



# LIGHT | HAWK

Protecting the environment, one flight at time.

**ANNUAL REPORT** 2006

**“Perseverance. Tenacity. Doggedness.**

**Resolute. Steadfast. Resilient.”**

**T**hese are the words I’ve heard in the last year used to describe LightHawk. These words about LightHawk and its volunteer pilots illustrate the long-term commitment we make to protect the land, air, and water. We have been an effective partner for twenty-seven years in the fight for education, conservation, and environmental protection. Many organizations have relied on us year after year, and LightHawk has helped achieve many long-term successes.

Simply put, the battle for conservation is not for the faint of heart or those with short attention spans. A number of the long-term efforts with which LightHawk was involved came to fruition this year—something that gives all of us deep satisfaction.

- LightHawk worked with the Vermont Wilderness Association over the region for four years to win federal Wilderness designation for more than 42,000 acres within the Green Mountain National Forest.
- In Mexico, 346,000 acres of the State of Quintana Roo were set aside as the Bala’an K’aax Flora and Fauna Protected area. LightHawk helped work towards this goal for more than a decade.

- Following years of work by dedicated groups of conservationists, Congress enacted the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act that now protects 275,000 acres of coastal lands and twenty-one miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers. LightHawk was involved in this endeavor for more than three years.

Despite the success of our efforts in 2006, we know that communities are still rapidly losing the places that inspire wonder; species are losing critical habitat needed to survive; cities and towns are finding it increasingly difficult to protect the air, water and green space they need to thrive. Working in collaboration with its conservation partners, LightHawk is making tremendous progress in facing these conservation challenges throughout North and Central America.

We are grateful to our friends, donors, and volunteer pilots whose unwavering support made 2006 a great year for the environment. We look forward to your continued support for more flights, and ultimately more successes in the fight for conservation.

Rick Durden  
*Outgoing Executive Director*  
May 30, 2007

*Point Lobos, as viewed on a flight to help educate stakeholders about California’s Marine Protected Area proposal along the Central Coast.*





*Aerial photo of the Bingham gold mine in Utah taken to illustrate the likely consequences of a similar mine proposed for Bristol Bay, Alaska.*

## ... TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

I recently spoke with one of LightHawk's Arizona-based volunteer pilots. He is a physician who quite literally arranges his own hospital schedule so he can donate several weeks a year to fly LightHawk missions. To me, he symbolizes the passion and generosity of our volunteer pilots.

Confronted with complex environmental issues – from global warming to overpopulation – many people feel powerless to effect real change. Yet when I ask our pilots what motivates them to donate their time, and for the majority of missions, expensive fuel and the use of their airplane, it is always their desire to make a difference. Often, these are busy, successful individuals in their own careers; yet they recognize how important it is to give something back to this earth. Using the tool they know best, they do just that.

Finding these skilled pilots and matching them with the conservation groups and issues that could benefit from the aerial perspective is the job of LightHawk's staff. A

successful mission involves far more than the flight itself. Our program managers recruit pilots and conservation partners, arrange for the right kind of airplane, make connections to photographers and the media, screen requests and plan routes for maximum effectiveness, and do follow-up work long after the flight is over. They live and work in their own regions, and are the vital ingredient that makes the work of LightHawk greater than the sum of its individual parts.

Just as each airplane needs fuel to do its job, LightHawk's supporters provide the "fuel" that allows us to create this powerful leverage. LightHawk does not charge conservation partners for flights; our supporters ultimately make those flights possible.

We pledge to do everything in our power to continue to earn your trust and support.

C. Rudy Engholm  
*Incoming Executive Director*  
June 1, 2007

**"It is transformative to see the landscape from a bird's eye view. It is one thing to read about the scale and devastation of unsustainable mining – and quite another to see it from the air – to see poisons from tailings ponds right next to schools and homes. Having this perspective gives a sense of place and issues far better than anything I can read on the ground! Thank you."**

—Sarah Christiansen, Solidago Foundation,  
quoted after a flight over a New Mexico molybdenum mine

# LIGHTHAWK AT WORK

## Catalyzing Positive Environmental Changes

LightHawk is an unusual organization. Our mission is environmental, but our specialty is leveraging aircraft and experienced volunteer pilots to catalyze positive environmental change. We match pilots and aircraft with flight requests, assist in project planning, provide education and support in all aspects of flight in environmental campaigns, media and legislator flights, aerial documentation, data acquisition, and more.

## The Value of “Aha” Moments

LightHawk’s ability to get the right decision-makers into the air at the right time and place can often have a dramatic effect, providing an “aha” moment of deep personal understanding about what we are doing to our planet. We believe – and history has shown – that this experience can alter the outcomes of otherwise intractable environmental issues. At other times, the revelation occurs later when aerial photos and video footage from a flight carry the images to a much wider audience.



Rudy Engholm

## LightHawk: The Environmental Air Force

Every LightHawk flight starts as a collaboration between a conservation partner (i.e., an environmental advocacy organization) and a LightHawk-employed regional program manager. These “PM’s” both respond to flight requests and proactively reach out to environmental, research-based, and scientific organizations to arrange missions where they will have the most impact. If LightHawk is “The Earth’s Environmental Air Force” – as it has sometimes been dubbed – then the PM’s are the on-site commanders. They screen flight requests for suitability, recruit volunteer pilots, plan effective flight routes, make connections to media contacts, photographers, satellite imagery and GIS specialists, and manage the external aspects of every mission.

*Above: A partner working with (l-r) volunteer pilots Luke Irwin, Chuck Schroll, Dan Meyer, and with Sama Blackwell prepping for a mission over Colorado’s Rocky Mountain National Park. Left: Rocky Mountain National Park*



Rudy Engholm/LightHawk



### The Day of the Mission

On the day of the mission, the volunteer pilot meets the passengers at a designated airport, and is ultimately responsible for the safe conduct of the flight. Most flights will include at least one person from a partner organization who knows the issues and the area, and can function as a “subject matter” expert. What makes LightHawk unique is our ability to connect the pilot, the plane, the issue, the conservation partner and the people who make or influence the on-the-ground outcomes. We do not just donate free flights to partners; we invest in resolving issues

### The Power of Leverage

Our lean staff leverages a much larger network of dedicated pilots who volunteer their passion, their time, their expertise, and the operating cost of their airplanes and fuel to provide flights at no charge to our conservation partners. Each year, we donate between 700 to 1,000 flights to our partners in environmental hot spots within the United States, portions of Canada, Mexico and seven Central American countries. The cost or value of each flight can range between several hundred and several thousand dollars.

### Who Are These LightHawk Pilots?

LightHawk volunteer pilots must have a minimum of 1,000 hours of experience, and are further qualified by an application process that includes an interview and reference checks. Pilots who join this elite corps cross the political spectrum and come from all walks of life – physicians, lawyers, small business owners, engineers, homemakers, ex-military and airline backgrounds. They volunteer because they feel compelled to share what they have seen for themselves.

Many pilots have flown for LightHawk for a decade or more, enabling partners to fly with the same volunteer through the course of a campaign or research project. The pilots become experts on the needs of the partner, the issue, and the geographic area.

Archive photo. David Smith/LightHawk



*Aerial view of Sierpe Wetlands in Costa Rica, the largest mangrove forest in Central America and an international wetland of concern, on a flight to detect impacts from agriculture, pollution, logging and illegal ditching and draining.*

### South of the Border

The Latin American countries where we have worked for more than two decades are vitally important for biodiversity, including bird, butterfly and whale migrations into our own hemisphere. For example, 2.5 percent of the unique species in the world are estimated to reside only in Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula – a land area just 40 percent the size of Rhode Island.

In Latin America, we generally use a LightHawk-owned Cessna 206 flown by U.S.-based volunteer

pilots because distance and challenging logistics often make it difficult for volunteers to bring their own aircraft. Our Latin American program keeps this workhorse aircraft heavily scheduled for much of the year (except rainy seasons) rotating between Costa Rica, Belize, Guatemala, Panama, Nicaragua, Mexico, El Salvador, and Honduras. For many local conservation partners in these countries, the annual flights provided by LightHawk are the only flights available to them.

# LATIN AMERICA

Countries Have Borders; Species Don't

**L**ightHawk's work in this region focuses on Mesoamerica, which stretches from southern Mexico to Panama and contains seven percent of the world's biodiversity within its tiny land base. Mesoamerica provides vital habitat for migrating (and often threatened) species such as the jaguar, leatherback turtle, manatee, Monarch butterfly, and many species of bird—three of the Western Hemisphere's four flyways converge in this region. Dozens of species found here are found nowhere else on earth.

Some of the highest deforestation rates in the world, however, also are found in Mesoamerica; approximately 80 percent of the region's original forest has been cleared or significantly altered. Most of the region's protected areas are under significant threat as well, as the resources to defend them often do not exist. Adding to the pressure, indigenous tribes' traditional land rights often conflict with national protective designations.

LightHawk's ability to provide flights is critical to on-going efforts to protect the biodiversity in this region. Given the complexity of land ownership, weak enforcement for pro-

TECTED lands, and the rural and inaccessible nature of these lands, access to a tool like aerial surveillance is a necessary and integral part of Mesoamerican conservation initiatives. For nearly a quarter-century, more than 250 organizations have worked with LightHawk to protect wildlife corridors, document illegal logging and poaching in protected areas, and educate stakeholders and community members about conservation-related issues.

Our volunteer pilots from the U.S. provide flights to protect places like Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula, which contains more distinct tropical ecosystems than any comparable place on earth. We also work to protect the Maya Mountain Marine Corridor that links mountain forests to the Mesoamerican Reef System, the largest barrier reef in the Western Hemisphere. And our multi-year effort to protect key elements of the Mesoamerican and Sian Ka'an Calakmul Biological Corridors with Amigos de Sian Ka'an in Mexico culminated this year in the establishment of the Bala'an K'aax Flora and Fauna Protection Area in the Yucatan Peninsula—a 346,000 acre reserve of forests and inland wetlands.



Large-scale deforestation in Michoacan, Mexico

Lee Pagni/LightHawk

## 2006 Accomplishments

### Protecting Costa Rica's Pacific Coastline

LightHawk collaborated with The Fund for Costa Rica to combat illegal and destructive development practices near Manuel Antonio National Park. With overflights, illegal cleared areas were identified and documented. Result: Development was halted pending an investigation by Costa Rica's Environmental Court.



Roberto Ramos/LightHawk

*Tracking illegal development along Costa Rica's Pacific coast.*

**“Providing visual documentation with aerial photographs is an effective management and communication tool. LightHawk flights are becoming an integral part of BAS's management techniques. To conduct and rapidly assess the status of large areas is a necessity for us.”**

— Roberto Pott, Belize Audubon Society

## Defending Manatees in Honduras

LightHawk conducted the first detailed manatee survey since 1958 along the northern coast with Loma Linda University to identify the presence of existing manatee populations. The data gathered is a key component of a long-term protection strategy for the species.

Daniel Gonzales/LightHawk



*Searching for Antillean manatees along vast stretches of the Honduras coast.*

## Protecting Harpy Eagle Habitat in Belize

The Belize Zoo and The Peregrine Fund are reintroducing the magnificent Harpy Eagle. With LightHawk's aerial assistance over the past four years, those groups identified suitable release sites and successfully located released eagles (helping to gauge release success) in the forests of central Belize and along the Belize/Mexico border.

Steven Brewer



*Released Harpy Eagle*

Ilva C. Feller/LightHawk



*Above: Monitoring the clearing and filling of mangrove islands off the Belize coast.*

*Right: Passengers representing MINAE and local NGOs gathered for a flight to observe and photograph several of Costa Rica's conservation areas, detecting sites vulnerable to forest fires, detecting illegal activities affecting wetlands, and determining the present state of forest cover.*

Jorge Gamboa/MINAE



**“We do not need to speak the same language in order to share a common interest in the conservation of our natural resources. If our ministry had a plane and pilots of this caliber, our work would be easier and we could reduce environmental infractions. Thank you for such a valuable support to the natural resources of our country”.**

*—Wilberth Quesada Valverde, MINAE*

## Supporting Under-Funded Protected Areas

LightHawk continued its long-standing collaboration with Costa Rica's Ministry of the Environment (MINAE) this year, undertaking a project that enables representatives of government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) to survey 10 of the country's 11 designated conservation areas included in the System of National Conservation Areas (SINAC). By working with multiple organizations in one day over a single conservation area, LightHawk is able to strengthen relationships and further the exchange of information and ideas between NGO's, community groups, government agencies, and the media.

In Guatemala, LightHawk continued its long-standing partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society and CONAP (Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas) staff to protect Laguna del Tigre National Park, monitoring activities and assess land conditions within the park.



# EASTERN

**2006** marks a strategic expansion of flight issues and geographic emphasis in LightHawk's eastern region. While continuing our commitment to preserve coastal, rural and urban open spaces in the face of development pressures, LightHawk flights also helped identify pollution sources, inform land-use permitting processes, and helped provide critical easement monitoring information for Acadia National Park.



*The view of Mount Desert Island in Acadia National Park on a conservation easement survey flight with Maine Coast Heritage Trust.*

Rudy Enghorn/LightHawk

## 2006 Accomplishments



Dick Andrews/Forest Watch/LightHawk

*Newly protected wilderness in Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest (in background) adjacent to rapidly growing ski resort-related development.*

### Designating New Wilderness in Vermont

In December, President Bush signed the New England Wilderness Act of 2006, designating more than 42,000 acres of additional wilderness within the Green Mountain National Forest. This followed a multi-year flight campaign with Forest Watch and other members of the Vermont Wilderness Association that informed Congressional staff (including the staffer that drafted the legislation) and newspaper editorial staff, and helped provide data on recreational use needed to inform meetings with the U.S. Forest Service.

### Implementing Wild Atlantic Salmon Survival in Maine

LightHawk flights with the Penobscot River Restoration Trust helped educate potential donors in an effort to raise \$60 million for implementation of the Penobscot River Restoration Agreement, vital to the recovery of endangered Atlantic salmon. The funding is needed to remove dams and improve fish passages that will enable salmon to migrate upstream to spawn unimpeded.



### Protecting Wildlife Corridors in New York

LightHawk enabled The Nature Conservancy's Central & Western New York Office and the New York State Department of Transportation to assess land use, human travel corridors, and the potential for creating or maintaining wildlife connectivity between the Tug Hill Plateau and the Adirondack Mountains. Several wide-ranging mammals, including bear, lynx, moose, cougar, and wolves found in this region are impacted by fragmented home ranges. Viable populations will thrive only if the impact of roads and other human travel corridors is minimized. This mission launched the assessment phase of the public-private partnership.

### Supporting Small Community-Based Land Trusts in New Hampshire

The Monadnock Conservancy is the only land trust in southwestern New Hampshire, yet each year it must monitor and enforce the protection of forest and farmland it helps to conserve in the 35 towns in which it works. The properties observed through flight are 150 acres or larger, making it difficult, if not impossible, to monitor them on foot. LightHawk flights enable Conservancy staff to monitor and photo-document large easement properties to ensure the land uses are in accordance with the terms of the easements.

**“The service that LightHawk provides is invaluable to a non-profit organization like Blue Hill Heritage Trust working with limited resources.”**

— Erika Rowland, Blue Hill Heritage Trust



*Monitoring conservation easements in coastal Maine with Blue Hill Heritage Trust.*

Erika Rowland/BHHT/LightHawk

### Protecting Endangered Species in Vermont

LightHawk aided Vermont Natural Resources Council in their effort to photo-document evidence of existing habitat for the endangered western chorus frog on a large agricultural parcel slated for development by Wal-Mart. The site, adjacent to an operating organic farm, is historic habitat for the species. VNRC is litigating against the company in environmental court, on behalf of Northwest Citizen's for Responsible Growth to limit the size and impacts of the store and to convince the corporation to relocate to a site that would help revitalize the downtown economy.

**“The hearings...went very well and the Commission is taking the habitat issues seriously. There is no way we could have presented evidence on wildlife habitat without the flyover. Thanks again for your help.”**

— Jamey Fidel, VNRC



*Drainage ditches (far left) indicate the presence of endangered western chorus frog habitat.*

Jamey Fidel/VNRC/LightHawk

# ROCKIES

**L**ightHawk continues to provide the powerful tool of aviation to preserve and protect our natural heritage in the Rocky Mountain West. With our partners, we work to advance watershed protection efforts, address the impacts of rampant energy development, safeguard wildlife and their habitat, and monitor recreational vehicle use. The permanent protection of New Mexico's spectacular Valle Vidal region in 2006 symbolizes our efforts and long-standing commitment to conservation in the region.



*Helping to safeguard bison in Yellowstone National Park with Buffalo Field Campaign*

## Revealing Oil & Gas Development Impacts in Wyoming

The Red Desert is a harsh yet thriving landscape, providing habitat to more than 350 species of wildlife including pronghorn antelope, elk, and many native birds. It is also slated for oil and gas development, with plans in place for at least 255 wells in the Jack Morrow Hills region alone. LightHawk conducted flights for community leaders, reporters, and tribal leaders involved in CBM development plans to contrast developed land in the Jonah Field with the environmentally-sensitive lands adjacent to the drilling area. It also gave our conservation partners Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, Wyoming Outdoor Council, and Friends of the Red Desert the opportunity to advocate for permanent protection of the area.



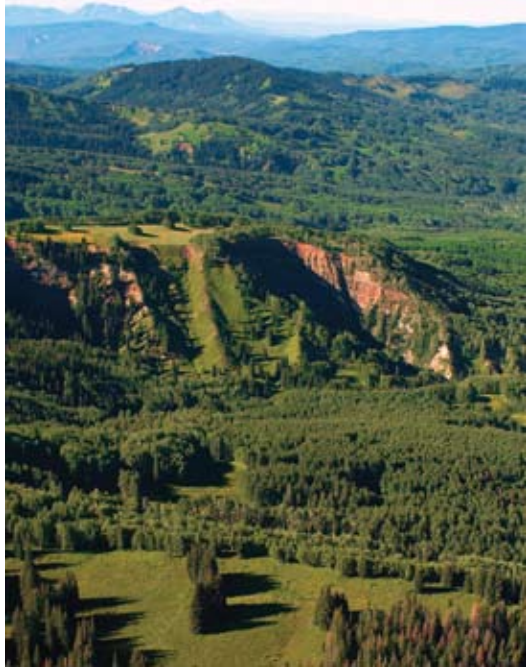
*Flights over the Red Desert provided passengers the opportunity to view large-scale oil and gas development in neighboring Jonah Field.*

## 2006 Accomplishments

**“...The view from the sky answered the question for me about coalbed methane and gas development. The area of wells was staggering. There is little room for any kind of wildlife to exist... The Eastern Shoshone tribe is involved in a project with CBM [but]...the future of the tribe does not include land that may be trashed and destroyed.”**

— Kassel Weeks, Eastern Shoshone Business Council





*The West Elk Complex in the Clear Fork Roadless Area under threat by oil and gas lease sales.*

### Inspiring Roadless Protections in Colorado, Montana and Idaho

LightHawk flights were used successfully again this year illustrating the beauty of and threats to our last remaining Roadless Areas such as Clear Fork in Colorado, Great Burn in Montana, and Boulder-White Clouds in Idaho. We provided elected officials, scientists, funders, activists, tribal members and media representatives the opportunity to view first-hand and document these pristine areas. Seeing the interconnectedness of the land and waterways provided the forum our partners needed to persuade decision-makers to leave these roadless areas wild and roadless and led to a greater understanding of the issues.

### Evaluating River Restoration Success in Arizona

LightHawk worked with the Tucson Audubon Society and the U.S. Geological Survey to photo document damage from flooding to a portion of the low-

er Santa Cruz River. Restoration projects have been ongoing for the last six years. Using LightHawk for aerial monitoring helped determine the success of the plantings at the restoration site and how restoration efforts and the flooding affect wildlife.

### Winning Wildlands Protections in New Mexico

In the heart of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the Valle Vidal is prized for the wildlife habitat it provides and for its outstanding scenic and recreational opportunities. The U.S. Forest Service, however, attempted to open the area to coalbed methane drilling, which would have forever changed its pristine character. The Valle Vidal Protection Act was signed into law this year, following three years of LightHawk's collaborative efforts with the Coalition for the Valle Vidal, permanently protecting more than 100,000 acres of the region from mineral extraction. LightHawk volunteer pilots provided guided educational flights to help achieve this goal, carrying staff from the Governor's office and U.S. Congressional offices, local and national media representatives, and local elected officials. These flights helped passengers to understand the value of preserving the Valle Vidal and comprehend the potential impacts of coalbed methane development.



*The aerial view of valuable wildlife habitat and abundant recreational opportunities in New Mexico's Valle Vidal.*

### Protecting Sensitive Wilderness Areas in Idaho

We help the Selkirk Conservation Alliance, Great Burn Study Group, and Friends of the Clearwater address the growing problem of illegal snowmobile use in existing and proposed wilderness areas — areas specifically set aside for “quiet use” and wildlife protection. Agencies charged with protecting these areas are frequently unable to enforce restrictions in remote areas. Our partners share GPS and photographic data gathered through LightHawk to the agencies for planning and enforcement purposes.

**“The purpose of this flight was to monitor for illegal snowmobile activity in the Great Burn, Meadow Creek-Upper Northfork and Sheepmountain Roadless Areas in Montana and Idaho. What could have easily taken 16 full days of work on the ground we were able to get done in two hours with the help of LightHawk.”**

— Dave Harmon, Field Studies Coordinator, Great Burn Study Group



*Detecting illegal snowmobile use in restricted mountain woodland caribou recovery areas with Selkirk Conservation Alliance*

# PACIFIC

**L**ightHawk continues our long-standing commitment to wildlands and wildlife protection throughout U.S. Pacific coast states and coastal British Columbia – conserving habitat, protecting national forests, and promoting sustainable forestry practices. In 2006, we also worked diligently with our partners to address growing threats to water quality from increased development activities, furthering efforts to protect California's coastline, address factory farm pollution, and reduce polluted run-off and the use of mixing zones along urban waterways.

## 2006 Accomplishments

### Protecting Species and Habitat in Washington

LightHawk collaborated with the Washington Forest Law Center, Seattle Audubon, and others to highlight a 50 percent decline in spotted owl population in the last decade. Media flights and documentary film footage gathered through LightHawk provided images only comprehensible from the air that illustrated just mere islands of owl habitat exist surrounded by vast clearcuts. These images clarified the need for stronger habitat protections and a species recovery plan—to which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service subsequently agreed.

### Defending Public Lands in California

Working with the California Wilderness Coalition, LightHawk provided a guided flight for a Los Angeles Times reporter over land in northern California slated for sale in President Bush's 2007 federal budget. The full proposal included more than 85,000 acres in California and 800,000 acres of public land nationwide. From the air, it was obvious these parcels were contiguous to existing forestland, some of which composed crucial wildlife and river corridors, and were not "marginal" or "isolated" federal lands, as touted by the Administration. Television coverage of the issue made use of photographic images provided by LightHawk as well.

### Safeguarding Marine and Coastal Habitat in Alaska

LightHawk is protecting a pristine watershed from toxic gold mine waste in conjunction with Southeast Alaska Conservation Council and Earthjustice. For the first time in history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers authorized a mining company, Coeur Alaska,



D. Eric Harlow/LightHawk

*Islands of northern spotted owl habitat surrounded by clearcuts become undeniable when viewed from the air.*

to discharge waste from a mine directly into a lake—a lake connected to Berners Bay in Tongass National Forest. The bay is a rich estuary and an Aquatic Resource of National Importance that provides spawning habitat for wild Alaskan salmon. It also attracts humpback whales, the threatened Steller sea lion, and the second largest congregation of bald eagles in North America. LightHawk flights documented changes occurring at the mine site, which is being used in a pending legal suit. This evidence led to an injunction halting "all construction-related activities furthering the implementation of Coeur Alaska's plan of disposing tailings into [the] Lake."



SEAC/LightHawk



Margaret Puckette

*A gathering of LightHawk's Pacific volunteer pilots and friends in Anacortes, Wash.*



LightHawk pilots worked tirelessly to support the establishment of California's Central Coast Marine Protected Areas.



Ed Steinman/LightHawk

As a reporter who covers environmental issues, I came away with a clearer picture and understanding of a beautiful region... that I often write about, but don't get to see from above. I think all environmental journalists could benefit from seeing the geographic regions they cover from a LightHawk flight."

— Terry Chea, Reporter, *The Associated Press*

*Documenting illegal clearing construction activities at Coeur Alaska's Kensington Mine, connected to Berner's Bay*

## Exposing Water Quality Threats in California

In a campaign to address water pollution attributable to confined animal feeding operations in central California, LightHawk aided in investigating factory farms identified as the worst polluters. Many of the sites are not accessible from public roads, but through LightHawk, local Baykeeper and Sierra Club chapters gathered data and photographs critical to their outreach and education efforts.

**"Seeing the proximity of dairies and farms to impaired waterways and to neighborhoods helped me understand why it is so important to address our concerns about pollution. Neither the detailed information, photos, nor regional perspective could have been gained by any means other than a flight."**

— Carrie McNeil, DVM, Director, *Deltakeeper Chapter of Baykeeper*



Luke Cole/LightHawk

*Gathering evidence of unpermitted "clear construction" dairy farms.*

# PERIPHERAL AND EMERGING REGIONS

In LightHawk's "peripheral" regions, flight requests are accepted and managed as they are in our core regions, but in these areas volunteer pilot recruitment and strategic outreach to conservation partners is not actively conducted at this time. Our work in the Midwest, southeast, and Caribbean, continues to grow each year, however, through networking and the willingness of many of our volunteer pilots to travel far from home to further LightHawk's mission.



Judd Klement

*Volunteer pilot Ed Steinman (on wing) regularly flies far from home to conduct LightHawk missions.*

## 2006 Accomplishments

### Exposing Water Quality Violations in Michigan

Working with Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan and the Sierra Club, LightHawk helped to photo- and video-document unpermitted and illegally-sited manure lagoons on a number of confined animal feeding operations. Images of overflowing lagoons and other water quality violations that pollute local streams and rivers and threaten groundwater successfully captured the attention of government agencies such as the U.S. EPA, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the state legislature, who are now beginning to take steps to address these issues.

### Protecting Flamingo Populations in the Caribbean

LightHawk provided a week of flights to survey and document populations of Caribbean flamingos in the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The flights provided the Wildlife Conservation Society, the Bahamas National Trust, and The Nature Conservancy with the first accurate assessment of size and dispersal of this important breeding population. These studies will allow WCS to determine how much habitat the population needs to flourish – which is critical in light of significant development planned in the region.

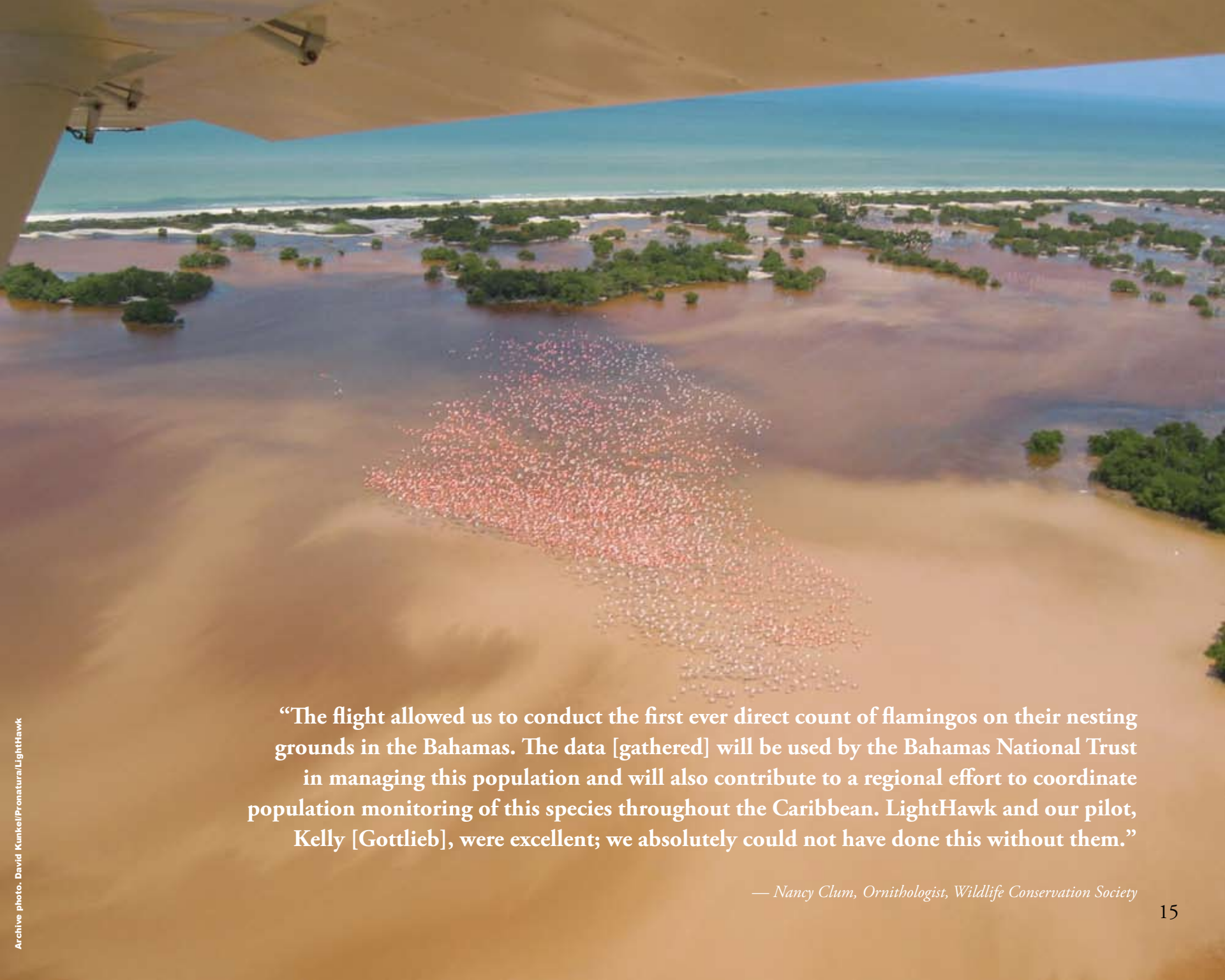
**“We submitted...pictures with explanations to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) shortly after the pictures were taken. Less than two weeks after the flight the MDEQ cited 3 facilities with over 20 violations. I believe many of the violations were issued due to the photos we provided.”**

*— John Klein, Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan*



ECSCM/Sierra Club/LightHawk





“The flight allowed us to conduct the first ever direct count of flamingos on their nesting grounds in the Bahamas. The data [gathered] will be used by the Bahamas National Trust in managing this population and will also contribute to a regional effort to coordinate population monitoring of this species throughout the Caribbean. LightHawk and our pilot, Kelly [Gottlieb], were excellent; we absolutely could not have done this without them.”

— Nancy Clum, Ornithologist, Wildlife Conservation Society

# PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

## Latin America

### Belize

Aquacaliente Management Team  
Belize Audubon Society  
The Belize Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources  
and the Environment (GOB)  
Belize Foundation for Research and  
Environmental Education  
Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center  
Bladen Management Consortium  
Community Baboon Sanctuary  
Filmmaker Richard Foster  
Forest and Marine Reserve Association of Caye Caulker  
Friends of Nature  
Green Reef  
Oceanic Society  
The Peregrine Fund  
Programme for Belize  
Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management  
(SATIIM)  
Siwa-Ban Foundation  
Smithsonian Institution  
University of Belize  
University of Calgary  
Wildlife Care Center  
Wildlife Conservation Society  
Wildlife Trust

### Costa Rica

ASEPALECO  
Asociación de Amigos de la Naturaleza del Pacífico  
Central y Sur (ASANA)  
Asociación Comunidades Ecológicas Usarias del Golfo  
de Nicoya (CEUS)  
Asociación para la Conservación y Desarrollo de los Cerros  
de Escazú (CODECE)  
Asociación para la Preservación de la Flora y Fauna Silvestre  
(APREFLOFAS)  
Asociación Pro Conservación de los Recursos Naturales,  
(ASOPROCOSARENA)  
Asociación Proyecto Campanario  
Canal 15 Era Verde

Environmental Committee of Guácimo and Pococi  
Fund for Costa Rica  
Fundacion Ecologica del Cornelio de Acosta  
(FUNDECOA)  
Fundación de Protección y Vigilancia de los Recursos  
Naturales (FUPROVIRENA)  
Grupo Plinia (Puriscaleños Liderando Nuevas Ideas Ahora)  
Ministerio del Ambiente y Energia (MINAE)  
Municipalidad de San Jose  
Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS)  
Selva Tica  
Sistema de Areas de Conservacion Nacional (SINAC)  
Smithsonian Institution  
Universidad de Costa Rica

### Guatemala

Asociación Balam,  
Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas (CONAP)  
Defensores de la Naturaleza  
Madre Selva  
Ministerio Defensa Nacional  
Nightfire Films  
Parque Nacional Tikal  
Reuters News Service  
Centro de Monitoreo y Evaluación (CEMEC)  
The Nature Conservancy  
Tropico Verde  
Unidos Para La Conservacion  
Wildlife Conservation Society

### Honduras

Loma Linda University  
USAID

### Mexico

Greenpeace Mexico  
National Aeronautics and Space  
Administration  
Platte River Whooping Crane Trust  
Pronatura Chiapas  
Sweetbriar College  
World Wildlife Fund Eco-Life Foundation

## Nicaragua

Terra Peninsula S.A.  
Centro Humboldt  
Fundacion del Rio  
Ministerio del Ambiente (MARENA)

## Northeast

Blue Hill Heritage Trust  
Bunting Family Foundation  
Columbia Land Conservancy  
Downeast Lakes Land Trust  
Forest Watch  
Foundation for Deep Ecology  
Maine Coast Heritage Trust  
Medomak Valley Land Trust  
Monadnock Conservancy  
Penobscot River Restoration Trust  
Piscataquog Watershed Association  
Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests  
The Nature Conservancy, Central and Western New York Chapter  
The Nature Conservancy, Maine Chapter  
Vermont Natural Resources Council



Alison Jones/LightHawk



Tom Steele/American Wildlands

*Pre-flight briefing for American Wildlands*





Rudy Engholm



Laure Martin



Tony Prendergast/LightHawk



Jorge Gamboa/SINAC

## Rockies

American Wildlands  
Amigos Bravos  
Biodiversity Conservation Alliance  
Buffalo Field Campaign  
Bunting Family Foundation  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Coldstream Creative  
Colorado Environmental Coalition  
Crowsnest Conservation Society  
Dolores River Coalition  
Fine Cut Productions  
Friends of the Bitterroot  
Friends of the Clearwater  
Friends of the Red Desert  
Friends of the Santa Cruz River  
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council  
Great Burn Study Group  
Greater Yellowstone Coalition  
High Country Citizens Alliance  
Idaho Conservation League  
Joe Riis Photography  
Metamorph Films  
Montana Wilderness Association  
San Juan Citizens Alliance  
Santa Fe Garden Club Conservation Committee  
Selkirk Conservation Alliance  
Sierra Club, Rocky Mountain Chapter  
Southwest Environmental Center  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Wilderness Society, Four Corners office  
The Wilderness Workshop  
Tucson Audubon Society  
Upper Green River Valley Coalition  
Western Environmental Law Center  
Western Slope Environmental Resource Center  
Wildsight  
World Resources Institute  
World Wildlife Fund  
Wyoming Outdoor Council

*Costa Rican System of Protected Areas (SINCA) staff preparing for a flight to monitor activities and land conditions in one of the 10 Conservation Areas they work to protect with LightHawk.*

## Pacific

Alaska Transportation Priorities Project  
Animal Planet  
California Wilderness Coalition  
Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment  
Clover Valley Foundation  
Deltakeeper Chapter of Baykeeper  
Earthjustice  
Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch  
Ecological Farming Association  
Forest Ethics  
Environment Now  
Friends of Clayoquot Sound  
Louis Hohenstein  
Monterey Bay Aquarium  
Olympic Coast Alliance  
Oregon Natural Resources Council  
Seattle Audubon  
Sierra Club - California Nevada Hawaii Regional Office  
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council  
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council  
Surfrider Foundation  
Tahoe-Baikal Institute  
The Ocean Conservancy  
The Otter Project  
Washington Forest Law Center  
Willamette Riverkeeper  
World Temperate Rainforest Network

## Peripheral and Emerging Regions

Wildlife Conservation Society  
Environmentally Concerned Citizens  
of South Central Michigan  
Joe Riis Photography  
Platte River Whooping Crane Trust  
Sierra Club, Mackinac Chapter

# VOLUNTEER PILOTS



Volunteer pilot Ev Cassagneres and Dick Andrews of Forest Watch ready to fly on a cold winters day.



Volunteer pilot Michael McBride with National Geographic reporter David Braun at the 8th World Wilderness Congress in Anchorage.



Pre-flight check.



Volunteer pilot Chuck Schroll prepping LightHawk's Cessna 206 for flight.

Gabrielle Adelman, California  
 Robert Andrews, Maine  
 Richard Arnold, Colorado  
 Richard Axelrod, Vermont  
 Richard Barr, New Mexico\*  
 Greg Bedinger, Washington  
 Milton Bennett, Oregon  
 Grant Besley, New Mexico  
 Anissa Berry-Frick, Alaska  
 Stan Bialek, Colorado  
 Richard Bicknell, Florida  
 Jon Galt Bowman, Washington  
 Christopher Boyer, Montana  
 Edgar Boyles, Colorado  
 Gregory Burnett, Minnesota  
 Jeremiah Burns, Massachusetts  
 Jim Cameron, Alberta, Canada  
 James Carlson, Wyoming  
 Saul Chaikin, California  
 Ed Coffman, North Carolina  
 F. Jordan Colby, Florida  
 Peter Coltman, Texas  
 Duane Cornell, California  
 Dean Cully, Hawaii  
 James M. Cunningham, Colorado  
 Frank Davis, New Mexico  
 Robert Dismukes, California  
 Tom Dittmar, California  
 David Downey, Montana  
 Timothy Drager, Pennsylvania  
 Rick Durdan, Michigan  
 C. Rudy Engholm, Maine  
 Gary Engler, Minnesota  
 Daniel Evans, Colorado  
 John Feagin, Colorado  
 Joseph Fischetti, New York  
 Charles Fligel, Montana

Eric Fogelin, Washington  
 Steven Garman, Idaho  
 Bob Gill, Washington  
 Reginald Goodwin, Montana  
 Kelly Gottlieb, Florida  
 James Grady, Colorado  
 William Green, Alaska  
 Stephen Greenway, Colorado  
 Jeff Hamilton, Washington  
 James Barry Harper, Texas  
 Pat Healy, Maryland  
 Charles Heywood, Colorado  
 Kemp Hiatt, Washington  
 Gerald Hoogerwerf, New Mexico  
 Hugh Horning, Delaware  
 Bruce Huester, Florida  
 Arthur Hussey III, Alaska  
 Luther Irwin, Arizona  
 A.C. Jayne, Michigan  
 Kirk Johnson, Alaska  
 Robert Keller, Jr., New York  
 John W. Keys III, Utah  
 Richard Kimball, New York  
 Alan Kinback, Florida  
 Paul Kinzelman, New Mexico  
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 C. Noell Rather, Texas  
 Rick Ray, California  
 Fred Reimers, Wyoming  
 George Ritter, Nevada  
 Kevin Roache, California  
 Lisa Robertson, Wyoming  
 Steve Robertson, Wyoming  
 Ted Robinson, Massachusetts  
 James A. Rollins, Maine  
 Jane Rosevelt, Oregon  
 Pauline Ross, Colorado  
 Elmer Schettler, Colorado  
 Merry Schroeder, New Mexico  
 Chuck Schroll, Arizona

Ryan Scott, Washington  
 James Seith, Virginia  
 Michael Sharp, Alaska  
 Mark Shelley, California  
 Allan Silverstein, New York  
 Frederick J. Slyfield II, Utah  
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 Terri Watson, California  
 Pritchard White, Idaho  
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 Brian Williams, New Jersey  
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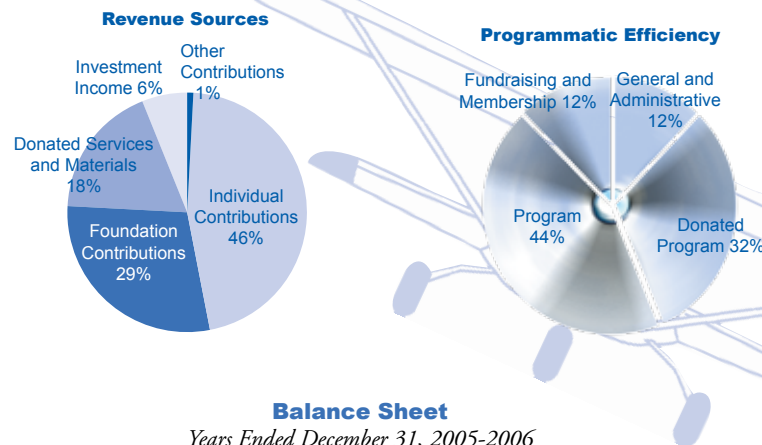
*Names in italics conducted  
 LightHawk missions in 2006  
 \* Retired in 2006 \*\* deceased*



# LIGHTHAWK FINANCES

Federal EIN No: 84-0852104

LightHawk's net assets grew by more than \$500,000 in 2006 due to successful fundraising efforts, that resulted in a 48 percent increase in revenues, and a 10 percent drop in operating expenses. The expense decrease stemmed from staffing changes and the challenge of finding qualified staff. Our patience and persistence paid off. We ended the year with two excellent new program staff and nearly \$300,000 in an operating reserve. LightHawk's goal in 2007 is to continue to build that reserve to enable us to respond to program needs in the future.



## Statement of Financial Position

Years Ended December 31, 2005-2006

	2006	2005
<b>Support and Revenue</b>		
Individual contributions	581,244	202,844
Foundation contributions	369,714	285,464
Donated services and materials	233,679	262,869
Other contributions	8,478	83,663
Other revenue, interest and dividends	24,366	14,585
Realized and unrealized gains on investments	55,410	10,683
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>1,272,891</b>	<b>860,108</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program	557,798	654,669
Support		
Development	86,137	71,787
Administration	85,803	88,944
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>729,738</b>	<b>815,400</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>543,153</b>	<b>(7,189)</b>
Net assets (deficit), beginning of year	815,369	770,661
Net assets (deficit), end of year	\$1,358,522	\$815,369

## Balance Sheet

Years Ended December 31, 2005-2006

	2006	2005
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	382,439	258,534
Unconditional promises to give	364,781	28,896
Prepaid expenses	8,035	15,611
Investments	719,628	593,191
Property and equipment	28,118	29,738
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,503,001</b>	<b>925,970</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	44,479	10,601
Current maturities of long-term debt	25,000	25,000
Long-term debt, less current maturities	75,000	75,000
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>144,479</b>	<b>110,601</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	417,864	88,609
Temporarily restricted	202,378	42,808
Permanently restricted	738,280	683,952
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>1,358,522</b>	<b>815,369</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,503,001</b>	<b>\$925,970</b>

# WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION

LightHawk is tremendously grateful to you, our supporters. Without the continued commitment of the many individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations listed below, our work would not be possible.

We hope you will take pride in all that we have accomplished together in 2006.

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Anonymous  
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Suzanne Parish  
David and Gale Kunkel  
Theo Gund  
Steven Knaebel  
Gil and Marge Ordway  
Steve and Lisa Robertson  
Aaron Singer

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LightHawk



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 Bradley Zeve

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#### Conservation Partner Donations

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 Earthjustice  
 Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch  
 Friends of Fawnskin  
 Friends of the Santa Cruz River  
 Great Burn Study Group  
 Loma Linda University  
 North Fork Preservation Association  
 Santa Fe Garden Club  
 Sierra Club Southwestern Regional Office  
 Southern Environmental Law Center  
 Tahoe-Baikal Institute  
 Western Environmental Law Center  
 Willamette Riverkeeper  
 World Resources Institute  
 Wyoming Outdoor Council

#### Corporate Donations and Workplace Giving

Microsoft Matching Gifts Program  
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JustGive  
 Network for Good

**Honor Gifts** *Gifts were made to  
 LightHawk in honor of:*

Fletcher Anderson  
 Gregory Gund  
 Patricia Kay  
 Dan Meyer  
 Bill Nicolai  
 Pauline Ross



Allison Cordes/LightHawk



*Aerial photo taken on a mission to help detect illegal snowmobile use in Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.*



*Assessing fire damage in the Golden Stream Biological Corridor in Belize.*



*Prepping planes for LightHawk program flights*



*Volunteer pilot Rick Durden ensuring passengers are safely loaded into the plane during the safety briefing.*



## OUR MISSION

*LightHawk's mission is to champion environmental protection through the unique perspective of flight.*

## OUR VALUES

### A healthy planet

We value the earth and the living things that depend upon it.

### Solution-oriented action

We value action. We are compelled to protect the health of our water, air, and land, and to sustain the diverse ecosystems that comprise the earth.

### The aerial perspective

We value the unique view of the earth provided by flight. The information and images gathered from above help inform and educate. They also serve as checks and balances to monitor those who safeguard our natural resources.

### Balanced approaches

We value problem-solving approaches that consider the needs of human society and the natural world.

### Collaboration

We value the organizations and individuals that strive in responsible ways to protect the earth, including its natural places, its flora and its fauna. We value collaborative problem solving approaches that engage partners in achieving individual and shared conservation goals.

### Making a difference

We value our ability to make a difference in a conservation debate. This requires that we maintain an effective, flexible, and sustainable organization able to benefit from the contributions of our volunteers while remaining focused on our mission and goals.

### Safety

We value safety in the air and on the ground.

## OUR GOAL

*LightHawk's goal is to mobilize enough volunteer pilots, aircraft and resources to help tip the balance toward sustainability for every major environmental issue within our targeted areas of focus.*



## Board of Directors

**Dr. Brent Blue** (Jackson, WY) practices medicine in Jackson Hole, founded an aviation medical supply company, and is a recognized public speaker and expert in aviation medicine.

**Tuck Colby, Treasurer** (Sarasota, FL) is a trustee of private charitable foundations following his retirement from a banking career in Africa, Scandinavia, New York, and Paris.

**Rick Durden** (Grand Rapids, MI) is an aviation attorney, author, and pilot. He has been involved in LightHawk since 1990, and served as LightHawk's Executive Director during 2005-2007. Durden currently writes and consults with various aviation-related businesses.

**C. Rudy Engholm, Executive Director** (Portland, ME) was the founder of Northern Wings, an environmental flying organization that merged into LightHawk in 2003. His background is in law, computers, and software company management.

**Steve Knaebel, Board Vice-President** (Mexico City, Mexico) retired in 2005 from Cummins, Inc. as Vice President – Mexico Operations and Distribution Latin America and as President of Cummins' Mexican subsidiary. Previously he was USAID mission director in Costa Rica.

**David Kunkel, Board President** (Meeker, CO) has a successful background as an entrepreneur – founding both a civil engineering firm in Eagle, Colorado and a software and services company producing municipal government software.

**Jane Nicolai** (Vancouver, WA) worked in the ski/tourism industry in Colorado and Alaska, and served as a graphic designer for several years. She is also a triathlete with a wide variety of civic interests.

**Ben Pierce** (Belgrade, MT) has been involved in professional land conservation for over 20 years with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and currently co-directs the Montana Chapter. Pierce worked in banking and investment management prior to joining TNC.

**Merry Schroeder** (Santa Fe, NM) brings the experience of many different worlds – including nursing, professional art sales, and flight instruction. She remains active as one of LightHawk's longest-serving volunteer pilots.

**Michael Sutton** (Monterey, CA) is Vice-President of the Monterey Bay Aquarium and the head of the Center for the Future of the Oceans. Sutton previously worked at the Packard Foundation, has served as a senior advisor on ocean issues to the Departments of Commerce and State, and is a member of the California Fish and Game Commission.

**Terri Watson** (Palm Springs, CA) previously served as LightHawk's Executive Director (2001-2003) and Flight Services Director after joining as a volunteer pilot in 1997. Watson is a EMS helicopter pilot, and has flown fixed and rotary wing aircraft throughout the world in military and civilian applications.

*Note: Each of the directors is an accomplished pilot with deep environmental convictions and experience.*

## Staff

**C. Rudy Engholm, Executive Director** – See listing left.

**Emilie Ryan, Chief Financial Officer** (Loveland, CO) has spent most of her 20+ year career in financial management at the National Outdoor Leadership School. She oversees all aspects of the organization's finances, budgeting, and human resource needs.

**Laurie Martin, Director of Development & Communications** (Castleton, VT) oversees LightHawk's work with foundations, donors, and publications. She has a strong environmental public policy background.

**Michele Gangaware, Director of Latin America Programs & Operations** (Glenwood Springs, CO and San Jose, Costa Rica) joined LightHawk in 1997. She manages LightHawk's work and travels regularly throughout the Latin American region, and is licensed pilot.

**Sama Blackwell, Director of U.S. and Canada Programs** (Boulder, CO) originally joined LightHawk as program manager for the Rocky Mountains after working for The Wilderness Society. She is a licensed private pilot.

**Kelley Tucker, Eastern Region Program Manager** (Long Island, NY) came to LightHawk via the International Crane Foundation, the American Bird Conservancy, and the University of Chicago.

**Judd Klement, Pacific Region Program Manager** (Palo Alto, CA) founded BirdPAC, a political action committee for birds and the environment. He worked for the Audubon Society and has experience in sea turtle conservation programs in the Caribbean, Central America and the east coast.

**Keri Foster, U.S. & Canada Programs Associate** (Lander, WY) runs the Lander office. Her prior experience was with Green Mountain Club in Vermont, and working on primate rehabilitation projects in Nigeria.



# INVEST IN OUR ENVIRONMENT

**LIGHTHAWK** is well-positioned to make lasting contributions to the restoration and protection of our natural resources. Your charitable gift contribution helps us meet our current goals and secure a healthy financial future. Through our multiple giving options, we may help you achieve that same outcome, too.

**Tell a friend about LightHawk.** Are you already a member? Tell a friend about LightHawk by sharing this annual report.

**Donate your piloting skills.** Join our volunteer pilot corps; the minimum requirement is 1000+ hours as pilot-in-command.

**Honor a friend or family member.** Donate to LightHawk in honor of an avid pilot and/or conservationist. We will send them a special card and honor them with a mention of the gift in our next quarterly newsletter.

**Make a cash gift.** Your support can be immediately put to use in protecting the environment through aviation.

**Make your gift grow.** Your LightHawk contribution can go even further if your employer matches your contribution, whether you choose to give through a payroll deduction plan or make an annual donation. Just ask your employer for matching gift guidelines and an application.

**Give stock.** Remember that you are not limited to cash gifts. Make a bottom-line difference in both your taxes and conservation through the donation of stock or other securities. You will avoid paying capital gains on the increased value of your stock from the time you purchase it — up to 20 percent of your adjusted gross income. Also, you will receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock on the date that the gift was made.

**Make a bequest.** Make a long-term commitment to LightHawk. Ask us how you may receive tax benefits that do not impact your cash flow today by designating LightHawk in your will or participating in other planned giving options.

**Join now!** Become a LightHawk member at the basic level for \$35 a year. Your donation is tax-deductible and as a member you receive our quarterly newsletter and *WayPoint – Success Stories from Above*, our new monthly e-newsletter.

**We appreciate and  
welcome your support.**

**For more information** on how your gift can make a difference on behalf of the environment, visit our website at: [www.lighthawk.org](http://www.lighthawk.org) or contact our headquarters at (307) 332-3242. LightHawk, P.O. Box 653, Lander, WY 82520

**Your gift  
makes a difference.**

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