

**FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA, INC.**  
**(A Component Unit of the State of Florida)**  
**TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA**

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**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND  
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

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**LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Board of Directors  
Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.  
Tallahassee, Florida

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

***Opinion***

We have audited the financial statements of Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. (a not-for-profit corporation and component unit of the State of Florida), which comprise the statements of financial position as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audits 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 Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

### *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 opinion. 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 and *Government Auditing Standards* 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 and *Government Auditing Standards*, 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 Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'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 Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'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.

### ***Supplementary Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of state financial assistance, as required by Chapter 10.650, Rules of the Auditor General, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. The schedule of expenditures of state financial assistance is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of state financial assistance is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

### ***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 5, 2024, on our consideration of Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'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 the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'s 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 Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Lanigan & Associates, PC*

Tallahassee, Florida  
September 5, 2024

**FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA, INC.**  
**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS OF JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

	2024	2023
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 29,346,654	\$ 16,328,181
Grants receivable	474,776	270,251
Pledge receivable, net	331,212	331,212
Prepaid expenses	28,389	21,826
	30,181,031	16,951,470
Investments		
Securities and other negotiable instruments	60,389,956	51,307,255
	26,992	55,609
Capital assets		
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	26,992	55,609
	35,918	32,980
Other assets		
	\$ 90,633,897	\$ 68,347,314
	\$ 90,633,897	\$ 68,347,314
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 287,521	\$ 388,162
	86,383,367	64,548,269
Net assets		
With donor restrictions	86,383,367	64,548,269
Without donor restrictions	3,963,009	3,410,883
	90,346,376	67,959,152
Total net assets	90,346,376	67,959,152
	\$ 90,633,897	\$ 68,347,314
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 90,633,897	\$ 68,347,314

**FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA, INC.**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2024
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>			
Imperiled species	\$ -	\$ 7,588,489	\$ 7,588,489
Contributions and donations	1,042,013	1,934,155	2,976,168
Program service revenue	-	14,720,466	14,720,466
License plate revenue	-	1,518,638	1,518,638
Other program related revenue	6,878	489,072	495,950
Net assets released from restrictions	12,478,391	(12,478,391)	-
<b>Total operating revenues</b>	<b>13,527,282</b>	<b>13,772,429</b>	<b>27,299,711</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Program	12,113,762	-	12,113,762
Administrative and office	1,054,753	-	1,054,753
Fundraising	338,722	-	338,722
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>13,507,237</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,507,237</b>
<b>Change in net assets from operating activities</b>	<b>20,045</b>	<b>13,772,429</b>	<b>13,792,474</b>
<b>NON-OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)</b>			
Investment return, net of investment fees	532,081	8,062,669	8,594,750
Gain (loss) on asset disposal	-	-	-
Change in discount on pledge receivable	-	-	-
<b>Change in net assets from non-operating activities</b>	<b>532,081</b>	<b>8,062,669</b>	<b>8,594,750</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>552,126</b>	<b>21,835,098</b>	<b>22,387,224</b>
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	<b>3,410,883</b>	<b>64,548,269</b>	<b>67,959,152</b>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 3,963,009</b>	<b>\$ 86,383,367</b>	<b>\$ 90,346,376</b>

**FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA, INC.**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2023
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>			
Imperiled species	\$ -	\$ 7,352,264	\$ 7,352,264
Contributions and donations	1,141,309	942,865	2,084,174
Program service revenue	-	6,865,718	6,865,718
License plate revenue	-	1,450,238	1,450,238
Other program related revenue	52,627	381,257	433,884
Net assets released from restrictions	10,238,507	(10,238,507)	-
<b>Total operating revenues</b>	<b>11,432,443</b>	<b>6,753,835</b>	<b>18,186,278</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Program	10,025,786	-	10,025,786
Administrative and office	742,158	-	742,158
Fundraising	324,697	-	324,697
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>11,092,641</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,092,641</b>
<b>Change in net assets from operating activities</b>	<b>339,802</b>	<b>6,753,835</b>	<b>7,093,637</b>
<b>NON-OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)</b>			
Investment return, net of investment fees	313,237	5,036,014	5,349,251
Gain (loss) on asset disposal	-	5,090	5,090
Change in discount on pledge receivable	-	(13,970)	(13,970)
<b>Change in net assets from non-operating activities</b>	<b>313,237</b>	<b>5,027,134</b>	<b>5,340,371</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>653,039</b>	<b>11,780,969</b>	<b>12,434,008</b>
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	<b>2,757,844</b>	<b>52,767,300</b>	<b>55,525,144</b>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 3,410,883</b>	<b>\$ 64,548,269</b>	<b>\$ 67,959,152</b>



**FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA, INC.**  
**STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 (WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS)**

	Program	Administrative and Office	Fundraising	2024 Total	2023 Total
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>					
Cash awards and grants	\$ 7,525,449	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,525,449	\$ 7,032,030
Outside contract services	2,956,140	14,300	-	2,970,440	1,674,325
Salaries and wages	818,942	376,262	-	1,195,204	992,883
Advertising expenses	86,647	61,203	-	147,850	226,351
Employee benefits	172,890	79,428	-	252,318	192,256
Merchant account fees	134,162	3,640	-	137,802	121,202
Accounting and legal services	108,564	45,208	-	153,772	107,021
Fundraising	-	-	338,722	338,722	324,697
Lobbying	-	250,000	-	250,000	-
Payroll taxes	58,937	27,076	-	86,013	70,038
Occupancy	64,963	3,192	-	68,155	63,839
Occupancy - donated	40,105	18,425	-	58,530	51,092
Travel	5,325	34,087	-	39,412	36,564
Meeting expense	10,601	16,125	-	26,726	24,170
Miscellaneous expenses	-	31,865	-	31,865	49,440
Depreciation and amortization expense	31,164	4,323	-	35,487	35,039
Software licenses	23,745	10,909	-	34,654	33,455
Supplies	23,370	6,180	-	29,550	28,514
Insurance	9,599	4,410	-	14,009	13,615
Web site fees	30,294	41,357	-	71,651	8,963
Books, subscriptions, reference	-	13,852	-	13,852	-
Training	8,067	3,706	-	11,773	-
Telephone and telecommunications	2,939	1,058	-	3,997	4,047
Equipment	1,287	1,318	-	2,605	347
Postage	32	2,139	-	2,171	1,479
Business registration fees	-	2,296	-	2,296	811
Printing and copying	540	2,394	-	2,934	463
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 12,113,762</b>	<b>\$ 1,054,753</b>	<b>\$ 338,722</b>	<b>\$ 13,507,237</b>	<b>\$ 11,092,641</b>

**FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA, INC.**  
**STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 (WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS)**

	Program	Administrative and Office	Fundraising	2023 Total	2022 Total
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>					
Cash awards and grants	\$ 7,032,030	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,032,030	\$ 6,360,441
Outside contract services	1,674,325	-	-	1,674,325	1,307,972
Salaries and wages	654,967	337,916	-	992,883	799,853
Fundraising	-	-	324,697	324,697	67,270
Advertising expenses	110,092	116,259	-	226,351	166,720
Employee benefits	112,076	80,180	-	192,256	151,625
Merchant account fees	117,032	4,170	-	121,202	88,013
Accounting and legal services	72,186	34,835	-	107,021	85,311
Payroll taxes	40,829	29,209	-	70,038	55,485
Occupancy	60,935	2,904	-	63,839	42,209
Occupancy - donated	29,784	21,308	-	51,092	41,620
Miscellaneous expenses	-	49,440	-	49,440	37,093
Travel	12,894	23,670	-	36,564	40,600
Depreciation and amortization expense	31,164	3,875	-	35,039	35,061
Software licenses	19,503	13,952	-	33,455	26,954
Supplies	24,976	3,538	-	28,514	24,203
Meeting expense	13,405	10,765	-	24,170	40,058
Insurance	7,937	5,678	-	13,615	12,314
Web site fees	8,234	729	-	8,963	11,691
Telephone and telecommunications	3,182	865	-	4,047	3,684
Postage	120	1,359	-	1,479	2,249
Business registration fees	52	759	-	811	931
Printing and copying	63	400	-	463	356
Equipment	-	347	-	347	3,171
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 10,025,786</b>	<b>\$ 742,158</b>	<b>\$ 324,697</b>	<b>\$ 11,092,641</b>	<b>\$ 9,404,884</b>

**FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA, INC.**  
**STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

	2024	2023
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Change in net assets	\$ 22,387,224	\$ 12,434,008
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	35,487	35,039
Loss on asset disposal	-	15,140
(Gain) loss on investments	(5,956,091)	(3,927,811)
Change in discount on pledge receivable	-	13,970
(Increase) decrease in:		
Grants and accounts receivable	(204,525)	(147,088)
Pledges receivable	-	100,000
Prepaid expenses	(6,563)	29,894
Other assets	(2,938)	(3,057)
Increase (decrease) in:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(100,641)	(310,569)
Net cash provided by operating activities	16,151,953	8,239,526
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of capital assets	(6,870)	(4,255)
Purchase of investments	(26,316,416)	(42,845,994)
Proceeds from sale of investments	23,189,806	31,808,074
Net cash (used in) investing activities	(3,133,480)	(11,042,175)
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	13,018,473	(2,802,649)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	16,328,181	19,130,830
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 29,346,654	\$ 16,328,181

**FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA, INC.**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

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**NOTE 1: *Summary of Significant Accounting Policies***

***Organization***

Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. (the Foundation) was formed on September 29, 1994, as a not-for-profit organization to provide assistance, funding and promotional support to contribute to the health and well-being for Florida's fish and wildlife resources and their habitats. The Foundation is a citizen-support organization of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission created pursuant to Section 379.223, *Florida Statutes*.

The Foundation also acts as a fiduciary for certain mitigation properties to provide funding for the maintenance and land stewardship of projects established by restricted fund agreements entered into by various grantors with the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. for protection of natural resources. These project accounts receive funds from outside sources, to be held and managed until such time as the outside source requests the funds to perform its specified function. The Foundation receives fees for maintaining and managing the funds it holds for others.

***Reporting Entity***

In evaluating how to define the Foundation for financial reporting purposes, management has considered the criteria set forth in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 39 *Determining Whether Certain Organizations Are Component Units*. This Statement amends GASB Statement No. 14, *The Financial Reporting Entity*, and provides additional guidance to determine whether an affiliated organization is considered a component unit of a financial reporting entity.

The Financial Reporting Entity consists of the primary government, organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

The Foundation is included in the financial statements of the State of Florida, as the State is the primary government of the Foundation.

## **NOTE 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

### ***Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation***

The Foundation's financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

The financial statements of the Foundation have been prepared on the accrual basis in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The financial statements are presented in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 958-205 *Not-for-Profit Entities – Presentation of Financial Statements*.

Under the provisions of ASC 958-205, net assets and revenues, and gains and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. Accordingly, the net assets of the Foundation and changes therein are classified as follows:

Net assets without donor restrictions: Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the Foundation. The Foundation's board may designate assets without restrictions for specific operational purposes from time to time.

Net assets with donor restrictions: Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors, and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of the Foundation or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, whereby the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

### ***Cash and Cash Equivalents***

The Foundation considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) provides deposit coverage to combined accounts up to \$250,000. At times, the cash balances may exceed federally insured amounts; however, management assesses the financial condition of the institutions and risk associated for its cash deposits.

### ***Capital Assets***

Capital assets purchased or acquired are reported at historical cost or estimated historical cost. Contributed assets are reported at fair market value as of the date received. Additions, improvements, and other capital outlays that significantly extend the useful life of an asset are capitalized. Capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over their estimated useful life.

## **NOTE 1: *Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)***

### ***Public Support and Revenue***

Unconditional contributions are recognized when pledged and recorded as net assets without donor restrictions or net assets with donor restrictions, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor-imposed restrictions. Conditional promises to give are recognized when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met. Gifts of cash and other assets are reported with donor restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets.

When a restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or a purpose restriction is accomplished, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions. Donor-restricted contributions whose restrictions are met in the same reporting period are reported as net assets without donor restriction support. Donations of property and equipment are recorded as support at their estimated fair value at the date of donation. Contributions restricted for the acquisition of land, buildings, and equipment are reported as net assets without donor restriction upon acquisition of the assets and the assets are placed in service.

### ***Contracts and Grants Receivable***

Contracts and grants receivable consist of billings due from grantor or provider agencies. The Foundation uses the direct write-off method of accounting for uncollectible accounts associated with grantor or provider agencies. At June 30, 2024 and 2023, all contract and grant receivables are considered by management to be fully collectible.

### ***Donated Assets***

Contributions of donated non-cash assets are recorded at their fair market values in the period received.

### ***Donated Services***

Contributions of donated services that create or enhance non-financial assets or that require specialized skills, are provided by individuals possessing those skills, and would typically need to be purchased if not provided by donation, are recorded at their fair market values in the period received.

<b>NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)</i></b>
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***Organization Funding***

Operating revenues include grants, contributions, and other revenue sources used to fund the annual operating activities of the Foundation. Specifically, the Foundation's major revenue sources are as follows:

- Conserve Wildlife license plate annual use fee as outlined in F.S. 320.08058(24)
- Discover Florida's Oceans license plate annual use fee as outlined in F.S. 320.08058(50)
- Protect Florida Springs license plate annual use fee as outlined in F.S. 320.08058(61)
- Wildlife Foundation of Florida license plate annual use fee as outlined in F.S. 320.08058(47)
- The mitigation fees from private or public entities for projects to offset adverse impacts to imperiled species
- Program Service Revenues
- Government Grant Funding
- Private and Corporate Donations
- Conservation bank funds for projects to offset adverse impacts to the environment

***Investments***

Net appreciation (depreciation) in the fair value of investments, which consists of the realized gains or losses and the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on those investments, is presented in the statement of activities in accordance with donor restrictions as investment return. Investment return is presented net of investment fees. The average cost method is primarily used to determine the basis for computing realized gains or losses.

## **NOTE 1: *Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)***

### ***Investment Policy***

A formal policy is maintained that outlines the goals and objectives for the Foundation's investments.

In general, the securities in the total portfolio should be of a quality that makes them readily liquid. Equity investments utilized should be issued by companies with a minimum market capitalization of \$100 million at the time of purchase. Fixed income securities may include debt instruments issued by the U.S. Government and U.S. Corporations. Municipal securities may be utilized when they provide distinct yield and/or security advantage.

Domestic securities purchased should be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, traded on a national exchange or over-the-counter market, and conform to the liquidity constraints set forth in the investment policy.

### **Credit Risk**

The Foundation's policy is to limit investments in corporate and government debt securities to the top ratings issued by nationally recognized statistical rating organizations (NRSROs). Investments in low-grade bonds, as well as foreign debt instruments, are kept to a minimum and only allowed in the long-term pools of assets.

### **Interest Rate Risk**

In accordance with its investment policy, the Foundation manages its exposure to declines in fair values by limiting the weighted average maturity of its investment portfolio.

### **Concentration of Credit Risks**

To provide for diversification in the asset allocation portfolio, investments in any individual security should not exceed approximately 5% of the total market value of the portfolio. Likewise, investments in any industry should not exceed approximately 10% of the total market value of the portfolio. The only exception to this guideline is U.S. Government securities. Diversification will be maintained between and within sectors and industries.

### ***Measure of Operations***

The statements of activities report all changes in net assets, including changes in net assets from operating and non-operating activities. Operating activities consist of those items attributable to the Foundation's ongoing activities. Non-operating activities are limited to resources that generate return from investments, endowment contributions, financing costs, and other activities considered to be of a more unusual or nonrecurring nature.



## **NOTE 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

### ***Fair Value of Financial Instruments***

The FASB ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, establishes the reporting of fair value information about financial instruments, whether or not recognized in the statements of financial position. The fair value of a financial instrument is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value is determined based upon a hierarchy for valuation inputs that gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs. The fair value hierarchy is as follows:

Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the entity has the ability to access as of the measurement date.

Level 2: Significant other observable inputs other than Level 1 prices, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities, quoted prices in markets that are not active, or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.

Level 3: Significant unobservable inputs that reflect a reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability.

Due to their short-term nature, the Foundation's carrying values of assets and liabilities approximate the fair values.

### ***Income Taxes***

The Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. is registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) and, accordingly, is exempt from income taxes, except for any taxes which may arise from unrelated business income.

### ***Use of Estimates***

The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

### ***Functional Allocation of Expenses***

The costs of providing the various programs and activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statements of functional expenses. Accordingly, certain employee costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited. Such allocations are determined by management on an equitable basis based on time and effort of employees involved.

## **NOTE 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

### ***Revenue and Cost Recognition***

FASB issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (Topic 606), to improve the financial reporting of revenue from contracts with customers and related costs. The core principle of the revised revenue recognition standards is that an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The standards also require enhanced disclosures about revenues that are aimed at allowing users to understand the nature, amount, timing, and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows from contracts with customers. The Company has determined the effects of ASC Topic 606 to be limited.

### ***Adoption of New Accounting Principles***

Effective July 1, 2022, the Company adopted the new lease accounting guidance in Accounting Standards Update No. 2016-02, *Leases* (Topic 842). The Company has elected the package of practical expedients permitted in ASC Topic 842.

Lease payments for leases with a term of 12 months or less are expensed on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease with no right-of-use asset or lease liability recognized.

### ***Reclassification***

Certain amounts in the prior year may have been reclassified for comparative purposes to conform to the presentation in the current year financial statements.

### ***Subsequent Events***

Subsequent events were evaluated through September 5, 2024, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued. As of this date there were no subsequent events that required disclosure.

**NOTE 2: Capital Assets**

The cost and related accumulated depreciation for capital assets as of June 30, 2024 and 2023 are, as follows:

	2023	Additions	Retirements	2024
Equipment	\$ 146,588	\$ 6,870	\$ -	\$ 153,458
Leasehold improvements	29,950	-	-	29,950
Donated fine art	2,800	-	-	2,800
Less: accumulated depreciation	(123,729)	(35,487)	-	(159,216)
Capital assets, net	<u>\$ 55,609</u>	<u>\$ (28,617)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 26,992</u>

Depreciation expense for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, was \$35,487 and \$35,039, respectively.

**NOTE 3: Net Assets with Donor Restrictions**

Donor restricted net assets subject to expenditure for a specified purpose consisted of the following as of June 30, 2024 and 2023:

	2024	2023
Conserve Wildlife Tag	\$ 1,112,564	\$ 748,829
Discover Florida's Oceans Tag	113,675	70,654
Wildlife Foundation of FL Tag	676,186	654,718
Protect Florida Springs Tag	376,631	369,651
Mitigation Species	7,640,058	5,711,928
FWC Projects	4,825,692	3,559,041
Imperiled Species	46,833,229	36,346,535
Mitigation Properties	6,575,478	5,695,865
Other	18,229,854	11,391,048
Total	<u>\$ 86,383,367</u>	<u>\$ 64,548,269</u>

<b>NOTE 4: <i>Deposits and Investments</i></b>
--

***Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits and Investments***

Deposits and investments are held by a brokerage house, and are insured, up to certain limits, by either: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC), and other excess private insurance coverage offered by Lloyd’s of London. This insurance does not protect against investment losses from market fluctuations or unregistered securities (as defined by SIPC rules).

***Investments***

As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, the Foundation had the following investments:

	2024	2023
Investment	Level 1 Fair Value	Level 1 Fair Value
Mutual funds and closed-end funds	\$ 35,952,039	\$ 17,373,184
Equities	24,437,917	29,532,120
Fixed income	-	4,401,951
Total investments	\$ 60,389,956	\$ 51,307,255

Investment income reflected in the statements of activities for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, includes unrealized (depreciation) appreciation of \$5,934,964 and \$4,048,121, respectively. This (depreciation) appreciation is attributable to the change in fair value of investments during the year.

**NOTE 5: *Pledges Receivable***

Pledges receivable represent the total promises to give to the Foundation less any contributions received to date. For pledges in excess of one year, the Foundation provides a discount based on the net present value of the pledges receivable. The Foundation uses a discount rate of 8% (WSJ Prime rate). An allowance for uncollectible pledges has not been recorded based on historical experience and an analysis of the composition of the donor. The pledges are scheduled to be received in future years as follows:

Pledges receivable as of June 30:	
2025	\$ 100,000
2026	100,000
2027	100,000
2028	<u>100,000</u>
Total pledges receivable	400,000
Discount on pledges receivable	<u>(68,788)</u>
Pledges receivable, net	<u>\$ 331,212</u>

**NOTE 6: *Line of Credit***

The Foundation has a revolving line-of-credit agreement with a financial institution in which it may borrow up to a maximum amount as determined from time to time by the financial institution based on the value of the securities pledged as collateral. There was no balance outstanding at June 30, 2024 or 2023. Each project that requires the use of this line of credit is approved by the Board of Directors prior to its use.

**NOTE 7: *Related Party Relationship***

The Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. is a citizen support group of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as authorized in Section 379.223 of the Florida Statutes.

**NOTE 8: *Risk Management***

The Foundation is exposed to various risks of loss in the normal course of business. Conventional commercial insurance coverage has been purchased from various independent carriers to insure against such risks and minimize the Foundation's financial exposure to such risks.

The Foundation is not involved in any risk pools with other governmental entities.

**NOTE 9: *Commitments***

The Foundation has contracts outstanding with third parties for the provision of services under the Conserve Wildlife License Plate Program, Protect Florida Springs License Plate Program, Mitigation Programs, Wildlife Foundation of Florida License Plate Program, Directed Gifts, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Projects.

**NOTE 10: *Liquidity and Availability of Financial Assets***

Financial assets available for general expenditure within one year are as follows as of June 30, 2024:

Cash, including donor-restrictions for program operations	\$ 29,346,654
Receivables	<u>805,988</u>
Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year	<u><u>\$ 30,152,642</u></u>

The Foundation is substantially supported by restricted contributions. Because a donor's restriction requires resources to be used in a particular manner or in a future period, the Foundation must maintain sufficient resources to meet those responsibilities to its donors. Thus, financial assets may not be available for general expenditure within one year.

The Foundation monitors cash availability on a weekly basis. Accounts payable are released with mindfulness of cash on hand. In the case of a long-term cash flow emergency, the Foundation can draw down its investment balances with the approval of the board.

**NOTE 11: *Uncertain Income Tax Position***

The Foundation accounts for income taxes as required by FASB ASC 740, *Income Taxes*. Using that guidance, tax positions initially need to be recognized in the financial statements when it is more-likely-than-not the positions will be sustained upon examination by the tax authorities. It also provides guidance for derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure, and transition.

As of June 30, 2024, the Foundation had no uncertain tax positions that qualify for either recognition or disclosure in the financial statements. Additionally, the Foundation had no interest and penalties related to income taxes.

**NOTE 12: *Lease Commitments***

On November 1, 2019, the Foundation entered into a lease agreement for office space to facilitate the research, care, and propagation of Florida corals. The day-to-day operations of the facility will be operated by SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Inc. This lease expired on October 31, 2022, and was extended by amendment to October 31, 2025, as allowed under the terms of the lease. Monthly base lease payments are \$2,918. The Foundation is also obligated by the terms of the lease to pay 3% of the landlord's operating cost of the premises. As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, these additional costs were approximately \$900 and \$800 per month, respectively. Total base rental expense for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, was \$34,676 and \$29,523, respectively. The future minimum base lease payments required under this lease are \$35,016 to be paid during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

**NOTE 13: *Advertising Costs***

Advertising costs are expensed as incurred. Advertising costs for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, totaled \$147,850 and \$226,351, respectively.

**REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER  
*GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***



**LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S 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***

To the Board of Directors  
Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.  
Tallahassee, Florida

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 Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc., which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2024, and the related statement of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 5, 2024.

**Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.’s internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.’s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.’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 a 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.

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 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 Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'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 an instance of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as item 2023-001.

### **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.

*Lanigan & Associates, PC*

Tallahassee, Florida  
September 5, 2024

**LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR  
EACH MAJOR STATE PROJECT AND REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL  
OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 10.650,  
RULES OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL**

Board of Directors  
Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.  
Tallahassee, Florida

**Report on Compliance for Each Major State Project**

***Opinion on Each Major State Project***

We have audited Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'s compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the Department of Financial Services' *State Projects Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'s major state projects for the year ended June 30, 2024. Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'s major state projects are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major state projects for the year ended June 30, 2024.

***Basis for Opinion on Each Major State Project***

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and Chapter 10.650, Rules of the Auditor General. Our responsibilities under those standards and Chapter 10.650, Rules of the Auditor General are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with 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 opinion on compliance for each major state project. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'s compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

### ***Responsibilities of Management for Compliance***

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'s state projects.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'s compliance based on our audit. 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, *Government Auditing Standards*, and Chapter 10.650, Rules of the Auditor General will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'s compliance with the requirements of each major state project as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and Chapter 10.650, Rules of the Auditor General, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, 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 Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'s compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'s internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with Chapter 10.650, Rules of the Auditor General, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'s internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

## Other Matters

The results of our auditing procedures disclosed an instance of noncompliance, which is required to be reported in accordance with Chapter 10.650, Rules of the Auditor General, and which is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as item 2023-001. Our opinion on each major State project is not modified with respect to these matters.

Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'s response to the noncompliance findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying Corrective Action Plan. Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.'s response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

## Report on Internal Control over Compliance

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

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, we did identify a certain deficiency in internal control over compliance, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 2023-001, that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Chapter 10.650, Rules of the Auditor General. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Lanigan & Associates, PC*

Tallahassee, Florida  
September 5, 2024

**FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA, INC.  
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

State Awarding Agency - Projects	CSFA Number	Grantor's Number	State Expenditures
<b>Florida State Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles</b>			
Conserve Wildlife License Plate Project	76.073	N/A	\$ 377,238
Discover Florida's Oceans License Plate	76.084	N/A	6,919
Protect Florida Springs License Plates	76.103	N/A	349,791
Wildlife Foundation of Florida License Plates	76.135	N/A	<u>527,301</u>
<b>Total Expenditures of State Financial Assistance</b>			<u><u>\$1,261,249</u></u>

**NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

1. The Foundation follows the accrual basis of accounting in preparing this schedule. This method is consistent with the preparation of the Foundation's financial statements.

**FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA, INC.  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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**SECTION I – SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS**

**Financial Statements**

Type of auditor's report issued:	Unmodified		
Internal Control over financial reporting:			
Material weaknesses identified?	_____	Yes	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100px;"> <span style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;">X</span> <span>No</span> </div>
Significant deficiencies identified?	_____	Yes	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100px;"> <span style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;">X</span> <span>None</span> </div>
Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	_____	Yes	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100px;"> <span style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;">X</span> <span>No</span> </div>

**State Projects**

Internal Control over major state projects:			
Material weaknesses identified?	_____	Yes	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100px;"> <span style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;">X</span> <span>No</span> </div>
Significant deficiencies identified?	X _____	Yes	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100px;"> <span style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></span> <span>None</span> </div>

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major state projects:	Unmodified		
Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with Chapter 10.650, Rules of the Auditor General?	X _____	Yes	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100px;"> <span style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></span> <span>No</span> </div>

Identification of major state projects:	
CSFA numbers	Name of state project:
76.073	Conserve Wildlife License Plate Project
76.135	Wildlife Foundation of Florida License Plates

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs:	\$378,375
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**FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA, INC.**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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**SECTION II – FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS WHICH ARE REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

None Reported.

**SECTION III – FINDINGS RELATED TO STATE PROJECTS**

**2023-001 - Altered Invoice and Questioned Costs**

**Condition:**

During our audit of Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida, an invoice associated with a Wildlife Foundation of Florida License Plates grant recipient appeared to be electronically altered. Despite having controls in place for reviewing and approving grant expenditures, the alteration was not detected. The invoice in question totaled \$10,955.05. The total amount of Wildlife Foundation of Florida License Plates funds expended by the grant recipient during fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, is \$23,292.05.

**Criteria:**

Florida Statutes section 320.05058(46) *Wildlife Foundation of Florida License Plates*.

**Cause:**

We noted controls are in place to review and approve grant disbursements and those controls appeared to be working as intended. However, the invoice in question was electronically altered making its authenticity difficult to determine without additional analytics or documentation.

**Effect:**

Wildlife Foundation of Florida License Plates expenditures totaling \$23,292.05 were potentially used for unauthorized purposes.

**Recommendation:**

We recommend that Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida enhance its existing internal controls to improve the detection of potential alterations of source documents. This could involve additional verification steps or documentation. Further, we recommend Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida review and update controls regarding grant awards to subrecipients.



**FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA, INC.  
SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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**PRIOR YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS**

None Reported.

# FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA



September 11, 2024

Lanigan & Associates, P.C.  
2630 Centennial Place, Suite 1  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Sir or Ms.:

We have reviewed your Report on Compliance for Each Major State Project and Report on Internal Control and specifically your Finding 2023-001, Altered Invoice and Questioned Costs. These audits strengthen our confidence in administering these specialty plates appropriately and benefits the entire specialty plate sector, which does so much good across Florida.

As we have discussed, we acknowledge there is an invoice associated with a Wildlife Foundation of Florida license plate grant recipient that appears to be electronically altered. This alteration was not detected. As a result, license plate funds were potentially disbursed without appropriate documentation.

We have contacted the organization in question and requested additional substantiation for the invoice and all other disbursements we have made to this organization in the last two years. We have reserved the right to pursue legal remedy if this matter is not resolved to our satisfaction. We do not tolerate misuse of specialty license plate funds.

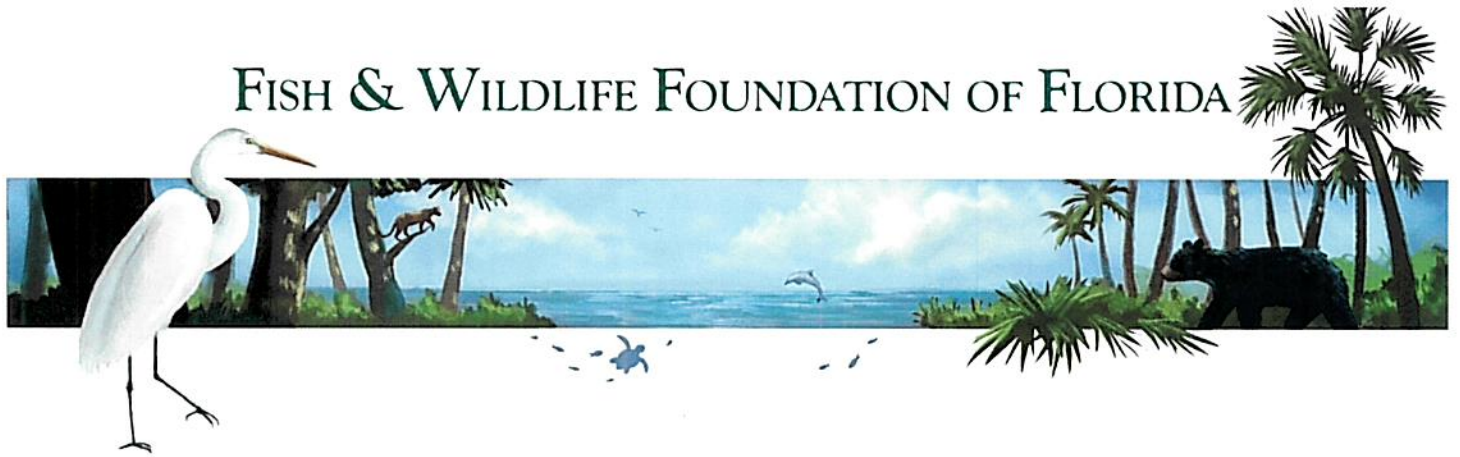
## **Corrective Action Plan**

As a result of this undetected alteration of a document, we are taking steps to enhance our existing internal controls to improve the detection of potential alternations of source documents as follows:

- 1) We are hiring a trained accountant to supplement our finance staff. This individual will be responsible for verifying the authenticity of all accounts payable source documents.
- 2) In cases where documentation is incomplete, the accountant will request the necessary supporting documents from grant recipients.
- 3) Once all documentation is gathered, the disbursement request will undergo a review by the Foundation's Director of Finance.
- 4) Following approval by the Director of Finance, the disbursement request will be reviewed by the Foundation's Chief Operating Officer, who will authorize the issuance of the disbursement check.



# FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA



We would like to thank you and your staff again for your professionalism and advice and help provided throughout this audit engagement. We ask that you please include this letter as part of your final audit report in this matter.

Sincerely,

Will Bradford  
COO

