Pumalín Park
Coastal Wilderness in Chilean Patagonia

PROJECT PROFILE

Project of Conservation Land Trust and Fundación Pumalín
Palena Province, Chile

Private conservation lands acquired: 289,562 hectares (715,218 acres)

Conservation Objectives
▶ Valdivian rainforest protection
▶ Creation of Pumalín National Park
Pumalin Park is widely noted as the world’s largest privately assembled nature preserve operated as a public access park. The park project began in 1991 when Doug Tompkins bought a 42,000-acre tract of wild land in the Renihue Valley of Palena province. After moving to Renihue, Doug and Kris Tompkins began expanding the conservation lands in the area by acquiring additional properties from willing sellers. The Conservation Land Trust, a charitable foundation endowed by the Tompkins family and led by Kris Tompkins, subsequently added approximately 700,000 acres in nearly contiguous parcels to form Pumalin Park, which was declared a Nature Sanctuary in 2005. The Conservation Land Trust later donated the protected lands to Fundación Pumalín, a Chilean foundation, for administration and ongoing preservation as a de facto national park under private initiative. The eventual goal is to donate Pumalín to become part of the Chilean national park system.

Although Chile has relatively low animal diversity compared to other South American countries, it is rich in flora, especially endemic species and subspecies. The evergreen broadleaved forest, known in Chile as the Valdivian rainforest, includes thousands of plant species. The average annual rainfall in the coastal forests of Pumalín Park is more than 235 inches. These exceptionally wet, untouched forests extend to the ocean, something that is increasingly rare worldwide. Above the rich, green forests stand the snow-clad Andes, making for one of the most spectacular coastlines on Earth—a landscape of extraordinary grandeur and wildness.

Accomplishments

- Pumalin Park’s public access infrastructure of hiking trails, campgrounds, information centers, cafes, and cabanas serves thousands of visitors annually.
- Several small farms positioned strategically around Pumalin contribute to the park’s stewardship. With activities such as animal husbandry, cheesemaking, ecotourism, wool handicrafts, and honey production, these organic farms advance conservation and contribute to the local economy.
- As an example of wildlands philanthropy on a grand scale, Pumalin Park is a model for other private conservation initiatives and has helped stimulate a broad public dialogue in Chile about the value of parks and wildlife conservation.

Near-term Priorities

- Construct a visitors center near Pumalín Park’s south entrance
- Complete remaining community revitalization efforts at El Amarillo, the park’s gateway community in the southern sector
- Negotiate and complete the donation of Pumalín Park to the national park system

Funding Needs

$4.6 million for 2016–2018

- **Operational Support:** $1.5 million. For next two years of park operations including administration, stewardship, and visitor services.
- **Private-to-public Management Transition:** $400,000. For legal, technical, and staff work to coordinate the park’s transfer to public ownership.
- **Public Access Infrastructure:** $1.7 million. To construct a south entrance (El Amarillo sector) visitor center.
- **Activism and Parklands Defense:** $1 million. To support a Pumalín National Park “friends” group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private lands acquired for park</td>
<td>Pumalín receives official “nature sanctuary” designation; park lands donated to Fundación Pumalín</td>
<td>Eruption of the Chaitén Volcano and associated flooding causes extensive damage to park infrastructure</td>
<td>Rebuilt and expanded park infrastructure is 95 percent complete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>