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16 Meriden Road
Rockfall
Connecticut 06481-2961
Tele: 860-346-TREE
www.ctwoodlands.org

CFPA Conservation Priorities for 2023

State Legislative Priorities

- Authorize Property Tax Incentive for Landowners to Protect Trails.
- Support resilient forest & climate recommendations from [GC3](#) and [PRFCT Future](#) reports.
- Ensure public input process for conveying state-owned lands to non-state ownership runs as intended in the state constitution.
- Update Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) statute to better leverage municipal and federal matching funds.
- Balance roadside forest health with electric infrastructure resiliency.

State Funding Priorities

- Raise staffing to adequate levels to accommodate dramatic increases in public use of recreational assets, facilities, and natural resources. For example, State Park staff ceiling is currently 83 full-time employees to care for 110 State Parks, 11 campgrounds, and abundant public facilities including 6 nature centers.
- Keep the **Passport to the Parks** funding intact.
- Continue state bonding investments for trails, open space, and agricultural land protection.
- Protect the Community Investment Act against diversions or raids.

Federal Priorities

- Increase National Park Service appropriations and achieve unit status for the New England National Scenic Trail.
- Re-admit Connecticut into the Federal Highways Administration/Recreational Trails Program.
- Pass Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), Complete America's Great Trails Act, and other CT priorities.