Beckham Bird Club of Louisville, Kentucky

Birdathon Report Form for 2024 Grants

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This grant report is due by March 15, 2025. The report form is used by the board to aid in deciding recipients of grants and the amounts for the following year.

Date: _ March 14, 2025**_____**

Organization Name: ___ Kentucky Resources Council**_____**

Address: ___PO Box 1070 Frankfort, KY 40602**_____**

Contact Person: ___ Elizabeth Graves**_____**

Phone Number:
_____502-875-2428**_____**

E-mail Address: _____elizabeth@kyrc.org**_____**

Project Description:

KRC requested support for our legal work including:

1. the ongoing legal fight to stop LG&E from running a gas pipeline through Bernheim's Cedar Grove wildlife corridor which also includes our work to protect endangered bats and their habitat in the path of the pipeline.
2. our work to strengthen KY's new Regional Haze State Implementation Plan under the Clean Air Act, to improve air quality and visibility in Mammoth Cave National Park.
3. our legal work advocating for wildlife and bird habitat, as those issues arise.

Activity Update:

With the generous 2024 grant from Beckham Bird Club of Louisville, Kentucky we were able to provide $1,650 worth of expert, pro-bono legal services under KRC's Environmental and Community Defense program. The effort involved our attorneys Ashley Wilmes (Executive Director) and Byron Gary (Staff Attorney).

KRC provided expert environmental, pro-bono legal services towards conservation efforts benefitting wildlife and birds. This included the ongoing legal fight to stop LG&E from constructing a gas pipeline through Bernheim Forest. We appealed the circuit court's decision affirming the right of LG&E to take the easement on Bernheim property. In May 2024, we sought discretionary review before the Kentucky Supreme Court. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court denied our motion for discretionary review of the Court of Appeals decision in the condemnation case, and our appeals on the "right to take" issue are at an end. However, KRC is reviewing the

federal authorizations needed by LG&E to move forward with the project and is considering grounds for further legal action. Specifically, we are working with the Center for Biological Diversity to review the pipeline's potential impacts to bats as presented in the Biological Assessment by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

During the grant period, KRC also worked with National Parks Conservation Association, submitting detailed public comments asking Kentucky's Department of Air Quality to strengthen its new Regional Haze State Implementation Plan under the Clean Air Act. The State's proposed plan fell short on Kentucky's obligation to improve air quality for Mammoth Cave National Park. If the original plan, which is insufficient to protect air quality, becomes final, we will consider legal action to challenge it. But our comments and scrutiny of the plan put Kentucky's Division of Air on notice that it must do better to protect the birds, wildlife, and communities who benefit from cleaner air under these state plans.

Air pollution harms birds in many ways, including lung damage and reduced reproduction, as well as disrupting their food sources, habitats, and migration patterns. Our work to improve air quality across Kentucky benefits human health, the environment, and the birds and wildlife that also depend on clean air.

Budget:
KRC was awarded $1,650 and received the funds in October 2024. The grant was used to pay for the hours worked on the cases and projects described above by KRC attorneys Ashley Wilmes and Byron Gary.