

February 8, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

As a citizen of Connecticut, I use our state parks and forests frequently for recreation, mostly hiking. I am deeply concerned for any proposed cutbacks on funding to the agencies that protect and maintain our forests and parks.

Just yesterday, (February 7, 2016) I took a 3 mile hike in Osbornedale State Park, in Derby. Although the park is still beautiful, I noticed an abundance of growth of invasive species cluttering the views along the way. The worst of these invaders, multi-flora rose and Asian winterberry, along with Autumn olive trees, are rapidly consuming fields and forest boundary, killing giant trees and replacing native plants. I believe that these unmanaged invaders are eventually going to destroy our natural habitat in the state, ruing thousands of acres of habitat for wildlife.

This problem is growing worse every year, If we cannot manage the invasives in our parks, then there is no hope that we will ever come to grips with this problem.

Management of our environment should never be cut---we need more! There will be drastic consequences in the future if we curtail any maintenance. And leaving the parks unmanaged will be an embarrassment to all who visit, including tourists.

Sincerely,

Douglas Snyder
25 Hill St.
Hamden, CT 06514
203-934-9999