# LIGHT AVK 2013-2014

LightHawk enabled photographer Carl Johnson to make images showing what's at stake in developing a massive gold and copper mine at the headwaters of the highly valued salmon fishery in Bristol Bay, Alaska.

The partnership between LightHawk and Johnson empowers conservation groups with aerial images of waterways, wetlands, lakes, and ponds to help protect this amazing watershed

#### The most terribly amazing thing I have ever witnessed from the sky I saw while flying over

the rainforests of Suriname in the northeast corner of South America in June 2008. As a lifelong conservationist, it still makes me sick to think about that river.

We were in a Cessna 206 at about 2000' above the ground flying from Paramaribo, Suriname headed to Belem, Brazil. In the wharf bars the night before, we heard stories of foreign corporations coming to mine the rivers for gold. I didn't think much of it until I saw from the window of the airplane what they meant by "mining the rivers for gold."

Large bulldozers and earthmovers were driving up the throat of the waterway, tearing up the riverbed in search of gold. The environmental devastation was shocking. Up at the river's headwaters, equipment that had served its purpose and was too costly to drive back down the river was left to rust, a stark final insult on the green and otherwise pristine rainforest ecosystem.

However, one of the most uplifting moments I've ever known was just recently in discovering something that I immediately knew could be a force for good in our natural world: LightHawk.

As LightHawk's new executive director, I feel honored to have the opportunity to lead such an accomplished and well-respected organization. My predecessor, Rudy Engholm did an excellent job building LightHawk into an effective force for conservation. I am thankful for his leadership and know I have big shoes to fill.

Each week when I review the flight logs, I am astounded at the scope and breadth of our work. This band of volunteer pilots, flying environmental missions almost every day all across North and Central America, is incredibly effective at accelerating meaningful conservation outcomes. As we implement our strategic plan, we'll ensure the powerful perspective of flight helps address the most pressing issues facing our planet.

Thank you so very much for your involvement,

John

John Pryor *Executive Director* Telluride, CO

Since 2009, LightHawk has helped partners like Dr. Francisco Zamora (front row left) of Sonoran Institute by contributing more than 100 flights to help restore the Colorado River Delta and reconnect the river with the sea. In early 2014, an historic and hard-won agreement between the US and Mexican governments was realized when a pulse of water flowed through the Delta.

## **Our Mission**

To accelerate conservation success through the powerful perspective of flight



#### **How We Do This**

By designing flight campaigns for our conservation partners, and mobilizing highly qualified volunteer pilots.

#### Why We Do This

To ensure conservation efforts quickly and efficiently address critical environmental issues. To protect special places, clean water and fresh air. To safeguard a healthy future for man and wildlife.





#### Accelerating Conservation Success Highlights

Pg. 4// Colorado River Delta • Restoring an ecosystem.

Pg 10// Baja California • . . . Calling attention to unchecked development.

**Pg. 12// California Wild** • • • <sup>•</sup> Designating a wilderness.

#### Pg. 14// Rio Grande del Norte •

Protecting 242, 455 special acres of New Mexico.

#### Pg. 16// Great Lakes •

Documenting industrialized shorelines and climate change.

#### Pg. 18// Sugar Bush •

Tapping sweet success in the Maine woods.

368 Conservation Flights for249 Conservation Projects232 Volunteer Pilots

## **Baja Aerial Expedition**

#### "Baja is for the taking," was the word on the ground

in 2010 when LightHawk provided the powerful aerial perspective to help protect Cabo Pulmo Marine Park. In 2013, we returned to gather images and information to understand the new challenges facing the wild coast of Baja California.

For the Baja Aerial Expedition, LightHawk volunteer pilot Will Worthington and Mesoamerica program manager Armando J. Ubeda teamed up with photojournalist Ralph Lee Hopkins and filmmaker Jeff Litton. The ambitious ten-day photo blitz had never before been attempted. In the end, the team documented all the protected land and water in Baja California.

Hopkins, whose work has appeared in National Geographic, offered the portfolio of over 13,000 images to groups working to preserve the wild landscapes and rich waters of Baja California. The images have been used in the conservation strategies of WildCoast, Niparaja, The Nature Conservancy, Helmsley Charitable Trust, International League of Conservation Photographers (iLCP), International Community Foundation (ICF), Resources Legacy Fund, California America Water, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, and others.

The expedition was successful in calling attention to development projects along Baja's coast, and the need to find ways to protect its fragile coastlines and offshore islands. The team documented Cabo Pulmo where another big construction project was on the horizon. More than imperiling the reef, the mega-development would harm a marine sanctuary nurturing healthy marine mammals, birds and fish populations.

Armed with aerial images from LightHawk flights, a coalition of grassroots organizations, individuals and local residents are urging the Mexican authorities to use caution when permitting new developments which could harm irreplaceable national treasures like Cabo Pulmo.



Expedition team: Ralph Lee Hopkins, Will Worthington, Jeff Litton and Armando J. Ubeda.



Mega-resort development near La Ribera on Baja's East Cape.

Images like this of Cabo Pulmo National Park helped halt a megadevelopment that would have destroyed its magnificent coral reef.



10 Days 3500 Nautical Miles 13,155 Geo-tagged Images 19 Hours of Video

#### At Risk:

400,000+ acres of wilderness, 100 endemic plant species, 7 sacred salmon and steelhead runs

#### Strategies:

Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River Designations Over-flight with U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman and staffers

#### Status:

Designation proposal in progress



## How Wild Becomes Wilderness in California

#### Far from the densely populated cities to the south,

California's remote North Coast Range is a spectacular region of majestic old-growth forests, rich salmon runs and powerful pristine rivers. The ancient forests teem with wildlife including bear, Roosevelt elk, mountain lions, wolverine, fox, owls, eagles, salamanders, beavers, fishers and martens. Seven distinct runs of native salmon and steelhead, sacred to Native American nations, ply these rivers, and more than 100 endemic plant species live here and nowhere else in the world.

The California Wilderness Coalition and The Wilderness Society called on LightHawk to help protect these wild public lands as Wilderness and miles of clean rivers as Wild and Scenic. Motivating government to push for these designations was the best way to ensure that one of California's most unique and stunning regions would remain unspoiled. The only way to help decision-makers truly understand the scope, scale and imperative for protection would be to fly over the proposed areas.

"We had less than a day to give [Congressman Jared Huffman (D-CA) and his district staff] a briefing on the 400,000+ acres of wilderness in his district that span over four separate counties," explains Warren Alford of The Wilderness Society. "The flight gave us the ability to show him the areas in a fairly short period of time and, more importantly, how they fit into the overall landscape... We could not have done this without LightHawk's assistance."

LightHawk's partners continue to work with Representative Huffman's office to develop a proposal that would turn wild into protected Wilderness in northern California.

California Wilderness Coalition and The Wilderness Society called on LightHawk to support their strategies to protect special places like Black Rock Mountain near the Yolla Bolly Middle Eel Wilderness in Mendocino County.

## Río Grande del Norte National Monument

### "I don't think we could be successful without the aid

of LightHawk," said Kent Salazar of the National Wildlife Federation after his LightHawk flight over what would become the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.

More than two-dozen LightHawk flights brought the vast expanses of the region into focus, and helped lead up to President Obama establishing the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in 2013. "The flights gave an aerial view of the area to public officials... and provided them a broad sense of why the areas are important," Salazar continued, "This is something we can't do with land-based transportation such as horseback tours or ground vehicles."

LightHawk designed an entire flight campaign to support the conservation strategies of partners including the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, New Mexico Wildlife Federation and The Wilderness Society. These flights demonstrated the scale of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, home to the eponymous river, which carves steep canyons beloved by hikers, rafters, fishermen and birds alike. The Rio Grande Migratory Flyway, one of the world's greatest avian routes, is protected within the Monument.

Sixteen volunteer pilots contributed their skills, expertise, and aircraft to help realize the designation of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. We are grateful for the contributions of these aviators:

Eric Anderson • Chris Boyer • Dan Downing • Steven Garman • Jim Grady • Chuck Heywood Richard Hoover • Steve Knaebel • David Kunkel • Pavel Lukes • Dan Meyer • Steve Paul (deceased) Chuck Schroll • Merry Schroeder • Michael Sutton • Brian Williams

LightHawk made a significant contribution to protecting 242,455 spectacular acres in New Mexico by providing more than two-dozen flights for the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.



National Monument Designation 242,455 acres permanently protected Rio Grande Migratory Flyway preserved Aerial images made by J Henry Fair have been featured in National Geographic, Vanity Fair, TIME, and The New York Times.

~

## **Change in the Great Lakes**

#### Intense storms and rising ocean waters

are what scientists say we can expect as a result of a climate change. Along the shores of the Great Lakes, however, the effects are less well understood. While sea levels rise, lakes may shrink from less rain and snowfall, and increased evaporation.

To understand how climate change is having an impact on the Great Lakes and its \$7 billion per year fishing industry, LightHawk partnered with photojournalist and conservation artist J Henry Fair. Volunteer pilot Bob Keller and Fair flew for two days surveying Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

"My goal is to document the things that are on the front line of impacts from climate change," said Fair. "The Great Lakes are a tremendous source of food and fresh water, two resources which are becoming increasingly jeopardized. We might do well to put efforts toward protecting them."

LightHawk enabled the photographer - whose work has been featured in *National Geographic*, *Vanity Fair*, and *The New York Times* - to capture images that reveal the scale and scope of industrialized shorelines in the Great Lakes. By providing an awareness of the outputs behind many of the industries our economy has relied upon, images from these flights can help drive positive change through consumer awareness and responsibility.

"Without LightHawk, we would be completely blind as to the environmental threats we face," continues Fair. "Polluting industries are fenced from the public view, preventing any vision of what they are doing. But aside from that, the terrestrial view only shows horizon and sky, not the extensive network of waste ponds, piles of coal, or the masses of toxic algae that contaminate water supplies. LightHawk is an indispensable partner in my work and I am grateful for their staff and pilots."

A coal-fired power plant, ranked in the top five for coal combustion waste, sits on the edge of Lake Erie.

## Saving Sugar Bush in the Big Six

#### In the deep woods of Maine

bordering Quebec, plastic tubing in blue, yellow and white snake along the sides of the long dirt roads in Big Six Township; a network carrying sap from forests of sugar maple. For more than 100 years, generations of Mainers ventured into these woods every spring to harvest sap for maple syrup.

It looked as though a legacy of sustainable harvest in these woods might come to an end as economic pressures threatened to turn the old-growth maple into sheets of high-priced wood veneer. LightHawk partnered with The Trust for Public Land (TPL) in an effort to conserve this working forest for future generations.

The Big Six is a special forest. It contains the single largest working sugar bush (a forest producing maple syrup) in the U.S. which produces 23% of Maine's maple syrup and 4% of the national total. It's also critical habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx, home to the headwaters of both the Penobscot and St. John Rivers, and contains 39 miles of trout streams and 3,000 acres of productive wetlands.

In this remote area, it was difficult for TPL to get a broad landscape view of the entire tract, and satellite imagery of the region was significantly limited. A LightHawk flight with volunteer pilot Jim Knowles gave TPL a better understanding of the property and the importance of preserving this expanse of intact forest.

Images from the winter flight documented the scope and extent of the historic sugar bush stand, and are currently being used to persuade government and private funders that the Big Six Forest is an important economic, cultural and environmental asset, and should be preserved as such.

Awash with color in the fall, but without leaves in winter, ghostly expanses of 100-yearold maple forest are revealed during a flight over Big Six Township on Maine's border with Quebec. LightHawk supports Trust for Public Land's project to preserve this working forest for future generations.



#### At Risk:

Critical habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx Headwaters of both the Penobscot and St. John Rivers 39 miles of trout streams and 3,000 acres of productive wetlands The largest working sugar bush (a forest producing maple syrup) in the U.S.

23% of Maine's maple syrup and 4% of the national total

## LIGHTHAWK

## Flight Recipients for 2013



"I have never learned so much in so short a time!" remarked Maria Baier, Chief Executive Officer, Sonoran Institute (2012 – 2014) following a flight to monitor restoration sites and survey Sonoran Institute's work in the Colorado River Delta.

#### **Mesoamerica Partners**

#### Belize

American Crocodile Education Sanctuary Belize Audubon Society

Belize Forest Department

Friends for Conservation and Development

Panthera

Programme for Belize

Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

The Peregrine Fund

University of Belize

Wildlife Conservation Society

Wildtracks

Ya'axché Conservation Trust

#### Costa Rica

Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería Nectandra Institute Panthera Sistema Nacional de Areas de Conservación

#### Guatemala

Asociación Balam

Centro de Monitoreo y Evaluacion del Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas

Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas de Guatemala

Defensores de la Naturaleza

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Instituto de Antropología e Historia de Guatemala

Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería

y Alimentación de Guatemala Oro Verde

Wildlife Conservation Society Guatemala

#### Honduras

Bay Islands Conservation Association (BICA-Roatan)

Bay Islands Conservation Association (BICA-Utila)

Coral Reef Alliance

Fundación Islas de la Bahía

Healthy Reefs

Instituto Nacional de Conservación y Desarrollo Forestal, Areas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre (ICF)

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Panthera

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Eco-Alianza de Loreto

iLCP (International League of Conservation Photographers)

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WiLDCOAST/COSTASALVAjE

#### Panama

Native Future Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Zoological Society of London

#### **United States and Canada Partners**

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Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee Douglas Land Conservancy EarthCorps Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch Edwin Dobb, Author/ Photographer Environmental Technology Consultants Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan **Everglades** Foundation Frack Free Colorado FracTracker Friends of Penobscot Bay Friends of the Clearwater Friends of the Gualala River Friends of the Wild Swan Future West Galveston Bay Foundation Grand Teton National Park Greater Yellowstone Coalition Guardians of the Everglades Hayward Photography Hopkins Marine Station of Stanford University Idaho Conservation League International Crane Foundation International League of Conservation Photographers J Henry Fair, Photographer Jerry Monkman, Photographer Jesica Johnston, Environmental Scientist Ionathan Waterman, Author

Kaniksu Land Trust Larimer County, Colorado Legacy Land Trust Los Angeles Waterkeeper Lower San Pedro Watershed Alliance Mahoosuc Land Trust, Inc. Maine Coast Heritage Trust Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan Middle Colorado River Watershed Council Mono Lake Committee Montezuma Land Conservancy Mote Marine Laboratory, Center for Shark Research Moving Cloud Productions National Outdoor Leadership School New Jersey Meadowlands Commission New Mexico Wilderness Alliance North 40 Productions North American Land Trust Northeastern University **Open Space Institute** Oregon Natural Desert Association Palmer Land Trust Pemaquid Watershed Association Penobscot River Restoration Trust People and Carnivores Pew Environment Group Pinal Partnership

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Platte Basin Timelapse Project

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The Wilderness Society,



## 2013 Supporters



Volunteer pilot Brian Williams (currently working and living in the Middle East) on why he includes LightHawk in his estate plans.

"I am mid-career with some accomplishments behind me and the best yet to come. Every day is a blessing! Along my life's journey, I discovered LightHawk and immediately felt a kinship with the staff, other pilots and the Board. Over the years LightHawk impressed me with its proven track record of financial stewardship and accountability. During my tenure on the Board, I saw firsthand how donations are amplified into environmental outcomes.

Creating this bequest is a way to support a great organization that helps to tell stories in a visually rich medium at a time where nudging public opinion and informing policy makers could hardly be more important."

#### **True North** (\$100,000+)

Anonymous

Appleby Foundation Thomas W. Haas Foundation David and Gale Kunkel★ John and Adrienne Mars★ RBC Foundation★

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\* Multi-year pledge commitment

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Heartfelt thanks to our growing membership of legacy donors who have included LightHawk in their estate planning.

## Volunteer Pilot Corps

\$690,000 value of flights donated by volunteer pilots to LightHawk to benefit conservation projects.
368 flights for conservation.
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Pilot donated flight hours in their own aircraft

- Flight hours in a LightHawk-owned aircraft
- \* Retired

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January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013

Alan Parnass\* Aleiandro Parra Carl Pesce 7 Bob Peterson + 3.4 Chester Peterson\* Steve Phillabaum Cynthia Pickett Ben Pierce John Plaza 🚽 1.1 Geoff Pope 🚽 14.7 John Pryor Sandy Quillen Jim Richards 🕂 3.8 Patrick Riley Leon Robert Lisa Robertson 😽 8.8 Stephen H. Robertson 😽 3 James Robinson Al Rollins Iane Rosevelt Eric Ross + 5 Polly Ross Rob Ross 🚽 1 Jimmy Roswell Bill Rush + 9.7 + 97.6 Mel Rushton George Ryan Scott Ryan Michael Schaffer Elmer Schettler Merry Schroeder 😽 8.5 Chuck Schroll 👫 10 Richard Sedgwick 😽 3.1 Ken Shapiro Alan Sheiness Lawrence Sittig 🕂 8.9 Skip Slyfield Chris Snideman Richard Spencer 😽 3.6

Jochen Spengler Bob Stoecker Dick Stone Michael Sutton Larry Swanson 😽 17.9 **Bill Tarmey** Robert Thomas Zachary Thomas Art Thompson Dan Thompson 😽 2.1 McHenry Tichenor Tom Tillman G. Val Tollefson David Trilling Marijke Unger Michael Venturino 49 Matt Verdieck 3.2 Armando Vilches Varlin Vissepo Philip Walker Richard Walker + 2.8 Keith Ward Terri Watson Jeffrey Weiss 🚽 5.8 Peter Welles + 16.4 Stephanie Wells + 7.5 + 60.6 Pete White Judston Wickwire Brian Williams Steve Williams John Wilson Sarah Wilson Brent Witters Aaron Woolsev Will Worthington Andy Young 🚽 1.7 Mark Zaller

Volunteer Pilot Roster

as of August 15th, 2014

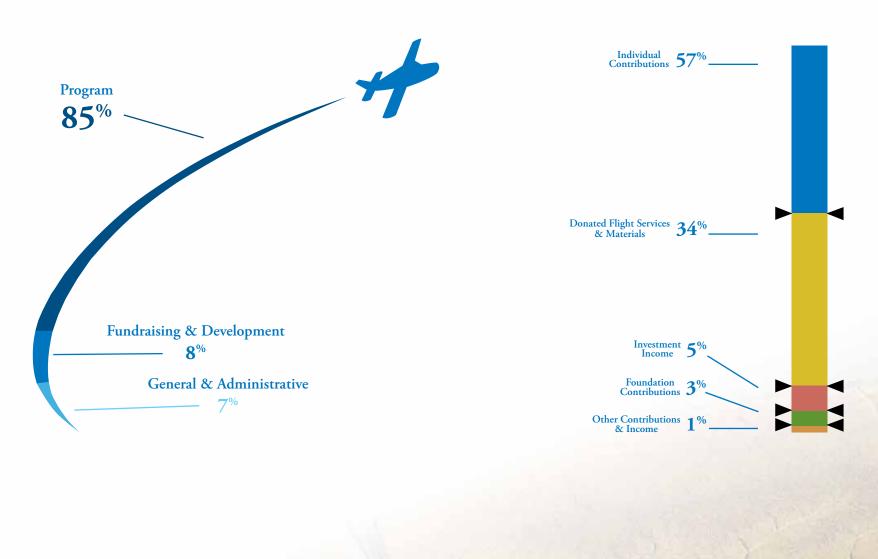
We remember our fellow LightHawk volunteer pilots who passed away recently. We are better for having known you. Joy Covey Bill Brewer

George Simchuk 🕂 60.4

## **Financial Statements**

#### Where Your Support Goes

#### **Revenue Sources**



#### Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2013

#### Support and Revenue

Individual Contributions	\$1,264,958
Organizational Contributions	\$60,213
Donated Flight and Misc. Service and Materials	\$770,851
Other Revenue, Interest and Dividends	\$16,469
Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	\$115,554
Total Support and Revenue	\$2,228,045

#### Expenses

Program - LightHawk Costs	\$1,015,323
Program - Volunteer Pilot Donated Flights	\$555,279
Program - Volunteer Pilot Donated Fuel	\$134,688
Fundraising and Donor Communications	\$167,341
General and Administration	\$144,765
Total Expenses	. \$2,017,396
Total Expenses Change in Net Assets	
	\$210,649

#### **Financial Position**

#### December 31, 2013

#### Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$956,715
Unconditional Promises to Give	
Prepaid Expenses	
Investments	\$832,320
Property and Equipment	
Total Assets	\$2,911,824
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$112,950
Long-term Debt	
Total Liabilities	\$137,9 <mark>5</mark> 0
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$1,111,929
Temporarily Restricted	\$1,127,825
Permanently Restricted	\$534,120
Total Net Assets	\$2,773,874
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,911,824

Audited Financial Statement and IRS form 990 may be obtained on our website www.lighthawk.org or by contacting eryan@lighthawk.org.

LightHawk's financial stability allows us to invest our conservation and aerial expertise in long term conservation projects and accelerate their outcomes. Individual contributions and in-kind donations of flight made up 91% of our total revenue in 2013



#### **Board of Directors**



**Josh Marvil** *Chairman* Yarmouth, Maine



**Jon Engle** *Vice Chair* Charleston, South Carolina



Will Worthington *Treasurer* Carefree, Arizona



Tuck Colby *Secretary* Sarasota, Florida



**Barry Baker** Fort Collins, Colorado



Norissa Giangola Washington, DC



María José González Bogotá, Colombia



**Tom Haas** Durham, New Hampshire



**Steve Knaebel** Mexico City, Mexico



**David Kunkel** Boulder, Colorado



Jane Nicolai Vancouver, Washington



Lawrence A. "Bud" Sittig Centennial, Colorado



#### Staff



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



**Ryan Boggs** Chief Program Officer Fort Collins, Colorado



Patti Carter Development Assistant Fort Collins, Colorado



C. Rudy Engholm Emeritus E.D./Imagery Program Director Cumberland Foreside, Maine Retired August 2014



Lee Pagni Sonora, California



Tom McMurray

Jackson, Wyoming

Brent Blue Jackson, Wyoming



Sally Ranney

Colorado and Patagonia

Terri Watson Kailua, Hawaii

Michael Sutton Carmel Valley, California



Brian Williams Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates





Bev Gabe Communications Manager Gorham, Maine



Jonathan Milne Atlantic Region Program Manager Sidney, Maine



Daniel L. Mooney, MBA Director of Development Denver, Colorado



Program Specialist



John Pryor Executive Director Telluride, Colorado



Shannon Rochelle Rockies Program Manager Lander, WY Through June 2014



Flight Coordinator Fort Collins CO



**Emilie Ryan** Chief Financial Officer Loveland, Colorado



Christine Steele Pacific Region Program Manager Portland, Oregon



Armando J. Ubeda Mesoamerica and Gulf of Mexico Program Manager Sarasota, Florida







Tara Rowe

## Accelerating Conservation Success

#### **Pilots**



You are the best of the best. With more than 1000 hours of pilot-in-command time, pilots like Tim Hendricks (Telluride, CO) are high caliber aviators who volunteer their time, aircraft, fuel and skills to advance conservation strategies. LightHawk volunteer pilots are united by a spirit of professionalism, their commitment to giving back, and a desire to improve environmental conditions.

#### **Supporters**



Individuals, foundations and organizations support LightHawk's 501(c)(3) operations making flight available to protect special places, clean water and healthy populations of wildlife. These gifts unlock the critical, yet often unaffordable resource of flight for about 200 conservation organizations each year. Thank you for making this possible.

#### **Conservation Partners**



### A powerful perspective for environmental protection.

LightHawk collaborates to accelerate conservation strategies. Partnering with Carl Johnson resulted in aerial images of the soaring mountains and clean waterways around Bristol Bay, Alaska which caution against developing a massive copper and gold mine at the headwaters of the highly valued salmon fishery.

## LIGHT HAWK

PO Box 2710 Telluride, CO 81435 970-797-9355 www.lighthawk.org LightHawk is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) organization. FEIN 84-0852104

