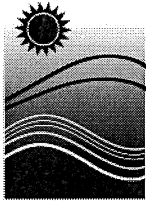


Summary of Reductions

	March 2016 Submission	Total Reductions	Impacted Funds	Impact Statement
Seasonal Reductions	\$ (1,263,630.00)	\$ (2,165,320.00)	GF PS, Mosquito	Seasonal reductions across all areas of the agency. Loss of seasonal support will result in significant changes within the parks system including reductions of hours and days of operation, lifeguard coverage, campground season length and maintenance frequency etc. Law enforcement seasonal officer patrols will be eliminated after labor day. Seasonals assisting with mosquito control activities will be reduced. The hours at three district offices will be reduced. Facility and equipment maintenance and repair will be deferred and/or reduced. Facility cleaning schedules and preventative maintenance will be reduced. Maintenance and inspection of dams, flood areas, bridges, roads and buildings will be reduced. Beach monitoring programs for state swimming beaches will be reduced and refocused on guarded beaches; patrons at unguarded and untested beaches will swim at their own risk. Reduction in seasonal staff at Kensington Hatchery requiring the elimination of most trout production and/or all Atlantic salmon production at this facility. Limited educational program will continue for Trout in Classroom and Salmon in the Schools programs. Marine Fisheries LIS Survey will be reduced, including, but not limited to, commercial fisheries statistics.
Fringe Savings	\$ (369,796.00)			
Vacancies and Staff Realignment	\$ (2,027,382.00)	\$ (5,198,716.00)	GF PS, EQ Fees, EC Fees, Clean Air	Eliminate all vacancies including Invasive Plants and Recycling Coordinators, maintainers, inspectors, environmental analysts, engineers, law enforcement personnel, quality craft workers, electricians, plumbers, etc. B. Realigning Staff to federal funding sources
Fringe Savings	\$ (346,992.00)			
Overtime Reductions	\$ (140,000.00)	\$ (163,220.00)	GF PS	Additional OT Reductions: Will reduce ability to respond to wildlife complaints including bears, coyotes, etc. outside of normal business hours. Eliminates special event boating patrols for maritime events such as Sailfest and Riverfest. Eliminate conservation officer response for wildlife calls that are not imminent public safety issues.
Fringe Savings	\$ (41,120.00)			
Publications, Reports and Compliance Guidance	\$ (96,000.00)	\$ (150,300.00)	EQ Fees, EC Fees	Reductions across all areas of the Agency. Eliminates printing requirements and reduces outreach to businesses and regulated community intended to assist with compliance of environmental laws, requirements and programs. Reductions in printed copies of Hunting and Fishing Guides and other publications related to natural resource and outdoor recreational programs. Reductions will delay publication of general permits in newspapers.
Superfund Maintenance Reduction	\$ (85,138.00)	\$ (59,577.00)	Superfund	Reduce maintenance at three Superfund facilities to Federal required minimum. Eliminates reserve for unforeseen circumstances.

Software reductions	\$ (200,000.00)	\$ (222,000.00)	EQ Fees	Reduction of software licenses and IT enhancements, including impacts to our e-filing system, and elimination of maintenance and support of CT-ECO: an online collaboration b/w DEEP and UCONN to provide natural resources geospatial data in a format used by both state and local government decision-making when analyzing and assessing natural resources and potential impacts related to land use matters.
Reductions to analytical data, pollution awareness and prevention	\$ (685,595.00)	\$ (658,963.00)	EQ Fees	The reduction will have a impact on environmental data and may adversely impact timely determinations of compliance with environmental laws. Reduction of air toxics monitoring program may result in inability to characterize public health risk from air toxics. Reducing ozone monitoring network may impair accuracy of ozone forecasts and increased rates of exposure to Connecticut residents on poor air quality days. Reduction in environmental quality inspections. Reductions to Commissions may cause the loss of critical data on regional water quality impacts. Eliminating Flood Control compact may risk law suit and may impact lood control activities. Collaboration with interstate organizations will be reduced, resulting in an adverse impact on regional efforts on environmental policy and planning, and loss of access to technical expertise. Reduction in sampling and laboratory analysis for water quality monitoring may compromise water quality and may impact ability to meet federal grant requirements. Reduction in samples to be collected and brought to contracted environmental laboratories for analysis may result in increased workload for public health labs resulting in delays in turnaround times for analysis of environmental samples. Reducing and/or eliminating sampling may impede DEEP's ability to develop and support enforcement actions.
Pollution Containment and Control	\$ (470,000.00)	\$ (344,581.00)	EQ Fees, Clean Air	Reduce ability to respond to environmental and public health threats on contaminated sites. Reduces the Emergency Spill Cleanup Reserve funds which may reduce the number of cleanups that will be performed when a responsible party is unwilling, unable or unknown. Delays or limitations to emergency mitigation measures may increase the risks of exposure to human health and the environment. Reduced inspections and field presence may result in reduced enforcement and deterrent effect.
Operational Reductions	\$ -	\$ (913,567.00)	GF OE, EC Fees, EQ Fees	Reduction of Operating expenses includes Toxic Air Monitoring, equipment repair, lab supplies, park supplies membership dues, training and travel
Conservation Districts & Soil and Water	\$ (270,000.00)			
Total Reductions	\$ (5,995,653.00)	\$ (9,876,244.00)		
Target	\$ (5,995,653.00)	\$ (9,876,244.00)		



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

For Information Contact:

Dennis Schain, 424-3110

June 24, 2016

P R E S S R E L E A S E

DEEP Announces Adjustments at CT State Parks Steps Being Taken to Reduce Operating Costs

Focus is providing services on days, times, and locations of greatest use

Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is taking steps to reduce operating expenses at state parks by using resources more efficiently and focusing on the days and times of greatest public use of park campgrounds, beaches, museums, and nature centers.

"Our plan is designed to reduce expenses while providing the highest quality outdoor recreation opportunities for the public and ensuring public safety," said DEEP Commissioner Robert Klee. "By carefully analyzing how and when the public uses our state park system we will achieve the savings we need while keeping much of what we offer at our 109 parks open and available to the public."

"Through the efficiencies we have identified, this plan will eliminate about \$1.8 million from the cost of operating the state park system and help our Agency achieve the overall savings required by the state budget for the upcoming fiscal year," said DEEP Commissioner Robert Klee. "We will begin to roll out adjustments in our days and hours of operations and in services soon after July 4. We will also continue our analysis of park operations to identify the potential for more savings – and expect to take additional cost-cutting steps in the spring of 2017."

The following adjustments at state parks are being put in place after the July 4 holiday weekend:

Campgrounds

Three campgrounds – with the lowest rates of utilization - will be closed soon after the July 4 holiday:

- Devils Hopyard, East Haddam
- Salt Rock, Baltic
- Greens Falls, Voluntown

All other state park and forest campgrounds will close after Labor Day – with the exception of the campgrounds at Hammonasset Beach and Rocky Neck State Parks, which will remain open through Columbus Day weekend.

Several of the campgrounds in the state park and forest system have traditionally remained open until the end of September – but the number of fall campers is small and can be accommodated at Hammonasset Beach and Rocky Neck.

DEEP will contact those with reservations at Devils Hopyard, Salt Rock or Greens Falls and offer them the opportunity to switch their reservations to another campground at no cost, or to receive a full refund.

State Park Beaches

All State Park beaches will remain open for the public to enjoy. There will be adjustments in the days, beaches, or areas of the beaches, staffed by lifeguards to focus on the days and locations with the largest number of beach goers.

- Shoreline Parks – Hammonasset, Rocky Neck, Sherwood Island, Silver Sands – lifeguards will be scheduled five days a week, Wednesday through Sunday. These beaches have previously been guarded seven days a week. These beaches are least crowded on Mondays and Tuesdays.
- Inland Parks – Black Rock, Burr Pond, Indian Well, and Squantz Pond Parks, will have lifeguard coverage between three and five days per week, including weekends – which are the busiest days at the parks. These beaches have previously been guarded seven days a week.

State Park Museums and Nature Centers

Days and operating hours for some state park museums and nature centers are being adjusted after the July 4 weekend to focus on the times when the most people visit these sites:

- Dinosaur State Park – The museum grounds and trails will be closed on Mondays. The museum there has been closed Mondays, but there has previously been access to the grounds on that day.
- Gillette Castle – Will be open Thursday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Labor Day, when it will close for the year. It has previously been open seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., through Columbus Day.
- Heublein Tower at Talcott Mountain State Park – Will remain open Thursday through Sunday until Labor Day. It is expected to move to a six-day a week schedule during peak fall foliage season. It has traditionally been open seven days a week in the fall.
- Putnam Memorial State Park – The Visitors Center will be open weekends only, when it draws the largest number of visitors. It has been open seven days per week.

Other museums and smaller nature centers may have slightly changed hours as well.

State Park Maintenance

There will also be reductions in the staffing for maintenance of our parks. At less-visited sites, the public will see less frequent lawn mowing and other maintenance work. The focus will be on maintenance and repairs that assure the health and safety of park visitors.

Additional Changes Expected

Commissioner Klee said, "As we move into the second part of the fiscal year, and next spring, there will likely be additional adjustments. In making these decisions, our focus will remain on serving the greatest number of people and protecting public safety."

Background Information

- Connecticut has 109 state parks – as well as campgrounds managed by the park system within its 32 state forests – that attract approximately nine million visitors a year. The state park system offers opportunities for hiking, camping, swimming, boating, fishing, and picnicking, among many other activities.
- The total operating budget for state parks – including salaries, benefits and direct operating expenses – is about \$18 million a year.
- DEEP has full-time Parks Division staff of 70 and relies on more than 500 seasonal workers to assist in operating the parks during the busy summer season. The cost-cutting measures being taken by DEEP do not involve layoffs of full-time staff. The plan does call for reduced hours for many seasonal workers.
- The appropriated General Fund budget for DEEP for the fiscal year that begins July 1 was reduced by approximately \$10 million. To allow the Agency to operate within this budget, the plan for operating state parks calls for \$1.8 million in reduced spending.