



*The Milky Way from Cherry Springs State Park
Photo by: Dave Wyner*

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New Budget Erases 16 Years Of General Fund Support For Environmental Programs

More than 16 years of General Fund support for environmental protection, State Park and State Forest programs was erased by the new \$28 billion General Fund budget agreed to by the Senate, House and Gov. Rendell this week. In fact, the General Fund appropriation to the Department of Environmental Protection was below 1994 levels.

The FY 2010-11 General Fund appropriations to the DEP were cut \$71.9 million below FY 2008-09 levels and \$30.9 million below 08-09 levels for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

During the last eight years of the Rendell Administration, DEP's General Fund budget has been cut by 40.9 percent, DCNR by 23.7 percent and the Department of Agriculture by 35.2 percent.