



**2011-2012 Annual Report**



*Near Grand Rapids, Minnesota, state and private landholders have conserved more than 4,000 square miles of uninterrupted forest habitat. Their foresight preserves wildlife habitat, timber-related jobs and public access for outdoor recreation and also protects the drinking water for millions of people, including residents of Minneapolis and St. Paul.*



*Rudy*

C. Rudy Engholm,  
*Executive Director*  
Cumberland Foreside, ME

# *Illuminate, Empower, Protect*

Twenty-three years ago, a thoughtless act of environmental destruction changed my life forever. While living in Ann Arbor, Michigan, I often walked in the woods behind my home after work. My favorite spot to unwind was under a broad oak tree that I called my “thinking tree.”

One summer, I returned home from vacation to find the entire woods cleared for a new housing development. My thinking tree had been cut down and all that remained was a huge stump scarred with chain marks where someone had tried to tear it from the earth. I sat by the stump and wept for the thoughtless way this special tree had been destroyed. Any new homeowner would have paid a premium to own such a tree, but it was cut down because a thoughtless subdivision planner could not bother to relocate a road around this magnificent tree, which had survived 150 summers and winters.

For me, this incident symbolizes the way some of our most treasured natural places and critical ecosystems are being lost. The immediate costs are borne by land, water and wildlife, but humans ultimately pay with adverse health consequences and diminished well-being. As a pilot, I know that the aerial view is often the only way for people to understand complex environmental issues. That is why I serve among LightHawk’s volunteer pilots who, hand-in-hand with LightHawk’s supporters, use flight to protect the most special places in our world.

Thank you for flying with us. Together, we are part of some incredible successes like protecting an irreplaceable coral reef off Cabo Pulmo on Mexico’s Baja Peninsula. When a massive beachfront development was proposed, aerial images of nearby construction helped build public opposition and the permits were revoked. Thanks to your involvement, LightHawk flights are making a difference to conservation every day.

## 2012 HIGHLIGHTS




### Wild Baja Stays Wild

A sleepy fishing community at the end of a dusty dirt road was slated to become a tourist development larger than 8500 football fields. Just offshore whales, dolphins, orcas, sharks, sea lions and endangered sea turtles in Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park would be affected. “What impresses me most from the air is how vast and wild Baja California still is,” remarked photographer Ralph Lee Hopkins. A series of LightHawk donated flights in 2010 helped focus attention on the project using Ralph’s photographs of the remote area. And this year, the Mexican government put an end to plans for a massive resort complex that would have imperiled marine life and those that rely upon eco-tourism for survival.

### LightHawk Expeditions Answer Urgent Need

In 2012, LightHawk Expeditions were created to provide a nimble response to important conservation issues outside our core areas and to leverage our network of over 200 volunteer pilots for flight requests which could not afford to go unanswered. For conservation groups, these Expeditions redraw the map and expand the view. For volunteer pilots, they present opportunities for once-in-a-lifetime flying and memorable journeys. For supporters, they ensure flight is utilized to address the most pressing conservation issues of the day.

*This publication serves as LightHawk’s 2011 annual report and provides a highlight of our 2012 activities.*

 Left to right: Cabo Pulmo: Ralph Lee Hopkins, Lee Pagni/LightHawk, NOAA; Expeditions: Christi Cooper-Kuhn, Paul Colangelo, Jim Wilcox/NWSSCS



Left: Paul Colangelo Right: Todd Wesselake/RavenEye Photography with aerial support from LightHawk

# Our Mission

# *environmental protection*



Volunteer pilot Jim Cameron (AB) flies a mission over eastern British Columbia.

**Opposite:** LightHawk has helped to bring back images of the Sacred Headwaters, where three great salmon rivers converge. The Headwaters are home to thriving populations of grizzlies, wolves, moose, caribou, mountain goats and stone sheep. The Tahltan First Nation in this remote corner of British Columbia oppose proposals to mine the area saying the risks to the land, which is interwoven with their culture, sustenance and survival, far outweighs the benefits.

## What we do

champion environmental protection through the unique perspective of flight.

## We do this by

mobilizing highly qualified volunteer pilots and donating flights to selected leaders in conservation.

## Our flights protect

- Wildlands
- Wildlife
- Oceans, Reefs & Coastlines
- Freshwater & Wetlands

## Flight Missions Donated in 2011



966

Influential Passengers  
*Flown*



Chris Boyer

254

Conservation Partners  
*Served*



Chris Linder

194

Volunteer Pilots  
*Donating  
their Aircraft & Skill*



Chris Boyer

69

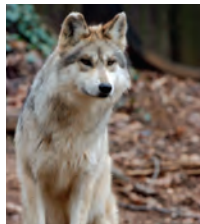
Endangered Aplomado Falcons  
*Transported  
for Release into the Wild*



Bill Heinrich/TPF

7

Endangered Wolves  
*Flown  
to New Homes*



Smithsonian National Zoo

6

Orange-breasted Falcons  
*Carried to Strengthen  
the Belize Wild Population*



Bob Berry

★



**Christine Steele**  
Pacific Program Manager  
(Portland, OR)

★



**Lee Pagni**  
Program Specialist  
(Sonora, CA)  
*\*Independent Contractor*

★



**Sama Blackwell**  
Director of Programs  
(Boulder, CO)

★



**Shannon Rochelle**  
Rockies Program Manager  
(Lander, WY)

★



**Kelley Tucker**  
Eastern Region  
Program Manager  
(Jay, NY) *through 8/12*

★



**Armando Ubéda**  
Mesoamerica & Gulf of Mexico  
Program Manager  
(Sarasota, FL)

# essential Wildlands



*Oil and gas development (Sublette County, Wyoming shown here) produces massive chemical waste ponds.*

## “Are you sure we’re going the right way?”

As a labyrinth of oil and gas wells surrounded the campers’ approach into Canyonlands National Park, they questioned their surroundings. This was not the trip they had envisioned.

Many visitors are unaware that the borders of Arches and Canyonlands National Parks in Utah are currently threatened. Oil and gas exploration is increasing, irreplaceable archaeological resources are being vandalized and looted, and irresponsible off-highway vehicles are disrupting fragile high desert ecosystems. Although just as magnificent and striking as the protected parks they surround, these lands are being treated as sacrifice zones for industrial and extractive uses, rather than national treasures. Local groups are trying to bring attention to these unprotected landscapes before it is too late.

From the cabin of volunteer pilot Jim Grady’s red and white Cessna 180 and Bernard Gateau’s nimble Eurocopter, it’s hard to tell where Canyonlands National Park begins and ends. Grand Canyon Trust (GCT) used this perspective to capture still images and video to show the beauty and scale of the unprotected borderlands and illustrate just what is at stake.

“The aerial view of this landscape will give the most impact in telling our story ... about the critical need to protect these lands,” said GCT’s Laura Kamala after the flights. The stunning images from these flights are being used to create a video urging expansion of the park’s borders. Across the U.S., in Canada, Mexico and Central America, flights donated through LightHawk are helping people protect the wildlands that not only give us clean water and air, but also define and enrich our communities.

Left: Dave Showalter with aerial support from LightHawk; Right: Tom Till with aerial support from LightHawk



*Orange Cliffs, Utah bordering Canyonlands National Park.*



*Donated flights help ACES survey crocodile habitat away from settled areas in northwest Ambergris Caye, Belize.*

Left: Cherie Rose/ACES with aerial support from LightHawk Right: Michael Davis, Discover Belize Now

## Wildlife

irreplaceable

**With three crocs secured in the bottom of their boat, Cherie and Vince Rose got a call that broke their hearts.**

The home and sanctuary they built by hand for ill-kept, injured and problematic crocodiles in Belize had burned to the ground. And like a scene from “Frankenstein”, the endangered crocodiles living there were killed by a misguided mob bent on revenge.

Although often misunderstood and feared in Belize, American crocodiles (*Crocodylus acutus*) play an important role as an apex predator, an animal at the top of the food chain. Crocs keep Belize’s wetland ecosystems in balance, and without them populations of raccoons and other disease-carrying animals would explode, threatening human health. But crocodiles that have been fed illegally often lose their natural fear of humans and become nuisance beggars and scavengers. Cherie and Vince have made it their life’s work to relocate crocs that have become problematic and to educate the community about coexisting safely with the prehistoric-looking creatures.

As they began to recover from the tragedy, Cherie and Vince contacted LightHawk. They needed to rebuild a new crocodile sanctuary quickly. Their new site looked good, but LightHawk enabled Cherie and Vince’s non-profit ACES (American Crocodile Education Sanctuary) to find the best way to start construction while causing minimal impact on the property’s endangered red mangroves. The flight collected vital information about the dense wetlands in minutes as opposed to spending days or weeks surveying on foot and by boat. ACES also identified critical wetland habitat and potential croc nesting grounds during their flight.

In addition to helping crocs, LightHawk is often able to transport endangered animals like aplomado falcons, orange-breasted falcons or Mexican wolves, for relocation or release in the wild. Flights also help scientists study animals, track their movements and protect the land they need to survive. Helping people like Cherie and Vince – the croc wranglers of Belize – recover from tragedy is especially rewarding.



*Cherie and Vince Rose rescue a wayward young croc from a hotel swimming pool.*

# thriving Oceans, Reefs & Coastlines

## Pilots Flying for California MPAs since 2006:

*Bob Allen (CA), Steve Bowser (CA), Ralph Britton (CA), Michael Baum (CA), Jo Duffy (CA), Bill Faulkner (CA), Randy Henry (CA), Kitty Houghton (CA), Mike Jesch (CA), David Kunkel (CO), John-Michael Lee (CA), John Mahany, (CA), Lew Nash (OR), Kevin Roache (CA), Jane Roosevelt (OR), Bill Rush (CA), Chuck Schroll (AZ), Mark Shelley (CA), Skip Slyfield (UT), Ed Steinman (MI), Bob Stoecker (CA), Mike Sutton (CA), Brian Williams (NC), Brent Witters (CA), and Will Worthington (AZ)*



*A fishing boat discharges water blackened by squid-ink from its hold. Boats are required to pump outside of harbors and away from the shoreline where the decrease in pH won't harm marine life.*

## California fishermen had to admit this was more than just a string of bad fishing seasons.

Divers saw it, and surfers and families repeatedly turned away from their favorite beaches knew it too. The state's coastline and waters were largely unhealthy and in decline; something had to be done.

Conservationists knew that marine protected areas (MPAs) along the coast could shelter marine life and give the depleted fisheries a chance to rebound. However, with a coastline stretching for 1,100 miles, scientists were hard-pressed to effectively survey the area, until they took to the skies with LightHawk.

The process to define where MPAs would be located was met with resistance, but LightHawk volunteer pilot and advisory council member Mike Sutton was confident that flights could help overcome that hurdle. These flights gathered objective data to show where the sanctuaries would have the least impact on commercial and recreational boaters, and aerial photographs inspired support within communities for protecting their iconic coastline. For those tasked with drawing the boundaries of the marine sanctuaries, flights also transformed static lines on a map into living expanses of blue water. LightHawk ensured that information collected in flight would provide an objective, unbiased view of the coastline to satisfy MPA-backers and doubters alike.

In 2012, after six years and hundreds of hours of flights, LightHawk saw the network of marine protected areas finally stretch from Mexico all the way to the border with Oregon. It may seem strange to meet at the airport to study the ocean, but from 1,000 feet up, blue water yields its secrets. It shows kelp beds and reefs that offer safe haven for juvenile fish ensuring a future for fishermen, and the special areas where freshwater mixes with saltwater creating a rich soup to nourish marine life. Along the Pacific, Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean coastlines, flights donated through LightHawk are helping reveal how healthy oceans are key to the survival of both humans and marine life.

Left: Lia Protopapadakis Flynn/SMBRF/LightHawk Right: Kip Evans Photography/LightHawk



*Sea life thrives in a marine protected area established just offshore from Point Arena in Mendocino County, CA.*



*Aerial images from the state border showing widespread gas exploration in Pennsylvania, as well as New York State's intact forests extending to the horizon. These images prompted New York to protect their public lands, safeguarding their state's freshwater for millions of people.*

Left: Carl Heilman III/Adirondack Mountain Club with aerial support from LightHawk  
Right: J Henry Fair with aerial support from LightHawk

*vital*

## Freshwater & Wetlands

### Where's the harm in drilling a nine-inch hole in the ground to get at reserves of natural gas beneath our feet?

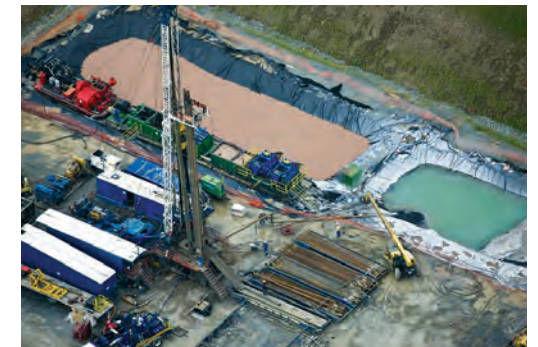
The answer becomes clear when viewed from a thousand feet up.

When New York State considered opening their public lands to hydraulic fracturing or “fracking”, the Adirondack Mountain Club called on LightHawk to capture the aboveground footprint of this controversial practice. They didn't need to look any further than their next-door neighbor, Pennsylvania, where fracking is prevalent.

Aerial images made during the flight over Pennsylvania with volunteer pilot Bob Keller (NY) showed that instead of rolling forests, the rural landscape was populated by well heads and pads, toxic settling ponds, big rig parking lots, storage yards for heavy equipment, and new roads cutting across habitat and vital wildlife corridors. More than just poor use of public lands, critics say fracking has polluted drinking water and compromised air quality.

When Neil Woodworth of Adirondack Mountain Club shared these images with New York's Department of Environmental Conservation and staff from the Governor's office, they were dismayed by the scale of industrialization taking place in Pennsylvania. The images taken during that flight served as the catalyst for New York State's decision to protect its irreplaceable freshwater resources by banning oil exploration and fracking on state lands.

Donated flights benefit freshwater and wetlands across each of our regions. They alert us to activities upstream, over the hill or far below ground, and empower us to address issues at the water's edge and activities elsewhere that imperil our precious freshwater resources.



*The impact of a fracking well extends far beyond the nine-inch hole in the ground.*

Francisco Zamora of the Sonoran Institute surveying shrimp larvae, which help purify water and are an important food source for birds.



The Sonoran Institute

# Partners In Conservation

It was getting dark and Francisco Zamora and his two friends huddled in their small boat, lost in the Colorado River Delta in Mexico. “We spent the night,” remembers Francisco. “Surrounded by cottonwoods and willows, I saw and heard many birds and wildlife for the first time.” As unlikely as it seems, he says it connected him to the Delta.

Today, Francisco works with LightHawk strategic partner the Sonoran Institute to restore the parched Delta. “If we can secure a small amount of water for the river,” he says, “we will be able to reconnect it to the sea, and restore riparian areas replanted with trees.

Every time I fly with LightHawk, what is clear from the air is the potential for restoration and the progress we have already made. To be able to see and to share these flights with others has allowed us to spread the hope for a better Delta.”

## Partners Flying With LightHawk in 2011

### Mesoamerica

#### Belize

- ACES/ American Crocodile Education Sanctuary
- Ambergris Caye Citizens for Sustainable Development
- Belize Audubon Society
- Belize Forest Department
- Belize Tropical Forest Studies
- Belize Zoo
- CARICOM Climate Change Centre
- Channel 7 TV
- Forest and Marine Reserve Association of Caye Caulker
- Friends for Conservation and Development
- George Mason University
- Green Living Project
- Land Use Policy Project
- Panthera
- Programme for Belize
- Protected Areas Conservation Trust
- Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development
- Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Peregrine Fund
- Toledo Institute for Development and Environment
- University of Belize
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- Wildtracks
- Wolf Creek Charitable Foundation
- Ya’axché Conservation Trust

#### Costa Rica

- Area de Conservación Tortuguero
- Instituto Nectandra
- Organization for Tropical Studies
- Panthera
- University for International Cooperation

#### Guatemala

- Asociación Balam
- Asociación Forestal Integral San Andrés
- Centro de Estudios Conservacionistas de la Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala
- Centro de Monitoreo y Evaluación del Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas
- Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas de Guatemala
- Defensores de la Naturaleza
- Ejercito de Guatemala
- Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación
- Fundación para la Conservación del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales “Mario Dary Rivera”
- Fundación Patrimonio Cultural y Natural Maya
- Instituto de Antropología e Historia de Guatemala
- Parque Nacional Mirador Río Azul
- Parque Nacional Tikal
- US Agency for International Development
- Wildlife Conservation Society, Guatemala

#### Honduras

- Bay Islands Conservation Association (BICA)
- Cuerpos de Conservación Omoa-CCO
- Fundación Cuero y Salado
- Fundación Islas de la Bahía
- Healthy Reefs
- Instituto Nacional de Conservación y Desarrollo Forestal, Áreas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre (ICF)
- La Fundación para la Protección de Lancetilla, Punta Sal y Texiguat
- Panthera
- Proyecto Ecosistemas
- Roatan Marine Park

#### México

- Amigos de Sian Ka’an
- Blue Cloud
- Centro de Investigaciones Tropicales, Universidad Veracruzana
- Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas
- Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- Lincoln Institute
- Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan
- Niños y Crías
- Oceanus, A.C.
- Pronatura Noroeste, Ensenada
- Pronatura, Peninsula de Yucatan
- Pronatura, Veracruz
- Protect the Flows
- Reserva Ecológica el Edén
- Sonoran Institute
- The Peregrine Fund
- This American Land
- U’Yo’Olche A.C.
- University of Arizona
- University of Wyoming
- Western Conservation Foundation

#### Panama

- Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

### United States and Canada

- Adirondack Council
- Adirondack Explorer
- American Rivers, Northern Rockies
- American Rivers, Northwest Office
- Andy Maser Photography
- Arizona Public Media
- Assateague Coastal Trust
- Association of Northwest Steelheaders
- Atlantic Salmon Federation
- Ausable River Association
- Barbara Boissevain Photography
- Biodiversity Conservation Alliance
- Bitter Root Land Trust
- Bitter Root Water Forum
- Blue Earth Alliance
- Blue Hill Heritage Trust
- Boulder - White Clouds Council
- Carlton Ward Photography
- Catskill Mountainkeeper
- Center for Biological Diversity, Northeast Office
- Chama Peak Landowner Alliance
- Chris Linder Photography
- Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
- Colorado Natural Heritage Program
- Colorado Open Lands
- Colorado State University, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology
- Colorado Water Institute
- Columbia Land Conservancy
- Conservation Northwest, Seattle
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- Dave Showalter Nature Photography
- Delaware Riverkeeper Network
- Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee
- Dirty Oil Sands Network
- Downeast Lakes Land Trust

- Environmental Law and Policy Center
- Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan
- Evergreen Land Trust
- Facing Climate Change
- Fischer Productions, LLC
- ForestEthics Advocacy, Vancouver and Smithers
- Friends of the Bitterroot
- Friends of the Clearwater
- Friends of the Inyo
- Future West
- Galveston Bay Foundation
- Gaviota Coast Conservancy
- Grand Canyon Trust
- Grand County Water Information Network
- Great Salt Lake Story
- Greater Yellowstone Coalition
- Green Fire Productions
- Grizzly Creek Films
- Guillaume Pitron
- Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
- Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy
- Hooked On the Fly
- Idaho Conservation League
- Idaho Rivers United
- Illinois Citizens for Clean Air and Water
- International League of Conservation Photographers
- Island Foundation
- J Henry Fair, Photographer
- Janet McMahon, Ecologist
- Jonathan Waterman
- Karuk Tribe
- Klamath Riverkeeper
- Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center
- Klamath Watershed Partnership
- Kontent Films
- Land Trust of the Treasure Valley

- Lava Lake Institute for Science and Conservation
- Lenz Photography
- Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Louisiana Bucket Brigade
- Louisiana State University
- Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium
- Loyola University New Orleans
- Maryland Coastal Bays Program
- McNeese State University
- Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan
- Michael Forsberg Photography
- Mono Lake Committee
- Montana Grizzly Encounter
- Montana State University, MFA Program in Science and Natural History Filmmaking
- Mote Marine Laboratory, Center for Shark Research
- Mountain Visions
- Mussellshell Watershed Coalition
- National Wildlife Federation, Northern Rockies and Prairies Regional Center
- National Wildlife Federation, Rocky Mountain Regional Center
- Natural Resources Defense Council, DC Office
- Natural Resources Defense Council, San Francisco Office
- Nebraska Public Television
- Neil Ever Osborne Communications
- New Hampshire Audubon
- New Jersey Meadowlands Commission
- New Mexico Land Conservancy
- New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
- Nicholls State University
- Northeast Wilderness Trust
- Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative
- Ocean Conservancy, California Office

- Oil Films, LLC
- Open Space Institute
- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Fish Habitat Education Program
- Pacific Wild
- Patuxent Riverkeeper
- Penobscot River Restoration Trust
- Potomac Riverkeeper
- Prescott Creeks Preservation Association
- Prickly Pear Land Trust
- Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies
- Puget Sound Partnership
- Rainforest Solutions Project
- Restore America’s Estuaries
- San Juan Preservation Trust
- Santa Barbara Channelkeeper
- Santa Fe Conservation Trust
- Save the Poudre
- Save the Scenic Santa Ritas
- Sea Turtle Restoration Project
- Sean Kernan Studio
- Shannon Switzer
- Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter
- SkyTruth
- Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, SERC
- Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
- Sonoran Institute
- South River Federation
- South Yuba River Citizens League
- Southwest Florida Water Management District
- Tahoe-Baikal Institute
- Tamarisk Coalition
- Tampa Bay Watch
- The Coalition for Buzzards Bay
- The Nature Conservancy, Adirondack Land Trust
- The Nature Conservancy, Colorado
- The Nature Conservancy, Florida Chapter

- The Nature Conservancy, Lake Wales Ridge Office
- The Nature Conservancy, Maine Chapter
- The Nature Conservancy, Nevada
- The Nature Conservancy, New Jersey Chapter
- The Nature Conservancy, Verde Program, Verde River Program
- The Otter Project
- The Patriot News
- The Peregrine Fund, Headquarters
- The Wilderness Society, California/ Nevada Regional Office
- The Wilderness Society, Washington DC HQ
- The Wildlands Conservancy
- Tom Till Photography
- Trout Unlimited - Wyoming
- Trout Unlimited - Idaho
- Tug Hill Commission
- Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
- University of Idaho
- University of Louisiana
- University of New Hampshire, Dept Natural Resources and Environment
- USDA Forest Service: Fremont-Winema National Forests
- Utah Rivers Council
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Western Environmental Law Center
- Western Watersheds Project, Idaho
- Wild Salmon Center
- Wildlands CPR
- Wildsight, Elk Valley
- Winter Wildlands Alliance
- Woodie Wheaton Land Trust
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
- World Wildlife Fund, DC Office
- Wyoming Association of Churches
- Yurok Tribe

Legacy Donors



Former LightHawk volunteer pilot Jay Noyes, with his wife Louise, have made a planned gift to LightHawk.

When former Light-Hawk volunteer pilot Jay Noyes of Hailey, Idaho looks back on the flying he did to support conservation, he says, “it has been the greatest part of my flying career.” That’s why Jay and his wife Louise have included a bequest to LightHawk in their estate planning.

They are part of a growing segment of donors who will leave a gift to help LightHawk fly missions far into the future. Legacy donors, like Jay and Louise, hold a special place in our hearts.

2011 Supporters

True North (\$100,000+)

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John and Adrienne Mars\*  
Oak Foundation\*

Suzanne Parish in honor of Will Parish\*

RBC Blue Water Project\*

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Anonymous  
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Resources Legacy Fund Foundation\*

Wild Blue Yonder (\$25,000 - 49,999)

Anonymous at The Seattle Foundation  
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Wolf Creek Charitable Foundation

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Thank You

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Mary E. Walsh  
David Wild

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Jim Winn  
Jim Wright in honor of John S. Wright, Sr.  
Claire Zugmeyer

Co-Pilot (Up to \$100)

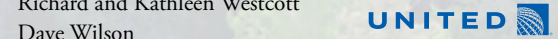
Mercedes Agogino  
Martin P. Albert  
Ethan and Alice Allen  
Victor and Janice Anderson  
Robert and Debra Andrews in memory of Peter Lerette  
Anonymous  
Jim Astin  
Bonnie Beebe  
John R. Bentley  
George and Anita Berlacher  
Lee James Best Jr.  
Wendy Ross Beya  
Joseph Bower  
Lincoln Brower  
Amanda Carnett in honor of John Carnett  
Eileen J. Carney  
Elaine Charkowski and Edward Oberweiser  
Mark Clark  
William Coleman  
Lou Anna Denison  
Robert Dismukes and Barbara Burian  
Julie Dorfman and Jerry Herst  
Lee and Phoebe Driscoll  
Natalie Ertz  
Alan and Anita Frank  
Beverly Gabe  
Daniel J. Gare  
Lydia Garvey  
Peter Geiler  
Patricia Gerrard  
Mark M. Giese  
Elaine Goldman

Andrew Goode  
Peter Haase  
Thomas Hall  
Robert and Sharon Handelsman  
John and Kiku Hanes  
Brenda J. Hanley and John W. Hillman  
David and Vivien Hanson  
Donald P. Hauber  
Judith Herzfeld  
Milton and Louise Hollander  
Kirsten R. Holmquist  
Michael Hoover in honor of Richard Hoover  
Carol Johnson  
Sara Jane Johnson  
Paula R. Katz  
Gene A. Kent  
Patricia M. Kincaid  
H. Robert Krear  
Donald and Barbara Kusler  
Thomas Ledig  
Hai P. Longworth  
Lucy MacLeitch  
Bernice C. Maertz  
Joseph Mandell  
Philip Margolis  
Nancy B. Marsh  
Melanie Mason in honor of Francis Mason  
James A. McClure  
Karen A. McDonough  
Sally Metcalf  
William and Terry Moore  
Joris Naiman and Lesya Struz  
John and Lani Ochs  
Mose and Maren Orion  
Oppenheimer  
Geri Oster  
Robert Perez  
Lawrence K. Peterson  
Kathleen Pinard  
V. Sidney Raines  
David Rich

H.T. and Marguerite Richter  
Field Rider  
Patricia Farrar-Rivas and Louie Rivas  
Janet Rollin  
Pauline Ross in memory of Betty Pfister  
Jared Rossman  
Helen M. Rudie  
Howard C. Russell  
Richard L. Russell  
Erica Sayers in honor of Stephen Sayers  
Pierre F. Schlemel  
Robert H. Schneider and Elizabeth Merry  
Daniel and Joanne Shively  
Helen Shoup  
Randall Siebert  
Greg Speer  
Krista Stanley  
Donald Stearns  
Donna and John Stone  
Larry and Ann Sullivan  
Arnold E. Talgo  
Marilyn H. Tam  
Tracy C. Thompson  
Deborah Garber and John H. Tielsch  
Armando J. Ubeda and April V. Noss in honor of Kai and Ren Ubeda  
John and Estelle Ursu  
Mark Wahl  
Ric Watkins  
Ann Weingartner  
Edward and Victoria Welch  
Richard and Kathleen Westcott  
Dave Wilson  
Jeffrey K. Winslow  
John and Jill Winter  
Donald and Eleanor Wolf  
James Wood

Conservation Partner Donors

The Adirondack Council, Inc.  
Adirondack Explorer  
Karen Anspacher-Meyer  
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana  
Colorado Open Lands  
Columbia Land Conservancy  
Benjamin Drummond  
Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch  
J Henry Fair  
Michael Forsberg  
John Frederick  
Galveston Bay Foundation  
Grand Canyon Trust  
Patuxent Riverkeeper  
Santa Fe Garden Club  
Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust



# Volunteer Pilot Corps



“Our volunteer pilot numbers have been climbing, with 24 pilots joining us in 2011, and 18 new pilots so far in 2012. More pilots allow us to fly more missions for conservation.”

Greg Bedinger, *Pilot Outreach Manager*,  
Bainbridge Island, WA

o Tony Rath with aerial support from Lighthawk

Over the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef, Belize.

✈ Gabrielle Adelman  
✈ Kenneth Adelman  
Bob Allen  
✈ Eric Anderson  
✈ Pat Andrews  
✈ Richard Arnold  
Daniel Ballin  
Michael Baum  
✈ Greg Bedinger  
✈ John Bell  
Milton Bennett  
Jeff Berg  
Wendy Ross Beye  
✈ Stan Bialek  
*Dick Bicknell*  
Brent Blue  
Don Boccaccio  
Jeff Bonnevillie  
✈ Steve Bowser  
✈ Christopher Boyer  
Bill Brewer  
✈ Ralph Britton  
✈ David Brock  
Phil Brown  
Tom Bryant  
Eileen Burger  
Gregory Burnett  
Thomas Buttgenbach  
✈ Jim Cameron  
Jim Carlson  
Everett Cassagneres  
Larry Cazier  
*Saul Chaikin*  
✈ Linda Chism  
John Chlopek  
Frederick Colby  
✈ David Cole  
✈ Wayne Connor  
✈ Michael Conway  
✈ Denise Corcoran  
Sharky Cornell

✈ Joy Covey  
Doug Dahl  
Charles Crinnian  
Edward DeCastro  
✈ Dan Downing  
✈ Timothy Drager  
✈ Jo Duffy  
✈ Andy Dunigan  
✈ Rick Durden  
Bill Eller  
✈ Rudy Engholm  
Jon Engle  
Daniel Evans  
William Faulkner  
✈ John Feagin  
✈ Joe Fischetti  
✈ Dennis Fitzpatrick  
Eric Fogelin  
✈ John French  
✈ James Gamble  
✈ Steven Garman  
✈ Bernard Gateau  
Peter Geiler  
Bob Gill  
Clifford Gill  
✈ Reg Goodwin  
Shane Gorman  
✈ Kelly Gottlieb  
✈ Jim Grady  
Hawk Greenway  
Todd Guelich  
✈ Thomas W. Haas  
✈ Jeff Hamilton  
✈ Hunter Handsfield  
Barry Harper  
✈ Hal Hayden  
Jeffrey Hazlett  
✈ Patrick Healy  
Timothy Hendricks  
✈ Richard Hendrickson  
✈ Randy Henry

William J. Hewett  
✈ Chuck Heywood  
Kemp Hiatt  
✈ Jerry Hoogerwerf  
✈ Richard Hoover  
*Hugh Horning*  
✈ Catherine Houghton  
Joe Howley  
Bruce Huester  
Arthur Hussey III  
Zach Huston  
Luther Irwin  
Richard Jacobs  
✈ Michael Jesch  
Kirk Johnson  
✈ Neil Kaye  
✈ Robert Keller  
Richard Kimball  
✈ Alan Kinback  
John King  
Martha King  
✈ Steve Knaebel  
✈ Jim Knowles  
✈ David Kunkel  
Paul Kutler  
Timothy Lapage  
✈ John Lawton  
Tom LeCompte  
✈ Andy Lee  
John-Michael Lee  
✈ Ray Lee  
Paul Loch  
✈ Jack Long  
Allen Low  
Alan Lukas  
Pavel Lukes  
Noel Luneau  
Randy Luskey  
John Mahany  
Carl Mattson  
Michael McBride

David B. McConnell  
✈ Bruce McGregor  
Bruce McLean  
✈ Mike McNamara  
✈ Dan Meyer  
✈ David Miller  
Doug Monger  
Kevin Moore  
Russell Munson  
David Murphy  
✈ Joris Naiman  
✈ Lew Nash  
✈ Janice Newman  
Bill Nicolai  
✈ Jane Nicolai  
Malcolm Ohl  
*Robert Ovanin*  
Stephen Parker  
Alan Parnass  
✈ Steve Paul *In Memoriam*  
Carl Pesce  
✈ Bob Peterson  
Chet Peterson  
Steve Phillabaum  
Ben Pierce  
✈ Geoff Pope  
✈ Sandy Quillen  
✈ Jim Richards  
✈ *George Ritter*  
Kevin Roache  
✈ Lisa Robertson  
Steve Robertson  
James Robinson  
Ted Robinson  
✈ Al Rollins  
✈ Jane Rosevelt  
Polly Ross  
Rob Ross  
✈ Bill Rush  
Mel Rushton  
George Ryan

Elmer Schettler  
✈ Merry Schroeder  
✈ Chuck Schroll  
Richard Sedgwick  
Allan Silverstein  
✈ George Simchuk  
Skip Slyfield  
✈ Chris Snideman  
✈ Richard Spencer  
Jochen Spengler  
*Gene Steffen*  
Edward Steinman  
David Stern  
✈ Bob Stoecker  
Dick Stone  
Mike Sutton  
✈ Larry Swanson  
Bill Tarmey  
Art Thompson  
Dan Thompson  
Tom Tillman  
Val Tollefson  
Matt Verdieck  
Varlin Vissepo  
✈ Dick Walker  
Keith Ward  
Terri Watson  
✈ Jeffrey Weiss  
Stephanie Wells  
Pete White  
Brian Williams  
✈ Steve Williams  
John Wilson  
Sarah Wilson  
✈ Brent Witters  
✈ Will Worthington  
✈ Andy Young  
Mark Zaller

Volunteer Pilot Roster  
as of July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012

✈ Volunteer Pilots flying missions in 2011

*Retired as of 7/12/12*



Director of Giving

**Laura Armstrong (Fort Collins, CO)**

A highlight of 2011 for me was being awarded a prestigious 3-year RBC Blue Water Project Leadership Grant. This \$240,000 grant supports our work to protect freshwater and watersheds across North and Central America. It was gratifying to learn from RBC that they were inspired by LightHawk's collaborative nature and the generosity and commitment of our volunteer pilots



Development Associate

**Kate Pinard (Biddeford, ME)** I'm proud that for a third straight year, LightHawk earned a four-star rating from Charity Navigator. This is the highest rating the leading independent evaluator of US charities awards and it puts LightHawk in the top 9% of non-profits.



Chief Financial Officer

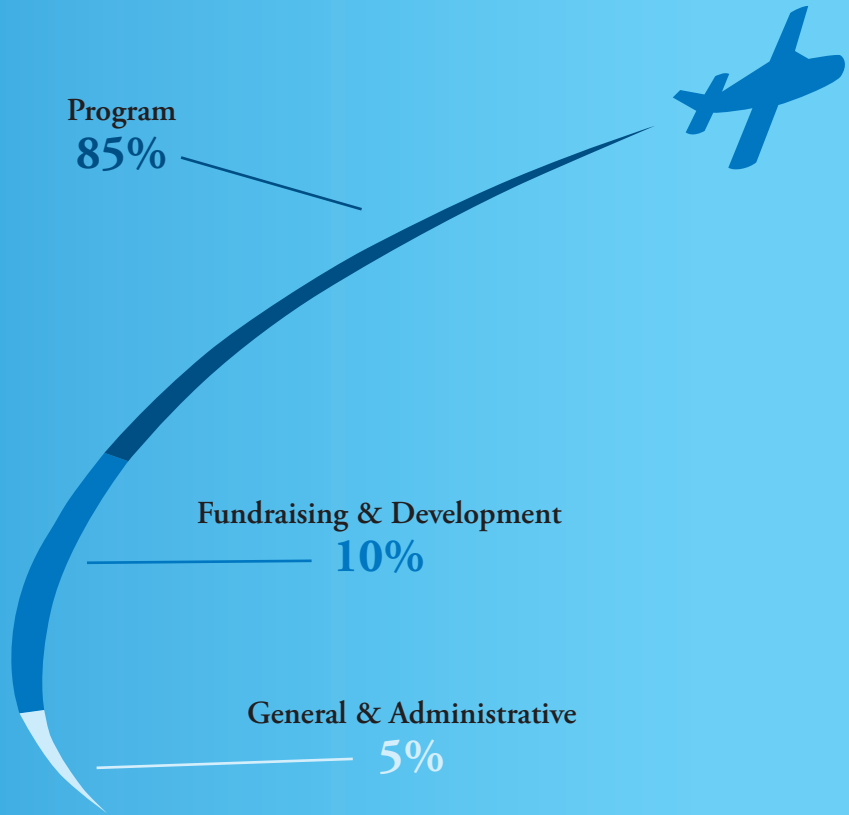
**Emilie Ryan (Loveland, CO)** LightHawk's financial statements for 2011 reflect our stability and testify to the generosity of our loyal pilots and donors. Last year, we used an impressive 85% of our cash and in-kind donations to support our program: putting conservation missions up in the air.



Communications Manager

**Bev Gabe (Gorham, ME)** 333, that's how many missions LightHawk donated to advance conservation efforts in 2011. From tracking black bears in New Hampshire to helping restore the flow of the Colorado River so it reaches the Gulf of California, and from bringing attention to oil and gas development to protecting the second largest barrier reef system in the world, there are incredible stories behind each mission. Explore more of the remarkable things that are accomplished through LightHawk by visiting our website ([www.lighthawk.org](http://www.lighthawk.org)) for more stories behind the 333.

**Where Your Support Goes**



For 2011, 85% of LightHawk's annual in-kind and cash expenses were attributed to program delivery\*.

\* includes all in-kind expenses

**Financial Statements**

**Activities**

Year Ended December 31, 2011

**Support and Revenue**

Individual Contributions.....	\$738,875
Foundation Contributions .....	\$348,896
Donated Services and Materials (in-kind).....	\$791,445
Other Contributions .....	\$5,419
Other Revenue, Interest and Dividends.....	\$3,700
Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments.....	(\$ 11,376)

**Total Support and Revenue..... \$1,876,960**

**Expenses**

Program - LightHawk Costs.....	\$946,242
Program - Volunteer Pilot Donated Flights (in-kind).....	\$588,312
Program - Volunteer Pilot Donated Fuel (in-kind) .....	\$155,453
Fundraising and Membership.....	\$197,598
Fundraising and Membership - Donated Services.....	\$5,450
General and Administration .....	\$96,453

**Total Expenses ..... \$1,984,058**

**Change in Net Assets ..... (\$107,099)**

Net Assets ( <i>deficit</i> ), beginning of year .....	\$2,663,640
Net Assets ( <i>deficit</i> ), end of year .....	\$2,556,541

For a copy of our audited financial statements and form 990, please visit our website and click the About Us tab.

**Expert Oversight** LightHawk's board of directors are:

Jeff Hamilton, Chairman (Spokane, WA)  
Josh Marvil, Vice Chair (Yarmouth, ME)  
Tuck Colby, Treasurer (Sarasota, FL)  
C. Rudy Engholm, Executive Director (Cumberland Foreside, ME)  
Jon Engle (Charleston, SC)  
Norissa Giangola (Washington, DC)

**Financial Position**

December 31, 2011

**Assets**

Cash and Cash Equivalents .....	\$1,013,292
Unconditional Promises to Give.....	\$627,194
Prepaid Expenses .....	\$53,282
Investments .....	\$652,979
Property and Equipment .....	\$353,730

**Total Assets ..... \$2,700,477**

**Liabilities**

Accounts Payable.....	\$43,936
Long-term Debt .....	\$100,000

**Total Liabilities..... \$143,936**

**Net Assets**

Unrestricted .....	\$1,282,225
Temporarily Restricted .....	\$639,644
Permanently Restricted.....	\$634,672

**Total Net Assets..... \$2,556,541**

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets ..... \$2,700,477**

Find out more about the LightHawk Board of Directors online at [www.lighthawk.org/board.html](http://www.lighthawk.org/board.html)

# Who is LightHawk?

## Supporters



Wild steelhead must dodge hungry bears, enticing lures and countless other obstacles to get to their spring spawning grounds. When fisheries biologists in Washington State weren't able to locate some radio-tagged fish from the ground, LightHawk and **Wyncote Foundation NW of Seattle** came to the rescue.

## Pilots



“For this large-scale study, 500 steelhead were tagged with radio transmitters,” said **Volunteer Pilot Bill Nicolai** (*shown above*). “We went out and essentially took a comprehensive snapshot of where all these fish were located in the several hundred square miles of areas that are not accessible from roads. We flew all the watersheds used by steelhead in Yakima basin and the donated antenna system was critical to the success of this effort.”

## Partners



“The radio-tracking equipment (antennas and mounts) was very effective in identifying locations of radio-tagged spawning wild steelhead in tributary streams that are otherwise inaccessible... LightHawk allowed me to locate steelhead in areas that are inaccessible by road, boat, or foot,” said **Shane Keep** (*shown above*), Fisheries Biologist for Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project. Knowing where the steelhead go gives biologists the ability to design stream restoration and protection projects where they're most effective.

LightHawk donates flights in the United States, Canada, Mexico and Central America to ensure the success of our conservation partners. LightHawk is supported by individuals, organizations and foundations who believe the aerial perspective is a powerful tool to protect and preserve habitat and wildlife.

We invite your support and involvement. Please visit the Donate page on our website to learn how including our planned giving program and our Wings of LightHawk recurring donation club.



304 Main Street, Suite 14,  
PO Box 653, Lander, WY 82520  
307-332-3242  
[www.lighthawk.org](http://www.lighthawk.org)

LightHawk is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) organization and has earned Charity Navigator's highest rating. FEIN 84-0852104