A YEAR OF RESILIENCE

2021

Climate

Oceans

Landschapes

Coastlines

Waterways

Species Survival
Dear fellow conservationists,

Like other anniversaries, the occasion of an Annual Report offers the opportunity to reflect on the passage of time and a reckoning of impact. For LightHawk, fiscal year 2021 – a second year shaped by Covid-19 – was a time of responsiveness, flexibility and of continued flights that accelerated conservation outcomes for change-makers, habitat and landscape monitoring, and endangered species.

It was a year marked by loss, too. The LightHawk family was not untouched by the pandemic and we lost 10 friends, leaders and pilots, including our Board Chair, Brigadier General Lawrence ‘Bud’ Sittig.

When I wrote last year’s introduction, I was naive enough to imagine that by this time this year, the world would be back to business as usual. And at some levels, it is. We ended the period flying over 90% of missions compared to the previous year. New volunteer pilots joined our ranks and we gained another director on our board. We’ve welcomed new staff and gratefully thanked retiring staff. We flew in support of our critical Flagship Projects in the Delaware, Everglades and Colorado River and coastal missions evaluating climate change and drought. LightHawk flights made impactful “just in time” differences in endangered species transports, filling a critical gap created when other options were not available. We are fiscally sound and entering into a thoughtful strategic planning process to propel our next 40-plus years to sustainability.

Our flight path may encounter some continued “rough air” ahead – but we’ve weathered the current storm well and are prepared for the future thanks to support from people like you. LightHawk is 100% donor-supported. Thank you for your trust in us and for believing in our conservation mission.

With warm regards,

Michele Rutledge,
Chief Executive Officer
Dear donors, partners, volunteer pilots and colleagues,

While 2021 saw this country and the world facing many problems and issues, it has become clear that one of the biggest, most complicated and long-term challenges is preserving a habitable environment. The need to reduce the devastating impact of climate change and degradation of the natural world has never been more important. Never has LightHawk’s mission of conservation been more urgent or timely. Never has your involvement with LightHawk been more crucial.

In fulfilling LightHawk’s mission this past year, the leadership, staff and volunteer pilot corps displayed impressive determination, creativity and resilience, achieving significant conservation outcomes and flying over 90% of the number of missions flown the previous year. It has not been easy. Many of our pilots could not fly and we could not carry our partners as passengers. We lost Bud Sittig, our board chair, and my good friend, to Covid-19. LightHawk moved to a totally distributed organization model with staff in nine different states. We spent a lot of time on video calls.

Despite these obstacles, LightHawk continued to prove that aviation can advance conservation in many ways. Our team developed new techniques for video monitoring and improving endangered species transport, just to mention a few. We also added new senior staff, pilots and board members. At this critical time, LightHawk is now positioned to grow and play an even larger role in protecting the environment. We couldn’t do that without your continued support, which we greatly value and appreciate.

Take care and stay safe.

Jim Becker
LightHawk Board of Directors Chairperson
LIGHTHAWK’S YEAR OF RESILIENCE

The 2020-2021 year was one characterized by resilience for LightHawk. The organization faced new challenges and also focused more heavily on work around climate resilience. As climate change creates new and lasting impacts on our environment, it is important to work toward conservation strategies to support a sustainable future for humans and other species.

In the same way, LightHawk was forced to adapt the way it flies missions in a year which saw significant barriers to normal operations due to the global Covid-19 pandemic. Flights that once had scientist passengers were now being flown solo with mounted high-definition cameras collecting important data for later review. The conditions of the past year required LightHawk to find new ways to accomplish conservation goals while maintaining the safety of both our volunteer pilots and partners.

We were also able to fly a significant number of endangered species to new homes throughout the year. From California condors to Mexican and red wolves, LightHawk pilots helped preserve endangered species and return them to their natural habitats. As climate change continues to impact the natural homes for these species, LightHawk’s ability to quickly and safely transport endangered wildlife will become increasingly valuable for species survival.

The lessons learned this year will allow LightHawk to improve its resilience, continue flying missions and keep saving the world, one flight at a time.

CLIMATE

The effects of climate change are impacting the environment in many ways. As species adapt to new climate realities, they shift locations in search of more suitable habitat and food. Preserving a wide range of environments is important to promote a diversity of plants and animals. Community planners, scientists, and decision makers must consider changing environmental conditions as they develop long-range plans for growth and sustainability.

CONSERVING LANDSCAPES

Healthy landscapes are crucial to our well-being and nature’s ability to thrive. LightHawk flies to conserve critical and sensitive landscapes, their ecosystems and the wildlife that call them home both now and in the future. We address threats that would cause damage, advocate for science-based land management and seek to increase the amount of public and private land conserved to be enjoyed by current and future generations.
WATERWAYS

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 human communities thriving. We work to restore altered river systems to their native states, protect them from pollution, sedimentation and diversion, and safeguard the integrity of our drinking water.

OCEANS/COASTLINES

Thriving oceans and coastlines are home to incredible life and provide a bounty of food and other benefits for humans. LightHawk missions fly to protect sensitive coastlines, estuaries, oceans and sea life. The flights monitor the health of marine protected areas, work to increase safeguards, show the existing and potential impacts of climate change and shine a light on pollution or other damage to these life-sustaining areas. Coastal community planners use this information to plan for sea level rise and identify critical public infrastructure (roads, bridges, water, and sewer systems, etc.) that may be in harm’s way and require long-term planning.

SPECIES SURVIVAL

Protecting endangered animals from extinction is our enduring responsibility. In cases where human intervention is required for populations to recover, animals must be transported between captive breeding or rehabilitation centers and the wild. Each animal is incredibly valuable because of their limited numbers and amount of effort invested. Having safe and efficient transportation that minimizes stress to the animals is a key component to recovery programs.
Covid-19 created challenges for both our organization as well as for our partners. With a focus on resilience, we added new tools to our toolbox. Together with LightHawk volunteer pilots, we developed new methods of data and imagery collection, benefiting our partners both now and into the future. Our missions covered a wide range of conservation goals and contributed to the survival of endangered species.

LightHawk’s most significant accomplishments this year were in our work on California Condor recovery, White Abalone transports, the mega-drought’s impact on the Colorado River Basin, easement monitoring, video/imagery collection for partner fundraising efforts and Mexican and red wolf transports.

CALIFORNIA CONDOR RECOVERY

LightHawk’s work with partners in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s California Condor Recovery Program was more critical than ever this year. With field biologists’ activities severely limited due to Covid-19 restrictions, several aerial telemetry flights enabled staff with the Santa Barbara Zoo and Pinnacles National Park to locate 47 birds, including several that had been missing for weeks. We also successfully transported four juveniles from Idaho’s Peregrine Fund to be released into the wild in California. And with just one day’s notice, we were able to transport a condor with a broken leg from the Peregrine Fund to a veterinary specialist several hundred miles away for emergency surgery.

LightHawk pilots flew with radio telemetry gear and mounted cameras to help scientists track birds tagged with radio transmitters. This allowed scientists to continue monitoring condors during periods when LightHawk could not fly them as passengers.

All of these flights were extremely valuable for the survival of this important species. Without LightHawk, it would be very difficult for our partners to locate missing condors, transport birds to be released and get injured birds to veterinarians.

“I want to start off by saying thank you so much to everyone involved in helping our California condor, Takihin (#139). LightHawk is an amazing partner to have and we could not have gotten her to Pullman so smoothly without them.”

– Leah Medley
Propagation Specialist at The Peregrine Fund
WHITE ABALONE

For a few hours this year, there were more white abalone in the sky than were left in the ocean. Five flights in partnership with The Bay Foundation and UC Davis’ Bodega Marine Lab successfully transported a total of 16,402 endangered white abalone to Southern California for release in restored kelp forests and rocky reefs where they will contribute to the recovery of their species. The Bay Foundation’s Southern California White Abalone Restoration Project is part of a statewide collaboration dedicated to the restoration of federally endangered white abalone. Once a key player as grazers and ecosystem engineers in coastal waters ranging from Point Conception, California to Baja California, Mexico, white abalone are a NOAA “Species in the Spotlight” – one of eight species considered among the most at risk of extinction in the near future. Abalone graze on kelp plants that inhabit some of the most productive and biodiverse places on the planet. While this grazing may seem harmful, it actually increases kelp diversity by clearing patches of rocky surface so that multiple kelp species can flourish. The increase in kelp diversity translates to an increase in diversity of fish and other animals that depend on kelp forest habitat. LightHawk’s flights allow biologists to release white abalone into the wild and increase much-needed biodiversity in our oceans.
MEGADROUGHT AND WESTERN WATER RESOURCES

Climate change associated megadroughts throughout the Western United States are resulting in an urgent water crisis for millions of people. Mismanagement and unsustainable use are depleting linked, underground aquifers faster than they can be replenished. This is especially true in already over-allocated river systems like the Colorado River, where decreasing flows and continued population growth are pushing the system to the brink.

LightHawk is working throughout the basin to improve communication and inform decision-making about water resources to benefit people and the environment. In 2020 with conservation scientists and journalists grounded during the pandemic, LightHawk got creative with mounted camera systems to capture photos and video of critical water issues. This included LightHawk pilots gathering imagery for a Water for Arizona Coalition video production about industrial farming impacts in western Arizona (La Paz and Mohave counties) where unregulated and unmeasured groundwater pumping is occurring. Flights also led to an article that ran in The Guardian Newspapers, titled “Mega-dairies, disappearing wells, and Arizona’s deepening water crisis.” LightHawk pilots documented the area of the proposed Lake Powell pipeline and drought-impacted areas of the headwaters of the Colorado River, Lake Powell, Lake Mead, Yampa and Green Rivers with American Rivers and The Water Desk, an organization dedicated to increasing the volume, depth and power of journalism connected to Western water issues. Finally, a suite of flights over the Verde River with The Nature Conservancy will be featured in a virtual aerial tour of the river to engage diverse partners in the Valley of the Sun (Phoenix Metro area) to invest in the health of their watershed.

LIGHTHAWK AND NORTHEAST WILDERNESS TRUST

Faced with the daunting prospect of raising critical funds during a pandemic, the Northeast Wilderness Trust turned to LightHawk to help raise nearly $1 million for land preservation in western Maine. LightHawk’s volunteer pilot flew over Redington Mountain to gather high-quality video that was used in a fundraising production featured on our partner’s website, in an electronic newsletter and a social media fundraising campaign. “We’re pleased to report that we have now

“We worked closely with Lighthawk to successfully execute a pair of video projects this past year by mounting remote-controlled cameras outside the plane and flying the routes we needed. Lighthawk continually prioritizes the need to get these compelling images for our work, and is always enthusiastic to help in any way they can. In short, Lighthawk is an excellent partner for our conservation communications needs.”

— Sinjin Eberle
American Rivers

“...the chance of the abalone surviving transport was greatly increased by LightHawk flying the abalone from Sonoma County to San Diego. If it wasn’t for LightHawk, we would have had to drive the animals which can result in higher mortality due to the long duration of the drive.”

— Kathy Swiney
NOAA SW Fisheries Science Center
met our funding goal for that project and the video footage was a wonderful component, inspiring donors to give by bringing to life the landscape their funds would protect in a way that words and still imagery could not,” said Northeast Wilderness Trust Outreach Coordinator Sophia Veltrop.

Redington Mountain is a unique habitat that is a part of a 170,000-acre forest block in the high peaks region of the state. Securing this landscape helped protect a rare forest type known as Heart-Leaved Birch Subalpine Forest. These forests are also critical for species such as the Canada lynx, moose and black bear. The 2.7 miles of streams are critical for ensuring that endangered Atlantic Salmon and native Brook trout have suitable habitat for breeding. In an era of climate change concerns, the 3,400-acre Redington Wilderness Sanctuary will also provide significant carbon capture capacity as the forests continue to grow.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT MONITORING

While raising money for land acquisitions was complicated, imagine trying to monitor 675 conservation easements during a year when staff was limited in their ability to conduct annual monitoring because of concerns around Covid-19. LightHawk teamed up with the Columbia Land Conservancy and the Upper Valley Land Trust to do just that. In this challenging year, we monitored over 85,000 acres of conserved lands, saving both partners a combined 1,326 hours of staff time. With each hour of flight we conducted, we saved nearly 32 hours of conservation partner staff time. In dollars, LightHawk’s involvement saved these two partners more than $32,000. We didn’t stop there either. In convening both partners, we were also able to create a new protocol for aerial monitoring with video technology that will be useful for conservation partners across the country.

WOLVES

Mexican wolves were considered extinct in the wild until their reintroduction in 1998 in Arizona and New Mexico. Over the past decade, LightHawk has transported a total of 98 Mexican wolves for breeding and release into the wild in an effort to increase the population and maintain the genetic diversity of this recovering, but still endangered, wild population. Until last year, wolves transported by LightHawk were almost all adults. In 2020, we embarked on an exciting new part of the process, flying captive-born pups for placement into wild dens. This practice is called cross-fostering. A month before whelping (births) began, the United States began closing down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Eighteen female Mexican wolves at facilities throughout the country were pregnant with litters available to foster into the wild. With commercial flights canceling nationwide, LightHawk became essential in making cross-fostering possible by providing customized flights to minimize the amount of time the pups are away from a mother. Despite myriad challenges, in the spring of 2020, one LightHawk volunteer pilot transported seven captive-born pups into the wild on two flights.

Later in the fall, we broke records again flying 12 adult wolves for captive breeding between seven facilities nationwide on two flights. Linda Moore, a member of the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan said, “I really challenged LightHawk when I came up with this complicated plan to move seven wolves with one round-trip flight. But of course LightHawk came through and delivered with the help of a very dedicated volunteer pilot! ...I can’t speak highly enough of the LightHawk team and the work they do!”

“I don’t think fosters would have happened this year without LightHawk. They provided the momentum and means, that even in a pandemic, allowed us to push conservation efforts forward. Their efforts were incredibly impressive. This was an epic success. Not only did we manage to somehow still foster during a world-wide pandemic, but we broke the record for pups placed into the wild.”

Regina Mossotti
Director of Animal Care and Conservation
Endangered Wolf Center
VOLUNTEER PILOTS

Nadim Abuhaidar*
David Acker
Kenneth Adelman
Gabrielle Adelman
Jim Afinowich
Terry Alberta
Stephen W Allsop
Thomas AmRhein
Eric Anderson
John Anson
Paul Armstrong
Ralph Arwood
James Averett*
John Baker
Daniel Barley
Courtney Barnhorst
Michael Baum
Greg Bedinger
Robert Bender*
Milton Bennett
Jon Berman
Jay Beveridge
Ernie Bitten
Brent Blue
John Bone
Chris Bonter
Zach Border
Blair Bouchier
Chris Boyer
William Brine
Norman Brod
Jason Brooks
Phil Brown
Steven Brown
Tom Bryant
James Buck
Eileen Burger
Gregory Burnett
Brandon Butsick*
Jim Cameron
Anthony Carson
Linda Chism*
John Chlopek
Scott Cianchette*
Bob Cipollari*
Frederick Colby
David Cole
Peter Colman
David Comarow
Wayne Connor
Denise Corcoran
Robert Costello
James Crawford
Charles Crinnian
Warren Dean*
Matthew Debshi
Edward DeCastro
Mark Dedon
Thomas Dillon
Reg Dowdall
Patrick Andrew
Dunigan
Rick Durden
Joseph DuRousseau
Jerry Edgerton
Noam Eisen*
James Elegante
C. Rudy Engholm*
Jon Enge
Daniel Evans
Jeffrey Fain
William Faulkner
Barbara Filkins*
Richard Filson
Kurt Fischer*
Joseph Fischetti
Richard Fisher
Dennis Fitzpatrick
Eric Sandberg
Fogel
Aaron Faster
Kenneth Foster
John French*
Jamie Gamble
Mark Gaponoff
Bette Gardner
Steven Garman
Peter Geiler
Lee Gerstein
Clifford Gill
Bob Gill
Martin Goldfarb
Donald Goodman*
Reg Goodwin
Peter Gordon
Shane Gorman
Lane Gormley*
Kelly Gottlieb
Emil Gould
James Grady*
Eric Grant
Ney Grant
Richard Greenawald
Howard Greenberg
David Grimm
Thomas Haas*
Hunter Handsfield*
Douglas Harford
David Harmitchek
Barry Harper*
David Harris
Rusty Harrison*
John Hart
Mike Hart
Benjamin Harvey
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Michael Jesch
Dean Johnson
Kirk Johnson
Thomas Jordan
John Kamburoff
Sidney Katin
Jerry Karlsberg
Joe Keeton
Chris Keithly
Robert Keller
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Martha King
Steve Kiss
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Alice Kottmyer
Jason Kozak*
David Krahm
David Kunkel
Nathan Kurk
John Kusianovich
Paul Kutler
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Fred Lago
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Jonathan Lampitt
Robert Lange
Michael Langston*
Timothy Lapage
Andreas Lauschke
Tom LeCompte
John-Michael Lee
Ray Lee
Ted Leenerts
Roy Lewallen*
Jeremy Lezin
Todd Libke
Gary Lickle
Ferry Lindsay
Robert Lobor
Brian Locumoto
Jack Long*
Allen Low
Larry Lowenkron
Bavil Lukes
Douglas Lumgair
Ryan Lunde
Matthew Machen
Brian MacNamara
Jeannne MacPherson
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Mark Mantei
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Carl Mattson
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Mike McNamara
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Richard McSpadden
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David Morrison
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Wayne Munson
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Gordon Murray
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Val Nasano*
Ken Newbury*
Janice Newman
Bill Nicolai
Jane Nicolai
Peter Niewierski
Paul Novak
Gerold Noyes
Geoffrey R. Nye
Paul O’Bagy
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Patrick Paap
Robert Panebianco*
Alejandro Parra
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John Plaza
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Alan Kinback*
John King
Martha King
Steve Kiss
Jim Knowles
Richard Koril*
Alice Kottmyer
Jason Kozak*
David Krahm
David Kunkel
Nathan Kurk
John Kusianovich
Paul Kutler
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Wolfgang Meyn
David Miller
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Anne Minder
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David Morrison
Fredric Moskol
Wayne Munson
Russell Munson
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Gregory Paulin
Larry Petro
Steve Phillabaum
Ben Pierce
John Plaza
Steven Poirot
Geoff Pope
Stephen Powell
Mike Poznansky
R Daniel Prentiss
John Prisuc*
William Psaledakis
Sandy Quillen
Bruce Ray
Joe Reaves
Tomek Regev
Rex Reynolds
PILOT AWARDS

Spirit of LightHawk Award
Awarded to a pilot who ranks among the highest in total hours, is outstanding to work with, and represents the very best of our volunteer pilot corps.

Steve Meyer

Bill & Betty Rockwell Award
Awarded to a pilot who embodies the generous spirit and flexibility of Bill Rockwell, an unselfish soul always willing to fly the extra mile.

Mike Schroeder

Rookie of the Year
Awarded to a pilot who joined LightHawk during the preceding year and immediately began making contributions to the organization.

Jim Schmidt

Carpenter Award
Awarded to the pilot who flew the most in service of LightHawk in their own aircraft during the prior year.

Will Worthington

President’s Award
Awarded to a pilot who embodies the true spirit of volunteerism, going above and beyond the call of duty, with contagious enthusiasm and exemplary skills.

Wayne McClelland

PLATINUM PILOTS

15 years
Val Tollefson
David Murphy
Daniel Evans
Doug Monger

25 years
Jane Roosevelt
Reg Goodwin
Dick Walker

30 years
Milton Bennett

20 years
Tim La Page
Steven Garman
Ed Steinman
Lawrence ‘Bud’ Sittig
Bud Sittig was a larger-than-life leader. He was, as Jim Becker recounted, “a pilot’s pilot having the unusual distinction of having a distinguished career in military, commercial and general aviation.” Bud joined LightHawk in 2012, first as a volunteer pilot, then as a member of the Board of Directors in 2013. Bud flew 25 missions during his service to LightHawk and helped recruit new volunteer pilots. As Board Chair, Bud was at the forefront of recruiting new Directors and senior staff, engaging volunteer pilots and fundraising for LightHawk. His leadership is deeply missed.”

Steve Knaebel
Steve Knaebel was a former LightHawk volunteer pilot and board member. In addition to his formal roles at LightHawk, Steve was a supporter, coach, mentor and friend. He was also a staunch advocate for environmental protection, especially in Latin America. Throughout his time at LightHawk, (which spanned decades) Steve’s congenial personality, aviation expertise and valuable leadership touched many people and improved our organization. More than once, Steve swooped in to save the day for LightHawk. He is greatly missed.

Mark Roberts
John Feagin
Paul Mattson
Key Dismukes
Gerry Whitley
James Averett
Bob Peterson
DONOR SPOTLIGHT

David and Gale Kunkel

When considering David and Gale Kunkel’s impact on LightHawk, the headline for their inspirational story would read “Big Ideas, Big Smiles and Big Hearts.” David contributes his expertise to LightHawk’s sustainable future through Finance and Endowment Committees frequently challenging board members and staff to consider emerging opportunities and measures of success. He does this with the perspective of hundreds of flight hours as a Volunteer Pilot. In a year of Zoom calls, David and Gale accepted a proposal last December to sponsor match funding for The Climb Campaign. With big smiles, Gale and David gladly agreed and continually cheered staff on during the campaign generating more than $50,000 in the final quarter. This sponsorship, above and beyond their annual giving, made a difference in a funding year substantially impacted by the pandemic. Whether the story is about hosting events or sharing their LightHawk story with prospective donors, their big hearts will always be the lead and we are always grateful for their support.

Walton Family Foundation

For the Walton Family Foundation, having a robust vision is just as important as having strategies to get there. To help achieve their vision for a resilient Colorado River ecosystem, WFF has invested in LightHawk’s team for multiple years. Our flight campaigns, designed and carried out in coordination with other WFF grantees, engage experts and decision makers who are working to keep the river and the human and wildlife communities that depend on it, healthy for generations to come. To get enough water in the right places at the right time to support the environment and human well-being is a monumental task and one that the Walton Family Foundation has invested in significantly.
OUR DONORS

$50,000 and Above
Appleby Foundation
Cornell Douglas Foundation
David and Gale Kunkel
Thomas W. Haas Foundation
Walton Family Foundation
William Penn Foundation

$10,000 - $49,999
The Batchelor Foundation, Inc.
Benedict Family Foundation
The Eucalyptus Foundation
Jamie and Christine Gamble
Marisla Foundation
Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust
RiverStyx Foundation
Celia P. Taylor
The Volgenau Foundation
Josh and Becky Marvil and WELWE Foundation
Wyncote Foundation Northwest

$1,500 - $9,999
Jim Becker and Mimi Macksoud
Blyler-Thompson Charitable Fund
Ralph Britton
Mr. and Mrs. Emmett
Lucretia W. Evans
Mark and Willow Follett
ForeFlight
The George F. Baker Trust
Google, Inc.
Jack and Carolyn Long
Ray Lee and Sue Morgensen
John Newell
Michele and Howard Rutledge
Wendy Shattil - Share the View Nature Photo Contest
Lawrence and Fran Sittig
Philip M. Walker and Cheryl A. Tritt
Tracey Weisberg
The Wildlife Forever Fund

$500 - $1,499
Nadim and Maggie Abuhaider
Agricultural Stewardship Association
James Andrews
Ralph Arwood
Greg Bedinger and Jan Mulder
Reinier and Nancy Beeuwkes
The Benevity Community Impact Fund

Bruce Berger
Matthew Berman
Ryan Boggs
Geoffrey and Martha Clark
Kitty Collins
Columbia Land Conservancy
Robert and Susan Crenshaw
Deborah and William Roach Trust
Delaware River Basin Commission
Rudy and Grace Engholm
Fanwood Foundation West
William and Gail Faulkner
Hamill Family Foundation
Christina Heinle
Karen Holmgren
John and Elaine French Family Foundation
Robert and Carol Keller via Keller Family Fund, a donor advised fund of the Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties
Ronald Labrecque
Jeaninne Leeper
Pamela Lichy
Garrison Lickle
Richard Lindsey
Mark Linnemann
Allen R. Low and Berta Codoner Low
Eri Manzitto-Tripp
Farwell Smith and Linda McMullen
Christina and Douglas McVie
Peter and Nancy Mickelsen
Jessica Naughton
Jane and Bill Nicolai
Nathaniel O. Owings
P.E.A.C.E. Awareness Foundation
Bruce Ray
Lisa and Steve Robertson
John and Margaret Sandvig
Barbara Sweet
Emily V. Wade
Sue Watson and The Sons of Thunder Fund
Terri Watson and Kimi Harrison
David Wild
Jim and Mary Winn
Amy Woodworth

$250 - $499
Aviation Supplies & Academics, Inc
Bryan Baker
Scott Allen Barber
Courtney and Andy Barnhorst
Laura and Arch Brown
Elaine Charkowski and Edward

Oberweiser
Jitze and Nancy Couperus
Thomas R. Crum
Richard and Karen Durden
J. Henry Fair
FracTracker Alliance
Kelly and Michael Gottlieb
Walter and Lisa Hanley
Bill Hunt
Suzanne Langley
Jason and Linda Lillegraven
James Matthews Jr.
Robert McKernan
Peter and Carlene Mennen
Mesker Park Zoo and Botanic Garden
Network for Good
Jay and Louise Noyes
Emilie Ryan and Clayton Fraser
Save the Scenic Santa Ritas
Charles Simenstad
Jochen Spengler and Elena De Angelis
Patricia C. Stein
John and Melody Taft
Tom and Sue Tuxill
Stephen Williams

$1 - $249
Thomas and Anita Adams
Mercedes Agogino
Rowene Aguirre-Medina and Roy G. Medina
Edwin Ahrens
Martin and Peggy Albert
Kerry Albright
AmazonSmile Foundation
Thomas AmRhein
Janice Anderson
Anonymous
Finina Aranez
Laurie Archer
Jim Astin
Lissa Barber
Joanne Barnes
John Bartholow
Scott Bates
Martin and MaryAnn Baumrind
Michael Beare
Laura Belcher
George and Anita Berlacher
Suzanne Blake
Penny L. Blubaugh
The Boeing Company
Joseph Bower
Ann Brennan
Kate and Don Breski
Mary Breski
Heather Burdick
Eileen Burger
R.G. and Sylvia Cardella
Eileen J. Carney
Bonnie Catena
Jonathan W. Chapman
John Chirtea
Margaret and Ron Claypool
Del and Linda Coolidge
Sharky Cornell
Seth Cothrun
Laura Cotts
Harold Craven
Diane Davidson
Reg Dowdall
Lee F. and Phoebe A. Driscoll Foundation
Benjamin Drummond
Kimberly Eckert
Noam Eisen
Abigail Faulkner
Charles S. Faulkner II
The Rich and Robbie Fisher Charitable Fund
Henry and Susan Flint
Jerry and Jeanne Fiorito
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Ronald French
Rene and Marilyn Fuentes
Kate and Kirk Gammill
Walter Gammill
Sharon Gaskill
Kathy Gauted
Lydia Garvey
The GE Foundation
Peter Geiler
Joseph Gerberg
Mark M. Giese
Janice Goldberg
Elaine R. Goldman
Donald and Natala Goodman
Sally Goodwin
P. Hawk Greenberg
Peter and Joanne Griesinger
Robert and Sharon Handelsman
Margaret and Thomas Hartman
Richard A. Horvitz
Phillip Huwiler
Robert and Tina Hyduke
Ann Iglesias
Paula Inhelder
Luther Irwin
Bruce and Karen Joffe
Kirk and Leslie Johnson
Patricia Jones
L. Christine Judson
Paula Katz
Catherine Kerkam
Patricia M. Kincaid
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Jacopo Lenzi
William and Louise Lidicker
Kurt Lieber
Thomas Ligon
Robert Linck and Leanne Klyza Linck
Lorraine Durka
Linda Lux
Theodore Lyman
Lucy MacLeitch
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Mind Garden, Inc.
Kevin Moore and Pingya Li Moore
Glenn C. Muhr
Russell W. Munson, Jr.
Diana Murray
Joel Myerson
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John and Lani Ochs
David and Terri Pagni
Stephen and Susann Paige
Lavonne Painter
Pershing - A BNY Mellon Company
Wayne Persons
Anita Peterson
Ann Peterson
Kathy Peterson
Michael Phillips
Chris Poehlmann
Curtis Pricer
George L.H. and Nancy Purvis
Edward J. Pushich
Janet Rollin
Polly Ross
Wendy Ross Beye
Tara Rowe
Howard and Candace Russell
Wayne Sayer
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Pierre F. Schlemel
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Sandy Steers
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Lida Teneva
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Walter Tingle
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Sophi Veltrop
Mark Wahl
Ric Watkins
Stephanie Wells
Dolores Welty
Sarah Werner
Richard and Kathleen Westcott
Jenna Whitehill
Barbara J. Wilhite
Beverly Williams
Page and Gail Williamson
Don Wolfe
Amanda Woodley
James A. Wood
Polly Wotherspoon
Bryan L. Wytherspoon
Claire Zugmeyer
Winston Wheeler

LightHawk also received several anonymous gifts. We appreciate donors' generosity and respect their request for privacy.

This list represents gifts received April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.
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 and Jan Mulder
Christopher and Jennifer Boyer
Robert and Susan Crenshaw
Rudy and Grace Engholm
Bob and Rose Francella
Jeff and Martha Hamilton
Jay and Louise Noyes
Ginny Paul
Lisa and Steve Robertson

Polly Ross
Beverly Steveson
Terri Watsom and Kimi Harrison
Brian Williams

For information and assistance on planned giving, please contact our Chief Advancement Officer at 970-797-9355, ext. 12.

GIVING IN MEMORY OF

Kerry Albright in memory of Jim Roush
Finina Aranez in memory of Key Dismukes
Greg Bedinger and Jan Mulder in memory of Robert E. Leeper
Greg Bedinger and Jan Mulder in memory of Bob Peterson
Laura Belcher in memory of Robert Ardisana
Kate and Don Breski in memory of Bob Ardisana
Mary Breski in memory of Bob Ardisana
Harold Craven in memory of Key Dismukes
Kate and Kirk Gammill in memory of Bob Peterson
Walter Gammill in memory of Robert L. Peterson
Kathy Gaudet in memory of R. Key Dismukes
Janice Goldberg in memory of Bob Ardisana
Walter and Lisa Hanley in memory of Robert Ardisana
Margaret and Thomas Hartman in memory of Robert Peterson
Ann Iglesias in memory of Bob Ardisana
Patricia Jones in memory of Key Dismukes
Jeannine Leeper in memory of Robert Leeper
Linda Lux in memory of F. Thomas Ledig
Josh and Becky Marvil in memory of Steve Knaebel
Ashley McLaughlin in memory of Robert Ardisana
Diana Murray in memory of Robert Ardisana
John Newell in memory of Edwina K. Nesbitt Newell
Jane and Bill Nicolai in memory of Steve Knaebel
Ann O’Connor in memory of Key Dismukes
Kathy Peterson in memory of Bob Peterson
Ann Peterson in memory of Bob Peterson
Curtis Pricer in memory of Robert Key Dismukes
Emilie Ryan and Clayton Fraser in memory of Steve Knaebel
Brian Schirmer in memory of Robert Ardisana
Bud and Fran Sittig in memory of Steve Knaebel
Bud and Fran Sittig in memory of Steve Paul
Dawn Sleva in memory of Robert Ardisana
Sue Watson in memory of Andrew Borg
Anonymous in memory of Jim Roush
Sarah Werner in memory of Jim Roush
Beverly Williams in memory of Bob Peterson

GIVING IN HONOR OF

Thomas and Anita Adams in honor of Jack Long
Greg Bedinger and Jan Mulder in honor of Christine Steele
Ryan Boggs in honor of David Kunkel
Ann Brennan in honor of Nik Brennan
Rudy and Grace Engholm in honor of Terri Watson & Emilie Ryan
John and Paula Foy in honor of C. Rudy Engholm
Phillip Huwiler in honor of Nana Obayashi.

David and Gale Kunkel in honor of Emilie Ryan
Chris Poehlmann in honor of Sonoma County CA environmental activist Jay Halcomb
Emilie Ryan and Clayton Fraser in honor of David and Gale Kunkel

Jenna Whitehill in honor of Douglas Egelston
Amy Woodworth in honor of David Kunkel
LightHawk Partners

7 Lakes Alliance
Agricultural Stewardship Association
Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative
American Rivers
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Berks Nature
Bodega Marine Laboratory
Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge - US Fish & Wildlife Service
Calusa Waterkeeper
Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
Chicago Zoological Society
Collier County Pollution Control
Colorado West Land Trust
Columbia Land Conservancy
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Conservation Law Foundation
Delaware Currents
Delaware Highlands Conservancy
Delaware River Basin Commission
Dickerson Park Zoo
Endangered Wolf Center
Food & Water Watch
Fossil Rim Wildlife Center
FracTracker Alliance
French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust
Friends of Ironwood Forest
Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Friends of the Upper Delaware River
George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center
Hudson Highlands Land Trust
Idaho Conservation League
International Crane Foundation
International Dark Sky Association
Jackson Hole Land Trust
Jefferson Land Trust
Long Live The Kings
Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Maryland Environmental Trust
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan
Mississippi River Network
Mono Lake Committee
Musconetcong Watershed Association
National Marine Sanctuaries
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Nature Trust of New Brunswick
Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife
New Mexico Friends of the River Otter
New Mexico Game & Fish
New Mexico PBS
Northeast Wilderness Trust
NYenvironcom
Open Space Institute
Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition
Oregon State University
Pinnacles Shores Conservation Coalition
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
Ricketts Conservation Foundation
Rig to Flip
Roger Williams Park Zoo
San Francisco Baykeeper
Santa Barbara Zoo
Save the Scenic Santa Ritas
Sedgwick County Zoo
Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility
Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter
Sky Island Alliance
Snake River Waterkeeper
Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center
National Parks Conservation Association
Sunriver Nature Center
Surfrider Foundation
Teton Raptor Center
The Bay Foundation
The Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed
The Guardian
The Land Conservancy of New Jersey
The Nature Conservancy - New Hampshire
The Nature Conservancy - Maine
The Nature Conservancy - Arizona
The Peregrine Fund
Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
University of Colorado-Center for Environmental Journalism
University Of Minnesota
Upper Valley Land Trust
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Farmland Trust
Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley
Western Colorado Alliance for Community Action
Western Resource Advocates
Western Rivers Conservancy
Wildlife Science Center
Wolf Conservation Center
LightHawk is entirely funded by the generous gifts of donors, foundations and partners. Their commitment to investment in the organization allows us to achieve significant conservation results. The relationships LightHawk has built with those who provide the financial support to keep the mission going have, in many cases, been built over more than 10 years. That continual support means LightHawk can count on a regular income stream, enabling us to address ongoing conservation challenges as well as emerging, urgent issues. LightHawk is dedicated to being responsible stewards of the gifts we receive. Every dollar spent reflects our commitment to transforming money received into conservation wins.

**Statement of Activities for the year ending on March 31, 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributed &amp; Granted Revenue</td>
<td>$933,909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated Services &amp; Materials</td>
<td>$743,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Investment (loss) income</td>
<td>$314,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$1,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support &amp; Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$1,993,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$1,497,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising and donor communications</td>
<td>$133,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and Administrative Services</td>
<td>$96,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$1,727,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>$265,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>$2,586,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
<td>$2,852,337</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statement of Financial Position for the year ending on March 31, 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$888,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconditional promises to give, current</td>
<td>$286,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconditional promises to give, net of current portion</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>$51,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and Equipment</td>
<td>$347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Investments</td>
<td>$1,127,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$3,053,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets, without donor restrictions</strong></td>
<td>$735,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets, with donor restrictions</strong></td>
<td>$2,116,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$201,115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Liabilities & Net Assets** $3,053,452

---

**OUR FINANCIALS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Jim Becker**, Chair, Bolton, Mass.

**Kimberly Eckert**, Vice Chair, Denver, Colo.

**Norissa Giangola**, Washington, D.C.

**David Kunkel**, Treasurer, Boulder, Colo.

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**Stephanie Wells**, Arvada, Colo.

**Brian Williams**, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
OUR MISSION
LightHawk accelerates conservation success through the powerful perspective of flight. LightHawk works to accelerate the pace of conservation across the U.S., Mexico and Canada. We choose to work in places where our unique perspective can make the greatest impact.

OUR STAFF
Chelsea Baird  
Development and Administrative Associate
Ryan Boggs  
Chief Program Officer
Clint Burson  
Strategic Communications Manager
Esther Duke  
Western Program Director
Audrey Ek-Psomas  
Eastern Program Coordinator
Cynthia Hartmann  
Chief Financial Officer
Suzanne Langley  
Chief Advancement Officer
Jonathan Milne  
Eastern Program Director
Lee Pagni  
Foundation Relations Manager
Michele Rutledge  
Chief Executive Officer
Christine Steele  
Western Program Coordinator

PHOTO CREDITS
Page 2-3: Ralph Arwood/LightHawk
Page 4-5 and 6-7: Alexander Heilner/LightHawk
Page 7 inset photos: Jonathan Milne/LightHawk, Santa Barbara Zoo, Richard McCraw/LightHawk, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Page 10-11: Ralph Lee Hopkins
Page 12: Scott Kranz
Page 19: Jerry Clark/LightHawk
Page 20: Alyssa Scott/LightHawk
As the end of the year approaches, we can look back on what has been a turbulent year for almost everyone. In the midst of uncertainty and challenges to how we work, your support meant more than ever this past year. LightHawk is 100% donor-funded and without the generosity of our supporters, our work would have to be scaled back, negatively impacting our partners.

This year, we have seen the state of our climate reach a critical point. LightHawk’s work conducting flights for partners and change-makers has never been more important than it is today.

Your gift will support our ability to plan flights with partners, help us attract new volunteer pilots and enable us to make a difference in important conservation efforts. Contributions to LightHawk ensure that partners and change-makers continue to access an aerial perspective, giving them the ability to see the big picture of conservation projects and make the best decisions for the future of our planet.

If you would like to support LightHawk before the end of the year, use the envelope included with your copy of this annual report or visit LightHawk’s online donation page at https://bit.ly/2021LHAnnualReport.

“We absolutely could not have done our work without LightHawk or our pilot, Lane! ...Thank you so much, LightHawk! Your organization is amazing, and your work is greatly appreciated!”

Alyssa Scott
San Juan County Marine Mammal Stranding Network
The Whale Museum