A powerful perspective to inspire lasting stewardship

Report

LIGHT LAWK 2008

Aerial view of the Tijuana Estuary, a "Wetlands of International Importance".



C. Rudy Engnoim Executive Director



Michael Stewartt, who founded LightHawk 30 years ago, recently told me how LightHawk got its name. After hiking to the top of a New Mexico cliff, he looked down to see a hawk flying straight toward him. The hawk majestically extended its wings and talons and swept up vertically right in front of him. The name came to him in a flash.

The name still fits. Like the hawk, we use the power of flight – graciously donated by skilled volunteer pilots – to shed light on destructive out-of-sight clearcutting, illegal mining and dredging, and other activities that threaten our natural heritage. But more than being a watchdog, we give back to nature. We've flown wild falcons and otters in re-introduction efforts, and monitored tropical mangroves and coastal eelgrass beds, which are nurseries of the sea.

I recently had the unique opportunity to meet a Peregrine Falcon up close. I'm in awe of that bird: the fastest living creature on earth. It brought to mind one of our core beliefs: "What you see, you can understand. What you understand, you can love. And what you love, you will protect." Looking into those dark eyes, I wanted to protect that falcon, and other wild creatures as well. I felt more strongly than ever that I do not want to live in a world where wild animals only exist as corporate logos. We are grateful for your ongoing support of our efforts to protect all of these wild creatures and the habitat that enables them to thrive.

✓ You can find information about LightHawk's staff and board of directors at www.lighthawk.org.









o Ilka Feller/Smithsonian Institution/LightHawl

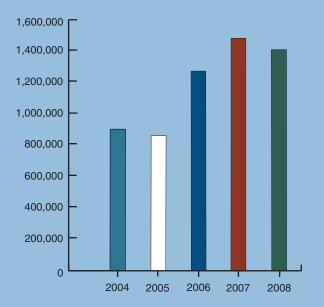


To champion environmental protection through the unique perspective of flight.



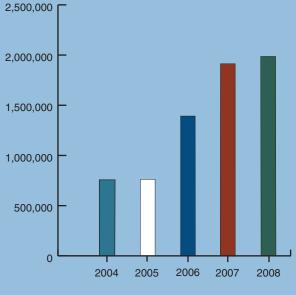
Aerial patrol for the Riverkeeper over a stone and asphalt quarry near Poughkeepsie, New York, where suspicious discharges into the Hudson River have been observed.

5 Year Revenue Growth



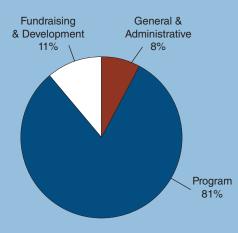
Total donations increased by 20% in 2008. The downturn in endowment investment value reduced total revenues by \$240K for the year.

Net Asset Growth



Net assets grew by \$124k in 2008.

2008 Expenses



81% of LightHawk's annual expenses attributed to program delivery.

Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2008

Support and Revenue

Individual Contributions	\$714,954
Foundation Contributions	\$525,500
Donated Services and Materials	\$332,737
Other Contributions	\$14,271
Other Revenue, Interest and Dividends	\$39,805
Realized and Unrealized Loss on Investments	\$240,753

Total Revenue and Support..... 1,386,514

Expenses

Program- LightHawk Costs	\$703,771
Program- Volunteer Pilot Donated Flights	\$251,874
Program- Volunteer Pilot Donated Fuel	\$63,833
Fundraising and Membership	\$140,940
General and Administration	\$102,120
Total Expense	\$1,262,538

Change in Net Assets	\$123,976
Net Assets (<i>deficit</i>), beginning of year	\$1,850,407
Net assets (deficit), end of year	

Audited Financial Statement and IRS form 990 may be obtained by writing LightHawk, 304 Main Street, Suite 14, PO Box 653, Lander, WY 82520 or eryan@lighthawk.org

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2008

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$773,622
Unconditional Promises to Give	\$255,195
Prepaid Expenses	\$32,145
Investments	\$539,446
Property and Equipment	\$518,185
Total Assets	\$2,118,593

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	
Long-term Debt	\$100,000
Total Liabilities	\$144,210

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$1,118,284
Temporarily Restricted	\$337,741
Permanently Restricted	\$518,358
Total Net Assets	\$1,974,383

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$2,118,593

Mesoamerica Flying For Healthy Reefs

In 2008, LightHawk flew over 50 different partner organizations in Mesoamerica. As part of that commitment, LightHawk continued providing flights for the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Belize to help investigate the direct and indirect effects of human activities and natural disturbances on mangrove ecosystems in Belize. Mangroves protect shoreline areas from erosion and storm surge (especially during hurricanes) and provide safe nursery grounds for many commercial, threatened and endangered species. Unfortunately, activities like dredging and clearing of mangroves for tourism and other developments are jeopardizing the health of these invaluable ecosystems and their inhabitants.

Aerial photographs taken this year and over the past few years on LightHawk flights allow researchers to monitor and document landscape-level changes that have occurred in different cays along the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System. This historic perspective also allows scientists to investigate the effects of disturbances to the mangroves and nearby seagrass beds and coral reefs just offshore. Results from these studies have helped prompt better management of critical conservation sites like Turneffe Atoll which has more than 200 mangrove islands. The atoll is a destination for divers and anglers boasting eagle rays, dolphins, turtles, huge green morays, whale sharks, manatees, nurse sharks, reef sharks, trunkfish, groupers, snappers, permit, and horse-eye jacks. The area also provides a natural nursery for a wide variety of marine life.



Mesoamerica Program Region: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama

"The destruction that's going on within the various marine protected areas and the Belize Barrier Reef World Heritage Site is mind boggling. These aerial surveys are the only way to really see what is going on. Illegal clearing and filling of mangroves is rampant. And, it can happen with little notice on the ground until it is too late to stop it. I will distribute these images widely."

- Dr. Ilka C. Feller, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

"[The Klamath Basin] is such a large area it needs to be seen from the air. The ability to look at the area in such a short time period is beneficial. Two good things were... seeing the land and water, and interacting with others on the air tour."

and it

- Steve Kandra, farmer and board member, Klamath Water Users Association

16th

Pacific Fostering Collaboration Over Embattled Waters

Stretching from the high desert in southern Oregon to the redwood forests of northern California, the Klamath Basin covers a vast and diverse area. It once boasted over 350,000 acres of marshes, wet meadows and shallow lakes, major runs of salmon and steelhead, and enormous numbers of migratory birds. It was, at one time, the third-most productive river system for salmon in the US. However, the Klamath Basin has suffered from decades of conflict over water use and management and efforts to preserve habitat for species of endangered fish. Basin communities found that focusing resources in just one area threw the whole system off balance. As famed naturalist John Muir said, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

In recent years, the Klamath Basin has seen a shift among its stakeholders towards a cooperative approach and LightHawk donated flights have furthered this trend. The ranchers, Native American tribes, farmers, conservationists and government officials who once opposed each other in the courtroom have put aside many of their differences to work together. Their efforts will help restore public and tribal resources, as well as enhance the sustainability of rural communities. In 2008, LightHawk held our annual Fly-In in Klamath Falls, and a concentrated series of flights during that time helped illuminate the interconnectedness of the river, and the land and animals it supports, as well as strengthen the common ground that unites the diverse stakeholders in the area.



Pacific Program Region:

California, Oregon and Washington with limited operations in Alaska, Baja California and coastal British Columbia

Eastern Protecting the Atlantic Coastline

Scientists from Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies and Save The Bay, Narragansett Bay know that healthy marine and coastal areas rely on healthy bays and estuaries. Both groups are dedicated to science and education missions and both rely on LightHawk to help them protect one of the building blocks of coastal health: eelgrass. Eelgrass beds are natural water filters, they protect shorelines during storms, and they serve as nursery and refuge for a host of species including fish and shellfish. LightHawk flights provide one of the most effective and efficient ways to monitor eelgrass beds.

In Cape Cod Bay, LightHawk flights help Provincetown Center scientists measure multi-year trends in eelgrass abundance, document the effects of man-made incursions and provide management guidance to better protect this nationally treasured ecosystem. In Narragansett Bay, where only 99 acres of historic eelgrass beds remain, Save The Bay ecologists depend on LightHawk flights to monitor their pioneering eelgrass restoration efforts.

LightHawk is dedicated to protecting Atlantic coastal bays and estuaries from Maine to Maryland and in Florida. The aerial perspective on eelgrass helps our partners secure the future health of these core ecosystems and the animals that depend on it.

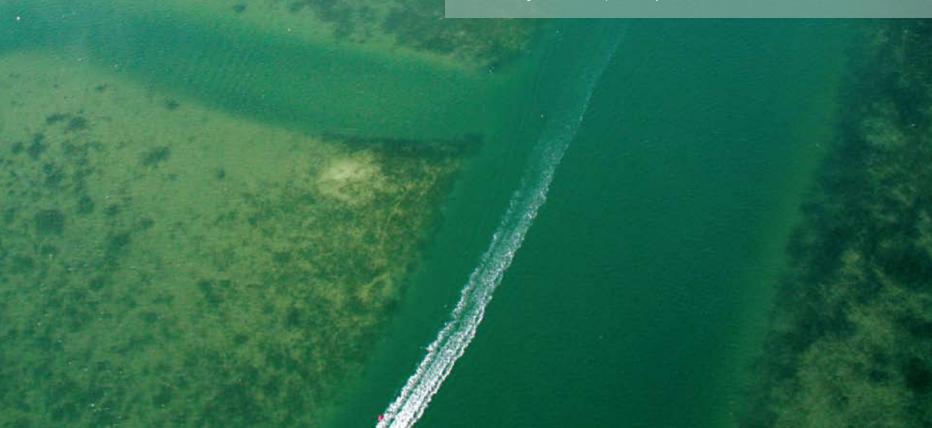


Eastern Program Region:

Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Quebec, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Florida

"Before collaborating with LightHawk, all of our research on eelgrass was conducted from ground level and on a much smaller scale. From this perspective, we literally were missing the forest for all its trees. Our work with LightHawk has completely changed this. When everything coincides – tides, weather, water clarity – the views are breathtaking and the scientific data gleaned from these flights are invaluable."

- Amy Costa, Associate Scientist, Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies Shown: Eelgrass beds in Cape Cod Bay



"If a picture is worth a thousand words, then an overflight is worth a million. The overflight was a captivating way to experience the amazing natural assets that sit inside Missoula County's boundaries and to better understand the threats and opportunities for protecting them."

- Karen Knudsen, Executive Director, Clark Fork Coalition

Shown: Allowing homes to be built close to the Bitteroot River increases pollution in the waterway, reduces habitat for wildlife, and makes the homes prone to flooding.

Rockies Exposing the Consequences of Rural Development

Spanning 2,600 square miles in western Montana, Missoula County is one of the fastestgrowing counties in the nation. Missoula County's three county commissioners routinely make decisions on land use and planning in this mountainous region that affect not only the county's human residents but also the many threatened and endangered wildlife and plant species native to the area. In a county so large, and with such diverse and rugged terrain, flight is perhaps the only way to truly understand the current condition, the threats to the region, and the opportunities for protecting the region's natural heritage. In July 2008, two LightHawk volunteer pilots provided an aerial tour to the entire Missoula County Commission, as well as the head of the County's Rural Initiatives office, a state biologist, and a local conservation leader. The flights gave the commissioners an understanding of the interconnectedness of the county's landscapes, and a new awareness of how unchecked residential development with its accompanying spider web of roads, has resulted in the rapid fragmentation of the county's wildlands. Empowered by this new perspective, Missoula County's elected leaders are now able to weigh the true benefits and consequences of each new development proposal.



Rockies Program Region:

Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming with limited operations in Alberta and eastern British Columbia

Emerging Regions: Great Lakes

Protecting the Northern Forest

The brilliant green canopy of the Wisconsin Northwoods is a miracle – some parts are so distinct from space that NASA uses them as a reference point. LightHawk flights help the Environmental Law and Policy Center of Chicago (ELPC) fight for better management of the embattled Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest – one thread in the canopy fabric.

The Chequamegon-Nicolet was established in 1933 in response to deforestation in the late 1800s. Today, the second growth forest supports a diverse array of species, exceptional waterways, and recreational areas. It also has the dubious distinction of being the highest-cut national forest in the country. From 1992 to 2001, over 188,000 acres were logged. At this rate, every single log-able acre will be cut in 45 years.

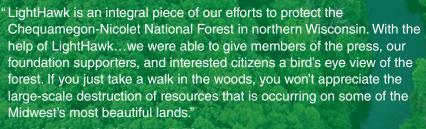
LightHawk flights are an integral part of ELPC efforts to convince the US Forest Service that sustainable management on these lands is achievable, desirable and profitable. By pursuing legal action and informing the public, this public interest non-profit has saved over 22,000 acres of forest in the past 5 years.



Emerging Regions:

Great Lakes: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin Prairie: Nebraska and West Texas South: coastal Louisiana, coastal Texas and the Caribbean

In our emerging regions, LightHawk accepts flight requests but does not actively recruit conservation partners or volunteer pilots. We evaluate regional growth on an annual basis, and as our capacity grows, we will move into more of these regions.



- Kathrine Dixon, Staff Attorney, ELPC

Volunteer Pilot Corps

Gabrielle Adelman Eric Anderson Pat Andrews Dick Arnold Dick Axelrod Michael Baum Greg Bedinger

- Milton Bennett
 Grant Besley
 Wendy Ross Beye
- Stan Bialek
 Dick Bicknell
 Brent Blue
- Don Boccaccio
- ✓ Jeff Bonneville
 Jon Galt Bowman
 Steve Bowser
- Chris Boyer
 Edgar Boyles
- Ralph Britton
 Thomas Bryant
 Greg Burnett
 Jeremiah Burns
 Jim Cameron
 Jim Carlson
 Ev Cassagneres
- Saul Chaikin
 Tuck Colby
 Peter Coltman
 Duane "Sharky" Cornell
 Dean Cully
 Murray Cunningham
 Key Dismukes
 Tom Dittmar
- David Downey
 Dan Downing
 Tim Drager

Jo Duffy Andy Dunigan Rick Durden Bill Eller Rudy Engholm Jon Engle Gary Engler Dan Evans Frank Farwell John Feagin Joe Fischetti Charles Fligel Eric Fogelin Steven Garman Bernard Gateau Pete Geiler Bob Gill Reg Goodwin Kelly Gottlieb Jim Grady Bill Green Stephen "Hawk" Greenway Jeff Hamilton Hunter Handsfield Barry Harper Hal Hayden Pat Healy Tim Hendricks **Richard Hendrickson** Randy Henry Bill Hewett Chuck Heywood Kemp Hiatt Jerry Hoogerwerf Richard Hoover Hugh Horning

Bruce Huester

Arthur Hussev III Zach Huston Luke Irwin A.C. Jayne Mike Jesch Kirk Johnson Neil Kave Bob Keller **Richard Kimball** Alan Kinback Paul Kinzelman Steve Knaebel David Kunkel John Kusianovich Paul Kutler Tim Lapage Jim Leachman Tom LeCompte John-Michael Lee Ray Lee Carl Lincoln Ruthmary Lovitt Allen Low Alan Lukas Randy Luskey Tom Maurer Mike McBride David McConnell Bruce McGregor Bruce McLean Mike McNamara Dan Meyer Andy Moffat Doug Monger Jim Moore **Russ Munson** David Murphy

Ioris Naiman Lew Nash Jane Nicolai Steve Nicoll James Noyes Malcolm Ohl Robert Ovanin David Palmer Alan Parnass Steve Paul Carl Pesce Chet Peterson **Bob** Peterson Steve Phillabaum Ben Pierce **Bill Pinkus** Geoff Pope **Ric Quisenberry** Rick Rav Fred Reimers George Ritter Kevin Roache Lisa Robertson Steve Robertson Ted Robinson **Glenn** Rogers Al Rollins Chuck Rosenfeld Sarah Rosenthal Jane Rosevelt Polly Ross Rob Ross Bill Rush Scott Ryan Elmer Schettler

Volunteer Pilot Roster as of October 31, 2009

- Merry Schroeder Chuck Schroll **Richard Sedgwick** James Seith Michael Sharp Mark Shelley Allan Silverstein George Simchuk Skip Slyfield Gene Steffen Ed Steinman David Stern Bob Stoecker Dick Stone Mike Sullivan Mike Sutton Larry Swanson Art Thompson * Val Tollefson Tom Tuxill Nick Ulman Matt Verdieck Dick Walker Terri Watson Pete White Doc White Brian Williams Steve Williams John Wilson Brent Witters Helen Woods Will Worthington
 - Ken Wyrick Andy Young Bradley Zeve
- Volunteer Pilots flying missions in 2008 Retired from the Volunteer Pilot Corps 2008

Chris Boyer/Kestrel Aeria

Inside the cockpit of a Cessna 172 flying alongside the Tetons in northwest Wyoming.



NB246B

Partners In Conservation



Above Arizona's Middle Verde River Canyon a proposed pipeline could dry up the first 24 miles of the river, perhaps more.

Mesoamerica Region

Belize

Agriculture Department Aguacaliente Management Team Belize Audubon Society Belize Zoo Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education (BFREE) Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Forest Department Friends for Conservation and Development Friends of Gra Gra Lagoon Healthy Reefs National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Oak Foundation Oceanic Society Programme for Belize Smithsonian Environmental Research Center Smithsonian Institution Toledo Development University of Arizona University of Belize University of Florida Wildlife Care Center - Belize World Wildlife Fund - Belize

Costa Rica

Asociación Comunidades Ecologistas Usuarias del Golfo de Nicoya (CEUS) Federación Costarricense para la Conservación del Ambiente (FECON) Fundación Ecológica del Cornelio de Acosta (FUNDECOA) Ministerio del Ambiente y Energía (MINAE) Observatorio Vulcanológico y Sismológico de Costa Rica (OVSICORI-UNA)

2008 Missions

El Salvador

Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza

Guatemala

Asociación Balam Centro de Monitoreo y Evaluación del Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (CEMEC/CONAP) Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas de Guatemala (CONAP) Conservación Nacional Área Peten Ducks Unlimited FactorChannel TV Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza Instituto Nacional de Bosques (INAB) Minister for Environment Municipality of Poptun CONAP-CECON Project Aquicultural Peru SIPCIP Poptun Sistema Integral de Prevención y Control de Incendios (SIPECIF) Trópico Verde Wildlife Conservation Society - Guatemala

Honduras

Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza

Mexico

Amigos de Sian Ka'an Greenpeace - México Niños y Crías Pronatura

Nicaragua

Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza Panthera Wildlife Conservation Society - Nicaragua

Panama

Panamá Minister of Environment UNESCO

Eastern Region

American Rivers California Field Office Katie Blake, Antioch University, New England Blue Hill Heritage Trust Columbia Land Conservancy Conservancy of Southwest Florida Downeast Lakes Land Trust **Everglades** Foundation J Henry Fair, photographer Groton Conservation Trust Loon Preservation Council Maine Coast Heritage Trust Marlboro Conservation Commission Janet McMahon, ecologist Mohonk Preserve Mote Marine Lab, Center for Shark Research Natural Resources Council of Maine NBC/Peacock Productions New York City Audubon Northeastern Wilderness Trust Ocean Conservancy, South Atlantic **Regional Office Open Space Institute** Peconic Baykeeper Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies Restore Americas Estuaries Save The Bay - Narragansett Bay Smithsonian Institution Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce Surfers Environmental Alliance The Nature Conservancy in Maine The Sundance Channel Trust for Public Land, National Office Walden Woods Project Western Foothills Land Trust George Wuerthner

Pacific Region

Audubon Canvon Ranch California Desert & Mountain Wilderness Campaign California Wilderness Coalition Campaign for America's Wilderness Columbia Riverkeeper Conservation Northwest Earth Images Foundation Earthjustice Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch Friends of the River Gaviota Coast Conservancy Hood Canal Coordinating Council Interfaze Educational Productions Japan Ecosystem Conservation Society Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center Mono Lake Committee NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Natural Resources Defense Council NGO Media Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition Ocean Conservancy Oregon Wild Our Ocean Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission Fish Habitat Education Program Pilchuck Audubon Society **Ouinnessential Productions** Resource Media San Diego Coastkeeper San Mateo County Resource Conservation District Santa Monica Baykeeper Sierra Club Sustainable Northwest Tahoe-Baikal Institute The Naples Coalition The Wilderness Society Tuleyome Whatcom County Land Trust Wild Farm Alliance

Wild Salmon Center

Rockies Region

American Wildlands Amigos Bravos Big Hole River--Jonathan Stumpf **Biodiversity Conservation Alliance** Bitterroot River Protection Association Buffalo Field Campaign Cabinet Resource Organization Camille Le Pomellec Center for Biological Diversity Colorado Open Lands Endeavor Wildlife Research Foundation Freedom to Roam Gallatin Valley Land Trust Morgan Heim Idaho Conservation League International League of Conservation Photographers Lava Lake Institute for Science and Conservation Missoula County Rural Initiatives Montana Environmental Information Center Montana Trout Unlimited NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center National Geographic Wild Chronicles New Mexico Friends of the River Otter Ravalli County Planning Department Joe Riis Photography Save the Scenic Santa Ritas Selkirk Conservation Alliance Sierra Club - National Office Sonoran Institute Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance Southwest Land Alliance The Harder Foundation The Nature Conservancy - Colorado The Nature Conservancy - Montana The Wilderness Society Tucson Audubon Society Wood River Land Trust World Resources Institute Wyoming Outdoor Council

Emerging Regions

Envrionmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan Environmental Law and Policy Center Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Sierra Club, Michigan Chapter

2008 Supporters

With Sincere Appreciation

LightHawk is tremendously grateful to you, our supporters. Without the continued commitment and dedication of the many individuals and organizations listed below who made charitable donations to LightHawk in 2008, our work on behalf of the land, water and wildlife of this planet would not be possible.

Thank you to the donors who made gifts at the following levels:

Wild Blue Yonder (\$10,000+)

Anonymous (2) F. Jordan Colby Theo Gund, in memory of Greg Gund Jeff and Martha Hamilton Iara Lee & George Gund III, in memory of Greg Gund Gilman Ordway Suzanne Parish and Norm Carver Brian Williams (directed gift)

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Co-Pilot (Under \$100)

Mercedes Agogino Martin P. Albert, M.D. Ethan and Alice Allen Victor and Janice Anderson John D. Armstrong Iim Astin Elaine W. Beals, in honor of Phillip Beals Bonnie Beebe Lee James Best Jr. Penny L. Blubaugh Joseph Bower Thomas R. Broker and Louise T. Chow Hugh Brundage Eileen Carney Bill and Kass Coghill, in honor of Bill Nicolai William and Barbara Coleman Robert and Barbara Convers Louise W. Devine Mark Drake Lee and Phoebe Driscoll Charles S. Faulkner, II Alan Frank Robert French Mary Ann Frye Beverly Gabe Daniel I. Gare Lydia Garvey Peter Geiler Martin and Patricia Gerrard **Richard Glick**

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* Multi-year pledge commitment

LightHawk is helping reintroduce rare Aplomado Falcons - like this one - to the Southwest.



LightHawk provides donated flights in the United States, Canada and Mesoamerica to accelerate the efforts of our conservation partners. LightHawk is supported by individuals, organizations and foundations who believe the aerial perspective can be a powerful tool to protect and preserve habitat and wildlife. We invite your support and involvement.

LightHawk

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