

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – LightHawk

1. What is the mission LightHawk?

LightHawk accelerates conservation success through the powerful perspective of flight.

2. How does LightHawk use aviation to advance conservation?

For over four decades, LightHawk has provided flights to serve as catalysts for a wide range of environmental initiatives. Our dedicated team and network of over 300 Volunteer Pilots (VP) conduct hundreds of flights annually across North America, utilizing small aircraft, to aid in conservation efforts for nonprofit organizations, researchers, media, and government entities—at no cost to partners.

3. What value does LightHawk bring to conservation?

LightHawk recognizes 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. LightHawk removes the barriers to using aviation as part of a broader conservation strategy.

4. How long has LightHawk been involved in conservation efforts?

LightHawk is the largest conservation flying organization in the US and has been flying for conservation since 1979.

5. What regions does LightHawk operate in?

LightHawk conducts conservation flights across the US and limited parts of Baja California, Mexico, and Canada.

6. What types of projects does LightHawk support?

LightHawk brings an aerial perspective to address North America's most urgent conservation issues and sheds light on our shared responsibility to heal and protect the planet in five key areas: Climate Change, Wildlife, Watersheds, Landscapes, and Oceans and Coastlines.

7. What is the process for requesting a flight for conservation purposes?

Nonprofit conservation organizations, scientists, journalists, photographers, and government officials can initiate a single flight request by submitting it online at lighthawk.org. Requests undergo careful vetting to ensure alignment with conservation goals, focusing on accelerating success, deepening environmental understanding, and enhancing efforts to protect ecosystems and wildlife.

8. How can organizations collaborate with LightHawk?

Organizations seeking ongoing collaboration with LightHawk for multiple flights are urged to establish true partnerships, working jointly to amplify impact toward broader conservation goals. Nonprofit conservation groups, scientists, journalists, photographers, and government officials can initiate collaboration by submitting requests at lighthawk.org. This process allows entities to leverage LightHawk's expertise and Volunteer Pilots, creating flight plans for new insights and data, enlightening images, and meaningful experiences not achievable from the ground. All requests undergo careful vetting to ensure alignment with conservation goals, emphasizing sustained impact. Missions focus on accelerating conservation success, deepening environmental understanding, and enhancing efforts to protect ecosystems and wildlife.

9. Can individuals or non-profits request assistance from LightHawk?

LightHawk welcomes requests for assistance from nonprofit conservation organizations, scientific researchers, professional journalists and photographers, and government officials. These requests should involve projects contributing to a deeper understanding of environmental challenges and enhancing efforts to protect ecosystems and wildlife. The collaborative opportunities provided by LightHawk extend to individuals and organizations dedicated to meaningful conservation initiatives.

10. How are flight projects selected by LightHawk?

LightHawk selects flight projects by thoroughly reviewing requests to ensure they align with conservation goals. Each mission aims to speed up conservation success, deepen understanding of environmental challenges, and enhance efforts to protect ecosystems and wildlife. LightHawk values the Earth and takes a collaborative, emissions-conscious approach to have a positive impact on the planet's ecosystems and wildlife. Before any conservation flight, we make sure it's a wise use of resources and will bring multiple benefits for conservation.

11. What environmental issues does LightHawk focus on?

LightHawk focuses on safeguarding ecosystems, protecting habitats and species, advocating for effective policies, and engaging the public in impactful ways. Our commitment extends to promoting sustainable practices for the overall health of our planet.

12. How does LightHawk contribute to wildlife conservation?

LightHawk conservation staff and Volunteer Pilots assist partners in protecting endangered or imperiled species through wildlife monitoring, transport, and habitat preservation efforts. This collaboration actively contributes to the conservation of various species, resulting in positive outcomes for biodiversity.

13. How can donors support LightHawk's initiatives?

Donors play a vital role in supporting LightHawk's initiatives through tax-deductible contributions to this 501(c)(3) organization. Gifts, whether one-time or recurring, can be made online at lighthawk.org or by mail to PO Box 2751 Grand Junction, CO 81502. Donors also have opportunities for planned gifts of real estate, securities, or non-cash assets, and bequests by contacting LightHawk at 970-797-9355, Ext 12, or info@lighthawk.org. Contributions through donor-advised funds or IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions are welcome. LightHawk is open to funding opportunities from private, community, or corporate foundations, promoting a collaborative approach to advance impactful initiatives.

14. Does LightHawk offer educational programs?

LightHawk is committed to education and outreach. In addition to our conservation flights, a member of our conservation team may be available for speaking engagements at conferences, workshops, and educational events. By sharing experiences and knowledge, we aim to deepen understanding of environmental issues and encourage action for the protection of ecosystems and wildlife. To inquire, contact us at info@lighthawk.org.

15. How does LightHawk ensure the safety and sustainability of its flights?

LightHawk ensures safety through stringent requirements for Volunteer Pilots: 1,000+ hours as Pilot in Command (PIC), valid pilot and medical certificates, aircraft ownership or access, and \$1 million liability coverage. Pilots undergo screening, provide references, and update paperwork regularly. The focus on safety aligns with Federal Aviation Regulations, and the 1,000-hour threshold is supported by General Aviation safety analyses. Excluding balloons, gliders, and experimental aircraft, this maintains a high safety standard. Volunteer Pilots' experience in diverse situations ensures preparedness for LightHawk's conservation flights, emphasizing safety for both pilots and passengers in compliance with the organization's commitment.

16. How can individuals get involved with LightHawk's mission?

Individuals can actively support LightHawk's mission through financial contributions, making one-time or recurring tax-deductible donations online at lighthawk.org or via mail at PO Box 2751 Grand Junction, CO 81502. For those interested in planned giving, detailed information is available on the organization's website. Additionally, individuals passionate about flying and conservation can explore the unique opportunity of becoming a LightHawk Volunteer Pilot by learning more about the process and requirements at <https://www.lighthawk.org/become-a-lighthawk-pilot/>.