
From: Lynne Warren <lynne.warren@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 7:50 PM
To: AppropriationTestimony
Subject: Governor's FY 2014-15 Budget.

I am writing to ask that you support an effort to convert the durational forester positions to full-time staff. In less than two years, the durational foresters have produced 10,000 acres worth of forest management plans and generated forest product sales projected to earn some \$240,000 in income for the state. At the same time, these activities produce significant jobs and economic activity for Connecticut's private sector industry while enhancing the habitat and other ecological benefits these forests produce. Through proper management, we can have healthy forests, local wood and positive economic activity.

We know trees are important for water retention and filtration, carbon sequestration, climate cooling, and tourism. Without proper monitoring we leave our forests open to a multitude of problems which include invasive insects and plants and the potential for significant storm damage. I don't think the state can afford to lose the people they've spent training over the past two years.

Thank you,
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