



ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022



FROM THE CEO

Dear Partners, Volunteer Pilots and Donors,

Every year that LightHawk puts together this Annual Report, it becomes clearer that dramatic action is necessary to conserve and protect this planet we all live on. If you are reading this report, you are wondering what you can do to help in this effort.

In fact, there are many ways individuals can advance the cause of conservation. Over 300 highly experienced pilots flying LightHawk missions show, on a daily basis, that one individual can make a difference. For more than 40 years, our volunteer pilots have been donating their time and aircraft to transport endangered species, monitor the environment and to make our conservation partners more effective and efficient. That's thousands of flights and tens of thousands of donated flight hours that have achieved hundreds of positive conservation outcomes aimed at preserving and enhancing the beauty, wonder and livability of our world. In monetary terms, that is tens of millions of dollars devoted to achieving a wide variety of conservation results. An impressive achievement indeed!

Those flights don't just happen. LightHawk's program managers are in regular communication with our conservation partners about their near-term and longer-term goals, often planning year-long programs. The actual flights are the result of LightHawk's flight coordinators working closely with our partners, our volunteer pilots and all the various individuals involved in the mission. It can take weeks of emails and phone calls to set flight parameters and get everyone lined up to meet at that same place, at the same time. As the flight is in progress, LightHawk staff monitors it through its successful completion. Our involvement does not end there. We follow up with both the volunteer pilot and conservation partner about the outcome of the mission and store that information and any pictures or video from the flight in our ever-growing database of conservation outcomes.

Providing the planning, coordination and logistical support to safely execute more than 200 flights a year is a serious task that has been accomplished by LightHawk for many years. This capability is made possible by the generous support of the individuals and institutions. These donations to LightHawk have a profound effect, enabling our staff and volunteer pilot corps to enhance the operations of hundreds of organizations and achieve significant conservation outcomes. LightHawk's mission grows more critical each year and we deeply appreciate the support of our donors and our volunteer pilots that makes this mission possible.

Over the next year LightHawk is planning to expand our operations into new areas and with new partners. With your continued support, we will grow aviation's role in achieving conservation success - increasing the rate and scale of projects across the country.

James R Becker

BY THE NUMBERS

248

Flights

110

Partners served

16

New Volunteer Pilots

810

Donated Flight Hours

Animals transported

5,700,000

White abalone

6,000

Kokanee salmon

976

Masked Bobwhite Quail

34

Black-footed ferrets

12

Aplomado falcons

11

Mexican wolf

9

Red wolf

3

California condor

2

Cheetah

An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. The foreground shows shallow, clear turquoise water. A narrow strip of green, vegetated land runs horizontally across the middle. Beyond this, the water deepens into a darker blue, with a few small white boats visible. The horizon is visible under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

2021/2022 HIGHLIGHTS

LightHawk completed another productive year in 2021/2022 with 248 flights completed. Each flight was carefully planned by LightHawk staff to produce the maximum impact with our conservation partners. Our team works with partners and volunteer pilots to coordinate flights that accelerate conservation results. What follows are some highlights from the past year that we're excited to share with you.

Photo by Robert Decker

Strengthening Partnerships

LightHawk has a long history of partnering with The Nature Conservancy throughout the United States. With similar mission statements, the partnership between our two organizations is a natural fit. LightHawk is able to provide the aviation resources that help The Nature Conservancy monitor conservation easements as well as observe/document other environmental issues they address. This year we had the opportunity to conduct a flight for a group of TNC staff, including CEO Jennifer Morris. The flight allowed them to see areas of Connecticut TNC has worked on marine and freshwater conservation as well as some forested lands along the Connecticut River. Viewing their work from the air gave Jennifer a better understanding of how the work TNC CT is doing fits in with the organization's national and global mission.



Photo by Marie Orisini Rosen

Conservation Easements

Conservation easements preserve valuable landscapes throughout the New England region. Easements can cover thousands of acres, making monitoring them from the ground difficult and time consuming. LightHawk flights are more efficient and effective for observing conditions across multiple easements in a short period of time. One partner indicated that monitoring two easement properties would take them more than 10 hours from the ground. From the air, they were able to document conditions on both properties in under an hour. In the last year, LightHawk has contributed to the monitoring of more than 40,000 acres, saving land trust partners approximately 650 hours of time. That extra time allows them to devote more resources to preserving additional landscapes for future generations.



“The flights were very useful to ASA in meeting our requirement of monitoring easement properties annually as part of our land trust accreditation, and our responsibility as Grantee. As the number of easements and acreage has grown over the past 30 years, it has become difficult and expensive to assign staff time to make annual ground visits to each property. The LightHawk flights are an efficient way to monitor each property and we greatly appreciate the donation of the pilot's time, use of their plane and fuel costs.

— Janet Britt, Agricultural Stewardship Association



Harmful Algal Blooms

Harmful algal blooms (HABs) occur on both coasts of the United States and LightHawk flights contributed to monitoring efforts in both California and Florida. Harmful algal blooms can produce extremely dangerous toxins that can sicken or kill people and animals, create dead zones in the water, raise treatment costs for drinking water and hurt industries that depend on clean water.

In Florida, LightHawk worked with the Everglades Foundation to capture images and video of blooms to bring greater attention to the issue and the importance of water management reforms. Our partnership with San Francisco Baykeeper included flights to capture imagery documenting the growth of HABs. These harmful algal blooms impair waterways, making them uninhabitable for fish and dangerous for humans. As global temperatures rise and coastal waters are warmed for longer proportions of each year, the risk of uncontrollable algal blooms increases. LightHawk flights are helping document this increasing threat to coastal environments and communities. Our flights resulted in multiple educational blog posts and videos shared with the public about the threats from HABs. The information gathered will also guide management plans in the future.

Colorado River Basin

The Colorado River is a key source of water for millions of people throughout the southwest United States. Overuse combined with a years-long mega-drought has created unprecedented strain on the entire water system. LightHawk flights have brought attention to the current conditions of Lake Mead and Lake Powell as well as the impacts felt all along the water system, including



Photo by Greg Paulin

in the Colorado River Delta. As we look forward, we expect to continue conducting flights over every section of the Colorado River, from its headwaters to the delta. In addition to conducting flights with our partners to study wildlife along and within the river system, we expect to conduct flights with legislators and policymakers from impacted states and agencies to help them better understand the impact their policies are having on the watershed.



Photo by Rebecca Bose

Mexican wolves

Since 2009, LightHawk has been part of transporting a number of different Mexican wolves across the country to find new homes in the wild or to increase genetic diversity in breeding programs. This year, LightHawk crossed a significant milestone in our work with Mexican wolf partners. LightHawk volunteer pilot Joe Keeton had the honor of transporting our 100th Mexican wolf. The wolf pups he was transporting came from the El Paso Zoo and were placed in a wild den in Arizona. LightHawk flights are ideal for these kinds of efforts as they allow for more direct trips, in temperature-controlled cabins, shortening time pups are away from a mother and lessening the stress they are under. Handlers are also able to hand-feed the pups in flight. Plus, the ability to use smaller, regional airports allows them to be delivered closer to their release site. All of these factors lead to better results and lower mortality rates, rebuilding an endangered population.



“Without the LightHawk flight, we would have driven the pups the five hours from El Paso to Arizona. This would have added significant time to the pups’ travel and increased the need for supplemental feeding and other human care. Whenever we can minimize those procedures by humans, the pups are less disturbed and risk fewer complications. This flight was a wonderful way to get the job done as safely and quickly as possible for the pups.”

— Victoria Milne, El Paso Zoo



USFWS Partner Award

We're proud to share with you that LightHawk received the External Partnership of the Year Award from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Southwest region, in large part due to our work helping restore the Mexican wolf, masked bobwhite quail, California condor and black-footed ferret populations. We work with USFWS on a number of issues, including endangered species survival. LightHawk volunteer pilots have flown all of these species and more over the years. Endangered species transport is a growing opportunity for the organization to significantly impact wildlife conservation.

Over the years...

LightHawk has flown a number of endangered species in an effort to restore these populations.

Those flights have included:

- 2,021 masked bobwhite quail
- 101 Mexican wolves, including a third year of cross-foster efforts (21 pups flown)
- 40 California condors and many additional flights for radio telemetry to locate these important birds
- 59 Black-footed ferrets for release into the wild






Photo by Jesus Salazar

Colorado River Delta shorebird survey

LightHawk collaborated with National Audubon Society to support aerial shorebird surveys in the Colorado River Delta. Together, we were able to conduct aerial counts of shorebirds, in areas of shorebird mudflat habitat within the Colorado River Delta, specifically the Upper and Lower Estuaries, including the Cienega de Santa Clara. At the same time, concurrent ground surveys were conducted at a subset of locations by Pronatura Noroeste.

National Audubon Society is working together with partners to envision and implement new ways to use the finite supply of water in the Colorado River Basin to secure habitat necessary for birds and wildlife, as well as people, for many years to come.

“These flights are a critical pairing to the shorebird surveys happening on the ground. They allow researchers to capture a snapshot for the Delta – to get a sense of how many shorebirds are in the system during a moment in time. One cannot survey an entire place at once, but this is about as good as one can do.”

– Chad Witko, Outreach Biologist, Migratory Bird Initiative, National Audubon Society

CLIMATE

New York aerial tour



LightHawk flights this year helped tell the story of how climate change is impacting coastal communities. Journalists from Newsy featured New York and Louisiana in coverage about the infrastructure demands communities are addressing due to the impacts of climate change. The New York flights were particularly challenging as it is a very busy and heavily controlled airspace. Sea level rise and larger, more frequent tropical storms and hurricanes are some of those impacts. These changes bring about challenges for coastal communities that have been built along the water. In New York, rising sea levels, coupled with seasonal storms have created the need for a new type of infrastructure to protect the city while maintaining the identity of a coastal city. Along the Gulf of Mexico, communities have seen the loss of coastal land due to hurricanes and the power of rising seas. There they've had to rethink how they manage water from the Mississippi River and have begun rebuilding coastal environments. LightHawk's flights in support of this story brought attention to the financial and infrastructure challenges faced by sea level rise resulting from climate change.



Surfrider Foundation

LightHawk continued its multi-year partnership with the Surfrider Foundation, conducting flights to document king tides along both coasts. The images and firsthand experiences support ongoing research

and planning for sea level rise and climate change impacts. The information gained on these flights helps advance our understanding of sea level rise impacts, identifies coastal areas that are likely to be first impacted, and helps plan for adaptation strategies.

Surfrider Foundation and coastal planners use this information to help better plan within coastal communities for sea level rise and, in particular, identify critical public infrastructure (roads, bridges, water and sewer systems, etc.) that may be in harm's way and require long term planning. Information is also shared with media and resource agencies to help raise public awareness.

"We are trying to raise awareness about the need to prepare for higher seas. It was extremely helpful to take the mayor's policy advisor over specific areas of San Diego to illustrate just how serious the loss of beaches and relevant trade-offs will be."

*– Laura Walsh, Surfrider Foundation
San Diego*

An aerial photograph of a coastal town. A river or inlet flows through the center, bordered by dense residential development with many houses and a prominent white water tower. The foreground is dominated by vast, green marshlands with winding water channels. The sky is clear and blue.

LOOKING AHEAD

New Flights.

New Regions.

New Opportunities.

As we soar into a new year, LightHawk will continue working with our partners to advance important conservation projects. We are also working with new partners to expand the areas our flights serve. As we look to the future, we look to grow as an organization, working with historic partners as well as building relationships with new ones to address environmental issues across the country. What follows are just a few of the projects we are looking forward to working on over the next year.



Photo by Dean Klinkenberg

Upper Mississippi

Early in 2022 LightHawk conducted flights along the upper Mississippi with the National Caucus for Environmental Legislators (NCEL). While still in its early stages, we are building out work along this huge and important river system. We are building on prior work and utilizing networks LightHawk staff are involved with in order to expand opportunities for conservation flights in this area. The NCEL is a nationwide nonpartisan and non-lobbying network for more than 1,200 state legislators that coordinates shared learning and action on environmental issues. As major flooding events are projected to become more prominent, the livelihood of countless communities, ecosystem health, and overall water quality are severely jeopardized. Each of these flooding events damages property, endangers human life, and washes a host of nutrients and chemicals into the river. These effects are basin-wide and accumulate throughout the river's path resulting in a dangerous mix of pollutants impacting the river and Gulf of Mexico. However, policy can play a large role in promoting floodplain resiliency and protecting the mighty Mississippi. By offering conservation flights with an expert guide, we can build the interest and understanding of legislators in working on watershed health.



Colorado River Flights

The Colorado River is a key source of water for millions of people throughout the southwest United States. Overuse combined with a years-long mega-drought has created unprecedented strain on the entire water system. LightHawk flights have brought attention to the current conditions of Lake Mead and Lake Powell as well as the impacts felt all along the water system, including in the Colorado River Delta. As we look forward, we expect to continue conducting flights over every section of the Colorado River, from its headwaters to the delta. In addition to conducting flights with our partners to study wildlife along and within the river system, we expect to conduct flights with legislators and policymakers from impacted states and agencies to help them better understand the impact their policies are having on the watershed.

We are also working with partners to create a virtual aerial tour of key points along the Colorado River. Featuring aerial footage paired with on-the-ground footage with local representatives, the video will highlight the challenges and opportunities for the river system and how they impact the surrounding communities. We look forward to sharing this video with our supporters and the public in the coming year.

Photo by Alexander Heilner

Appalachian Trail

The Appalachian Trail is a national treasure, stretching from Georgia to Maine, over almost 2,200 miles and crossing 14 different states. Over the years, LightHawk flights have flown over many sections of the trail. This year we will be exploring an expansion of those efforts. We expect to fly more stakeholders to let them see areas of development and encroachment near the trail in comparison to areas where it does not exist. We intend to conduct more flights for policymakers and agency staff to understand this more clearly.

As part of this effort, LightHawk will strive to create a holistic plan for flights along the entire trail rather than being limited to specific sections. This will create better understanding of the issues facing the trail and allow for better planning. Expanded Appalachian Trail efforts will be conducted with existing LightHawk partners while new opportunities are identified.

Masked bobwhite quail



WILDLIFE

Photo by Dan L. Reinking

LightHawk will be entering our third year transporting masked bobwhite quail. The current wild population of masked bobwhite on Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge is estimated to be about 100-200 following three years of releases. Found nowhere else in the United States, this attractive and distinct subspecies of the northern bobwhite is native only to extreme southern Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. The masked bobwhite was discovered and described from Arizona and Sonora in the late 1800s shortly before overgrazing of its desert grassland coupled with extreme drought rendered it extinct in the United States. This effort will aid the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and our valuable partners with the mission of recovering this endangered species and restoring the fourth species of quail native to southern Arizona.

The relatively short flight (as compared to the 20 hours required for vehicle transport), will allow chicks to arrive in better physical condition, leading to lower chick mortality, and higher overall survival rate after release. We supported this project in 2020, and our partners benefited from much quicker and less stressful travel, resulting in a 0% mortality rate (compared to 5-7% when transporting by vehicle). Flights with LightHawk will benefit recovery efforts, as more birds surviving in the wild and reproducing will establish self-sustaining populations more quickly. The released birds will be monitored, further contributing to the knowledge of the unique subspecies and its habitat needs to inform habitat management actions on the refuge and for our partners in Mexico.

Expansion of endangered species transports



Wildlife transport has been a growing portion of LightHawk's conservation work with partners. We expect this important work to continue the growth we've seen recently. Commercial carriers have significantly limited transport opportunities and moving endangered species with LightHawk has proven to be more efficient and better for the animals. LightHawk flights can be planned between smaller, regional airports, closer to the animal's departure and arrival locations. They can also fly direct, limiting the amount of time in crates and stressful situations. On some flights, handlers can even travel next to the animals allowing them to monitor them and feed them when needed.

An aerial photograph showing a multi-lane highway bridge crossing a vast, flooded marsh. The water is a deep blue, contrasting with the brown and yellow marshland. A dense forest with trees in autumn colors (orange, yellow, green) lines the top of the image. A few cars are visible on the bridge. In the bottom left corner, a small building with a green roof is partially visible.

CLIMATE

Documenting King Tides

Since 2014, LightHawk has worked with a multitude of partners to document king tides along each coast. King tides preview how sea level rise will affect coastal communities. As sea levels rise, the water level reached now during a king tide will be the water level reached at high tide on an average day. Highlighting king tides raises awareness of potential sea level rise impacts and identifies flood-prone areas. Increased understanding of how sea level rise will impact local resources is vital information for community leaders. We will continue working with partners to bring attention to this climate-driven threat to coastal communities. Our flights ensure they have the best information available in order to build climate resilience around important infrastructure. LightHawk flights are invaluable to surveying large sections of coastline and documenting areas at risk due to climate change.

Thank You

Volunteer Pilots Conservation Partners LightHawk Supporters

For more than 40 years, you have made LightHawk's work possible. Your contributions have helped preserve land, water and wildlife for today and for future generations. We are grateful for your support and continued efforts to Make Conservation Fly.



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James Grady*
Ney Grant
Eric Grant
Richard Greenawald
Howard Greenberg
David Grimm
Thomas Haas*
Hunter Handsfield
Douglas Harford
David Harnitchek
Barry Harper*
David Harris
Rusty Harrison*
Mike Hart
John Hart
Benjamin Harvey
Eric Haskel
Hal Hayden
Jeffrey Hazlett
James David Heaney
Richard Heller
Randall Henderson*
Timothy Hendricks
James Herring*
Charles Heywood
Bruce Hinds
Jeffrey Hinkle
Jonathon Hinson*
Jerry Hoogerwerf
Bruce Horn
Susan Hostler
David Houghton*
Jim Houser
Joe Howley
Scott Humphries
Rick Hunt
Arthur Hussey III
Steve Isom
Richard Jacobs
Michael Jesch
Dean Johnson
Kirk Johnson
Thomas Jordan
William Joyner
John Kamburoff
Sidney Karin
Jerry Karlsberg
Joe Keeton
Chris Keithley
Robert Keller*
Steve Kent*
Alan Kinback*
John King

Martha King
Steve Kiss
Jim Knowles
Richard Koril*
Alice Kottmyer
Jason Kozak*
David Krahn
David Kunkel
Nathan Kurth
John Kusianovich
Paul Kutler
Hubert Lacey
Fred Lagno
Vincent Lalomia
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
Perry Lindsay
Robert Lober
Brian Locascio
Jack Long*
Allen Low
Larry Lowenkron
Pavel Lukes
Douglas Lumgair
Ryan Lunde
Matthew Machen
Brian MacNamara
Jeanne MacPherson
John Mahany
Mark Mantei
John Marcinkevich
Miguel Marin
Dan Marks*
Allen Mathews
James Matthews
Carl Mattson
Michael Maya Charles
Michael McBride
Wayne McClelland
Richard McCraw*
Bruce McLean
Mike McNamara
Kathrynne McPherson
Richard McSpadden

William Menzel
 Mark Merrill
 John Merritt
 Steve Meyer*
 Wolfgang Meyn
 David Miller
 William Mims*
 Anne Minder
 Doug Monger
 Tony Moradian
 David Morrison*
 Fredric Moskol
 Wayne Munson
 Russell Munson
 David Murphy
 Gordon Murray
 Arlene Myers-Alexander*
 Val Nasano*
 Ken Newbury*
 Janice Newman
 Bill Nicolai
 Jane Nicolai
 Peter Niewieroski
 Paul Novak
 Gerold Noyes
 Geoffrey R. Nye*
 Paul O'Bagy
 David Osher
 Patrick Paap
 Robert Panebianco*
 Gregory Paulin
 Larry Petro
 Steve Phillabaum
 Ben Pierce
 John Plaza
 Steven Poirot
 Geoff Pope
 Stephen Powell
 Mike Poznansky
 R Daniel Prentiss
 John Priscu*
 William Psaledakis
 Sandy Quillen
 Bruce Ray
 Joe Reaves
 Tomer Regev
 Rex Reynolds
 Ross Rice*
 Jim Richards
 David Riffle
 Patrick Riley
 Kevin Roache
 Stephen Robbins
 Leon Robert
 Lisa Robertson

Mark Robidoux
 James Robinson
 Nelson Ronsvalle*
 Chuck Rosenfeld*
 Jane Rosevelt*
 Eric Ross
 Rob Ross
 Polly Ross
 Jim Roswell
 Bill Rush*
 Scott Ryan
 Nathan Rydman
 John Sandvig
 Wayne Sayer*
 Michiko Saylor
 Michael Schaffer
 Charles Schildecker
 Jim Schmidt*
 Michael Schroeder*
 Chuck Schroll
 Susan Schwaab*
 Terry Scott
 Michael Scott
 Jerrold Seckler
 Scott Sedam
 Donna Shannon
 David Shapiro*
 Ken Shapiro
 Dan Silvers*
 Douglass Sisk*
 Lawrence Sittig*
 Skip Slyfield
 Robert Smith
 JP Soldo
 Jochen Spengler
 Micheal Spurgeon
 Frank Steeves
 Jay Steffenhagen
 Edward Steinman
 Bob Stoecker
 Eric Stoltz
 Dick Stone
 Joe Stringer
 Colin Summers
 Michael Sutton
 Larry Swanson
 Bill Tarmey
 Timothy Taylor
 Audrey Test Ek
 RyanTest testRyan
 Robert Thomas
 Zachary Thomas
 Dan Thompson
 Art Thompson
 McHenry Tichenor

Tom Tillman
 Timothy Timmons
 Timothy Toal
 G.Val Tollefson
 Wayland Toning
 Kelly Trigg-Grossetete
 Marijke Unger*
 Rick Utermoehlen
 Julian Veitch
 Gilberto Velez-Domenech
 Michael Venturino
 Matt Verdieck
 Greg Vernon*
 Varlin Vissepo
 Herb Wagers
 Philip Walker
 Park Walker
 Richard Walker
 Charles Walling
 Keith Ward
 David Warner
 Peter Watkins
 Terri Watson
 David Weeks*
 David Weissman
 Peter Welles
 Lynn Welling
 Rich Wellner
 Stephanie Wells*
 Randall Wells
 Cory West
 Michael White
 Gerry Whitley
 Judston Wickwire
 Kent Wien
 Rhon Williams
 Steve Williams
 Brian Williams
 John Wilson
 Bob Wiseman
 Brent Witters
 Aron Wolf
 Robert Woodley
 Will Worthington*
 Alan Wright
 Chuck Yanke*
 Scott Young
 Andy Young
 Mark Zaller

** Pilots who donated missions
 for LightHawk during the
 2021-2022 year.*

Background photo by Mark Henle

AWARDS

Spirit of LightHawk Award
Greg Bedinger

Bill & Betty Rockwell Award
Douglass Sisk

Rookie of the Year
Robert McCraw

Carpenter Award
Jack Long

President's Award
Warren Dean

YEARS OF SERVICE

Platinum Fliers (15 years)

Matt Verdieck
 Joe Fischetti
 Scott Ryan
 Alan Kinback
 Michael Baum

20 Years
 Greg Bedinger
 John-Michael Lee
 Michael Sutton

25 Years
 John Kusianovich
 Brent Witters
 Art Thompson
 Bob Gill

30 Years
 Peter Coltman
 Kirk Johnson

35 Years
 Jerry Hoogerwerf

Flown West

Aron Wolf
 Larry Swanson

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

7 Lakes Alliance
Agence France Presse (AFP)
Agricultural Stewardship
Association
Akron Zoo
Alexander Heilner, Photographer
Allagash Wilderness Waterway
Foundation
American Rivers
Arizona Game and Fish
Department
Audubon Magazine
Balance Media
Black-footed Ferret Conservation
Center- USFWS
Bodega Marine Laboratory
Bonefish & Tarpon Trust
Buenos Aires National Wildlife
Refuge- US Fish & Wildlife
Service
Buzzfeed News
California Central Coast Joint
Venture
CBS Morning News
Central Colorado Conservancy
Chicago Zoological Society -
Brookfield Zoo
Coloradoan
Colorado River Sustainability
Campaign
Colorado Water Institute
Columbia Land Conservancy
Confederated Tribes of Siletz
Indians
Dave Showalter Nature
Photography
El Paso Zoo
Environment New Jersey
Finger Lakes Land Trust
Food and Water Watch
Fossil Rim Wildlife Center
FracTracker Alliance
Friends of the Everglades
Friends of the Gualala River
Friends of the LA River
Friends of the Verde River
George Miksch Sutton Avian
Research Center
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Greenbelt Alliance
Henson Robinson Zoo
High Desert Partnership
Idaho Conservation League
International Dark-Sky Association
International League of
Conservation Photographers
Iowa Environmental Council
Jackson Hole Land Trust
Jefferson Land Trust
J Henry Fair, Photographer
Jon Waterman, Photographer
KCTS9/Crosscut
King County Water and Land
Resources Division
Lauren Owens, Photographer/
Videographer
Lincoln Park Zoo
Long Live The Kings
Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Los Angeles Zoo & Botanical
Gardens
Los Padres ForestWatch
Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
Massachusetts Division of Marine
Fisheries
Metro Richmond Zoo
Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan
Midcoast Conservancy
Mono Lake Committee
Monterrey Zoo
Moxiecran Media
Musconetcong Watershed
Association
National Audubon Society
National Marine Sanctuaries
National Parks Conservation
Association
Navajo Nation Department of Fish
and Wildlife
Newsy
Ocean Defenders Alliance
Oregon State University
Piscataqua Region Estuaries
Partnership
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
Pronatura Noroeste
Puget Soundkeeper
Raise the River
Red Wolf Species Survival Plan
Rig to Flip
San Francisco Baykeeper
Santa Barbara Zoo
Santa Cruz Mountains Trail
Stewardship
Sky Island Alliance
Smithsonian Conservation Biology
Institute
Surfrider Foundation
Tampa Bay Estuary Program
Tampa Bay Watch
The Bay Foundation
The Everglades Foundation
The Nature Conservancy-California
The Nature Conservancy-
Connecticut
The Peregrine Fund
The Redford Center
The Story Group
The Whale Museum
Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
University of Central Florida
University of Colorado-Center for
Environmental Journalism
Unleash the Brilliance
Upper Valley Land Trust
Washington's National Park Fund
Washington Department of Fish
and Wildlife
Water & Tribes Initiative
Wildlife Safari
Wild Wonders
Winter Wildlands Alliance
Wolf Conservation Center
Yakama Nation Fisheries
Yurok Tribe
ZooTampa

FINANCIAL

LightHawk is funded by the generous gifts of donors, foundations and partners. We are able to accomplish important conservation work that preserves land, water and wildlife in addition to addressing the challenges of climate change.

Many of the relationships LightHawk maintains with those who provide us financial have existed for more than 10 years. That continual support means LightHawk can count on a regular income stream, enabling us to continue addressing 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. In an effort to be transparent about our operations, our Form 990 and financial statements are posted on LightHawk's website.

Statement of Activities for the year ending on March 31, 2021	
Contributed & Granted Revenue	\$ 933,909
Donated Services & Materials	\$ 743,651
Net Investment (loss) income	\$ 314,337
Other Revenue	\$ 1,391
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 1,993,288
Program Services	\$ 1,497,711
Fundraising and donor communications	\$ 133,473
General and Administrative Services	\$ 96,512
Total Expenses	\$ 1,727,696
Change in Net Assets	\$ 265,592
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 2,586,745
Net assets, end of year	\$ 2,852,337
Statement of Financial Position for the year ending on March 31, 2021	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 888,525
Unconditional promises to give, current	\$ 286,000
Unconditional promises to give, net of current portion	\$ 700,000
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 51,093
Property and Equipment	\$ 347
Endowment Investments	\$ 1,127,487
Total Assets	\$ 3,053,452
Net Assets, without donor restrictions	\$ 735,576
Net Assets, with donor restrictions	\$ 2,116,761
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 201,115
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 3,053,452

CONTACT US



PO Box 2751
Grand Junction, CO 81502-2751

OUR STAFF

Chelsea Baird
Development and Administrative Associate

Clint Burson
Strategic Communications Manager

Betsy Daub
Program Manager

Peter Dronkers
Conservation Coordinator

Brooke George
Flight Coordinator

Diego L. Gil-Agudelo
Director of Conservation

Nell Jordan
Flight Coordinator

Mary Mitchell
Interim CFO

Lee Pagni
Foundation Relations Manager

OUR BOARD

Jim Becker, Boston Mass.

Erin Cook, San Francisco, Calif.

Kimberly Eckert, Denver, Colo.

Steve Kent, Warwick, NY

David Kunkel, Boulder, Colo.

Josh Marvil, Yarmouth, Maine

Erin Manzitto-Tripp, Denver, Colo.

Phil Walker, Bethesda, Md.

Will Worthington, Carefree, Ariz.



ADVISORY COUNCIL

Barry Baker, Ph.D., Fort Collins, Colo.

Greg Bedinger, Tucson, Ariz.

Brent Blue, Jackson, Wyo.

Russ Cowart, Fort Collins, Colo.

Rick Durden, Conifer, Colo.

Rudy Engholm, Cumberland Foreside, Maine

John and Martha King, San Diego, Calif.

Tom McMurray, Jackson, Wyo.

David Nielsen, Murray, Neb.

Sally Ranney, Colorado

Michael Sutton, Carmel Valley, Calif.

Terri Watson, Lander, Wyo.

Stephanie Wells, Arvada, Colo.

Brian Williams, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Background photo by Adam Senatori

CONSERVATION FLIES WITH LIGHTHAWK

After more than four decades of flying in support of conservation initiatives, LightHawk is the foremost expert in planning flights that benefit land, water, wildlife and climate resilience. Through the generosity of volunteer pilots and donors like you, we are able to provide game-changing flights that advance projects and make a difference.

LightHawk's team of experts are vital for the success of these flights. Their knowledge of conservation issues and aviation's strengths in addressing them, ensure each donated hour of flight time provides the maximum benefit.

We need your help to continue our mission and expand the number of flights and areas we are able to serve. Your investment in LightHawk allows us to soar higher, serving more partners and pushing conservation forward at a faster pace – making it fly.

Donations to LightHawk don't just benefit us. They benefit our partners by providing flights that save them time and resources. They benefit elected officials and other decision makers by allowing them to get an unmatched perspective on how their policies affect the environment. They benefit endangered species who are transported to new homes in the wild – helping grow their populations.

Make conservation fly with your gift today. You can use the envelope included in this annual report or online at LightHawk.org.



PO Box 2751

Grand Junction, CO 81502-2751

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Photo by Brandon Parsons