



1979-2019

LIGHT HAWK

40 Years of Conservation Flying

2019

ANNUAL REPORT



**“UNLESS SOMEONE LIKE YOU CARES
A WHOLE AWFUL LOT, NOTHING IS
GOING TO GET BETTER. IT’S NOT.”**

-DR. SEUSS, THE LORAX

The other day, I had a conversation with my teenage niece that left me with such hope for this planet’s future.

We were on a walk through the woods and she began talking about a presentation she did for school on how deforestation is contributing to animal extinctions. I asked what led to that topic, and she told me she’d spent over four hours reading the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species and wanted to know why so many animals were in danger. She read how people destroying forests for agriculture and climate change were the primary causes.

She then went on to talk about how studying these things and finding solutions was what she wanted to study in college and pursue as a career.

Then she said, “And that is why LightHawk is so incredibly cool. Everything you do, in some way, touches on a piece of the puzzle of climate change and the impact on people. You get to do so many things in so many places that make a difference in this big issue that will help save our planet. LightHawk is amazing!”

Proud Aunt moment. But then fade to..... proud LightHawk moment. To hear young people passionately want to become a part of the work we do in conservation is inspiring. And it is imperative.

We continue to need to have more and more people care a whole awful lot – like you do. Having you on our team – young and old, newly learning and old hands, inspires hope.

And hope inspires us – all of us – to take actions to make a difference.

Of the many contributions LightHawk makes in conservation – whether data, imagery, informing journalism, or educating decision makers – the one that is most powerful is inspiring understanding and feeding hope that change is possible. From a thousand feet up, limitations and barriers fade and solutions become more clear.

When people have hope and can see possibilities, they have the required element for change. And things can get better. They can.

Thank you for being on our team, for spreading the word, and for caring enough to make the differences we want to see in our world.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terri Watson".

Terri Watson
CEO



IMAGE: A rainbow caught during a LightHawk flight supporting The Nature Conservancy’s work to protect water in Colorado. Ken Geiger. VP Jim Grady.

LIGHTHAWK

2019



282

COORDINATED
FLIGHTS

114
CHANGEMAKERS
FLOWN

100 % // CARBON EMISSIONS // OFFSET

460

GIFTS RECEIVED

92 MEDIA STORIES | **26** FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

.....**121**.....

CONSERVATION
PARTNERS

891 HOURS
OF FLYING



298

DEDICATED
PILOTS

512 } HEARTS & MINDS
FLOWN

976 CONSERVATION EASEMENTS MONITORED



**"A FLYOVER REVEALS THE
THREATS TO OUR REGION."**

– TIME REVIEW NEWS GROUP
REPORTER TARA SMITH

OUR MISSION

To accelerate conservation success
through the powerful perspective of flight.

WHY LIGHTHAWK EXISTS

We know that aviation can greatly enhance conservation work, often in ways that are not immediately obvious. We also know that aviation resources are often too costly for conservation efforts even if their value and contribution is understood.

WHAT WE DO

LightHawk conservation staff seek out projects and partners where we know we can make a significant contribution. We then serve as consultants co-designing flight campaigns to achieve relevant and important conservation outcomes, educational objectives and outreach strategies.

HOW WE DO IT

Once we have a project planned, we tap into our network of nearly 300 volunteer pilots who donate expertise, time, aircraft, and fuel to support the project, making flight support free of direct cost to our partners.

IMAGE: Mt. Rainier looms over checkerboard forests. LightHawk flies this region in search of white-headed woodpeckers, a keystone species that other animals rely on. *Benjamin Drummond, VP Roy Lewallen*

LIGHTHAWK HAS 4 CONSERVATION INITIATIVES



CONSERVING LANDSCAPES

Healthy landscapes are crucial to our ability to thrive. We fly to conserve critical and sensitive landscapes and ecosystems. We address threats that would damage their health, advocate for science-based land management, and seek to increase the amount of public and private land conserved.



SAFEGUARDING RIVERS & ESTUARIES

Rivers and wetlands form a network of life that flows through our lands and communities. We fly to keep those waters and their natural ecosystems healthy, and keep communities thriving. We work to restore affected river systems to their natural states, protect them from pollution, sedimentation, and diversion, and to safeguard the integrity of our drinking water.



PROTECTING OCEANS & COASTLINES

We fly to protect our sensitive coastlines, oceans and sea life. We monitor the health and well-being of protected marine areas, advocate for increased safeguards, highlight the impacts of climate change and sea level rise, and shine a light on pollution or other damages.



ENSURING SPECIES SURVIVAL

Saving endangered animals from extinction is our enduring responsibility. We fly to restore threatened and endangered species to sustainable populations. We allow scientists to gather data critical to their survival through tracking. We also transport animals across the continent for breeding programs.

HOW LIGHTHAWK INSPIRES CHANGE

The Power of Awe

From the sky, LightHawk unleashes the power of awe, revealed through the windows of a small plane. Awe causes people to see a much bigger picture, far larger than themselves. Our passengers are inspired. Hope is reignited. They go on to create change, and take action to help save our land, oceans, coastlines, rivers and wildlife.

IMAGE: VP Stephanie Wells

WITHIN THESE CONSERVATION INITIATIVES, WE HAVE THREE LEVELS OF EMPHASIS:

FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

Issues of regional and continental significance

•
Multiyear

•
Many partners

•
Long-term goals

•
May result in hundreds of flights over several years

•
Produces significant results

117 FLIGHTS
8 PROJECTS

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Focused on regional issues

•
Previously identified priorities

•
Single or multiple year

•
Fewer partners

•
Produces significant results

127 FLIGHTS
36 PROJECTS

FLIGHTS OF OPPORTUNITY

One time requests

•
Exploring a new conservation project area

•
Working with a new partner

•
Broadens our focus and impact

•
Produces significant results

31 FLIGHTS
21 PROJECTS



CONSERVING LANDSCAPES

FLAGSHIP PROJECT

Conserving the Sonoran Desert

Straddling Mexico and the US, the desert is home to incredible diversity of animal and plant life. Yet it's one of the most rapidly increasing population centers in the US. LightHawk flies to build cross-border partnerships among the region's nonprofit organizations, and to monitor conservation efforts.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

- Land Trust Easements
- Ensuring Healthy Landscapes for New England
- National Monuments and Wilderness Designations in New Mexico
- Monitoring Montana Wildlands
- Checking Mines in Yukon Territory
- Protecting the Lower Purgatoire Prairie
- Post-Fire Response in Los Padres National Forest
- Impacts of Hydro-Fracking
- Protecting the Heart of the Rockies
- Crested Butte's Protection
- Securing the Appalachian Mountain Corridor

FLIGHTS OF OPPORTUNITY

Photographing areas threatened by mining. Lyme disease and forest fragmentation.



PROTECTING OCEANS & COASTLINES

FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

Patrolling San Francisco Bay

The beloved bay is threatened by mining, pollution and erosion. LightHawk flies photographers, writers and decision makers to experience the grandeur of the bay and encourage its protection.

Monitoring California Marine Protected Areas

Since 2006 we have helped establish and monitor aquatic habitat for fish, shellfish and marine mammals. Today we monitor for dangerous fishing gear and illegal use within the MPAs.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

- Supporting Restore America's Estuaries
- Documenting King Tides and Sea Level Rise
- Monitoring Shoreline Habitat
- Keeping Long Island Bay Healthy

FLIGHTS OF OPPORTUNITY

Building donor support for Galveston Bay and Chesapeake Bay.



ENSURING SPECIES SURVIVAL

FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

Saving Salmon

Between logging, fishing, river damming and pollution, salmon populations have declined dramatically, endangering dozens of species that depend on them. LightHawk is working to protect salmon by exposing mining threats, and spreading appreciation for the ecosystems salmon call home.

California Condor Recovery

From just 20 remaining California condors in the early 1980s to 500 today, LightHawk monitors their whereabouts, crucial for wild population monitoring. We also provide very efficient transportation for these birds from captive breeding facilities to their new homes in the wild.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

- Transporting Mexican Wolves
- Air Ambulance for Injured Hawks and Eagles
- Monitoring Ice and Waterfowl in Yukon
- Protecting Sage Grouse
- Long Term Surveys for Birds on Mono Lake
- Tracking Woodpeckers After Fire
- Conserving the Mexican Pronghorn
- Clearing the Way for Whales

FLIGHTS OF OPPORTUNITY

Tracking lynx and bobcat movements.
Transporting a river otter.



SAFEGUARDING RIVERS & ESTUARIES

FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

Protecting the Delaware River

Over 15 million people from five states depend on this river basin for water, which has been polluted for centuries. We are protecting this critical river by assessing threats and creating partnerships with more than 50 nonprofits, an unprecedented collaboration.

Safeguarding the Colorado River

The Colorado River is one of the hardest working rivers in the US, yet it's plagued with degradation from decades of damming, pollution and misuse. We unite partners throughout this seven-state, 1,450 mile river to witness impacts of development and advocate for change.

Everglades Flagship Project
described on page 14.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

- Monitoring Rivers Across the Continent with Waterkeeper Groups
- Making the Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent
- Restoring the Great Salt Lake
- Safeguarding the Great Lakes
- Rallying Protection for the Clearwater River Basin

FLIGHTS OF OPPORTUNITY

Sharing Mississippi River restoration lessons with China.



CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

CONSERVING LANDSCAPES

LIGHTHAWK PARTNERS WITH 28 LAND TRUSTS ACROSS NORTH AMERICA. HERE WE MONITOR CRESTED BUTTE LAND TRUST EASEMENTS IN COLORADO. *JERRY CLARK. VP JIM GRADY.*



"WE TRULY APPRECIATE THAT THE PILOTS VOLUNTEER SO MUCH TO ADVANCE THE GOALS OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. IT IS AN AMAZING SERVICE." -JOHN ROE, UPPER VALLEY LAND TRUST

"THIS FLIGHT MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WAS EFFECTIVE IN GETTING THE REPRESENTATIVE TO UNDERSTAND OUR WORK ON A BIGGER LEVEL." -NANCY BUTLER, RIO GRANDE HEADWATERS LAND TRUST

project highlights

2945 SAVED
STAFF
HOURS

176,654
ACRES
MONITORED

\$86,500
IN STAFF TIME SAVED
**BY AERIAL
MONITORING**

**Imagine if you could get
380 hours of work done
in just 1.5 hours.**

**That's what LightHawk
does for land trusts.**

Land trusts routinely monitor the conservation easements they hold. These easements prohibit building or property development. Traditionally, land trust staff members drive to visit each easement property and tour it from the ground, noting any infractions. Driving to view properties often takes hundreds or thousands of hours each year. In just a few hours, LightHawk provides close-up aerial views of easements, freeing staff to spend more time on acquisition and stewardship.

Project: The Upper Valley Land Trust in New England is a new partner for LightHawk this year.

With more than 500 easements spread over 45 towns in Vermont and New Hampshire, monitoring takes thousands of hours each year.

"We tried hiring a drone pilot, and purchasing aerial photos," noted Jason Berard, Stewardship Director for the land trust.

"Working with LightHawk gave the best results by far with 317 properties photographed in just six hours!" Because of the time saved by LightHawk, "we will be able to re-allocate some stewardship staff resources to community engagement activities! Thank you so much for all you do to support conservation."

**"Working with
LightHawk gave the best
results by far with 317
properties photographed
in just six hours!"**

With our partner, the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust in Colorado, we flew to show Colorado state representative Donald Valdez their important work in the San Luis valley.

The size of Connecticut, this is one of the largest alpine valleys in the world. Some funding for conserving this area comes from the state lottery, but that funding is perpetually in jeopardy. Rep. Valdez is now armed with stories and images of how much the program has benefited farmers, residents and tourists to defend the law.

OUTCOME: Just a few weeks after the flight with Valdez a landowner called Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust to conserve her 800 acres. She learned about this opportunity after Valdez told her about the flight.



TOP IMAGE

Volunteer Pilot, Andy Young. VP Denise Corcoran

BOTTOM IMAGE

The Denny's River meanders through forests in Maine. LightHawk captured photos of this area to bring awareness to its important role for endangered Atlantic Salmon spawning. Lauren Owens Lambert. VP Scott Cianchette



CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

PROTECTING OCEANS & COASTLINES

LIGHTHAWK FLIES TO PROTECT OUR SENSITIVE COASTLINES AND OCEANS AND
THE SEA LIFE THAT CALLS THEM HOME. *MATTHEW REYES*



"I SEE THE OCEAN EVERY DAY, BUT THE PERSPECTIVE FROM ABOVE AND SO CLOSE TO THE SHORE, WAS EXCEPTIONAL. YOU NEED THE PERSPECTIVE FROM THE SKY TO GRASP THE POWER OF THE OCEAN AND THE VULNERABILITY OF ADJACENT DEVELOPMENT." -KELLIE SHAY HINZE

project highlights

21
FLIGHTS

2 DAYS

2
COASTS

"This is way worse than I ever expected..."

I didn't expect this. I didn't expect our beach to wash into the estuary," commented Serge Dedina, Mayor of Imperial Beach, CA as ocean water flooded the streets of his city.

This January in Imperial Beach, California, along with many other coastal communities in North America, residents experienced a sample of the inundation possible for future sea level rise during a king tide. King tides occur naturally when the alignment of the sun, moon and earth causes high tides to be much higher than usual. The resulting flooding shows us first hand what sea level rise will do to our coasts in the future.

"We have higher tides so we have coastal flooding going on today, the worst that I've ever seen in my 40 years of living in Imperial Beach," noted Mayor Dedina. However he hasn't lost hope. Dedina is committed to confronting the reality of sea level rise, and gathering community and national support to adapt. "It's a wake up call. The reality is, it's not easy to get people to think about what's going to happen in 100 years...but the way to frame that discussion is through coastal flooding. It's less abstract."

LightHawk and Surfrider Foundation annually tour coastlines from the air, documenting exactly how the sea will inundate our towns and cities if no action is taken to mitigate and prepare for climate change. It is a golden opportunity to influence the hearts and

minds of decision makers and to share powerful images with the world. In response, we planned LightHawk's most ambitious flight campaign to date.

"Flooding shows us first-hand what sea level rise will do."

For the January 2019 king tide, we flew 21 flights in two days, covering thousands of miles, on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. We flew influential photographers, journalists and state and local elected officials and experts who saw the undeniable damage occurring in real time.

From the icy waters of Maine, the sunny Florida Keys, to the crashing waves of California, up to the Pacific Northwest, LightHawk carried change makers who can directly combat climate change.

One passenger that day was Kellie Shay Hinze, Councilwoman for Encinitas City, one of 41 passengers LightHawk flew to witness the king tide.

"We have a pristine coastline... it's really a welcoming environment for recreation. And so to me, the top priority is that skinny stretch of beach where people love spending time," said Kellie. Flying over the king tide swell, "There was no sand. Zero beaches [remaining]. The waves were pounding right up to the cliffs. I see the ocean every day, but the perspective from above and so close to the shore, was exceptional."

OUTCOME: Kellie's team is defining ways to combat sea level rise and climate change, and working to protect the vulnerable infrastructure she saw during her LightHawk flight.



TOP IMAGE

Kellie Shay Hinze, Councilwoman and king tide flight passenger. *James Wang.*

BOTTOM IMAGE

King tide waves break over sea walls in Ventura, CA. While coastal building has increased, it is in increasing danger as sea level rises. *Paul Jenkin/Surfrider/LightHawk*



CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

ENSURING SPECIES SURVIVAL

PROTECTING ENDANGERED ANIMALS FROM EXTINCTION IS OUR
ENDURING RESPONSIBILITY. *KLAAS HUIZENGA*



“YOU EXPERIENCE THE GRATITUDE OF THE CONSERVATION PARTNERS SITTING NEXT TO AND WORKING WITH YOU IN THE PLANE. THEY APPRECIATE HOW IMPORTANT THESE MISSIONS ARE TO THEIR WORK AND THE GOALS OF THEIR ORGANIZATION. I FEEL THAT IN ALL MY LIGHTHAWK FLIGHT MISSIONS, I AM PROVIDING A SIGNIFICANT TOOL TO ASSIST THE PROGRESS OF THEIR RESEARCH,” -VP DAVE RIFFLE

project highlights

“Without LightHawk’s help...” is a universal response we receive from passengers,

...and a description of incredible conservation outcomes that wouldn’t have been possible otherwise. This fall, LightHawk partnered with the Southern Interior Land Trust (SILT), a Canadian nonprofit that works to acquire fish and wildlife habitats for habitat connectivity in British Columbia. SILT facilitates research on how lynx and bobcats move across landscapes straddling the Canada and the US border. In Washington, lynx are state-listed as endangered, while in British Columbia, they’re commercially harvested for fur. Collecting lynx and bobcat movement data is critical to improving how the cats are managed on both sides of the border, and to prioritize migration corridors to help lynx populations recover in Washington. Bobcats share summer habitat with lynx, and knowing how lynx interact with bobcats will help managers in both countries protect habitat effectively for both species.

Quickly collecting the collars and the precious movement data they contain is paramount – if winter hits before the collars are located the batteries would die and the data would be lost.

OUTCOME: With Volunteer Pilot Dave Riffle’s expert aerial backcountry navigating skills, SILT was able to pinpoint the collar locations, two of which would have likely never have been recovered

16 ESSENTIAL
ANIMALS FLOWN

4 SPECIES

11
OFFSPRING
BORN DUE TO
FLIGHTS

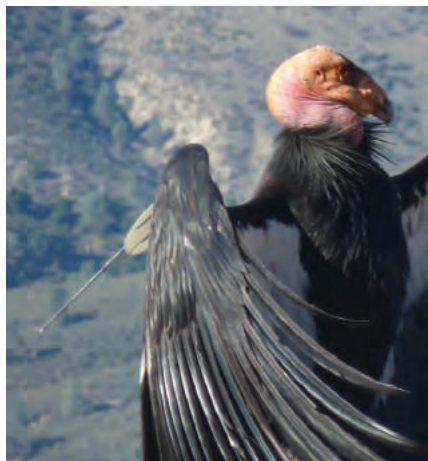
otherwise due to their remote location. Without LightHawk, our partners would have to track down the cats’ radio collars on foot and snowmobile over rugged terrain, an extremely difficult, time consuming and potentially dangerous job.

“It is very gratifying to feel that I am making a difference right here, right now.”

LightHawk’s Volunteer Pilots bring incredible dedication to conservation. Making an impact for conservation “is the greatest reward of my work with LightHawk. When we are flying missions, it is very gratifying to feel that I am making a difference right here, right now,” writes lynx mission pilot, Dave Riffle, who joined LightHawk in 2017. His dedication goes beyond flight. “SILT Executive Director, Al Peatt, and I became good friends after our

LightHawk mission. He extended an invitation following the flight to join the effort to live trap, tranquilize and collar new lynx during the winter. I joined SILT’s team to ride out in a snowmobile for the daily “trap” check. Helping to collar a lynx, to feel the warmth of its fur despite the -5°F temps, gave me a new perspective on the importance of protecting habitat and wildlife migration corridors between our two countries,” said Riffle.

“You experience the gratitude of the conservation partners sitting next to and working with you in the plane. They appreciate how important these missions are to their work and the goals of their organization. I feel that in all my LightHawk flight missions, I am providing a significant tool to assist the progress of their research,” shared Riffle. LightHawk’s work is making a difference for the many species we fly to research and protect.



TOP IMAGE
Volunteer Pilot David Riffle helps trapper (and SILT President) Ross Everatt measure a tranquilized and radio-collared Canada lynx. *Alan Peatt*
BOTTOM IMAGE
A California condor suns itself. LightHawk transports and tracks these highly endangered birds. *National Park Service*



CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

SAFEGUARDING RIVERS & ESTUARIES

LIGHTHAWK FLIES TO KEEP FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS HEALTHY. SPOONBILLS, STORKS, PELICANS AND MORE COME TO THE EVERGLADES. LIGHTHAWK DOCUMENTED ONE OF THE LARGEST NESTING BOOMS, A GOOD SIGN FOR EVERGLADES HEALTH. MAC STONE/AUDUBON. VP GARY LICKLE



“ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS IS RELENTLESSLY GRIM, BUT HERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT NATURE IS RESILIENT AND CAN BOUNCE BACK, IF WE GIVE IT HALF A CHANCE.”

-ANDY MCGLASHEN

project highlights

Where do you find a 60 mile wide river, and the only place on earth where crocodiles and alligators live side by side?

The “River of Grass” we call the Everglades is a world heritage site and incredibly important to wildlife and people. Yet it’s been shrinking at an alarming rate – now only 11% of its original size – as water is diverted and wetlands are drained for development. It’s one of the earth’s largest ecological restoration projects, and one of LightHawk’s Flagship Projects. We are committed to a brighter future for the people and wildlife there.

“[Flying with LightHawk] was an unforgettable experience. That’s a cliché, but it’s literally true—I will never forget that flight,” commented Audubon magazine editor, Andy McGlashen. On his flight, Andy documented an unprecedented explosion in the number of wading birds in the Everglades last spring. “The Everglades are the most important habitat for wading birds anywhere in North America—big, charming species like roseate spoonbills and wood storks. But their populations in South Florida have plummeted by almost 90 percent since the early 20th century because of changes to the ecosystem wrought by development.”

100 FLIGHTS PROTECTING DRINKING WATER FOR

154,000,000+ MILLION PEOPLE

Yet McGlashen and aerial photographer, Mac Stone, share a glimmer of hope. “The huge boom in wading bird numbers last spring was a really important story for Audubon because it shows that, when conditions are right, these birds can still bounce back,” shared McGlashen. And the bird boom shows that this effort is working. “As efforts continue to restore the historic flow of water through the Everglades, there is hope that restoration will make these kinds of boom years more common. We may still be able to reverse those long-term [wading bird] population declines,” noted McGlashen.

“The couple of hours I spent viewing the region from Volunteer Pilot Kelly

Gottlieb’s Cessna P210 helped me understand the Everglades in a much deeper way than I did from all my prior reporting...Viewing the birds from above conveyed the sheer size of the colonies, and the way they interacted with their habitat in a way that would not have been possible from the ground.”

OUTCOME: “It’s essential for the public to understand why a long, complicated restoration that costs billions of dollars is worthwhile. The wading birds are an indicator of the ecosystem’s health, and their recovery will give Floridians and visitors to the Everglades a clear, colorful signal that the work is paying off,” says McGlashen.



TOP IMAGE

Chris Boyer

BOTTOM IMAGE

A threatened wood stork nests in the Everglades. Lighthawk helped to find increasing populations of these wetland dependent birds. Mac Stone/Audubon

LIGHTHAWK PILOTS

Our Volunteer Pilots dedicated their skill, aircraft, fuel and resources toward LightHawk's conservation vision.

30+ YEARS

Jerry Hoogerwerf
Merry Schroeder

20+ YEARS

Milton Bennett
Peter Coltman
Rick Durden
Rudy Engholm
Bob Gill
Reg Goodwin
Barry Harper
Chuck Heywood
Kirk Johnson
Bob Keller
Allen Low
Mike McBride
Bruce McLean
Jane Nicolai
Kevin Roache
Lisa Robertson
Steve Robertson
Jane Rosevelt
Polly Ross
Skip Slyfield
Larry Swanson
Art Thompson
Dick Walker
Terri Watson
Brent Witters

15+ YEARS

Gabrielle Adelman
Greg Bedinger
Tuck Colby
John Feagin
Eric Fogelin
Steven Garman
Kelly Gottlieb
Arthur Hussey III
David Kunkel

Tim Lapage
Michael Lee
Ray Lee
Mike McNamara
Ben Pierce
Geoff Pope
Chuck Schroll
Ed Steinman
Mike Sutton
Steve Williams
Will Worthington

Nadim Abuhaidar
David Acker
Ken Adelman
Jim Afinowich
Steve Allsop
Tom AmRhein
Eric Anderson
John Anson
Paul Armstrong
Ralph Arwood
Jim Averett
Dan Barley
Courtney Barnhorst
Michael Baum
Jon Berman
Dan Birch
Brent Blue
Blair Bouchier
Steve Bowser
Bill Brine
Jason Brooks
Steve Brown
Phil Brown
Tom Bryant
James Buck
Eileen Burger

Greg Burnett
Jim Cameron
Tony Carson
Linda Chism
John Chlopek
Scott Cianchette
David Cole
Wayne Connor
Denise Corcoran
Richard Costello
Chuck Crinnian
Warren Dean
Matt Debski
Edward DeCastro
Thomas Dillon
Andy Dunigan
Joe DuRousseau
Jerry Edgerton
Noam Eisen
Jon Engle
Dan Evans
Bill Faulkner
Dick Filson
Joe Fischetti
Rich Fisher
Dennis Fitzpatrick
Charles Fligel
Larry Forney
Ken Foster
John French
Jamie Gamble
Mark Gaponoff
Bette Gardner
Pete Geiler
Lee Gerstein
Cliff Gill
Martin Goldfarb

Pete Gordon
Shane Gorman
Lane Gormley
Jim Grady
Eric Grant
Ney Grant
Rich Greenawald
Howard Greenberg
Kelly Grossetete
Tom Haas
Jeff Hamilton
Hunter Handsfield
Doug Harford
David Harris
Rusty Harrison
Mike Hart
Jack Hart
Hal Hayden
Jeff Hazlett
David Heaney
Tim Hendricks
Bruce Hinds
Jeff Hinkle
Jonathon Hinson
Bruce Horn
Sue Hostler
Jim Houser
Joe Howley
Scott Humphries
Rick Hunt
Steve Isom
Richard Jacobs
Mike Jesch
Dean Johnson
Mel Jordan
Sid Karin
Jerry Karlsberg

Joe Keeton
Chris Keithley
Steve Kent
Alan Kinback
John King
Martha King
Steve Kiss
Jim Knowles
Rick Koril
Alice Kottmyer
Dave Krahn
Nathan Kurth
Paul Kutler
Sonny Lacey
Bob Lange
Andreas Lauschke
Tom LeCompte
Ted Leenerts
Roy Lewallen
Todd Libke
Gary Lickle
Perry Lindsay
Rob Lober
Brian Locascio
Jack Long
Larry Lowenkron
Pavel Lukes
Douglas Lumgair
Ryan Lunde
Matt Machen
Brian MacNamara
Jeanne MacPherson
John Mahany
Miguel Marin
Dan Marks
Paul Mattson
Carl Mattson

**"THE ENGINE IS THE HEART OF AN
AEROPLANE, BUT THE PILOT IS ITS SOUL."**
— SIR WALTER ALEXANDER RALEIGH

PILOT AWARDS

*Every year we present awards at
our Annual Fly-In to recognize our
dedicated Volunteer Pilots.*



SPIRIT OF LIGHTHAWK AWARD

WILL WORTHINGTON

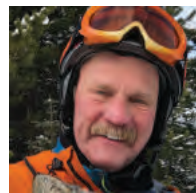
In recognition of a pilot who ranks among the highest in total hours, is outstanding to work with, and represents the very best of our pilot corps.



BILL & BETTY ROCKWELL AWARD

DAN MARKS

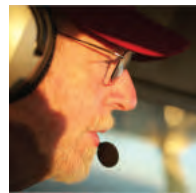
This award recognizes a pilot who embodies the generous spirit and flexibility of Bill Rockwell, an unselfish soul always willing to fly the extra mile.



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

DAVE RIFFLE

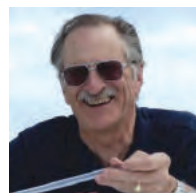
Each year LightHawk awards an outstanding volunteer pilot, new to the Volunteer Pilot Corps in the last year.



CARPENTER AWARD

ROY LEWALLEN

This award is given to the pilot who flew the most in service of LightHawk during the prior year.



PRESIDENT'S AWARD

BOB KELLER

In recognition of a pilot who embodies the true spirit of volunteerism, going above and beyond the call of duty, with contagious enthusiasm and exemplary skills.

Michael Maya Charles	Steve Robbins	Mac Tichenor
Wayne McClelland	Leon Robert	Tom Tillman
Bill Menzel	Jim Robinson	Tim Timmons
Mark Merrill	Dick Rodgers	Tim Toal
Jack Merritt	Chuck Rosenfeld	Val Tollefson
Steve Meyer	Eric Ross	Lanny Tanning
David Miller	Rob Ross	Marijke Unger
Doug Monger	Jimmy Roswell	Rick Utermohlen
Tony Moradian	Bill Rush	Gil Velez-Domenech
Fred Moskol	George Ryan	Mike Venturino
Wayne Munson	Scott Ryan	Matt Verdieck
Russ Munson	Nathan Rydman	Varlin Vissepo
David Murphy	John Sandvig	Phil Walker
Arlene Myers	Wayne Sayer	Charles Walling
Alexander	Michael Schaffer	Keith Ward
Ken Newbury	Mike Schroeder	David Warner
Janice Newman	Michael Scott	Peter Watkins
Bill Nicolai	Terry Scott	Jeff Weiherer
Pete Niewieroski	Jerry Seckler	Jeffrey Weiss
Paul Novak	Scott Sedam	David Weissman
Gerold Noyes	Donna Shannon	Pete Welles
Geoff Nye	Ken Shapiro	Randy Wells
David Osher	Douglass Sisk	Stephanie Wells
Bob Panebianco	Bud Sittig	Cory West
Greg Paulin	Bob Smith	Mike White
Larry Petro	JP Soldo	Gerry Whitley
Steve Phillabaum	Jochen Spengler	Jud Wickwire
John Plaza	Jay Steffenhagen	Rhon Williams
Steve Poirot	Bob Stoecker	Brian Williams
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These monthly donors provide reliable year-round support that keeps us soaring higher

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in honor of Rudy Engholm
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in honor of Everett and Wyatt
Seth Gamble
in honor of James Gamble
Kelly and Michael Gottlieb
in honor of
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Dave Matthews
in honor of Merry Schroeder
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in honor of Tuck Colby
Dave Wilson
in honor of Steve Parker
Amy Woodworth
in honor of David Kunkel

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in memory of Jim Roush
Emilie Ryan and Clayton Fraser
in memory of George Ryan
Patricia M. Kincaid
in memory of H D Moore
Ms. Levin
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Lawrence and Fran Sittig
in memory of Steve Paul

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Agricultural Stewardship Association
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Aspen Valley Land Trust
Cloud Foundation
Colorado Open Lands
Columbia Land Conservancy
North American Land Trust
The Nature Conservancy - Wisconsin
Trout Power, Inc.
Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust

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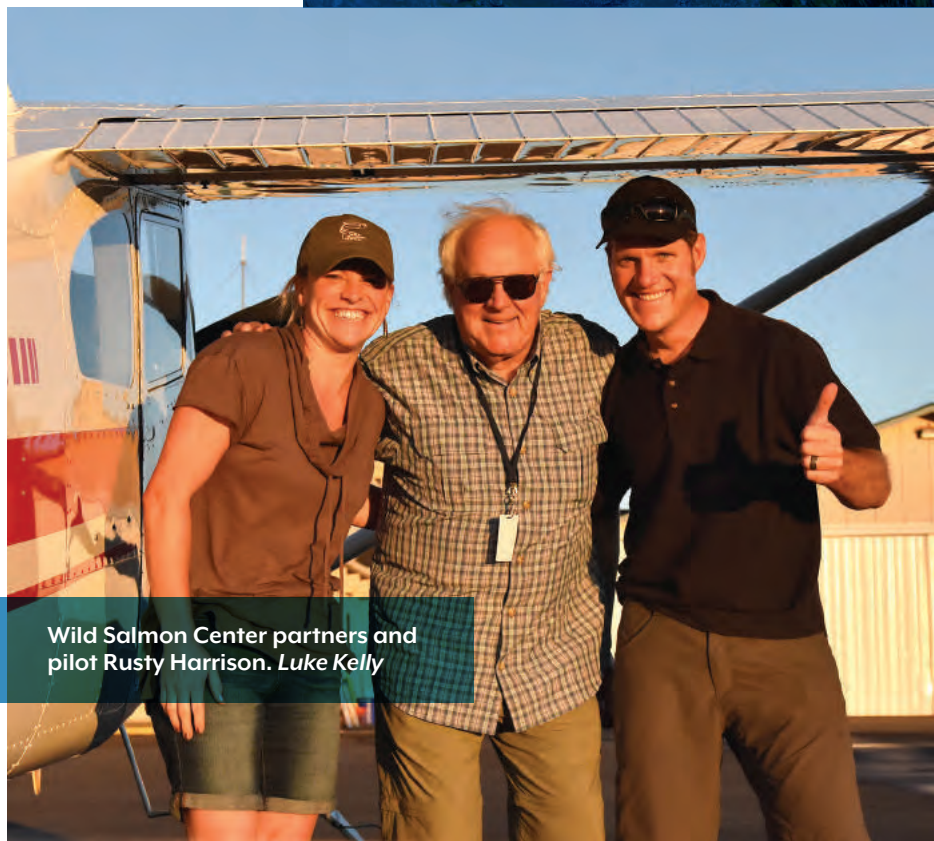
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Wallace Genetic Foundation
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WELWE Foundation
Wilburforce Foundation
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100%
OF BUDGET
COMES FROM
INDIVIDUALS
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**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR BELIEF IN
LIGHTHAWK**
and your confidence that
we will deliver a brighter
future for the earth.



Wild Salmon Center partners and pilot Rusty Harrison. Luke Kelly

LIGHTHAWK'S LEGACY SOCIETY

Legacy Society members have notified us of their intention to make a future gift to LightHawk through their will or estate plan.

Greg Bedinger & Jan Mulder

Chris Boyer

Robert & Susan Crenshaw

C. Rudy & Grace Engholm

Bob Francella

Jeff Hamilton

James & Louise Noyes

Ginny Paul

Lisa & Steve Robertson

Polly Ross

Bud Sittig

Beverly Steveson

Terri Watson & Kim Harrison

Brian Williams

For information and assistance on planned giving, please contact our Chief Advancement Officer at 970-797-9355, extension 2.



IMAGE: Michelle Alvarado

OUR PARTNERS

Here are a few of more than 100 conservation partners.



LIGHTHAWK'S CONSERVATION PARTNERS

We search North America for the most effective conservation organizations that are doing meaningful work that can be greatly enhanced by aviation. Each year we engage more than 100 partners in project-based work, which results in nearly 300 flights, each with measurable benefits for nature.

Adirondack Explorer Agricultural Stewardship Association	Department of Natural Resources - Maryland E&E News	Los Angeles Zoo & Botanical Gardens LWCF Coalition	Pinnacles National Park	The Nature Conservancy - Maine
Appalachian Mountain Club	Eastern Sierra Land Trust	Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries	Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership	The Nature Conservancy - Maryland
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan	Methow Conservancy	Point Blue Conservation Science	The Nature Conservancy - Massachusetts
Arizona State University	Florida Wildlife Corridor	Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan	Puget Soundkeeper	The Nature Conservancy - New Hampshire
Aspen Valley Land Trust	FracTracker Alliance	Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy	Quad City Waterkeeper	The Nature Conservancy - Vermont
Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary	Friends of the Clearwater	Mono Lake Committee	Rensselaer Plateau Alliance	The Nature Conservancy - Wisconsin
Audubon Rockies	Friends of the Upper Delaware River	National Audubon Society	Restore America's Estuaries	The Peregrine Fund
Binder Park Zoo	Friends of the Yampa	New England Forestry Foundation	Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust	The Story Group
Black Canyon Regional Land Trust	Gallatin Wildlife Association	New Hampshire Audubon	Rio Grande Zoo	Trout Power, Inc
Blackfoot Challenge	Galveston Bay Foundation	New Hampshire Public Television	Saginaw Children's Zoo	Trust for Public Land
Brandywine Conservancy	Golden Gate MPA Collaborative	New Jersey Audubon Newsy	San Francisco Baykeeper	Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
Calgary Zoo	Heal the Bay	NOAA - East Coast MPA's	Santa Barbara Zoo	Under Solen Media
Calusa Waterkeeper	Heart of the Rockies Initiative	Oasis Bird Observatory	Save The Bay	University of New Hampshire
Carlton Ward, Photographer	Highstead	Ocean Defenders Alliance	Sierra Club, Denver Chapter	University of Washington - Climate Impact Group
Chicago Zoological Society-Brookfield Zoo	Institute for Bird Populations	Open Space Institute	Snake River Waterkeeper	Upper Valley Land Trust
Coastal Watershed Institute	James Hawkings, Biologist	Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development	Sonoran Institute	USC Sea Grant
Colorado Open Lands	Kent Land Trust	Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition	Southern Interior Land Trust	USDA Forest Service
Colorado West Land Trust	KUNC Community Radio for Northern Colorado	Oregon State University	Steven Hawley, Filmmaker	Wildlife Conservation Society
Columbia Land Conservancy	Land Conservancy of New Jersey	Pacific Rivers	Surfrider Foundation	William Penn Foundation
Columbia Riverkeeper	Lauren Owens Lambert, Photographer/ Videographer	Peconic BayKeeper	Teton Raptor Center	Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium	Lenz Photography	Penn Future	The Bay Foundation	Wolf Conservation Center
Conservancy of Southwest Florida	Living Desert Zoo & Gardens State Park	Pennsylvania Environmental Council	The Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed	Yampa Valley Land Trust
Conservation Law Foundation			The Everglades Foundation	
Dave Showalter Nature Photography			The Nature Conservancy - Connecticut	
Delaware River Basin Commission			The Nature Conservancy - Illinois	

"MAN MUST RISE ABOVE THE EARTH – TO THE TOP OF THE ATMOSPHERE AND BEYOND – FOR ONLY THUS WILL HE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE WORLD IN WHICH HE LIVES." – SOCRATES



Preparing to fly near Lake Powell. *Erin Kunkel*

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GET IN TOUCH WITH LIGHTHAWK

LightHawk is headquartered in Fort Collins, Colorado
Mail Service: PO Box 913239, Denver, CO 80291
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LightHawk is proud to partner with these organizations.



OUR FINANCES

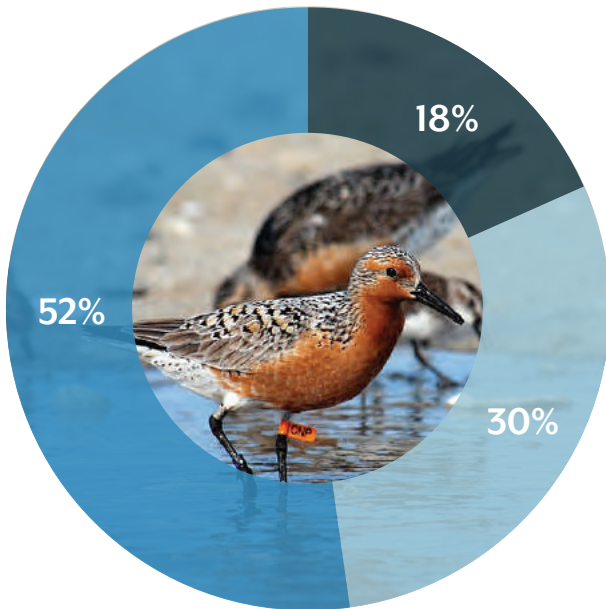
Every penny of our revenue comes from the generosity of individual donors, foundations, and partners as shown below. About one-third of all our support is a result of our volunteer pilots donating their plane, fuel, and time.

One of LightHawk's fundamental principles is that every expense is evaluated and must help us achieve our mission. We allocate every dollar of our expenses to create successful conservation outcomes.

CONTRIBUTED REVENUE

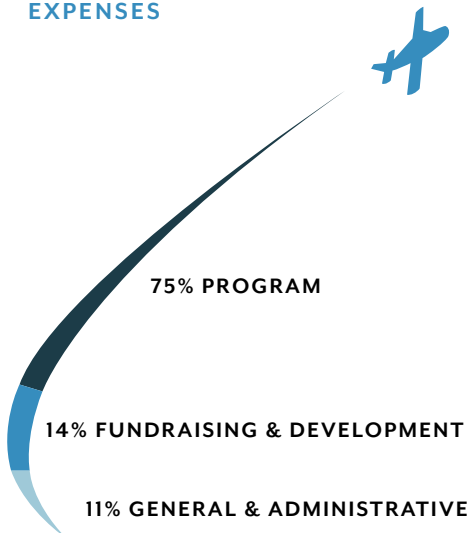
During FY 2019 LightHawk received \$1,992,958 from foundations, in-kind gifts, and generous donors like you. You enabled LightHawk to achieve the conservation successes shown in this annual report. Thank you!

SUPPORT AND REVENUE



FOUNDATION & PARTNER GRANTS INDIVIDUALS DONATED FLIGHTS & SERVICES

EXPENSES



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FISCAL YEAR ENDING: MARCH 31, 2019

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Individual contributions \$1,034,714
Organizational contributions \$365,125
Donated services and materials \$593,119
Other revenue, interest and dividends \$19,754
Realized and unrealized gain on investments -\$11,409
Total Support and Revenue \$2,001,303

EXPENSES

Program - LightHawk costs \$825,109
Program - Volunteer Pilot donated flight services \$557,988
Fundraising and Donor Communications \$254,473
General and Administration \$204,356
Total Expenses \$1,841,926
Change in net assets \$159,378
Net assets, beginning of year \$1,894,885
Net assets, end of year \$2,054,262

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents \$1,089,191
Unconditional promises to give \$75,116
Prepaid expenses \$30,597
Endowment investments \$934,058
Property and equipment \$1,040
Total Assets \$2,130,002

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable \$75,740
Total Liabilities \$75,740

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted \$997,325
Temporarily restricted \$522,817
Permanently restricted \$534,120
Total Net Assets \$2,054,262
Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$2,130,002

Note: These figures are preliminary. Full audited statements will be available once completed at lighthawk.org

**26 FOUNDATION
SUPPORTERS**

**460 INDIVIDUAL
GIFTS**

ON THE COVER

Delaware Bay, part of LightHawk's Delaware River Flagship Project.
Jonathan Milne. VP Mike McNamara

BACK COVER

Monitoring Crested Butte Land Trust easements in Colorado. *Jerry Clark. VP Jim Grady*

LIGHTHAWK ACCELERATES CONSERVATION THROUGH THE POWERFUL PERSPECTIVE OF FLIGHT. JOIN US!

*"The airplane has unveiled for us the true face of the earth."
— Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Wind, Sand, and Stars*

GIVE TO LIGHTHAWK

Your gift will move conservation at the speed of flight, and that's what the earth needs most right now. Please give.

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Our aviation conservation experts are ready to help your organization achieve more. Flights are entirely free for qualified partners.

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