


# STATE BOARD OF THE
# GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND

**Financial and Compliance Audit**
**For the Years**
**June 30, 2024 and 2023**

## LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

| | |
|---|---|
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| Marisa Edwards, CPA | Deputy State Auditor |
| Gina Faulkner | Contract Monitor |
| Eide Bailly LLP | Contractor |

REPORT NUMBER 2422F

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EideBailly

CPAs & BUSINESS ADVISORS

November 7, 2024

Members of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund and Legislative Audit Committee,

We have completed the financial statement audit of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund as of and for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023. Our audit was conducted 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.

We were engaged to conduct our audit pursuant to Article XXVII, Section 6(3), of the Colorado Constitution, which requires the State Auditor to conduct an annual audit of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund. The reports that we have issued as a result of this engagement are set forth in the table of contents, which follows.

Sincerely,

Eide Bailly LLP

**STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND**

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# STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND

## Report Summary
## Financial and Compliance Audit
## For the Years Ended June 30, 2024 and 2023

## AUTHORITY, PURPOSE, AND SCOPE

The Office of the State Auditor, State of Colorado, engaged Eide Bailly LLP to conduct the financial and compliance audit of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund ("GOCO") for the Fiscal Years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023.

Eide Bailly LLP conducted the audit 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 audit work was performed during the period from June 2024 through October 2024.

The purpose of this audit was (a) to perform a financial and compliance audit of GOCO, including a review of internal controls, as required by generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards;* (b) to test GOCO's compliance with certain rules and regulations governing the expenditures of State funds for the year ended June 30, 2024; (c) to prepare audit findings and recommendations for improvements in internal controls, as applicable; and (d) to evaluate progress in implementing prior audit findings, as applicable.

## AUDITOR'S OPINIONS AND REPORTS

An independent auditor's report on the financial statements of GOCO, dated November 7, 2024, has been issued, which states that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of GOCO as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the change in financial position for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

A 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,* dated November 7, 2024, has also been issued, which states that the results of the Contract Auditors' tests disclosed no instances of non-compliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards.*

## SUMMARY OF AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

There was one finding and recommendation that related to internal control over financial reporting for the year ended June 30, 2024. There were no findings or recommendations reported for the year ended June 30, 2023.

# STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND

## Recommendation Locator
## Financial and Compliance Audit
## For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

| Recommendation Number | Page Number | Recommendation Summary | Response | Implementation Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2024-001 | 6 | The Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) should strengthen its internal controls over financial reporting to ensure grant expenditure accounting transactions are correctly recorded and reported in accordance with GOCO's Grant Expenditure Recognition Policy. | Agree | June 2025 |

## STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND

### Description of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund
### For the Years Ended June 30, 2024 and 2023

The Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund and the State Board, which oversees GOCO, were created by Article XXVII of the Colorado Constitution. Article XXVII is the result of the passage of the Great Outdoors Colorado Initiative (Amendment 8) during the November 3, 1992 election. Fiscal Year 2024 was the thirty-first year of operations for GOCO.

Article XXVII establishes procedures for the distribution of net proceeds from state-supervised Lottery games. The intent of Article XXVII is to use a portion of net State Lottery ("Lottery") proceeds to provide funding for wildlife, park, river, trail, and open space heritage. To help ensure this, Article XXVII allocated an amount of net Lottery proceeds to GOCO. The amount is adjusted annually based on the change from the 1992 Denver-Boulder-Greeley Consumer Price Index ("CPI"). In turn, GOCO is responsible for funding appropriate programs through designated state and local agencies as well as other qualifying entities. All of GOCO's revenues, with the exception of investment earnings and miscellaneous income, are from Lottery proceeds. During 2018, House Bill 18-066 extended the termination date of Lottery to July 1, 2049, thus continuing funding for GOCO through June 30, 2049.

As of June 30, 2024, the State Board that oversees GOCO consists of a total of nineteen members: two members of the public from each of the eight congressional districts, appointed by the Governor; a representative for outdoor recreation issues designated by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission (the "Commission"); a representative for wildlife issues, also designated by the Commission; and the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources. Monies allocated to GOCO are for the purposes established in Article XXVII and are not subject to appropriation for any other purpose. GOCO is a political subdivision of the State of Colorado ("State"). During Fiscal Year 2024, GOCO had a permanent staff of 23 and received $81.8 million in net Lottery proceeds, the maximum allowable for Fiscal Year 2024. During Fiscal Year 2023, GOCO had a permanent staff of 23 and received $75.7 million in net Lottery proceeds, the maximum allowable for Fiscal Year 2023.

### CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SPENDING

Article XXVII requires the State Board, which oversees GOCO, to assure that "amounts expended for each of the [funding] purposes over a period of years be substantially equal." The four funding purposes are wildlife, outdoor recreation, competitive grants for open space, and competitive matching grants to local governments for open lands and parks.

GOCO created a policy in Fiscal Year 2018 to define "substantially equal" and "a period of years," to measure performance and establish a process for addressing issues of non-compliance. This policy sets tolerance thresholds of the percentage variance from 25% (exactly equal among four categories), with different timeframes for authorizations and expenditures. The policy states:

- For grant authorizations, substantially equal means a range of tolerance of +/- 1.25% of 25% per funding category, to be measured cumulatively from the organization's inception to the forecasted end of a board-adopted multi-year spending plan.
- For grant expenditures, substantially equal means a range of tolerance of +/-2.5% of 25% per funding category, measured cumulatively from the organization's inception to the end of the most recently closed fiscal year, as established via the annual financial audit of the organization.

## Description of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund
## For the Years Ended June 30, 2024 and 2023

As shown in the tables below and on the following page, GOCO complied with the above policy on authorized and expended grants as of Fiscal Year 2024. Authorized grants are measured for compliance as forecasted at the end of the multi-year spending plan (Fiscal Year 2025). GOCO's policy for board action if the defined threshold for substantially equal is out of compliance is as follows:

a. determine what circumstances are affecting its ability to maintain its cash balance as a percentage of outstanding grants, grant authorizations, or grant expenditures within established ranges; and,
b. determine what actions it will take to bring cash balance, grant authorizations or grant expenditures within established ranges; and,
c. determine a timeframe by which it will seek to return its cash balance as a percentage of outstanding grants, grant authorizations or grant expenditures back within established ranges.

In order to comply with policy, the Board passed a resolution on June 14, 2018, to bring local government authorizations back within substantially equal tolerance on authorizations no later than Fiscal Year 2023. This includes reducing local government spending in the Local Government Purpose in GOCO's 2021 – 2025 spending plan. As of the end of Fiscal Year 2024, cumulative local government authorizations were within the equal tolerance policy.

The following chart shows the cumulative grants expended and authorized since GOCO's inception in 1993. *Grants Authorized* represent the amount, by purpose, approved by the GOCO Board. This authorization process is used by the GOCO Board to achieve the goal of substantially equal expenditures across the four purposes. *Grants Expended* represents cumulative actual expenditures by purpose and is the measurement used for substantially equal.

**GOCO Grants Cumulative through Fiscal Year 2024 (in thousands)**

| | Grants Authorized | | Grants Expended | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Funding Purpose | Amount | % | Amount | % | Cumulative Difference |
| Purpose 1 – Wildlife | $ 416,056 | 25.0% | $ 368,351 | 24.9% | $ 47,705 |
| Purpose 2 – Parks and outdoor recreation | 410,999 | 24.7 | 365,394 | 24.7 | 45,605 |
| Purpose 3 – Competitive grants for open space | 405,251 | 24.4 | 373,306 | 25.2 | 31,945 |
| Purpose 4 – Competitive matching grants to local governments for open lands and parks | 431,418 | 25.9 | 372,535 | 25.2 | 58,883 |
| Total | $ 1,663,724 | 100.0% | $1,479,586 | 100.0% | $ 184,138 |

Source: Data provided by GOCO

## STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND

### Description of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund
### For the Years Ended June 30, 2024 and 2023

The next two charts show the trend over the last five years of cumulative grants authorized by GOCO and grants expended by purpose.

**GOCO Grants Authorized Cumulative Trend for the Previous Five Years**

| Funding Purpose | Grants Authorized % | | | | | Five-Year Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | |
| Purpose 1 – Wildlife | 24.6% | 24.7% | 24.6% | 24.8% | 25.0% | 0.4% |
| Purpose 2 - Parks and outdoor recreation | 24.5 | 24.7 | 24.8 | 24.9 | 24.7 | 0.2% |
| Purpose 3 - Competitive grants for open space | 24.3 | 24.3 | 24.6 | 24.6 | 24.4 | 0.1% |
| Purpose 4 - Competitive matching grants to local governments for open lands and parks | 26.6 | 26.3 | 26.0 | 25.7 | 25.9 | (0.7%) |
| | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | |

Source: Data provided by GOCO

**GOCO Grants Expended Cumulative Trend for the Previous Five Years**

| Funding Purpose | Grants Expended % | | | | | Five-Year Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | |
| Purpose 1 – Wildlife | 24.6% | 24.8% | 24.9% | 24.9% | 24.9% | 0.3% |
| Purpose 2 - Parks and outdoor recreation | 23.8 | 24.0 | 24.2 | 24.4 | 24.7 | 0.9% |
| Purpose 3 - Competitive grants for open space | 25.3 | 25.1 | 24.9 | 25.3 | 25.2 | (0.1)% |
| Purpose 4 - Competitive matching grants to local governments for open lands and parks | 26.3 | 26.1 | 26.0 | 25.4 | 25.2 | (1.1)% |
| | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | |

Source: Data provided by GOCO

# STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND

## Auditor's Findings and Recommendations
## For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

**Finding 2024-001**
**Internal Controls over Financial Reporting**

The Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) is responsible for distributing net proceeds from state-supervised Lottery games to provide funding, in the form of investments and grants, for wildlife, park, river, trail, and open space heritage. Investments and grants are provided for four funding purposes: 1) wildlife, 2) outdoor recreation, 3) competitive grants for open space, and 4) competitive matching grants to local governments for open lands and parks. Colorado municipalities, counties, Title 32 special districts with parks and recreation authority, as well as nonprofit conservation organizations, political subdivisions of the state, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) are eligible to apply for GOCO grants.

Not all GOCO programs are alike; therefore, GOCO has determined specific eligibility requirements based on the type of grant. GOCO has two primary grant types: 1) Competitive, application-based, grants and 2) other grant expenditures which include CPW annual investment proposal and land acquisition grants, and competitive land acquisition grants.

GOCO's grants staff are required to complete a Due Diligence Checklist for all land acquisition grants. In addition, GOCO and CPW have a memorandum of understanding that specifies that CPW projects involving acquisition of any real property interest will be subject to a mutually agreed upon due diligence process as set forth in GOCO's Due Diligence Checklist. Once GOCO's grants staff complete the Due Diligence Checklist, then GOCO will issue the payment for the land acquisition grants and recognize the expense.

GOCO accounting staff are responsible for its financial accounting and reporting, which includes the accurate and timely entry of financial transactions into its financial accounting system, Financial Edge. Throughout the year, GOCO's grants staff receive a reporting packet from the grantee. The grants staff review the reporting packet, and if applicable, the due diligence checklist, and upon satisfactory completion, will approve the grant expenditure and payment. For year-end reporting, GOCO'S accounting staff work with the grants staff to determine grant expense and the corresponding grants payable liability.

GOCO is required to prepare its financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) establishes GAAP for state and local government entities through the issuance of GASB statements, which GOCO must comply with when preparing its financial statements. GASB establishes the criteria for recognizing grant expenditures based on the type of nonexchange transaction. Since GOCO's grants are the result of contractual agreements that are entered into willingly by the parties to the agreements, the grants meet the definition of a voluntary nonexchange transaction, as defined by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). Additionally, GOCO is required to follow its *Grant Expenditure Recognition Policy*, which has been derived from GAAP and was implemented in Fiscal Year 2024. For the year ended June 30, 2024, GOCO recognized approximately $53.4 million in grants expenditures/expenses; of this amount, about $6.3 million was for land acquisitions.

# STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND

## Auditor's Findings and Recommendations
## For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

**What was the purpose of our audit work and what work was performed?**

The purpose of the audit work was to determine whether GOCO properly reported its grant expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024 in compliance with applicable accounting principles and standards and GOCO's policies.

We obtained an understanding of GOCO's internal controls over account balances, financial processes, and fiscal year-end close processes. We specifically performed the following:

- Obtained and analyzed GOCO's Financial Edge transactional data related to grant expenditures.

- Inquired of GOCO personnel and obtained GOCO's *Grant Expenditure Recognition Policy* to gain an understanding of the process for grant expenditure recognition.

**How were the results of the audit work measured?**

We measured the results of our audit against the following:

- GASB Statement No. 33, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions* (GASB 33), paragraph 21, establishes guidance for recognition requirements for voluntary nonexchange transactions. Those recognition criteria state that providers of resources should recognize liabilities and expenses (expenditures) from voluntary nonexchange transactions when all applicable eligibility requirements are met. Paragraph 20 further goes on to state that contingencies are an eligibility criterion. Contingencies exist when the provider's offer of resources is contingent upon specified actions.

- GOCO's *Grant Expenditure Recognition Policy* requires completion of a Due Diligence Checklist by GOCO's grants staff for grant agreements involving a real property acquisition (land acquisition grants). The Policy requires that GOCO will remit payment only after completion of a due diligence materials review by GOCO's grant staff. The Policy also requires that a grant expense and corresponding liability will only be recognized for land acquisition grants completed in the fiscal year if the Due Diligence Checklist review has been completed prior to the end of the fiscal year.

**What problem did the audit work identify?**

Our audit identified that GOCO overstated a CPW land acquisition grant expenditure in Financial Edge by $6,250,000 in Fiscal Year 2024. Through our testing of grant expenditures (expenses) and grants payable, we discussed with GOCO staff how they followed their *Grant Expenditure Recognition Policy.* After we brought the recognition criteria to GOCO's attention, management re-assessed the recognition criteria of grant expenditure transactions during the current year under audit. This resulted in GOCO identifying a land acquisition grant expenditure in the amount of $6,250,000 that was incorrectly recognized as a grant expenditure and related accounts payable as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024. Based on GOCO's *Grant Expenditure Recognition Policy*, all recognition criteria were not considered met until July 2024 once the Due Diligence Checklist was completed.

After our discussion with GOCO to determine the proper accounting treatment for this transaction, GOCO staff made an adjustment to the accounting records and the financial statements to remove the grant payable as of June 30, 2024, and grant expenditure (expense) for the year end June 30, 2024.

**Why did this problem occur?**

We determined that GOCO did not consider their *Grant Expenditure Recognition Policy* regarding whether the requirements for completion of the Due Diligence Checklist was met to support recognition of any land acquisition grant expenditures for the year ended June 30, 2024. GOCO did not have sufficient internal controls in place to ensure it properly recognized grant expenditures (expenses) in accordance with its documented policies. GOCO updated its *Grant Expenditure Recognition Policy* during Fiscal Year 2024, clarifying the contingency criteria related to land acquisition grants, as well as other grant eligibility criteria. GOCO staff indicated that they did not consider the contingency criteria as outlined in their Fiscal Year 2024 policy updates for their financial reporting.

**Why does this problem matter?**

Because GOCO staff did not properly apply their own written policies based on relevant accounting principles and guidance, liabilities and grant expenditures (expenses) that were recorded in GOCO's financial statements were materially overstated by $6,250,000, or approximately 12 percent of overall expenditures (expenses). Additionally, without adequate internal controls in place over financial reporting to ensure that all grant transactions are recorded properly, GOCO cannot ensure the accuracy and completeness of its reported financial information.

**Classification of Finding:**

Material Weakness. This finding does not apply to a prior audit recommendation.

**Recommendation 2024-001**

The Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) should strengthen its internal controls over financial reporting to ensure grant expenditure accounting transactions are correctly recorded and reported in accordance with GOCO's *Grant Expenditure Recognition Policy*.

**Response**

*Great Outdoors Colorado*

Agree
Implementation Date: June 2025

We acknowledge that we overlooked the due diligence completion date as a criterion for accruing this expenditure for the year ending June 30, 2024. However, this expenditure did meet all other eligibility criteria in our Grant Expenditure Recognition policy, and we only chose to accrue this payment after confirming that the grant was included in the CPW billing packet for March 2024 and that the due diligence checklist was satisfactorily completed prior to payment in July 2024.

To improve our processes, we implemented a tracking system using project management software in September 2024. This system will help us monitor important dates related to grant payments, including report submission dates, receipt dates, due diligence completion dates, and payment dates. Additionally, we will continue to collaborate with grant officers after year-end to ensure that accrued grant payments meet all of the eligibility criteria outlined in GOCO's Grant Expenditure Recognition Policy.

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CPAs & BUSINESS ADVISORS

## Independent Auditor's Report

Members of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund and Legislative Audit Committee
Denver, Colorado

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

***Opinions***

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund ("GOCO"), as of and for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the GOCO's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of GOCO, as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

***Basis for Opinions***

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 (*Government Auditing Standards*). 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 GOCO 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.

***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 GOCO's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

***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 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 GOCO'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 the GOCO'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.

***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison schedules be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with GAAS, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

***Other Information***

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the Members of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund and the Description of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 7, 2024 on our consideration of GOCO's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, 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 GOCO'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 GOCO's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Ede Bailly LLP

Denver, Colorado
November 7, 2024

The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund's ("GOCO") management discussion and analysis is designed to provide a financial performance overview of GOCO's financial activities for the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2024 and 2023. The management's discussion and analysis is intended to be read in conjunction with GOCO's financial statements beginning on page 21.

## Financial Highlights

GOCO receives funding from net Lottery proceeds and makes investments and grants for projects that preserve, protect, and enhance Colorado's wildlife, park, river, trail, and open space heritage. Investments and grants are provided for four funding purposes: 1) wildlife, 2) outdoor recreation, 3) competitive grants for open space, and 4) competitive matching grants to local governments for open lands and parks.

The following table highlights significant variances between Fiscal Year 2024, Fiscal Year 2023, and Fiscal Year 2022.

| | Fiscal Year Ended June 30, | | | 2024/2023 | | 2023/2022 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | $ Variance | % | $ Variance | % |
| Lottery revenues | $81,771,604 | $75,706,639 | $73,117,767 | $6,064,965 | 8.0% | $2,588,872 | 3.5% |
| Grant expenditures | $53,403,709 | $72,545,099 | $68,048,786 | ($19,141,390) | (26.4%) | $4,496,313 | 6.6% |

2024

GOCO received its maximum allowable Lottery proceeds for the year of approximately $81.8 million, per the constitutional cap. This represents a $6.1 million increase over Fiscal Year 2023 in Lottery proceeds to GOCO due to an increase in the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood Consumer Price Index ("CPI"). Per Article XXVII, Section 3 of the Colorado Constitution, GOCO's proceeds received from Lottery is capped at $35 million using the base year of 1992, adjusted annually for inflation.

Grant expenditures decreased by $19.1 million from Fiscal Year 2023. GOCO's grant expenditures fluctuate year to year primarily due to when dollars are programmed through the 5-year spending plan and because of timing differences of project completions.

The total Fiscal Year 2024 actual expenditures were below budgeted expenditures by $13.0 million due to expenditures for grants and personnel services and benefits both coming in below budget. Although we do our best to project grant expenditures for the year, it is important to note that GOCO does not have much control over the timing in which grants get paid out beyond the timeframe delineated in grant agreements. Personnel services and benefits are below budget expectations due to staff vacancies throughout the year.

2023

GOCO received its maximum allowable Lottery proceeds for the year of approximately $75.7 million, per the constitutional cap. This represents a $2.6 million increase over Fiscal Year 2022 in Lottery proceeds to GOCO due to an increase in the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood Consumer Price Index ("CPI"). Per Article XXVII, Section 3 of the Colorado Constitution, GOCO's proceeds received from Lottery is capped at $35 million using the base year of 1992, adjusted annually for inflation.

Grant expenditures increased by $4.5 million from Fiscal Year 2022. GOCO's grant expenditures fluctuate year to year primarily due to when dollars are programmed through the 5-year spending plan and because of timing differences of project completions.

The total Fiscal Year 2023 actual expenditures exceeded budgeted expenditures by $10.7 million due to grant expenditures exceeding budget expectations. Although we do our best to project grant expenditures for the year, it is important to note that GOCO does not have much control over the timing in which grants get paid out beyond the timeframe delineated in grant agreements.

## Overview of the Financial Statements

This annual report consists of three parts – management's discussion and analysis, the basic financial statements, and required supplementary information. The basic financial statements include two kinds of statements that present different views of GOCO:

- The first two statements are government-wide financial statements that provide both long-term and short-term information about GOCO's overall financial status.

- The governmental fund statements tell how operations were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending.

GOCO's primary source of income is the State Lottery. Net Lottery proceeds are distributed as follows:

- 40% to the Conservation Trust Fund,
- 10% to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife ("CPW"),
- 50% to GOCO up to the constitutional limit.

GOCO's funding is capped at $35 million using the base year of 1992, adjusted annually for inflation ($81.8 million and $75.7 million in Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2023, respectively). Any remaining net Lottery proceeds in excess of the cap were annually distributed to the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Fund, the Outdoor Equity Fund, the Wildlife Cash Fund, and the Parks and Outdoor Rec Fund for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2023.

## Government-Wide Statements

Statement of Net Position

The following table reflects the condensed statement of net position as of June 30, 2024, 2023, and 2022.

| | June 30, | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 |
| Current and other assets | $ 113,807,810 | $ 93,459,091 | $ 90,301,659 |
| Capital assets, net | 442,266 | 575,173 | 748,823 |
| **Total assets** | 114,250,076 | 94,034,264 | 91,050,482 |
| Other liabilities | 9,440,539 | 14,166,610 | 12,209,691 |
| Long-term leases and subscriptions | 445,175 | 574,231 | 708,225 |
| **Total liabilities** | 9,885,714 | 14,740,841 | 12,917,916 |
| Net investment in capital assets | (2,909) | 942 | 40,598 |
| Unrestricted | 104,367,271 | 79,292,481 | 78,091,968 |
| **Total net position** | $ 104,364,362 | $ 79,293,423 | $ 78,132,566 |

2024

The significant portions of current and other assets are cash, Lottery proceeds receivable, notes receivable, and advanced grants payments. Cash increased by approximately $13.4 million during Fiscal Year 2024 due to an increase in Lottery proceeds and a decrease in grant payments made during the year. The Lottery proceeds receivable increased by approximately $3.2 million from June 30, 2023. Notes receivable increased by $2.0 million from a note issued in October 2023. There were no notes outstanding at the end of Fiscal Year 2023. The constitutional cap was met later in the year therefore the balance of proceeds, which are distributed quarterly, will be received after the end of the fiscal year. Advanced grants payments were made during the year to grantees primarily for projects awarded under GOCO's Generation Wild, Resilient Communities, Restoration and Stewardship of Outdoor Resources and Environment ("RESTORE"), and Stewardship Impact programs. These advances will be recognized as grant expense once the contractual obligations are met by the grantees.

As of June 30, 2024, other liabilities decreased by approximately $4.7 million from June 30, 2023. The liabilities outstanding at the end of Fiscal Year 2024 consisted mainly of monthly bills, grants payable, and estimates of reimbursable costs incurred by Colorado Parks and Wildlife ("CPW"). Total liabilities consist mostly of an accrual for CPW's estimated March through June 2024 investments of approximately $7.7 million, a decrease of approximately $4.4 million from the prior year. Compensated absences increased slightly due to an increase in staff accruing vacation during the year.

The capital assets and long-term liabilities reported for Fiscal Year 2024 decreased by $132,907 and $129,056, respectively. The decreases are due to the annual amortization of the lease and subscription assets and liabilities due to the implementation of GASB 87, *Leases*, and GASB 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements ("SBITA")*, which requires governments to recognize an asset and liability for right-to-use assets under long-term lease and subscription agreements. The asset and related liability are amortized over the life of the lease or subscription.

2023

The significant portions of current and other assets are cash and advanced grants payments. Cash increased by approximately $9.0 million during Fiscal Year 2023 due to a decrease in Lottery proceeds and notes receivable, increase in grants payable, and a large project reimbursement at year end. The Lottery proceeds receivable decreased by approximately $4.5 million from June 30, 2022. In Fiscal Year 2023, the constitutional cap was met in March and all proceeds were received prior to the end of the fiscal year. Advanced grants payments were made during the year to grantees primarily for projects awarded under GOCO's Generation Wild, Resilient Communities, and Stewardship Impact programs. These advances will be recognized as grant expense once the contractual obligations are met by the grantees.

As of June 30, 2023, liabilities increased by approximately $1.8 million from June 30, 2022. The liabilities outstanding at Fiscal Year End consisted mainly of monthly bills, grants payable, and estimates of reimbursable costs incurred by CPW. Total liabilities consist mostly of an accrual for CPW's estimated April through June 2023 investments of approximately $12.1 million, an increase of approximately $3.0 million from the prior year. Compensated absences increased slightly due to an increase in staff accruing vacation during the year.

The capital assets and long-term liabilities reported for Fiscal Year 2023 decreased by $173,650 and $133,994, respectively. The decreases are due to the annual amortization of the lease and subscription assets and liability added with the implementation of GASB 87, *Leases*, and GASB 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements ("SBITA")*, which requires governments to recognize an asset and liability for right-to-use assets under long-term lease and subscription agreements. The asset and related liability are amortized over the life of the lease or subscription.

Statement of Activities

The following table reflects the condensed statement of activities for the Fiscal Years ended June 30, 2024, 2023 and 2022.

| | Fiscal Years Ended June 30, | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 |
| Program revenues | | | |
| Lottery revenue | $ 81,771,604 | $ 75,706,639 | $ 73,117,767 |
| General revenues | | | |
| Investment earnings (loss) | 2,274,545 | (151,650) | (3,934,020) |
| Miscellaneous income | 9,162 | 2,851 | 1,120 |
| Project reimbursements | 85,066 | 3,667,701 | - |
| **Total revenue** | 84,140,377 | 79,225,541 | 69,184,867 |
| Program expenses | | | |
| Grants expended | 53,403,709 | 72,545,099 | 68,048,786 |
| Personnel services and benefits | 2,655,935 | 2,548,490 | 2,231,697 |
| Operating | 3,009,794 | 2,971,095 | 3,068,202 |
| **Total expenses** | 59,069,438 | 78,064,684 | 73,348,685 |
| Change in net position | 25,070,939 | 1,160,857 | (4,163,818) |
| Beginning net position | 79,293,423 | 78,132,566 | 82,296,384 |
| Ending net position | $ 104,364,362 | $ 79,293,423 | $ 78,132,566 |

2024

Revenue was consistent with Lottery net proceeds reaching the constitutional cap each year since Fiscal Year 2004. Investment earnings in Fiscal Year 2024 were $2.3 million and the Fiscal Year 2023 net loss was $151,650, resulting in an increase in investment earnings of $2.4 million. During the year, GOCO received $85,066 in project reimbursements from a grantee for the payment of cash in lieu of condemnation by a public utility of conserved properties previously funded by GOCO, as stipulated in the grantee's grant agreements from prior years.

Grant expenditures in Fiscal Year 2024 decreased by $19.1 million from Fiscal Year 2023. This decrease is primarily due to the timing of project completions and grantee reporting during the year. GOCO anticipates that grant expenditures will start to increase in Fiscal Years 2025 – 2027, as the majority of the large Centennial Program grants were awarded in March 2024.

GOCO's personnel services and benefits expenditures increased slightly from Fiscal Year 2023 due to anticipated increases in staffing as well as an increase in travel and meeting expenditures as we continue to implement the regional program model.

2023
Revenue was consistent with Lottery net proceeds reaching the constitutional cap each year since Fiscal Year 2004. Investment earnings in Fiscal Year 2023 was a net loss of $151,650 and the Fiscal Year 2022 net loss was $3.9 million, resulting in an increase in investment earnings of $3.8 million. During the year, GOCO received $3.7 million in project reimbursements from the proceeds of land sales from a grantee, as stipulated in their grant agreements from prior years.

Grant expenditures in Fiscal Year 2023 increased by $4.5 million from Fiscal Year 2022. GOCO anticipated that grant expenditures would start to increase as the current spending plan was designed to backload larger grant awards in the last few years of the plan. As we begin to award the larger Centennial Program grants in Fiscal Years 2024 – 2025, grant expenditures are expected to continue to increase.

GOCO's personnel services and benefits expenditures increased slightly from Fiscal Year 2022 due to anticipated increases in staffing as well as an increase in travel and meeting expenditures as we continue to implement the regional program model.

## Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets (See Note 7)

The following table reflects capital assets at year-end net of depreciation and amortization as of June 30, 2024, 2023 and 2022.

| | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Furniture and equipment | $ 24,308 | $ 33,594 | $ 36,741 |
| Leasehold improvements | - | 1,763 | 4,786 |
| Intangible assets | 32,416 | 32,416 | 32,416 |
| Leased assets | 378,330 | 503,065 | 666,209 |
| Subscription assets | 7,212 | 4,335 | 8,671 |
| **Total, net capital assets** | $ 442,266 | $ 575,173 | $ 748,823 |

2024
GOCO reported net capital assets of $442,266 for Fiscal Year 2024. This amount represents a net decrease of $132,907 from Fiscal Year 2023. The most significant reason for this decrease was due to the depreciation of subscription and leased assets added in the implementation of GASB 96, *SBITAs* and GASB 87, *Leases*. The balance of the leased and subscription assets was $378,330 and $7,212, respectively, net of accumulated amortization for Fiscal Year 2024.

2023
GOCO reported net capital assets of $575,173 for Fiscal Year 2023. This amount represents a net decrease of $173,650 from Fiscal Year 2022. The most significant reason for this decrease was due to the depreciation of subscription and leased assets added in the implementation of GASB 96, *SBITAs* and GASB 87, *Leases*. The balance of the leased and subscription assets was $503,065 and $4,335, respectively, net of accumulated amortization for Fiscal Year 2023.

Long-term Lease and Subscription Liabilities

2024
GOCO reported long-term leases and subscriptions of $445,175 for Fiscal Year 2024, a decrease of $129,056 over Fiscal Year 2023 (see Note 9). This decrease is primarily due to the amortization of the lease liabilities previously recorded through the implementation of GASB 87, *Leases* and GASB 96, *SBITAs*.

2023
GOCO reported long-term leases and subscriptions of $574,231 for Fiscal Year 2023, a decrease of $133,994 over Fiscal Year 2022 (see Note 9). This decrease is primarily due to the amortization of the lease liabilities previously recorded through the implementation of GASB 87, *Leases* and GASB 96, *SBITAs*.

## Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget

Next year, GOCO is projecting approximately $84.3 million in revenue from the Lottery, which is less than the constitutional cap projection for Fiscal Year 2025. Although the constitutional cap has historically been met, GOCO prefers to budget conservatively, as Lottery revenues are unpredictable. Grant expenditures are expected to start increasing in the next two years as the larger Centennial program funds were awarded in March 2024.

As GOCO enters the fifth and final year of its current 5-year spending plan, focus will continue to be on the Generation Wild, Youth Corps, and RESTORE programs as well as the Centennial, Community Impact, Land Acquisition, Planning and Capacity, and Stewardship Impact programs from GOCO's new program portfolio established under the 2021 strategic plan.

As noted above, the current 5-year spending plan is structured to award higher funds in the later years of the plan (Fiscal Years 2024 – 2025) in order to identify and prepare large impactful projects for the Centennial Program. The Centennial Program is GOCO's strategic initiative aimed at encouraging multi-purpose, transformational projects and, as noted above, most funds were awarded in Fiscal Year 2024. Priority will continue to be placed on compliance with its constitutional requirement that expenditures in each of the four purposes over a period of years be substantially equal (Article XXVII).

Also, GOCO is budgeting $6.5 million for Fiscal Year 2025 operating expenditures. The increase from the prior year is primarily due to strategic planning for the next five years (Fiscal Years 2026 – 2030) and the continued rollout of the regional program model. Part of GOCO's current strategic plan implementation included expanding program staff into different areas of Colorado to work collaboratively with grantees and partners, and the Fiscal Year 2025 budget includes the addition of one program officer position to work with the Generation Wild Coalitions across the state. The Fiscal Year 2025 budget also includes an increase in salaries for most full-time employees.

2025 budgeted operating expenditures are classified as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Personnel services and benefits | $ 3,091,788 |
| Operating expenditures | 1,256,364 |
| Generation Wild media campaign | 2,000,000 |
| Capital outlay | 145,400 |
| Total 2025 Budgeted Operating Expenditures | $ 6,493,552 |

## STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND

### Governmental Fund Balance Sheet and Statement of Net Position
### June 30, 2024

| | General Fund | Adjustments (Note 3) | Statement of Net Position |
|---|---|---|---|
| Assets | | | |
| Cash and investments | $102,913,146 | $ - | $102,913,146 |
| Lottery proceeds receivable | 3,183,797 | - | 3,183,797 |
| Note receivable | 2,090,740 | - | 2,090,740 |
| Prepaid items | 91,226 | - | 91,226 |
| Other assets | 19,394 | - | 19,394 |
| Advanced grant payments | 5,509,507 | - | 5,509,507 |
| Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization | - | 442,266 | 442,266 |
| Total assets | $113,807,810 | $ 442,266 | $114,250,076 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Grants payable | 9,109,510 | - | 9,109,510 |
| Accounts payable | 157,021 | - | 157,021 |
| Compensated absences payable | 174,008 | - | 174,008 |
| Long-term leases and subscriptions | | | |
| Due within one year | - | 160,330 | 160,330 |
| Due in more than one year | - | 284,845 | 284,845 |
| Total liabilities | 9,440,539 | 445,175 | 9,885,714 |
| Fund Balances/Net Position | | | |
| Fund balances | | | |
| Nonspendable | 91,226 | (91,226) | - |
| Assigned | 104,276,045 | (104,276,045) | - |
| Total fund balances | 104,367,271 | (104,367,271) | - |
| Total liabilities and fund balances | $113,807,810 | | |
| Net Position | | | |
| Net investment in capital assets | | (2,909) | (2,909) |
| Unrestricted | | 104,367,271 | 104,367,271 |
| Total Net Position | | $104,364,362 | $104,364,362 |

**See Notes to the Financial Statements**

## STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND

### Governmental Fund Balance Sheet and Statement of Net Position
### June 30, 2023

| | General Fund | Adjustments (Note 3) | Statement of Net Position |
|---|---|---|---|
| Assets | | | |
| Cash and investments | $ 89,487,566 | $ - | $ 89,487,566 |
| Prepaid items | 79,984 | - | 79,984 |
| Other assets | 25,531 | - | 25,531 |
| Advanced grant payments | 3,866,010 | - | 3,866,010 |
| Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization | - | 575,173 | 575,173 |
| Total assets | $ 93,459,091 | $ 575,173 | $ 94,034,264 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Grants payable | 13,859,083 | - | 13,859,083 |
| Accounts payable | 151,802 | - | 151,802 |
| Compensated absences payable | 155,725 | - | 155,725 |
| Long-term leases and subscriptions | | | |
| Due within one year | - | 162,636 | 162,636 |
| Due in more than one year | - | 411,595 | 411,595 |
| Total liabilities | 14,166,610 | 574,231 | 14,740,841 |
| Fund Balances/Net Position | | | |
| Fund balances | | | |
| Nonspendable | 79,984 | (79,984) | - |
| Assigned | 79,212,497 | (79,212,497) | - |
| Total fund balances | 79,292,481 | (79,292,481) | - |
| Total liabilities and fund balances | $ 93,459,091 | | |
| Net Position | | | |
| Net investment in capital assets | | 942 | 942 |
| Unrestricted | | 79,292,481 | 79,292,481 |
| Total Net Position | | $ 79,293,423 | $ 79,293,423 |

**See Notes to the Financial Statements**

## STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND

### Statement of Governmental Fund Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance and Statement of Activities
### For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

| | General Fund | Adjustments (Note 3) | Statement of Activities |
|---|---|---|---|
| Expenditures/expenses | | | |
| Grants expended | $ 53,403,709 | $ - | $ 53,403,709 |
| Personnel services and benefits | 2,655,935 | - | 2,655,935 |
| Operating | 3,005,943 | 3,851 | 3,009,794 |
| Capital outlay | 51,046 | (51,046) | - |
| Total expenditures/expenses | 59,116,633 | (47,195) | 59,069,438 |
| Program revenues - State Lottery proceeds | 81,771,604 | - | 81,771,604 |
| Net program revenues (expenses) | 22,654,971 | 47,195 | 22,702,166 |
| General Revenues | | | |
| Other income | 9,162 | - | 9,162 |
| Investment earnings (loss) | 2,274,545 | - | 2,274,545 |
| Project reimbursements | 85,066 | - | 85,066 |
| Total General revenues (loss) | 2,368,773 | - | 2,368,773 |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures | 25,023,744 | 47,195 | 25,070,939 |
| Other Financing Sources - Leases | 51,046 | (51,046) | - |
| Change in fund balance | 25,074,790 | (25,074,790) | - |
| Change in net position | | 25,070,939 | 25,070,939 |
| Fund balance/net position - beginning of the year | 79,292,481 | 942 | 79,293,423 |
| Fund balance/net position - end of the year | $104,367,271 | $ (2,909) | $104,364,362 |

**See Notes to the Financial Statements**

## STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND

### Statement of Governmental Fund Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance and Statement of Activities
### For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

| | General Fund | Adjustments (Note 3) | Statement of Activities |
|---|---|---|---|
| Expenditures/expenses | | | |
| Grants expended | $ 72,545,099 | $ - | $ 72,545,099 |
| Personnel services and benefits | 2,548,490 | - | 2,548,490 |
| Operating | 2,925,226 | 45,869 | 2,971,095 |
| Capital outlay | 34,399 | (34,399) | - |
| Total expenditures/expenses | 78,053,214 | 11,470 | 78,064,684 |
| Program revenues - State Lottery proceeds | 75,706,639 | - | 75,706,639 |
| Net program revenues (expenses) | (2,346,575) | (11,470) | (2,358,045) |
| General Revenues | | | |
| Other income | 2,851 | - | 2,851 |
| Investment earnings (loss) | (151,650) | - | (151,650) |
| Project reimbursements | 3,667,701 | - | 3,667,701 |
| Total General revenues (loss) | 3,518,902 | - | 3,518,902 |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures | 1,172,327 | (11,470) | 1,160,857 |
| Other Financing Sources - Leases | 28,186 | (28,186) | - |
| Change in fund balance | 1,200,513 | (1,200,513) | - |
| Change in net position | | 1,160,857 | 1,160,857 |
| Fund balance/net position - beginning of the year, as restated | 78,091,968 | 40,598 | 78,132,566 |
| Fund balance/net position - end of the year | $ 79,292,481 | $ 942 | $ 79,293,423 |

**See Notes to the Financial Statements**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**
**June 30, 2024 and 2023**

## Note 1 - Definition of Reporting Entity

The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund ("GOCO"), a political subdivision of the State of Colorado (the "State"), was established as a result of the 1992 General Election through the electorate's adoption of Amendment 8, which resulted in Article XXVII of the Colorado Constitution. Article XXVII established the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund and the State Board as the trustee of the trust fund and allocates certain net proceeds of the Colorado Lottery to GOCO in trust. Article XXVII authorizes GOCO to use these funds to preserve and enhance Colorado parks, wildlife, trails, rivers, open space, and natural areas by making strategic investments, fostering partnerships among diverse interests, and supporting education about the outdoor environment of the State.

GOCO follows the Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") accounting pronouncements that provide guidance for determining which governmental activities, organizations, and functions should be included within the financial reporting entity. GASB pronouncements set forth the financial accountability of a governmental organization's elected governing body as the basic criterion for including a possible component governmental organization in a primary government's legal entity. Financial accountability includes, but is not limited to, appointment of a voting majority of the organization's governing body, ability to impose its will on the organization, potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits or burdens, and fiscal dependency. GOCO does not have any component units.

GOCO is a separate political subdivision of the State as stated in Article XXVII. GOCO is not considered to be a component unit of the State for the purpose of the State's annual financial reporting.

## Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The significant accounting policies of GOCO are described as follows:

### Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

Because GOCO is a special-purpose government engaged in a single governmental program, it has presented its government-wide financial statements and fund financial statements together with an adjustment column to show the reconciliation between the two required basic statements.

The government-wide financial statements (the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all of the non-fiduciary activities of GOCO.

Both of the government-wide financial statements are designed to report functions of GOCO that are principally supported by intergovernmental revenues and operating grants (governmental activities). The primary governmental activities of GOCO include the distribution of funds to preserve and enhance Colorado parks, wildlife, trails, rivers, open space, and natural areas.

## Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or program is offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or program. Program revenues include grants, contributions, and other revenues that are restricted to use in the operational or capital requirements of a specific function or program. Other revenues not directly related to a particular function or program are reported separately as general revenues.

Since GOCO does not operate any enterprise fund or internal service fund activities, there are no proprietary funds to include in this report. The general fund, because it is considered to be a major governmental fund, and is GOCO's only fund, is reported as a separate column in the fund financial statements.

### Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned, and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as expenditures when all of the eligibility and reimbursement requirements of the grantor have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current fiscal year or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current fiscal year. For this purpose, GOCO considers revenues to be available if they are collectible within approximately 60 days of the end of the current fiscal year. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting.

Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, as used in the governmental fund financial statements, acquisition costs of capital assets are recorded as expenditures at the time of purchase, and depreciation is not recognized on these capital assets.

GOCO reports the following major governmental fund:

> The general fund is the only fund. It accounts for all general operating financial resources of GOCO. There are no resources required to be accounted for in any other fund.

## Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

### Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

### Capital Assets

The capital assets of GOCO consist primarily of furniture and fixtures, computer hardware and software, equipment, and leasehold improvements used in the routine operation of GOCO. Durable items with a useful life greater than one year and a cost greater than $2,000 are capitalized. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend the life of the asset are not capitalized.

Capital assets of GOCO are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

| Asset Type | Years |
|---|---|
| Furniture and fixtures | 10 |
| Computer hardware and software | 3 |
| Equipment | 5 – 7 |

Leasehold improvements are amortized over the life of the lease or expected useful life, whichever is less. Intangible assets, which were added in Fiscal Year 2017 related to trademarks purchased for the Generation Wild marketing campaign, have indefinite lives and are not depreciated. An impairment analysis will be performed annually to determine the correct carrying amount of the assets.

GOCO has recorded lease and subscription assets also known as subscription-based information technology arrangements (“SBITAs”). The lease and subscription assets are initially measured at an amount equal to the initial measurement of the related lease and subscription liability plus any lease and subscription payments made prior to the lease term, less incentives, and plus any ancillary charges necessary to place the underlying asset into service. These assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over the life of the related lease or SBITA.

**Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

Accrual for Compensated Absences

GOCO has a policy that allows permanent employees to accumulate unused vacation benefits up to a maximum of 280 hours. Sick leave is forfeited upon termination of employment with GOCO and, therefore, is not accrued on GOCO's financial statements. A liability has been recorded for compensated absences in the financial statements as the following conditions of GASB 16, *Accounting for Compensated Absences*, have been met:

1. The employees' rights to receive compensation are attributable to services already rendered and;

2. It is probable that the employer will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or some other means, such as cash payments at termination or retirement.

GASB Interpretation No. 6 requires leave balances that will be liquidated with expendable available financial resources (current liabilities) be accrued and reported as a governmental fund liability and expenditure. GOCO budgeted for compensated absences in the current year with current financial resources. Therefore, the full liability was accrued and reported in the Government-wide and fund financial statements.

Fund Balances and Net Position

The fund balance is classified according to a hierarchy based on spending constraints as follows:

*Nonspendable Funds* – amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact (ex. Prepaid items).

*Restricted Funds* – amounts constrained externally by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of governments; or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

*Committed Funds* – amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal resolution by GOCO's Board of Trustees. The Board can modify or rescind a commitment of resources through passage of a new resolution.

*Assigned Funds* – amounts set aside for planned or intended purposes but are not restricted or committed.

*Unassigned Funds* – the residual classification for amounts that have not been classified in any of the above categories.

Outside of the nonspendable fund balance recorded in the General Fund on the Governmental Fund Balance Sheets and Statements of Net Position, all of GOCO's fund balance is classified as assigned in Fiscal Year 2024 and 2023 as it is intended for grants awarded. These grants were awarded by the GOCO Board of Trustees and authorized by Board Resolution in compliance with GOCO's policies as set forth in the Colorado Constitution.

## Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

State Lottery Proceeds

Lottery proceeds are a distribution from the Colorado State Lottery based on the calculation of net proceeds and allocations established in Article XXVII. The calculation of net proceeds incorporates Lottery revenue, operation expenses, prize payments, and certain reserves. Net proceeds are distributed not less than quarterly to the Conservation Trust Fund, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and GOCO in amounts allocable by statute.

GOCO's share of Lottery proceeds is limited by Article XXVII to $35 million annually, adjusted for changes in the CPI compounded annually based on the 1992 base-year CPI. GOCO's share of Lottery proceeds for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2023 was approximately $81.8 million and $75.7 million, respectively, which was the maximum amount allowable under the State Constitution.

## Note 3 - Reconciliation of Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

Explanation of Certain Differences Between the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet and the Government-Wide Statement of Net Position

The governmental fund balance sheet and statement of net position includes an adjustment between fund balance total governmental funds and net position - governmental activities as reported in the government-wide statement of net position. The adjustments pertain to capital assets and long-term debt as outlined below.

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the fund. The $442,266 and $575,173 adjustments to capital assets as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, represent the capital assets of GOCO, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization of leased and subscription assets.

Certain liabilities, such as lease and subscription liabilities, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the balance sheet. The $445,175 and $574,231 adjustments to long-term lease and subscription liabilities as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, represent the long-term lease liability of GOCO, net of accumulated amortization.

Explanation of Certain Differences Between the Statement of Governmental Fund Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance and the Government-Wide Statement of Activities

The statement of governmental fund revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance and statement of activities includes an adjustment between net changes in fund balance - total governmental fund and change in net position of governmental activities as reported in the government-wide statement of activities. This adjustment pertains to capital assets and lease and subscription liabilities.

## Note 3 - Reconciliation of Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements (continued)

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation and amortization expense. In addition, certain capital additions were financed through leases and Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements ("SBITA"). In governmental funds, a lease or SBITA is considered a source of financing, but in the statement of net position, the lease or SBITA is reported as a long-term liability. This adjustment represents the amount by which depreciation and amortization expense and loss on disposals of assets exceeded capital outlays and lease proceeds in the periods presented. The details of this adjustment are as follows:

| | For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, | |
|---|---|---|
| | 2024 | 2023 |
| Depreciation expense | $ (11,048) | $ (12,383) |
| Amortization of leased and subscription assets | (172,905) | (162,868) |
| Gain/Loss on restructuring of leased asset/liability | - | 1,820 |
| Reduction of long-term leases and subscription liabilities | 180,102 | 127,562 |
| Increase in operating expenses | (3,851) | (45,869) |
| Capital outlay | - | 6,213 |
| Leased and subscription asset capital outlays | 51,046 | 28,186 |
| Decrease in capital outlay expense | 51,046 | 34,399 |
| New leases or subscriptions recorded | (51,046) | (28,186) |
| Net adjustment to increase (decrease) net change in fund balance to arrive at change in net position | (3,851) | (39,656) |
| Change in fund balance | 25,074,790 | 1,200,513 |
| Change in net position | $ 25,070,939 | $ 1,160,857 |

## Note 4 - Cash Deposits and Investments

### Cash Deposits

The Colorado Public Deposit Protection Act ("PDPA") requires that all political subdivisions of the State deposit cash in eligible public depositories. Eligibility is determined by state regulators. Amounts on deposit in excess of federal insurance levels must be collateralized. The eligible collateral is specified under the PDPA. The PDPA allows the institution to create a single collateral pool for all public funds. The pool for all the uninsured public deposits as a group is to be maintained by another institution or held in trust. The market value of the collateral must be at least equal to 102% of the aggregate uninsured deposits.

## Note 4 - Cash Deposits and Investments (continued)

The Divisions of Banking and Financial Services within the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies are required by statute to monitor the naming of eligible depositories and reporting of the uninsured deposits and assets maintained in the collateral pools.

As of June 30, 2024, GOCO's cash deposits had bank and carrying balances as follows:

| June 30, 2024 | Bank Balance | Carrying Balance |
|---|---|---|
| Cash on hand | $ - | $ 345 |
| Insured deposits | 331,511 | 296,375 |
| | $ 331,511 | $ 296,720 |

As of June 30, 2023, GOCO's cash deposits had bank and carrying balances as follows:

| June 30, 2023 | Bank Balance | Carrying Balance |
|---|---|---|
| Cash on hand | $ - | $ 294 |
| Insured deposits | 299,083 | 285,359 |
| | $ 299,083 | $ 285,653 |

Because GOCO's deposits are either FDIC insured or collateralized under the PDPA in single institution pools, none are deemed to be exposed to custodial credit risk under GASB 40, *Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosures.*

Investments

Colorado statutes specify investment instruments meeting defined rating and risk criteria in which a political subdivision may invest, which include:

- Obligations of the United States and certain U.S. government agency securities
- General obligation and revenue bonds of U.S. local government entities
- Written repurchase agreements collateralized by certain authorized securities
- Certain money market funds
- Guaranteed investment contracts
- Local government investment pools

## Note 4 - Cash Deposits and Investments (continued)

State Treasurer's Cash Pool

GOCO deposits its cash with the Colorado State Treasurer. The State Treasurer pools these deposits and invests them in securities authorized by Section 24-75-601.1, C.R.S. Moneys deposited in the Treasury are invested until the cash is needed. As of June 30, 2024, GOCO had cash invested with the State Treasurer of $102,616,426 which represented approximately 0.52 percent of the total $18,095.0 million fair value of deposits in the State Treasurer's Pool (Pool). As of June 30, 2024, the Pool's resources included $38.5 million of cash on hand and $18,056.6 million of investments.

As of June 30, 2023, GOCO had cash invested with the State Treasurer of $89,201,913 which represented approximately 0.47 percent of the total $18,810.90 million fair value of deposits in the State Treasurer's Pool (Pool). As of June 30, 2023, the Pool's resources included $35.0 million of cash on hand and $18,775.8 million of investments.

On the basis of GOCO's participation in the Pool, GOCO reports its share of the Treasurer's unrealized gains and losses on the Pool's underlying investments as an increase or decrease in cash. The State Treasurer does not invest any of the Pool's resources in any external investment pools, and there is no assignment of income related to participation in the Pool. The unrealized gains/losses included in income reflect only the change in fair value for the fiscal year.

Additional information on investments of the State Treasurer's Pool may be obtained in the state's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Summary

Total cash deposits and investments are as follows:

| | June 30, 2024 | June 30, 2023 |
|---|---|---|
| Cash deposits | $ 296,720 | $ 285,653 |
| Investments | 102,616,426 | 89,201,913 |
| | $ 102,913,146 | $ 89,487,566 |

Investment Earnings

Investment earnings are composed of the following:

| | June 30, 2024 | June 30, 2023 |
|---|---|---|
| Investment income | $ 3,255,834 | $ 2,267,683 |
| Adjustment for unrealized gain (loss) on investments held by the State | (981,289) | (2,419,333) |
| | $ 2,274,545 | $ (151,650) |

## Note 5 - Lottery Proceeds Receivable

As of June 30, 2024, and 2023, GOCO had distributions owed from the Lottery amounting to $3,183,797 and $0, respectively. As of June 30, 2024, this represents GOCO's allocation of net proceeds from the Lottery for April 2024 when GOCO reached the constitutional cap (Note 2) for the year. For the receivable as of June 30, 2023, the receivable is $0 as GOCO reached the constitutional cap in March 2023 and all funds were received by Lottery prior to the end of the fiscal year. Lottery proceeds are paid quarterly therefore earnings for April through June are typically received after the end of the fiscal year. These revenues are both measurable and available to finance expenditures of the fiscal period. No allowance for doubtful accounts is considered necessary, as management believes the receivables are fully collectible.

## Note 6 - Note Receivable and Advanced Grant Payments

On October 31, 2023, GOCO entered into a zero-interest promissory note with The Nature Conservancy, ("TNC") in the amount of $2,090,740 for the acquisition of a land parcel to place a conservation easement on the property and eventually convey the property to a conservation buyer in support of sustainable agriculture. Per the loan agreement, the loan is due on October 31, 2025 and is interest-free through October 31, 2025, after which time the interest rate will equal the Prime Rate published in the Money Rates section of the Wall Street Journal.

During Fiscal Years 2024 and 2023, GOCO made certain payments to grantees in advance of completion of project objectives outlined in the grant agreements. Under this arrangement, GOCO requires the grantee to provide an annual expense report that describes how the advance payment was spent throughout the year. The expenses must comply with contractual obligations outlined in the grant agreement. This is considered an eligibility requirement under GASB 33 - Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions, as GOCO may request reimbursement of the advanced funds if the grantee does not provide the requested information or if the funds were improperly used. These funds are expensed by GOCO based on the annual expense report documentation provided by the grantees. The Advanced Grant Payment balance on the Statement of Net Position is $5,509,507 at June 30, 2024 and $3,866,010 at June 30, 2023.

## Note 7 - Capital Assets

An analysis of the changes in capital assets for the year ended June 30, 2024 follows:

| | Balance July 1, 2023 | Additions | Retirements | Balance June 30, 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Equipment | $ 62,533 | $ - | $ - | $ 62,533 |
| Software | 26,014 | - | - | 26,014 |
| Furniture | 41,811 | - | - | 41,811 |
| Intangible assets | 32,416 | - | - | 32,416 |
| Leasehold improvements | 22,164 | - | - | 22,164 |
| Right-of-use building lease | 602,037 | - | - | 602,037 |
| Right-of-use leased equipment | 136,337 | 40,228 | (29,341) | 147,224 |
| Right-of-use subscription assets | 13,006 | 10,818 | - | 23,824 |
| Total capital assets | 936,318 | 51,046 | (29,341) | 958,023 |
| Less accumulated depreciation and amortization | | | | |
| Equipment | (43,779) | (5,243) | - | (49,022) |
| Software | (26,014) | - | - | (26,014) |
| Furniture | (26,971) | (4,043) | - | (31,014) |
| Leasehold improvements | (20,401) | (1,763) | - | (22,164) |
| Right-of-use building lease | (149,321) | (118,100) | - | (267,421) |
| Right-of-use leased equipment | (85,988) | (46,863) | 29,341 | (103,510) |
| Right-of-use subscription assets | (8,671) | (7,941) | - | (16,612) |
| Total accumulated depreciation and amortization | (361,145) | (183,953) | 29,341 | (515,757) |
| Total capital assets, net | $ 575,173 | $ (132,907) | $ - | $ 442,266 |

An analysis of the changes in capital assets for the year ended June 30, 2023 follows:

| | Balance July 1, 2022 | Additions | Retirements | Balance June 30, 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Equipment | $ 56,320 | $ 6,213 | $ - | $ 62,533 |
| Software | 26,014 | - | - | 26,014 |
| Furniture | 41,811 | - | - | 41,811 |
| Intangible assets | 32,416 | - | - | 32,416 |
| Leasehold improvements | 22,164 | - | - | 22,164 |
| Right-of-use building lease | 634,835 | - | (32,798) | 602,037 |
| Right-of-use leased equipment | 108,151 | 28,186 | - | 136,337 |
| Right-of-use subscription assets | 13,006 | - | - | 13,006 |
| Total capital assets | 934,717 | 34,399 | (32,798) | 936,318 |
| Less accumulated depreciation and amortization | | | | |
| Equipment | (38,461) | (5,318) | - | (43,779) |
| Software | (26,014) | - | - | (26,014) |
| Furniture | (22,929) | (4,042) | - | (26,971) |
| Leasehold improvements | (17,378) | (3,023) | - | (20,401) |
| Right-of-use building lease | (31,221) | (118,100) | - | (149,321) |
| Right-of-use leased equipment | (45,556) | (40,432) | - | (85,988) |
| Right-of-use subscription assets | (4,335) | (4,336) | - | (8,671) |
| Total accumulated depreciation and amortization | (185,894) | (175,251) | - | (361,145) |
| Total capital assets, net | $ 748,823 | $ (140,852) | $ (32,798) | $ 575,173 |

## Note 8 - Authorized Grants and Expended Grants (Unaudited)

The following table is a summary of grants authorized and grants expended from inception in 1993 through June 30, 2024 and 2023.

Grants Authorized

| Funding Purpose | Cumulative Authorized Grants at June 30, 2023 | Transfers/ Additions | Transfers/ Deletions | Cumulative Authorized Grants at June 30, 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Purpose 1 - Wildlife | $ 379,720,412 | $ 37,387,052 | $ (1,051,727) | $ 416,055,737 |
| Purpose 2 - Outdoor recreation | 381,749,671 | 29,662,564 | (412,738) | 410,999,497 |
| Purpose 3 - Competitive grants for open space | 377,801,179 | 28,063,643 | (614,290) | 405,250,532 |
| Purpose 4 - Competitive matching grants to local governments for open lands and parks | 394,666,171 | 36,675,877 | 76,076 | 431,418,124 |
| | $ 1,533,937,433 | $ 131,789,136 | $ (2,002,679) | $ 1,663,723,890 |

| Funding Purpose | Cumulative Authorized Grants at June 30, 2022 | Transfers/ Additions | Transfers/ Deletions | Cumulative Authorized Grants at June 30, 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Purpose 1 - Wildlife | $ 364,004,786 | $ 16,262,272 | $ (546,646) | $ 379,720,412 |
| Purpose 2 - Outdoor recreation | 366,784,045 | 16,131,965 | (1,166,339) | 381,749,671 |
| Purpose 3 - Competitive grants for open space | 364,117,975 | 14,070,212 | (387,008) | 377,801,179 |
| Purpose 4 - Competitive matching grants to local governments for open lands and parks | 383,942,185 | 12,153,076 | (1,429,090) | 394,666,171 |
| | $ 1,478,848,991 | $ 58,617,525 | $ (3,529,083) | $ 1,533,937,433 |

## Note 8 - Authorized Grants and Expended Grants (Unaudited)

Grants Expended

| Funding Purpose | Cumulative Expended Grants at June 30, 2023 | Transfers/ Additions | Cumulative Expended Grants at June 30, 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Purpose 1 - Wildlife | $ 355,490,792 | $ 12,859,968 | $ 368,350,760 |
| Purpose 2 - Outdoor recreation | 347,816,258 | 17,577,987 | 365,394,245 |
| Purpose 3 - Competitive grants for open space | 360,424,318 | 12,881,200 | 373,305,518 |
| Purpose 4 - Competitive matching grants to local governments for open lands and parks | 362,450,106 | 10,084,554 | 372,534,660 |
| | $ 1,426,181,474 | $ 53,403,709 | $ 1,479,585,183 |

| Funding Purpose | Cumulative Expended Grants at June 30, 2022 | Transfers/ Additions | Cumulative Expended Grants at June 30, 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Purpose 1 - Wildlife | $ 336,968,830 | $ 18,521,962 | $ 355,490,792 |
| Purpose 2 - Outdoor recreation | 328,011,753 | 19,804,505 | 347,816,258 |
| Purpose 3 - Competitive grants for open space | 337,470,548 | 22,953,770 | 360,424,318 |
| Purpose 4 - Competitive matching grants to local governments for open lands and parks | 351,185,244 | 11,264,862 | 362,450,106 |
| | $ 1,353,636,375 | $ 72,545,099 | $ 1,426,181,474 |

## Note 9 – Long-term Liabilities

Leases

GOCO has entered into agreements to lease its facilities, copy machines, vehicles, and a postage meter. These lease agreements qualify as long-term leases under GASB 87, *Leases*.

On October 1, 2021, GOCO entered into a lease agreement for a vehicle for use by the regional program officer in the East Region. The lease calls for total annual payments of $5,781 for three years beginning on October 1, 2021. The lease liability was measured using a discount rate of 0.51% which is the 3-year Treasury State and Local Government Series ("SLGS") rate as of October 1, 2021. As a result of the lease, GOCO recorded a lease liability with a value of $17,253. As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, the unamortized balance of this lease liability was $0 and $5,749, respectively.

On October 1, 2021, GOCO entered into a lease agreement for a vehicle for use by the regional program officer in the North Central Region. The lease calls for total annual payments of $5,710 for three years beginning on October 1, 2021. The lease liability was measured using a discount rate of 0.51% which is the 3-year Treasury SLGS rate as of October 1, 2021. As a result of the lease, GOCO recorded a lease liability with a value of $17,040. As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, the unamortized balance of this leased asset was $0 and $5,678, respectively.

On November 1, 2021, GOCO entered into a lease agreement for a vehicle for use by the regional program officer in the West Region. The lease calls for total annual payments of $5,781 for three years beginning on November 1, 2021. The lease liability was measured using a discount rate of 0.79% which is the 3-year Treasury SLGS rate as of November 1, 2021. As a result of the lease, GOCO recorded a lease liability with a value of $17,205. As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, the unamortized balance of this lease liability was $0 and $5,573, respectively.

On November 1, 2021, GOCO entered into a lease agreement for a vehicle for use by the regional program officer in the Southern Front Range Region. The lease calls for total annual payments of $5,781 for three years beginning on November 1, 2021. The lease liability was measured using a discount rate of 0.79% which is the 3-year Treasury SLGS rate as of November 1, 2021. As a result of the lease, GOCO recorded a lease liability with a value of $17,205. As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, the unamortized balance of this lease liability was $0 and $5,733, respectively.

On August 1, 2022, GOCO entered into a lease agreement for a vehicle for use by the regional program officers in the Northern Front Range Region. The lease calls for total annual payments of $6,477 for three years beginning on August 1, 2022. The lease liability was measured using a discount rate of 2.41% which is the 3-year Incremental Borrowing Rate as of August 31, 2022. As a result of the lease, GOCO recorded a lease liability with a value of $18,975. As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, the unamortized balance of this lease liability was $6,322 and $12,498, respectively.

**Note 9 – Long-term Liabilities (continued)**

On September 1, 2023, GOCO entered into a lease agreement for a vehicle for use by Denver office staff. The lease calls for total annual payments of $6,436 for three years beginning on September 1, 2023. The lease liability was measured at a discount rate of 3.68% which is the 3-year Incremental Borrowing Rate as of September 30, 2023. As a result of this lease, GOCO recorded a lease liability with a value of $18,629. As of June 30, 2024, the unamortized balance of the lease liability was $12,192.

On October 18, 2023, GOCO entered into a lease agreement for a vehicle by the regional program officer in the Southwest Region. The lease calls for total annual payments of $7,464 for three years beginning on November 1, 2023. The lease liability was measured at a discount rate of 3.70% which is the 3-year Incremental Borrowing Rate as of October 31, 2023. As a result of this lease, GOCO recorded a lease liability with a value of $21,599. As of June 30, 2024, the unamortized balance of the lease liability was $14,136.

GOCO has a lease for a postage meter for use in the Denver office. The postage meter lease calls for quarterly lease payments of $486 through July 2021 and $522 beginning October 2021 through October 2026. The lease liability for the postage meter was measured using the discount rate of 3%. For the year ended June 30, 2022, GOCO recorded a lease liability with a value of $10,107. As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, the unamortized balance of this lease liability was $5,011 and $6,912, respectively.

In September 2022, GOCO entered into a new lease for its copier machine which calls for monthly lease payments of $205 from January 2023 through January 2027. The lease liability for the new lease was measured using a discount rate of 3.27% which is the 4-year Incremental Borrowing Rate as of September 30, 2023. For the years ended June 30, 2023, GOCO recorded a lease liability with a value of $9,211. As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, the unamortized balance of these copier lease liabilities was $5,970 and $8,214, respectively.

In September 2016, GOCO entered into a lease agreement for the Denver office space which included monthly lease payments from July 2020 to January 2024. In March 2022, GOCO signed an amendment to the September 2016 lease agreement which extended the existing lease to April 2027 and included an abatement of three months from April 2022 through June 2022. The monthly lease payments from July 2022 to April 2027 range from $10,736 to $12,452. The lease liability was measured using a discount rate of 2.14% which is the 5-year, 1-month Treasury SLGS rate as of March 17, 2022. As a result of this lease amendment, GOCO retired the original lease liability with a value of $333,350 and recorded a new lease liability with a value of $634,835. As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, the unamortized balance of this lease liability was $394,292 and $519,381, respectively.

Subscriptions

In March 2022, GOCO entered into a SBITA for accounting software. The subscription calls for total annual payments of $4,426 for three years beginning on March 26, 2022. The subscription liability was measured using a discount rate of 2.09% which is equal to the 3-year Incremental Borrowing Rate as of March 31, 2022. As a result of the lease, GOCO recorded a subscription liability with a value of $13,006. As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, the unamortized balance of this subscription liability was $0 and $4,333, respectively.

## Note 9 – Long-term Liabilities (continued)

In November 2023, GOCO entered into a SBITA for reporting software. The subscription calls for variable annual payments ranging from $3,566 to $3,857 for three years beginning on December 1, 2023. The subscription liability was measured using a discount rate of 2.81% which is equal to the 3-year Incremental Borrowing Rate as of November 30, 2023. As a result of the lease, GOCO recorded a subscription liability with a value of $10,818. As of June 30, 2024, the unamortized balance of this subscription liability was $7,252.

A summary of the changes in Long-term Leases and Subscriptions for the year ended June 30, 2024 follows:

| | Balance June 30, 2023 | Additions | Retirements | Balance June 30, 2024 | Amounts due within one year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Long-term Lease Liabilities | $ 569,898 | $ 40,228 | $ 172,203 | $ 437,923 | $ 156,826 |
| Long-term Subscription Liabilities | 4,333 | 10,818 | 7,899 | 7,252 | 3,504 |
| | $ 574,231 | $ 51,046 | $ 180,102 | $ 445,175 | $ 160,330 |

A summary of the changes in Long-term Leases and Subscriptions for the year ended June 30, 2023 follows:

| | Balance July 1, 2022 | Additions | Retirements | Balance June 30, 2023 | Amounts due within one year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Long-term Lease Liabilities | $ 699,645 | $ 28,186 | $ 157,933 | $ 569,898 | $ 158,303 |
| Long-term Subscription Liabilities | 8,580 | - | 4,247 | 4,333 | 4,333 |
| | $ 708,225 | $ 28,186 | $ 162,180 | $ 574,231 | $ 162,636 |

The future minimum lease obligations and the net present value of the minimum lease and subscription payments as of June 30, 2024, are as follows:

| Year ending June 30 | Principal | Interest | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2025 | $ 160,330 | $ 8,748 | $ 169,078 |
| 2026 | 161,243 | 4,985 | 166,228 |
| 2027 | 123,602 | 1,221 | 124,823 |
| | $ 445,175 | $ 14,954 | $ 460,129 |

## Note 9 – Long-term Liabilities (continued)

The future minimum lease obligations and the net present value of these minimum lease and subscription payments as of June 30, 2023, are as follows:

| Year ending June 30 | Principal | Interest | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2024 | $ 162,636 | $ 10,856 | $ 173,492 |
| 2025 | 143,897 | 7,573 | 151,470 |
| 2026 | 144,096 | 4,375 | 148,471 |
| 2027 | 123,602 | 1,221 | 124,823 |
| | $ 574,231 | $ 24,025 | $ 598,256 |

## Note 10 – Commitments and Contingencies

Contractual Obligation

During Fiscal Year 2016, GOCO signed a multi-year contract with Sukle Advertising for services for the Generation Wild marketing campaign, a statewide, multi-media, integrated movement connecting Colorado kids and families with the outdoors. The research and strategy phase of the campaign started in Fiscal Year 2016, and the program has now extended into Fiscal Year 2024. In Fiscal Year 2024 and 2023, GOCO's expenses on the marketing campaign were approximately $2.0 million each year. The GOCO Board has approved a Fiscal Year 2025 budget of $2.0 million. This contract may be terminated upon advance notice with payment required on any active projects.

## Note 11 - Pension Plans

As a political subdivision of the State, GOCO has elected not to use the Public Employees' Retirement Association of Colorado ("PERA"). GOCO has established a retirement plan, administered by Unified Trust Company, which consists of an employer-funded Defined Contribution Pension Plan and an employee-funded Deferred Compensation Plan.

Benefit terms, including contribution requirements, for GOCO's retirement plan are established and may be amended by GOCO. There are no age or service requirements determining eligibility, and participation is mandatory. Employer contributions are calculated based on 10.2% of each eligible employee's gross salary (base salary plus performance awards). Assets of the Pension Plan are held in trust for the exclusive benefit of participating employees. Therefore, the Pension Plan's assets are not reflected as an asset of GOCO.

## Note 11 - Pension Plans (continued)

Employees are vested on a two-year schedule contingent on 1,000 hours of service during each of the two years. Non-vested GOCO contributions are forfeited upon termination of employment. Such forfeitures are used to first pay any pension plan administrative expenses, and then to reduce any employer contribution. For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, GOCO recognized pension expense of $13,997 and $15,276, net of forfeitures, which reduced pension expense by $0 and $0. GOCO contributed $208,891 and $199,793 to the Pension Plan for the Fiscal Years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, which approximates the required contribution. As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, GOCO had no liability to the Pension Plan.

### Deferred Compensation Plan

The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund Deferred Compensation Plan (the "Deferred Plan") was created in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 457. This plan is administered by Unified Trust Company at the direction of each employee for his/her own account. The Deferred Plan allows the employees to defer a portion of their salary until future years. The deferred compensation is not available to employees until termination, retirement, death, or unforeseen emergencies.

Contributions to the Deferred Plan are made by GOCO's employees through a payroll deduction. Contributions to the Deferred Plan are mandatory for all permanent employees, with a minimum required contribution of 6.2% of each employee's gross salary. Contributions above 6.2% are allowed on a voluntary basis not to exceed a maximum permissible amount. Assets of the Deferred Plan are held in trust for the exclusive benefit of participating employees. Therefore, the Deferred Plan's assets are not reflected as an asset of GOCO.

## Note 12 - Related Parties - State Agencies

### Board Composition and Approval of Grants

The GOCO Board is composed of 19 members, 16 of whom are public members (2 from each congressional district) appointed by the Governor, subject to the consent of the State Senate. The 3 ex-officio members include the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, a representative for Parks and Outdoor Recreation issues designated by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission (the "Commission"), and a representative for wildlife issues, also designated by the Commission. The Commission is the governing body of CPW. This state agency is under the administrative direction of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.

Under the Colorado Constitution, the GOCO Board is responsible for ensuring that expenditures are made for purposes stipulated, including investing in wildlife resources, and investing in parks and outdoor recreation resources through CPW. In addition, CPW is eligible to apply for competitive grants for open space and natural areas of statewide significance, along with local governmental entities and non-profit land conservation organizations. Expenditures made to CPW are listed in Note 8.

## Note 13 - Risk Management

GOCO is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; thefts of, damage to, or destruction of assets; errors or omissions; injuries to employees; and/or acts of God. GOCO carries commercial insurance coverage for all risks of loss, including workers' compensation and employee health and accident insurance. GOCO has settled two claims since inception, which did not exceed commercial coverage.

## Note 14 - Tax, Spending, and Debt Limitations

In November 1992, Colorado voters passed Section 20, Article X of the Colorado Constitution, commonly known as the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights ("TABOR"). TABOR contains revenue, spending, tax, and debt limitations that apply to the State and all local governments. In the same general election, Amendment 8 was passed creating GOCO. The simultaneous passage of these two constitutional amendments raised questions as to whether there are irreconcilable conflicts between the two amendments. The General Assembly determined, in Section 24-77-102(17)(b)(ix) C.R.S. that the net proceeds from the Lottery that are deposited in GOCO are excluded from the scope of "state fiscal year spending" for purposes of TABOR. The Colorado Supreme Court, in response to an interrogatory from the General Assembly, approved that determination.

TABOR is complex and subject to further legislative and judicial interpretation. GOCO believes it is in compliance with both of these constitutional amendments.

## Note 15 – Project Reimbursements

During Fiscal Year 2024, GOCO received a cash payment from a grantee for a payment of cash in lieu of condemnation by a public utility of properties that GOCO funded in Adams County. During Fiscal Year 2024, portions of this property were purchased in lieu of condemnation from the grantee and per the grant agreements, funds in the amount of $85,066 were reimbursed to GOCO.

During Fiscal Year 2023, GOCO received a cash payment from a grantee for a reimbursement of land sale proceeds. In 1999, GOCO awarded open space and wildlife purpose funds in the amount of $3.5 million for a land acquisition which is adjacent to the Great Sand Dunes National Park. During Fiscal Year 2023, portions of this property were sold and transferred to the Federal Government and per the grant agreements, funds in the amount of $3.7 million were reimbursed to GOCO.

## Note 16 – Subsequent Events

On December 8, 2023, the Board approved a resolution authorizing an interest-free loan for $6,500,000 for a term of two years to The Conservation Fund to purchase property which will protect and connect land, water, and wildlife within the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area. The loan was finalized on July 15, 2024 and will be due and payable on July 15, 2026. The property will ultimately be conveyed to the Bureau of Land Management to consolidate the property within the surrounding public land.

**Note 16 – Subsequent Events (continued)**

On March 14, 2024, the Board approved a resolution authorizing an interest-free loan for $10,000,000 for a term of up to three years to Pitkin County to purchase property which will protect and connect land, water, and wildlife adjacent to the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness Area. This loan was finalized on September 25, 2024 and will be due and payable on July 24, 2025, however the loan is subject to annual extension through July 24, 2027. The property will ultimately be conveyed to the United States Forest Service in order to consolidate the property within the surrounding public land.

# REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

## STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND

### Budgetary Comparison Schedule
### General Fund
### For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

| | Original and Final Budget | Actual | Variance– Favorable (Unfavorable) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Revenues | | | |
| State lottery proceeds | $ 80,136,172 | $ 81,771,604 | $ 1,635,432 |
| Investment earnings and miscellaneous income | 1,500,000 | 2,283,707 | 783,707 |
| Project reimbursements | - | 85,066 | 85,066 |
| Total revenues | 81,636,172 | 84,140,377 | 2,504,205 |
| Expenditures | | | |
| Grants expended | 66,209,400 | 53,403,709 | 12,805,691 |
| Personnel services and benefits | 2,827,097 | 2,655,935 | 171,162 |
| Operating expenditures | 1,055,255 | 1,013,331 | 41,924 |
| Generation Wild media campaign | 1,999,996 | 1,992,612 | 7,384 |
| Capital outlay | 56,500 | 51,046 | 5,454 |
| Total expenditures | 72,148,248 | 59,116,633 | 13,031,615 |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures | 9,487,924 | 25,023,744 | 15,535,820 |
| Other Financing Sources - Leases | 25,000 | 51,046 | 26,046 |
| Net change in fund balance | 9,512,924 | 25,074,790 | 15,561,866 |
| Fund balance – beginning of year | 79,292,481 | 79,292,481 | - |
| Fund balance – end of year | $ 88,805,405 | $104,367,271 | $ 15,561,866 |

## STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND

### Budgetary Comparison Schedule
### General Fund
### For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

| | Original and Final Budget | Actual | Variance– Favorable (Unfavorable) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Revenues | | | |
| State lottery proceeds | $ 74,192,506 | $ 75,706,639 | $ 1,514,133 |
| Investment earnings and miscellaneous income | 780,000 | (148,799) | (928,799) |
| Project reimbursements | - | 3,667,701 | 3,667,701 |
| Total revenues | 74,972,506 | 79,225,541 | 4,253,035 |
| Expenditures | | | |
| Grants expended | 61,484,615 | 72,545,099 | (11,060,484) |
| Personnel services and benefits | 2,690,470 | 2,548,490 | 141,980 |
| Operating expenditures | 894,433 | 921,960 | (27,527) |
| Generation Wild media campaign | 2,180,400 | 2,003,266 | 177,134 |
| Capital outlay | 64,700 | 34,399 | 30,301 |
| Total expenditures | 67,314,618 | 78,053,214 | (10,738,596) |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures | 7,657,888 | 1,172,327 | (6,485,561) |
| Other Financing Sources - Leases | 20,000 | 28,186 | 8,186 |
| Net change in fund balance | 7,677,888 | 1,200,513 | (6,477,375) |
| Fund balance – beginning of year | 78,091,968 | 78,091,968 | - |
| Fund balance – end of year | $ 85,769,856 | $ 79,292,481 | $ (6,477,375) |

## STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND

### Notes to the Required Supplementary Information

**Note RSI-1 Budgetary Information**

GOCO budgets are prepared by GOCO staff and approved annually by the Board. The operating budget uses the modified accrual standard of accounting where capital outlays are treated as expenditures and depreciation is not budgeted. The operating budget is based on prior year results and expectations for the next year. GOCO's general fund did not exceed budgeted amounts for the year ended June 30, 2024. GOCO's general fund exceeded budget due to higher than budgeted grant expenditures for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Encumbrance accounting is employed by GOCO to account for grants awarded but not yet invoiced. Encumbrances outstanding at year end do not constitute expenditures or liabilities.

**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***

Members of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund and Legislative Audit Committee
Denver, Colorado

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 (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund ("GOCO"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the GOCO's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated November 7, 2024.

**Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered GOCO'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 GOCO's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of GOCO'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 GOCO'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 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 and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified. We identified a deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying Auditor's Findings and Recommendations as item 2024-001 that we consider to be a material weakness.

**Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether GOCO'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*.

**GOCO's Response to Findings**

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on GOCO's response to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying Auditor's Findings and Recommendations. GOCO's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

**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 GOCO's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering GOCO's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Ede Bailly LLP

Denver, Colorado
November 7, 2024

EideBailly

CPAs & BUSINESS ADVISORS

November 7, 2024

Members of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund and Legislative Audit Committee
Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund
Denver, Colorado

We have audited the financial statements of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund ("GOCO") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated November 7, 2024. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters relating to our audit.

**Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit under Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and *Government Auditing Standards***

As communicated in our letter dated August 14, 2024, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express an opinion about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of GOCO solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are also responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.

We have provided our comments regarding internal controls during our audit in our 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* dated November 7, 2024.

**Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit**

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated to you.

**Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence**

The engagement team, others in our firm, as appropriate, our firm, and other firms utilized in the engagement, if applicable, have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

**Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Significant Accounting Practices**

*Significant Accounting Policies*

Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by GOCO is included in Note 2 to the financial statements. There have been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during Fiscal Year 2024. No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

*Accounting Estimates*

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ markedly from management's current judgments. No such sensitive accounting estimates were identified.

*Financial Statement Disclosures*

Certain financial statement disclosures involve significant judgment and are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting GOCO's financial statements relate to: the disclosure of Note Receivables and Advanced Grant Payments in Note 6, Authorized Grants and Expended Grants (Unaudited) in Note 8, and Related Parties – State Agencies in Note 12.

**Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit**

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.

**Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements**

For purposes of this communication, professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole. Uncorrected misstatements or matters underlying those uncorrected misstatements could potentially cause future-period financial statements to be materially misstated, even though the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial to the financial statements currently under audit.

The following misstatement identified as a result of our audit procedures was brought to the attention of, and corrected by, management:

| | Debit | Credit |
|---|---|---|
| Overstatement of Grants Payable | $6,250,000 | |
| Overstatement of Grants Expense | | $6,250,000 |

The following summarizes uncorrected financial statement misstatements whose effects in the current and prior periods, as determined by management, are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

| | Debit | Credit |
|---|---|---|
| Understatement of Grants Payable | | $ 384,735 |
| Understatement of Grants Expense | $ 384,735 | |
| | | |
| Overstatement of Grants Payable | | $ 182,647 |
| Overstatement of Opening Net Position / Fund Balance | $ 182,647 | |

The effect of these uncorrected misstatements, including the effect of the reversal of prior year uncorrected misstatements summarized in the amount of $182,647 as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, is an understatement of change in fund balance / net position of approximately $567,382, and overstatement of ending fund balance / net position of $384,735.

**Disagreements with Management**

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, which could be significant to the GOCO's financial statements or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

**Circumstances that Affect the Form and Content of the Auditor's Report**

For purposes of this letter, professional standards require that we communicate any circumstances that affect the form and content of our auditor's report. We did not identify any circumstances that affect the form and content of the auditor's report.

**Representations Requested from Management**

We have requested certain written representations from management which are included in the management representation letter dated November 7, 2024.

**Management's Consultations with Other Accountants**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.

**Other Significant Matters, Findings, or Issues**

In the normal course of our professional association with GOCO, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, significant events or transactions that occurred during the year, operating conditions affecting the entity, and operating plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as GOCO's auditors.

**Other Information Included in Annual Reports**

Pursuant to professional standards, our responsibility as auditors for other information, whether financial or nonfinancial, included in GOCO's annual reports does not extend beyond the financial information identified in the audit report, and we are not required to perform any procedures to corroborate such other information. However, in accordance with such standards, we have read the information and considered whether such information, or the manner of its presentation, was materially inconsistent with its presentation in the financial statements.

Our responsibility also includes communicating to you any information which we believe is a material misstatement of fact. Nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that such information, or its manner of presentation, is materially inconsistent with the information, or manner of its presentation, appearing in the financial statements.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the GOCO Board, Management of GOCO, the Legislative Audit Committee, and Office of the State Auditor, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, upon release by the Legislative Audit Committee, this report is a public document.

Ede Bailly LLP

Denver, Colorado