

A WILD IDEA



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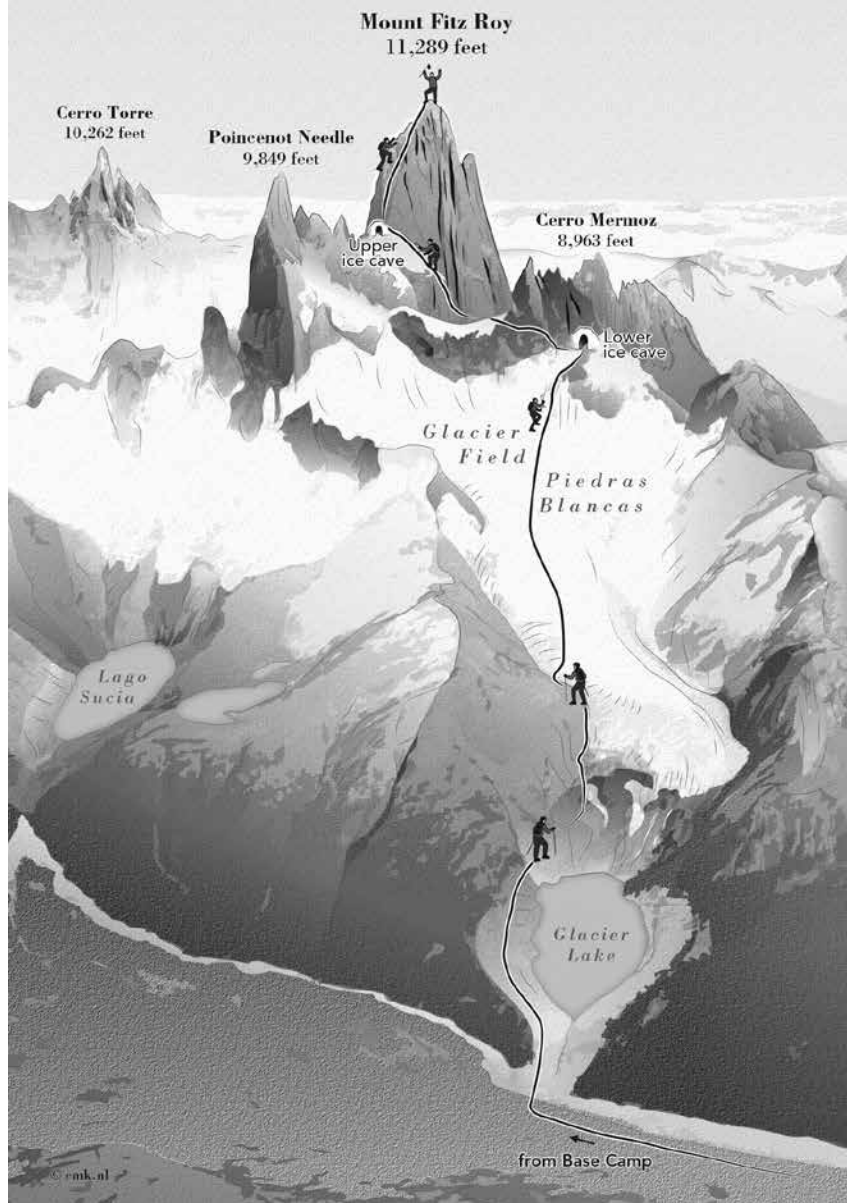
California Fun Hogs Expedition to Patagonia

July 24 - Dec 26, 1968



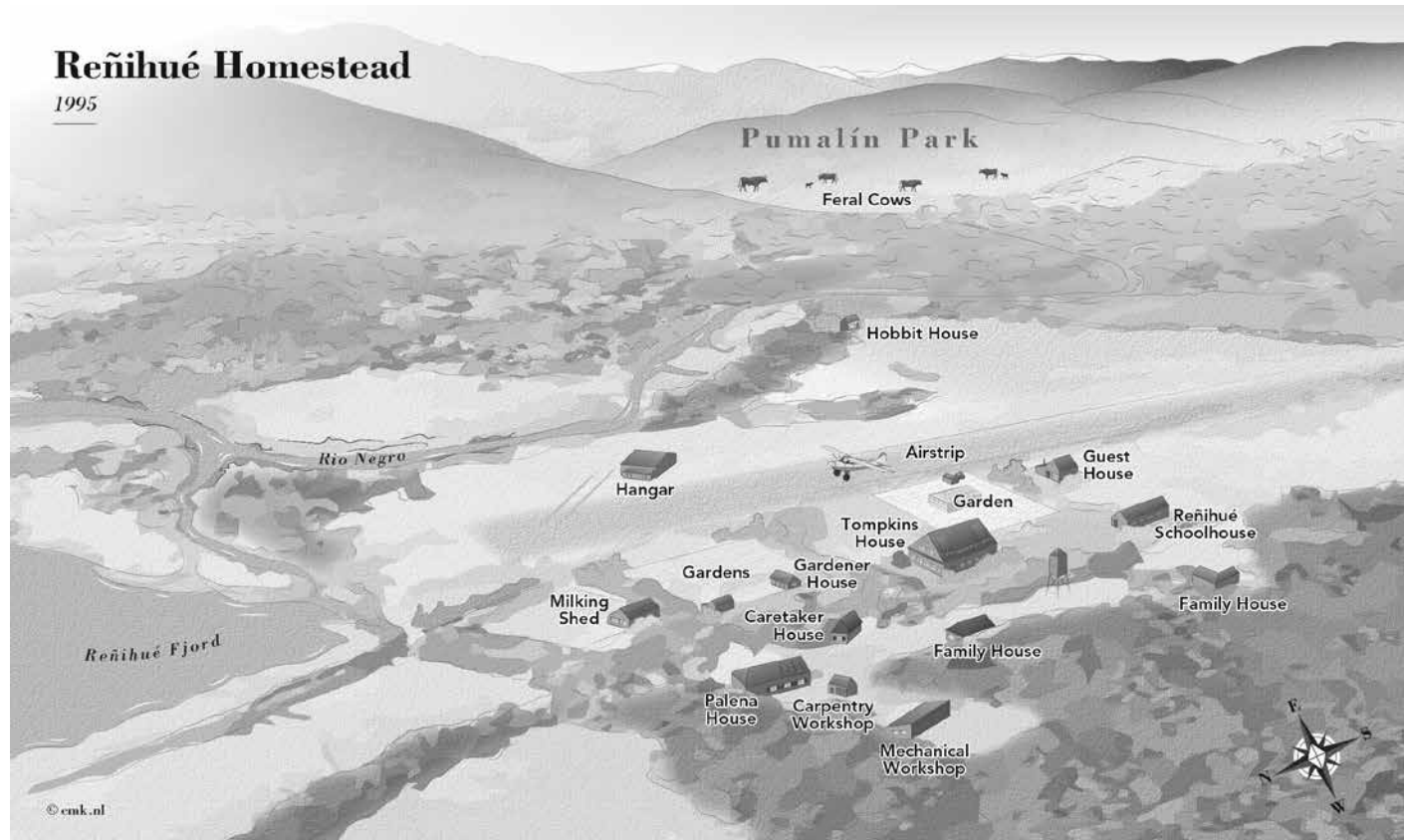
The Fun Hogs Summit Mount Fitz Roy

Oct. 29 - Dec. 20, 1968



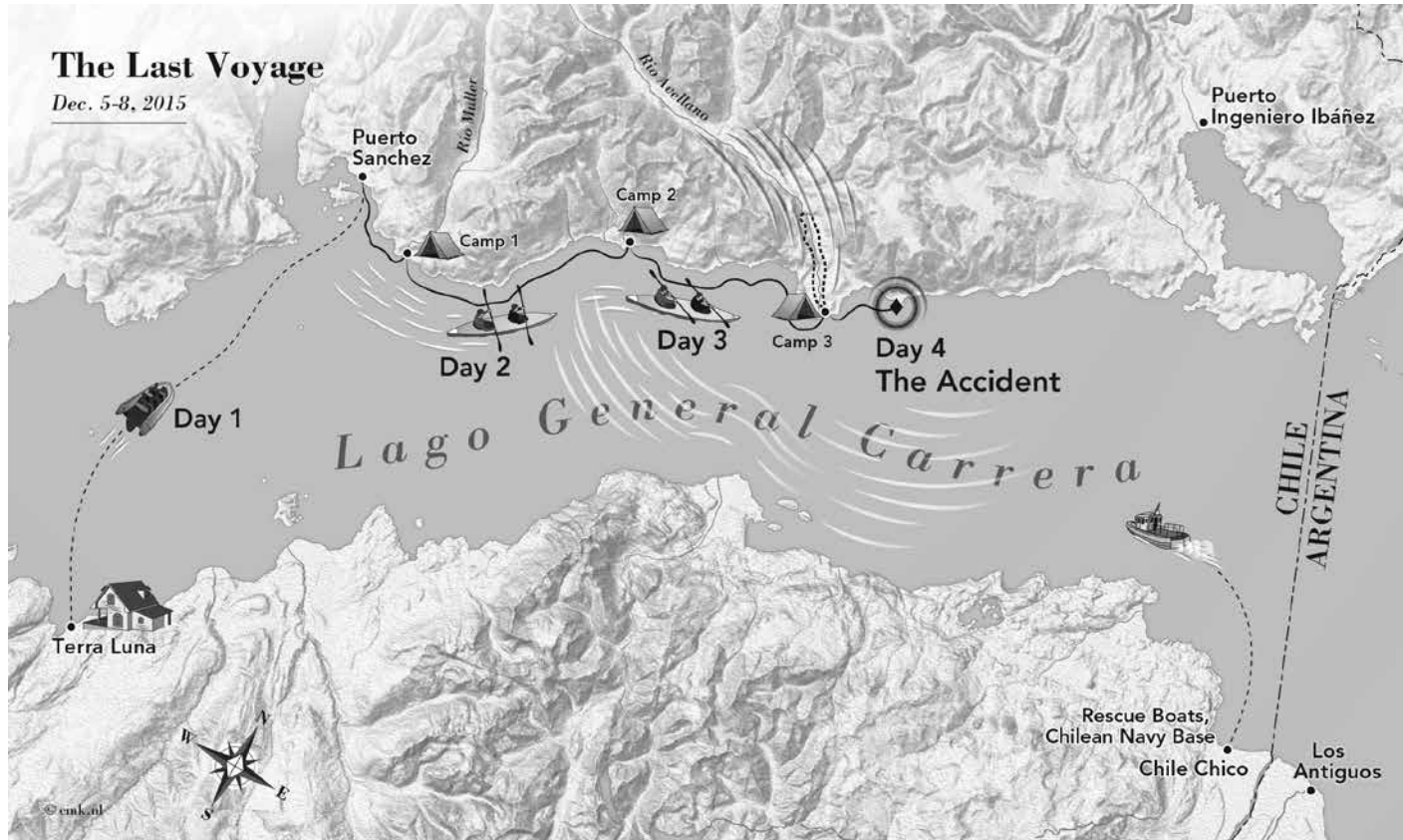
Reñihué Homestead

1995



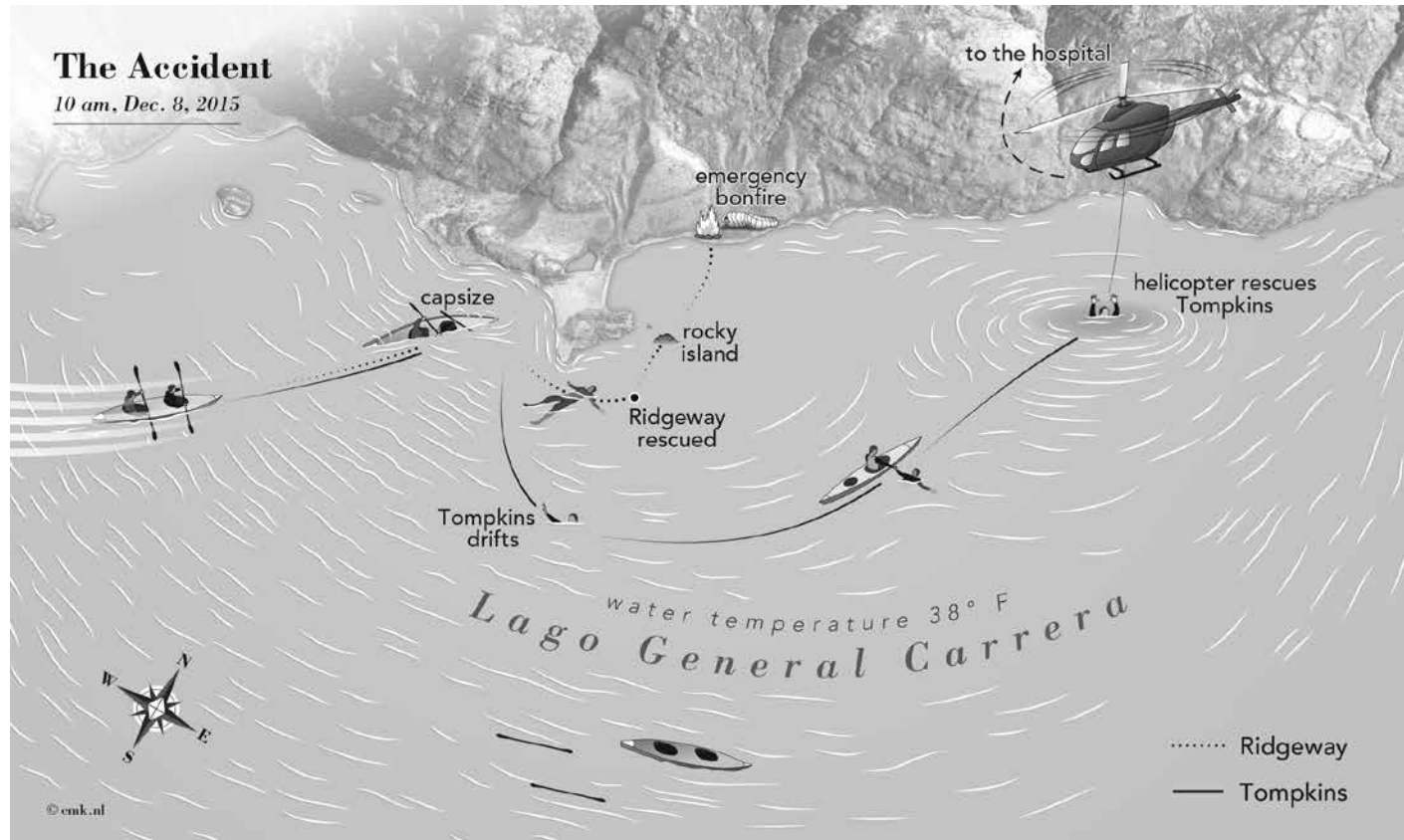
The Last Voyage

Dec. 5-8, 2015



The Accident

10 am, Dec. 8, 2015



List of Interviews

A special thanks to the dozens of people who took the time to recount their experiences with Doug Tompkins. This is clearly a partial list—there were many more who helped. Apologies to those names inadvertently left out. Notebooks were lost. Conversations blended together.

LORENZO ALVAREZ-ROOS. River guide and expedition leader who was kayaking with Doug on the day of the accident.

ANDRES AZOCAR. Chilean journalist and author of *El Millonario Verde*, an early bio of Doug.

MICHELLE BACHELET. Chilean president who fought to complete the plan by Tompkins to combine private and public lands, adding ten million acres of land to Chile's national park system.

PATRICIO BADINELLA. Art director and creative force working on the Patagonia Without Dams campaign.

DON BANDUCCI. Kayak friend. Founder of Yakima.

RICHARD BANGS. Rafting friend. Author, travel television host.

ERIN "LOUIE" BILLMAN. Tompkins Conservation employee, Wharton Business School grad who helped as strategic consultant following Doug's sudden death.

EDGAR BOYLES. Cinematographer who ski-raced with Tompkins in the 1960s and remained friends with him for more than fifty years. Fellow pilot.

WESTON BOYLES. Edgar's son, who knew "Uncle Doug" from childhood. River activist with a foundation that teaches kayaking skills to children.

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TOM BROKAW. Newscaster and author who accompanied Tompkins tracking tigers in Russia. Kept photo of Doug on his desk.

KEN BROWER. Environmental activist and author. Son of David Brower, former president of the Sierra Club, an inspiration for Tompkins.

PETER BUCKLEY. Northern California conservation activist and farmer who was Tompkins's friend, confidant, and business partner who purchased a 200,000-acre rain forest in Chile that he donated to create Corcovado National Park.

TOM BUTLER. Environmental historian and author who wrote, edited, and published dozens of books for Tompkins Conservation. Editor of the journal *Wild Earth*.

FRITJOF CAPRA. Author of *The Turning Point*, Tompkins's friend, and activist collaborator.

SERGIO CARDENAS. Chilean secret agent who investigated Tompkins during 1994–1998 “dirty tricks” campaign. Now working in “parks maintenance” in Chile.

NICOLAS CARRO. Biologist specialized in Jaguars (*yaguarete*).

JOHN CASADO. Designer who created the emblematic Esprit logo, then went on to design for Apple MacIntosh.

JUAN EMILIO CHEYRE. Commander in Chief, Chilean Army, 2002–2006, who broke ranks and got the armed forces behind Tompkins.

YVON CHOUINARD. Inventor, mountain climber, and founder of outdoor gear company Patagonia. Best friend of Tompkins from the age of sixteen.

ALDO CIBIC. Italian architect/designer who worked with Tompkins in the 1980s as part of Milan design movement The Memphis Group.

ENRIQUE CORREA. Chilean human rights and democracy activist, later a consultant who helped Tompkins navigate the nation's political minefields.

ELIZABETH CRUZAT. Advertising designer working on the Patagonia Without Dams campaigns.

BOB CUSHMAN. Head of ski patrol at Squaw Valley and veteran outdoorsman who traveled in a small plane with Doug Tompkins on their epic 1989 trip to South America.

DANIEL DANCER. Photographer, worked with Tompkins on the books *Clearcut* and *Overdevelopment, Overpopulation, Overshoot*.

JOHN DAVIS. Environmental scholar at the forefront of direct action and efforts to save wilderness areas in the US. Key figure in shaping Tompkins's grants to environmental groups.

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JUAN RAMON DIAZ. Wildlife photographer. Photographed Iberá book for Tompkins.

RICHARD "DICK" DORWORTH. World's fastest skier in the 1960s, lifelong friend of Tompkins, and member of the 1968 "Fun Hogs" group that climbed Mount Fitz Roy.

ALAN DRENGSON. Environmental scholar, author *The Wild Way*.

DUNCAN DWELLE. First-ever employee at Tompkins's 1964 startup, The North Face. Described by colleagues as "Tompkins's Wozniak."

JIB ELLISON. Founder and CEO of Blu Skye, a sustainability consulting firm. Explorer and rafter who organized expeditions with Tompkins on five continents.

MARCI (RUDOLPH) ELLISON. Esprit decorator/merchandiser who later accompanied Tompkins to remote Patagonia in the early 1990s.

STONE ERMENTROUT. Grade school classmate of Tompkins's at Indian Mountain School, fellow skier.

INGRID ESPINOZA. Cartographer and key Tompkins Conservation aide, lived at Reñihue for years. Described as "mad genius."

BILL EVANS. Executive who managed Esprit's computer systems. Saved company by storing hard drives in fireproof safe.

MELINDA EVANS. Esprit design coordinator; oversaw production of clothing lines.

MICHAEL FAY. *National Geographic* explorer, pilot, and conservationist who spent weeks flying with Tompkins in Africa, and in South America.

SERGIO FLINTA. Argentine senator from the Corrientes region. Opposed Tompkins at first, later became his best ally.

DAVE FOREMAN. Daring environmental activist who fought for forests. Founder of both Earth First! and The Rewilding Institute.

SIR NORMAN FOSTER. Iconic British architect tasked by Tompkins to design Esprit's London flagship store in the early 1980s.

JÜRGEN FRIEDRICH. Swiss clothing manufacturer, strategic partner in Esprit International. Later donated millions of dollars to conservation campaigns in South America.

FABIAN GABELLI. Animal trainer for film who then trained parrots to return to the wild in the Iberá wetlands.

WILLIAM "BILL" GINN. Former executive vice president of Global Conservation Initiatives, The Nature Conservancy.

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HAROLD GLASSER. Professor of environment and sustainability, hired by Tompkins to run Foundation for Deep Ecology.

DANIEL GONZALEZ. Chilean forestry engineer hired by Tompkins to organize his land acquisition plans. Spent weeks on horseback in the outback scouting lands with him.

HENRY GRUCHACZ. General manager, Esprit clothing company.

PEDRO PABLO GUTIERREZ. Tompkins's longtime attorney. Battled various government efforts to expel him from Chile.

PETER HARTMANN. Chilean environmental activist who worked with Tompkins on the *Patagonia sin Represas* campaign. Founder CODEFF.

RANDY HAYES. Kayak friend. Environmental activist. Founder, Rainforest Action Network. Director, Foundation Earth.

SOFIA HEINONEN. Argentine wildlife biologist and executive director of Rewilding Argentina

BART HENDERSON. River guide, Biobío.

MAL HOLLAND. Next-generation marine activist inspired by Tompkins.

NEWSOME HOLMES. Veteran river-rafting guide who led Tompkins down Zambezi River in Zambia.

DAN IMHOFF. Author, musician, and Esprit employee who became Tompkins's son-in-law.

CATHERINE INGRAM. Friend, partner, and author of books on dharma. Introduced Doug Tompkins to the Dalai Lama.

IGNACIO JIMENEZ. Spanish wildlife biologist who spent a decade with Tompkins preparing to reintroduce anteaters and jaguars to the Argentina grasslands.

CHRIS JONES. Climbing historian/author who climbed with Tompkins on successful ascent of Mount Fitz Roy during 1968 "Fun Hogs" expedition.

CATHERINE KANE. Esprit employee, went on Biobío raft trip.

GERDA KAINZ. Master seamstress, clothing designer. Worked at Esprit.

ROBERT KENNEDY JR. Environmental attorney and avid kayaker who joined Tompkins on far-flung expeditions.

BILLY KIDD. Olympic and world champion skier who trained and raced with Tompkins in the early 1960s.

THOMAS KIMBER. Tompkins's neighbor in Puerto Varas. Founder of Karun.

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ANDY KIMBRELL. Writer, editor of *Fatal Harvest*, member International Forum on Globalization. Executive director of the Center for Food Safety.

RICK KLEIN. Forestry engineer and national park ranger who worked twenty-plus years in Chile. Brought Tompkins to the Alerce forest, and Reñihue for the first time.

STEVE KOMITO. Second-ever employee hired by Tompkins to work at The North Face.

LEONARD KOREN. Artist, author of books on Japanese aesthetics.

RICARDO LAGOS. Chilean president (2000–2006) who negotiated half-million-acre donation by Tompkins and quashed Chilean military opposition to his conservation plans.

REG LAKE. Pioneering kayaker who completed first descent of three rivers in California with Tompkins, later known as “The Triple Crown.”

JIMMY LANGMAN. Publisher, *Patagon Journal*.

CLARA LAZCANO. Mayor of Chaitén, town near Pumalín.

NADINE LEHNER. Executive director of Conservacion Patagonia. Fencing partner with Tompkins on rainy days. Founder, Chulengo Expeditions.

GARY LEMMER. River rafting guide, Biobío River protector.

ROB LESSER. Renowned kayak photographer; accompanied Tompkins on expeditions in North America and Norway.

AMORY LOVINS. Writer, scientist, energy strategist, Founder RMI.

ALEJANDRO MAINO. Helicopter pilot who rescued Doug Tompkins.

JERRY MANDER. San Francisco activist who taught Tompkins the secrets of rebel advertising. Author of *In the Absence of the Sacred*, a book that deeply influenced Tompkins’s activism.

JAMES Q. MARTIN. Photographer and filmmaker, worked with Tompkins Conservation.

CARLOS MARTINEZ. Chilean university professor and anti-environmental activist who infiltrated Tompkins’s offices, copying documents and allegedly passing them to government officials.

CAROLYN MCCARTHY. Global communications head for Tompkins Conservation. Writer specializing in conservation, travel, and the outdoors.

JOE MCKEOWN. Climbing partner of Tompkins’s in 1960s, lifelong friend.

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VICTOR MENOTTI. Conservationist, participated in eco-summit hosted by Tompkins.

HERNAN MLADINIC. Sociologist hired by Tompkins to build inroads into highest level of Chilean government.

GEORGE MONBIOT. British writer, columnist in *The Guardian*, conservationist, activist; exchanged ideas on rewilding with Tompkins.

TOM MONCHO. Esprit executive put in charge of the company when Tompkins left on monthslong expeditions.

FRANCISCO MORANDÉ. Architect, lived and worked at Reñihue for years.

CAROLINA MORGADO. Executive assistant to Tompkins for twenty-five years; environmental activist who began by defending the crown jewel of Chile's wild rivers—the Biobío. Executive director, Tompkins Conservation, Chile.

HECTOR MUÑOZ. Chief of Staff to Chilean Undersecretary of the Interior Belisario Velasco.

RODRIGO NORIEGA. Pilot who worked for Tompkins Conservation.

JULIE OGAWA. Esprit employee, went on Biobío River trip.

JUAN PABLO ORREGO. Chilean environmental activist who worked with Tompkins for twenty-plus years. Founder EcoSistemas, a Chilean NGO.

FRED PADULA. Filmmaker best known for Yosemite climbing doc *El Capitan*.

SEBASTIAN PIÑERA. Chilean president who showed support for Tompkins by purchasing and creating Tantauco, his own 300,000-acre park.

PHILIPPE REUTER. French climber, skier, and adventurer who risked his life in a helicopter trying to save Tompkins.

RICK RIDGEWAY. Documentary filmmaker. Travel partner with Tompkins on many climbing and kayak trips. Author, mountaineering books, including *Seven Summits*.

SHARON RISEDORPH. Architecture photographer, worked with Esprit.

BERNARDO RIQUELME. Producer, radio host Radio Chaiten.

TAMARA ROBBINS. Daughter of Royal Robbins, a leading climber and kayaker who traveled with Tompkins. Rafted the Biobío.

HELIE ROBERTSON. Designer who spent the 1980s organizing Esprit catalog and photo shoots. Helped write the book *Esprit: The Making of an Image*.

PATRICIO RODRIGO. Environmental activist and founder of Chile Ambiente, an NGO that worked with Tompkins for years.

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EDWARD ROJAS. Architect from Chiloe, worked with Tompkins.

PAUL RYAN. Photographer, filmmaker, friend.

JOHN RYLE. Writer and anthropologist who wrote an *Outside* magazine article about Tompkins.

CRISTIAN SAUCEDO. Veterinarian working with Tompkins in Chile. Instrumental in rewilding success in Chile.

ALLEN SCHWARTZ. High-flying clothing salesman who joined Plain Jane dress company in early 1970s. Fought bitterly with Tompkins over separation package.

VANDANA SHIVA. Indian agriculture activist and collaborator with Kris and Doug Tompkins. Longtime ally in effort to warn of the dangers of globalization.

JULIE SILBER. Quilt expert, curator, Esprit quilt collection.

DAVE SHORE. Veteran rafting guide who descended the Biobío, among many other rivers.

JIM SLADE. Experienced raft guide who descended the Biobío River.

APRIL STARKE. Worked at Plain Jane and Esprit.

DEYAN SUDJIC. London-based writer/broadcaster. Director of London Design Museum.

CLAUDE SUHL. Climber friend.

JIM SWEENEY. A math whiz hired as furniture craftsman by Tompkins in early 1970s to custom-build Esprit employee furnishings.

JANE TAYLOR. US Navy veteran working to save marine mammals with the Sea Shepherds.

LITO TEJADA-FLORES. Author/photographer who traveled with Tompkins and worked for him in Europe and Asia. Original member of the “Fun Hogs” team that summited Mount Fitz Roy in 1968.

MARK TERCEK. Former Goldman Sachs partner working as CEO of The Nature Conservancy.

KRISTINE MCDIVITT TOMPKINS. President, Tompkins Conservation; former CEO of Patagonia clothing company. In 2018, was named UN Environment Patron of Protected Areas.

QUINCEY TOMPKINS. Eldest daughter who worked at Foundation for Deep Ecology, the nonprofit that her father created to fund thousands of small environmental initiatives.

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SUMMER TOMPKINS. Youngest daughter who often faced her father head on.

SUSIE (RUSSELL) TOMPKINS BUELL. Cofounder of Esprit clothing company who was married to Tompkins for nearly thirty years. Progressive activist working in the Bay Area.

OLIVIERO TOSCANI. Italian fashion photographer who worked with Tompkins as they brought Esprit to international fame with their genre-busting “real people” campaigns.

PABLO VALENZUELA. Wildlife and landscape photographer. Barely survived harrowing flight with Tompkins in windstorm.

WIETSE VAN DER WERF. Founder of Sea Ranger Service; Dutch activist inspired by listening to talks by Tompkins on the Sea Shepherd mission as they battled Japanese whaling fleet.

LUKE VAN HORN. Communications engineer. Sea Shepherd crew.

MARIO VARGAS LLOSA. Peruvian writer, politician, and journalist who interviewed Tompkins at his home in the remote forests of southern Chile.

BELISARIO VELASCO. Former assistant minister of interior who clashed with Tompkins for years.

RODRIGO VILLABLANCA. Tompkins’s key collaborator in Pumalín Park.

CARLOS VILLALOBOS. Park ranger for Tompkins Conservation.

MATZAL VUKIC. Architect, friend.

LINDE WAIDHOFER. Landscape photographer who worked years in aerial photography with Tompkins.

PAUL WATSON. Captain of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, the anti-whaling navy that upends Japanese whale hunts and confronts ocean poachers.

ALAN WEEDEN. President of the Weeden Foundation, longtime Tompkins friend and collaborator in the creation of parks.

DON WEEDEN. Founder of the Weeden Foundation, longtime Tompkins friend and collaborator in the creation of parks.

JOHN WHITMAN. Lawyer from Portland, Maine. An eighth-grade classmate of Tompkins at Indian Mountain School.

TAMOTSU YAGI. Noted Japanese designer who worked with Tompkins at Esprit, then went on to Apple and Steve Jobs.

Suggested Reading

Doug Tompkins surrounded himself by books. He had extensive collections in his homes and offices in California, Chile, and Argentina. For readers looking to delve further into the ideas that inspired him, this list cites key books that I used in my background research into his life, as well as significant books from his library and others written by his friends and associates. By no means is this a comprehensive list—that would be another fifty pages. This is just an appetizer, a small taste of what fed Doug’s voracious mind.

Wind, Sand and Stars—Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

A Sand County Almanac—Aldo Leopold

Let the Mountains Talk , Let the Rivers Run—David Brower

Conquistadors of the Useless—Lionel Terray

Climbing Ice—Yvon Chouinard

The Technological Society—Jacques Ellul

Esprit: The Comprehensive Design Principle—Doug Tompkins

In the Absence of the Sacred—Jerry Mander

The Last Place on Earth—J. Michael Fay

The Turning Point—Fritjof Capra

The Global Village—Marshall McLuhan

Deep Ecology: Living as if Nature Mattered—Bill Devall and George Sessions

SUGGESTED READING

The Arrogance of Humanism—David Ehrenfeld

In the Shadow of Man—Jane Goodall

Fatal Harvest—edited by Andrew Kimbrell

Let My People Go Surfing—Yvon Chouinard

Desert Solitaire—Edward Abbey

Biopiracy—Vandana Shiva

The End of Nature—Bill McKibben

La Producción de la Naturaleza—Ignacio Jimenez Pérez

Wildlands Philanthropy—Tom Butler

The Ecology of Wisdom—Arne Næss

What Artists Do—Leonard Koren

The Monkey Wrench Gang—Edward Abbey

More than 50 Years of Magnificent Failures—Oliviero Toscani

The Uninhabitable Earth—David Wallace-Wells

Encounters with the Archdruid—John McPhee

The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival—John Vaillant

In the Footsteps of Gandhi—Catherine Ingram

Sea Shepherd: My Fight for Whales and Seals—Paul Watson

The Sea Around Us—Rachel Carson

Silent Spring—Rachel Carson

The World Is Blue: How Our Fate and the Oceans Are One—Sylvia A. Earle

Flying South—Barbara Cushman Rowell

Wild Thoughts from Wild Places—David Quammen

Rewilding the World—Caroline Fraser

Feral—George Monbiot

Confessions of an Eco-Warrior—Dave Foreman

In the Presence of Grizzlies—Doug and Andrea Peacock

The Consumer Society—Jean Baudrillard

SUGGESTED READING

Amusing Ourselves to Death—Neil Postman

Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind—Yuval Noah Harari

Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching—Dave Foreman and Bill Haywood

Spillover—David Quammen

Microcosmos—Lynn Margulis

On Beauty—Tom Butler

Some Stories: Lessons from the Edge of Business and Sport—Yvon Chouinard

Overdevelopment, Overpopulation, Overshoot—edited by Tom Butler

Resurgence of the Real—Charlene Spretnak

Abundant Earth—Eileen Crist