

SUMMARY COMMENTS

Clark State Forest Compartment 14 Tract 10 30 Day Comment Period Ending: 6/6/2015 Comments Received: 2

The table below is a summary of public comments received concerning the draft Resource Management Guide (DRMG). The public comments received have been reviewed in their entirety and given due consideration summarized in the Division of Forestry response below.

Comment Summary	Division of Forestry Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposes prescribed managed harvest for following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Potential impacts to forest ecology, genetic diversity and habitat. ○ Potential impacts to global environment, climate change and carbon sequestration ○ Potential impacts to wildlife and RTE species (e.g. Indiana Bat). ○ Potential impacts on soils and water quality ○ Potential impacts on forest recreation • Concerns about sustainability of harvest practices and State Forest timber harvest levels. • Suggests more detail be provided in terms of timber and wildlife resources, potential impacts and BMP specifications. • Concern on potential for soil erosion and sedimentation and the effective implementation of BMPs. • Questions reliability of Natural Heritage Database records. Recommends detailed flora and fauna inventory be conducted/included in RMG. • Suggests DoF should focus management on interior forest habitats and preservation and RTE species; And, less emphasis on timber management. • Suggests heavy recreation use areas be removed from the normal cutting cycles. • Concern on potential spread and introduction of invasive species as result of management activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As standard practice, the Division of Forestry consults with and utilizes guidance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other sources to conserve habitat and avoid take impacts to the Indiana bat. • Habitats, communities and wildlife species are considered as part of the management planning process. Along with field observations, Natural heritage data has been reviewed to check for threatened or endangered bird and wildlife species on or near the management unit. As a protective measure the location of RTE species (if any) are not disclosed in the RMG. • Detailed flora and fauna inventories are beyond the scope of tract level management guides. • Further information on direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats are found in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment. http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests_EA.pdf • Best management practices will be implemented and monitored to address the soil erosion and sedimentation concerns. BMPs will be required of operator and included in timber sales contracts. DoF will respond to reported BMP departures. BMP guidance can be found at: http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-2005_Forestry_BMP_Field_Guide.pdf • Invasive species presence and control are incorporated in the management guide. The species noted are widespread in the County. • The proposed management will temporarily disrupt recreational use of

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- Suggests DoF evaluate impacts on climate change and carbon sequestration. Or, put in place evaluation standards to consider the cumulative impacts of all state and federal forest management projects across the state on carbon sequestration and climate change.
- Suggests more than 30 days be allowed for public comments.

the area during which time the area will be closed to public access for safety reasons. Users will be directed to other areas on the property during this period.

- Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.
- Indiana State Forests contain approximately 1.15 billion board feet of timber. Managed harvest levels on State Forests are set at a level to insure long term sustainability. These levels are periodically reviewed as new inventory data is collected. See http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-State_Forest_CFI_Report_2010_2014.pdf
- The 30 day public comment period will remain as standard procedure. However, if individuals have information that is pertinent and specific to the area they can present that information at any time.
- The prescribed management activities are consistent with silvicultural principles, promotes habitat diversity and supported by inventory data and field assessments. The concerns expressed have been considered and may be further addressed during plan implementation.