



Minimise the threat

Check out each threat and then decide which of the protection ideas will help minimise the threat that skinks face. Explain how, in the matching box. Three examples are already there and some boxes might be left empty.

<p>Threats to the Otago skinks.</p>  <p>Protection ideas for the Otago skinks.</p> 	<p>Changing shrub and tussock lands to pasture leaves less native fruit and insects to eat. There's also less cover so predators find it easier to catch skinks.</p>	<p>More pasture brings more rabbits. More rabbits means more predators, like cats.</p>	<p>Mining, quarrying, forestry and invasion by woody weeds all mean skink habitats are lost. They have less places to live.</p>	<p>Parasites may infect skinks. We know that when mites were removed from skinks in captivity, the pregnancy success rate went up!</p>	<p>Small groups of skinks in less areas can lead to lower genetic diversity. This means they are more closely related and a single virus might kill the whole group.</p>	<p>Predators like cats eat a lot of lizards and hedgehogs, especially female hedgehogs, seem to be a big threat.</p>
<p>Secure the species Keep skinks in captivity for research and management.</p>				<p>Controlled experiments with parasites and captive skinks could be done to see which parasites affect the skinks.</p>		
<p>Monitoring Set up a programme to watch skinks closely.</p>						
<p>Community awareness Get on well with land owners. Tell the public all about these skinks. Get sponsorship.</p>		<p>Landowners might leave more land as skink habitat. Sponsorship could help make it even more skink friendly and the public might volunteer to help out.</p>				
<p>Research Find out more about reasons why these skinks are disappearing.</p>						<p>By trapping particular predators we could find out just how much of a threat they really are.</p>