



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873  
Email: [fiscal.bureau@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:fiscal.bureau@legis.wisconsin.gov) • Website: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb>

---

May 7, 2015

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #463

### **Parks and Southern Forests Operations (DNR -- Parks and Forestry)**

[LFB 2015-17 Budget Summary: Page 313, #3]

---

#### **CURRENT LAW**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) parks and southern forests staff operate 75 recreational properties open to the public, including 46 state parks, 14 state trails, two national scenic trails, eight southern forests and five recreation areas.

#### **GOVERNOR**

Provide \$150,000 annually for limited-term employees, utilities, fleet expenses, and supplies to operate several new facilities and campgrounds at 14 state parks, four state recreation areas, three southern state forests and one state trail.

#### **DISCUSSION POINTS**

1. The Department has recently added new facilities at multiple properties. In addition, several new facilities are under development or are beginning construction and scheduled to open in the 2015-17 biennium. These facilities require services including electricity, sewer and water, fuel, and cleaning and basic maintenance. The bill would provide additional operations and maintenance funding from the parks and forestry accounts of the conservation fund. While the funding was initially identified as \$100,000 from the parks account and \$50,000 from the forestry account, the administration indicates the correct funding split based on the properties and facilities included would be \$115,000 from the parks account and \$35,000 from the forestry account. The bill includes operations for facilities and campgrounds at 14 state parks, four state recreation areas, three southern state forests and one state trail.

2. The bill includes \$3,000 parks SEG annually for maintenance costs associated with a toilet and shower building at Wyalusing State Park. The Department indicates this project has been delayed but will be going out to bid later in 2015 with construction slated to begin in spring of 2016. Therefore, the facility would not be operational before fiscal year 2016-17 [Alternative 2].

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. Adopt the Governor's recommendation, as corrected, to provide \$115,000 parks SEG annually and \$35,000 forestry SEG annually for limited-term employees, utilities, fleet expenses, and supplies to operate several new facilities and campgrounds at parks and southern forests.

2. Adopt the Governor's recommendation, as corrected, except delete \$3,000 parks SEG in 2015-16 related to a delayed toilet/shower building project at Wyalusing State Park.

| <b>ALT 2</b> | <b>Change to Bill</b> |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| SEG          | - \$3,000             |

Prepared by: Erin Probst