



SouthWings CONSERVATION  
THROUGH  
AVIATION

An aerial photograph showing a wide river meandering through a vast, dense green forest. The river is light brown and reflects the sky, contrasting with the deep green of the surrounding trees. The forest appears to be a tropical or subtropical rainforest.

# 2019 MID-YEAR FLIGHT OPERATIONS REPORT

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## 2019 Mid Year Summary

- SouthWings received 148 flight requests in the first half of 2019; 78% have been completed or are in the planning stage for later in the year.
- Volunteer pilots completed 94 flights:
  - 55% (52) in Appalachia to Atlantic (A2A) region.
  - 34% (32) in Gulf Coast region.
  - 11% (10) in Chesapeake Bay region.
  - Most-flown states: North Carolina (51 flights), Louisiana (42 flights), and Georgia (11 flights).
- We currently have 59 active volunteer pilots.
  - 11 new volunteer pilots joined SouthWings in the first half 2019.
  - More than half (54%) of our active volunteer pilots have joined in the last three years.
  - Roughly 80% have completed a SouthWings flight in the last 18 months
- Through Q2 of 2019, our volunteer pilots collectively donated 400 hours and flew 200 passengers.

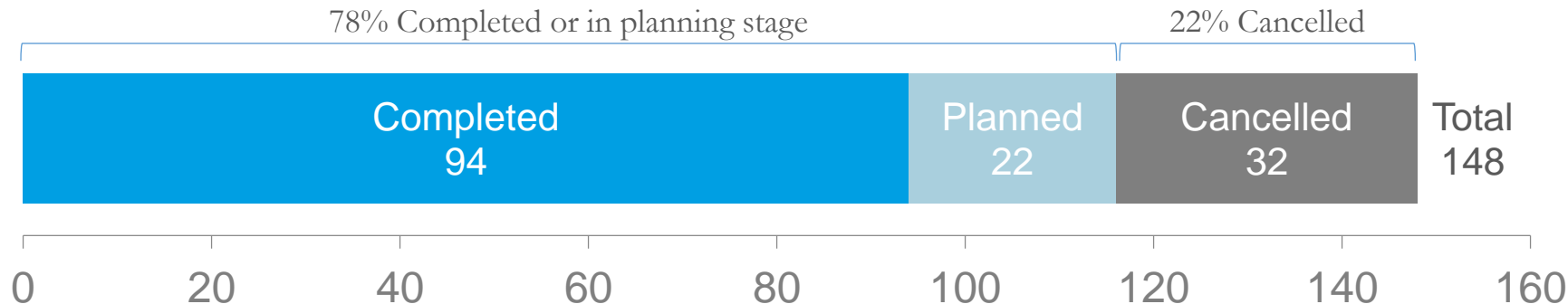


## 2019 Mid Year Summary (continued)

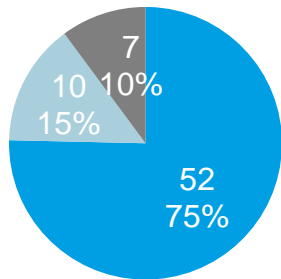
- Results:
  - 50 nonprofit partners supported by flights.
  - 70+ media pieces published with photos/info from flights.
  - 10 elected or governmental agency officials flown.
  - 20+ media organizations flown.
  - 5 educational institutions flown.
  - 1 foundation flown.
- Environmental issues addressed by flights:
  - Watershed protection – 63% of flights
  - Climate crisis documentation and adaptation – 35% of flights
  - Holding polluters accountable – 35% of flights
  - Wetlands – 29% of flights
  - Mississippi River – 28% of flights

During the first half of 2019, SouthWings received 148 flight requests: 64% (94) were completed, 15% (22) are planned for later in the year, and 22% (32) resulted in cancellation.

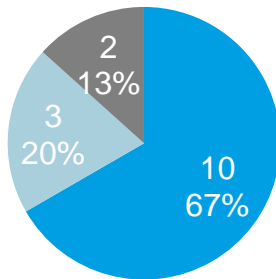
## Flight Requests by Status and Program



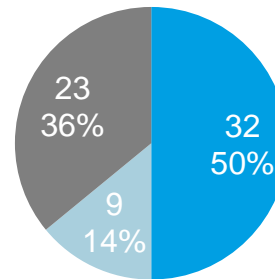
Appalachia to Atlantic



Chesapeake

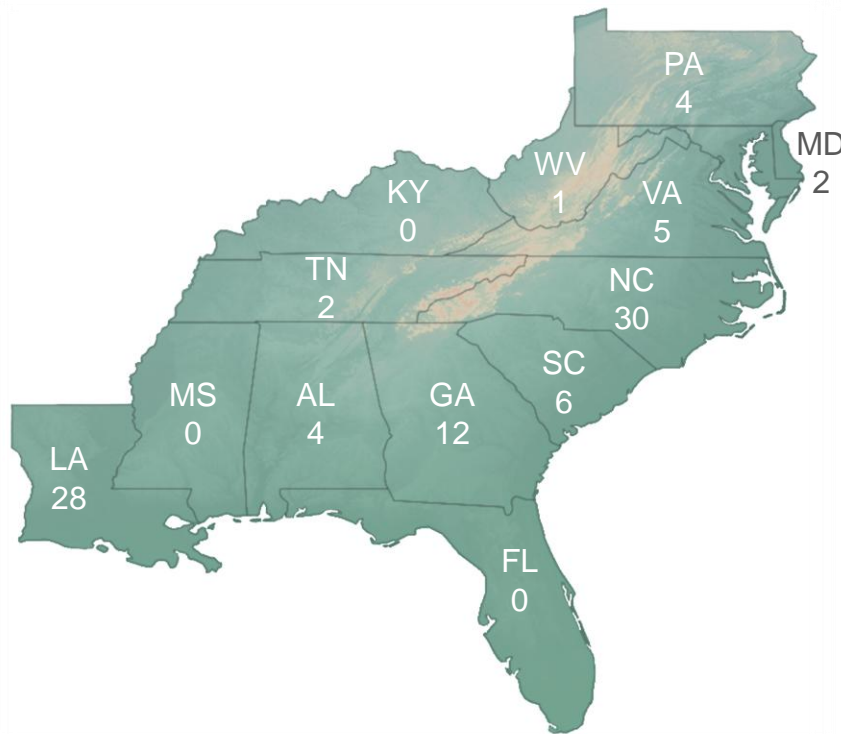
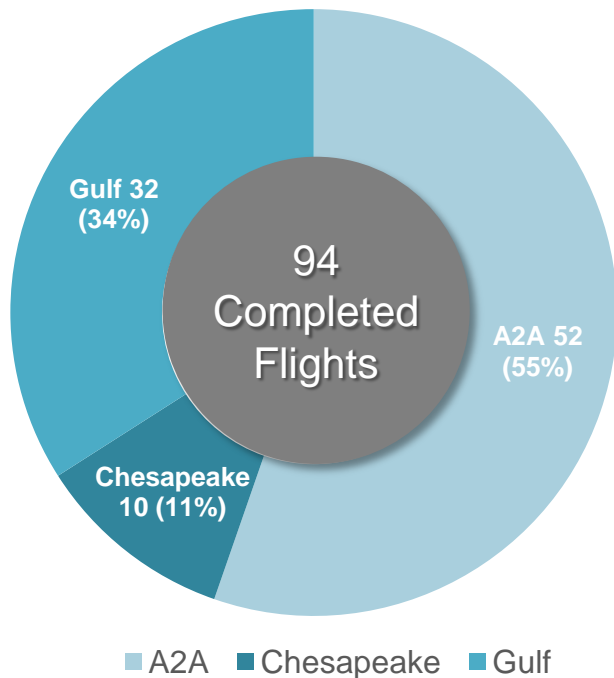


Gulf



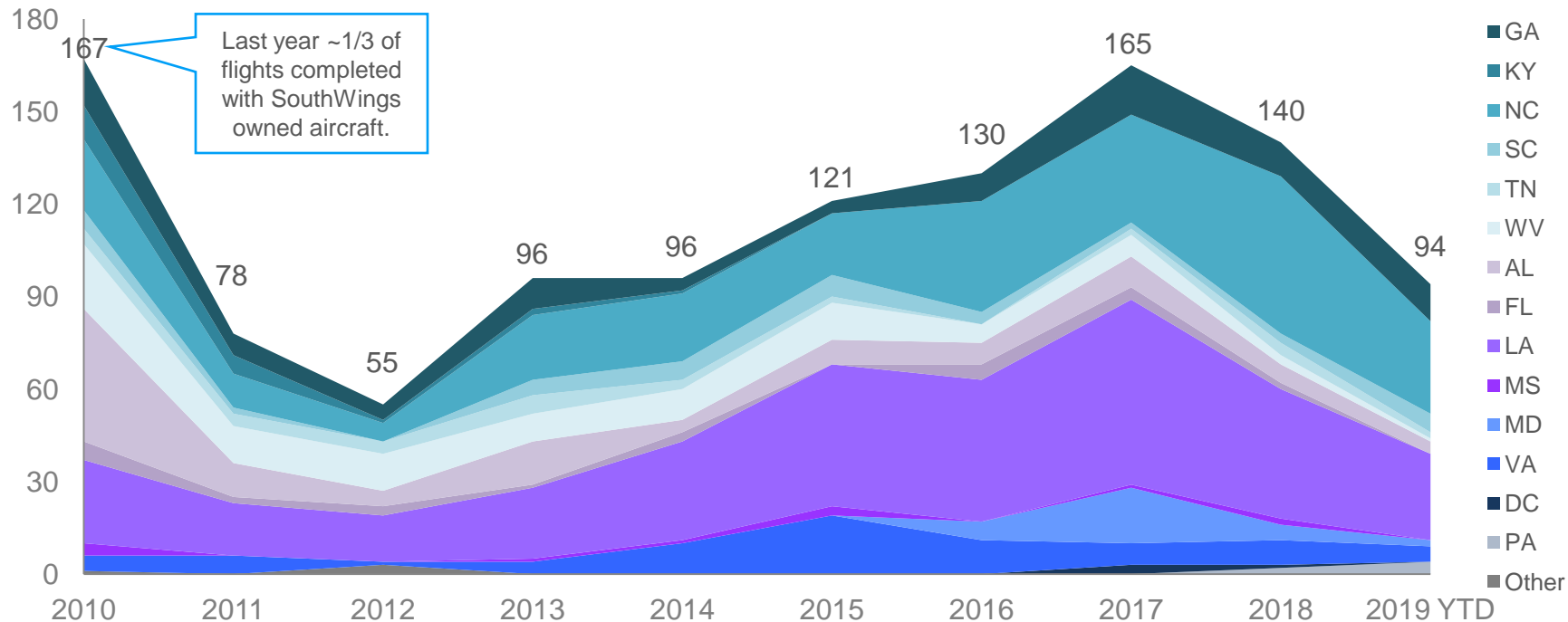
Flight work supporting our Appalachia to Atlantic program accounted for 55% of our total flight work through the first half of 2019, Gulf Coast flight work accounted for 34%, and Chesapeake flight work accounted for 11%.

## Completed Flights by Program and State



With 94 flights in 2019, we're on track to exceed our highest performing year. Over the last decade, flight work in Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania has grown; flight work in Alabama and West Virginia has slowed.

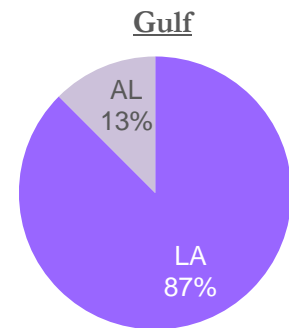
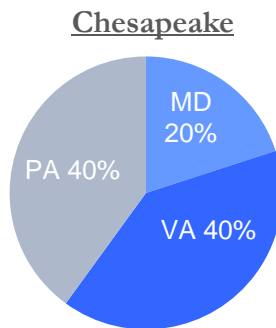
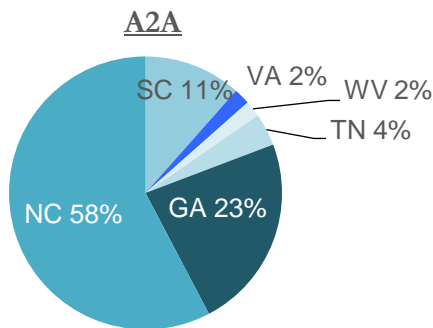
## Completed Flights by State 2010 to 2019



Through the first half of 2019, flight work in three states accounted for nearly three quarters of our total flights: North Carolina accounted for 32%, Louisiana accounted for 30%, and Georgia accounted for 13% of all flight work.

## Completed Flights by Program, State, and Quarter

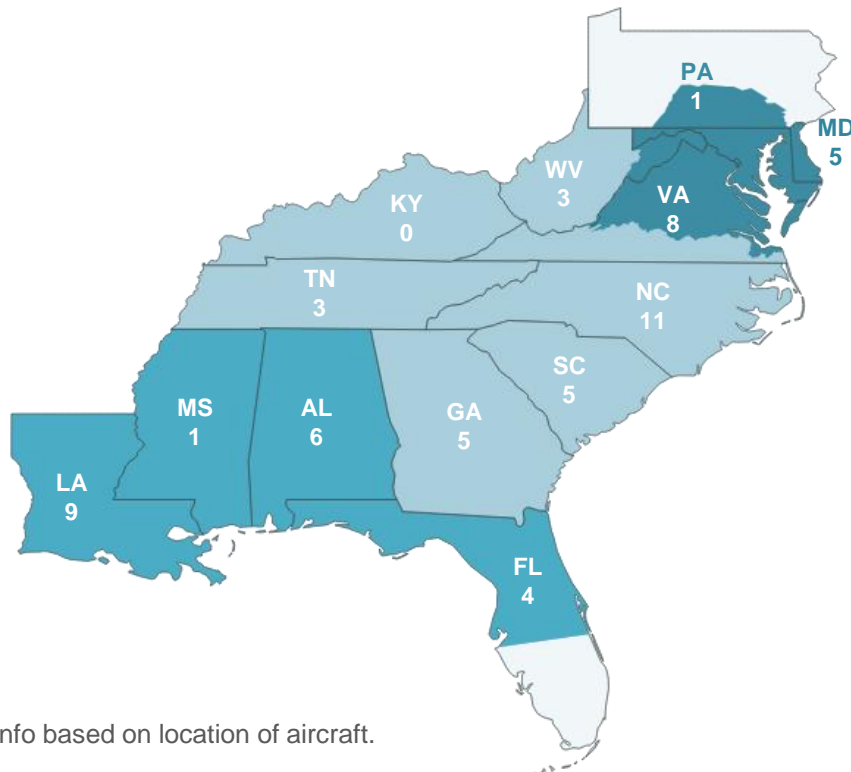
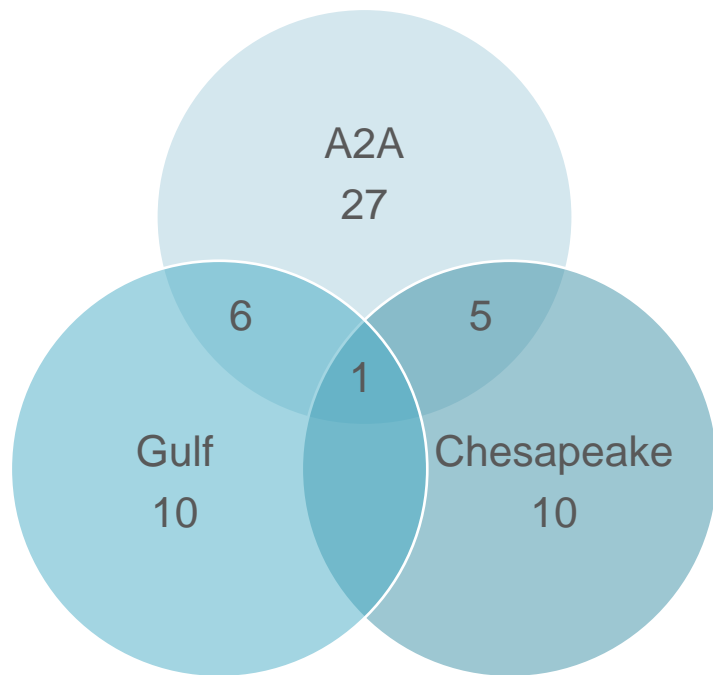
| Program              | Appalachia to Atlantic |    |     |    |    |    |    | Chesapeake |    |    | Gulf      |    |     |    | Total     |
|----------------------|------------------------|----|-----|----|----|----|----|------------|----|----|-----------|----|-----|----|-----------|
| State                | GA                     | KY | NC  | SC | TN | WV | VA | DC         | MD | PA | AL        | FL | LA  | MS |           |
| Q1 2019              | 6                      | -  | 13  | 3  | 2  | -  | 1  | -          | 1  | -  | 2         | -  | 14  | -  | 42        |
| Q2 2019              | 6                      | -  | 17  | 3  | -  | 1  | 4  | -          | 1  | 4  | 2         | -  | 14  | -  | 52        |
| <b>State Total</b>   | 12                     | 0  | 30  | 6  | 2  | 1  | 5  | 0          | 2  | 4  | 4         | 0  | 28  | 0  | <b>94</b> |
| <b>% by State</b>    | 13%                    | 0% | 32% | 6% | 2% | 1% | 5% | 0%         | 2% | 4% | 4%        | 0% | 30% | 0% |           |
| <b>Program Total</b> | <b>52</b>              |    |     |    |    |    |    | <b>10</b>  |    |    | <b>32</b> |    |     |    |           |





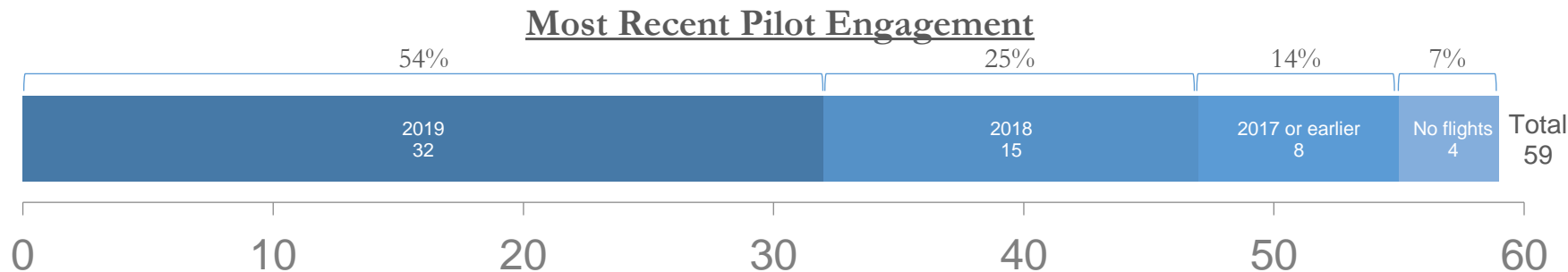
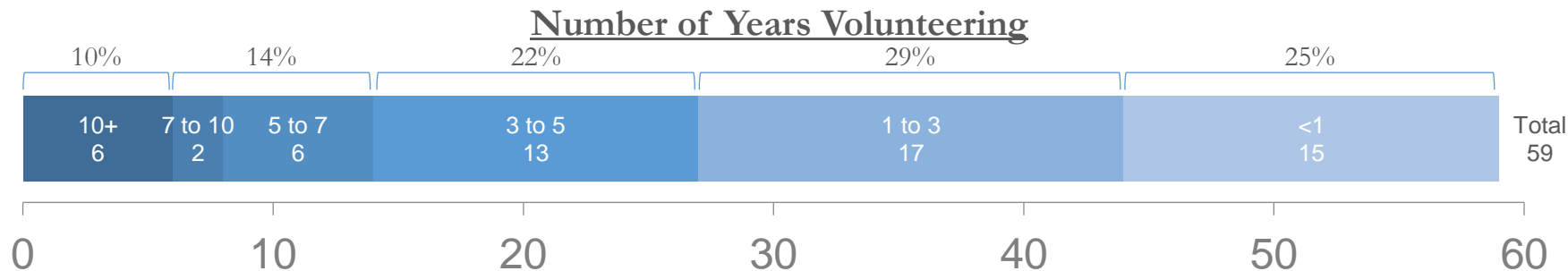
We currently have 59 active volunteer pilots. The distribution of volunteers by region and the concentration of flight work is well balanced, although there are still areas where additional volunteers are needed.

## Number of Pilots by Region and State



Our pilot network continues to grow; more than half (54%) have joined in the last three years. Volunteer pilot engagement is high; 79% have flown SouthWings flights in the last year and a half, and only a few (7%) have not flown yet.

## Active Pilot Tenure and Engagement



Eleven new volunteer pilots joined SouthWings in 2019.  
Welcome aboard!

## Appalachia to Atlantic

**Larry Colvin (NC)**

**Bill Kahn (NC)**

**Allen Nodorft (GA)**

**Steve Rhode (NC)**

**Bryan Tauchen  
(AL)**

## Chesapeake

**David Brubaker  
(VA)**

**Don Jeffer (VA)**

**Mary McCutcheon  
(VA)**

## Gulf

**Juan Asturias (LA)**

**Leonard Guidry  
(LA)**

**Michael Guidry  
(FL)**





Our volunteers  
collectively  
donated over  
400 hours in  
the first half of  
2019...

...and flew  
nearly 200  
passengers  
from 90+  
organizations.





# SouthWings collaborated with 50+ nonprofit partners in the first half of 2019 including:



SouthWings partnered with 50+ nonprofit organizations on flight work in the first half of 2019. In the A2A region, volunteer pilots flew 30 nonprofit partner organizations.

## Nonprofit Partners Flown in 2019 by Program and State

| Appalachia to Atlantic   |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Georgia:</b><br>Altamaha Riverkeeper, Coosa River Basin Initiative, Georgia River Network, Georgia-Alabama Land Trust Savannah Riverkeeper, Sierra Club, Watershed Sustainability   | <b>South Carolina:</b><br>Coastal Conservation League, Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition, Save our Saluda, Upstate Forever |
| <b>North Carolina:</b><br>American Security Project, American Whitewater, Cape Fear RiverWatch, Catawba Riverkeeper, Defenders of Wildlife, Dogwood Alliance, Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission, Haw River Assembly, MountainTrue, National Parks Conservation Association, Sound Rivers/Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper, Upstate Forever, Winyah Rivers Alliance, Yadkin Riverkeeper | <b>Tennessee:</b><br>American Rivers, Little River Watershed, Tennessee Riverkeeper  |
|  | <b>Virginia:</b><br>The Nature Conservancy   |
|  | <b>West Virginia:</b><br>OVEC - Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition  |

In the Chesapeake, volunteer pilots flew nine nonprofit partner organizations and 17 nonprofit partner organizations in the Gulf.

## Nonprofit Partners Flown in 2019 by Program and State (continued)

| Chesapeake  | Gulf  |
|---|---|
| <b>Maryland</b><br>Chesapeake Legal Alliance, Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Susquehanna Heritage  | <b>Alabama:</b><br>Black Warrior Riverkeeper, Coosa Riverkeeper, Georgia-Alabama Land Trust, Mobile Baykeeper, Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC)   |
| <b>Pennsylvania:</b><br>Chesapeake Legal Alliance, Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper, Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Mom's Organic Market, National Parks Conservation Association, Susquehanna Heritage | <b>Louisiana:</b><br>Audubon Louisiana, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, EarthJustice, EDF: Environmental Defense Fund, Healthy Gulf (formerly Gulf Restoration Network), Indigenous Peoples Task Force, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, Restore or Retreat |
| <b>Virginia:</b><br>Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), Virginia Conservation Network   | Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition, Vanishing Earth  |

We strive to fly influential passengers who have the power to move the needle forward on environmental issues through action, awareness, and policy. Out of 94 flights this year, the percentage with influential passengers onboard includes:



**WATERKEEPER**

**37%**



**EDUCATIONAL**

**30%**



**MEDIA**

**13%**



**GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**

**11%**



**Other VIPs**

**7%**



**GULF MONITORING  
CONSORTIUM**

**3%**



**FOUNDATIONS**

**2%**



**SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

**2%**

In the first half of 2019,  
our volunteers flew  
five educational  
institutions, one  
funder, and 10  
government officials  
including  
U.S. Senator Sheldon  
Whitehouse (D-RI)  
who spoke about his  
flight experience  
during his ["Time to  
Wake Up" speech](#) on  
the Senate floor.



Volunteer Pilot Ken Knevel and U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)



## Notable Media Coverage

- [A massive Gulf oil spill is finally being contained after more than 14 years](#)  The Washington Post
- [Louisiana's Disappearing Coast](#)  THE NEW YORKER
- [Coal ash contaminating groundwater nationwide, groups say](#)  CNN
- [Coal's other dark side: Toxic ash that can poison water and people](#)  NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
- [14-Year Oil Spill In The Gulf Of Mexico Could Go On For Decades](#)  n p r
- [Bringing back historic wildlife migration corridors to the mountains](#)  ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
- [Dominion begins to work out how to clean up its coal ash](#)  The Virginian-Pilot  
PilotOnline.com
- [Soaring high above the pipeline](#)  SAVE OUR TOWNS
- [Louisiana's first line of defense](#)  WAFB

This year our volunteer pilots flew 20+ media organizations and 70+ (known) news stories were published using images and information gathered from past volunteer flights.

13% of all SouthWings flights in 2019 had a member of the media on board, 11% had an elected or agency official, 30% were for educational purposes, and 2% had a passenger representing a funding organization.

## VIP and Media Organizations Flown in 2019 by Program

| Appalachia to Atlantic  |
|---|
| <b>Educational Organizations:</b><br>Emory University; West Virginia University   |
| <b>Government / Agency Officials:</b><br><i>Georgia House of Representatives</i> -- Katie Dempsey (R-GA 13), Matthew Gambill (R-GA 15), Lynn Smith (R-GA 70 Chair of Natural Resources Committee) |
| <b>Media:</b><br>Clock Conservation Media; Freelance, Anthony Scarlati; Nancy Pierce Photo  |
| <b>Other:</b><br>Critical Geography Collective of Ecuador   |
| Chesapeake  |
| <b>Foundation:</b><br>Campbell Foundation   |
| <b>Media:</b><br>Assateague Photos; Pavoncello Media  |

Please note: Some organizations and/or individuals asked to remain anonymous.

13% of all SouthWings flights in 2019 had a member of the media on board, 11% had an elected or agency official, 30% were for educational purposes, and 2% had a passenger representing a funding organization.

## VIP and Media Organizations (continued)

### Gulf

#### **Educational Organizations:**

Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium; New Harmony High School; Tulane University

#### **Government / Agency Officials:**

Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;

*U.S. Senate* -- Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Agriculture Legislative Assistant for Senator Whitehouse, Staff for Senator Whitehouse

#### **Media:**

Biz New Orleans Magazine; Food and Environment Reporting Network; Harvest Public Media; Institute for Journalism and Natural Resources; Iowa Public Radio; La Crosse Tribune; Mississippi Today; NOLA.com / The Times-Picayune; PTI's "The World"; St. Louis Post Dispatch; St. Louis Public Radio; The Christian Science Monitor; The Vicksburg Post; The Weather Channel; WAFB 9 News; WWNO New Orleans (NPR)

#### **Other:**

Bethany United Methodist Church; Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana; St. Martin's Episcopal Church; St. Augustine's Episcopal Church; Tulane Memorial Baptist Church

Please note: Some organizations and/or individuals asked to remain anonymous.



“Issues” are assigned to each flight to track their purpose. The following percentage of 94 completed flights through Q2 of 2019 addressed:



Watershed Protection  
63%




Climate Crisis  
35%



Holding Polluters Accountable  
35%



Wetlands  
29%




Mississippi River  
28%



CAFOs  
24%



Coal Ash  
23%



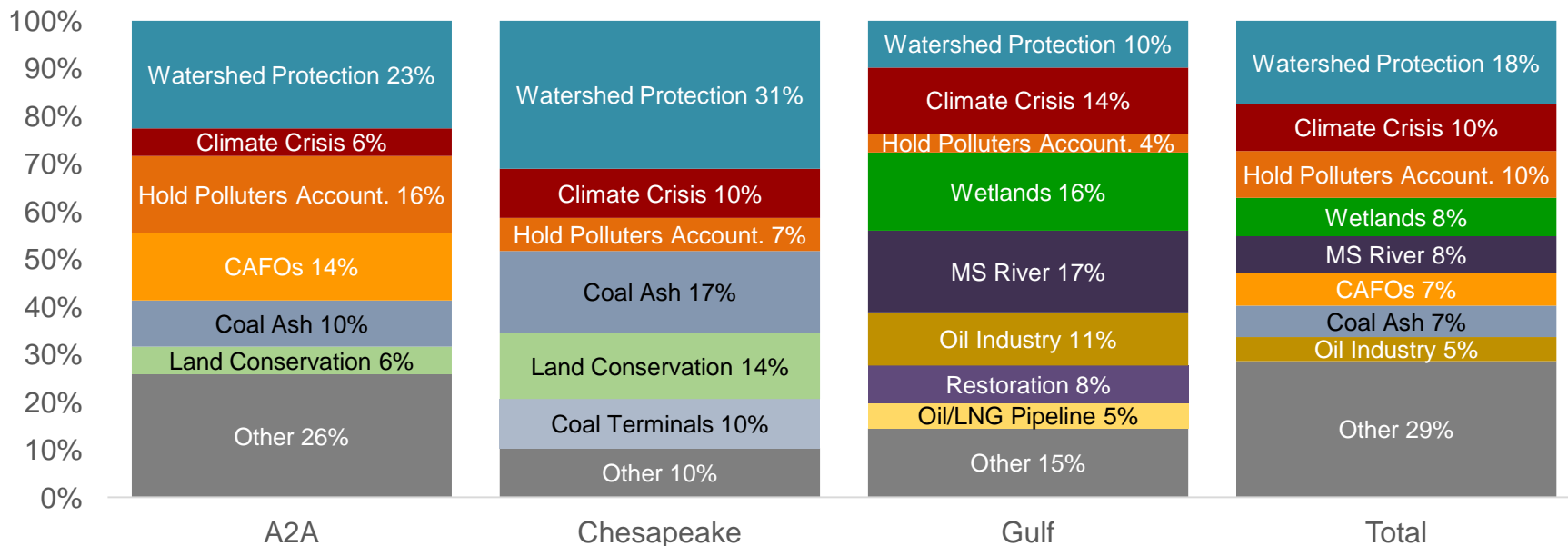
Oil Industry  
18%



Restoration  
16%

By normalizing the data, we can see what percentage of environmental issues make up flight work in each region vs. overall flight work to help identify challenges and opportunities in each program area.

## Environmental Issues as % of Program and Overall



In order to track the purpose of each SouthWings flight, we assign “issues” to each flight. These issues help us identify programmatic themes in our flight work. On average, each flight is tagged with four issues.



# All of this is possible thanks to SouthWings' volunteers. Thank you!



# Image and Graphics Credits

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| Pg. 4  | Image Cielo over Looking Glass Rock  |
| Pg. 6  | Terrain map by Jake Faber  |
| Pg. 9  | Region map by Jake Faber   |
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| Pg. 24 | Top left: VP Bryan Tauchen; Top 2 <sup>nd</sup> : VP Floyd Miles; Top 3 <sup>rd</sup> : VP Juan Asturias; Top right: VP Peter Stauble; Middle left: VP John Sapienza; Middle 2 <sup>nd</sup> : VP Jeremy Jacobsohn; Middle 3 <sup>rd</sup> : VP Frank Bell; Middle 4 <sup>th</sup> : VP Art Falk; Middle right: VP Emmet Bartholomew; Bottom left: VP Holliday Obrecht; Bottom 2 <sup>nd</sup> : VPs Ken Knevel and Owen Bordelon; Bottom 3 <sup>rd</sup> : VP Woody Beck; Bottom right: VP Stu Bailey   |
| Pg. 25 | Image © Robert Llewellyn   |