

Towards the Effective Conservation of the Pascua River Basin in Chilean Patagonia



ROUND RIVER
CONSERVATION STUDIES

Fernando Iglesias Letelier
Director Round River
Conservation, Chile

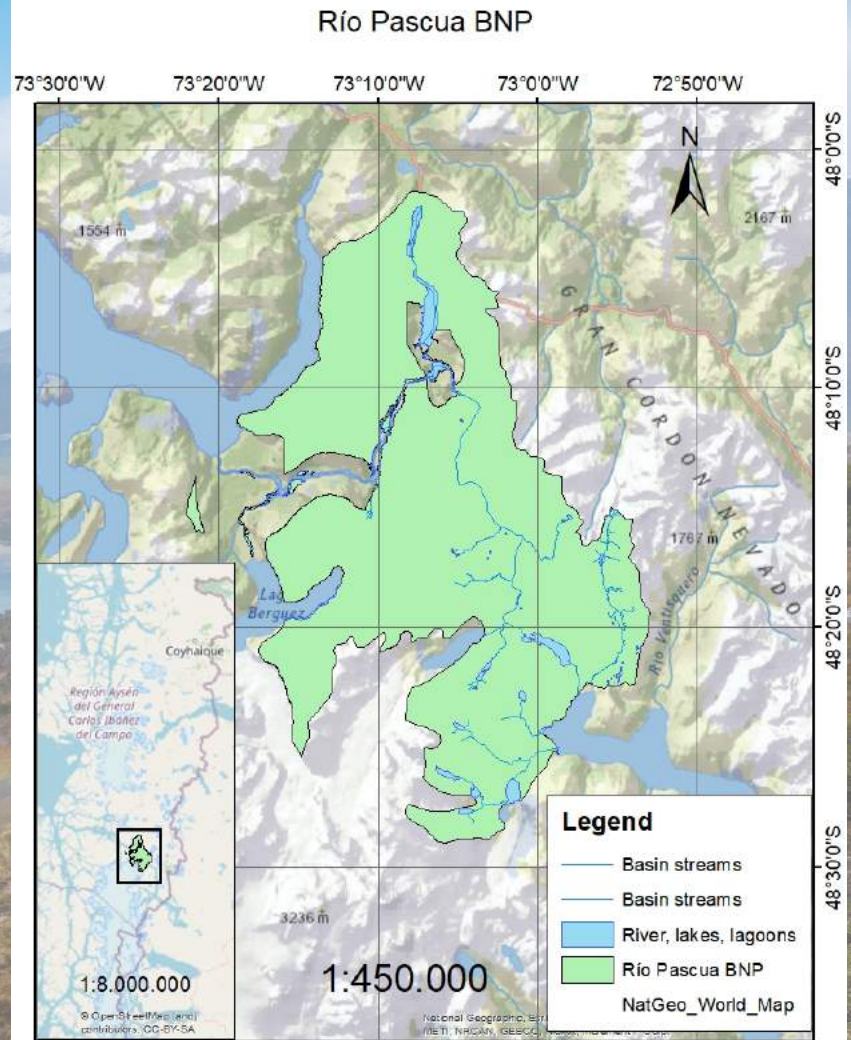
Round River Conservation Studies

- 30 years working for a landscape-scale conservation worldwide
- 10 years in Chile supporting community-based conservation and the public protected areas system



Pascua River

- One of the major basins in Chile
- Hot-spot for endangered huemul-deer
- Importance of its protection



Our history in Pascua River

- Years 2015-2020: Six scientific expeditions to the Pascua River basin area, and work with the communities
- Southern Patagonian Ice Field Community-Based Conservation Plan, where BNP Río Pascua is our main work in the region



Conservation Targets

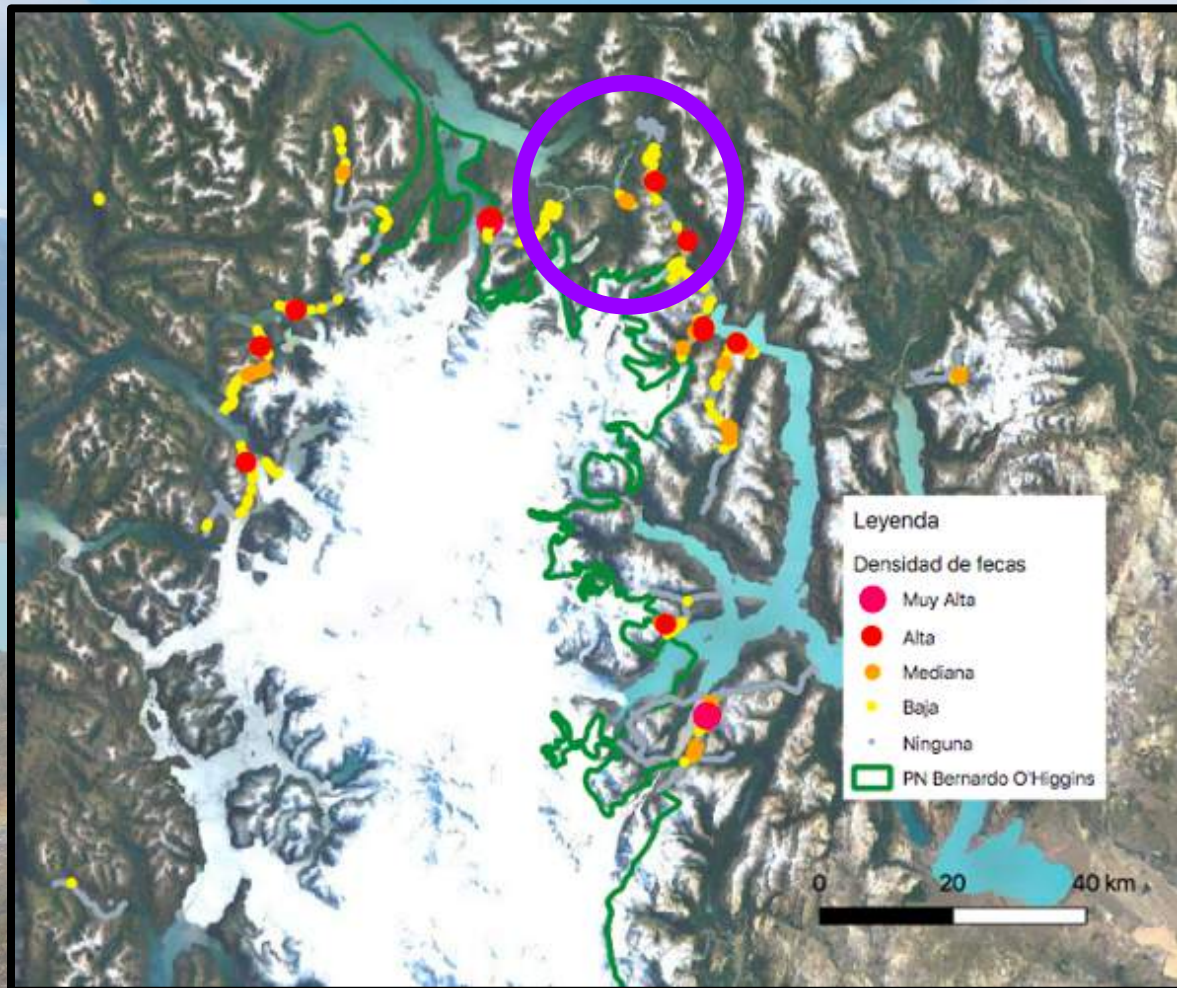
- Biological: Huemul deer, other species of flora and fauna, native forest
- Physical: Basin of the Pascua, Southern Patagonian Ice Field buffer zone
- Cultural: Legacy of pioneers and settlers, and history of indigenous communities



Biological

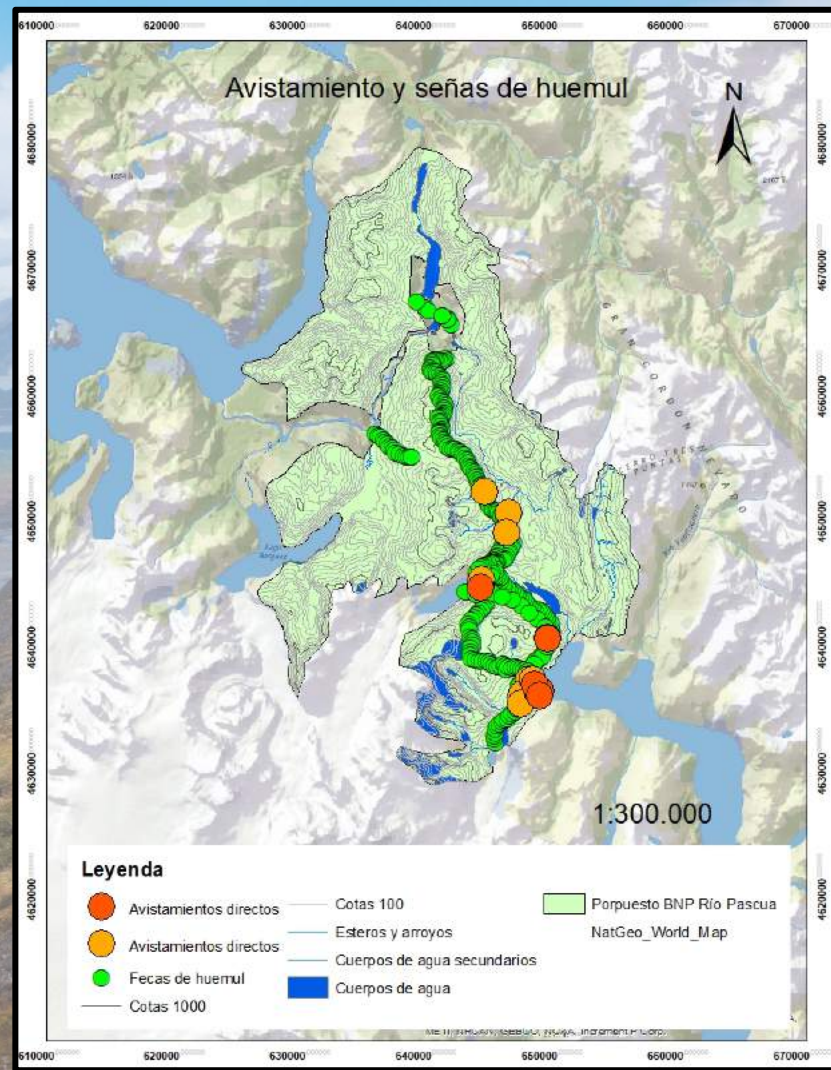
Huemul deer:

Buffer area of the Patagonian Southern Ice Field has the highest density of huemul deer worldwide



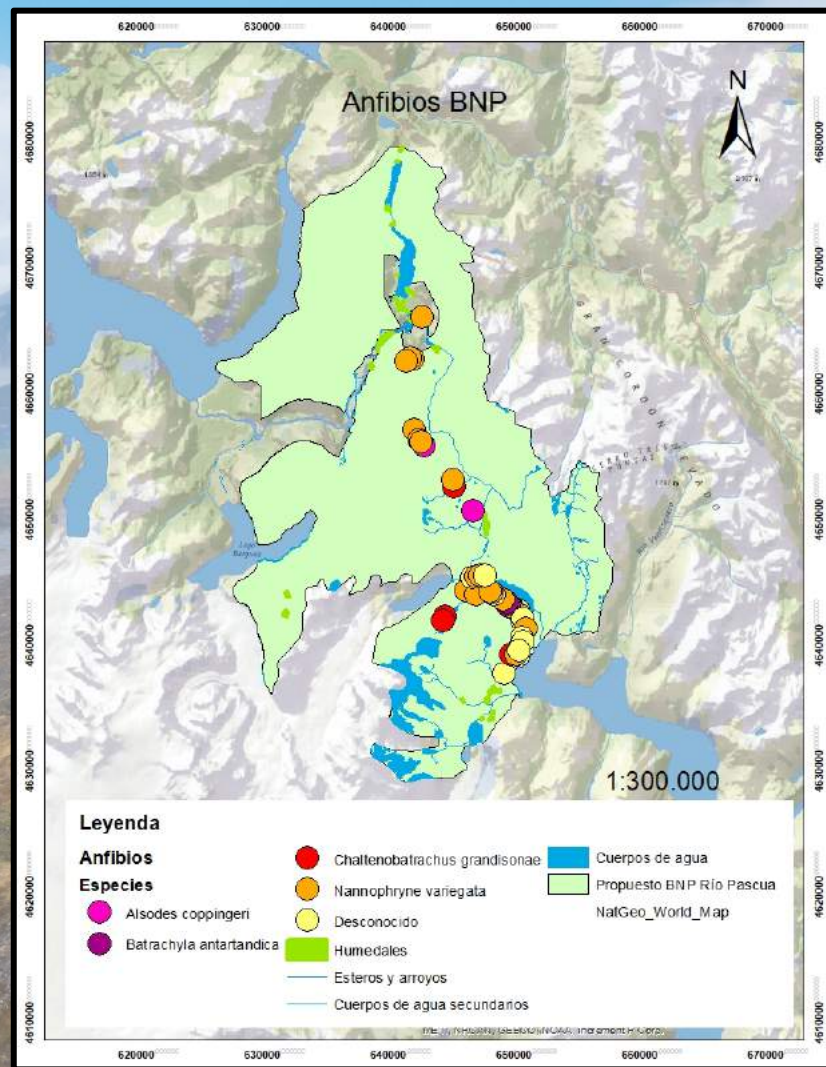
Biological

- **Huemul deer:** Flagship species, endemic to Chile and Argentina and endangered
- Total global population 1.500-2.000 individuals



Biological

- Other **flora & fauna species**: amphibians and birds
- RRCS has identified more than 65 bird species and six amphibian species in the Pascua basin



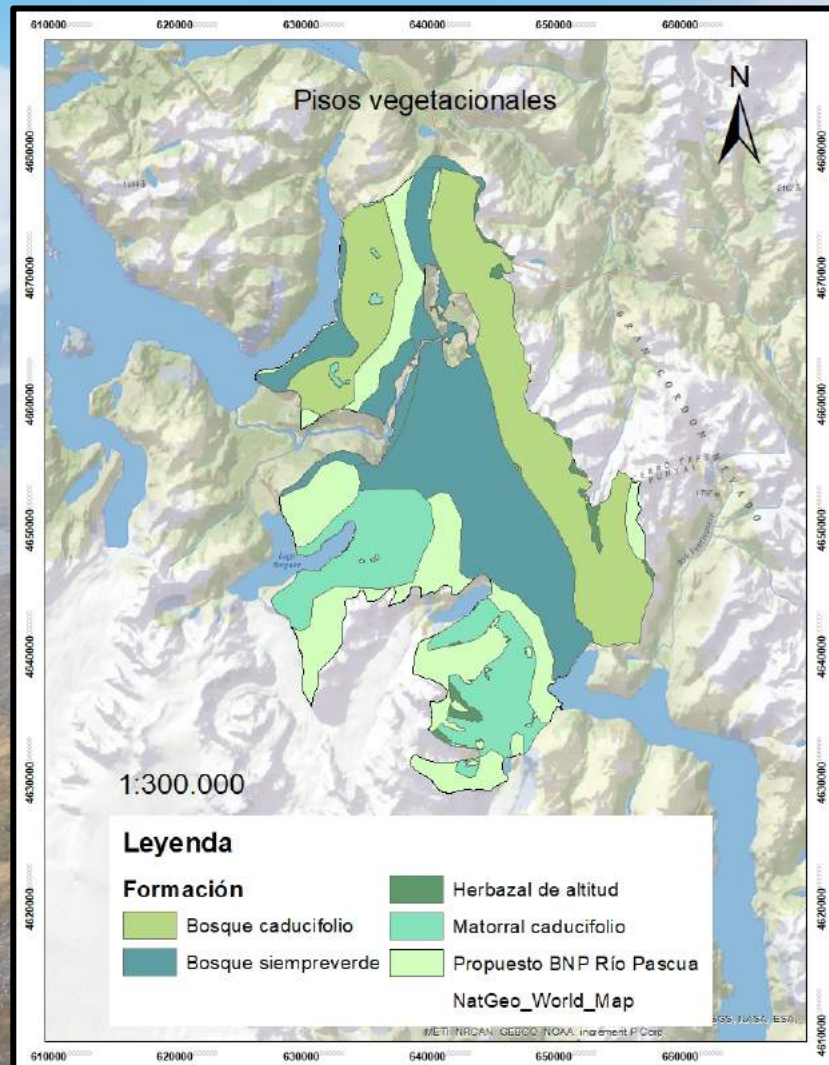
Biological

- Vegetational land cover

Tabla 3: Porcentaje de cobertura de cada piso vegetacional

Piso vegetacional	Número clasificación	% representación en el BNP
Bosque caducifolio	63	29,5
Bosque siempreverde	86 y 89	30,3
Herbazal de altitud	121	1,4
Matorral caducifolio	68 y 69	16,5

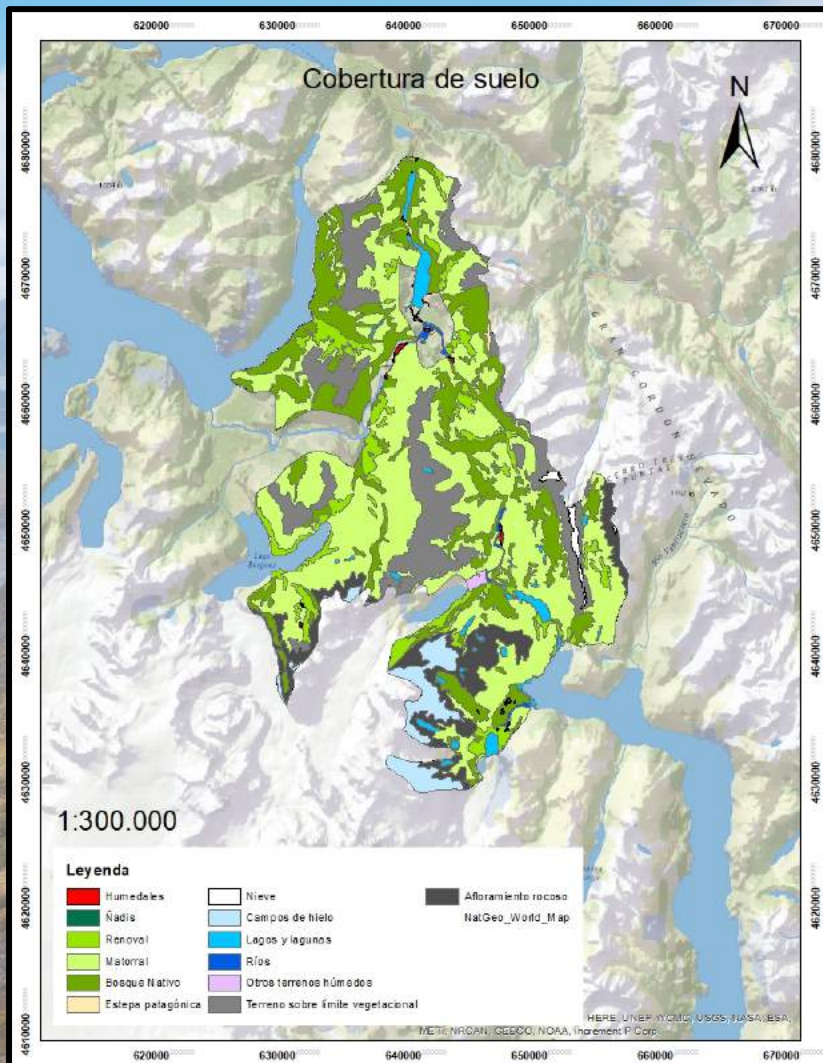
Fuente: Luebert y Pliscoff 2007



Biological

Tabla 1: Área y porcentaje de cobertura del polígono

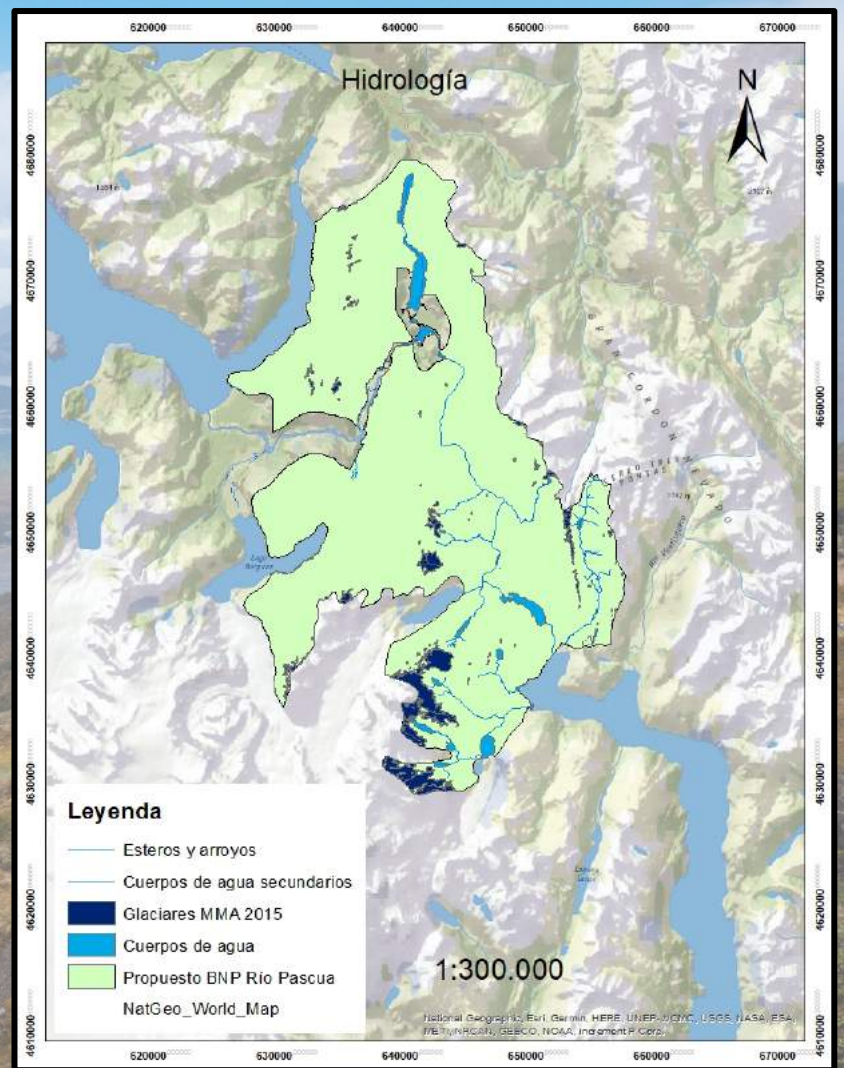
Elemento	Hectáreas	Porcentaje
Afloramiento rocoso	5.145,11	6,75
Bosque nativo	16.224,44	21,29
Campos de hielo	2.711,66	3,56
Estepa patagónica	53,19	0,07
Humedales	176,49	0,23
Matorral	32.611,44	42,78
Nieve	369,11	0,48
Ñadis	3,92	0,005
Otros terrenos húmedos	172,08	0,23
Renoval	5.481,85	7,19
Terreno sobre límite vegetacional	11.195,47	14,69





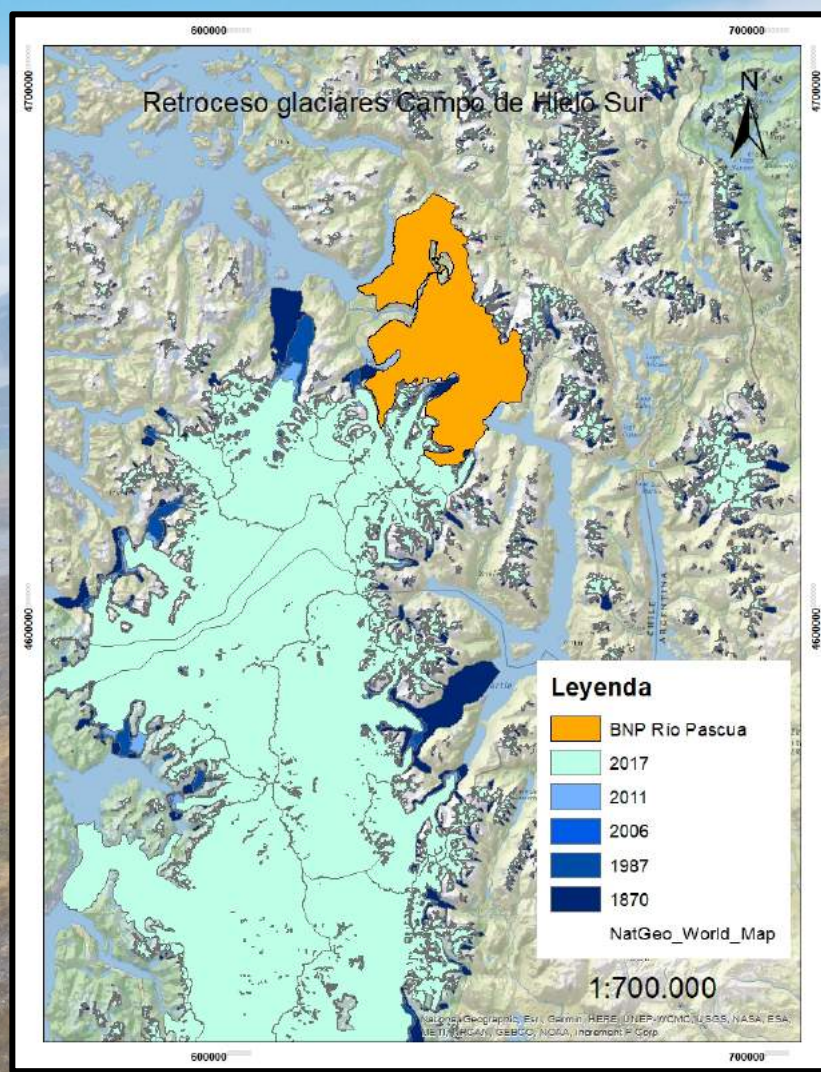
Physical

- **Hidrology:** Río Pascua Basin
- **Glaciers**



Physical

- Southern Patagonian Ice Field
- Glacier retreat



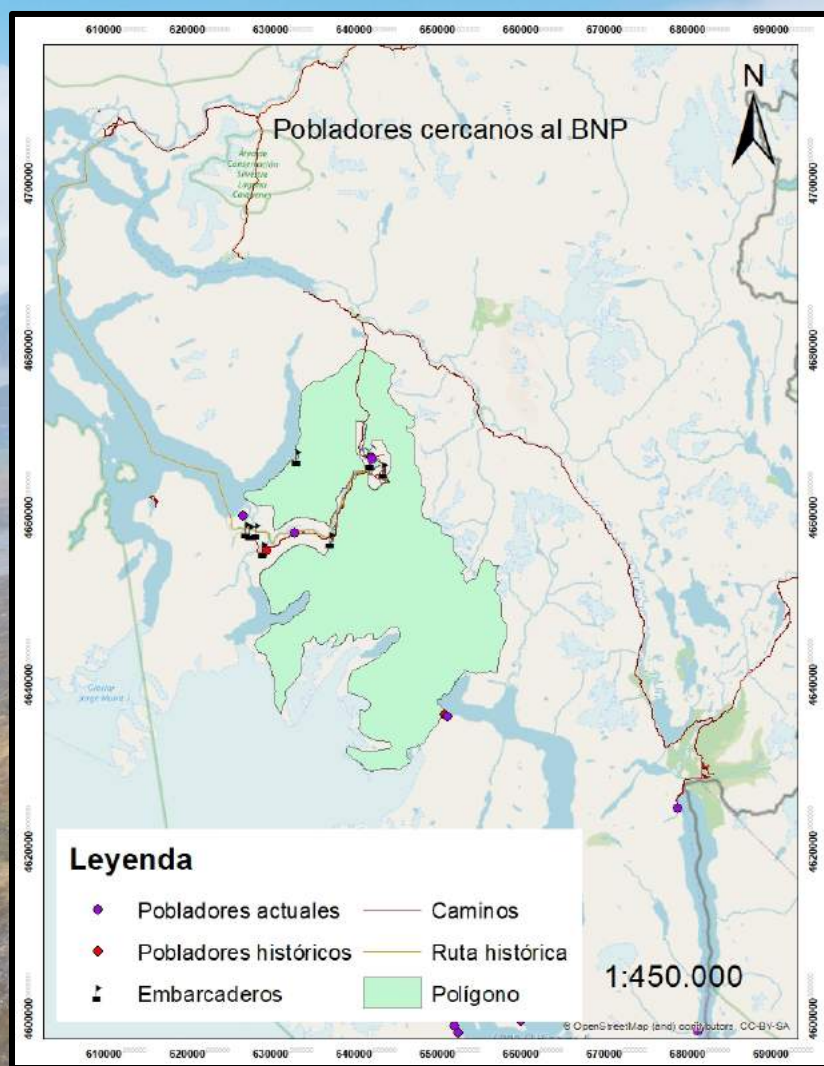
Cultural

- Explorers, pioneers y settlers legacy
- Kawésqar First Nation

Tabla 2: Población comunas Tortel y O'Higgins

Comuna	Población total	Densidad de población (hab/km ²)	% población rural
O'Higgins	625	0,08	100
Tortel	523	0,03	100

Fuente: INE, 2017



History and Heritage Value

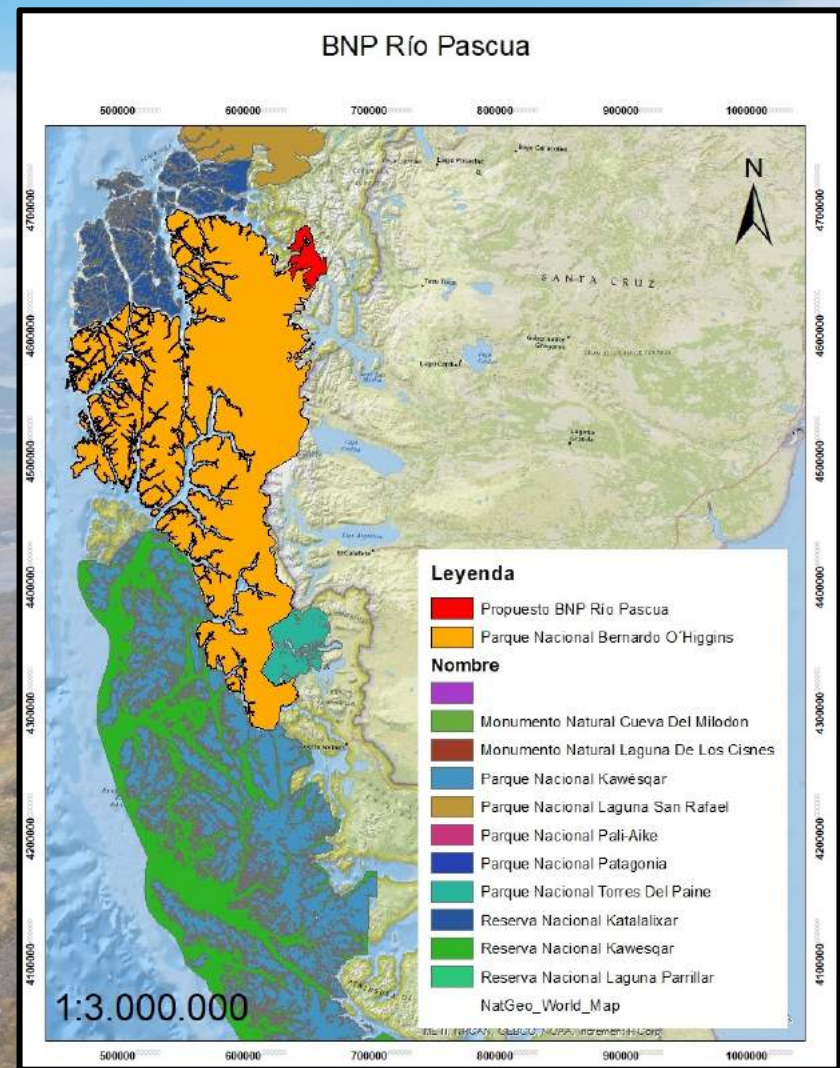
- Original inhabitants: Kawésqar First Nation
- 19th and 20th century explorations, German Explorers: Steffen and Grosse





Importance in the Context of Other Protected Areas in the Region

- Bernardo O'Higgins NP, largest National Park and protected area in Chile



Community-based and private protected areas network

- Tortel and O'Higgins municipalities
- Local sustainable development based in conservation
- Private conservation initiatives



Years 2021-2025

- 1) Establishment of a public protected area in Pascua River (BNPRP)
- 2) Community-based conservation planning
- 3) Pascua River Conservation Fund





Acknowledgments

fernando@roundriver.org



Universidad Austral de Chile
Conocimiento y Naturaleza

