Trip Report
Torres del Paine National Park, Patagonia, Chile
February 19 – March 3, 2023

SUMMARY:
In February 2023, Conservation Volunteers International Program Director and trip leader Garry Oye and 3 volunteers traveled from the United States to Torres del Paine National Park, Chile to work on trail location, new construction and maintenance of the trail to the base of the Towers. We were joined by our friend and local guide Anita Antich.

DETAILS:
On Friday February 17 trip leader Garry Oye hiked the newly constructed trail with US Trail Expert Fischer Gangemi. For 10 prior weeks, Fischer and local volunteers completed work on three re-routes on the new Horse Trail (3 weeks) and the hiker trail from Rocky Point down towards the river (7 weeks). The next day Garry & volunteer Bill moved rocks for future gabion construction and pioneered a trail down to the forest edge.
The volunteers met in Puerto Natales at Hotel Natalino on Sunday February 19 for orientation and then went out for dinner. The next day they travelled to Las Torres and Torres del Paine National Park.

The first field day included an orientation hike with project discussion.

The group then got into trail construction mode and made great progress over the course of the next two weeks.

The first week involved new construction of key sections of the New Torres Trail on Las Torres Reserve lands below Refugio Chileno.
Tuesday evening Las Torres hosted our group for a Lamb Experience. Very fun!
Patagonia provided all kinds of weather: sunshine, wind, rain and snow! Smiles everywhere!
The second week the crew moved uphill to Refugio Chileno.

Improving the trail above Refugio Chileno, the group completed a section of trail re-route, two observation areas and restoration of user-created trails:
ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

255 volunteer hours
200 meters of newly constructed hiker trail
30 meters of rehabilitated trail
2 new viewing areas constructed: 200 square meters