
From: Richard Stanley <rjacksonstanley@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 12:43 PM
To: AppropriationTestimony
Subject: State Parks and Forests Funding

Dear Members of the Conservation & Development Appropriations Subcommittee,

Please keep all of our state parks open and staffed by full time and seasonal workers! I also urge you to increase funding for DEEP Forestry on our state lands.

State Parks are important!

- Municipalities, school systems, businesses, and a host of non-profit entities depend upon the Park System to provide sites for large community events.
- Approximately 8 million people visit the State Parks each year. The condition of its facilities is of tremendous importance for tourism and surrounding businesses.
- Providing affordable venues for outdoor activities is fundamental for healthy lifestyles
- Every \$1 spent on the State Parks returns \$38 to Connecticut's coffers.
- Parks' iconic landscapes and landmark historic buildings are treasured by our citizens.
- Every citizen, no matter what their economic status, has easy access to our State's most beautiful lands, which were specifically preserved to be enjoyed by all.
- I walk on several state parks and forests in the Farmington Vally several days each week, year round. The infrastructure at all these parks are run down and it is a disgrace!

State Forests and Forestry are important!

- In the last two years, three durational foresters have produced 10,000 acres worth of forest management plans that are projected to earn \$240,000 in income for the state. They will also enhance the habitat in these forests. I have met them and been very impressed by their work.
- Full-time DEEP Foresters who manage state lands generate an average of \$90,000 annually apiece for the Connecticut General Fund from growing and harvesting forest products.
- This lack of staffing means tens of thousands of dollars in forest products sale revenues are lost annually. Over 600 miles of State Forest boundaries are not regularly monitored. Invasive species problems increase, insect and disease infestations go undiscovered and unchecked, and firewood sales for homeowners cannot be offered.
- Investing in these positions now will earn the state of Connecticut money, benefit the state and people environmentally, and re-establish ourselves as responsible stewards of the peoples' land.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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