



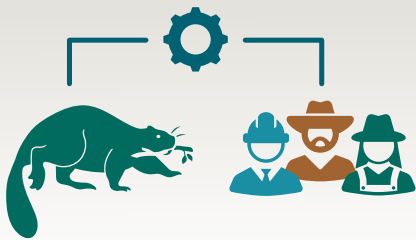
2023

**Project Beaver
Annual Report**



Our 2023 Impact

At Project Beaver, we aim to increase the acres of water and life that beavers are stewarding in their diligent, old, and complex way. We work towards this goal through two programs, **Empowering Humans** and **Valuing Beaver Works**. This is what we accomplished in 2023.



Empowering Humans

Goal: Provide better access to tools for partnering with beavers

Knowledge resources

- We published the *Best Management Practices for Pond Levelers and Culvert Protection Systems: A guide to using flow devices to coexist with beavers* as well as infosheets on pond levelers, culvert protection, tree protection, crop protection, and ways to help beavers fix ecosystems.
- We have received confirmation that a wide range of people are actively using these resources to coexist with beavers. We are helping watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, municipalities, and individual homeowners. **These resources were accessed 3,703 times via our website.**

See it in Action:



Alexa Whipple from the Methow Okanogan Beaver Project shares our BMPs in her 2023 State of the Beaver Conference talk.

“You can tear a beaver dam out and literally overnight it can be almost totally rebuilt, and you can do that day after day after day, and they’re going to come back and come back and come back. I heard about devices that would control the level of the water behind the beaver dams.”

— Lyle Speisschaert, Speisschaert Farms in Forest Grove, Oregon



Leading by example in SW Oregon

- We published two beaver plans for public lands — one for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and another for the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument. These plans provide the administrative backing to help beavers return to these lands via low-tech process-based restoration and relocation of beaver refugee families.
- Our other initiatives included:
 - » Relocating a family of refugee beavers into public land.
 - » Giving community beaver talks throughout the region.
 - » Allocating grant money from U.S. Fish and Wildlife towards helping landowners with coexistence solutions (we built an electric fence to protect an apple orchard near Medford and a pond leveler to dry out a driveway near Glendale).
 - » Four weeks of beaver-based restoration near the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument with a crew of humans imitating beavers.

See it in action:

“I am pretty excited to share this document! This plan is the culmination of a multi-year effort between the RRSNF, Project Beaver, Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council, and others... Jakob Shockey (Project Beaver Executive Director) in particular was instrumental in the design, content and vision for this effort. Without this partnership, the Forest would likely not have been able to pull off this project.”

— Steve Brazier, Fish Biologist for the Rogue River, Siskiyou National Forest



Lyra Shockey (9) and Oscar Shockey (3) prepare to release a beaver into public lands. Photo Credit: Micheal Murray



Castor consciousness

- Beavers in Oregon were legally classified as “predators” (even though they are plant-eating herbivores) until we helped pass a law this year to change that. Because of House Bill 3464, which received bipartisan support, beavers are now a little more protected in the *Beaver State*.

- We helped multiple landowners with their beaver issues, including the Prophet River First Nation in northern British Columbia (their official seal has a beaver!) and agricultural producers in Oregon. We produced a couple videos showing these farmers learning to work with beavers on their land.

See it in action:

“Dear Jakob, I’m so deeply grateful to you for your beaver expertise as we worked on HB 3463. We have more work to do, but I think we’ve turned an important corner. Your enthusiasm, knowledge and experience were key to helping legislators understand why this matters. Heartfelt thanks—and more to come!”

— Oregon Representative Pam Marsh



Oregon Governor Tina Kotek signs “the beaver bill” into law.
Photo Credit: Jeremy Wijers



Valuing Beaver Works

Goal: Advocate for beavers and provide education about the ecological wealth they provide

Beavers 101 advocacy materials

We published infosheets on the benefits of beavers and how to help them get established. We heard from groups across the U.S. who are using these materials to advocate for beavers in their area — from a department head in the Missouri Department of Conservation to grassroots activists from Northeast Texas advocating to their local county commissioners.

See it in action:



We may come from different backgrounds and perspectives, but we all drink water.

These advocacy materials were accessed 1,121 times via our website.



Restoring Riverscapes Workshop

We facilitated a three-day virtual workshop for National Marine Fisheries Commission, which was designed to introduce participants to the idea that healthy rivers are complicated, evolved systems. The workshop included over 35 presenters and 800 virtual participants. Materials from this event were archived at the website restoringriverscapes.org.

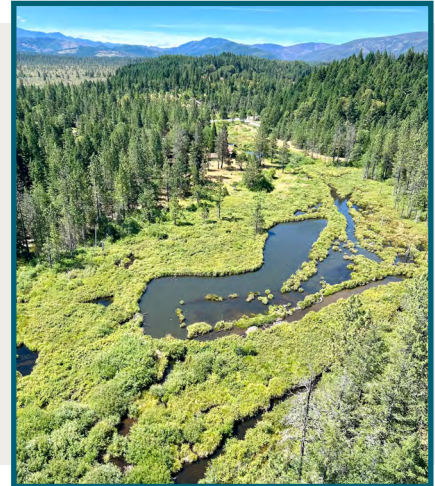
Beaver boardwalk

In the dry lands outside rural Cave Junction, Oregon, beavers have restored a degraded stream into a drought-resilient wetland in prime rearing habitat for native salmon and trout. This is a special site with a freestanding beaver lodge and abundant wildlife. In the language of the local Takelma People, this site is a *sbink* or “place of the beavers”. Thanks to a generous donation by Jason Strauss, Project Beaver has purchased this *sbink* less than a mile off Redwood Highway with the intention of building an accessible boardwalk and visitor facilities. We envision picnic tables under oak trees where families unpack their lunch or enjoy an accessible boardwalk out into the beaver wetland. The site will include a place for people to park, a simple visitor center elevated over the wetland, and infrastructure to support our work (like halfway house pens and coppice beds of willow for our refugee beaver program). Many people have forgotten or are unaware of the ecological wealth that beavers bring to a landscape — this will be a place to remind people of that value.

See it in action:

Jason Strauss made his donation in memory of his friend (and fellow beaver advocate) Diarmuid McGuire. We will be naming the boardwalk in his honor.

*Aerial view of the beaver wetland.
Photo Credit:
Suzanne Vautier*



Ecological wealth

Despite spending billions in the Pacific Northwest on water security, wildfire mitigation, carbon sequestration, and habitat resiliency, we are still struggling through intense seasons of drought and wildfire. Beavers have been stewarding water and life on our planet for millions of years and the science shows that beaver landscapes are more resilient to these issues. However, much of the best beaver habitat is located on private land where landowners often trap beavers to prioritize agriculture and development. We've started talking to potential partners and informally chatting with landowners about piloting a program that values beaver-managed hydrology on private land. This would be a voluntary incentives program of direct payments for area under beaver management. This means farmers, ranchers and other landowners would be paid for every square meter of land they leave under beaver management.

See it in action:

The typical farmer in northwestern Oregon said that for \$500 per acre per year, beavers could steward as much land as they wanted.



The interface between human habitat and beaver habitat. Could farmers make money turning over the stewardship of water to beavers?



Thank You to Our Donors

These are people who love clean water, complex, resilient habitat, and beavers. We call this team of financial supporters The Beaver Coalition. Through Project Beaver, we put their financial gifts to work for beavers and the habitats they build — leveraging every dollar in the most impactful way we can. It is an honor to have this support.

Platinum (> \$10,000)

Jason Strauss

Pam and Tony Schwarz

Donna Spencer

Elizabeth Latham

Eva Lazarus *

Jane Iwahashi *

Janet Davis

Jeff Hogg *

Joan and Alex Campbell in memory of Diarmuid

McGuire

John Staelens *

John VanLandingham in honor of Diarmuid

McGuire

Kathly Mechling

Katie Holzer

Kent Pressman and Susan Roudebush

Kieran Sikdar *

Kirsten Shockey *

Kurt Feichtmeir

Laurie Baker in memory of Diarmuid

McGuire

Mark Chambers *

Mary Aguilar *

Maurice Hamington *

Merril Keane

Michael Grant in memory of Diarmuid

McGuire

Michael O'Leary in memory of Diarmuid

McGuire

Philip Fondale *

Gold (\$1000 – \$10,000)

Del's Kids Family Fund of Oregon

Community Foundation

Pamela Still

Patrick Daley and Dagmar Wedel in
memory of Diarmuid McGuire

Shannon Sollinger in memory of Diarmuid
McGuire

Wendy and Michael Murray

Silver (\$100 – \$1,000)

Anonymous Donors (5)

Alex Parise *

Ann J. and William Swindells in memory of
Diarmuid McGuire

Blaire Finney

Brenda Masters

Carol Brandy Carson in memory of Diarmuid
McGuire

Carol Brydolf

Carolyn Lorch-Taber in memory of Diarmuid
McGuire

Cheryl Anson *

**These donors have automated their giving with regular, reoccurring donations. Thank you!*

Priscilla Weaver in memory of Diarmuid McGuire
Ralph Alig *
Reta Montgomery
Richard Posey *
Ron & Linda Adams in memory of Diarmuid McGuire
Sandra Jones
Sean McCauley
Sheldon Hendrix
Sristi Kamal in honor of Diarmuid McGuire
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Bronze (< \$100)

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Alan & Kathy Journet & Conway in memory of Diarmuid McGuire
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Annie McDonnell
Ashley Henry in memory of Diarmuid McGuire
Aunya Savage in honor of Ashton & Beaver
Barb Barasa in memory of Diarmuid McGuire
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Prashanth Sriharan in honor of Queso Jimothy
Sarah Perry
Spirit in Bloom Productions in memory of Diarmuid McGuire
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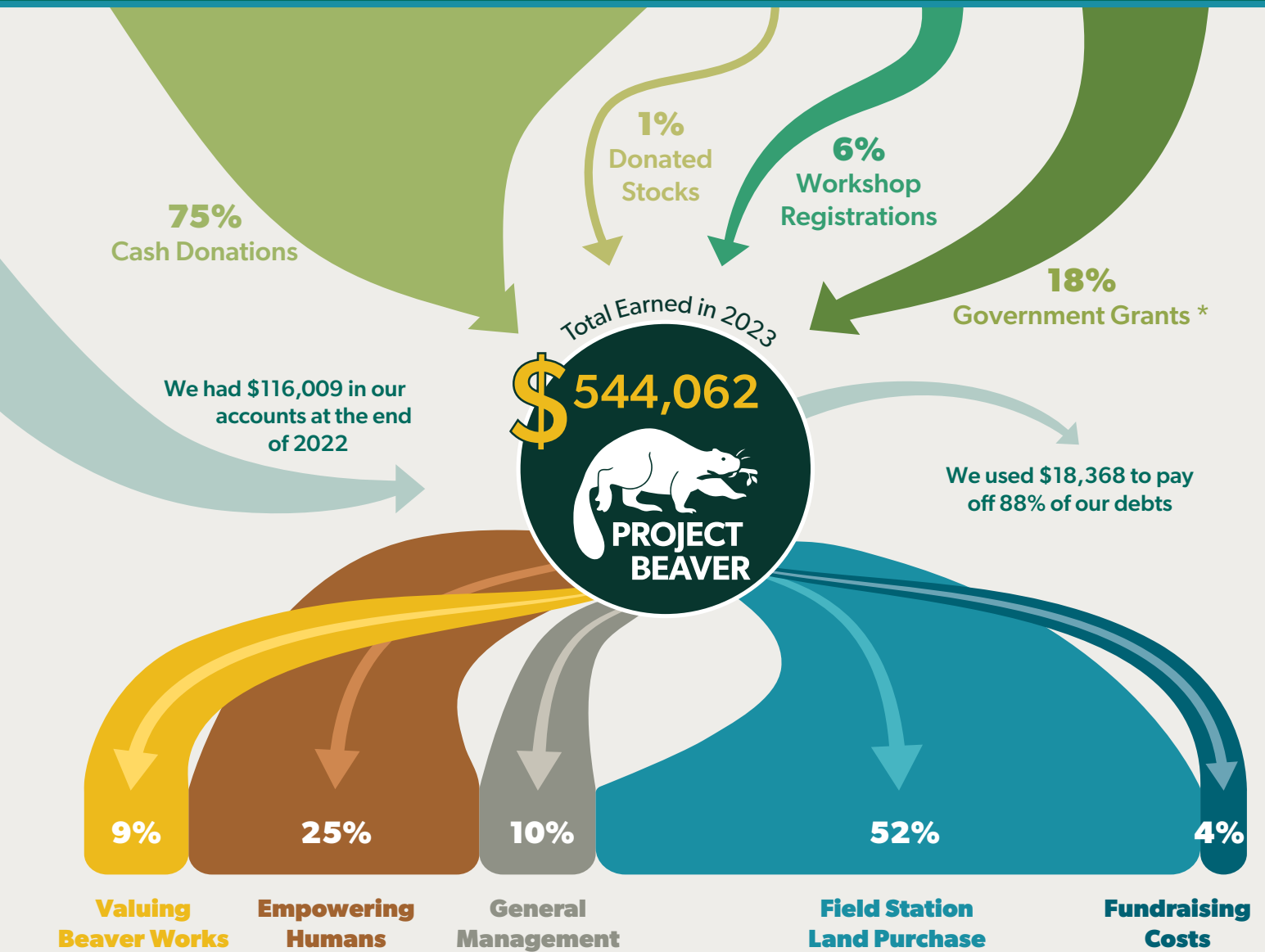
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Energy Reporting

Those who love beavers and what they do donate their money and their time to our cause. Project Beaver channels that money and energy into the programs and projects that we think will have the biggest impact.

Funding

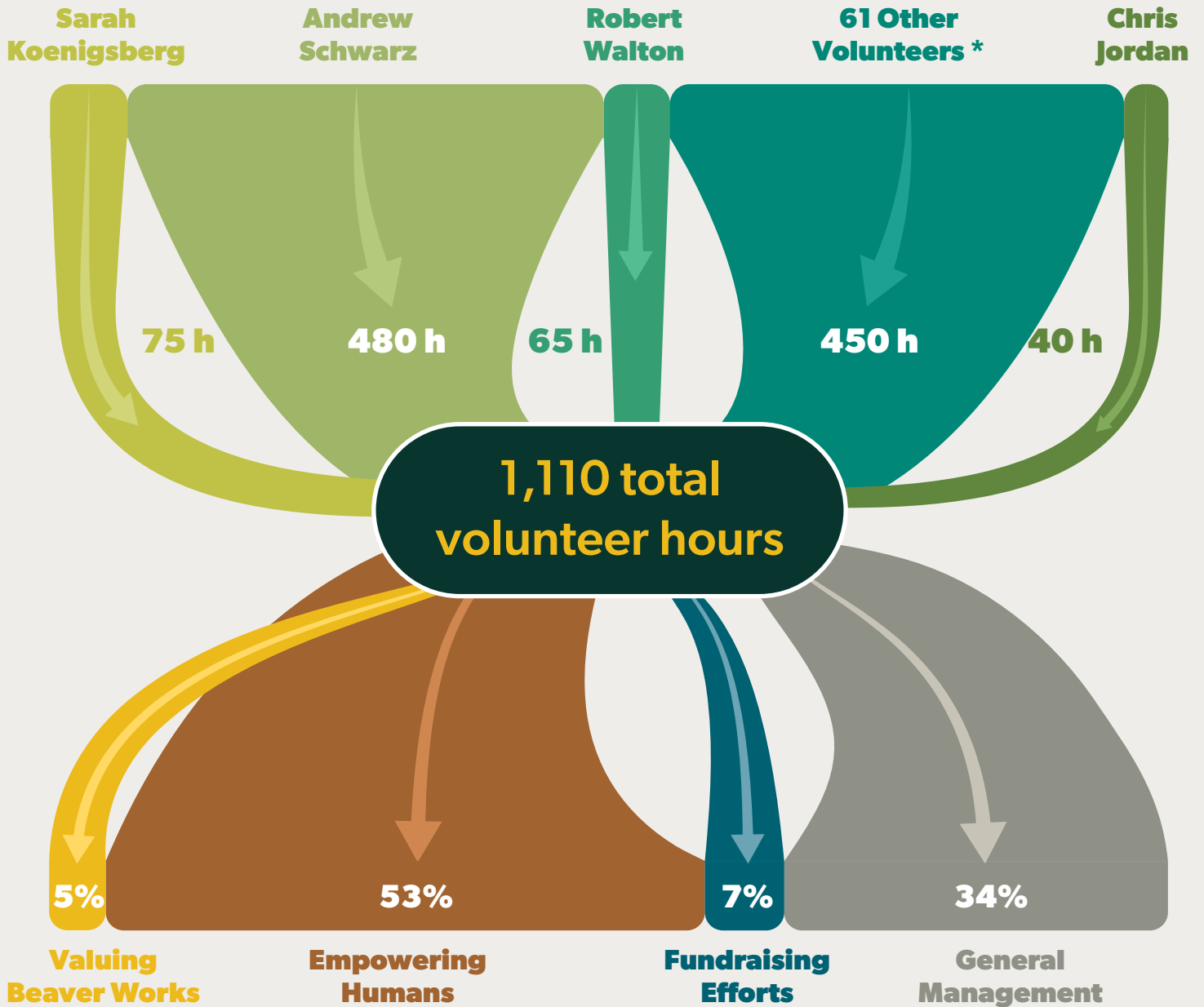
In 2023 we received \$421,296 in donations from our supporters.



*Government grants were supported by U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, State of Oregon, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Volunteers

In 2023, 65 people donated 1,110 hours of their time to support general management, our two programs, and fundraising efforts. Thank you!



* Thank you to Aaron Beavers, Adriana Morales, Adrienne Averett, Alex Sifford, Alexa Whipple, Alison Hensley Sexauer, Anna Pfeifer, Biff Schlichting, Brandy Langum, Brian Bangs, Cara Ratterman, Charlie Schelz, Chuck Wheeler, Cindy K. Bright, Conrad Ely, Colin Jones, Crystal Barnes, Cyndi Curtis, Dave Shively, Deb Brimacombe, Derek Wiley, Elyssa Kerr, Evan Hayduk, Garshaw Amidi-Abraham, Greg Apke, Guy Sievert, Irma Lagomarsino, Jason Strauss, Kadie Shluka, Karen Mager, Kate Iaquinto, Kelly Moroney, Kevin Shluka, Kirsten Shockey, Lee Russell, Luc Lamarche, Maggie Peyton, Malysa Legg, Michael Guinnane, Michael Parker, Michael Schlichting, Michelle Cramer, Mike Conroy, Mizu Burruss, Nikki Hart-Brinkley, Odette Finn, Rachell Meyers, Randy Lawrence, Renee Coxen, Rhonda Black, Rushal Sedlmyer, Robert W. Bradley, Roger Wicklund, Russell Jenkins, Selene Keeney, Seth Mead, Ted Braich, Tim Sexauer, Tom Stahl, Valentina London, and Zachary Mallon.

