



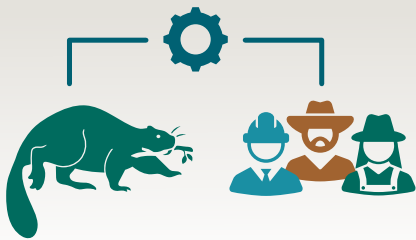
2024

**Project Beaver
Annual Report**



Our 2024 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. Over 2024, we worked towards this goal through two programs; **Empowering Humans** and **Valuing Beaver Works**. This is what we accomplished.



Empowering Humans

Goal: Provide better access to tools for partnering with beavers

Knowledge resources

- **Protect that tree!** We published the *Best Management Practices for Tree and Crop Protection: A guide for using fencing to coexist with beavers*. This guidance document empowers farmers, landowners, organizations, municipalities, and wildlife professionals with long-term coexistence strategies for protecting individual trees or entire orchards and crops.
- **Empowering beaver coexistence.** We've heard from a wide range of people using these resources to coexist with beavers, including watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, municipalities, and individual homeowners. In 2024, **these resources were accessed 5,598 times via our website.**

See it in action:



A new electrical fence to keep beavers from nibbling on the apple trees at Leonard Orchard in Medford, Oregon.

"I am a good advertisement for a successful solution to coexisting with Beavers. I am the only U-pick apple orchard in this area, and all of my customers and students are thankful I still have apple trees for them to pick and enjoy."

— Clover Leonard, Leonard Orchard in Medford, Oregon



Leading by example in SW Oregon

- **Saving beavers—one family at a time.** We rescued nine beavers from lethal trapping and relocated them into empty habitat on public land. In 2024, we expanded our capacity to handle refugee beavers with new volunteers, halfway-house facilities, and an expedited approval process with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- **Building like beavers.** We conducted four weeks of beaver-based restoration near the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument with a crew of humans imitating beavers. We built over one hundred structures in beaverless waterways and planted over a thousand willow stakes for future beaver food.
- **Where are the beavers and what are they doing?** We built a “beaver scavenger hunt!” community science monitoring project and partnered with Friends of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument to go find beavers.
- **Living with beavers.** We gave community beaver talks and responded to calls for help coexisting with beavers from across the region—assisting landowners to live with the beavers on their land.

See it in action:

“In case you missed it, our Beaver Scavenger Hunt was a great success!

Every mile of waterway that they searched for signs of beavers represents valuable data for future riparian restoration in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.”

— Friends of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument



About 50 members of the community helped search the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument for beavers



Castor consciousness

- **Beaver bills!** In the first part of 2024, we helped with the roll-out of House Bill 3464 (Oregon legally reclassified beavers from “predators” to fur-bearers). Jakob gave invited testimony to the Oregon House’s Committee on Climate. Then in the later part of 2024, we helped draft two new legislative concepts for helping beavers in the *Beaver State*; one to limit recreational trapping on public lands (became House Bill 3932) and another to provide grant funding for landowners to fund beaver coexistence strategies (became House Bill 4014).

- **Keeping beavers relevant.** Jakob appeared on podcasts and radio programs, including National Public Radio’s “Short Wave,” gave community talks at libraries and pubs, and presented at conferences.

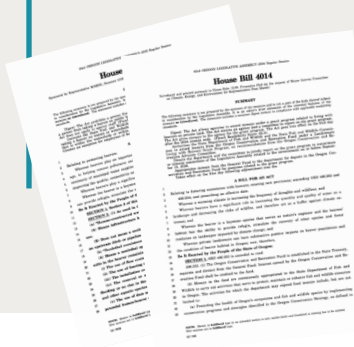
See it in action:

“The single most important thing the landowners could do is allow beavers that move in to stay and build small wetlands along our waterways. The best way to do this is to have the resources to help them with coexistence tools. HB 4014 would allow us and other watershed councils to easily support our community in building coexistence with these important ecosystem engineers.”

— Testimony submitted by the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council



Oregon House District 5 Representative Pam Marsh holding a young refugee beaver before her release into public lands.



Valuing Beaver Works

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

Beavers 101 advocacy materials

- **Communicating the benefits of beavers.** In 2024 we continued to add to our series of free, downloadable infosheets on the benefits of beavers. We continued to hear from groups across the U.S. who are using these materials to advocate for beavers in their area — from the San Luis Obispo County (SLO) Beaver Brigade in California to the newly formed Arkansas Beaver Committee.

See it in action:



Luis with the SLO Beaver Brigade during their Beaver Festival, a large printed Project Beaver infosheet hanging from their tent in the background. Photo credit Audrey Taub

These advocacy materials were accessed 3,282 times via our website.



Beaver boardwalk

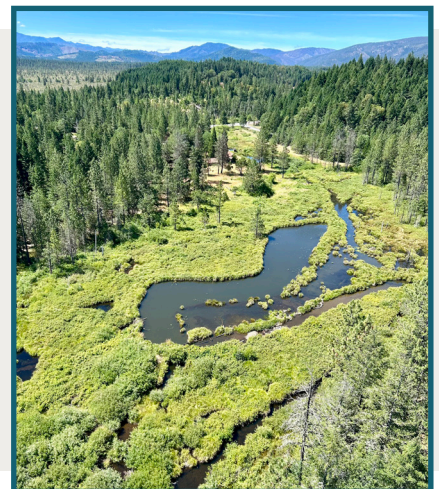
- **Permitting begins!** We started the permitting process for a beaver boardwalk on our recently acquired beaver wetland or *sbink*—meaning “place of the beavers” in the language of the local Takelma People. We hired a local freelance planner to help us navigate the web of local and state regulations this project will trigger, as well as architectural and design assistance.
- **Building local partnerships.** We envision picnic tables under oak trees where families unpack their lunch before enjoying an elevated stroll out into the beaver wetland, a place for birders to visit over the changing seasons, a place where children and old folks alike see their first glimpse of a wild beaver. Over 2024, we held a series of site visits, inviting out locals from the community and staff from regional organizations to tour the site together and discuss this vision for an accessible public beaver boardwalk.

See it in action:

Goals for the coming year:

1. *Map the future beaver boardwalk*
2. *Design the future visitor facilities*
3. *Start checking off the permitting steps*

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



Ecological wealth

- **First funding!** In the end of 2024, we received \$30,000 in dedicated seed funding to start building this program. We ended the year excited to design a program for humans who want to help beavers by directly sponsoring a family of beavers on private land. Stay tuned for updates from 2025!

See it in action:

Questions we will be answering in the next year as we scope this idea:

1. *Are there landowners willing to lease land for a beaver family to steward?*
2. *Are there people willing to sponsor a beaver family living on private land?*



Could farmers make money turning over the stewardship of land 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)

Tony and Pamela Schwarz
Jason Strauss

Gold (\$1000 – \$10,000)

Dominic Condello

Jessica Courtois

Patrick Daley Dagmar Wedel, in memory of
Diarmuid McGuire

Jane Hartline

Wendy and Michael - Oregon Community
Foundation

Noel Thurner & Patrick Horan

Kent Pressman and Susan Roudebush

Pamela Still

Catherine Filgas & Shoaib Tareen - The
Tareen Filgas Foundation

Reana & Jacob Tischler

Silver (\$100 – \$1,000)

Anonymous Donors (6)

Mary Aguilar

Ralph Alig

Cheryl Anson

Regina Ayars

Ruth Brown

Jordan Budd, in honor of Dianne Budd

Kathleen Burke

Tom and Kathy Carstens - Oregon Community
Foundation

John Cartasegna

Mark Chambers

Anna Cradock-Henry

Lou Cripps

Janet Davis

Mary DeJong

Kathryn Draeger

Kevin Duerr

Bruce Eggers

Charles Erickson, in honor of Jim Fought

Danny Evatt

Cooley Family

Ivy Feibelman

Kurt Feichtmeir

Beth Flake

Mike Foey

John Gibbons

Clare and Paul Gilmore

PayPal Giving Fund

Jerry Gotschall Memorial, in memory of Jerry
Gotschall

James & Kathy Gurley Fund

Maurice Hamington

Lois and Charles Heying

Jeff Hogg

Chip Howell

Jane Iwahashi

Tim Jensen

Sandra Jones

Merril Keane

Kent Knock

Theodore Labbe

Eva Lazarus

Suzanne Linford

Stillwater Sciences

Pam Marsh, in honor of Paige Prewett

Sean McCauley

Tom McKinnon

Kristi Mergenthaler

Tim Padgett

Alex Parise

Ann Patterson

Caroline Patton

Jonny Percy
 Richard Posey
 Melanie Rousseau
 Sue Schubert, in memory of Taggart Schubert
 Kathryn Sheibley
 Kirsten Shockey
 Kieran Sikdar
 Debra Silver
 Janelle Smith, in memory of Emily M. Butler
 Donna Spencer
 Patricia Spicer
 John Staelens
 Gail Wilhelm
 Katherine & Eileen Wychgram
 Jen Yanover

Bronze (< \$100)

Anonymous Donors (18)
 Amy Chapman
 Susan Abbott
 D. Alveran
 Laura Arnold
 Paula Baird
 Carolyn Baker
 Bev Balliett
 Neva Barnett
 Geoffrey Becker
 Bill Betz
 Cheryl Boglarsky
 Denee Cedar
 Cara Chanoine
 Amy Chapman
 Kari Christensen
 Romain Cooper Christie Dunn
 Randy and Pam Comeleo
 Karen Cooper
 Lisa K Copeland
 Greg Daignault
 Jennifer Davis, in honor of Eileen
 Melissa DeLollo
 Elizabeth Jane Doering, in honor of Devon Beam
 Dorothy Donnelly
 Maja Ellmann
 Michael Faulkner
 Franny Finstrom
 Beth Flake

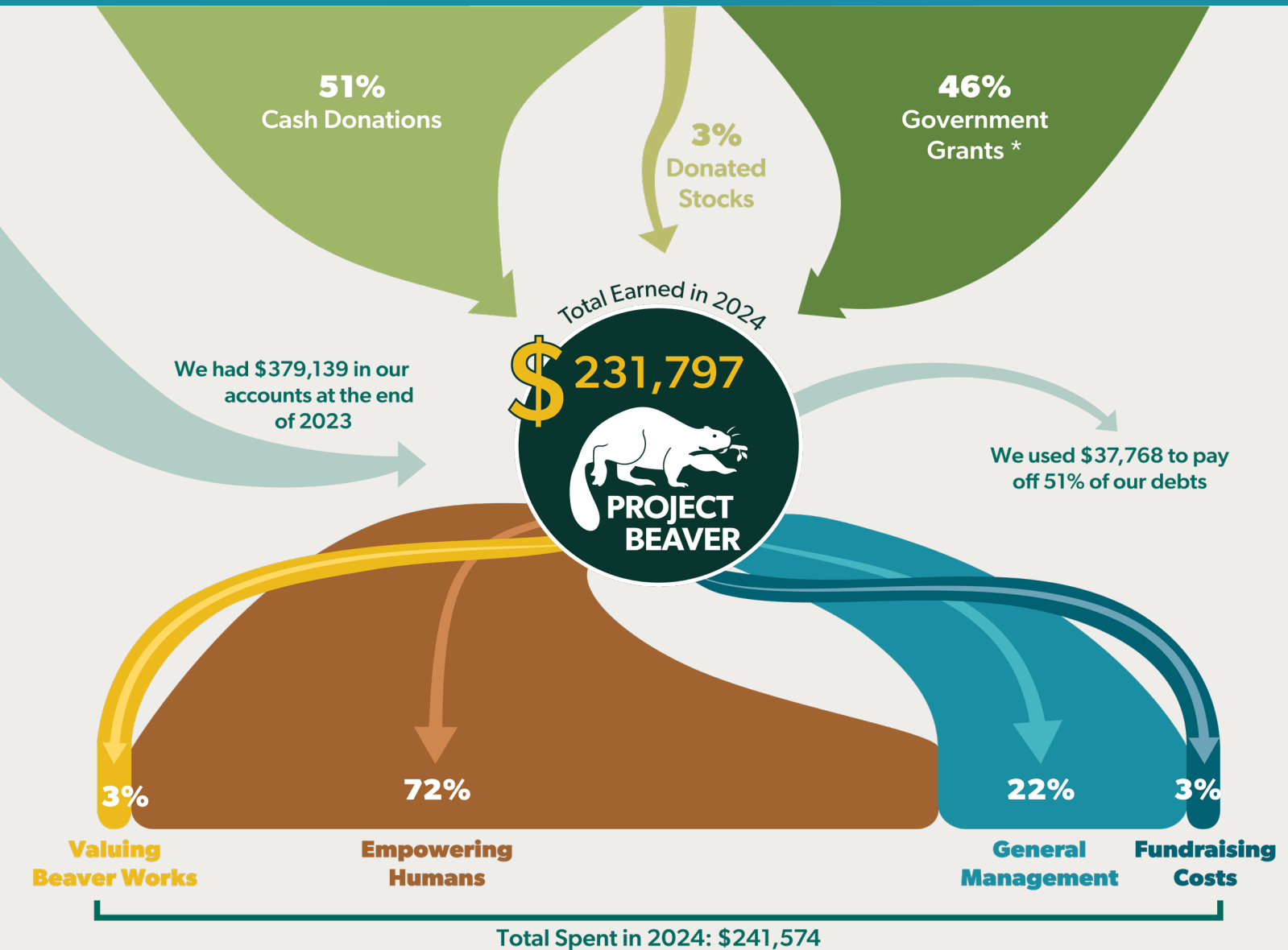
DJ Fletcher
 Tom Heffernan
 Karen Hellman
 Kathryn House
 Nic Huffman
 Marita Ingalsbe, in memory of Christine Colasurdo
 Arlene Jamar
 Jennifer Johnson, in honor of Heather Heying
 Dena Kedra
 Kathy Kent
 Katrina King
 Sky King
 Nike Kleiger, in honor of Kleiger + Bowman
 Joseph Knapp, in honor of Mashtag Brady
 Dian Kubo
 Mosa Lilliam
 Laura MacKay
 Melissa Marsh
 Starbucks Match
 Jeanine Moy
 Eric O'Neill
 Catherine Partamian
 Julia Paulsen, in honor of Judy and Bert Bamforth
 Lynn Pruzan
 Nataly Rausch
 Cynthia Rhoads
 Robin Rodgers
 Connor Roessler, in honor of Garrett Wren
 Leah Rose
 Leanne Russell
 Linda Schaack
 Charles D Schelz
 Marcia Scott
 Carol Shedlock
 Michael Sicher
 Charlotte Smalley
 Erica Smalley
 Jacqueline Spencer
 Kevi Sutter
 Paul Termini
 Diane Tetrault
 Dee and David Tvedt
 United Health Group - Optum UHG
 Julianne Verhagen
 Candace Villarreal
 Rachel Weatherly
 Nancy Weaver
 Baird Welch-Collins
 Katharina Wentseis
 Mitch Williams
 Beza Woda
 Cortney Zaret

Energy Reporting

Those who love beavers and what they do donate their money and their time to our cause. We channel that money and energy into the programs and projects that we think will help beavers the most.

Funding

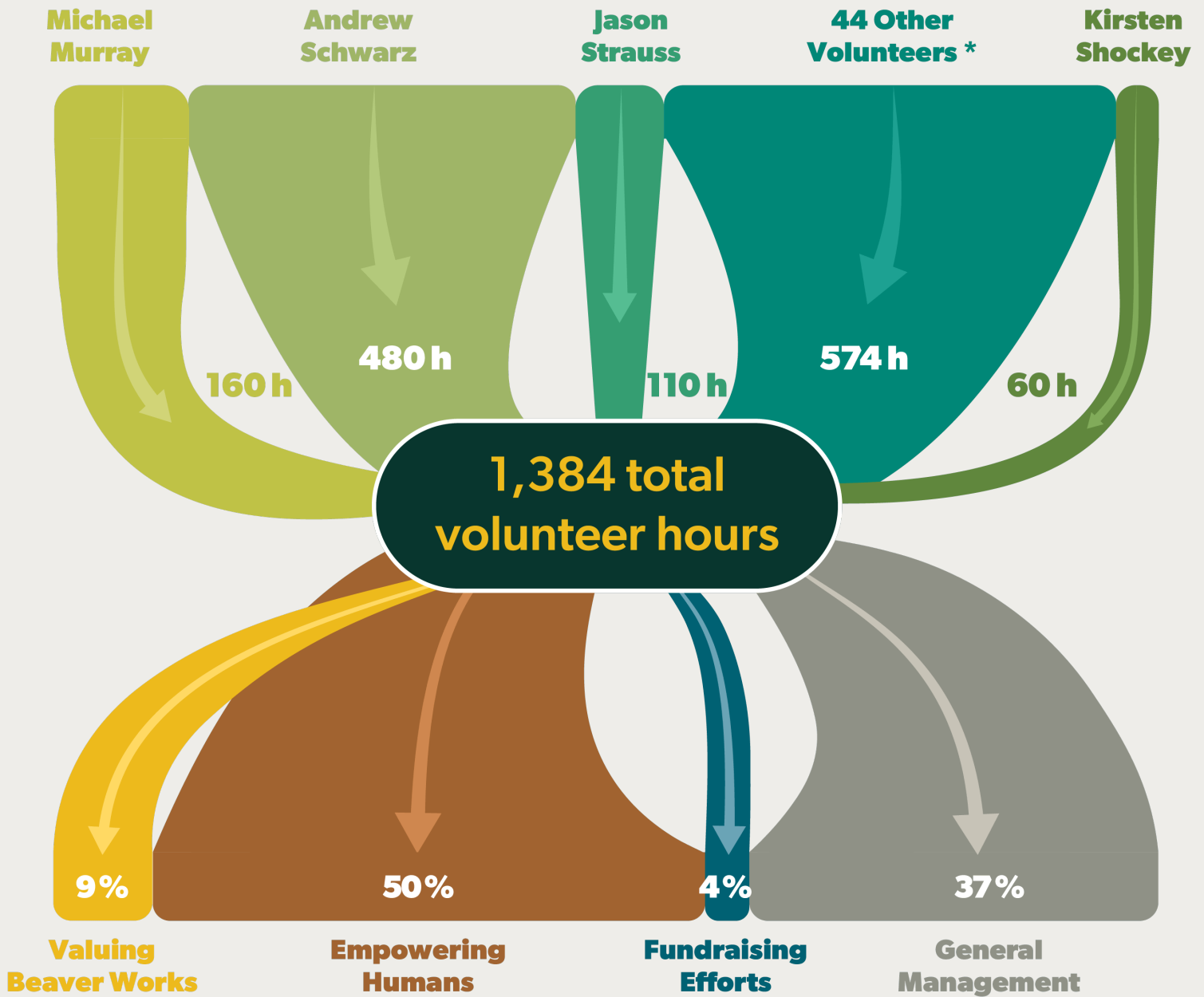
In 2024 we received \$231,797 in donations from our supporters.



*Government grants were supported by U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, and the State of Oregon

Volunteers

In 2024, 48 people donated 1,384 hours of their time to support general management, our two programs, and fundraising efforts. Thank you!



* Thank you to Jordan Beaver, Steve Brazier, Zaynab Brown, Mike Callahan, Roisin Campbell-Palmer, Daniel Collay, Aiden Costello, Odette Finn, Cat Gould, Michael Guinnane, Noah Hamilton, Nikki Hart-Brinkley, Alison Hensley Sexauer, Ashley Jentzsch, Russell Jenkins, Derrick Jenson, Joelle Jorissen, Marni Koopman, Luc Lamarche, Alicia Leow-Dyke, Valentina London, Lurlin Malolo, Karen Mager, Richard McFarland, Reese Mercer, Wendy Murray, Andrea Osbon, Samantha Payne, Jennifer Payne, Michael Parker, Evelyn Posadas, Max Price, Charlie Schelz, Gerhard Schwab, Lyra Shockey, Tim Sexauer, Greg Starbird, Collette Streight, Mihaly Szigeti, Loren Taylor, Alexa Whipple, Micheline Wessler, and Alison Zak.

