



Flying to Save the Earth



2020

ANNUAL REPORT



“The earth is what we all have in common.”

—WENDELL BERRY

Dear Fellow Conservationists,

Growing up the daughter of a teacher and stay-at-home parent, I didn't know how lucky I was that we spent every summer—all summer—camping, fishing, backpacking, and exploring the natural wonders of the U.S. We'd pack the station wagon, hitch up the camper, and make sure to throw in library books and our collections of *Ranger Rick* and *World* to keep us entertained on the odyssey that was our migration from Dayton, Ohio, to the wilderness areas and national parks of the West. Once on the open road, my three siblings and I were “free to move about the cabin,” a practice now thankfully replaced with car seats and seat belts. A different time, yes. But the legacy of wild, open spaces and the need to steward them for future generations was a gift given to me by my parents, passed down from theirs, and one I know my own children now carry.

Our 2020 Annual Report showcases a period that started much like any other for LightHawk. We continued our critical work in areas like the Everglades, the Colorado and Delaware rivers, and endangered species transports. It began (and ended) with strong fiscal reserves. The new year featured transition, with Terri Watson moving on (but staying with us as an advisory board member and volunteer pilot) and my coming on board as CEO.

And then the world changed. Like virtually every other nonprofit across the globe, we had to adjust overnight to the realities of Covid-19. If you had asked us in December 2019 what might happen if we could no longer carry passengers, we would have said our flights

might go to zero. Instead, our team made it work. Thanks to the incredible commitment and resourcefulness of our staff, volunteer pilots, and our partners, we have maintained almost 70% of normal flight activity.

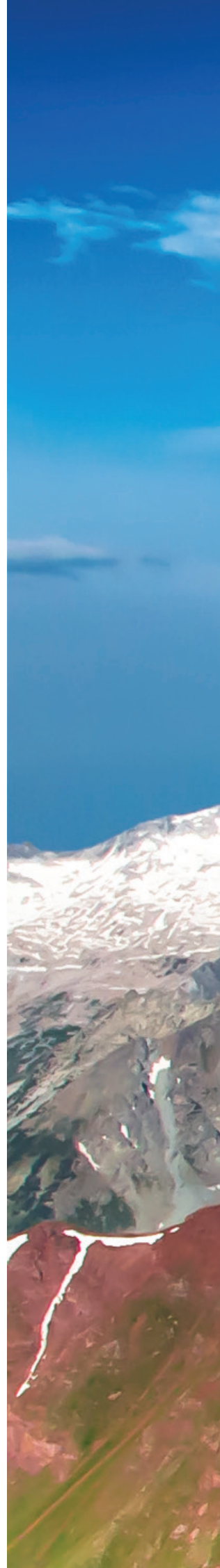
LightHawk's resilience and determination to move forward with our conservation mission in the face of this year's unprecedented events make me so proud to be part of this team—and extremely optimistic about our future.

Of course, none of our work would be possible without you. LightHawk is 100% donor-supported. It is on behalf of, and because of, YOU that we are able to carry out the conservation work we all believe in so strongly. Thank you.

Warmest Regards,



Michele Rutledge



a year of progress

“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 our conservation efforts forward.”

—REGINA MOSSOTTI, Director of Animal Care and Conservation, Endangered Wolf Center; AZA Mexican Wolf SSP Foster Advisor



291

missions coordinated



329

animals safely relocated

524

changemakers flown



17

offspring born from animals we moved

145

partner organizations supported

72

media pieces resulting from our flights

29

new volunteer pilots



334

total volunteer pilots



Navigating our Waters

EAST TO WEST, WE HAD U.S. COVERED

From exposing the locations of an aggressive invasive species in the Delaware River watershed to providing a clear-eyed view of impending environmental and public health disasters in California, LightHawk's aerial perspective furnishes scientists, journalists, and decision makers with the information they need to protect our critical waterways.

Colorado River: Viewpoint for environmental justice and protection

With Walton Family Foundation support, LightHawk flies dozens of missions annually to advance conservation throughout the Colorado River Basin, including the Salton Sea in California. This desert lake is replenished by agricultural runoff, and while increasingly polluted, it remains an important wetland habitat and a vital part of the Pacific Flyway for migratory birds. In 2003, a transfer of water from local agricultural to urban uses resulted in significantly reduced inflow. The lake has since shrunk by 40 square miles, exposing contaminated lakebed sediment, and making the remaining water almost twice as saline and inhospitable to fish. By 2030, up to 100 square miles of dry lakebed may be exposed. Massive toxic dust storms threatening 650,000 Californians may follow, along with the loss of tens of thousands of acres of habitat used by 400 species of birds, including threatened and endangered species, and other wildlife.

In order to facilitate the 2003 water transfer deal, the State of California agreed to undertake habitat restoration projects which would help to control dust. These projects have not been implemented, and that failure to act portends future environmental and public health catastrophes.



Eared grebe

LightHawk is acting, collaborating with local environmental justice organizations like Comite Civico del Valle and with policy experts at Pacific Institute and National Audubon Society. LightHawk "hearts and minds" flight campaigns educated and engaged members of the state of California's Air Resources Board and other key decision makers to support projects that will improve air quality and deliver water to the right places at the right time for people and the environment. Survey flights documented the continued importance of the lake as a migratory bird stopover. And flights also provided an aerial storytelling platform for reporters, photographers, and videographers to advance communication efforts. Since these flights, California's governor signed a state budget including \$47 million for Salton Sea restoration and management projects, and a community emissions reduction plan has gained state support and funding.

“Flights were a key component of showcasing the regression of the Salton Sea. The decision makers’ ability to view the problem from an angle very few have, instead of looking at numbers and data, was a benefit that they mentioned multiple times in their report back to the community at their board hearing.”

— CHRISTIAN TORRES, Special Projects Manager, Comite Civico Del Valle, Inc.



IN 2020, LIGHTHAWK LEVERAGED OVER 230 FLIGHT HOURS ACROSS 92 MISSIONS TO MONITOR AND PROTECT FRESHWATER ACROSS NORTH AMERICA.

Delaware River Watershed: Exposing the invader weed

It was a beautiful ornamental plant brought to the United States from rural Japan in the 1840s. *Fallopia japonica*, or Japanese knotweed, was considered a miracle plant that could stabilize dunes and be eaten like rhubarb harvested from your backyard. Today it is known as “Attila the Hun” because of its exceptionally rapid growth and ability to overtake native species in watersheds.

Eradicating a plant that can grow three inches a day in the spring and spread its root system more than 70 feet is challenging, especially when the species’ location is hard to pinpoint. Difficulty delineating knotweed stands in the Delaware River watershed has impeded efforts to limit its relentless spread. Until now.

LightHawk staff worked with the Friends of the Upper Delaware to design a method to locate and measure areas of knotweed for targeted invasive species control. Aerial surveys to gather images with infrared cameras were key to distinguishing this species from other vegetation, allowing us to map the invader’s spread.

This project offered an excellent opportunity for LightHawk to expand its capabilities within the Delaware River Watershed Initiative, supported by the William Penn Foundation. We collaborated on designing flight routes and creating test flights. Our pilots captured imagery with cameras configured to capture knotweed’s unique vegetative signature. The methodology worked: aerial infrared images now make it easier to assess and control this threat to the Delaware River watershed.



Rising to the Challenge

WE PLAN FOR UNCERTAINTY

Transferring newborn captive wolf pups to their wild foster mothers must be done in a matter of hours, at just the right time in their development. Important conservation work can't wait, and in this most unusual year, LightHawk staff and Volunteer Pilot Corps stepped up to meet the moment—and delivered.

Supporting the Endangered Mexican Wolf

The Mexican wolf once ranged from central and northern Mexico to western Texas, southern New Mexico, and central Arizona, but by 1976 was listed under the Endangered Species Act. Starting with seven captured wolves, a managed breeding program was established with the goal of expanding the geographic distribution, abundance, and genetic diversity of wolves in the wild in the U.S. and Mexico. In 1998, federal agencies began to release Mexican wolves into the wild in New Mexico and Arizona. Today there are 163 wild Mexican wolves in the United States, along with approximately 35 in the wild in Mexico.

Genetic diversity is critical to the species' long-term survival. LightHawk began working with the Species Survival Program (SSP) ten years ago, transporting adult wolves to captive breeding facilities or to the wild. Shy and timid, wolves typically do not handle shipping well. With faster and more customized flights, LightHawk provides a safer and less stressful transportation option. A key strategy of the SSP is to breed genetically important captive adults, and then introduce their captive-born pups into wild dens to improve diversity of wild populations, a method known as cross-fostering. In 2020, LightHawk successfully transported 7 pups to join their wild foster mothers.

Cross-foster flights require precise coordination between LightHawk program staff, captive facilities, and the volunteer pilot to ensure the safest and most comfortable trip for these pups, as well as the briefest separation time between



mothers. Pilots fly in the night before, wake before dawn to meet partners and load animals, and cover distances in four to eight hours that would otherwise require long connecting flights and layovers.

Operating During Covid-19

For over 40 years, LightHawk has offered people the opportunity to gain a new perspective on their world. Whether it is a flight to educate decision makers about an issue, for reporters to gain perspective that will inform their stories, for photographers to gather stunning images, or for scientists to gather data, LightHawk has made this



SINCE 2010, LIGHTHAWK HAS FLOWN 57 WOLVES, WHICH PRODUCED 37 OFFSPRING, AND 17 WERE EVENTUALLY RELEASED TO THE WILD.

experience possible. Consequently, more than 99% of our flights involve passengers.

In March 2020, in the early weeks of Covid-19's appearance in the U.S., LightHawk made the decision to suspend operations involving passengers to ensure that our flights would not contribute to the global pandemic. With our normal way of doing business unavailable, we faced a crossroads: stop all flights until the end of the pandemic or adapt to the new reality. Fortunately, our staff was ready to meet the challenge. Within a week, we had developed a new framework for advancing conservation.

Even without passengers, we continued to make critical flights to promptly deliver endangered wolf pups to their wild foster mothers, track wildlife populations, and we captured compelling video and images using cameras mounted to airplanes. Highly invasive Japanese knotweed did not escape the watchful eyes of our GoPro camera systems flying over the Delaware River watershed. And in a truly innovative turn, we partnered with SkyTruth to combine artificial intelligence assessments of remote-sensed data with aircraft-based observations to allow our land trust partners to monitor their conservation easements safely, efficiently, and effectively.

“Once again,
LightHawk
saved the day.”

—JACKIE FALLON, Lake Superior Zoo



It takes 3!

DONORS, PILOTS, AND STAFF

Ecologists use words like “apex predators” and “keystone species” to convey interrelatedness. In the LightHawk ecosystem, the forward momentum which moves conservation efforts comes from the connectedness between our donors, volunteer pilots, and our staff. In LightHawk’s 41-year history, this connectedness has been central to our resilience and longevity.

At our core, we are a conservation organization that leverages the power of aviation to protect the environment. Our donors are central: they both inspire and support our mission. LightHawk’s volunteer pilots are critical to our work, donating their skills, time, and flight expenses to help us reach our conservation goals. Our staff are the integrators: with their conservation expertise we can take the support of our donors and turn it into wins for the environment.

Donor Spotlight



Ralph Britton
California

Embodying the true spirit of philanthropy, Britton gives both time and treasure to further LightHawk’s conservation efforts. Ralph recently retired from decades of flying, including over 10 years as a LightHawk volunteer pilot. He is also a dedicated donor to LightHawk. “As a donor, I have seen my investment in LightHawk returned many times over. Some of my most satisfying LightHawk flights have been radio-tracking endangered California condors. I know that my donation supports LightHawk staff in building the partnerships and coordinating the flights that helped our partners achieve notable success in reintroducing these magnificent birds into the wild.”



Stephanie Wells

Colorado

Among other accomplishments, Wells is a retired NASA pilot and training officer. A LightHawk volunteer pilot since 2012, she also serves as a Volunteer Pilot Mentor and advisory board member. “The aerial perspective is imperative to changing hearts and minds. I love that my volunteer work contributes toward better understanding of the environmental threats to our world.”

Pilot Spotlight



Rudy Engholm

Florida

An active conservationist particularly interested in protecting watersheds from Maine to Florida, Engholm has been a volunteer pilot for over 30 years. “I am glad to continue to donate my aviation expertise to support the awareness and the attention a LightHawk flight brings to Everglades restoration, coastline erosion, and invasive species devastation.”

Staff Spotlight



Esther Duke, MSc
Colorado

As Western Program Director, Duke is responsible for leading LightHawk’s Colorado River, California Condor Recovery and Salmon Flagship projects. Duke brings 15 years of applied conservation social science experience and a lifetime of love of the outdoors to her leadership.



Jonathan Milne, MSc
Maine

LightHawk’s Eastern Program Director, Milne stewards the Delaware River and Everglades Flagship projects. His ecological expertise comes from several decades as a park ranger, and he brings his passion for conservation planning, mapping, and aviation, to his work.



Audrey Ek-Psomas, MS
New Mexico

As Eastern Program Coordinator, Ek-Psomas works with volunteer pilots and partners to plan flights and put these projects into action. An avid hiker and outdoorsperson, Ek-Psomas brings a vibrant environmental perspective to LightHawk.

LightHawk Pilots

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

Nadim Abuhaider	Thomas Dillon	Hal Hayden	Tom LeCompte	Bill Nicolai	Mike Schroeder
David Acker	Andy Dunigan	Jeff Hazlett	Michael Lee	Jane Nicolai	Merry Schroeder
Ken Adelman	Rick Durden	David Heaney	Ray Lee	Pete Niewieroski	Chuck Schroll
Gabrielle Adelman	Joe DuRousseau	Randall Henderson	Ted Leenerts	Paul Novak	Susan Schwaab
Jim Afinowich	Jerry Edgerton	Tim Hendricks	Roy Lewallen	Gerold Noyes	Terry Scott
Steve Allsop	Noam Eisen	Nick Herring	Todd Libke	Geoff Nye	Michael Scott
Tom AmRhein	James Elegante	Chuck Heywood	Gary Lickle	Paul O'Bagy	Jerry Seckler
Eric Anderson	Rudy Engholm	Bruce Hinds	Perry Lindsay	David Osher	Scott Sedam
John Anson	Jon Engle	Jeff Hinkle	Rob Lober	Patrick Paap	Donna Shannon
Paul Armstrong	Dan Evans	Jonathon Hinson	Brian Locascio	Bob Panebianco	David Shapiro
Ralph Arwood	Bill Faulkner	Jerry Hoogerwerf	Jack Long	Greg Paulin	Ken Shapiro
Jim Averett	Barb Filkins	Bruce Horn	Allen Low	Larry Petro	Dan Silvers
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Greg Bedinger	Dennis Fitzpatrick	Scott Humphries	Matt Machen	Geoff Pope	JP Soldo
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Brent Blue	John French	Richard Jacobs	Miguel Marin	John Pryor	Bob Stoecker
John Bone	Jamie Gamble	Mike Jesch	Dan Marks	Bill Psaledakis	Eric Stoltz
Blair Bouchier	Mark Gaponoff	Dean Johnson	James Matthews Jr	Sandy Quillen	Dick Stone
Chris Boyer	Bette Gardner	Kirk Johnson	Carl Mattson	Bruce Ray	Joe Stringer
Bill Brine	Steven Garman	Mel Jordan	Paul Mattson	Joe Reaves	Colin Summers
Norm Brod	Pete Geiler	John Kamburoff	Michael Maya	Rex Reynolds	Mike Sutton
Jason Brooks	Lee Gerstein	Sid Karin	Charles	Ross Rice	Larry Swanson
Phil Brown	Cliff Gill	Jerry Karlsberg	Mike McBride	Jim Richards	Bill Tarmey
Steve Brown	Bob Gill	Joe Keeton	Wayne McClelland	Dave Riffle	Tim Taylor
Tom Bryant	Martin Goldfarb	Chris Keithley	Bruce McLean	Pat Riley	Bob Thomas
James Buck	Donald Goodman	Bob Keller	Mike McNamara	Kevin Roache	Zach Thomas
Greg Burnett	Reg Goodwin	Steve Kent	Kathrynne	Steve Robbins	Dan Thompson
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Linda Chism	Lane Gormley	Martha King	Mark Merrill	Jim Robinson	Tom Tillman
John Chlopek	Kelly Gottlieb	Steve Kiss	Jack Merritt	Nelson Ronsvalle	Tim Timmons
Scott Cianchette	Jim Grady	Jim Knowles	Steve Meyer	Chuck Rosenfeld	Tim Toal
Bob Cipolli	Eric Grant	Rick Koril	Wolfgang Meyn	Jane Rosevelt	Val Tollefson
Tuck Colby	Ney Grant	Alice Kottmyer	David Miller	Eric Ross	Lanny Toning
David Cole	Rich Greenawald	Jason Kozak	Doug Monger	Rob Ross	Kelly Trigg-
Peter Coltman	Howard Greenberg	Dave Krahn	Tony Moradian	Polly Ross	Grossetete
Dave Comarow	David Grimm	David Kunkel	David Morrison	Jim Roswell	Marijke Unger
Wayne Connor	Tom Haas	Nathan Kurth	Fred Moskol	Bill Rush	Rick Utermoehlen
Denise Corcoran	Hunter Handsfield	John Kusianovich	Wayne Munson	George Ryan	Gil Velez-
Richard Costello	Doug Harford	Paul Kutler	Russ Munson	Scott Ryan	Domenech
Jim Crawford	Barry Harper	Fred Lagno	David Murphy	Nathan Rydman	Mike Venturino
Chuck Crinnian	David Harris	Vincent Lalomia	Joe Murray	John Sandvig	Matt Verdieck
Warren Dean	Rusty Harrison	Jonathan Lampitt	Arlene Myers	Wayne Sayer	Greg Vernon
Matt Debski	Jack Hart	Bob Lange	Alexander	Michael Schaffer	Varlin Vissepo
Edward DeCastro	Mike Hart	Tim Lapage	Ken Newbury	Skip Schildecker	Herb Wagers
Mark Dedon	Benjamin Harvey	Andreas Lauschke	Janice Newman	Jim Schmidt	Phil Walker



Dick Walker
 Charles Walling
 Keith Ward
 David Warner
 Peter Watkins
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 Pete Welles
 Rich Wellner
 Stephanie Wells
 Randy Wells
 Cory West
 Mike White
 Gerry Whitley

Jud Wickwire
 Rhon Williams
 Steve Williams
 Brian Williams
 John Wilson
 Brent Witters
 Aron Wolf
 Will Worthington
 Alan Wright
 Chuck Yanke
 Scott Young
 Andy Young
 Mark Zaller



Flown West

In Memoriam

Jo Duffy
 Jeffrey Weiss

Pilot Anniversaries

PLATINUM FLYERS—15 YEARS

Gregory Burnett
 Dan Evans
 John Feagin
 Eric Fogelin
 Doug Monger
 Will Worthington

25 YEARS

Allen Low
 Jane Nicolai

30 YEARS

Skip Slyfield

Pilot Awards

Every year we present awards at our Annual Fly-In to recognize our dedicated volunteer pilots.

SPIRIT OF LIGHTHAWK AWARD

Bill Rush

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

BILL & BETTY ROCKWELL AWARD

Steve Kent

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

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Steve Meyer

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

CARPENTER AWARD

Will Worthington

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

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Mike Venturino

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.

Our Donors

\$70,000 AND ABOVE

Cornell Douglas Foundation
Thomas W. Haas Foundation
Walton Family Foundation
William Penn Foundation

\$25,000 TO \$69,999

Appleby Foundation
Buehler Aviation Research
Foundation
Marisla Foundation
Nina Mason Pulliam
Charitable Trust
The Batchelor Foundation, Inc.
The Eucalyptus Foundation
Wyncote Foundation Northwest

\$5,000 TO \$24,999

Benedict Family Foundation
Jamie and Christine Gamble
Jack and Carolyn Long
Dr. Lisa Manning
The Wildlife Forever Fund
WELWE Foundation

\$1,000 TO \$4,999

Anonymous
Arete Foundation
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Jim Becker and Mimi Macksoud
Blyler-Thompson
Charitable Fund
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Allan and Marilyn Brown
Barbara Brown
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Robert and Carol Keller via Keller
Family Fund, a donor advised
fund of the Community
Foundation of Herkimer &
Oneida Counties

Kongsgaard-Goldman Donor
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Ray Lee and Sue Morgensen
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Steve Ginsberg
Nathaniel O. Owings
P.E.A.C.E. Awareness Foundation
Deborah and William
Roach Trust
Merry Schroeder and
David Matthews
Lawrence and Fran Sittig
Jennifer Speers
Celia P. Taylor
Philip Walker and Cheryl Tritt
Terri Watson and Kimi Harrison
Tracey Weisberg
Jim and Mary Winn
Amy Woodworth
Sandy and Will Worthington

\$250 TO \$999

Anonymous
Nadim and Maggie Abuhaidar
Thomas AmRhein
Mary Ellen Bates
Martin and MaryAnn Baumrind
Greg Bedinger and Jan Mulder
Reinier and Nancy Beeuwkes
Matthew Berman
Geoffrey and Martha Clark
Joyce and Les Coleman
Kitty Collins
Jitze and Nancy Couperus
Christopher and
Bonnie Covington
Robert and Susan Crenshaw
Elena De Angelis and
Jochen Spengler
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Theodore Lyman
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Jennifer E. Marcotte
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Peggy O'Shea via the Joan B. &
William F. O'Shea Family Fund,
a donor advised fund of the
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Bruce Ray
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Michele and Howard Rutledge
Santa Fe Garden Club
The Allan Silverstein
Family Foundation
Douglass Sisk
Barbara Sweet
Tom and Sue Tuxill
Margot B. Unkel
Emily V. Wade
Joel Cutler and Lucinda Wegener
David Wild
Barbara J. Wilhite
Stephen Williams
Marianne Wyman

\$100 TO \$249

Edwin Ahrens
Kerry Albright
Janice Anderson
Bryan Baker
Scott Allen Barber
Stephen Bell
Amy Best
Gail Bohnhoff-Hlavacek and
Bill Hlavacek
Joseph Bower
Lynette Cardoch
Louise T. Chow and
Thomas R. Broker
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Stan and Carol Eilers

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Emilie Ryan and Clayton Fraser
Martha Ryan
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Christine Sakach
Robert Salerno
Dick and Jan Scar

Nancy Schultz
Charles Simenstad
Jerry Smith
David Soules
Donald Stearns
Lida Teneva
Walter Tingle
Kevin and Sara Tolman
Stephanie Wells
John and Jill Winter
Brenda Ziegler

UP TO \$100

Anonymous
Mercedes Agogino
Jim Astin
Chelsea and Andrew Baird
Elizabeth Bartlett
George and Anita Berlacher
Richard and Bette Ann Bicknell
Ryan Boggs
Andrew Bro
Stephen and Deborah
Ann Carroll
Margaret and Ron Claypool
Del and Linda Coolidge
Seth Cothrun
Laura Cotts
Tom and Cathryn Crum
Lee and Phoebe Driscoll
Benjamin Drummond
Esther Duke
Audrey Ek-Psomas and
Brandon Psomas
Bob and Rose Francella

Karen Freeberg
Lydia Garvey
Sharon Gaskill
Joseph Gerberg
Douglas Gerleman
Mark M. Giese
Elaine R. Goldman
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Bruce and Karen Joffe
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Debi Maucione
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Donna Miller Ward
Richard and Kathleen Westcott
Winston Wheeler
Dave Wilson
Joanna Winship
James A. Wood
Bryan L. Wyberg
Claire Zugmeyer

WINGS OF LIGHTHAWK

These monthly donors provide reliable year-round support that keeps us soaring higher

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Thomas R. Crum
Lucretia Evans
Terri Watson and Kimi Harrison
Christina Heinle
Richard Lindsey
Robert McKernan

Mary Kaye O'Neill
Christine Sakach
Christine Steele
Lida Teneva
Walter Tingle
Barbara J. Wilhite

PARTNER SUPPORTERS

Agricultural Stewardship Association
Columbia Land Conservancy
Crooked River Watershed Council
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Mesker Park Zoo
New York Times

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Angel Flight West
Aviation Supplies & Academics
Mark Berry
ForeFlight
Google, Inc.
King Schools
Mind Garden, Inc.
Network for Good
Salesforce
TaskRay
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
The Denver Foundation
YourCause, LLC

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
Bud Sittig
Beverly Steveson
Terri Watson and Kimi Harrison
Brian Williams

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

GIVING IN HONOR OF

John and Paula Foy in honor of Rudy Engholm
Karen Freeberg in honor of Daniel Freeberg
Kelly and Michael Gottlieb in honor of Linda and Donald Silpe
Kelly and Michael Gottlieb in honor of Jamie Stern and Steve Brown
Kelly and Michael Gottlieb in honor of Joan and Michael Salke
Brook Lenker in honor of FracTracker's Ted Auch
David Matthews in honor of Merry Schroeder
Deborah Mitchell in honor of Alan Kinback
Majken Ryherd in honor of Mike James and Mike Ryherd
Amy Woodworth in honor of David Kunkel

GIVING IN MEMORY OF

Kerry Albright in memory of Jim Roush
Bob and Rose Francella in memory of Frank J. "Reds" Francella
Mary Kaye O'Neill in memory of Eugene (Gene) Steffen
Hazel Patton in memory of Mark Roberts
Ginny Paul in memory of Steve Paul
Rona Sheramy in memory of Norman Best
Lawrence and Fran Sittig in memory of Steve Paul

OUR FINANCES

LightHawk's financials reflect our donors' commitment to long term, sustained investment in conservation results. Many of our donors have been part of LightHawk for ten or more years and are increasingly making multi-year commitments. In Fiscal Year 2020 we received a 10-year gift totalling \$1M which is a significant cornerstone of our financial stability. Knowing that we can count on a continuous income stream enables us to address both ongoing conservation challenges and emerging, urgent issues. Every dollar counts and LightHawk's spending reflects our dedication to transforming those dollars into conservation **wins**.

PERCENTAGE OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY SOURCE

50%

Individuals

28%

Foundation and Partner grants

21%

Donated flights and services

1%

Misc Income and Events

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PROGRAMMATIC EXPENSES

78%

Conservation Program

12%

Fundraising & Donor Communications

10%

General & Administrative

Statement of Activities for the year ending on March 31, 2020

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Individual contributions	\$1,226,779
Organizational contributions	\$514,059
Donated flight services and materials	\$690,600
Other revenue, events, interest and dividends	\$26,945
Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on endowment investments	(\$68,261)

Total Revenue and Support **\$2,390,122**

EXPENSE

Program—LightHawk costs	\$806,042
Program—Volunteer Pilot donated flights	\$647,134
Fundraising and donor communications	\$218,409
General and administration	\$186,054

Total Expense **\$1,857,639**

Change in Net Assets **\$532,483**

Net assets, beginning of year	\$2,054,261
Net assets, end of year	\$2,586,744

Statement of Financial Position for the year ending on March 31, 2020

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$721,042
Unconditional promises to give	\$227,416
Long term promise to give	\$800,000
Prepaid expenses	\$55,180
Endowment investments	\$839,542
Property and equipment	\$693

Total Assets **\$2,643,873**

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$57,129
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Total Liabilities **\$57,129**

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$535,678
Temporarily restricted	\$1,516,946
Permanently restricted	\$534,120

Total Net Assets **\$2,586,744**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$2,643,873**

Note: These financial statements are unaudited. Audited Financial Statements and IRS form 990 are available on our website www.lighthawk.org or may be obtained by writing LightHawk, PO Box 913239, Denver, CO 80291

OUR CONSERVATION PARTNERS

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



Agricultural Stewardship Association
American Rivers
Arizona Land and Water Trust
Artists in Residence in Everglades
Aspen Valley Land Trust
Audubon California
Audubon Pennsylvania
Be Reel Pictures
Binder Park Zoo
Black River Outdoor Education Program
Brian Kelley, Video Producer
Bronx River Alliance
Calgary Zoo
Calusa Waterkeeper
Carlton Ward, Photographer
Carlyle Calhoun, Freelance Journalist
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, Baja California
Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
Coastal Alliance to Protect Our Environment
Coastal Watershed Institute
Colorado Natural Heritage Program
Colorado Open Lands
Colorado West Land Trust
Columbia Land Conservancy
Columbia Land Trust
Comite Civico del Valle
Conservation Lands Foundation
Crooked River Watershed Council
Delaware Highlands Conservancy
Department of Natural Resources—Maryland
E&E News
Eastern Sierra Land Trust
Endangered Wolf Center
Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan
Florida Wildlife Corridor
Flying Magazine
FracTracker Alliance
Friends of Casco Bay
Friends of the Upper Delaware River
Friends of the Verde River
Galveston Bay Foundation
Grand Riverkeeper
Greater Hells Canyon Council
Greater Rivers Habitat Alliance
Hawks Aloft
Heart of the Rockies Initiative
Institute for Bird Populations
International League of Conservation Photographers
Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve
J Henry Fair, Photographer
Jon Waterman, Photographer
Kansas City Zoo
King County Department of Natural Resources
Lindsay Fendt, Freelance Journalist
Long Live The Kings
Los Angeles Zoo & Botanical Gardens
Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership
Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust
Metro Richmond Zoo
Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper
Mono Lake Committee
National Audubon Society
National Geographic Magazine
National Geographic Society
National Marine Sanctuaries
New Hampshire Audubon
New Jersey Conservation Foundation
New Jersey Highlands Coalition
New York Times
North Carolina King Tides Project
North Country Public Radio
Northwest Fisheries Science Center
No Water No Life
Oasis Bird Observatory
Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition
Oregon State University
Oregon Wild
Oregon Zoo
Pacific Institute
Pacific Rivers
Peninsula Open Space Trust
Pinnacles National Park
Point Blue Conservation Science
PublicSource
Puget Soundkeeper
Raise the River
Resource Renewal Institute
Ricketts Conservation Foundation
Albuquerque BioPark Zoo
RiversEdge West
Rogue Riverkeeper
Rutgers University
San Diego Zoo Global
San Francisco Baykeeper
Santa Barbara Zoo
Save The River, Upper St Lawrence River Keeper
Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility
Shattil/Rozinski Photography
Sonoran Institute
Southern Interior Land Trust
State of New Jersey Office of Climate Resilience Planning
Steven DeWitt Photography
Stroud Water Research Center
Surfrider Foundation
The Bay Foundation
The Everglades Foundation
The Ladder Ranch
The Land Conservancy of New Jersey
The Nature Conservancy—Arizona
The Nature Conservancy—Colorado
The Nature Conservancy—Illinois
The Nature Conservancy—Maine
The Nature Conservancy—Maryland
The Nature Conservancy—Mississippi River Basin
The Nature Conservancy—Nevada
The Nature Conservancy—Worldwide
The Peregrine Fund
The Redford Center
The Shortridge Coastal Center—Bates College
Tookany/Tacony—Frankford Watershed Partnership
Traverse Image LLC
Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
University of Colorado—Center for Environmental Journalism
University of Colorado—Denver
University of Maine
Upper Valley Land Trust
USDA Forest Service
Walton Family Foundation
Washington Forest Law Center
Waterkeeper Alliance
Western Colorado Alliance for Community Action
Wildlands Restoration Volunteers
Wild Salmon Center
William Penn Foundation
Wolf Conservation Center
Wolf Haven International
Woodie Wheaton Land Trust

LIGHTHAWK STAFF

Michele Rutledge

Chief Executive Officer

Chelsea Baird

Development & Administrative Assistant

Ryan Boggs

Chief Program Officer

Esther Duke

Western Program Director

Audrey Ek-Psomas

Eastern Program Coordinator

Jonathan Milne

Eastern Program Director

Lee Pagni

Interim Chief Advancement Officer

Emilie Ryan

Chief Financial Officer

Christine Steele

Western Program Coordinator

LIGHTHAWK STAFF WHO LEFT LAST YEAR

Bob Francella

Chief Advancement Officer

Betsy Mortensen

Marketing / Communications Coordinator

Terri Watson

Chief Executive Officer

LIGHTHAWK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James R. Becker, Bolton MA

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Erin Tripp, Denver CO

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LIGHTHAWK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Barry Baker, Fort Collins CO

Brent Blue, Jackson WY

Russell Cowart, Fort Collins CO

Rick Durden, Bonners Ferry ID

C. Rudy Engholm, Lake Wales FL

Tom McMurray, Jackson WY

Sally Ranney, Aspen CO

Michael Sutton, Carmel Valley CA

Stephanie Wells, Arvada CO

Brian Williams, UAE

OUR MISSION

LightHawk accelerates conservation success through the powerful perspective of flight.

LightHawk works to accelerate the pace of conservation across the US, Mexico and Canada. We choose to work in places where our unique perspective can make the greatest impact. The places where we have chosen to put the most effort are our Flagship Projects:

The Everglades

Delaware River

Colorado River Basin

California Condor

Salmon

PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS

Most of the photographs in this year's annual report were taken on LightHawk flights.

Front and back cover: Jerry Clark/LightHawk

Pages 2-3: Jerry Clark/LightHawk

Pages 4-5: Jay Calderon/Desert Sun/LightHawk

Page 4 inset photos: top: Augenstern; middle: Daniel Dunca; bottom: HeavyT Photography

Page 5 inset photo: D L Kugler

Pages 6-7: Background: Jerry Clark/LightHawk

Page 6 inset photos: Regina Mossotti/Endangered Wolf Center

Page 7 inset photos: left: Mike Schroeder; center: Arizona Game and Fish Department; right: Rebecca Bose, Wolf Conservation Center

Pgs 8-9: Jerry Clark/LightHawk

Pgs 10-11: Richard Hamilton Smith/LightHawk

Page 15: MJ Tierney



LightHawk has been completely carbon neutral since 2007



IUCN Member since 2016



GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency

GET IN TOUCH WITH LIGHTHAWK

LightHawk is headquartered in Fort Collins, Colorado
Mail Service: PO Box 913239, Denver, CO 80291
info@lighthawk.org • www.lighthawk.org • 970-797-9355



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