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CFPA Conservation Priorities

State Legislative Priorities

- Enable Property Tax Incentive for Private Landowners to Protect Trails.
- Establish “No Net Loss of Forest” Policy for Connecticut.
- Incorporate forest, open space, and agricultural land protection into Connecticut’s goals in the Global Warming Solutions Act to mitigate climate change.
- Ensure public input process for conveying state-owned lands to non-state ownership runs as intended in the state constitution.
- Authorize Municipalities to use a limited buyer’s conveyance fee for local land and water conservation projects.
- Clarify that provision in C.G.S. Sec. 16-234(e), which allows electric utilities to prune or remove trees touching wires without providing public notice, should be used in emergencies and not in lieu of regular maintenance.

State Funding Priorities

- Keep the Passport to the Parks Intact.
- Support bonding for recreational trails, open space, and agricultural land protection matching grant programs.
- Protect the Community Investment Act against diversions or raids.
- Support CT DEEP staff refills and targeted increases necessary to implement priorities.
- Return Greenways and Wildlife special license plate fees to intended purpose of supporting the Recreational Trails and Wildlife Programs.

Federal Priorities

- Increase National Park Service appropriations for the New England Trail.
- Re-admit Connecticut into the federal FHWA/Recreational Trails Program.
- Pass Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (RAWA), Complete America’s Great Trails Act, and other CT priorities.
- Protect Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to support Forest Legacy and other critical federal land conservation programs.