

## Cerro Pachón Site Characteristics

Cerro Pachón was selected as the LSST site in April 2006, following a rigorous site selection process. The site, also known as El Peñon (*the big rock*), is located in the Chilean Andes, about 500km north of Santiago. The 2,700-meter peak is part of the 340 square kilometer, AURA-owned El Totoral reserve, which serves as an inner buffer zone for protection against light pollution and mining. As part of our environmental compliance obligations, AURA and LSST engaged in preservation of flora and fauna native to the summit.



## Privately Funded Site Development



Early contributions from private donors such as Charles Simonyi and the LSST Corporation enabled excavation and site leveling activities during LSST design and development. After completing the environmental impact assessments and securing required permits, the “First Blast” of the site leveling effort occurred on March 8, 2011. Excavation contractor Rocterra Ltda. removed 13,000 cubic meters of material to create the LSST platform represented by the white line in the photo.

## Summit Facilities Construction



LSST worked with Arcadis-Chile to design the site and summit facility. In September 2014, LSST selected general contractor Besalco Ltda. to build the LSST Summit Facility. The support building is scheduled to be ready for the dome in January 2017 and fully completed by January 2018. The facility will provide 3,000 square meters of maintenance and support space in a building that extends from 17 meters below the summit platform to 38 meters above the summit to the top of the dome. 4,300 cubic meters of concrete will be used to build the facility that will provide space for the telescope, mirror coating plant, camera clean room, control room and required operational space.

## Status:

Besalco began work in January 2015, mobilizing personnel and equipment and establishing offices and a warehouse on the summit. They are working with their subcontractor Rocterra to remove the final 20,000 cubic meters of material. Excavation for the telescope pier foundation and construction of the road to the telescope main platform are nearing completion. The platform for the calibration telescope is complete.