



Annual Report

2023/2024



LIGHT HAWK®

WWW.LIGHTHAWK.ORG

Dear Partners, Volunteer Pilots and Donors,

For almost half a century, LightHawk has advanced the protection and preservation of our environment through the strategic use of general aviation. Over this time, we have conducted nearly 10,000 conservation missions and contributed tens of millions of dollars in in-kind support, thanks to the dedication of our Volunteer Pilots. This impressive track record reflects both our longevity and impact.



James Becker
CEO

However, as environmental changes accelerate with rising temperatures, more powerful storms, and increasing threats to landscapes and wildlife, the need for action has never been greater. Many organizations and individuals are increasingly recognizing the invaluable role LightHawk plays in boosting the effectiveness and efficiency of their conservation efforts. As demand for our services grows, so does our need to expand, ensuring we continue to protect this beautiful country's environment.

From April 2023 to March 2024, LightHawk has laid the groundwork to increase our impact. We welcomed 13 new Volunteer Pilots into the organization with applications still coming in at a steady rate of two to three per month. Our new volunteer pilots include an impressive array of highly skilled aviators, including former astronauts and seasoned instructors. Our network of conservation partners and projects has also expanded and diversified, including a new initiative to support Native American tribes. Recognizing their commitment as stewards of their lands and wildlife, LightHawk has implemented a program to assist these tribes in maintaining the health of their natural resources.

In addition to growing our partner network, LightHawk is advancing our technological capabilities. We are exploring a wider use of multispectral aerial analysis and developing a Conservation Media Library to enhance our monitoring and conservation efforts over time.

Our progress is evident in the increasing number of missions and flights we've conducted. The uptick in activity toward the end of the fiscal year suggests that FY25 will see record-breaking numbers of flights, further amplifying our impact. This growth is made possible by the strong support of donors and foundations like you who believe in LightHawk's mission.

To continue building and strengthening relationships with our valued supporters and broader community, we have welcomed Joanna Weitzel as our Chief Advancement Officer (CAO). Joanna brings a passion for conservation and extensive experience in advancement, and she is a key member of the management team

With new Volunteer Pilots, expanded conservation partnerships, innovative technology, a new CAO, and an increasing number of flights, LightHawk is poised for a promising future as we approach our 46th year of operation. We greatly appreciate your long-term involvement and support, which are integral to our continued growth and success.

James R Becker

Photo by Bev Johnson

BY THE NUMBERS

88
Partners served

182
Flights

749
Donated Flight Hours

Endangered Species Transported

- 15 Mexican wolf pups
- 9 Colorado Gray Wolves
- 4 Red Wolves
- Millions of White Abalone
- 2 California Condors
- 3 Whooping crane eggs
- 23 Black Footed Ferret
- 1 Golden eagle
- 800+ Masked Bobwhite Quail (50 - for Pennsylvania reintroduction)

Aircraft Types Flown

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Aviat A-1C Husky | Cubcrafters CC160 |
| Beechcraft Baron | DAHER TBM700B |
| Beech Bonanza | Fleet Canuck 80 |
| Beechcraft King Air | Found Aviation - Expedition E350 |
| Bellanca Citabria | Grumman AA5A |
| Cessna 150G | Maule MT-7-235 |
| Cessna 170A | Mooney M20 |
| Cessna 172 | Pilatus PC-12 |
| Cessna 182 | Piper Archer |
| Cessna 206 | Piper Cherokee |
| Cessna P210 | Piper Comanche |
| Cessna Hawk XP | Piper J3 |
| Cessna Citation | Piper Pacer |
| Cirrus SR20 | Rutan LGEZ |
| Cirrus SR22 | Vans RV10 |
| Cub Crafters Carbon | |
| Cub SS | |

Photo by Will Worthington



WILD LANDS

The more we learn about the connection between nature and our health, the more we understand the importance of preserving wild places both for today and future generations. Wild places are home to a diversity of animals, plants, and people. They offer spaces for recreation and a retreat from the stresses of urban life. They are also home to the headwaters of river systems that provide water for drinking, farming, and recreation. From a LightHawk flight, the connections between wild places, surrounding ecosystems, urban areas, and other developments become evident. Our volunteer pilots provide partners with a new perspective on the importance of these spaces and what we must do to protect them.

Photo by Casey Kulla

Impacting Oregon's Wildlands

LightHawk is committed to safeguarding wild places nationwide. This year, our partnership with Oregon Wild achieved remarkable results in protecting Oregon's wildlands, fostering informed discussions, and making a lasting impact on conservation efforts. Our flights provided crucial aerial perspectives that shaped key conservation strategies, informed fire management and restoration, and influenced land management policies.

One significant flight highlighted the extent of logging in the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests, aiding Oregon Wild in advocating for informed decisions by the Governor and the Board of Forestry. Another flight captured the fire impacts across protected Wilderness, previously logged areas, and the 2022 Cedar Creek Fire burn scar, helping Oregon Wild craft a compelling conservation narrative.

Our aerial support also enabled a Capital Chronicle reporter to explore land management practices along the Oregon Coast Range, raising awareness about environmental issues such as clear-cutting's effect on drinking water supplies. Additionally, we provided author Jenna Butler with a unique aerial view of Oregon's forests for her book on climate change and forest management. Her work will offer valuable insights into the effects of climate change on Oregon's coastal forests and emphasize the importance of conservation.

Enhancing Land Stewardship

In partnership with Utah Open Lands, LightHawk recently conducted a survey flight over a sprawling property along the Colorado River, east of Moab, Utah. This property, consisting of six parcels, is a critical area for conservation efforts. The aerial imagery we captured will assist Utah Open Lands in making informed management decisions and developing detailed plans for the property.

By providing this aerial perspective, we enable land trusts to gather crucial data efficiently, allowing partners like Utah Open Lands to redirect resources toward expanding their efforts. This approach enhances their capacity to support private landowners, government agencies, and communities in preserving the agricultural, scenic, recreational, historic, and wildlife values of open land.

The insights gained from our flight not only save time but also strengthen land management and conservation practices, ensuring that these valuable landscapes are well-protected and managed for future generations.




Photo by Art Lang

WILDLIFE



Wildlife is a crucial part of our environment, yet it faces constant threats from the modern world. LightHawk flights play a vital role in wildlife conservation through two main areas: aerial surveys and endangered species transport.

Our aerial surveys enable scientists and wildlife biologists to broaden their research capabilities. By utilizing aerial telemetry, photography, and other methods, they can track wildlife, conduct surveys, and gain valuable insights into population sizes and distributions.

Across the country, conservation partners are dedicated to saving and restoring endangered species. When relocating these animals for breeding programs, genetic diversity or reintroduction efforts, the process has become increasingly challenging. LightHawk has emerged as a trusted resource for the safe and efficient transport of endangered species, contributing to their recovery and preservation.

Photo by Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Understanding Wildlife Connectivity

Wildlife connectivity is crucial for species survival, especially in areas like Idaho's High Divide. Effective land management that preserves migratory corridors and wintering grounds is essential for positive conservation outcomes. LightHawk partnered with the Idaho Conservation League to capture vital aerial footage of key wildlife habitats. Our flight over the Donkey Hills and Sand Creek Desert & Junipers provided valuable data on these essential wintering grounds and migratory routes. This imagery will aid the Idaho Conservation League in advocating for stronger wildlife connectivity measures in Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans. By offering clear aerial evidence, LightHawk is helping to ensure these crucial wildlife corridors are protected and preserved.



Photo by Chris Boyer

Monitoring for Island Fox Conservation

LightHawk has continued our partnership with The Nature Conservancy to monitor island fox populations. Dedicated LightHawk pilots conduct regular flights for radio telemetry, tracking radio-collared foxes as part of the island fox post-delisting monitoring plan. This crucial work provides early warning signals if fox mortality rates rise above normal levels, enabling biologists to act swiftly to prevent potential population declines.

The data collected from these flights not only supports The Nature Conservancy but is also shared with key partners, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. This collaborative effort ensures a comprehensive approach to conserving the island fox and contributes to the species' ongoing recovery and stability.



Photo by The Nature Conservancy

“ Monthly monitoring for collared foxes allows the wildlife biologists to augment their ground based telemetry, and in two hours can detect nearly all foxes across the islands, while ground telemetry to do the same might take more than a full week of effort. This information allows us to quickly detect mortalities and focus the effort of on-the-ground workers to collect the carcasses in a timely manner to be examined for cause of death. This effort could not be done without the LightHawk partnership, and we are very grateful for our pilot's flexibility and safe flying for this project!

– Jim Howard, California Institute of Environmental Studies ”



Photos by Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Safeguarding Endangered Species

As the demand for transporting endangered species has surged, LightHawk has adapted to meet this critical need. Our custom flight plans, which offer flexible scheduling and convenient departure and arrival locations, are crucial for the safe transport of these animals. Unlike commercial airlines – where wildlife transport is increasingly restricted, and schedules are often rigid – LightHawk ensures that animals spend minimal time in crates and receive continuous care from handlers throughout their journey.

Delays and cancellations with commercial flights can cause significant distress to animals. By providing timely and humane transportation with minimal stress, LightHawk has earned a reputation for safe and efficient endangered species transport, leading to impactful new partnerships.

One example of our expertise in action is our collaboration with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). Following a statewide voter mandate to reintroduce grey wolves to Colorado, CPW sought LightHawk's assistance for relocating wolves as part of their restoration efforts.

In December 2023, LightHawk volunteer pilots transported adult grey wolves from Eastern Oregon to Colorado, marking their official return to the state. This successful mission was a key step in broader species recovery and habitat restoration efforts. By facilitating such critical transport missions, LightHawk plays a vital role in helping endangered species thrive and underscores our growing impact on their conservation and recovery.

“ We could not have accomplished this task as simply as we did without the cooperation and donated flights from lighthawk. What would have been 13+ hour drives through the night was accomplished in 2.5-3 hour flights during daylight hours. Wolf and human safety was paramount for this project and the collaboration with lighthawk made this possible. Accomplishing the preliminary goal of getting wolves reintroduced by 12/31/23 was due in large part to the collaboration with LightHawk. We hope to be able to continue this partnership for the coming years.

– Eric Odell, Colorado Parks and Wildlife ”

WATERWAYS

Waterways are vital to our lives, providing fresh drinking water, supporting wildlife, irrigating crops, offering recreational opportunities, and more. They can stretch for thousands of miles, ending in the ocean or, like the Colorado River, before they reach the sea. LightHawk makes a difference in conserving these resources by providing an invaluable aerial perspective. Our flights give passengers a comprehensive view of rivers and lakes, revealing how these waterways interact with surrounding ecosystems and the threats they face from development, agriculture, and climate change. By offering this aerial insight, LightHawk helps our ground-based partners save time and resources, enabling them to achieve conservation impact in less time.

Photo by Len Necefer

Documenting Historic Change on the Klamath River

LightHawk partnered with Trout Unlimited to provide a memorable aerial perspective of the Klamath River’s four hydroelectric dams, just before their historic removal. For decades, these dams obstructed the migration of salmon, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey, degrading water quality and causing the extirpation of these native fish from over 400 miles of critical habitat in southern Oregon and northern California. The removal of these dams represents the largest dam removal project in history.

LightHawk is enhancing understanding of the positive impacts of dam removal by documenting the river throughout the process. This and future flights will provide a detailed record of the environmental changes, helping to illustrate the benefits of restoring natural river systems.

“ Lighthawk continues to be an integral part of so many of Trout Unlimited’s campaigns but the need on the Klamath was more important than ever as we pivot to the largest dam removal in history. Our content, which is used across many of our digital spaces, helps to illustrate exactly what we’ve accomplished and been able to accomplish over the last 20 years of working in southern Oregon and northern California.

– Josh Duplechian, Trout Unlimited

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Photo by Joshua Duplechian/Trout Unlimited

Strengthening Conservation on the Mississippi River



Photo by Drake White-Bergey / Wisconsin Watch

The Mississippi River is a vital resource, providing drinking water, supporting agriculture, and sustaining diverse ecosystems. However, it faces significant threats from pollution and habitat loss. To address these challenges, LightHawk has deepened its conservation efforts along the river by partnering with organizations committed to its protection. Our work focuses on documenting the river’s main channel, its tributaries, and the conservation issues they face.

In collaboration with the Mississippi River Ag and Water Desk and Wisconsin Watch, we captured aerial photos highlighting the river’s current state, including segments of the Wisconsin River. These images have been used by Northern Public Radio for outreach and reporting, while other photos have been shared with conservation partners working on the ground. By providing this crucial perspective, LightHawk is empowering local organizations to take informed actions in safeguarding this essential waterway.

Safeguarding the Lifeblood of the Southwest



Photo by Nathan Rees

Across the country, our nation’s waterways are the lifeblood of communities, ecosystems, and economies. Rivers and streams provide critical habitat for fish, birds, and countless other species. They supply water for agriculture, drinking water for both humans and wildlife, and offer recreational opportunities like fishing and swimming. The health of these waterways is crucial for sustaining life, making their protection a top priority.

At LightHawk, we partner with conservation groups across the United States to protect and restore these vital watersheds. Among the many rivers we fly over, the Colorado River stands out as one of our highest priorities. This river, winding through several states, is a vital resource for millions of people throughout the Southwest. From its headwaters in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado to its end in the Colorado River Delta, the river provides essential water for cities, farms, and natural habitats across the region.

Throughout the year, LightHawk volunteer pilots routinely fly conservation partners, legislators, and stakeholders over the Colorado River and its many tributaries. These flights offer a unique aerial perspective that helps ground-based conservation efforts by showcasing the river’s expanse, its

challenges, and its beauty. This bird’s-eye view is invaluable for understanding the scale of conservation issues and for advocating for the river’s protection.

In our ongoing mission to expand the impact of our work, we have welcomed several new conservation partners along the Colorado River. These partnerships are designed to broaden the resources and opportunities available to those working on the ground to protect the river. A significant focus has been our collaboration with Native American conservation groups. By providing aerial perspectives, we support their efforts to safeguard their ancestral lands and waters, which are deeply intertwined with the health of the Colorado River.

The Colorado River and its tributaries, along with the fragile ecosystem of the Colorado Delta, remain top priorities for LightHawk. Our flights not only contribute to the protection and preservation of this vital waterway but also help save communities and ecosystems across the Southwest. As we continue to expand our work with partners, we remain committed to ensuring that this essential river is protected for future generations, sustaining life and thriving ecosystems in one of the most arid regions of the United States.

Aerial Conservation Above the Colorado River and Delta



Photo by Environment News Trust

In October, LightHawk took to the sky with a video crew from Environment News Trust and a guide from conservation partner Pronatura. Piloted by LightHawk Board Member and volunteer pilot Will Worthington, the team flew over the Colorado River and Delta, capturing aerial footage of critical conservation projects along the route. Taking off from Phoenix, the flight offered a detailed view of conservation efforts, emphasizing the river’s significance to the watershed. This mission was featured on NBC news stations across the country, showcasing LightHawk’s role and contributions to these vital initiatives. By sharing these aerial insights, LightHawk and its partners are enhancing public awareness of conservation achievements and challenges, driving support for the preservation of this essential watershed.



OCEANS & COASTS



Photo by Rena Olson

Our oceans teem with life, and our coastlines are home to millions of people. We rely on the oceans not just for food but also for regulating our planet's temperature and absorbing heat. Ocean plants provide essential food, habitat, and act as carbon sinks. LightHawk flights transform ocean and coastline conservation by offering a broader perspective.

Scientists, partners, media, and others gain a comprehensive view of the threats facing our oceans and coasts. They can better understand the implications of rising sea levels for coastal communities and plan more effectively for climate resilience. By covering more ground and seeing how local changes impact larger areas, LightHawk flights expand their perspective, deepen their understanding, and inspire action.

Documenting the Tijuana Estuary

LightHawk facilitated an important aerial perspective by providing a flight for a photographer from High Country News over the Tijuana River Estuary in southern California. This flight enabled the magazine to feature compelling images for a feature story in their special issue, "Climate Futures." Photos captured will also support the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve in its efforts to preserve, protect and manage the natural and cultural resources of the Estuary. Collaborating with media partners like High Country News helps LightHawk extend the reach of vital conservation stories and engage a wider audience.



Photo by Jeffrey (Duffy) Fainer

Enhancing Advocacy for Penobscot Bay



Photo by Mark Godfrey/TNC

Effective environmental action relies on a clear understanding of habitat conditions. LightHawk partnered with Friends of Penobscot Bay to document habitat quality at three key locations in upper Penobscot Bay. This flight provided crucial insights into the environment and served an educational purpose by offering Jill Howell, the new Executive Director of Upstream Watch, a comprehensive aerial overview of the Bay.

Upstream Watch's Penobscot Bay Waterkeeper program is dedicated to protecting the health of Penobscot Bay and its tributary rivers through pollution investigations, advocacy for stronger enforcement of environmental regulations, and public education on water conservation. The aerial data collected by LightHawk will significantly enhance their ability to advocate for and protect these vital waterways.

Monitoring Eelgrass Beds for Ecosystem Health

For years, LightHawk has collaborated with partners to monitor eelgrass beds, which are vital to marine ecosystems. Eelgrass supports healthy habitats, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, improved water quality, and coastal protection. However, threats from climate change, water pollution, and other factors create a need for ongoing conservation efforts.

This year, we partnered with the Piscataqua Regional Estuaries Partnership to gather broad-scale data on eelgrass beds. This information will be used to enhance remote sensing technology, which will capture detailed imagery of vegetated areas and differentiate between various seaweed species and the two types of seagrass: eelgrass and widgeon grass. Understanding these distinctions is crucial, as each species provides unique insights into the environmental impacts of pollution.



Photo by Jonathan Milne



CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The changes in our climate are creating long-lasting effects on our world. LightHawk is dedicated to advancing climate resilience and preparing our world for the challenges of a changing climate.

Climate change threatens wildlife, wild places, waterways, and our oceans and coastlines. Every aspect of LightHawk's work with partners is influenced by these changes. LightHawk is focused on enhancing climate resilience across all our focus areas. Along the coasts, we gather data on King Tide events, helping community planners anticipate the impacts of rising sea levels. In waterways, we document droughts and flooding, both driven by climate change. In wild places, we support researchers in understanding the effects of drought, excessive heat, and wildfire. Our wildlife flights track animal movements and populations, providing insights into their responses to climate change.

Photo by Jonathan Milne

Documenting Colorado's Record Snowpack

The winter of 2023/2024 brought unprecedented snowfall to Colorado, breaking records and offering a welcome reprieve from years of drought. This significant snow accumulation has helped to replenish rivers and restore reservoir levels that had previously reached critical lows. In collaboration with the Water Desk, LightHawk played a crucial role in capturing this historic snowfall from the air. Our flights over the San Juan Mountains, a vital source for the region's rivers, provided high-quality photos and videos of the snowpack. This imagery has been integrated into the Water Desk's reports and added to their open-source library of water-related multimedia assets. These resources are freely available to journalists, helping to amplify the importance of water conservation and environmental issues across the American West.



Photo by Mitch Tobin

Monitoring Methane Emissions

Corpus Christi, Texas, is home to one of the largest methane terminals in the country. While methane is valuable for various commercial applications, it also poses significant environmental challenges as a potent greenhouse gas, contributing to climate change and affecting local air quality.

To address these issues, LightHawk partnered with the Ingleside on the Bay Coastal Watch Association for aerial monitoring of methane emissions and air quality in the region. Our flights provided crucial data on methane levels and air quality, which are being used to underscore the need for ongoing air monitoring. This data is also guiding adjustments in monitoring methods and supporting the development of proposals for future monitoring efforts. The results are being shared with local managers and regulators to inform and enhance regional environmental strategies.

Photo by Hao Yu





LOOKING AHEAD

As we reflect on the past year, one major highlight was the planning and preparation for our ambitious 50-In-50 Challenge. This initiative aimed to complete 50 conservation flights in just 50 days, pushing our limits and showcasing our commitment to conservation on a far-reaching scale. The challenge drew national attention and highlighted the critical role of aerial perspectives in protecting the lands, waters and wildlife we cherish.

This accomplishment has set the stage for a transformative year ahead. We are excited to build on this momentum with a renewed focus on expanding our impact and capabilities in the coming year.



Photo by Bruce Farnsworth

Advancing Conservation with Multispectral Imagery

Our commitment to advancing conservation efforts takes a significant leap forward with the integration of multispectral imagery into monitoring flights. By harnessing this cutting-edge technology, we can work with partners to gain deeper, more detailed insights into the health and dynamics of the ecosystems we fly over. With our expanded capacity, we can provide partners with the detailed insights needed for informed decision making and drive more effective and impactful conservation strategies.



Photo by Samish Indian Nation

Building Capacity for Wildlife Recovery



Photo by Mitzi Saylor

Wildlife transport is a rapidly growing program area for LightHawk, playing a crucial role in endangered species recovery. Our unique aerial resources enable us to significantly enhance the health and safety of these animals, providing essential support for their conservation. By collaborating with the American Zoo and Aquariums (AZA) Saving Animals from Extinction (SAFE) programs and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), we offer swift transport for reintroductions, facilitate genetic diversity by moving animals between facilities and conduct vital monitoring flights over remote areas. To further amplify our efforts, we are expanding our network of volunteer pilots. Increasing pilot capacity is essential, as the need for our aerial support has never been greater. By boosting our capabilities, we are better equipped to make an even greater impact on the recovery and conservation of critical species.

Gaining Momentum Through New Challenges and Partnerships

Building on the success of the 50-In-50 Challenge, we are excited to explore new conservation challenges that will push the boundaries of our achievements. These new initiatives will drive us forward and create opportunities for increased collaboration and support. We are pursuing new partnerships to strengthen our resources, amplify our efforts, and advance our expanded goals.

As we look ahead, the theme “Building Momentum for Lasting Change” will drive our efforts to innovate, expand, and engage. By building on our recent successes and focusing on key strategic areas, we are prepared to reach new milestones and elevate our conservation efforts to make a meaningful and lasting impact on our planet.



Photo by Erin Manzitto-Tripp



\$50,000 and above

Anonymous
Cornell Douglas Foundation
The Eucalyptus Foundation
David and Gale Kunkel
Thomas W. Haas Foundation
The Volgenau Foundation
Walton Family Foundation

\$10,000-\$49,999

Appleby Foundation
The Batchelor Foundation, Inc.
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation
Dorrance Family Foundation
James and Christine Gamble
Marisla Foundation
WELWE Foundation

\$1,000-\$9,999

Gabrielle and Ken Adelman
Agricultural Stewardship Association
Anonymous
Bill Becker
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Fanwood Foundation West
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Chris and Shannon Lee
Garrison Lickle
Erin & Whitney Manzitto-Tripp
Larry and Gail Mayo
Jay and Louise Noyes
Nathaniel O. Owings
Padosi Foundation
Robert and Carol Keller via Keller Family
Fund, a donor advised fund of the
Community Foundation of Herkimer and
Oneida Counties
Lisa and Steve Robertson
Jean Schulz
Jochen Spengler and Elena De Angelis
Philip Walker and Cheryl Tritt
David Wild
Marcia Wiley

\$250-\$499

Kerry Albright
Scott Allen Barber
Joseph Bogaard
Art Bridge
Jason Brooks
Sally and Tom Cahill
Colorado Gives Foundation
Deborah and William Roach Trust
Judith S. Engelberg
J Henry Fair
John and Paula Foy
Todd Freeman
Richard Lindsey
Theodore Lyman
Josh and Becky Marvil
Merry Schroeder and David Matthews

Rick McCraw
Mary Mitchell
Gordon Orians
Wayne and Paula Sayer
Charles Simenstad
Barbara Sweet
Joanna and Steve Weitzel
Stephen Williams

\$1-\$250

Mercedes Agogino
Edwin Ahrens
AmazonSmile Foundation
Anonymous
Ron and Barbara Asai
Jim Astin
Joanne Barnes
George and Anita Berlacher
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Lynette Cardoch
Roland Chaiton
Margaret and Ron Claypool
Sharky Cornell
Mark Dedon
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Kimberly Eckert
Rudy and Grace Engholm
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Rich Fisher
Emilie Ryan and Clayton Fraser
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Joel Myerson
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Mary Kaye O'Neill
Elaine Charkowski and Edward Oberweiser
John and Lani Ochs
Louise and Will Pape
Anita Peterson
Kathy Peterson
Penelope and Ben Pierce
Edward J. Pushich
Bruce Ray
Kevin Roache
Janet Rollin
Polly Ross
Carol Runy
Christine Sakach
Michiko and Dave Saylor
Daniel and Joanne Shively

IN HONOR OF...

- Blyler-Thompson Charitable Fund in honor of Rudy and Grace Engholm
- John and Paula Foy in honor of Rudy Engholm
- Kelly and Michael Gottlieb in honor of Stanley Strauss
- Kelly and Michael Gottlieb in honor of Carole and Dick Einaugler
- Alison Harrison in honor of Bud Sittig
- Chris and Shannon Lee in honor of Sophia and Samuel Lee
- Wayne McClelland in honor of Alex Bauer (KSBA pilot)
- Emilie Ryan and Clayton Fraser in honor of Jonathan Milne

IN MEMORY OF...

- Jason Brooks in memory of Stephen Paul
- Barbara Burian in memory of Key Dismukes
- New Hampshire Charitable Foundation in memory of Jeff Clark
- Mary Kaye O'Neill in memory of Gene Steffen
- Kathy Peterson in memory of Bob Peterson

Randall Siebert
Ms. Simonson
Fran Sittig
Michelle Slaughter
Jerry Smith
Jeffrey A. Soots
Monica Stahlmann
Donald Stearns
Benjamin Drummond and Sara Steele
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The Boeing Company
Tracy C. Thompson
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Margot B. Unkel
Julian Veitch
R. Thomas and Donna Miller Ward
Stephanie Wells
Richard and Kathleen Westcott
Winston Wheeler
Barbara J. Wilhite
Joanna Winship
John and Jill Winter
James A. Wood
Jim Wright
Bryan L. Wyberg
Annastaszia Zaikowski

Photo by Laura Sewall



Spirit of LightHawk Award



Roy Lewallen

Rockwell Award



Barbara Filkins

Rookie of the Year



Michiko Sayler

Carpenter Award



Will Worthington

President's Award



Dan Marks

OUR PILOTS

Aaron Foster
Adam Broun
Alan Kinback
Alan Marcum
Alison Chalker
Allen Low
Alyson Rieken
Andreas Lauschke
Andy Young
Anne Minder
Anthony Carson
Arlene Myers Alexander
Aron Wolf
Art Bridge
Art Thompson
Arthur Hussey III
Barbara Filkins
Barry Harper
Ben Pierce
Benjamin Cohen
Benjamin Harvey
Bill Rush
Bob Cipolli
Bob Gill
Bob Smith
Bob Wiseman
Brandon Butsick
Brent Blue
Brent Witters
Brian Adams
Brian Williams
Bruce McLean
Bryan Baker
C. Rudy Engholm
Carl Mattson
Charles Heywood

Charles Rapalje
Charles Schildecker
Chris Bonter
Chris Boyer
Chris Keithley
Christopher Noth
Chuck Rosenfeld
Chuck Schroll
Chuck Yanke
Clifford Gill
Cory West
Craig Weaver
Dan Marks
Dan Silvers
Daniel Barley
Daniel Evans
David Acker
David Comarow
David Grimm
David Harnitchek
David Harris
David Houghton
David Kunkel
David Morrison
David Murphy
David Osher
David Riffle
David Shapiro
David Warner
David Weeks
David Weissman
Debi Maucione
Dick Stone
Donald Goodman
Doug Paris
Douglas Harford
Douglas Lumgair
Douglass Sisk

Edward DeCastro
Emil Gould
Eric Jakimier
Erin Manzitto-Tripp
Ernie Bitten
Evan Anderman
Frank Steeves
Fred Lagno
Fredric Moskol
G.Val Tollefson
Gabrielle Adelman
Gary Lickle
Geoff Pope
Gerald Glaser
Gerold Noyes
Gerry Whitley
Gilberto Velez-Domenech
Gordon Murray
Greg Bedinger
Greg Vernon
Gregory Burnett
Gregory Paulin
Gunther Koblmiller
Hal Hayden
Herb Wagers
Howard Greenberg
Hubert Lacey
Irwin MARK Cohen
Jack Long
James Dingess
James Elegante
James Herring
James Levy
James Matthews
Jamie Gamble
Jane Nicolai
Jane Rosevelt
Jason Brooks
Jason Kozak
Jay Apt
Jay Beveridge
Jay Steffenhagen

Jeffrey (Duffy) Fainer
Jeffrey Hazlett
Jeremy Lezin
Jerry Edgerton
Jerry Karlsberg
Jim Afinowich
Jim Knowles
Jim Richards
Jim Schmidt
Joe Keeton
Joe Stringer
John Anson
John Baker
John Bone
John French
John Kamburoff
John Kusianovich
John Marcinkevich
John Merritt
John Priscu
John Sandvig
John Wilson
John-Michael Lee
Jon Berman
Jonathan Lampitt
Jonathon Hinson
Joseph DuRousseau
Joseph Fischetti
JP Soldo
Judith Parrish
Julian Veitch
Kate Proctor
Kelly Trigg-Grossetete
Ken Newbury
Ken Wayne
Kenneth Adelman
Kenneth Foster
Kenneth Kleinberg
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Kevin Roache
Kurt Fischer
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Larry Lowenkron
Larry Petro
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Lynn Welling
Marijke Unger
Mark Dedon
Mark Gaponoff
Mark Hanson
Mark Mantei
Mark Robidoux
Martin Goldfarb
Matthew Debski
Matthew Machen
Michael Baum
Michael Jesch
Michael Maya Charles
Michael McBride
Michael Schroeder
Michael Spurgeon
Michael Venturino
Michael White
Michiko Saylor
Miguel Marin
Mike Hart
Mike McNamara
Mike Poznansky
Milton Bennett
Nadim Abuhaidar
Nathan Kurth
Nathan Rydman
Nelson Ronsvalle
Noam Eisen
Norman Brod
Park Walker
Paul Kutler
Paul Novak
Paul O’Bagy

GONE WEST

This year, we take a moment to remember those who have given so much to LightHawk. We sadly lost three dedicated volunteer pilots whose passion for aviation and conservation made a lasting impact. We are forever grateful for the relationships we built with them and honor their invaluable contributions to our mission.

Richard McSpadden

Peter Niewieroski

Mike Poznansky

Peter Coltman
Peter Geiler
Peter Gordon
Peter Valchev
Peter Watkins
Randall Henderson
Ray Lee
Reg Dowdall
Reg Goodwin
Rex Reynolds
Rhon Williams
Rich Wellner
Richard Filson
Richard Jacobs
Richard Koril
Richard McCraw
Richard Walker
Rick Durden
Rick Hunt
Rick Turley
Rick Utermoehlen
Robert Bender
Robert Costello
Robert Decker
Robert Keller
Robert Lange
Robert Panebianco
Robert Thomas
Robert Woodley
Ross Rice
Roy Lewallen
Sandy Quillen
Scott Cianchette
Scott Humphries
Scott Sedam
Scott Young
Sidney Karin
Stephanie Wells
Steve Anderson
Steve Isom

Steve Kent
Steve Kiss
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Steve Phillabaum
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Steven Garman
Susan Hostler
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Terry Alberta
Terry Scott
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Thomas Dillon
Thomas Haas
Timothy Lapage
Timothy Toal
Todd Freeman
Tom LeCompte
Tom Lunsford
Tomer Regev
Val Nasano
Vincent Lalomia
Wade Eakle
Warren Dean
Wayland Tanning
Wayne Connor
Wayne McClelland
Wayne Munson
Wayne Sayer
Will Worthington
William Brine
William Joyner
William Mims
William Psaledakis
Wolfgang Meyn
Zach Border
Zachary Thomas

2023 YEARS OF SERVICE

5 Years

Bob Smith
Scott Sedam
David Riffle
Peter Gordon
Terry Scott
Kelly Trigg-Grossetete

10 Years

Jim Houser
Robert Lober
Steve Isom
Jason Brooks
Judston Wickwire
Jim Roswell
Leon Robert

Platinum Fliers

15 Years

Michael Baum
Rob Ross

20 Years

John-Michael Lee

25 Years

Bob Gill
Bruce McLean

30 Years

Robert Keller

OUR PARTNERS

7 Lakes Alliance
Agricultural Stewardship Association
Alexander Heilner, Photographer
American Rivers NW WA
American Rivers-Southwest, Denver
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Archaeology Southwest
ARTE
Balance Media
Black-footed Ferret Conservation
Center- USFWS

Buenos Aires National Wildlife
Refuge- US Fish & Wildlife Service
California Institute of Environmental
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Captains for Clean Water
Cascades Carnivore Project
CEDO Intercultural
City of Flagstaff
Coalition for Sonoran Desert
Protection
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Conservation Florida
Conservation Law Foundation
Conservation Northwest
Denver Post
Environment News Trust
Eric Lee
Essex County Greenbelt
Florida International University
Friends of Penobscot Bay
Friends of the Everglades

High Country News
Idaho Conservation League
Ingleside on the Bay Coastal Watch
Association
Inland Northwest Land Conservancy
International Crane Foundation
Iowa Rivers Revival
Ipswich River Watershed Association
J Henry Fair, Photographer
LightHawk Media/Communications
LightHawk-Headquarters
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust
Maine Coast Heritage Trust-
Topsham Office
MaineRivers
Massachusetts Coastal Pine Barrens
Partnership
Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan
Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water
Desk
Mono Lake Committee
National Audubon Society

National Parks Conservation
Association- Sun Coast
Navajo Nation Department of Fish
and Wildlife
Northwest Biological Consulting
Oregon State University
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Partnership
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Rensselaer Plateau Alliance
Restauremos el Colorado AC
Rivers Coalition
Rolling Stone Magazine
Santa Barbara Zoo
Save Our Wild Salmon
Save the Manatee Club
Save The Sound
Sebasticook Regional Land Trust
Standing Trees
Susquehanna River Basin
Commission

Tall Timbers Research Inc.
The Cornucopia Institute
The Everglades Foundation
The Nature Conservancy-California
The Nature Conservancy-Colorado
The Nature Conservancy-Illinois
The Peregrine Fund- Idaho
The Trustees of Reservations
Trout Unlimited
Trout Unlimited-National Office
Trust for Public Land
Tufts Wildlife Clinic
Tuolumne River Trust
University of Colorado- Boulder-
Center for Environmental
Journalism
University of Maine
Upper Valley Land Trust
Utah Open Lands
Washington's National Park Fund
White Abalone Captive Breeding
Program, UC Davis Bodega Marine
Lab

OUR PEOPLE

OUR STAFF

Chelsea Baird
Development and Administrative
Associate
Jim Becker
CEO
Clint Burson
Strategic Communications Manager
Betsy Daub
Program Manager
Brooke George
Program Manager
Jonathan Milne
Program Manager
Joanna Weitzel
Director of Advancement

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Our Impact, Powered by You

Every LightHawk flight offers a rare view of our world – one that shapes the future of conservation. And this perspective? It is made possible because of you.

Your support allows us to tackle the toughest environmental challenges. From the skies, we see things in a way few others can – dynamic landscapes, intricate waterways, and hidden habitats that reveal the health of our planet.

Thanks to you, each flight is a step toward our bold vision for a sustainable future. You help us safeguard vital ecosystems and protect endangered species. You confront the climate crisis by supporting our efforts to document environmental changes and inspire better conservation policies.

You are the driving force behind each success story – one flight, one project, one conservation victory at a time. As we reflect on all we've accomplished together, we want you to know how much we value your continued support. You empower us to push the boundaries of conservation and create a healthier planet for everyone.

Thank you for being at the heart of our mission. Together, we are making lasting change for the future of our planet.



GIVE TODAY!



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Grand Junction, CO 81502-2751

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Photo by Nathan Rees