

**PROJECT REPORT**  
**Volunteer Trip**  
**Torres del Paine National Park, Patagonia, Chile**  
**November 15 – December 6, 2021**



**SUMMARY:**

Conservation Volunteers International Program (ConservationVIP®) sent two volunteer trip leaders, Board member Garry Oye and Trail Expert James Mahoney to Torres del Paine National Park from November 23 to December 2, 2021, to complete the Skottsberg Trail in partnership with Torres del Paine Legacy Fund. TdP Legacy Fund provided eleven volunteers and two crew leaders. On December 1, 2021, we officially opened the Skottsberg Trail and immediately watched visitors out enjoying this incredible new trail. During this 10-day effort we experienced beautiful sunny days, sideways windy rainy days and a general crazy mix of extreme weather. Through it all, our volunteers and leaders stayed focused on the task and completed the trail work. Each day we would factor in weather forecast and prepare to work further and further out away from camp. And each evening we would return to camp with significant amounts of work completed and tired and hungry workers.



### ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The Skottsberg Trail is 4 miles in length and is located between Italian Camp and Paine Grande. Segments of the Skottsberg Trail required re-routes, additional tread work, brushing, drainage, boardwalk and stone steps. We also completed restoration work on an abandoned section of the old trail to the old Italian Camp bridge.

Estimates of work done:

Re-routes: 2 major efforts totaling 80 feet of new trail

Tread work: 5,000 feet of tread work

Restoration of 40 feet of abandoned trail

Brushing: 2,400 feet of brushing

Drainage: 4 new water bars constructed, and 8 old water bars cleaned

Boardwalk: 40 feet of new boardwalk built

Stone Steps: 40 feet of new steps

Volunteer Hours contributed to the Skottsberg Trail project:

ConservationVIP® trip leaders – 304 hours

Torres del Paine Legacy Fund volunteers – 1,188 hours

**FINAL THOUGHTS:**

This final effort to open the Skottsberg trail was made possible by earlier efforts to plan the trail location, organize work parties, purchase boardwalk materials and build sections of trail.

Every group that worked on this trail experienced challenges with weather.



The effort to build this trail involved many people, often working together in teams, sometimes in solitary contemplation, using a variety of skills and tools.



The many groups and individuals were all united in their joy and sense of accomplishment at helping to build a new trail to protect Torres del Paine National Park.



## **PREPARING FOR THE NEXT PROJECT – New Trail Construction and Existing Trail Reconstruction in Cerro Paine Reserve & Torres del Paine National Park:**

Now that the Skottsberg Trail project is completed, the next project which Conservation Volunteers International Program will work on in Torres del Paine National Park is the trail which leads to the Towers. This is the most heavily used trail in the park, leading to the Torres for which the park is named, and it will involve a major, multi-year effort. The lower portion of the Torres trail is located on Cerro Paine Reserve lands. The upper portion of the Torres trail is on public land within the Torres del Paine National Park boundaries. ConservationVIP® plans to work with all parties to complete new trail construction for sections of the trail which should be replaced and to rehabilitate and restore the existing trail where that is feasible.

On the November-December 2021 trip to Torres del Paine National Park, the two trip leaders from ConservationVIP® spent 52 hours of volunteer work scouting new trail locations and reviewing restoration locations. Photographs of the new trail construction and reconstruction reconnaissance follow.





*Scouting new trail can be a thorny business*







*Look closely at the picture above to spot people hiking to the Towers, hoping to see the magnificent view below.*



**We hope you can join us on this project!**