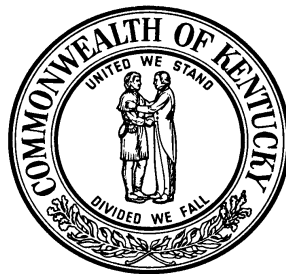


**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND
NATURE LICENSE PLATE FUND**

**For The Year Ended
June 30, 2024**



**ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
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ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Independent Auditor's Report

Rebecca Goodman, Secretary
Energy and Environment Cabinet
Russ Meyer, Board Chair
Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying modified cash basis financial statements of Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund's (KHLCF) Nature License Plate Fund, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective modified cash basis financial position of the KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund, as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position - modified cash basis and, where applicable, cash flows, thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 2.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the KHLCF and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

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Rebecca Goodman, Secretary
Energy and Environment Cabinet
Russ Meyer, Board Chair
Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund's management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the modified cash-basis of accounting described in Note 2, and for determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Rebecca Goodman, Secretary
Energy and Environment Cabinet
Russ Meyer, Board Chair
Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 30, 2024, on our consideration of KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Ball

Allison Ball

Auditor of Public Accounts

Frankfort, Ky

September 30, 2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND
NATURE LICENSE PLATE FUND
BALANCE SHEET – MODIFIED CASH-BASIS**

June 30, 2024

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,607,761
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,607,761</u>

Fund Balance

Restricted	\$ 1,607,761
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$ 1,607,761</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND
NATURE LICENSE PLATE FUND
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCE – MODIFIED CASH-BASIS**

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Receipts

Nature License Plate Sales	\$	391,625
Interest Income		69,068
Total Receipts		460,693

Expenditures

Total Expenditures		
Net Change in Fund Balance		460,693
Fund Balance at July 1, 2023		1,147,068
Fund Balance at June 30, 2024	\$	1,607,761

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND
NATURE LICENSE PLATE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2024

Note 1 - Background

The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF) Nature License Plate Fund was established on September 10, 2018, per KRS 186.164(14). Historically, revenues derived from nature license plates were deposited and expended within the KHLCF. However, in fiscal year 2019 it was brought to the Cabinet's attention that pursuant to KRS 186.164(14) all license plate funds received by a specific organization must be deposited into an account separate from all other accounts that organization may have. Knowing this statute, the Energy and Environment Cabinet worked with the Transportation Cabinet to establish a new fund and start depositing revenue into the newly established account. The KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund, as well as the KHLCF, are both administered within the Energy and Environment Cabinet and provide funds for the purchase and preservation of selected natural areas in the Commonwealth, protect rare and endangered species and migratory birds, save threatened areas of natural importance, and provide natural areas for public use, outdoor recreation, and education. The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board has the authority under KRS 146.560 to administer and oversee both the KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund and Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund. The Board is comprised of nine members; the Commissioner of the Department of Parks, the Executive Director of the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves, the Commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources, the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and five members appointed by the governor as nominated by various interest groups throughout the state.

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

Receipts are recognized when cash is received, and expenditures are recognized when cash is paid. The financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis of accounting modified by the application of KRS 45.229, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. This statute provides that for a period of 30 days after the close of any fiscal year, warrants may be drawn against available balances of appropriations made for that fiscal year, for the payment of expenditures incurred during the year or in fulfillment of contracts properly made during the year but for no other purpose.

Concentration of Revenues

KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund receipts are derived from the sale of special license plates, as authorized by KRS 186.164, which are available for purchase at each of the Kentucky County Clerk's offices. The sale proceeds are submitted to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and a portion of the sales is transferred to the KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund.

**KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND
NATURE LICENSE PLATE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2024
(Continued)**

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Commitments

The KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund is utilized for outstanding commitments related to land acquisition and management. These commitments consist of outstanding projects, as approved by the KHLCF Board, with open memoranda of agreement in which the KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund obligation has not yet been completed.

Functional Expenses

The KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund provides grant funding to state agencies, state and local governments, and state colleges and universities, for the acquisition and management of lands of natural significance as established in KRS 146.560.

Fund Balance

Fund balance represents the difference between assets and liabilities reported on the KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund's balance sheet. The fund balance does not lapse, and therefore is available for use in future periods. The beginning fund balance reported for fiscal year 2024 is based on the actual cash balance from fiscal year 2023 that did not lapse. The fund balance is classified as restricted. GASB 54 identifies fund balance should be reported as restricted when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, laws and or regulations of other governments, or are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. As established in KRS 146.570, the KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund revenue is restricted for use exclusively for the purposes of the acquisition and management of lands as defined in KRS 146.560.

Note 3 - Cash and Cash Equivalents

Participation in the Commonwealth's Internal Cash and Investment Pool

Receipts are deposited in the Commonwealth's general depository administered by the State Treasurer, who has statutory responsibility and authority to safeguard the monies. The KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund participates in the internal cash and investment pool of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Therefore, it follows the policies established by the Commonwealth for all pooled cash and investments. The Commonwealth's internal investment pool offers same day liquidity with no limitations, fees or restrictions on withdrawals. The risk disclosures related to deposits and investments are reported in the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. Accordingly, the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report should be referred to for disclosures required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. For the year ended June 30, 2024, the KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund's position in the pool totaled \$1,607,761.

**KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND
NATURE LICENSE PLATE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2024
(Continued)**

Note 4 – Expenditures and Revenues

During fiscal year 2024, there were no expenditures for purchases in the fund. The fund received interest and license plate revenue allocated from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

**REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
*GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***



ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of Financial
Statements Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*

Independent Auditor's Report

Rebecca Goodman, Secretary
Energy and Environment Cabinet
Russ Meyer, Board Chair
Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund's (KHLCF) Nature License Plate Fund as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 30, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

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Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of Financial Statements
Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*
(Continued)

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the KHLCF Nature License Plate Fund's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Ball
Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, Ky

September 30, 2024