

Budget E-mail from Meredith Hill, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources,  
Director, Pennsylvania Wilds

Many of you have called or emailed to ask about the impact of the budget on DCNR. We are analyzing what the impact will be, but here are the facts relating to the numbers. We will keep you informed as we determine the impact.

- Overall, the agency's budget has been cut about 13% - or \$12.8 million.
- Forestry's general fund appropriation was actually increased slightly (\$239,000). However, that is only part of the story. The weak timber market has reduced timber revenues by \$18 million. We have been able to augment the bureau's budget with \$9 million from the Oil and Gas Fund. But the net result of all of this is that Forestry's budget is down by more than \$9 million, or 17%.
- The Parks budget was reduced by \$9 million, or 15%.
- Our General Government Operations budget was reduced 8%, or \$1.6 million.
- The Forest Pest Management program was reduced \$2.4 million, or 55%.
- The Heritage and Other Parks line item was zeroed out.
- We are required to generate \$60 million in revenue from leasing state forest lands for natural gas exploration in the current Fiscal Year, and decisions on the use of future royalty income from gas production on state lands will now be made by the General Assembly, not DCNR.