological Management Plans (EMPs) submitted in support of resource consent applications. Through this work, she has developed an in-depth understanding of the Auckland Unitary Plan provisions relating to ecology, as well as the broader consenting process.



Lance Salt
Senior Restoration Manager
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Lance has 25 years of practical and managerial experience implementing a variety of ecological restoration projects that include pest plant control, pest animal control and indigenous revegetation operations across a range of ecosystem types and scales, across Aotearoa. Lance understands what is required for restoration projects to succeed and knows how to implement revegetation projects in an efficient manner. Lance's practical experience with restoration projects, combined with his Post Graduate training, sound communication and organisation skills, has allowed him to successfully manage, advise and deliver results to a high standard on numerous biosecurity and revegetation projects.

Our Services

- Freshwater, terrestrial and marine ecological surveys and assessment.
- Wetland delineation and assessment.
- Assessments of ecological effects and solutions for large and small scale projects
- Ecological restoration and implementation plans.
- Identification of mitigation options.
- Geospatial representation and analysis.
- Plant, bird, lizard, bat, and terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates surveys, assessment, monitoring and salvage.
- Pest animal surveys, and weed impact assessments and management plans.
- UAV surveys for quality ecological data.
- Threatened plant and fauna management.

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REGIONAL OFFICES: Rotorua, Whangārei, Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, Queenstown, Wanaka, and Invercargill.

