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Depends on Us.**
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**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy in New York Before the Joint Legislative Hearing on the
Environmental Conservation Portions of the Executive Proposed Budget for
New York State Fiscal Year 2018-19**

February 7, 2018

My name is Jessica Ottney Mahar, and I am the Policy Director for The Nature Conservancy in New York. On behalf of our 85,000 New York supporters, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the Executive Budget Proposal for State Fiscal Year 2018-19 (SFY 2018-19).

I want to start by saying thank you to all of the members of the Legislature, and in particular our Environmental Conservation Committee Chairs, Assemblyman Englebright and Senator O'Mara, for your continued work to champion environmental funding in the state budget. Last year we achieved historic milestones in our efforts to sustainably fund critical programs that nature and people throughout New York depend on. The Nature Conservancy has been proud to work with the Governor Cuomo, the Legislature and our many partners to secure a \$300 million Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) – a longtime goal of our community – and see that level of funding sustained for several fiscal years. The Water Infrastructure Improvement Act, first spearheaded by the legislature at \$400 million grew to a \$2.5 billion program, providing essential funding for water infrastructure upgrades and repairs and the protection of drinking water sources across New York. And a long-term significant infusion of capital into our world-class State Parks system and Department of Environmental Conservation facilities has improved public access to outdoor recreation, allowing more people to connect with nature.

This type of investment in the environment is even more important as we have seen federal policies change to reduce environmental protection for natural resources and dysfunction in Washington DC has caused uncertainty with respect to continued federal funding for crucial state environmental programs. New York has historically been a national leader in recognizing the linkages between environmental conservation and community prosperity, and we are truly fortunate that our political leaders are committed to this foundational policy as indicated by last year's actions, which were delivered with bi-partisan support.

This year Governor Cuomo's budget proposal continues and builds on these successes. I am here to respectfully ask that you continue to support a \$300 million appropriation for the EPF, the continuation of the \$2.5 billion Clean Water Infrastructure Act, as well as support proposed capital funding for New York State Parks and the Department of Environmental Conservation. Furthermore, I urge you to take action and ensure that the proposed reforms to the state's forest tax abatement program, included in the Empire Forests for the Future Initiative, are included in the enacted budget. These important proposals will create jobs, conserve natural resources, improve public health and benefit communities in every corner of the state. Environmental programs provide clean, safe water and food, access to safe parks, waterways and other recreational facilities, important taxpayer relief, significantly improve quality of life, attract businesses and support industries including but not limited to agriculture, forestry, tourism, outdoor recreation, waste management in New York State.

The Nature Conservancy in New York

The Nature Conservancy in New York is the state program of the world's largest conservation organization. Our mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. We work in all 50 United States as well as in over 60 countries to protect nature for the benefit of people today and future generations. We have a collaborative, science-based approach to environmental problem-solving. We are engaged in hands-on research, we are land stewards for the 160 preserves we own in New York, and we work with governments, community groups, industry, and other stakeholders around the world to secure a more sustainable future.

In some ways, The Nature Conservancy occupies a unique position because in all of our offices around the state we are involved in hands-on implementation of conservation programs with our state partners. On Long Island, we are working closely with the state, local and federal government and non-government partners on tackling water quality issues. In the Hudson Valley, we are working on developing a comprehensive restoration plan for the Hudson River with the DEC Hudson River Estuary Program, other state agencies, federal agencies, municipalities, academia and other conservation organizations. In Central and Western New York, we are engaged in work with communities to restore the Great Lakes, combat and prevent invasive species, and reduce flooding. And, in the Adirondacks we have just completed one of the largest additions to the state's Forest Preserve in a century, and partnering with local, state and federal transportation officials and community groups to upgrade culverts to reduce flooding and improve habitat connectivity. We accordingly have a perspective that is both policy and practice based, and work to ensure our advocacy is based on science, our experience on the ground, and backed up by our willingness to continue to partner into the future to implement important policy and funding commitments that are made here in Albany as part of the budget and other legislative initiatives.

Empire Forests for the Future Initiative

New York's vast forests are some of our state's greatest assets. Publicly and privately-owned forests offer New Yorkers a powerhouse of benefits. They serve as natural filters for pollutants, providing clean air and water. Like sponges, forests absorb and store water, reducing the threat of droughts and floods, and combat climate change by capturing and storing harmful carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

New York's forests are also lucrative: the forest product industry employs 100,000 New Yorkers and contributes \$22 billion to the economy; forest based tourism and recreation contributes \$8 billion annually, supporting 32,000 jobs, and wildlife-related recreation adds \$4 billion annually.

But, we face a serious challenge: New York's forests are at risk from development pressure, subdivision, and fragmentation, threatening to undermine our economy, environment, climate, and communities. Governor Cuomo's Executive Budget proposed changes to forest tax laws that would help prevent forest loss and provide enhanced incentives for landowners to manage their forests for maximum public benefit. These reforms have been encouraged and applauded by a coalition of allies from the timber industry; conservation, agriculture and business organizations; and a bi-partisan group of state lawmakers.

Seventy-five percent of New York's 19 million acres of forestland is privately owned, with 57% owned by family forest owners. Property taxes are one of the top concerns of family forest owners and

influence their ownership and forest management decisions.¹ Who are these New York family forest owners? 75 percent of family forest land owners that own greater than 10 acres have an annual income below \$100,000, and 72 percent used the woodland property as their primary residence. A majority are over 55 years old (67%). 90% expressed when surveyed that they want to keep their forest as forest.²

The state has a forest tax abatement program³ that provides savings to private landowners in exchange for planned forest management. However, the program is limited in scope, and cumbersome to navigate. New York's program is under-utilized with less than 25 percent of eligible forest acres enrolled. It is amongst states with the lowest percentage of eligible forest owners enrolled in a preferential property tax programs in the U.S. In New Hampshire and Vermont, enrollment in similar programs exceeds 50 percent.

The Governor's proposal establishes the Empire Forest for the Future Initiative⁴, which streamlines enrollment, participation, and tax benefit distribution, while also adding emphasis on sustainability and management actions for carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat and water quality improvement, and timber production.

The Nature Conservancy believes the proposed reforms to the state's forest tax abatement program provide an important opportunity to take necessary action to leverage our natural resources as a mitigation strategy for climate change. New York has made ambitious commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency, and programs are underway to deploy renewable energy, repower electrical generation facilities to cleaner fuels, incentivize the use of clean cars, and use energy efficient design in development. What New York has not deployed yet is nature as a climate mitigation strategy. The Nature Conservancy and institutions recently completed a study showing that 37 percent of the emission reductions needed by 2030 to keep global temperature increases under 2 degrees Celsius could be achieved through nature-based solutions, 30 percent more than previously estimated.⁵

The Empire Forests for the Future Initiative is an opportunity for New York to expand its climate change mitigation program to another sector by incentivizing landowner participation in sustainable forestry and, where possible and appropriate, carbon market enrollment, thereby putting New York's forests to work as part of the climate solution.

In 2016 The Nature Conservancy in New York conducted research to determine the carbon sequestration benefit of changes to the state's forest tax abatement program. Our scientists found that

¹ Taxing family forest owners: implications of Federal and State policies in the United States. Brett J. Butler, Paul F. Catanzaro, John L. Greene, Jaketon H. Hewes, Michael A. Kilgore, David B. Kittredge, Zhao Ma, and Mary L. Tyrrell. J. For. 2012

² New York Forests 2012. US Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service. October 2015. https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/rb/rb_nrs98.pdf





³ New York State Real Property Tax Law Sections 480 and 480-a.

⁴ TED Article VII Part Z.

⁵ Natural climate solutions. Bronson W. Griscom, Justin Adams, Peter W. Ellis, Richard A. Houghton, Guy Lomax, Daniela A. Miteva, William H. Schlesinger, David Shoch, Juha V. Siikamäki, Pete Smith, Peter Woodbury, Chris Zganjar, Allen Blackman, João Campari, Richard T. Conant, Christopher Delgado, Patricia Elias, Trisha Gopalakrishna, Marisa R. Hamsik, Mario Herrero, Joseph Kiesecker, Emily Landis, Lars Laestadius, Sara M. Leavitt, Susan Minnemeyer, Stephen Polasky, Peter Potapov, Francis E. Putz, Jonathan Sanderman, Marcel Silvius, Eva Wollenberg and Joseph Fargione. PNAS 2017; published ahead of print October 16, 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1710465114>. Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/2DV0tj7>

by reducing the acreage size for eligibility to 25 acres, as proposed in the Executive Budget, combined with increased enrollment from efforts to raise public awareness among forest landowners about program availability, there are significant potential carbon benefits that can be achieved. Table 1 below quantifies the benefits of the proposed program enhancements.

Table 1: Change in CO2 reductions from various scenarios as compared to the current 480/480a program, in terms of various carbon equivalents⁶

Scenario	% increase in carbon benefit	Carbon benefit (Mt CO2/yr)	 Homes' energy use for a year (thousands)	 Passenger vehicles driven for a year (thousands)	 Gallons of gasoline consumed (millions)	 Pounds of coal burned (millions)
1: Current 480/480a	--	0.8	86	172	92	869
2: Increased enrollment of 480a	+169%	+1.4	+145	+290	+155	+1,466
3: Expanded eligibility (480b)	+49%	+0.4	+42	+84	+45	+423
4: Increased enrollment and 480b	+301%	+2.4	+258	+517	+275	+2,611

The initiative also creates two Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) grant programs supporting and expanding forest conservation and stewardship. One grant program encourages municipalities and nonprofits to create and manage community forests. This locally-supported and directed conservation model benefits communities statewide. For example, the Town of Webb in the Adirondacks has one of New York's largest community forests - providing timber for products, opportunities for outdoor recreation, and generating local revenue for education and other town services. The other proposed grant program would focus on sustainable management activities such as forest stand improvement, invasive species management, riparian buffer creation, reforestation and afforestation within forests by municipalities and private landowners. Both programs could potentially leverage federal, local, and private funding sources.

The proposal also includes a formula to provide important future tax relief to local governments and school districts currently forced to shift timber tax abatement program costs to other local taxpayers. The formula included in the plan ensures taxing entities experiencing a shift greater than one percent from program participation will be reimbursed by the state.

⁶ Carbon assessment of 480/480a forest tax policy (unpublished report). The Nature Conservancy, Rebecca Shirer and Chris Zimmerman (2016).

As budget negotiations continue we urge the Legislature and Governor to make a few clarifications and enhancements to the proposed 480b program that will ensure the program delivers the greatest conservation benefits:

1. Define “open space.”⁷ We suggest the following definition, “private land suitable to sustain natural vegetation.”
2. Amend the definition of “qualifying forest management practice”⁸ to read as follows:
"Qualifying forest management practice" shall mean any cutting of trees related to commercial harvesting ~~including regeneration harvesting~~; ~~timber~~ forest stand improvement including weeding, thinning, or crop tree release; site preparation for planting; invasive and/or competing vegetation control; riparian buffer establishment or enhancement; reforestation; habitat improvement or restoration for wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need; or other activities as specified in regulations promulgated by the department."
3. The qualifying forest management practices in this section should also include and/or be aligned with the detailed types of qualifying forest management practices made eligible for the proposed new EPF Forest Incentive Grant Program.⁹ These programs should be set up so that forest landowners enrolling in 480b and seeking to undertake qualifying forest management practices, particularly those focused in sustainable stewardship which are often more costly and labor intensive than timber harvesting. The grant program can incentivize landowner participation in the program with management focus on climate mitigation and conservation outcomes through this coupling of the two programs.
4. Amend the definition of “forest management practice plan”¹⁰ as follows:
 - (i) "Forest management practice plan" shall mean a plan approved by the department for one or more qualifying forest management practicess to be conducted on a combined total of at least ten acres of ~~forest~~ land of an eligible tract which shall set forth requirements and standards as defined in regulations to ensure and enhance the future productivity and sustainability of the land forest treated, and ensure successful regeneration of desirable species, when planned. Such plan must be prepared by or under the direct supervision of a department approved forester as specified in regulations promulgated by the department.

This amendment will ensure that landowners can engage in qualifying forest management practices, such as reforestation, on land that is not currently forested but is part of an eligible tract as part of their plan to enter the program. This would enhance eligibility, and conservation or climate mitigation opportunities for landowners who seek to enter the program.

Finally, the legislation proposes a Timber Harvest Notification Program. This program would simply require those harvesting timber to submit a notice to DEC prior to cutting. Many other states have a “call before your cut” or other form of similar notification program. The Nature Conservancy supports this proposal because it will provide a simple method for collecting important data that will help the state, the industry and stakeholders understand the use of New York’s forest resource, gather “granular” localized data faster than national databases provide, and allow us to perhaps stay closer to the forefront of combating invasive species and forest pest and pathogen outbreaks.

The Empire Forest for the Future Initiative brings significant opportunities to our communities. The proposed reforms would modernize the program and grow conservation efforts, which benefit all New

⁷ Add to definitions proposed in TED Article VII, Part Z, Section 4 (page 271).

⁸ TED Article VII, Part Z, Section 4(h) (page 271, beginning on line 9)

⁹ TED Article VII, Part Z, Section 6, new Title 25 definitions (page 287)

¹⁰ TED Article VII, Part Z, Section 4(i) (page 271, beginning on line 15)

Yorkers. Investment in our forests ensures a healthy and prosperous future for New York communities. We look forward to working with the Governor, Legislature, and partners to ensure reform to the state's forest tax abatement program is enacted in this year's budget and urge your support and engagement in this issue.

A \$300 Million Environmental Protection Fund

As stated earlier, The Nature Conservancy strongly supports the proposed continuation of a \$300 million appropriation for the EPF. The EPF is the primary mechanism for protecting and conserving New York's iconic landscapes and natural resources. It provides funding to deal with threats, such as invasive species and water pollution. It supports community assets that enhance quality of life and drive economic activity, such as parks, zoos, and waterfronts. And it provides the funding for initiatives such as open space conservation, farmland and forest protection, estuary programs, and oceans and great lakes restoration, ensuring that New York's great places remaining available for future generations.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the EPF is, in fact, its broad reach. It touches down in every county of New York State. For municipal governments it provides funding for waterfront planning, parks, waste management and water infrastructure – important services taxpayers expect and require. For farmers it provides funding to help prevent runoff pollution and protect farmland from development pressures, often allowing future generations of farmers to continue family businesses. For other resource-dependent sectors including forestry and fishing, it ensures the sustainability and quality of New York's lands and waters to help keep those industries in our State. For outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and interests, it supports stewardship of state lands, funds zoos and botanical gardens, and conserves land and water for all types of recreation from mountain biking, to bird-watching, to fishing, to just going for a walk in a beautiful place.

In sum, the EPF programs are a remarkable collective of initiatives that create jobs and generate revenue; support industries such as forestry, farming, outdoor recreation, and tourism; protect our invaluable land and water resources; spur innovation; and directly support local government efforts to enhance quality of life in our communities.

The Executive Budget proposes increases to key programs in the EPF; the Ocean and Great Lakes Program and the Hudson River Estuary Program. These increases reflect a continued demand for these programs that help communities address significant challenges. On Long Island, for example, The Nature Conservancy has been working closely with the local, state, and federal governments to provide the science research needed to solve the problem of nitrogen pollution in our water. Our bays and harbors, which support commercial fishing, recreational boating, and help define Long Island's quality of life, are being slowly destroyed as nitrogen seeps from the groundwater into the coastal waters. The Department of Environmental Conservation and the Long Island Regional Council are, in partnership with Nassau and Suffolk Counties, developing a Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan to comprehensively address this pressing threat.

Around the coast of Lake Ontario, communities have seen significant flooding from increased rain fall. The Great Lakes Action Plan details specific actions that will help support those coastal communities to plan for flooding impacts and enhance environmental protection around the lake. These important initiatives are funded through the Ocean and Great Lakes Program in the EPF.

The Hudson River is one of North America's truly iconic waterways. It provides habitat for more than 200 fish species and 19 rare bird species. The Hudson River is essential to the communities along its shores and beyond – for drinking water, food, travel, commerce, manufacturing and recreation. The millions who visit each year enjoy hiking, fishing, wildlife watching, and boating and support a \$6.1 billion regional recreation and tourism industry that contributes to the region's economic vitality. The Hudson River Estuary Program in the EPF supports the active protection of the Hudson River's natural areas is critical to maintaining the beauty, quality of life and economic sustainability of the region. The proposed increase to this EPF program's appropriation is necessary to ensure revenue keeps pace with the project demands, aimed at supporting the health of the Hudson River and the communities and industries that rely on it.

Two areas of Concern in the Environmental Protection Fund

The Governor's budget proposal reduces funding for the Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquaria (ZBGA) program by \$2.5 million, from \$15 million to \$12.5 million. This program provides critical operating support to not-for-profit organizations that care for living collections. These hard to raise dollars fund teams that feed animals, steward delicate or rare species of plants, and create programs to safely allow the public to view, interact and learn from these natural wonders. Whether it's an elephant at the Bronx Zoo, medicinal plants at the New York Botanical Garden, penguins at the New York Aquarium, polar bears at the Buffalo Zoo, or native wildlife habitats at the Mohonk Preserve, New Yorkers connect with nature and the wonders of the natural world every day in every corner of our state because of facilities supported by the ZBGA program. When these funds are reduced, the animals must still eat, and the fragile plants and wildlife habitats must still be carefully cared for. In the past, when this funding program was reduced and when disbursements were delayed due to state fiscal difficulties, it put a great strain on stakeholders who depend on these funds, including one institution that was forced to close. We urge the Legislature and Governor to maintain the \$15 million appropriation for the EPF ZBGA program to ensure all of our living museums, and the plants and animals that depend on them, can continue to thrive.

The Executive Budget proposal also reduces the appropriation for open space conservation by \$6.349 million from \$36.349 million to \$30 million. The Nature Conservancy is concerned about this level of reduction for land conservation, which once received \$60 million in annual appropriations in a \$255 million EPF. Open Space conservation, a cornerstone of the state's conservation programming, is critical for water quality by protecting the sources of drinking water for communities; resilience by buffering areas from flooding and providing habitats for species which will shift in a changing climate; and climate change mitigation by sequestering carbon. But it must be conserved, and intact, for us to receive these and many other benefits. We urge the Legislature and Governor not to reduce to the open space conservation program by more than \$6 million and to recommit to this important program as budget negotiations continue.

Funding for Water Quality

Last year we advocated strongly in support of the \$2.5 billion Clean Water Infrastructure Act. This program was aimed at leveraging federal, local and private funds available to municipalities to upgrade or repair waste and drinking water infrastructure, upgrade failing septic systems, protect the sources of our drinking water and undertake other critical projects to improve water quality throughout the State.

Several years ago DEC released a report indicating more than \$36 billion was needed to repair New York's aging wastewater infrastructure. Notably, that report did not take into account the impacts of

climate change, which add to this need. There is nearly as much need for drinking water infrastructure upgrades.

Last year the Legislature and Governor Cuomo took a huge step towards meeting this challenge through the appropriation of \$2.5 billion for this purpose. This funding, larger than any previous environmental bond act, is a critical step on the path towards ensuring future generations of New Yorkers have access to clean, safe drinking water and effective wastewater disposal.

The Nature Conservancy remains enthusiastic about the program emphasis not only water infrastructure funding, but funding for green infrastructure and source water protection. We believe these are essential components to this funding proposal, and were pleased with the first round of disbursements made during 2017 through the Consolidated Funding Application.

Finally, if communities are going to be able to leverage these significant funds, they must have an option for raising the local match that will inevitably be needed. Currently the tax cap does not allow the use of the property tax base for generating additional revenue for this purpose. Creating local enabling authority for towns and/or counties statewide so that they are able to leverage these state funds will be necessary to ensure they can be utilized in all regions of the state. It will also provide a method for localities to create funding for ongoing maintenance and operations of drinking water, waste water and green infrastructure. Such enabling authority could come in the form of a statewide or expanded regional Community Preservation Fund authorizations, and allow the use of one of a number of funding mechanisms such as a local real estate transfer fee, a local sales tax or a fee on local municipal water.

Changes to State Payments of Taxes on State Lands

The Governor's budget proposal makes changes to the methodology by which the State pays taxes on certain state lands.¹¹ For generations New York State has paid local governments and school districts taxes for a variety of state-owned lands. The Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves are two examples of areas in which these payments are made. Payments are also made in a less consistent manner on various other lands including some state parks and other natural areas. There are also state payments for state-owned lands that are not owned for conservation purposes.

The Nature Conservancy has a number of questions about the proposal to change state tax payments to local governments and school districts. To date, as of the writing of this testimony, we have not received enough information to understand why this change has been proposed, which lands and payments it may impact, and what local governments that host conservation lands believe the impact of this proposal will be to them.

We hope that the Legislature and Governor will analyze this proposal further to ensure that it does not reduce tax revenue to local taxing districts, and that better communication with stakeholders concerned with or impacted by this change will begin as discussions about the budget continue. We urge caution when attempting to amend the state payment of taxes on conservation lands, and urge the Legislature and Governor to remember the critical benefits these lands provide the public throughout New York State, which we believe justifies the payments made by the State to the hosting municipalities.

¹¹ Revenue Article VII Part F

Protection of the Shoreham Property on Long Island

In 2017 legislation that would have added the 800-acre Shoreham Property on the north shore of Suffolk County to the Long Island Central Pine Barrens was passed by the Senate and Assembly, but vetoed by Governor Cuomo.¹² The site, which surrounds the abandoned nuclear power plant, includes forests, wetlands, cliffs, wildlife and waterfront. In a region that is nearly “built out,” it is rare for such a significant property to remain largely undeveloped. The Nature Conservancy and other organizations have long supported the conservation of the site.

While the Governor vetoed the legislation in 2017, he did propose Article VII language that would protect the Shoreham property as part of the Long Island Pine Barrens in the Executive Budget proposal.¹³ We are glad to see this conversation continue and hope to see a positive resolution for the conservation community and landowner alike. As budget negotiations continue, we urge the Legislature and Governor to work with stakeholders, including landowners, local government leaders, conservation organizations and environmental groups to come to an agreement about how to conserve this important property.

Capital Funding for State Agencies

Governor Cuomo’s budget proposes continued capital investments in State Parks including \$92.5million for the Parks 2020 Initiative. It also includes a proposed \$40 million for capital projects at the Department of Environmental Conservation, including the continuation of the new “Adventure New York” program aimed at upgrading DEC facilities to ensure public access to recreational lands. The Nature Conservancy supports these capital investments in our state’s outdoor recreational facilities, which provide the public abundant, safe and exciting new ways to connect with nature, and draw tourists to New York to enjoy our natural resources. With an \$800 million outdoor recreation industry in our State that employs more than 13,000 people, these investments benefit our economy and our environment.

Conclusion

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you today on the proposed SFY2018-19 budget. The Nature Conservancy is proud to be working in New York, we are proud to be working directly with many of you, and we are proud of our partnerships with New York State. As a global organization we have a broad perspective, and in New York we are acutely aware of our State’s historic role as an environmental leader. Today you are presented with an opportunity to continue that tradition of environmental leadership. Updating New York’s real property tax laws to conserve our forests and unleash their economic and climate change mitigation potential is an exciting opportunity for the Legislature and Governor to create jobs while securing important conservation outcomes. Securing another \$300 million for the EPF and continuing the implementation of the \$2.5 billion funding program for clean water investments, together with the other environmental funding in the proposed budget, not only benefits all New Yorkers, but it sends a strong and clear message to the nation and the world about the direction of New York. Our state motto is “excelsior” which as you know means ever upward. Through this budget we have the chance to continue moving forward and leading with innovative solutions to big problems that leverage our best assets to benefit our residents now, and well into the future. We look forward to working with you throughout the remainder of the budget process.

¹² A. 7722-B (Englebright)/S. 6157-B (LaValle)

¹³ TED Article VII Part CC

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To learn more about The Nature Conservancy's work in New York, visit www.nature.org/NewYork.

ENCL: EPF Chart

Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) FY18-19

Open Space Account	FY17-18 Enacted	FY18-19 Executive Proposed
Open Space / Land Conservation	36,349	30,000
<i>Cons. Partnership Program/LTA</i>	2,500	2,500
<i>Urban Forestry</i>	1,000	1,000
<i>Cities with population 65,000</i>	500	500
<i>Projects in DEC regions 1-3</i>	3,000	3,000
<i>*Community Forest Program</i>	0	500
Farmland Protection	20,000	20,000
<i>Tug Hill Tomorrow for Ft. Drum ACUB</i>	1,000	1,000
<i>Cornell University Land Class/Master Soils List</i>	87	90
Agricultural Waste Management	1,500	1,500
<i>Cornell Dairy Acceleration Program</i>	700	700
Municipal non-point source pollution	7,000	7,000
<i>Cornell Community Integrated Pest Management</i>	550	550
Ag. non-point source pollution control	17,000	17,000
<i>Cornell Integrated Pest Management Program</i>	1,000	1,000
<i>Suffolk County Cornell Cooperative nutrient management</i>	500	500
<i>*Cornell Pesticide Management Education Program</i>	0	250
Hudson River Estuary Management	5,500	6,500
<i>Mohawk River Action Plan</i>	1,000	1,000
Biodiversity / Landowner Habitat Conservation Program	1,000	1,350
<i>Pollinator Protection Plan implementation</i>	500	500
<i>Cornell Pollinator BMPs</i>	300	300
<i>*Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies Catskill Research/Monitoring</i>	0	100
Albany Pine Bush Commission	2,675	2,675
<i>W/Woodlawn Preserve</i>	50	0
Long Island Pine Barrens Commission	2,000	2,000
LI South Shore Estuary Reserve	900	900
Finger Lakes/Lake Ontario Alliance	2,279	2,300
Lake Erie Watershed Protection/Erie Co. SWCD	250	250
Invasive Species	13,000	13,300
<i>Lake George</i>	450	450
<i>Eradication Grants</i>	6,050	6,050
<i>Hemlock Woolly Adelgid project with Cornell</i>	500	500
<i>*Cornell Plant Certification Program</i>	0	120
<i>*LI Central Pine Barrens Commission Prescribed Fire Program</i>	0	250
Oceans and Great Lakes Initiative	15,000	18,600
<i>Peconic Estuary Program</i>	200	200
<i>Great Lakes Commission</i>	60	60
<i>Long Island Commission for Aquifer Protection</i>	250	0
Water Quality Improvement Program	20,250	20,250
<i>Suffolk Co./DEC Nitrogen Reduction efforts</i>	3,000	3,000
<i>Suffolk Co. Sewer Improvement Projects</i>	1,500	1,500
<i>Nassau Co. Bay Park STP, well testing & LINAP</i>	5,000	5,000
<i>Statewide Drug Collection Program</i>	1,000	1,000
<i>Fire Department Disposal of PFCs</i>	500	100
<i>Source Water Assessment Plans</i>	5,000	5,000
<i>Scajaquada Creek Cleanup</i>	1,000	0
Soil and Water Conservation Districts	9,000	10,000
Water Resources Commissions	712	712
<i>Susquehanna River Basin Commission</i>	259	259
<i>Delaware River Basin Commission</i>	359	359
<i>Ohio River Basin Commission</i>	14	14
<i>Great Lakes Commission</i>	0	0
<i>Interstate Environmental Commission</i>	41	41
<i>New England Interstate Commission</i>	38	38
Sub-Total	154,415	154,337
Parks and Recreation Account		
State Land Stewardship	30,000	34,138
<i>ORDA / Belleayre Mountain</i>	1,000	1,000
<i>Parks & Trails NY Grants Program</i>	500	500
<i>Hudson River Valley Trail Grants</i>	250	0
<i>*Empire Forest Incentive Program grants</i>	0	500
Waterfront Revitalization	16,000	16,000
<i>Inner city/Underserved</i>	10,000	10,000
<i>Towns of Long Lake, N. Hudson, Minerva, Indian Lake & Newcomb</i>	660	1,000
<i>LWRP Updates to mitigate climate risks</i>	2,000	2,000
<i>Niagara River Greenway Commission</i>	200	200

Municipal Parks	20,000	20,000
<i>Inner city/Underserved</i>	10,000	10,000
<i>Tivoli Park</i>	250	250
<i>Ulster Co Rail Trail</i>	1,000	0
<i>Hudson River Valley Trail Grants</i>	0	500
<i>New York City East River Esplanade</i>	1,000	1,000
<i>*Lake George Park Commission facilities construction</i>	0	700
<i>*SUNY ESF for Adirondack VICs</i>	0	120
<i>*Paul Smith's for Adirondack VICs</i>	0	180
Hudson River Park	3,200	1,000
ZBGA	15,000	12,500
Navigation Law	2,000	2,000
Sub-Total	86,200	85,638
Solid Waste Account		
Municipal Recycling	14,000	14,000
<i>Organics / Food Waste Programs</i>	2,000	2,000
Secondary Materials Markets	500	500
Pollution Prevention Institute	4,000	4,000
<i>Interstate Chemical Clearinghouse</i>	100	100
Pesticide Program	1,500	1,800
<i>Long Island Pesticide Prevention</i>	200	200
Natural Resource Damage Assessment	3,235	2,025
Landfill Closure/Gas Management	700	700
<i>Essex County</i>	300	300
<i>Hamilton County</i>	150	150
Environmental Justice	8,000	8,000
<i>Community Impact Grants Program</i>	3,000	3,000
<i>Connect Kids Outdoor Recreation Program</i>	1,000	1,000
<i>Community Garden Grant Program</i>	500	500
<i>*Community Impact Grants to address environmental risks</i>	0	100
<i>*SUNY ESF Center for Native Peoples and the Environment</i>	0	350
Environmental Health	6,500	6,500
<i>Children's Environmental Health Centers</i>	2,000	2,000
<i>Fresh Connect</i>	625	625
<i>Land Banks for Lead Abatement</i>	500	0
<i>Clean Sweep</i>	500	500
<i>Center for Clean Water Technology Stony Brook</i>	1,000	1,000
Brownfield Opportunity Area Grants	2,000	2,000
Sub-Total	40,435	39,525
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Account		
Greenhouse Gas Reduction outside power sector	1,700	1,000
Climate Adaptation	3,000	3,000
<i>Local Government CRRRA Implementation</i>	750	0
Smart Growth Grants	2,000	2,000
Climate Resilient Farms	2,500	2,500
<i>Cornell Soil Health Program</i>	400	0
<i>Carbon sequestering farming practices</i>	50	0
Climate Smart Communities Projects	12,000	12,000
<i>Renewable energy project implement., low-income housing</i>	500	0
<i>Resilience Planting Program</i>	500	500
Sub-Total	18,950	20,500
TOTAL EPF	300,000	300,000

000s omitted. Programs in Italics are sub-allocations within programs.

*New category proposed in FY18-19.

Data compiled by The Nature Conservancy, January 16, 2018. For more information, contact jottney@tnc.org.

For more information about the EPF visit www.keepprotectingny.com.