



# 2023 Annual Report

*Conservation at the Speed of LightHawk*

## *Dear Partners, Volunteer Pilots and Donors,*

As I sit down to reflect on the events of the past year, I am reminded of the dramatic shifts taking place in our world. Yesterday, I personally witnessed the aftermath of four tornadoes that struck near my home in Boston. The news is filled with reports of scorching temperatures and smoke engulfing our nation. Even the waters surrounding Florida have reached alarming temperatures, exceeding 100 degrees. And as I put these words to paper, Hurricane Hilary is ready to unleash incredible amounts of rain upon some of the driest regions of our country.

These occurrences are nothing short of unprecedented. They serve as reminders that our planet is undergoing a transformation, a transformation that is increasingly difficult to ignore or dismiss. Fortunately, LightHawk is here to tell the story and bring hope from above by driving positive change for both people and the planet.

LightHawk's impact this year has been profound. Collaborations with photographers, videographers, and media professionals have documented, educated, and heightened public awareness about the impact of climate change and environmental decline. Another pivotal aspect of our work involved hosting policy makers, decision influencers, and representatives from impacted communities, providing them with comprehensive insights into the challenges they confront. Each of these experiences often bring about transformative shifts in understanding and action, solidifying LightHawk's commitment to effecting meaningful change.

Our dedicated corps of Volunteer Pilots facilitated the transport of hundreds of endangered species, including Mexican and red wolves, black-footed ferrets, masked bobwhite quail, and California condors. One condor named Traveler was flown by pilot, Mark Dedon, to the LA Zoo for emergency surgery. Thankfully, the bird survived and was able to fly once again with the 300 condors that remain in the wild. We also learned that a Mexican wolf pup transported by LightHawk is now an adult and thriving in a pack of its own, underscoring the remarkable impact of our missions.

In the face of both challenges and successes, I draw immense inspiration from the dedicated individuals who make up the LightHawk staff and Volunteer Pilots. Each day, they rise with a shared sense of purpose, fully aware that their efforts are contributing to the conservation of our environment and the mitigation of the far-reaching effects of climate change. Their commitment is unwavering and their impact is immeasurable.

None of this would be possible without the incredible support of the conservation partners, foundations, and donors who also stand behind LightHawk. Our mission grows more critical each year and it is your generosity that drives our progress and fuels our future.

To all those who contribute in so many ways, I extend my heartfelt gratitude.



*James Becker*  
CEO



# BY THE NUMBERS

# 89

Partners served

# 194

Flights

# 757

Donated Flight Hours

## Endangered Species Transported

- 10 - Mexican wolves
- 7 - Red Wolves
- 2,000 - White Abalone
- 3 - California Condors
- 1,210 - Masked Bobwhite Quail
- 1 - Whooping crane
- 22 - Black Footed Ferret

## Aircraft Types Flown

- Aviat Husky
- Beechcraft Baron
- Beechcraft Debonair
- Beechcraft Bonanza
- Beechcraft King Air
- Bellanca Citabria
- Cessna 170
- Cessna 150
- Cessna 172
- Cessna 180
- Cessna 182
- Cessna 182 Amphibian
- Cessna 185
- Cessna 206
- Cessna 305
- Cessna 421
- Cessna Citation
- Cessna 210
- Cessna Skyhawk
- American Champion
- Decathlon
- Cirrus SF50
- Cirrus SR20
- Cub Crafters Carbon
- Cub SS
- Daher Kodiak
- Daher TBM
- Diamond DA40
- Found Aviation
- Expedition E350
- Gippsland GA-8
- Airvan
- Grumman AA-58
- Lake LA 25
- Maule M7
- Mooney M20
- Pilatus PC-12
- Pilatus PC-24
- Piper Archer
- Piper Pacer
- Piper Comanche
- Piper Cherokee
- Piper Twin Comanche
- Socata TBM
- Vans RV10

# 2022/2023 HIGHLIGHTS





## *Romeo November: A LightHawk Story*

The Colorado River is in crisis. A decades-long drought has driven levels to record lows. Building resilience into this vital water system is a high priority for LightHawk and its partners. The aerial perspective is a valuable tool for conservation scientists.

Through the eyes of LightHawk volunteer pilot, Chuck Schroll, the film begins its journey near Fort Collins, Colorado, where Hally Strevey of the Coalition for the Upper Poudre Watershed explains how her organization and others are confronting the challenge of healing a forest ecosystem from massive wildfire. Then it heads to Price, Utah, where Jordan Nielsen of Trout Unlimited and landowner Leo Hardy show how they are working on the ground to heal a degraded stream using beaver dam analogues and other nature-based solutions. Lastly the film visit with Cochise County's Mark Apel, who guides viewers across the San Pedro River watershed, illustrating strategies to recharge the regional aquifer to support healthy river flows and incredible biodiversity in this desert landscape.

Produced in partnership with American Rivers and Trout Unlimited, LightHawk released "Romeo November: A LightHawk Story" in February through our website, email and social media channels. If you haven't had a chance to watch the film yet, check out [LightHawk.org](http://LightHawk.org) or follow the QR code on this page.

### Partners



**Click to watch  
"Romeo November:  
A LightHawk Story"**



# WATERWAYS



Photo by Alexander Heilner

## Colorado River

The Colorado River has been facing a years-long drought. As the primary source of water for communities throughout the West, its continued drop in volume has potentially massive impacts for cities, agriculture and recreation.

Photographer Alex Heilner has been documenting water levels in Lake Powell and Lake Mead for several years through LightHawk Flights. Heilner says, “Global warming is changing lands we take for granted right before our eyes, and the better we understand these shifts and our role in them, the better equipped we will be to reckon with them. The public – especially those not already closely aware of the Colorado’s plight - need to see the issues in a very literal way.”

Photos from this flight and others are aimed at a broad, mainstream audience through both publication and exhibition. Many of the images Heilner collects on LightHawk flights are made available to the Water Desk at CU Boulder, which serves as a resource for journalists writing environmental stories across the country.

Visually documenting the current state of the Colorado River is a project Heilner hopes will encourage smart decisions about water use in the future and to create a record of how this natural resource is being managed and mismanaged in our lifetime.

## Florida Everglades

In late September of 2022, Hurricane Ian roared into the coast of Florida. A category 4 hurricane, it was the fifth strongest storm to make landfall in the U.S. It caused widespread damage and loss of life.

LightHawk partner The Everglades Foundation reached out shortly after the storm to plan a reconnaissance flight over the coastal Everglades, Florida Bay and the southwest coastline to assess water quality and document impacts from Ian’s landfall.

Volunteer Pilot Robert Decker responded to the call and took Steve Davis, Chief Science Officer with the Everglades Foundation, along with Alex Harris, reporter for the Miami Herald climate team, on the aerial tour.

During a conversation after the flight, Davis noted that the only way to make these observations and gather this kind of information is in the air. He was also able to observe the benefits of completed/ongoing restoration projects implemented in the Everglades. Due to the scale of projects and the size of the area covered, the aerial perspective is the only way to get a clear picture of the situation.



Photo by Alex Harris

# OCEANS & COASTLINES



## *Harmful Algal Blooms*

LightHawk partner San Francisco Baykeeper has flown multiple missions over the past few years to monitor and document harmful algal blooms (HABs) in the San Francisco Bay Area. HABs impair waterways, making them uninhabitable for fish and dangerous for humans. According to the CDC, Algal and cyanobacterial blooms can grow in fresh water, salt water, and brackish water (a mixture of fresh and salt water) around the world,

including in water people use for drinking or recreation. Harmful blooms tend to form in warm water with high levels of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus.

HABs are bad for water systems for a number of reasons. If a bloom becomes so dense that sunlight cannot go through, it can block other plants and animals in the water from getting the sunlight they need to survive. Dense blooms can also clog the gills of fish, shellfish, and other animals, preventing them from breathing.

Two new field investigators joined the Baykeeper team and as part of their onboarding to the organization, they flew with LightHawk volunteer pilot Peter Geiler. Their flight served to familiarize them with the ins and outs of LightHawk flights with the goal of expanding the partnership between San Francisco Baykeeper and LightHawk for advocacy, community outreach and education, science and legal investigations around harmful algal blooms.

Additionally, the flight took advantage of time in the air to conduct a seasonal overview of the San Joaquin Delta to evaluate and document remote water quality conditions as part of their ongoing HAB monitoring program.

## *Sea Level Rise*

A series of LightHawk flights enabled Surfrider Foundation to document the king tides along the West Coast. These images and firsthand experiences will support ongoing research and planning for sea level rise and climate change impacts. Documentation will help advance our understanding of sea level rise impacts, identify coastal areas that are likely to be first impacted, and help plan for adaptation strategies.

Surfrider Foundation and coastal planners will 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 will be shared with media and resource agencies, and pushed out through Surfrider's local and national media channels to help raise public awareness.





## Colorado River and Western Drought

In late October, LightHawk volunteer pilot Will Worthington flew a photographer from the Denver Post along sections of the Colorado River. The flight's purpose was to collect imagery for a photojournalism project to demonstrate the scale of the challenges along the river via photos.

Communities throughout the west depend on the Colorado River for a number of uses, from agricultural, to drinking water, to industrial uses. Demand has put increasing strain on the river system as drought has reduced the water supply below the demand. Media has documented the falling water levels at Lake Mead and Lake Powell and the growing need to implement measures that would decrease demand and preserve vital water resources.

Photos from this flight have been used in online stories for the Denver Post and will also be used to build out a website next year that will take viewers on the journey

## CLIMATE CHANGE



Photo by RJ Sangosti

of the water from the Colorado River headwaters to the Sea of Cortez.

Denver Post photographer RJ Sangosti had previously conducted an on-the-ground tour of sections of the river but realized he was not able to capture the scale of the drought and overuse. He needed the aerial perspective LightHawk provides to illustrate the drought and disparity along the river.

### Partners Are Saying...



Photo by Dean Klinkenberg

“Seeing the Mississippi from the air helped all of us appreciate more fully how special and important the river is but also to see clearly how much our current management approaches have altered the river and the unintended consequences of those management decisions.”

– Dean Klinkenberg, *Mississippi Historian and Writer*

## Mississippi River Drought

LightHawk partnered with the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators (NCEL) to fly key legislators on an aerial tour as part of the Mississippi River Network's River Days of Action.

The tour over the floodplain educated officials about flooding, water quality issues and nature-based solutions such as wetlands and floodplain forests. 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. By doing an event like a conservation flight with an expert guide, this can build the interest and understanding of legislators in working on legislation aimed at improving watershed health.

# WILDLIFE

## Red Wolves

In early December 2022, LightHawk volunteer pilots Thomas Haas and Alex Wohlwend flew a successful mission to safely transport endangered red wolves. The wolves are a part of population managed by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Saving Animals From Extinction Program (SAFE).

The wolves in this population are used to maintain the genetic diversity of the species and produce offspring for releases as part of the current recovery plans. The purpose of the multi-day mission was to assist in establishing new breeding pairs among some of the 235 red wolves living at the 49 managed care facilities nationally. These wolves were genetically viable matches but were too far apart for ground transportation to be feasible.

The flight involved transporting a wolf from Chattanooga, Tennessee (KCHA) to Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium in Tacoma, Washington (KTIW). Then, three wolves were picked up from Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium and transported from Tacoma. One wolf was delivered to the Miller Park Zoo in Bloomington, Illinois, another went to Reflections Riding Arboretum and Nature Center in Knoxville, Tennessee (KDKX), and the remaining wolf was transported to Ithaca, New York (KITH).

All wolves were paired successfully



Photo by Nell Jordan

with their new mates.

The role of LightHawk in wolf and other species recovery programs is growing in importance. LightHawk provides safe, low-stress and efficient transportation so animals can avoid periods on hot, noisy airport ramps, spend long hours in crates or face the possibility of getting bumped from a flight. These factors (and many more) lead to better outcomes. LightHawk is making a real difference in the recovery of many endangered species populations.

### Partners Are Saying...

“Without LightHawk we would have had to ship the wolf on a costly commercial flight which would have landed in Chicago, over two hours away. We have done this in the past, but LightHawk was cheaper, more convenient, and far less stressful on the wolf. We will check with LightHawk before transporting any wolves in the future.”

– Pearl Yusuf, Red Wolf Species Survival Plan



## *Golden-winged warbler*

The golden-winged warbler is a small bird currently experiencing a substantial decline in population. It has reached the point where it is currently being considered for listing on the Endangered Species Act. In 2021, scientists with the University of Maine placed 35 VHF-coded nanotags on both male and female birds near Rhineland, Wisconsin.

A year later, LightHawk volunteer pilot Dan Silvers flew scientists and their radio telemetry gear over the same area in an attempt to relocate as many of the tagged birds as possible. This required mounting a VHF receiver antenna to the strut of his Cessna 182 ahead of the flight.

As a result of the flight, scientists learned that males and females don't typically disperse more than half a kilometer from their territories in subsequent breeding seasons. They also learned that their nanotags are able to be detected from above. That information, shared with collaborators, will help researchers in future studies. Partners on the flight felt it was a very useful flight for the work they are doing to preserve the declining population of golden-winged warblers.



# WILD PLACES



Photo by Jonathan Milne

## *7 Lakes Alliance*

LightHawk volunteer pilot Jonathon Hinson flew staff from the 7 Lakes Alliance in the greater Belgrade Lakes region of Maine. This was one of a series of flights completed with the organization this year. The alliance supports land and water conservation in the area by engaging with the whole community to achieve clean water, well-stewarded lands, and a vibrant economy. A group of dedicated volunteers and staff protect conservation properties through continuous monitoring and trail maintenance.

With more than 11,000 acres of land currently protected, monitoring efforts are significantly enhanced through the use of flight. Covering the same amount of area from the ground would take considerable time and resources.

The flights aimed to assist them in assessing their portfolio of protected lands in the region. The video and still photos captured from the air provide them with a baseline catalog from which to assess temporal change of forest structure/wetland conditions as well as early season recreational usage of conserved lands.

Volunteer pilot Hinson was able to execute a flight plan that covered the Greater Belgrade Lakes region with a focus on landscapes and associated wetland features. The flexibility of a LightHawk flight allowed them to circle important landmarks to ensure complete data was collected. This would not be possible in commercial flights or from the ground.

Passengers on the flight were able to photograph 90% of the alliance's fee and easement lands in 1.5 hours of flight time. This one flight allowed the CEO to see the lands she is responsible for the very first time since 2018. The images they collected will be used in communication pieces, donor engagement, and foundation engagement.



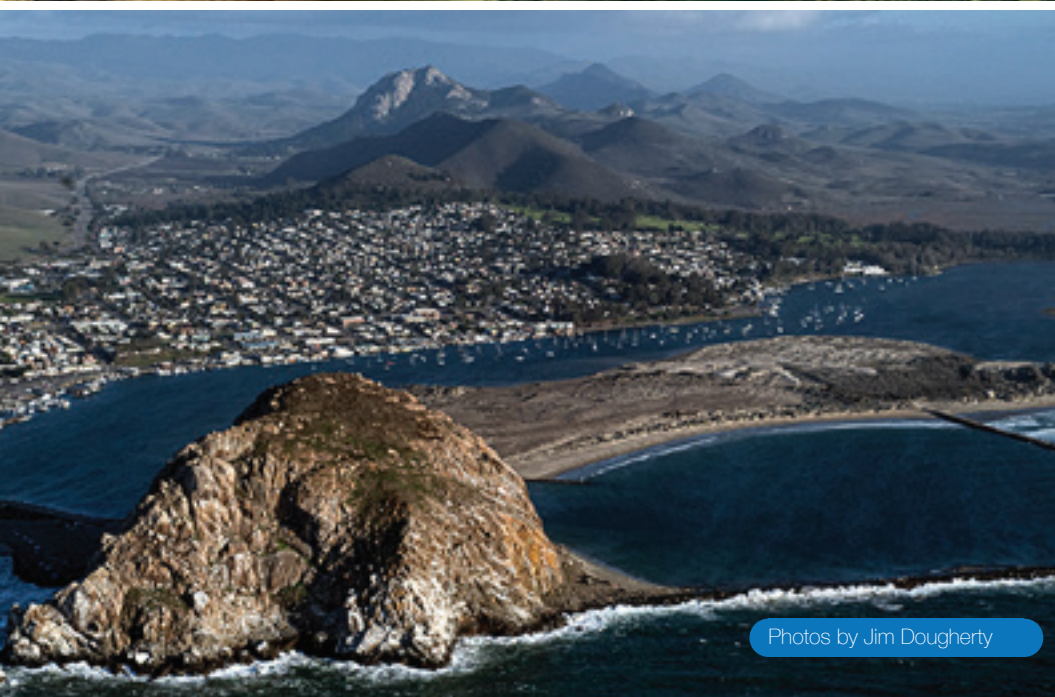
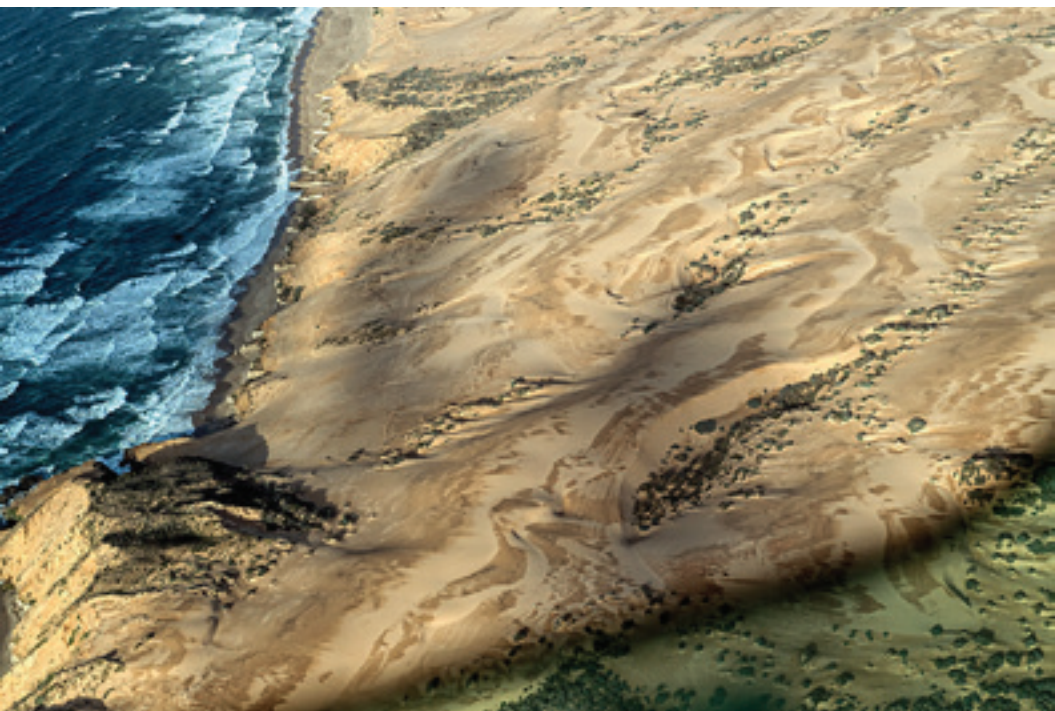
# California Central Coast Joint Venture

May is Migratory Bird Month and a LightHawk mission, flown by Mark Dedon, supported the protection of migratory bird habitat in California. This flight was a partnership with the newly formed California Central Coast Joint Venture (C3JV).

Accomplished photographer and conservationist Jim Dougherty (<https://jimdougherty.net/>) offered to donate his photography skills to support LightHawk's work with a few significant conservation efforts, and this is one of those lucky partners.

The central California coast is a very biologically important region for preserving and improving bird habitat. This Joint Venture region stretches from Santa Cruz and Monterey

This flight provided an overview of the C3JV region and allowed Dougherty to capture photos of the habitats of the Central Coast. The images collected will be used for publication to the C3JV website, outreach to partners and other uses. As a new and emerging partnership, characterizing the landscapes, from the urban centers to the agricultural valley bottoms, from the coastal dunes and beaches to the pelagic waters of the California current, is critical to building the case of C3JV's strategic conservation mission and the support needed to strengthen their durability moving forward.



# ON THE HORIZON



Photo by Raven Eye Photography

As we look forward to a new year, LightHawk will continue to partner with important conservation organizations across the country and continue our vital work in both the U.S. and abroad. We will continue to work with land trusts across the country to preserve and protect wild spaces – providing wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities. We will continue flying legislators, government officials and other stakeholders to provide them with the aerial perspective, giving them the best information possible as they make decisions that will impact the environment for generations to come.

In addition to these ongoing missions, LightHawk's program team is focused on expanding our work in three additional areas, including the transport of endangered species as well as new conservation initiatives along the Mississippi River and Baja California's Sea of Cortez. These focus areas will further expand LightHawk's reach and enhance our contributions to conservation throughout the continent.

LightHawk's unique ability to accelerate outcomes means that current and future partners working in these areas will experience conservation at the **Speed of LightHawk**.

## *Endangered Species Transports*

The extinction of animals can have a significant impact on our environment. With the loss of each species, we risk cascading effects on ecosystems, human societies and the planet's overall health. The conservation of LightHawk and those of our partners aim to prevent species from going extinct and preserve the intricate web of life on Earth for today and for future generations. Extinction is not just a problem in other countries around the world. We are at risk of losing animals right here at home.

In the U.S., many animals have been declared endangered or on the verge of extinction. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 established protections for threatened or endangered species. LightHawk actively works with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, zoos across the country, and other partners to directly prevent the extinction of species and support efforts to re-establish wild populations.

Several of these species have been declared "extinct in the wild," meaning that the only examples of these species were living in captivity. LightHawk has been an important part of re-establishing wild populations. The wild populations are small and susceptible to dangers such as disease, predation, or human actions. Establishing large, healthy populations is crucial for survival of the species. This is what LightHawk is doing currently with Mexican wolves, whooping cranes, and black-footed ferrets. In the coming year, we will expand our work with endangered species, including transporting red wolves and Guam King Fisher.

The efforts of our volunteer pilots to contribute to the recovery of Mexican Wolves is paying off, as evidenced by the gradual improvement in the wild population of this critically endangered species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with partners like LightHawk, aims to replicate these successes in the recovery of endangered Red Wolves. This species, once reduced to less than 20 individuals in captivity, is now a focus for which LightHawk anticipates playing a pivotal role in its recovery effort.



Photo by Nell Jordan

California condors were severely impacted by Avian flu early in 2023, leading to the death of more than 20 birds. This is a setback for an already fragile population. It puts a spotlight on the need to continue our work with partners to ensure a self-sustaining population in the wild. Throughout the upcoming year, LightHawk will continue our work with conservation partners by transporting condors for reproduction, release into the wild, and the continuous monitoring of these majestic animals.

LightHawk is excited to extend our collaborative efforts to aid in the recovery of additional species, like the Guam Kingfisher, also known as Sihek in the native language. This small but beautiful bird was killed off in the wild (island of Guam) in the late 1980s due to the accidental introduction of the brown snake which fed on its eggs. Presently, the Sedgwick County Zoo, in partnership with the USFWS and other collaborators, is spearheading an initiative to boost captive kingfisher numbers and establish a predator-free population on Palmyra Island. This endeavor holds promise for rescuing the species from extinction.



Photo by Meredith Evans/AWS



Photo by Ralph Lee Hopkins

The major challenge this year is initiating new conservation initiatives that yield substantial successes for LightHawk and create opportunities for our pilots to drive change. Our focus is on launching two key initiatives: one aimed at safeguarding Baja and the Sea of Cortez and one centered on preserving the Mississippi watershed.

## *Baja California and the Sea of Cortez*

For years, LightHawk worked in Baja California and the Sea of Cortez. Our actions were key for documenting changes, assessing bird populations, and supporting the protection of key areas. Our work is not complete. This area is considered one of the most biologically diverse areas of the world, particularly due to its rich marine and coastal



environment which includes numerous endemic species, important bird populations, and incredibly beautiful and important coastal ecosystems. Many of these ecosystems and species are being threatened due to human development, overexploitation of natural resources, and climate change.

LightHawk is working with several organizations in the Baja California and Sea of Cortez area to launch a new initiative. We are looking to continue our work in the conservation of natural resources, perform assessments of key species, and document the wonders and challenges in the area. We expect to launch this initiative in 2024, and will be looking for pilots willing to travel to the area to perform multi-day missions for land and coastal assessments, the determination and evaluation of coastal ecosystems, and documenting conservation challenges.

2023 has been a year of breaking records. We had the hottest month ever recorded in July. We are experiencing record-breaking temperatures in the Caribbean and Atlantic waters, taking extra stress in key marine ecosystems such as coral reefs. Canadian fires have been out of control for many months. The Colorado River continues losing water. LightHawk, with our partners, will continue documenting these extreme events to increase awareness about the impacts that Climate Change is bringing not only to natural ecosystems, but also to humans.

## *Mississippi River*

The Mississippi River is the most important waterway in the United States. More than 30 million people depend on it for their water supply. An extensive agricultural industry (more than 90% US agricultural exports) depends on it. A quarter of U.S. fish native to North America live in it. Sixty percent of bird species in North America use the river as their flyway. And commerce traveling the river moved more than 500 million tons of imports, exports and domestic freight. At the same time, the river has been declared one of the most endangered in the U.S., with



large amounts of pollutants coming from sewage, industrial activities, and agricultural runoff. Climate change is also threatening the river. In 2022, a historic drought was recorded, decreasing its navigability and impacting the normal flow exchange of goods along the river.

Given these compelling factors, safeguarding the Mississippi River has emerged as a national priority. LightHawk is actively developing a Mississippi initiative with the goal of showcasing the river's beauty, ecological significance, and the importance of its conservation. Expected to launch in the coming months, this initiative will require pilots equipped for capturing photography and videography of the river's natural wonders and its threats. Additionally, we are seeking partnerships with conservation organizations, particularly those dedicated to bird preservation, to bolster their assessment and monitoring efforts.

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- Claire Bridges in honor of Todd Bridges
- Jerrold Seckler in honor of Josh Marvil
- John and Paula Foy in honor of Rudy Engholm
- Loucinda McLean in honor of Jack Long
- Michele and Howard Rutledge in honor of John and Edwina Newell
- Stephen Law in honor of Dr. Sarah Rinkevich

## IN MEMORY OF..

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- Tim and Anne Davies in memory of John Magoffin
- James Kochevar in memory of John O Magoffin
- John Newell in memory of Edwina K. Nesbitt Newell
- Jim Mitchell and Nonie & Bill Newman in memory of John O. Magoffin, Jr
- Linda Nicholes in memory of Bob Nicholes
- Jean Schulz in memory of Nydia Goode

# VOLUNTEER PILOT AWARDS



Spirit of LightHawk Award  
*Mike Schroeder*



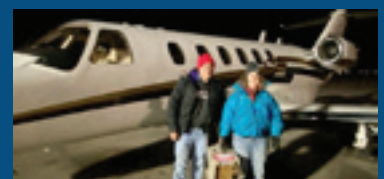
Bill & Betty Rockwell Award  
*John Priscu*



Rookie of the Year  
*Mark Dedon*



Carpenter Award  
*Thomas Haas*



President's Award  
*Kenneth & Gabrielle Adelman*

# VOLUNTEER PILOTS

LightHawk's volunteer pilots are the heart of our organization. Their donation of their time, skills and resources allow us to move conservation efforts ahead at the [Speed of LightHawk](#). Spread across the country, they allow us to work with partners in every region, addressing a wide range of conservation issues. We are grateful to their dedication to LightHawk and their willingness to provide the aerial perspective, saving the Earth, one flight at a time.

Nadim Abuhaidar  
David Acker  
Kenneth Adelman\*  
Gabrielle Adelman\*  
Jim Afinowich  
Terry Alberta  
Stephen W Allsop  
Thomas AmRhein\*  
Steve Anderson\*  
John Anson  
Paul Armstrong  
Ralph Arwood\*  
John Baker  
Bryan Baker  
Daniel Barley  
Courtney Barnhorst  
Michael Baum\*  
Greg Bedinger\*  
Milton Bennett  
Jon Berman  
Jay Beveridge  
Ernie Bitten  
Brent Blue  
John Bone  
Chris Bonter  
Zach Border  
Blair Bouchier  
Chris Boyer\*  
Art Bridge  
William Brine  
Norman Brod  
Tom Bryant  
James Buck  
Eileen Burger  
Gregory Burnett  
Brandon Butsick  
Jim Cameron  
Anthony Carson  
John Chlopek  
Scott Cianchette  
Bob Cipolli  
Frederick Colby  
Peter Coltman

David Comarow  
Wayne Connor  
Denise Corcoran  
James Crawford  
Charles Crinnian  
Warren Dean\*  
Matthew Debski  
Edward DeCastro  
Robert Decker\*  
Mark Dedon\*  
Thomas Dillon  
Reg Dowdall  
Patrick Andrew Dunigan  
Rick Durden\*  
Joseph DuRousseau\*  
Jerry Edgerton  
Noam Eisen  
James Elegante  
C. Rudy Engholm  
Jon Engle  
Daniel Evans  
Jeffrey Fainer  
Barbara Filkins\*  
Richard Filson  
Kurt Fischer  
Joseph Fischetti  
Dennis Fitzpatrick  
Eric Sandberg Fogelin  
Kenneth Foster  
Aaron Foster  
James Fulginiti  
Jamie Gamble\*  
Mark Gaponoff\*  
Steven Garman  
Peter Geiler\*  
Lee Gerstein  
Clifford Gill  
Bob Gill  
Gerald Glaser  
Martin Goldfarb  
Donald Goodman\*  
Reg Goodwin  
Peter Gordon

Shane Gorman  
Lane Gormley\*  
Kelly Gottlieb\*  
Emil Gould\*  
Ney Grant  
Eric Grant  
Richard Greenawald  
Howard Greenberg\*  
David Grimm  
Thomas Haas\*  
Douglas Harford  
David Harnitchek\*  
Barry Harper  
Mike Hart  
Benjamin Harvey  
Eric Haskel  
Hal Hayden  
Jeffrey Hazlett  
James David Heaney  
Randall Henderson  
Timothy Hendricks  
James Herring  
Charles Heywood  
Bruce Hinds  
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\*  
Jerry Karlsberg  
Joe Keeton\*

Chris Keithley  
Robert Keller\*  
Steve Kent\*  
Alan Kinback\*  
John King  
Steve Kiss  
Jim Knowles  
Richard Koril  
Jason Kozak  
David Krahn  
Nathan Kurth  
John Kusianovich  
Paul Kutler  
Hubert Lacey  
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  
Pavel Lukes  
Douglas Lumgair  
Ryan Lunde  
Matthew Machen  
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  
Richard McSpadden  
Mark Merrill  
John Merritt  
Steve Meyer\*  
David Miller  
William Mims  
Anne Minder\*  
Doug Monger  
Tony Moradian  
David Morrison  
Fredric Moskol  
Wayne Munson  
Russell Munson  
David Murphy  
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  
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  
Leon Robert  
Lisa Robertson  
Mark Robidoux  
James Robinson  
Nelson Ronsvalle  
Chuck Rosenfeld  
Jane Rosevelt\*  
Eric Ross  
Polly Ross  
Rob Ross  
Jim Roswell  
Bill Rush\*  
Scott Ryan  
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\*  
Skip Slyfield  
Bob Smith\*  
JP Soldo  
Jochen Spengler  
Micheal Spurgeon  
Jay Steffenhagen  
Bob Stoecker  
Eric Stoltz  
Dick Stone  
Michael Sutton  
Bill Tarmey  
Timothy Taylor  
Zachary Thomas  
Robert Thomas\*  
Dan Thompson

McHenry Tichenor  
Tom Tillman  
Timothy Timmons  
Timothy Toal  
G.Val Tollefon  
Wayland Toning  
Kelly Trigg-Grossetete\*  
Marijke Unger  
Rick Utermohlen  
Julian Veitch  
Gilberto Velez-Domenech\*  
Michael Venturino  
Matt Verdieck  
Greg Vernon  
Varlin Vissepo  
Herb Wagers  
Park Walker  
Charles Walling  
David Warner\*  
Peter Watkins  
Terri Watson  
David Weeks  
David Weissman  
Peter Welles  
Lynn Welling  
Rich Wellner  
Stephanie Wells\*  
Randall Wells  
Cory West  
Michael White  
Judston Wickwire  
Kent Wien\*  
Rhon Williams  
Brian Williams  
Steve Williams\*  
John Wilson  
Robert Woodley  
Will Worthington\*  
Chuck Yanke  
Scott Young  
Andy Young  
Mark Zaller

*\* Pilots who donated missions for LightHawk during the 2022-2023 year.*

# 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

# PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

7 Lakes Alliance  
Agricultural Stewardship Association  
Alexander Heilner, Photographer  
AlJazeera  
Allagash Wilderness Waterway Foundation  
American Rivers-Southwest, Denver  
American Rivers- Upper Mississippi River Basin  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
Archaeology Southwest  
Bear Mountain State Park  
Bill Hatcher, Photography  
Black-footed Ferret Conservation Center-USFWS  
Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge- US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Business for Water Stewardships  
Cairnstone Films  
Catskill Mountainkeeper  
Chicago Zoological Society - Brookfield Zoo  
Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection  
Colorado River Sustainability Campaign  
Columbia Land Conservancy  
Conservation Northwest  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
Dave Showalter Nature Photography  
David Moskowitz, photographer  
Denver Post  
El Laboratorio  
El Paso Zoo  
Environment New Jersey  
Fazal Sheikh, Photographer  
Fidelity Foundations  
FracTracker Alliance  
Friends of the Everglades  
Friends of the Yampa  
Gallatin Valley Land Trust  
George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center  
Grand Staircase Escalante Partners  
Greenbelt Alliance  
Inland Empire Task Force  
Institute for Wildlife Studies  
International Crane Foundation  
J Henry Fair, Photographer  
Jon Waterman, Photographer  
Landmark Stories  
Los Angeles Zoo & Botanical Gardens  
Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust  
Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan  
Mono Lake Committee  
Mother Jones  
Musconetcong Watershed Association  
National Audubon Society  
National Caucus of Environmental Legislators  
National Geographic Magazine  
Natural Resources Defense Council - New York HQ  
Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Northampton County Farmland Preservation  
Northwest Biological Consulting  
NPR- Marketplace  
Ocean Defenders Alliance  
Oregon Natural Desert Association  
Oregon State University  
Oregon Zoo  
Pinnacles National Park  
Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership  
Planet Women  
Pronatura Noroeste  
Red Wolf Species Survival Plan  
San Francisco Baykeeper  
Santa Barbara Zoo  
Save the Scenic Santa Ritas  
Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility  
Sonoma Land Trust  
The Coalition for Wetlands and Forests  
The Everglades Foundation  
The Land Conservancy of New Jersey  
The Nature Conservancy-California  
The Nature Conservancy-Colorado  
The Nature Conservancy-New Jersey, The Delaware Bayshores Office  
The Redford Center  
The Whale Museum  
Toronto Zoo  
Trout Unlimited-National Office  
Trust for Public Land  
Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust  
University of Colorado-Boulder- Center for Environmental Journalism  
University of Maine  
Washington's National Park Fund  
White Abalone Captive Breeding Program, UC Davis Bodega Marine Lab  
Wolf Conservation Center  
Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative-US Office

# FINANCIALS

Generous contributions from donors, foundations, and partners fund LightHawk's operations. These gifts empower us to drive conservation forward at the Speed of LightHawk, safeguarding land, water, and wildlife while also addressing the pressing challenges presented by climate change.

Numerous partnerships that contribute financial support to LightHawk have spanned over a decade. This sustained backing provides LightHawk with a dependable revenue source, empowering us to tackle pressing conservation issues and swiftly respond to emerging urgent challenges.

LightHawk takes the responsibility of stewarding all gifts with the utmost care and transparency. Rest assured, we are dedicated to using your investment wisely and channeling each dollar into meaningful conservation accomplishments.

To maintain transparency regarding our operations, we make our Form 990 and financial statements readily available on LightHawk's website for public review.

<b>Statement of Activities for the Year Ending on March 31, 2023</b>	
Contributed & Granted Revenue	\$1,166,532
Donated Services & Materials	\$836,210
Net Investment (loss) income	-\$3,659
Other Revenue	\$42
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,999,125</b>
Program Services	\$1,872,487
Fundraising and Donor Communications	\$117,452
General and Administrative Services	\$116,565
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,106,504</b>
Change in Net Assets	-\$360,401
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$2,731,539
Net Assets, End of Year	\$2,371,138
<b>Statement of Financial Position for the Year Ending on March 31, 2023</b>	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$690,576
Unconditional Promises to Give - Short Term	\$217,000
Unconditional Promises to Give - Long Term	\$500,000
Discount Allowance	-\$175,621
Prepaid Expenses	\$40,599
Property & Equipment	\$0
Endowment Investments	\$1,098,584
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,371,138</b>
Net Assets, without donor restrictions	\$657,656
Net Assets, with donor restrictions	\$2,034,671
Total Current Liabilities	\$48,032
Retained Earnings	-\$189,941
Net Revenue	-\$179,280
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,371,138</b>

*\*Note: Audited financial information will be available on LightHawk's website ([www.lighthawk.org](http://www.lighthawk.org)) in October 2023.*

# CONTACT US



PO Box 2751  
Grand Junction, CO 81502-2751

## OUR STAFF

**Chelsea Baird**  
Development and Administrative Associate

**Jim Becker**  
CEO

**Clint Burson**  
Strategic Communications Manager

**Betsy Daub**  
Program Manager

**Brooke George**  
Program Manager

**Diego L. Gil-Agudelo**  
Director of Conservation

**Mary Mitchell**  
Interim CFO

**Sarah Turner**  
Flight Coordinator

**Joanna Weitzel**  
Director of Advancement

## OUR BOARD

**Erin Cook**  
*San Francisco, Calif.*

**Kimberly Eckert**  
*Denver, Colo.*

**Steve Kent**  
*Warwick, NY*

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

**Chris Lee**  
*Austin, Texas*

**Josh Marvil**  
*Yarmouth, Maine*

**Erin Manzitto-Tripp**  
*Denver, Colo.*

**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.*

**Sally Ranney**, *Colorado*

**Michael Sutton**, *Carmel Valley, Calif.*

**Terri Watson**, *Lander, Wyo.*

**Stephanie Wells**, *Arvada, Colo.*

**Brian Williams**, *Abu Dhabi, UAE*

# Conservation at the Speed of LightHawk

This year's guiding theme, "Conservation at the Speed of LightHawk," highlights the urgency with which LightHawk is tackling the vast environmental challenges facing our planet. But we recognize that we cannot do this important work alone.

Your gifts, no matter the size, accelerate LightHawk's conservation success and shine a light on the path to a better future for us all. Every dollar donated, every flight hour contributed, and every partnership forged is instrumental in revealing new insights and driving positive change.

LightHawk embarks on a mission to capture more than just images – we aim to document a story of change that the world needs to see. By taking to the skies for conservation, we raise awareness, inspire conversations, motivate informed decisions, and compel people to action in the fight to preserve our planet's natural resources.

We invite you to stand with us in safeguarding our precious landscapes, watersheds, and wildlife for future generations. Together, we amplify our impact and make a lasting difference in safeguarding the natural world we need and cherish.

Please visit [LightHawk.org](https://LightHawk.org) or scan the QR Code below to make a gift and harness the power of collective action at the speed of LightHawk.

Let's turn our shared dreams of a better world into a reality!



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Photo by Eric Nielsen