

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HEARING

STATE CAPITOL
MAIN BUILDING
ROOM 140
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

PRESENTATION FROM DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES

BEFORE :

HONORABLE STANLEY SAYLOR, MAJORITY CHAIRMAN
HONORABLE MATT BRADFORD, MINORITY CHAIRMAN
HONORABLE ROSEMARY BROWN
HONORABLE SHERYL DELOZIER
HONORABLE GEORGE DUNBAR
HONORABLE JONATHAN FRITZ
HONORABLE MATT GABLER
HONORABLE KEITH GREINER
HONORABLE SETH GROVE
HONORABLE MARCIA HAHN
HONORABLE DOYLE HEFFLEY
HONORABLE JOHN LAWRENCE
HONORABLE JASON ORTITAY
HONORABLE CLINT OWLETT
HONORABLE CHRIS QUINN
HONORABLE GREG ROTHMAN
HONORABLE JAMES STRUZZI
HONORABLE JESSE TOPPER
HONORABLE JEFF WHEELAND
HONORABLE RYAN WARNER
HONORABLE MARTINA WHITE

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BEFORE (cont.'d) :

HONORABLE DONNA BULLOCK
HONORABLE MORGAN CEPHAS
HONORABLE CAROLYN COMMITTA
HONORABLE AUSTIN DAVIS
HONORABLE ELIZABETH FIEDLER
HONORABLE MARTY FLYNN
HONORABLE EDWARD GAINNEY
HONORABLE PATTY KIM
HONORABLE STEPHEN KINSEY
HONORABLE LEANNE KRUEGER
HONORABLE STEPHEN McCARTER
HONORABLE BENJAMIN SANCHEZ
HONORABLE PETER SCHWEYER

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE :

DAVID DONLEY, REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RITCHIE LaFAVER, REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ANN BALOGA, DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TARA TREES, DEMOCRATIC CHIEF COUNSEL
HONORABLE MARY JO DALEY
HONORABLE PAM DeLISSIO
HONORABLE CRIS DUSH
HONORABLE DAN FRANKEL
HONORABLE JOE HOHENSTEIN
HONORABLE MARY ISAACSON
HONORABLE SARA INNAMORATO
HONORABLE DARYL METCALFE
HONORABLE TOM MURT
HONORABLE KATHY RAPP
HONORABLE GREG VITALI
HONORABLE DAVE ZIMMERMAN

JEAN M. DAVIS, REPORTER
NOTARY PUBLIC

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 * * *

3 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: We'll call the
4 Appropriations hearings to order.

5 And if I can have everybody stand that's going to
6 testify, raise your right hand.

7
8 (Witnesses sworn en masse.)

9 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Madam Secretary,
10 welcome to you and your staff. I appreciate you being here
11 today.

12 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Thank you.

13 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: And we'll get right to
14 questions. We'll start off with Representative Rothman.

15 REPRESENTATIVE ROTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 Madam Secretary, thank you and your staff for
17 being here.

18 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Thank you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE ROTHMAN: Your agency is proposed
20 to receive \$145,861,000 in the General Fund, an overall
21 funding increase of 28 million or 24.5 percent compared to
22 Fiscal Year 2019-'20.

23 Can you explain the significant operating cost
24 increases as proposed by the Governor for your three main
25 operating appropriations, also the \$8 million in

1 augmentation funding from special fund transfers being
2 spent, how they're being spent under the general government
3 operations?

4 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Sure. Okay.

5 Thanks for the opportunity. It's good to see
6 you.

7 REPRESENTATIVE ROTHMAN: Thank you.

8 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: So overall, if you
9 look at our full budget, Federal appropriations, Federal
10 authorities, oil and gas, General Fund, etc., we're
11 experiencing and proposing less than a 1 percent increase
12 overall. As you point out, when you look at the general
13 appropriations, they are proposing an increase by 13
14 million.

15 That shift is due largely to the decline in some
16 augmentation revenues. First of all, Oil and Gas Lease Fund
17 revenues are down as a reflection of the market. And
18 secondly, something that maybe people aren't quite as aware
19 of, we've seen a sharp decline in our --

20 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Madam Secretary, sorry
21 to interrupt you. Could you pull the mike closer? I have a
22 feeling PCN is going to complain to me.

23 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Okay. Got it.

24 Is that better?

25 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Yes.

1 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: One decline in
2 augmentation revenues is from the Oil and Gas Lease Fund.
3 Once again, looking at the leased areas that we have in the
4 state forestland in north central, there's a decline there.
5 And secondly, the decline in forest revenues, we usually
6 augment our budget by anywhere from twenty to twenty-five
7 million dollars of timber revenues for two reasons.

8 That is down. One of our main purchasers is
9 China. And due to tariffs with China and trade issues, the
10 market really frankly crashed and our timber industry is
11 really experiencing a very difficult time particularly in
12 northcentral parts of Pennsylvania.

13 We do expect in future years that will slowly
14 come back up. We also have to keep an eye on market
15 opportunities in the timber industry.

16 The Oil and Gas Lease Fund situation, I would see
17 to remain modest and go slightly down over the future years
18 for the leases that we have. And again, reminding everybody
19 there is a moratorium on additional leasing, but looking at
20 the leases that we have, they're not fully developed and the
21 companies really aren't moving rapidly to develop them.
22 They're 35 percent developed. And again, it's a market
23 issue. The industry is focused more in southwestern
24 Pennsylvania away from the State lands and so we're seeing a
25 decline of interest in the oil and gas in the State

1 forestland. So those augmentations are down and this budget
2 proposes to replace it with General Funds.

3 If you look historically at the agency, you know,
4 if you go back before oil and gas, we were primarily a
5 General Fund funded agency with the augmentations we have,
6 which we still do on State parks. Like, when you -- we are
7 a free entrance system in Pennsylvania. However, we earn
8 funds up to the tune of about 25 million a year from, you
9 know, rentals like kayak and canoe rentals, cabins,
10 campgrounds, concessions, etc. And those augmentations have
11 stayed strong.

12 REPRESENTATIVE ROTHMAN: Thank you very much.

13 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Thank you.

14 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Representative Patty
15 Kim.

16 REPRESENTATIVE KIM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 Good afternoon, Secretary Dunn and Deputy
18 Secretaries.

19 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Good afternoon.

20 REPRESENTATIVE KIM: The Governor's budget
21 proposal includes \$2.5 million for hiring 25 new positions.
22 It would fill 17 ranger positions within the State park
23 operations appropriation and fill 8 ranger positions within
24 the State forest operations appropriations.

25 My three questions are, why is there a need for

1 more rangers? What is the responsibility of a ranger in
2 terms of acreage? And will it be difficult to fill these
3 positions with qualified candidates?

4 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Thank you for that.

5 I hope everyone will tolerate a strong pitch from
6 me on those positions.

7 We desperately need those positions. Even with
8 this winter weekend that we just had -- again, it was a nice
9 weekend but we had ranger incidents at Ohiopyle State Park,
10 McConnells Mill, one of the parks in the east. Even in the
11 wintertime, you know, with lost hunters and recreation
12 outside, we have a lot of demand.

13 We currently do have about 230 rangers across the
14 system. But when you consider that's 2.5 million acres,
15 it's 121 parks, 2.2 million acres of forestland, if you look
16 at the sheer acreage of land that one ranger is responsible
17 for just dividing it out equally, which isn't how it
18 actually works, but it's 11,000 acres for one ranger.

19 So we're making a request for these additional
20 ranger positions for public health and safety, also for
21 public contact. Our ranger force is multi-faceted. It's in
22 many ways a more complex role than say a policeman in the
23 sense that they're the person that a child asks, you know,
24 what's this flower or what's that bird? Where can I take a
25 hike? They turn into public safety very rapidly. They are

1 also search and rescue and also incident management for
2 incidents.

3 We do have diversity in an increased number of
4 incidents in the system. Our rangers now are outfitted with
5 Naloxone. They're often the first responders for all kinds
6 of incidents. And in our rural areas, the police, the State
7 Police, and the County Dispatch often call our rangers for
8 issues in the surrounding community around a park. Like,
9 for instance, like say at Cook Forest, Clear Creek State
10 Park, where the community is essentially a community that
11 really supports the park, it's a recreational tourism based
12 kind of a community. You know, our rangers will be called
13 in on everything that could happen in that community, so
14 it's important.

15 We've had a couple incidents where our rangers
16 have been put in harm's way. Thankfully, it all worked out
17 okay, but because there's no backup anywhere nearby because
18 we are so far, we're really respectfully requesting
19 additional rangers and would love any opportunity -- if
20 anyone has a concern or doubt, we'd love the opportunity to
21 describe the need, specifically locationwise, if that's
22 helpful.

23 REPRESENTATIVE KIM: Is it going to be difficult
24 to find qualified candidates? Do they need to know what a
25 chickadee is versus, you know, how to detox somebody who's

1 overdosed? I mean, that is a wide range of skills.

2 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: It's a wide range of
3 skills. We have a -- I'll ask John to answer that.

4 We have a new relationship with Temple that I
5 think is going to help us find that kind of candidate.
6 Fortunately, like everyone -- I wouldn't ask for a show of
7 hands, but many of us thought we wanted to be a ranger when
8 we grew up, right? I mean, I bet there's a lot of people in
9 this room that wanted to be a ranger when they grew up. So
10 fortunately it's an attractive job.

11 John can talk about how we're actually going to
12 find these people.

13 DEPUTY SECRETARY JOHN NORBECK: Sure.

14 As the Secretary said, the rangers are pretty
15 much jack-of-all-trades. And they're very much many times
16 the only person that someone visiting a park or forest will
17 encounter working for DCNR. So it's really important that
18 they have a broad breadth of knowledge of the resources that
19 are around them and also the work that they're tasked to do.

20 Talking about recruitment, the Secretary did
21 mention that we've got a relationship with Temple University
22 now. Temple developed a ranger program that the National
23 Park Service uses and uses to recruit new rangers going to
24 the National Park Service.

25 We looked at that curriculum. We made some

1 adjustments. They were able to work with us. We think that
2 that will be a really good tool for us to recruit rangers
3 moving forward. But probably more importantly is to recruit
4 a more diverse ranger workforce that will reflect what
5 Pennsylvania looks like today.

6 REPRESENTATIVE KIM: Thank you.

7 And my last question would be, the Governor
8 proposed a \$12-an-hour increase. Would your department be
9 ready to handle this change or adjustment?

10 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yes.

11 In fact, we honor that now. We don't have anyone
12 that is below \$12.50 in our Outdoor Corps, which I'd love an
13 opportunity to talk about later. And we have, you know,
14 slightly under 300 that are between 12.50 and 15 an hour.
15 So we have kept up.

16 We do attract a wonderful workforce. Our
17 maintenance staff, our -- you know, some of our staff that
18 are on, you know, the 12- to 15-range are really
19 high-quality people. We get a lot of second career
20 military. They'll come off a military career in their 40s
21 and then flip over to be maintenance for us. We get some
22 highly qualified people.

23 So we've always -- we keep it up above 12.50 and
24 even try to grow above 15 an hour. Fortunately we're able
25 to attract like a very talented in terms of skilled

1 workforce for the kind of work we offer.

2 REPRESENTATIVE KIM: Thank you.

3 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: The next questioner is
5 Representative Struzzi.

6 REPRESENTATIVE STRUZZI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 Good afternoon, Secretary.

8 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Good afternoon.

9 REPRESENTATIVE STRUZZI: The question I have
10 pertains to my district specifically, but then more in
11 general.

12 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Okay.

13 REPRESENTATIVE STRUZZI: I represent Indiana
14 County, 62nd Legislative District. We have Yellow Creek
15 State Park.

16 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yes.

17 REPRESENTATIVE STRUZZI: As I'm sure you're
18 aware.

19 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yes.

20 REPRESENTATIVE STRUZZI: Tremendous park. Great
21 lake, great asset for the region. Recently there was a
22 significant investment done to reconstruct the beaches. All
23 this beautiful white sand came in, new changing areas, and
24 things like that.

25 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yes.

1 REPRESENTATIVE STRUZZI: And I had the
2 opportunity to go out and tour it. Very impressive.
3 Wonderful project. Yet the roads going into the park,
4 decrepit, rutted, potholed. And when I spoke with the
5 rangers out there, they were like, well, we don't have the
6 money to fix the drainage there. We can't repave these
7 roads.

8 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Um-hmm.

9 REPRESENTATIVE STRUZZI: So you're going into a
10 park that is very uninviting because of the road
11 infrastructure. You get to the beaches, it's gorgeous. The
12 lake is gorgeous.

13 So my question pertains to the infrastructure
14 within our parks. And in your testimony you stated that we
15 have \$1 billion in, I guess, unmet funds to fix these
16 infrastructure projects within our parks. So the question
17 is, you know, does your budget address any of this? And if
18 it does, you know, what is the priority for these projects?

19 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Sure. I'd be happy
20 to talk about that.

21 So we -- if you think about our system, a lot of
22 it was built back some of it in the middle of the last
23 century, in the CCC era all the way up to the 50's, 60's,
24 70's. We had parks built and a lot of it was Project 70
25 money. So a lot of infrastructure is aging. And as you've

1 pointed out, I'm glad we were able to fix up the beach and
2 the beach house.

3 REPRESENTATIVE STRUZZI: Right.

4 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: The situation you
5 described with the roads is unfortunately not an isolated
6 incident. We have across our system infrastructure, this
7 aging out -- I mean, it's been cared for and people used it
8 and loved it well -- but roofs, structures, even compliance
9 with ADA operations, we have a very long list.

10 We currently use -- you know, about 30 percent of
11 our Keystone Fund by law goes to infrastructure, so we apply
12 that. We apply, of course, the Environmental Fund, which is
13 the Tipping Fee Fund, and then we get an allocation from the
14 Governor's Capitol Budget.

15 Altogether these are nipping away at it. But the
16 reason I'm part of Restore Pennsylvania and out there
17 pitching for that is that we need to make big investments
18 for the future to get the system caught up and then let
19 these other funds do the routine maintenance. We have just
20 got a big backlog and we want to get the system up to par.

21 Because like you pointed out, visitors coming,
22 whether it's a family traveling fairly locally, you know,
23 say from Indiana to a park like Yellow Creek or whether it's
24 a family reunion from across the state or whether it's
25 out-of-state visitors, of course, spending money in

1 Pennsylvania, they're really looking for a park that's
2 clean, safe, and ready to use. So we see that as a big
3 opportunity to make big investments. You know, we'll keep
4 plugging away as best we can. But again, I think we need
5 that big infusion to get the system caught up.

6 And if you will allow, I'll just point out that
7 that investment will return dollars to the State's economy.
8 That money invested in park and forest infrastructure
9 returns pretty rapidly to the economy of the Commonwealth
10 through dollars spent by tourism and visitation and all the
11 other amenities.

12 We'll look up for you where that actual road
13 project sits. It will be on a -- we have a comprehensive
14 list of projects that are both backlogged and also just
15 scheduled maintenance, like a pavilion roof that's not going
16 to be good longer than the next ten years. We have a
17 comprehensive list like that. We'll look that particular
18 one up for you. I know we talked about that in the office,
19 about that road. We got the facility ready. Now we've got
20 to get the road ready.

21 REPRESENTATIVE STRUZZI: Right.

22 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: We understand that
23 need. But thanks for raising that.

24 REPRESENTATIVE STRUZZI: Sure. I appreciate that
25 our State parks are a tremendous asset, a great tourist

1 attraction. Do you look at other mechanisms for revenue?
2 How do you determine what amenities you put in the park that
3 could be additional revenue?

4 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yes. I think we
5 have done a good job of casting a net. Right now we're
6 searching for a concession arrangement at Denton Hill. We
7 have a really good, I think, well-crafted agreement with
8 some ski facilities in the western part of the state, you
9 know, Laurel Hill and Blue Knob. We have, you know,
10 operation concessions with boat rentals and marinas and
11 such. And then we have, I think, a fair payment structure
12 around the accommodations that we constantly adjust to bring
13 in revenue.

14 I think that's, you know, a constant opportunity.
15 We're seeing a real upsurge of interest in outdoor
16 recreation. I think it's something that's a great thing
17 that's happening across the spectrum. We're seeing a lot of
18 interest in outdoor recreation. I think if we were smart
19 about how we craft a relationship, we can keep growing those
20 opportunities.

21 REPRESENTATIVE STRUZZI: All right. Thank you.

22 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE STRUZZI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Representative
25 Sanchez.

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REPRESENTATIVE SANCHEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Up here, Madam Secretary. Welcome to you and the Deputy Secretaries.

SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Thank you.

REPRESENTATIVE SANCHEZ: It came to my attention that there's been a -- the Department has placed a renewed emphasis on sustainability at its facilities. And, in fact, one of the facilities down in my neck of the woods in the Fort Washington area is almost -- it was described to us as off the grid, you know, as far as electricity and the like and output for waste.

Would you care to comment on that? What's the status? What are the plans for the future as well if there's more to come?

SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: We feel as the Commonwealth's Conservation Agency it's important to be a role model and to help really set the stage and show the opportunities for, you know, sustainability and green infrastructure.

Fort Washington, you know -- granted it's a fairly small infrastructure footprint park but a very important park as the first one to go completely Net Zero we call it since it's a Net Metering -- we expect that we'll be getting about half of our energy from renewables in the Agency by the year 2020.

1 In terms of other parks to Net Zero, we expect to
2 get five Net Zero parks and eight facilities overall. So
3 right now like, for instance, at the Tom Ridge Environmental
4 Ed Center, the solar takes out the whole educational wing as
5 a Net Zero facility.

6 At Moraine State Park we've got a big sewage
7 treatment system that's all Net Zero. Again, the facility
8 is but not the whole park. So again, we want to continue
9 raising that goal. We have a number of other elements of
10 our sustainability program. We are transforming a lot of
11 our fleet to electric vehicles.

12 I know people picture the passenger vehicles, but
13 within a state park there are electric maintenance vehicles
14 called GEM vehicles. We've got, you know, all kinds of
15 opportunities for vehicles.

16 We're providing electric vehicle charging
17 stations across the system. So if you think about that grid
18 of state parks we have across Pennsylvania that were
19 designed to serve all Pennsylvanians by being 25 miles from
20 every Pennsylvanian, that's a great grid for electric
21 vehicle charging stations. So we're aiming to have 43
22 electric vehicle charging stations.

23 Some of our most significant sustainability work
24 is a little less visible. It's a Guaranteed Energy Savings
25 Program where we analyze the lighting, the heating, the

1 motors in all the facilities and then select different
2 things for upgrades that save money and guarantee an energy
3 saving for the same amount of money per month. So that's
4 actually probably one of the most significant ones, but a
5 little bit less visible and a little bit less
6 (unintelligible) than say the solar panels.

7 But we're intending both to in reality reduce our
8 operating costs and our carbon footprint but also model that
9 and show the public how it can be done so that hopefully it
10 generates interest, you know, from everything like
11 corporations and their corporate campuses, to individual
12 homeowners, to other State agencies, other local government
13 agencies and such.

14 REPRESENTATIVE SANCHEZ: Wonderful.

15 Thank you for that very thorough answer.

16 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Sure.

17 REPRESENTATIVE SANCHEZ: That's music to my ears.

18 I couldn't agree more what better agency to be on
19 point with all those initiatives. I especially like the
20 educational awareness aspect of it you mentioned at the end
21 there. So please keep up the good work.

22 We appreciate it.

23 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Thank you.

24 I appreciate it.

25 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Representative Fritz.

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REPRESENTATIVE FRITZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Madam Secretary, good to see you.

SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Good to see you.

REPRESENTATIVE FRITZ: Madam Secretary, can you kindly explain the projected decrease of \$9 million worth of royalty revenue going into the oil and gas lease? And this is royalty released on State forestlands.

SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Okay. Yeah.

We've seen a decline in the money that they're getting, the decline in the cost they're getting for natural gas. We're seeing a decline in the revenues coming in from that.

As far as the exact number, John, maybe I'll turn to you on the actual decline. We're seeing overall a weakness in that market. I don't think we'll be seeing that change anytime soon.

The one thing that might have changed, that would have been a harsh winter. It doesn't appear that that's going to happen.

DEPUTY SECRETARY JOHN NORBECK: A couple things.

Wells, when they are first fracked, they're the strongest that they're ever going to be. So as the wells start to age, the production goes down so you have less gas coming out of each well.

As the Secretary said, the gas prices now, if you

1 adjust them with inflation, they are the lowest they've ever
2 been in recorded history here in Pennsylvania.

3 I was talking to a CEO of a gas company about
4 three weeks ago. And at the Lyde (phonetic) Station, they
5 were getting 1.73 for MCF, which is extremely low. And for
6 some companies dependent on their lease or their contract,
7 it may be less than what it's costing them to produce the
8 gas.

9 REPRESENTATIVE FRITZ: So we can conclude that
10 the largest factor is the depressed commodity price for
11 natural gas?

12 DEPUTY SECRETARY JOHN NORBECK: I would say yes.

13 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yes.

14 REPRESENTATIVE FRITZ: Okay. Thank you.

15 Can you kindly share with us the current number
16 of drilling operations and how many operators we're using?

17 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: I'm going to turn to
18 John on that one, too. I do know we only have one rig out
19 on the forest landscape right now. And it's on a severed
20 lease operated by Seneca. And there's a possibility of a
21 few more rigs coming out on to State land.

22 And I just want to remind everybody there's two
23 kinds of gas leases out there. Some are the severed rights
24 where DCNR can work with a company to really place roads and
25 paths. And then there's the leased lands where we have a

1 lot of control through the lease agreement.

2 So I will have John go through the actual numbers
3 on what we see and what the forecast looks like.

4 DEPUTY SECRETARY JOHN NORBECK: Sure.

5 So right now there's 528 wells on State forest
6 and parklands. The unconventional wells are all on State
7 forestland but there are some unconventional wells on State
8 parklands. Of that, there's 180 well pads.

9 And as the Secretary said, there's currently one
10 rig working. I think Seneca is working in the Elk State
11 Forest. And I believe that it's either working there now or
12 getting ready to start work in the Tiedoston.

13 The information that we received from industry is
14 that we can expect maybe two, maybe three at the most rigs
15 on State forestlands over the next coming year.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FRITZ: So you mentioned there's
17 528 wells presently on State forestland?

18 DEPUTY SECRETARY JOHN NORBECK: Forest and
19 parklands, yes.

20 REPRESENTATIVE FRITZ: Okay.

21 And following that theme, how many acres are yet
22 available for development?

23 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: So the leases that
24 we have, they're 35 percent developed, so that would leave
25 65.

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REPRESENTATIVE FRITZ: Right.

DEPUTY SECRETARY JOHN NORBECK: So we have over 251,000 acres of State forestlands that are currently leased through the Commonwealth leases. And then there's another segment of lands that have severed rights. And some of those are working right now but, like the Secretary said, we've estimated about 35 percent of the lands available for gas exploration right now is being explored.

REPRESENTATIVE FRITZ: Thank you.

I want to shift gears a little bit. Madam Secretary, are you aware of a recent multi-parameter collaborative study? And the collaborators are PA DCNR, PA DEP, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Said study examined 25 PA watersheds over the course of two years looking for a correlation between hydraulic fracturing in local streams. The study concluded there is no impact from hydraulic fracturing on local streams.

And this study is just the latest objective scientific study that proves that natural gas development can be done and is being done without any detrimental effect on water quality.

Can you speak to the study?

SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Sure.

We were all relieved obviously at the finding of that study. Post the -- we did the leases on the State

1 forestland in '08 and '10. And at that time we set up a
2 rigorous monitoring program on those three large leases.
3 Water was part of it. And I think that's the second more
4 comprehensive study about the water that showed no
5 significant impact.

6 The findings of our monitoring, which are
7 probably -- we've been publishing the monitoring findings
8 every five years. But we decided that we would continuously
9 update the monitoring findings as we get data. It did show
10 invasive species issues as with any disturbed soil, whether
11 it's a road, whether it's a trail, you know, whatever it is.
12 It's a pathway for invasive plant species and even animals
13 so there's an increase in that. And there's an increase in
14 fragmentation.

15 But we were relieved obviously about the water
16 quality issue. And we'll continue that monitoring on a
17 long-term basis.

18 REPRESENTATIVE FRITZ: Thank you for your
19 findings. And thank you for your testimony.

20 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Sure.

21 REPRESENTATIVE FRITZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Representative
23 McCarter.

24 REPRESENTATIVE McCARTER: Thank you, Madam
25 Secretary. And again, thank you very much for being here

1 today with your staff to answer our questions.

2 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Sure.

3 REPRESENTATIVE McCARTER: Again, I want to
4 compliment you very much on what you suggested earlier about
5 the efforts of the Department in moving toward Net Zero on
6 many of the different parks and trying to achieve those
7 steps forward dealing with climate change. Your efforts and
8 the Department I think have been a model really across the
9 state.

10 I'd like to turn to one other area though real
11 quickly. And that's the impact of DCNR dealing with the
12 economy of Pennsylvania. And if you can highlight for us,
13 you know, how important the State parks are to the economy,
14 how many people are brought into this state, how many people
15 take advantage of our parks, and the efforts that really I
16 think your Department has made to really help not only the
17 economy of Pennsylvania but to the health for its citizens
18 as well.

19 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: I'll talk about the
20 impact of the State parks and then flip to Lauren to talk
21 about the impact of local parks and trails. Thanks for that
22 question.

23 We like to say that the dollars invested in DCNR
24 do have a strong return on investment to the state's
25 economy. We feel at times it doesn't -- it doesn't get

1 counted and recognized as such. But when you look at just
2 the state parks system alone, it brings in -- you know, for
3 the 40,000 visitors -- 40 million visitors a year, we get
4 1.2 billion to our economy that supports 13,000 jobs.

5 Forest products bring 19 billion into the
6 economy, which is why, you know, we are very concerned about
7 the downturn in the sustainable forestry. We had -- and
8 there's different findings that we -- different studies
9 happen every year. I mentioned a few last year. But a new
10 one this year is the Outdoor Industry Association, which is
11 the outdoor businesses. I mean, picture like Cabela's types
12 and the Dicks, the Outfitters, the bike manufacturers, the
13 kayak manufacturers, even the small outfitters.

14 They did a study that showed that Pennsylvania is
15 actually -- it's a national study. It showed that
16 Pennsylvania is fifth in the nation in outdoor industry
17 spending, in outdoor spending, and it generates and supports
18 251,000 jobs.

19 So it's actually bigger, I think, than even we
20 thought. It's a significant driver in our economy. It's a
21 significant part of our culture and identity as a state.
22 We're truly an outdoor state.

23 But I'd like Lauren to talk about the local parks
24 and the heritage parks and the value they bring to local
25 communities and also the State's, you know, balance.

1 DEPUTY SECRETARY LAUREN IMGRUND: Great. Thank
2 you, Secretary.

3 So as the Secretary said, one of the great things
4 about our state is that it does have such an extensive
5 outdoor heritage and resources available to communities and
6 to our residents and to visitors.

7 In addition to the State lands that we manage, we
8 also provide support to the over 6,000 local parks that
9 there are in our state and the over 12,000 miles of trails.
10 And all of those recreational activities lead to economic
11 impact in many ways, whether it's because you're traveling
12 to a facility or because you're expending your resources to
13 buy a new pair of tennis shoes or a new pair of hiking
14 boots. All those things contribute to the economy.

15 One of the interesting things on a national level
16 is that the overall economy is increasing at about 2 and a
17 half percent, I think, but the outdoor recreation economy is
18 increasing at more like 4 percent. So it is an economic
19 leader in the nation.

20 And in particular in Pennsylvania some studies
21 have been done looking at the investments made in our local
22 parks and how those investments, through grants from DCNR
23 and through the local investments, how that money translates
24 into economic impact, adding to jobs. And those figures
25 from a couple years ago, again, a national study that was

1 done shows about a \$1.6 billion impact on our economy and
2 about 12,500 jobs working to do upgrades to those local
3 parks.

4 In addition, we also have extensive partners that
5 we work with, including the State Heritage Areas. And we
6 have 12 Heritage Areas in Pennsylvania which are regional
7 economic development outdoor recreation efforts. And those
8 Heritage Areas have been shown to have \$2.3 billion in
9 economic value per year and create about 25,000 jobs.

10 REPRESENTATIVE McCARTER: And if I could add one
11 last thing because I know my time is about to expire. But I
12 was just going to ask you, are there any plans at work to
13 add to the system for historical sites and heritage in the
14 state of Pennsylvania?

15 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: We'll always be open
16 to that conversation certainly through the grants program.

17 I did have another point -- maybe I'll get a
18 chance to make it later on -- on the economy, just another
19 thing to think about. If you look at our contracts and
20 such, every time we let a project out, whether it's, you
21 know, the beach at Yellow Creek, whether it's a bathhouse at
22 a park or a road or, you know, pavilion, local contractors
23 get those jobs. And so you'll see local contractors on our
24 contracts lists. So this money that's spent on our
25 infrastructure improvements and on our budget goes right

1 back out across the state to jobs, you know, to local jobs.

2 We always invite these people to the events when
3 we do a grand opening. It's really neat to meet some of the
4 smaller contractors across Pennsylvania who get these jobs
5 and who are really pleased to have done a project at a State
6 park that they can take your kids and grandkids to and see
7 it. We get an enthusiastic response from the construction
8 community both large and small.

9 REPRESENTATIVE McCARTER: Thank you very much.

10 And thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

11 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: You're welcome.

12 Representative Gabler.

13 REPRESENTATIVE GABLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 And good afternoon, Madam Secretary and Deputy
15 Secretaries. Thanks so much for the opportunity to have a
16 conversation with you today.

17 First I want to start by commending you on the
18 work that your department is doing with the Citizens Natural
19 Resources Advisory Committee on the topic of ATV access in
20 the Commonwealth. It's something that we've had extensive
21 conversations on and it's something that I hear very
22 commonly within my legislative district from folks all over,
23 whether it's from individuals that are just looking for
24 recreational opportunities, whether it's small business
25 owners that understand the opportunity that is there for

1 enjoying our outdoor heritage and our outdoor resources.

2 I was wondering if you could give us a little bit
3 of an update on the proposed policy that is being discussed
4 at the Conrack (phonetic) and what that could mean for the
5 future of recreational opportunities in the Commonwealth?

6 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Sure. I'll talk
7 about the policy and some of the broad changes and I'll ask
8 John to talk about some of the on-the-ground changes that we
9 foresee coming.

10 First of all, we've had an up-and-down
11 relationship on ATVs on State forestland, as you know.
12 We've always funded ATV parks in private land, usually
13 county-owned recreational authorities and such. So we have
14 a number of large ATV recreational facilities across the
15 Commonwealth that we have funded with Grant Funds. They get
16 a lot of enthusiastic support, big generators for the local
17 economies where they're at.

18 For a long time we have had in the range of about
19 200 miles of ATV trails on State forestland. And I think
20 today it's up to about 267. So there's been a lot of
21 pressure to grow that system, especially up there in
22 Pennsylvania Wilds.

23 REPRESENTATIVE GABLER: And if I could just
24 interject the importance of connectors is so important, as
25 we hear, connectors taking available resources and

1 connecting them together so that you actually have the whole
2 being greater than the sum of its parts.

3 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Right.

4 And so our past policy has very limiting language
5 on connectors. So we're expanding that and looking more
6 comprehensively at connectors with the local communities. I
7 think the key point here is that it takes more than us to do
8 that. Any big project, especially a linear project, takes,
9 you know, local involvement, private landowner involvement,
10 private landowners willing to do easements or access across
11 land. It takes local townships' commitment and also the
12 local businesses that are really benefitting from this.

13 So we're working very actively at a couple sites.
14 We see a lot of opportunity. We've always recognized -- I
15 think the ATVs are part of the recreational community. I
16 mean, when you look at, why is Pennsylvania such an outdoor
17 state? we've got a big tent recreational community. People
18 enjoy the outdoors a lot of different ways.

19 We're looking at very smartly making some
20 connectors that will help enhance the opportunity and really
21 meet the interest of the public.

22 Just one slight caution. There's always going to
23 be a tension about people want to roll out from their own
24 property out on State land. And I don't think it's going to
25 be suitable everywhere. It's not going to be possible

1 financially everywhere. To build a trail, it's actually
2 pretty expensive. We have to build it right.

3 I'm proud to say in our built, designed trails,
4 we've never had a fatality. They're fun. They're exciting.
5 But people don't die because they're designed right. We
6 want to keep it that way. It's expensive so we won't be
7 able to meet -- just a caution. We won't be able to meet
8 everyone's need, but we're trying to meet a lot.

9 John can tell you about some of the specific
10 projects that we have in mind.

11 DEPUTY SECRETARY JOHN NORBECK: Sure.

12 I can start off by saying in the Bureau of
13 Forestry in our recreation section, we reorganized that and
14 we now have a recreational specialist on board to look at
15 just motorized recreational opportunities. We're pretty
16 excited about that. Before we just used folks' time as we
17 could possibly get them in to work. It's a great move
18 forward for us.

19 But I think some of the work that we've done at
20 Lyman Run State Park, as an example, this is the first year
21 that we've had the campground. So we have two campgrounds
22 at Lyman Run. One of the campgrounds we opened up for
23 access for ATV campers. Basically what they can do is they
24 can come and camp at Lyman Run. They can hop on their ATV,
25 ride out to a park road, onto a township road, down through

1 Susquehannock State Forest Trail system. It makes it a lot
2 more convenient for them. It brings additional income into
3 the local community and also into the State park itself.

4 As I mentioned, Susquehannock, the District
5 Forester there, Jim Hyland, has done a great job in making
6 some smaller connectors that make a whole lot of sense.

7 You know, we had a situation where a large lease
8 camp and a number of individual lease camps were cut off by
9 some change in ownership so they were not able to get
10 through State forestland. He was able to work out a trail
11 system that basically takes them out to a township road and
12 brings them back into the State forest. And we'll add a
13 small section of new trail there to get them into the
14 forest.

15 REPRESENTATIVE GABLER: And if I can just
16 interject since my time is about up. That sounds like an
17 example of exactly the sort of thing that I'd be looking
18 for. We have a lot of townships in my local area that have
19 opened their township roads. And I think those would be
20 exactly the areas of the state we can look at the forestry
21 roads neighboring those to be those kind of connectors in
22 that partnership as you talked about, those partnerships
23 between the State and the other stakeholders. Those
24 townships that are opening their roads seem to be a logical
25 starting point.

1 I'd appreciate the opportunity to work with you
2 on that.

3 DEPUTY SECRETARY JOHN NORBECK: Thank you.

4 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Thank you.
5 Representative Bullock.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BULLOCK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 Good afternoon, Secretary. How are you doing
8 today?

9 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Good.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BULLOCK: Great. I have three
11 questions for you.

12 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Okay.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BULLOCK: First, I heard a lot of
14 echos around your commitment to diversity in some of your
15 previous testimony today around contracting. I believe
16 Deputy Secretary Norbeck mentioned some of the recruitment
17 efforts with your rangers and such. But if you could zero
18 in a little bit for me and give me some of your detailed
19 statistics in regards to your workforce diversity and some
20 of your efforts.

21 My second question, I've had the pleasure of
22 seeing DCNR's work in the city of Philadelphia. And I'd
23 like to know a little bit more about your efforts around
24 urban conservation efforts and how we can engage people that
25 live in a city and other urban areas. Most of our folks do

1 live in those more populated areas of the Commonwealth. How
2 can we get them engaged to enjoy the nature that is around
3 them and see the nature that is in those urban areas, like
4 Philadelphia and Fairmount Park and other areas?

5 And lastly, I heard some conversation about --
6 from the previous -- my colleague just before me around
7 ATVs. I was wondering if the department has looked at
8 ebikes and the use of ebikes on our trails.

9 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Okay. I'm going to
10 talk that up a little differently than you presented it.

11 First, I'll do the -- I'll do the bad news first.
12 We have a diversity workforce problem in DCNR. We have
13 stubborn numbers that we've been pushing against during this
14 Administration. Our complement, you know, assuming we get
15 the rangers -- we're hoping we get the rangers -- would be
16 at 1,322.

17 We have at this point in our agency a 73 percent
18 male, 27 percent female, and we only have a 3 percent
19 minority. So we have a long ways to go. And that issue is
20 endemic, not only in your agency but in your field, in the
21 field of conservation. And it's a problem that must be
22 solved because not only -- not only because our
23 constitutional mission is to serve all Pennsylvanians, it
24 relates to our relevancy as an agency 20 years from now.

25 REPRESENTATIVE BULLOCK: Yes, I agree with that.

1 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: So we have to -- we
2 have a diversity inclusion program that I'm going to ask
3 Lauren to talk about in a minute. But I wanted to talk
4 about one of our programs that we see as one of our major
5 avenues because you were onsite with us for our Pennsylvania
6 Outdoor Corps. Outdoor Corps is like the modern Civilian
7 Conservation Corps that really built a lot of our parks and
8 forests.

9 In fact, interestingly, we were on the right
10 track in Pennsylvania 60, 70 years ago with the CCC because
11 we had 16 African-American CCC camps that built the state
12 parks and forest systems. So we had a good engagement there
13 in the workforce and lost ground, you know, in the ensuing
14 like 70 years.

15 But our Outdoor Corps is youth working in the
16 parks of forests. We have summer crews and yearlong crews.
17 And it's been one of our major diversity engagements with
18 our agency's work as opening this work to new people. We're
19 getting great work. The young people work very hard in the
20 parks and forests and some of them are pursuing careers in
21 the Agency. So that's one avenue that we have.

22 I'll ask Lauren to both talk about -- she chairs
23 a diversity inclusion workforce that all three Deputies
24 serve on. We hired a DEI coordinator for the Agency. And
25 we have a work plan. She can talk about that. But also

1 while talking about that, since the grant program under her
2 focuses a lot on urban areas, that's the area where we'd
3 like to really expand. We're trying to meet our mission
4 across Pennsylvania. Like you said, where people live, 80
5 percent of Pennsylvania's population lives in these urban
6 areas.

7 So I'll move that to Lauren.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BULLOCK: Thank you.

9 DEPUTY SECRETARY LAUREN IMGRUND: Okay. Great.
10 Thank you.

11 As the Secretary noted, we recognize that as an
12 Agency, we need to take intentional action around diversity,
13 equity, and inclusion. And towards that end, several years
14 ago now, we established an Agencywide committee that is made
15 up of staff at all different levels in the Agency. And just
16 this year we hired a coordinator for that for our DEI work.
17 And again, this is all based on the need to be intentional
18 about this action.

19 So some of the things that we're doing is we are
20 training our entire workforce. We have a very big workforce
21 including a lot of seasonal folks. We have about -- a
22 little bit more than 70 percent of them that we put through
23 one training program. That needs to be an ongoing effort
24 for us all to think about these issues and to be intentional
25 about our action.

1 We also are taking a look at the integration that
2 we do in our parks and in our forests and in our grant
3 projects. You know, are we representing all people in the
4 stories that we're telling? And we're working with the
5 National Park Service on some efforts around that,
6 specifically in the Susquehannock watershed. We have a
7 proposal in to them. Maybe they're listening and they will
8 fund that proposal. So we're doing that.

9 We're also doing work around recruitment and
10 assuring that we are getting our job openings out to as many
11 people as possible and looking at some of the colleges that
12 we traditionally work with and trying to branch that out to
13 some schools that might have more of a diverse student body
14 than some of the other ones.

15 So each of our bureaus has set up goals around
16 different activities and actions that they can take around
17 diversity, equity, and inclusion. Those include things
18 around communications, around programming, and around
19 outreach.

20 And then just quickly, you asked about the urban
21 areas, so switching to that a little bit. And really this
22 next piece is about pieces -- about all areas of
23 Pennsylvania. One of the things that we've done under our
24 statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation planning process
25 is we took a lot of the data that we had about where parks

1 are located, where trails are located, where river access
2 is, and we worked with the Trust for Public Land to do a
3 really detailed analysis of that data to show who has access
4 to parks within a ten-minute walk, who has access to a trail
5 head within a 15-minute drive, who has river access. And we
6 used also some screens around that, like the number of
7 children in a neighborhood. It's based on census blocks,
8 the number of people in poverty in a neighborhood, so that
9 we can use that information to try to tailor some of our
10 grant programming to grant funds to areas of need.

11 And those do run across both urban areas and to
12 some of the rural areas as well. So we're pretty excited
13 about that data. It's a real game changer for us in the way
14 that we're going to be able to really understand how to get
15 grant funds to the areas of the most need.

16 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Very good.

17 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: I'll get back to you
18 on ebikes later.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BULLOCK: Thank you. I appreciate
20 that.

21 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Next is Representative
23 Wheeland.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WHEELAND: Thank you, Mr.
25 Chairman.

1 Thank you, Secretary, for your testimony today.
2 I appreciate it very much.

3 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Thank you.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WHEELAND: I look forward to you
5 coming back to Lycoming County soon.

6 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: I have plans to.
7 I'll talk to you about that.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WHEELAND: Great. Good.

9 How much of your budget and staff is dedicated to
10 watershed management issues related to the Chesapeake Bay?
11 For example, I see that you have a \$900,000 Federal
12 appropriation specifically for the Chesapeake Bay Program.
13 There are also two new Federal line items totaling 2 million
14 for the EPA Chesapeake Bay Grant and the USDA Good Neighbor
15 Agreement. What are these line items? How is this funding
16 going to be used?

17 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yeah. And that's,
18 I'd say, a tip of the iceberg.

19 We do get money, you know, from the EPA
20 Chesapeake Bay Program through DEP to us specifically for
21 forest riparian buffers. The Good Neighbor Agreement is
22 part of the U.S. Forest Service's work in Allegheny National
23 Forest. That's limited. That's outside of the Chesapeake
24 Bay but that includes watershed. It also includes forestry
25 work.

1 And then the third fund you mentioned was a
2 Federal authority. But to the larger question of waters and
3 watersheds, we've recognized an increased need that runs
4 about twofold:

5 No. 1, Chesapeake Bay goals the Commonwealth
6 needs to meet for the water plan.

7 Secondly, due to the 2018 flooding year and
8 looking at our mission and how we could help. In fact, we
9 were in a tour up in Lycoming County with Senator Yaw who
10 really asked all the agencies, what can you do? You know,
11 what can you do about this flooding?

12 And thirdly, just look at our history. We used
13 to be -- our name used to be Forest and Waters. Originally
14 the forests of Pennsylvania were conserved specifically for
15 watershed protection and watershed, you know, implosion
16 reduction. So we have a strong link on that forest and
17 water connection, that land and water connection.

18 We've launched a forest riparian buffer program.
19 We're hosting a conference in Altoona in March, if anyone is
20 interested. But we've built the program using funding from
21 our existing grant program, which is -- I'm not going to say
22 it's enough. The Legislature -- you know, Garth Everett
23 added the Keystone Trees Program. Again, that will help.
24 Also, we've taken some of our infrastructure dollars from
25 the Keystone Fund and directed about a million a year

1 towards forest riparian buffers.

2 I'll be honest with you. It's a drop in the
3 bucket, so to speak. That will get us started on the
4 buffers. But we've built a very energetic internal team.
5 Outside partners have responded tremendously. The county
6 conservation districts have really stepped up. We were able
7 to give Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts a
8 grant. But because of their work directly with the ag
9 community, they're effective as a player. DEP is a partner.
10 It's a big partnership effort.

11 I do think going forward, we will need to look
12 pretty comprehensively at a funding stream to get these
13 forests on the land, especially adjacent to streams. If you
14 look at restore, there's a big part of that for flooding and
15 watershed. Included in that is the riparian work that we'd
16 like to do. There's work there that DEP would like to do.
17 And there's work there obviously for a lot of other partners
18 and PEMA. So it's a comprehensive thing.

19 I think that if you think about something on the
20 landscape that will help with a lot of environmental issues,
21 forested buffers are a good answer. For instance, on the
22 climate resiliency, if we would build out the 83,000 acres
23 of forest buffers that are called for in the State Watershed
24 Plan, that would sequester 5 billion metric tons of carbon.
25 So it would have that extra benefit and would shade the

1 streams. And frankly, for those of us who like fishing for
2 trout, that would keep the streams cooler. So it has
3 multiple benefits.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WHEELAND: Do you have a -- excuse
5 me. But do you have -- how many miles of stream run through
6 DCNR state forests?

7 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: I don't know that
8 off the top.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WHEELAND: That would be an
10 interesting number to find out.

11 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: It will be
12 interesting.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WHEELAND: And then also along
14 with that, it would be interesting to find out how many
15 miles of embankment are impaired.

16 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Okay.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WHEELAND: And it would also be
18 important to find out how many miles are being improved each
19 year.

20 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: We do know the
21 number that we're improving. Actually, we're working off
22 state forestland on the private land with an engagement, a
23 voluntary engagement with the landowners. So a lot of the
24 forest riparian buffers are going to agricultural land and,
25 in some cases, school land and corporate campuses.

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REPRESENTATIVE WHEELAND: Okay.

Thank you very much.

SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: We'll get you the numbers.

REPRESENTATIVE WHEELAND: Thank you.

SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Do you have the numbers?

DEPUTY SECRETARY LAUREN IMGRUND: No.

SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: We'll get you the numbers. We don't have them now.

REPRESENTATIVE WHEELAND: Thank you.

MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Representative Delozier.

REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Secretary, thank you all for being here. My question goes to -- and you mentioned a little bit in an answer you had given a little bit ago about infrastructure within our State parks. Somebody also asked about the roads and the entrance to our parks and those types of things and keeping them up to date.

A lot of the infrastructure in the State parks use special funds, like Growing Greener and the Keystone ones, to decide which projects they are going to do. So I have kind of a two-pronged question.

1 My question is, first, how do you decide which
2 projects get them and not the roads that were mentioned
3 versus something else? Obviously safety is, I assume,
4 pretty high up there. And this also goes to the issue of I
5 know a lot of those funds also drive out grants to our local
6 communities.

7 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yes.

8 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: I have a question
9 directly from a bunch of Lower Allen Township residents in
10 my particular district. We have an 1887 metal through trust
11 bridge that was just closed down. And I see some folks
12 recognize the fact of the closing. That was built in a
13 Pennsylvania company. But they're looking for grants as
14 well.

15 And so my question is kind of, A, how does the
16 State decide which State dollars and what infrastructure
17 projects are used? And how much money is driven out to the
18 locals and do they use the same criteria in deciding who
19 gets those grants?

20 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Sure. I'd be happy
21 to answer that.

22 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Thank you.

23 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: You mentioned the
24 Keystone Fund and the Environmental (unintelligible) Fund.
25 The Keystone Fund by law it's allocated -- you know, grants

1 get a certain percent and the parks and forests get a
2 certain percent; 30 percent goes to park and forest
3 infrastructure, 20 to community grants, and 10 to land
4 conservations. And that's allocated and there's annual
5 grant criteria.

6 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Okay.

7 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: It's very
8 competitive. We're able to meet about half the grant
9 requests every year with that demand. And usually what
10 happens if someone doesn't get funded the first time,
11 they'll apply a couple times.

12 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Okay.

13 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: They require it.
14 It's a matching fund so they require a match. So to the
15 extent that local government and private fundraising can
16 come in behind it and match it, that's a critical --

17 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: So you need that match?

18 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yeah.

19 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Because this is
20 something that's -- it goes across a creek, of course, and
21 so, therefore, we have Cumberland County on one side and
22 York County on the other. So we have to get those two guys
23 on the same page as well before we move forward. But the
24 idea behind it is looking for ways to match that.

25 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: There's a good model

1 just up the Yellow Breeches from there in South Middleton
2 Township where a partnership was able to look at a bridge
3 situation like that and save it. There's a historic bridge
4 program at PennDOT. They try to --

5 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Yes.

6 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: And then on the
7 infrastructure question. If we have both parks and forests
8 that use infrastructure dollars -- and as you might guess,
9 managers from every site put in a list of their projects and
10 we track them. But we're about to -- we've been working
11 with Penn State School of Engineering. They're working with
12 us to develop -- well, we have a database. We're working to
13 attach that to the SAP database so that everyone can see the
14 project queue up and the need. John can tell you a little
15 bit more about that.

16 Decisions are made, you know, at each park and
17 forest region. They queue up and they wait in line frankly
18 for many, many years. As you also pointed out, sometimes
19 safety issues come into play. We've had a terrible couple
20 years for damage, you know, climate change driven, flooding
21 damage.

22 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Right.

23 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Like, for instance,
24 we just had Beach six washed out at Presque Isle State Park.
25 We get 4 million visitors a year at Presque Isle. One of

1 the ten beaches completely washed away. Even with the
2 growing structures out there, it just washed away so we'll
3 have to divert money to that.

4 We had -- up in Senator Yaw's district, we had a
5 major road used by recreation just washed away.

6 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Slate Run Road?

7 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yeah. Slate Run
8 Road washed out. Very expensive fix. We have 32
9 high-hazard, structurally deficient dams in our system that
10 every year we tackle. Chapman State Park again, that dam
11 was fixed but that was \$12 million.

12 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: How many projects would
13 you say are on this list?

14 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Oh, hundreds.

15 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Okay.

16 Hundreds across the board?

17 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yeah.

18 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Okay.

19 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: And you'll see --

20 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: And those have yet to
21 be funded? Those are the ones that are looking for dollars
22 in order to move something, but obviously some things jump?

23 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yeah, exactly.

24 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Okay.

25 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: This database will

1 come online. Again, there's a little bit of sticker shock
2 there because it's a billion dollar backlog. And when you
3 think about it, those are all local jobs. Infrastructure
4 will generate a lot of local economy and it will bring in
5 tourism dollars, you know, to these wonderful assets.

6 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: And we want safety
7 obviously.

8 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yes.

9 DEPUTY SECRETARY JOHN NORBECK: As far as the
10 triage for those projects, you are exactly right. Public
11 safety is No. 1. Then we look at legal requirements. Say
12 you have a sewage treatment plant that doesn't meet DEP
13 regulatory requirements, we need to fix that. So that rises
14 high on the list.

15 We look at the level of services. And like the
16 Secretary said, Presque Isle State Park is an example. It
17 gets 4 million visitors. Then we're going to look at those
18 projects, get this weighted a little bit more because it
19 serves a lot more people.

20 And then lastly we look at the cost over the long
21 run for a project. So if we let a project -- if we don't
22 fix it now, what's it going to cost us in the long run? So
23 we try to factor that in. It's pretty difficult when you
24 have a large backlog like we have.

25 The Secretary did talk about our database. So

1 our project database has projects in it that are under
2 design, some are under construction, some are truly listed
3 as backlog, like there is no funding assigned for them. But
4 what you'll see here in the near future is an SAP. We'll
5 have those projects listed out and then broken down by
6 fiscal year so you can see where the money is going to be
7 spent. So if you have a \$9 million project, you might see
8 in the first year we got \$3 million; the second year, you
9 know, 5 million; and third year, a million, something like
10 that.

11 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Okay. Thank you.

12 I know my time has run out. But I think the
13 infrastructure not only in our State parks, but in our local
14 parks in our municipalities, just draws more people down to
15 the outdoors. And the more that we can get for our local
16 municipalities, the better.

17 Thank you.

18 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Oh, yeah. There's
19 hundreds of people in the Yellow Breeches, as you know. I
20 mean, so every little park along that creek matters.

21 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Thank you.

22 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Representative Owlett.

23 REPRESENTATIVE OWLETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 And thank you, Secretary, for being here today.

25 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yes.

1 REPRESENTATIVE OWLETT: When you had mentioned
2 Denton Hill, I drove by there on Friday. I'm just curious.
3 I went to an event and I actually had a guy ask me, so
4 what's going on with Denton Hill? And when you mentioned
5 that, it triggered that memory. And I was just curious if
6 you could give us a brief update on where we're at there.
7 It just seems like it's kind of sitting there and nothing is
8 really happening. Are there other facilities just like
9 that? I mean, we could really use those for revenue here
10 for DCNR.

11 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: To answer your
12 question, there are a lot of facilities sitting around in
13 need of a little bit of love. We see Denton as very
14 important. It's a place that's been along Route 6 in
15 Pennsylvania awhile. It really positions it to be helpful
16 to people traveling. We're getting a lot of tourists, as
17 you know, from New York and New Jersey. It's really
18 generating a lot of income up in Pennsylvania Wilds. It's a
19 wonderful place. You come through Wellsboro. It's a good
20 gateway.

21 And then between the Lumber Museum and Denton
22 Hill, we see that as like a recreational hub. There will
23 have to be four seasons to be viable given the kind of
24 future we have without regular snow cover. That's going to
25 be critical.

1 We've developed an RFP to find a vendor that will
2 kind of co-invest on the snow side. There's been a lot of
3 local interest in keeping -- skiing obviously is part of
4 that. That's its history. But we're looking for a vendor
5 and a co-investor on that side of it.

6 REPRESENTATIVE OWLETT: Are there any leads on
7 that at all?

8 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: I think so.
9 John, any?

10 DEPUTY SECRETARY JOHN NORBECK: So we have looked
11 across the nation trying to find folks that have experience
12 in dealing with smaller ski facilities. And we do have some
13 folks that are interested. I think the trend that we're
14 seeing is that some of the larger ski facilities out west
15 are actually buying smaller facilities in the east and doing
16 a season pass for their lands. So hopefully we can get some
17 more interest in Ski Denton.

18 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: And if we can't -- I
19 hope we get a ski operator. I mean, one way or another,
20 that's an important site.

21 REPRESENTATIVE OWLETT: Yes.

22 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: We do want to stay
23 committed to that site and also to Pennsylvania Wilds
24 infrastructure improvement. The other big thing up there,
25 trying to connect the Pine Creek Gorge into Wellsboro, you

1 really can't overstate the economic value of connecting a
2 big trail into a community. There's nothing like it.

3 I mean, we've seen it in the Great Allegheny
4 Passage. We see it on the Delaware, Lehigh, and the
5 Schuylkill River. When you invest in these big trail
6 systems and they connect into a community, the economic
7 return -- and it's not just on the tourism and spending.
8 It's on quality of life and people choosing to live there.
9 So we see the County Commissioners up there are supportive.
10 We're continuing to find the money to put that together.
11 We'll continue to search for that.

12 REPRESENTATIVE OWLETT: Yeah, that would be a
13 great economic driver for our county.

14 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: It really would be.

15 REPRESENTATIVE OWLETT: Another thing, I wanted
16 to bounce off what Representative Gabler talked about, the
17 ATV trails. We've talked a little bit about that. What
18 kind of economic impact would that have? It seems like
19 everybody I talk to they're like, man, we would love to not
20 go to West Virginia and stay in Pennsylvania and ride our
21 ATVs, especially connecting the Pine Creek Gorge, you know,
22 Colton Point to Potter County and all the way over to Ski
23 Denton. There seems like there's a lot of possibilities to
24 Lyman Run.

25 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Right.

1 REPRESENTATIVE OWLETT: What kind of economic
2 impact are you seeing? I know you reached out for some
3 feedback on that.

4 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yeah. We're getting
5 a lot of good information. We've looked at New Hampshire.
6 We're looking at McCoy in West Virginia. We're looking at a
7 park in Maryland. But I think one of the opportunities
8 we're looking at right now is from Renovo North to the
9 Bloody Skillet and then connecting north up to Susquehannock
10 State Forest along Route 6. We were able to close a few
11 connectors and solve a few issues up there.

12 I think that will create -- that's one of the
13 earlier opportunities we'll see. That will do a lot for
14 Renovo, we think.

15 REPRESENTATIVE OWLETT: Yeah. Well, if there's
16 any pilot programs that you need, we'd love to be involved
17 in that and to see that economic impact.

18 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yeah.

19 REPRESENTATIVE OWLETT: Especially with cabins.
20 People like to rent our cabins, rent your cabins, and
21 utilize their ATVs. We appreciate all the work that we can
22 do.

23 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: And we see this as
24 an opportunity for the private-sector side, too.

25 REPRESENTATIVE OWLETT: Yes. It's huge.

1 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: I think up there
2 along Route 6 there's a private campground. The whole point
3 of this is to create local economic opportunity around the
4 recreational assets that the public owns.

5 REPRESENTATIVE OWLETT: Thank you.

6 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yeah.

7 REPRESENTATIVE OWLETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Representative
9 Ortitay.

10 REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 I had a question about workforce development. I
12 know a couple years ago -- I think it was a couple years
13 ago; I was trying to get my numbers straight -- the
14 Department was traveling out of state, most notably in
15 Georgia, recruiting people to come work in the parks.

16 I don't remember the reason why at the time, but
17 is that still going on today?

18 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yeah. I'll explain
19 that. And it does relate to something I should have
20 mentioned when Representative Bullock asked about diversity.
21 The big bureau that we have the diversity recruitment issue
22 is in forestry. We get a lot of our foresters from the
23 Great Penn State Program but it's not a diverse program.

24 So because we couldn't get even gender diversity,
25 we got an exception from the Civil Service Commission to

1 recruit out of state in forestry. And it's not just
2 diversity. That does bring in other systems, other
3 knowledge, and such. So we're recruiting in the south and
4 also more recently in the northwest like New York State and
5 some New England states and also the Midwest. So we are
6 looking at that.

7 We have a lot of our workforce separate right now
8 and is focused on forestry. The Governor took a particular
9 interest in the forest industry, coming from cabinet
10 manufacturing. But when he was in that business, it really
11 was frustrating that we have lost a lot of manufacturing in
12 Pennsylvania around hardwood development. We're the best
13 state for hardwoods in the nation. Yet it's important that
14 exports to China or other places are important. But we want
15 to build more of a workforce here in Pennsylvania.

16 The bottom of that workforce chain is a logger.
17 And we're not seeing logger recruitment into that line of
18 work. It's just very difficult. It's very dangerous. So
19 we're working with L&I, Labor & Industry, and others on our
20 Workmen's Comp Program. I mean, it's very dangerous. We've
21 had a lot of logger deaths even on public lands where there
22 are contract loggers. We need to make it safe for them to
23 have Workers' Comp so we can attract workers, that they work
24 in groups and not just alone.

25 And then in the forestry manufacturing area,

1 we're looking at a -- we have a grant we're going to be
2 working on, a chain analysis of the whole product chain
3 around workforce. And then we have a program with the
4 Department of Corrections where we're training inmates that
5 are going to be released soon into both arboreus work as
6 well as forestry riparian buffers so that we have a line on
7 a workforce there of inmates getting out and being available
8 for the workforce and its attractive outdoor jobs, that they
9 will emerge with some certificates that will allow them to
10 work.

11 So we're looking at the workforce issue up and
12 down the chain especially around forestry, around diversity,
13 but also what could become a crisis if we can't -- if we
14 lose the loggers.

15 REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: Are you working with any
16 of the PASSHE schools? I mean, I know you mentioned Penn
17 State. But are you working with any schools to go build
18 curriculum particularly for these jobs that are in demand?

19 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yeah, we are working
20 broadly with a number of schools. We have Penn out of
21 Williamsport that does a lot of work for us, works with us.
22 You know Penn State. We've worked directly with PASSHE but,
23 you know, some of the programs they look at they evaluate
24 their --

25 REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: Yeah, because that will

1 be part of my question to the Chancellor when he's here next
2 week is to ask him if he's working with our government
3 agencies and departments and helping with our workforce
4 development in developing curriculum.

5 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yeah.

6 REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: Because I believe that's
7 important. And also last week we had the Secretary of Labor
8 here. Last week, he said we have a half billion dollars a
9 year we spend as a State in workforce development. So I
10 would urge you to work with the secretary over there as
11 well.

12 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yeah. If I could
13 just make one more point on that. A lot of this recruitment
14 diversity relates to like, you know, a young person decides
15 they want to work in forestry. It starts young. I mean,
16 you got to start in junior high and high school. We run
17 Project Learning Tree. It's a project that's a sustainable
18 forestry initiative, which is actually an industry-based
19 sustainability effort.

20 The Project Learning Tree just released a
21 workforce module that will start rolling out this year to
22 teachers and others. I would encourage if any committee
23 wants to have access to that or see about that, I think it
24 will really help to get that into junior high and high
25 schools to plant that seed, hey, I'd like to be a forester

1 or I'd like to -- you know.

2 REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: Well, I think that's a
3 really important part of that. On the back -- I think it
4 was on page 31 of your information here -- it talks about
5 social media reach and getting to the youth and getting into
6 the schools. I think that's a fantastic idea. If you can
7 do more to get into the elementary schools, to the middle
8 schools and high schools, I think that will work wonders in
9 getting kids wanting to get into the work field.

10 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: I think, you know,
11 forestry is being understood for what it really is. It's
12 sustainable. You got to look at it in the same bucket you
13 look at local food. You want to support local agriculture,
14 so you want to buy Pennsylvania milk. Well, in forestry,
15 you know, you want to buy Pennsylvania hardwood furniture.

16 So we're trying to create and grow that market
17 and also have the workforce see that it's part of the
18 sustainability work. It's hard work but it offers a lot of
19 opportunities. I think it has to be framed a little
20 differently.

21 That's why our Outdoor Corps Program we feel
22 introduces young people to that whole field and hopefully
23 opens our eyes to the possibilities and they see it as
24 sustainability work, which is really attractive to young
25 people.

1 REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: Well, thank you, Madam
2 Secretary.

3 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yeah.

4 REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Madam Secretary,
6 before I start the other individuals, maybe we could talk
7 our friends at PCN into spending a little time at the Cherry
8 Springs Logging Festival.

9 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yeah.

10 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Giving a little bit
11 more coverage might be more helpful to recruiting people in
12 the logging and forest ranger industry.

13 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Right.

14 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: It's one of the most
15 fun times I've ever had. I look forward to going back to
16 Cherry Springs this August.

17 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Good.

18 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Maybe we can get PCN
19 to spend a little more time there advertising the great
20 things that are going on up there in the logging area.

21 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: I appreciate that.

22 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: With that, we'll go to
23 Representative Vitali.

24 REPRESENTATIVE VITALI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 Thank you, Cindy. Always good to see you. Thank

1 you for the great work you do. I've known you many years.
2 You've been a very consistent supporter of conservation.
3 Everybody on this panel, I've worked with you over many
4 years and you all do a great job.

5 I wanted to bring up what I would consider the
6 misuse of the Oil and Gas Lease Fund. This misuse has gone
7 on for so many years it's almost become normalized. But I
8 feel duty-bound to bring it up.

9 In this year's budget, the Governor proposed
10 frankly -- and I'm on page 48 of his Budget Book. And it
11 starts out by saying, this was created in 1955 to finance
12 conservation, recreation, dams, or flood control projects.
13 I mean, the key word at least for me is projects.

14 You know, over time this has been sort of used by
15 the Legislature and Governors sort of as an excuse for not
16 spending on general government operations other revenues,
17 which I should properly raise.

18 This year essentially the Oil and Gas Lease Fund
19 in the Governor's proposal is kind of zeroed out. It's
20 estimated that there's 70 million in revenues coming in from
21 revenues from drilling on state forestland. And 69 of those
22 70 million are going out, you know, mostly to fund general
23 government operations of DCNR with some going to fund the
24 (unintelligible) fund.

25 Now, you know, I think you have to view the fact

1 that we are using all this money for general government
2 operations, salaries, and utility bills and paper clips and
3 all the rest as opposed to conservation projects. In the
4 context of the \$1 billion in State park and forest
5 infrastructure, the PA Parks and Forest Foundation estimates
6 that there is \$1 billion in this shortfall. We talked about
7 it today and those problems.

8 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yes.

9 REPRESENTATIVE VITALI: So certainly there's the
10 need for that that is not being met and should be being met
11 by this fund.

12 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Um-hmm.

13 REPRESENTATIVE VITALI: I also wanted to bring
14 out the fact that in 2017 the Pennsylvania Environmental
15 Defense Fund won a Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling saying
16 that these funds, if they are diverted to balance the State
17 Budget, are unconstitutional. I think we've chosen simply
18 to just ignore that decision. I just wanted to -- and these
19 should be used for conservation purposes, the Court went on
20 to say.

21 So I just wanted to put that out there just to
22 remind people, in my view, we're doing things we shouldn't
23 be doing and invite your comments, if any. But again, I'm
24 not blaming you. You guys all do a great job.

25 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: I appreciate that.

1 And I appreciate that perspective.

2 Yeah, in 2017 the Supreme Court ruling, which I
3 thought was a good one, that the royalties were part of the
4 corpus and that that money should stay in the purpose for
5 which it was, you know, given, like as you read.

6 So what had happened two years before that is the
7 Oil and Gas Lease Fund money left the corpus of DCNR's work
8 and it went to support the General Operating Budget of the
9 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. And since the ruling, the
10 money goes into DCNR and so the point is, I think the
11 difference is, like, the men and women who are working on
12 the public lands of DCNR are, in fact, taking care of the
13 corpus. That's the difference, I think, in perspective.

14 REPRESENTATIVE VITALI: Right.

15 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: And the question of
16 the bonus and rent was remanded back to the Commonwealth
17 Court. We really haven't heard from them on that. I think
18 that's a good question for the courts frankly, you know, to
19 figure that one out. I don't know when we'll hear from the
20 courts on that issue.

21 But the issue wasn't ignored by the Legislature
22 or Governors. It did bring that money back into DCNR
23 operations. I think the point of discussion now is the men
24 and women working on the park and forestlands and working on
25 conservation across the Commonwealth, whether it's a project

1 dollar or whether it's supporting a salary, as you point
2 out, or whether it's supporting computer software to do the
3 planning and monitoring of those, it's a question I think
4 the courts will have to work out.

5 I don't disagree with your point at all in need.
6 I mean, PFFF and us -- I know the Legislature maybe gets a
7 little tired of me plugging for restore, but getting the
8 money from, you know, the gas to go into parks and forest
9 infrastructure is not a bad idea. I think we need a funding
10 source of some kind.

11 I appreciate the Legislature coming out to events
12 and parks and forests and our grant projects in the
13 communities. I think there's a broad agreement on need.
14 And I think -- we feel there's a lot of support from the
15 Legislature on the need to keep the parks and forests in
16 good shape. I don't disagree on that issue at all. I
17 really appreciate the support that the Legislature gives us
18 on those issues.

19 I think it's finding a way to continue this great
20 legacy in Pennsylvania of having public lands, parks. Parks
21 that are welcoming and inviting and safe and clean and ready
22 to use is an important legacy. Courts will work out some of
23 these details for us at some point.

24 REPRESENTATIVE VITALI: Thank you, Madam
25 Secretary.

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SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: You're welcome.

REPRESENTATIVE VITALI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Next is Chairman
Metcalf.

REPRESENTATIVE METCALFE: Thank you, Chairman
Saylor.

Thank you for being with us, Secretary Dunn.

SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE METCALFE: I appreciate being able
to visit a little bit again.

SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Thank you.

REPRESENTATIVE METCALFE: The windmill moratorium
that the State Game Commission had placed on State game
lands, you're familiar with that, I would assume. What's
your position for the State parks related to windmills
because of the danger that the State Game Commission has
seen with windmills to wildlife?

SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: We do. So there's
experts on bats and birds. And in Pennsylvania we have an
interesting Game Commission that has mammals and birds; the
Fish and Boat Commission is the jurisdictional agency for
fish and aquatic insects and trees so we do defer to them on
the issues involved with bats or birds. That's definitely
their wheelhouse.

It turns out on State park and State forestland,

1 there's actually no authority in law for us to do that. So
2 what we can do is have, you know, local-scale solar. We
3 have a few local-scale wind projects where, you know,
4 windmill is generating for the local park office or
5 something. But solar is done just to Net Zero that
6 particular building or park. We can't do utility-scale
7 solar on parks and forests. We certainly got the authority
8 to do utility-scale wind.

9 I will point out that all forms of energy
10 development have some fragmentation. I know we all
11 understand the concerns about, you know, finding alternative
12 energy. But I think wind would have a significant
13 fragmentation. It's usually on rooftops. So for us as the
14 forest people, the thing that we probably talk about most is
15 the fragmentation concerns, whereas Game Commission will
16 talk most about bats and birds.

17 So that's where we stand. We haven't been really
18 approached or asked about the issue for quite some time.

19 REPRESENTATIVE METCALFE: Thank you.

20 And how much -- we're looking at some of the line
21 items for your Department. How much money is within the
22 various line items for new acquisitions of property?

23 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: So every year the
24 Keystone Fund generates by formula, you know, I think 10
25 percent goes to land conservation through the Land Trust of

1 Pennsylvania. It's a -- it's park and forest -- it's
2 community parks, park and forest infrastructure, and Land
3 Trust. In Pennsylvania we have 80 Land Trusts, private land
4 trusts, that operate across the State. There's a large
5 demand for land conservation in many parts of the state and
6 it's a very sought-after fund.

7 REPRESENTATIVE METCALFE: So how much money is
8 available for purchases of new property?

9 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: It's about \$10
10 million in that fund this year, 9 million, 10 million.

11 DEPUTY SECRETARY LAUREN IMGRUND: It was at 12
12 million this year for the grants program --

13 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Okay.

14 DEPUTY SECRETARY LAUREN IMGRUND: -- for land
15 trusts.

16 REPRESENTATIVE METCALFE: So are there other
17 monies in other areas of the budget for that?

18 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yes. The park and
19 forest infrastructure, we can chose to purchase land
20 directly or purchase easements on properties contiguous or
21 supporting conservation natural resources.

22 REPRESENTATIVE METCALFE: So with that and the
23 previous questions of infrastructure, like Representative
24 Struzzi had mentioned where the road into the park is an
25 issue, why would we be prioritizing spending for new

1 property when we don't have enough funds to take care of the
2 current properties we have? Why aren't we prioritizing so
3 that the monies that are in the budget that we've
4 appropriated are utilized to deal with the infrastructure
5 problems that we currently have rather than buying new
6 property and creating more infrastructure issues?

7 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: I think that's -- so
8 the demand and interest and need is different across
9 different regions of the state. And in some parts of the
10 state, we really don't have enough public lands or public
11 park assets so it does make sense.

12 And in the case of forestlands or contiguous
13 lands, sometimes we'll have an inholding or sometimes we'll
14 have some contiguous lands come available that really help
15 serve the public land. So that's a hard decision I think
16 for the reasons you mentioned. There's also a lot of
17 choices in front of us on how to spend dollars.

18 REPRESENTATIVE METCALFE: Well, I don't think it
19 would be a hard decision if you asked Joe or Sally at the
20 kitchen table, you know, if you have certain expenses in
21 your household that you're going to go out and make a
22 purchase of another house when you can't actually fix the
23 roof on your current house or you can't pave your driveway
24 that's falling apart.

25 So I think it's a policy decision that should be

1 made in prioritizing. And I think that's overall a problem
2 that's kind of pervasive throughout this whole budget
3 proposal. Instead of focusing and prioritizing on
4 legitimate expenditures of the State Government, we see the
5 continued growth of government in the areas that they can't
6 afford to be in because they can't afford to fund what they
7 currently have responsibility to fund.

8 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: I understand your
9 point.

10 REPRESENTATIVE METCALFE: Thank you.

11 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yes.

12 REPRESENTATIVE METCALFE: Thank you, Madam
13 Secretary.

14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: All right.

16 Madam Secretary, we've come to the end of the
17 questioning. I think that one of the things that is
18 important I think for all Pennsylvanians to know that I
19 think we probably have the largest park system in the
20 nation.

21 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yeah.

22 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Not only our state
23 parks but our county parks. There are a lot of local parks.

24 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Yeah.

25 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: I think we might be

1 even No. 1 in the country. I don't know if any of you know
2 for sure. I know county parkwise we were the No. 1 state
3 with county parks I believe in the nation. I had seen that
4 a number of years ago. But I don't know how we rank with
5 the State parks.

6 I know like York County has like seven or eight
7 county parks. It would be interesting to know some of those
8 kinds of things and the value that we have in preserving our
9 nature's resources that God has given us here in
10 Pennsylvania.

11 I want to thank you for coming today. I look
12 forward to working with you as we go forward.

13 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: And invite anyone
14 out to join us at a park or forest. Yeah, we'd like to
15 regain the title we had in '08 of the best in the nation of
16 State parks. I look forward to working with you on that.

17 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: We may possibly put
18 out an Appropriation's invitation to our Appropriations
19 Committee to join us up at Cherry Springs for the Logging
20 Festival later this summer.

21 SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Good. That would be
22 fun.

23 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: That would give
24 everybody an opportunity to see the fantastic operation that
25 goes on there.

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SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: I appreciate the support.

MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Other than that, thank you again.

SECRETARY CINDY ADAMS DUNN: Thank you.

MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: We will reconvene at 3 o'clock for the Department of Health and Drug and Alcohol.

Thank you.

(Whereupon, the hearing concluded.)

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I hereby certify that the proceedings and
evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes
taken by me on the within proceedings and that this is a
correct transcript of the same.

Jean M. Davis
Notary Public