



LIGHTHAWK

YOUR GIVING CREATES
CONSERVATION
CHANGE

SOARING HIGHER

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VOL. 5 ISSUE 2

Floods Ravage The Land

MIDWEST

ISSUE: Record flooding destroyed farms and towns this spring as well as key energy infrastructure, threatening drinking water supplies.

HOW LIGHTHAWK HELPS: We responded quickly to document the destruction and built public awareness.

WHAT'S NEXT: LightHawk photos will be used by American Rivers and Waterkeeper Alliance to influence river management and inspire people to restore natural river systems.



A coal-fired power plant in Oklahoma succumbs to floodwaters, polluting the river and cutting off power to homes. **J Pat Carter**



"LightHawk staff have been building a nationwide partnership with the Waterkeeper Alliance for the past 5 years. When these floods happened, the local Waterkeepers turned to us for help. In response, our staff immediately put together a plan to capture images that would illustrate flooding impacts. With our plans and partnerships in place, we then found pilots willing to donate flights to capture the images."

-Ryan Boggs, Chief Program Officer

Matchmaking Made Mexican Wolf Puppies!

SOUTHWEST

ISSUE: Mexican wolves are top predators. They are at risk of extinction without captive breeding programs.

HOW LIGHTHAWK HELPS: We deliver Mexican wolves to breeding centers to ensure their survival and a healthy gene pool.

WHAT'S NEXT: We'll continue to partner with species recovery organizations to restore a wild population of at least 320 Mexican wolves.



"Moving wolves across the country takes careful planning to ensure there is minimal time in transit for these already stressed animals. Out of hundreds of flights I manage, wildlife transport flights require:

- Careful coordination with the organizations sending and receiving the wolves. No surprises!
- Making sure the pilot and animal handlers ensure that the wolves can be kept cool during fuel stops along the way
- Coordinating with each airport to get permission to have vehicles on the tarmac
- Making sure crates will fit through aircraft doors!
- Ensuring pilots' in-flight snack won't excite their animal passenger!"

-Audrey Ek-Psomas, Eastern Program Coordinator



Mexican wolves are top predators and keep deer populations at healthy levels. Six pups were born this spring to wolves transported by LightHawk. *Chicago Zoological Society*

TOP IMAGE: A house under flood waters in Oklahoma. Your generous giving allows us to document pressing issues facing our planet, and advocate for better solutions. **J Pat Carter**

Yes, that Rotten Egg Marsh Matters

NORTHEAST

ISSUE: Coastal marshes protect cities from hurricane damage and act as sealife nurseries. They are disintegrating into the sea.

HOW LIGHTHAWK HELPS: Our partnerships with researchers will help create permanent protection for an important marsh laboratory on the Maine coast.

WHAT'S NEXT: Safeguard the 'lobster nursery' marshes that support a world renowned industry and way of life in Maine, and protect coastal communities from storm damage.



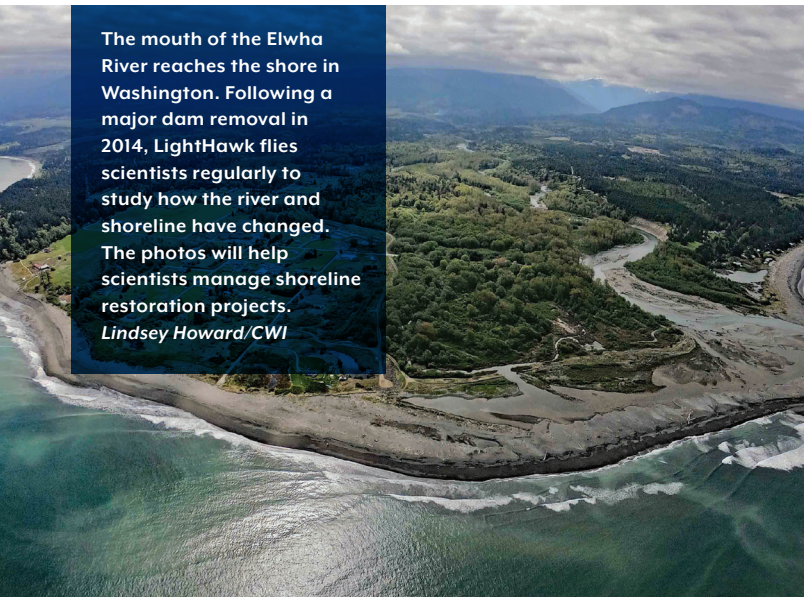
Sprague Marsh on the coast of Maine. Part of Bates College's outdoor laboratory, this marsh research hotspot tells scientists how these critical areas respond to climate change, rising sea level and fertilizer pollution. The flight also gave context to how rapidly marshes are changing, in a way you can't see from the ground.
Laura Sewall

Eelgrass beds thrive just outside the boundary of the coastal marsh in Maquoit Bay, Maine. Eelgrass slows down waves and storm damage, protecting marshes and the young fish, clams and lobsters that live there.
Bev Johnson



"LightHawk expanded across New England to now include 45 conservation partnerships. Our newest partner, Bates College, is conducting estuary research focusing on restoring coasts, and sharing important results throughout Maine to improve coastal habitat."
-Jonathan Milne, Eastern Program Director

The mouth of the Elwha River reaches the shore in Washington. Following a major dam removal in 2014, LightHawk flies scientists regularly to study how the river and shoreline have changed. The photos will help scientists manage shoreline restoration projects.
Lindsey Howard/CWI



"LightHawk flights help demonstrate the high quality habitat that would be available to fish species once a dam is removed. Often these areas are remote and hard to access — the aerial view helps make that connection."
-Christine Steele, Western Program Coordinator

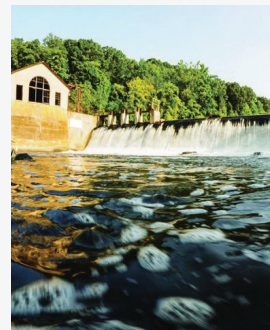
Dam We're Doing Good!

EAST & WEST

ISSUE: Hydropower dams on rivers can hurt water quality and block fish from traveling upstream to lay eggs.

HOW LIGHTHAWK HELPS: We change hearts and minds to support dam removal across the nation. We also work with partners to monitor how waters and lands change after dams are removed.

WHAT'S NEXT: We are creating change on on both coasts to remove harmful dams, improve water quality and support fish populations.



before



after

The Columbia Dam on New Jersey's Paulinskill River before and after dam removal. We helped sway public opinion by flying journalists. This spring, shad fish were able to move upstream for the first time in 100 years! TNC NJ

Join us for our 40th Anniversary Annual Meeting & Fly-In Oct 11-13 in Santa Fe, NM.
Details on our website.

LightHawk is headquartered in beautiful Fort Collins, CO

New Address: PO Box 913239, Denver, CO 80291
(970) 797-3255 • Lighthawk.org

