

a **CLOSER** **LOOK** at the *2015-17 State Budget*



DNR

- Deletes 92.94 total DNR positions, 10.85 more than GOV
- Integrates the Bureau of Science Service by eliminating 18.4 positions including 9 vacant positions. Remaining 40 scientists merged into divisions.
- Maintains current funding levels for state parks while replacing GPR funding with SEG
- Increases annual state park and forest vehicle admission fees by \$3
- Provides DNR Secretary authority to raise or lower camping rates by up to \$5 based on demand, season, and amenities
- Rejects Governor's proposed transfer of the POWTS grant program from DSPS to DNR
- Restores partial funding for POWTS of \$1.645 million PR in 2015-16 and \$840,000 PR in 2016-17
- Provides private citizens and local government an exception to DNR permitting when replacing or maintaining a culvert
- Rejects Governor's proposal to make the Natural Resources Board advisory
- Eliminates earmarked funding for 13 specific nonprofit conservation organizations
- Establishes a sunset for the PECFA program requiring final claims to be submitted by July 1, 2020
- Makes various changes to shoreland zoning regulations including a requirement that county regulations be no more stringent than state standards
- Simplifies Managed Forest Law cutting notices so that cooperating foresters accredited by certain organizations do not require DNR approval on private land enrolled in MFL or forest crop law programs
- Returns \$1 million Forestry SEG in each year (this biennium only) to counties and municipalities based on the acres of managed forest law land designated as closed. The municipality in which the land is located retains 80% of the revenues and remits 20% of the fees to the county.
- Restores \$701,400 forestry SEG in 2015-16 and 2016-17 for DNR to administer program to remove car-killed deer from state highways

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Stewardship

- Total bonding level set at \$33.25 million in each year from fiscal year 2015-16 through 2019-20. Currently bonding set at \$54.5 million.
- Total bonding authority for the stewardship program reduced by \$88 million from the currently authorized \$1.3 billion.
- Directs DNR land acquisition set at \$9 million. Current law set at \$19.26 million in FY 16 and \$22.26 thereafter.
- DNR property development set at \$3.75 million. In addition provide \$3 million SEG Forestry in FY 16 and FY 17. Current law set at \$6.5 million in FY 16 and \$5 million thereafter.