

Harrison-Crawford State Forest

Compartment 12 Tract 1,2,3,4

Comment Review: 11/12/2018

26 Comments Received; 19 respondents

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"> • General statements opposing the harvest prescription within the DRMG citing concerns of potential impacts to aesthetics, plants, animals, habitat diversity, recreation and ecological services. • General statement supporting the DRMG, including the outlined harvest recommendations. • Comments supporting prescribed management to provide habitat diversity, including needed early to mid-seral habitat for wildlife and RTE species requiring this habitat. • General statement of concern about old growth forests and encourages retention of those structural elements as well as allowing some areas of the state forest to become old growth. • Priority should be given to recreation use, forest diversity, long term sustainability and protection of landscapes. • Concern on potential introduction and spread of invasive species as a result of management activities. • Concern on Ash resiliency and spread of EAB. Recommends retaining healthy ash that has survived EAB. • Encourages and supports the retention of dead and dying trees for ecological benefits. Would like more information exhibited on snag density projections before and after proposed management activities. • Concern and potential impacts to soil and water resources and the effective implementation of BMPs, specific mention of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment period clarification: The public comment period for web posted Resource Management Guides begins the day of posting and runs for the following 30 days. • Compartment and Tract boundaries can be found at: http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/3635.htm The INdianaMap.org site contains a managed lands layer indicating property boundaries, but not management units which are subject to periodic change. • Habitats, communities and 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. Detailed flora, fauna and landscape level habitat 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 • Implementation of the RMG will utilize guidance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other sources to avoid take impacts to the Indiana bat, hellbender and other listed species. • Scout Mt. Nature Preserves is managed in coordination with the DNR Division of Nature Preserves. No harvest or other activities are proposed within the DRMG for the preserve. • No old growth forests are found in the tracts covered by the DRMG. However, there are currently over 1,600 acres of forest land at

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steep slopes, karst features and the Blue River. Suggests buffers or avoidance measures during management operations. Suggests more information be provided about BMPs, soil types and grades.

- Would like more detail about areas to be treated with group selection versus single tree selection. And, impact of deer browse on hardwood regeneration success.
- Concerns on how the management will impact the adjoining Scout Mt. nature preserve and conservation of Indiana bat habitat.
- Concern on potential presence of, or adverse impact to RTE species, including the Hellbender and Indiana bat.
- Proposes comprehensive plant and wildlife inventories be conducted to assess potential impacts to RTE species. Would like more information on species and potential impacts.
- Questions need for a forest harvest and timber market conditions, and sustainability of State Forest harvest levels.
- Would like RMG to include more information on harvest layout, access system and cost.
- Concern on potential impacts to public road systems and load limits.
- Concern on climate change and carbon sequestration and how the proposed management affects rate of carbon sequestration.
- Recommends more land should be purchased for conservation purposes.
- Suggests DOF provide the exact deadline for public comments.
- Suggests compartment and tract shapefiles be available via INdianaMap.org

Harrison Crawford State Forest set aside as long term preserves and development as old growth areas, including the adjoining Scout Mountain nature preserve.

- Snags and habitat (legacy) trees are considered at the tract and compartment level. The prescribed management supports habitat and structural diversity and the associated abundance targets across the landscape.
- Best management practices, including slope considerations, river and karst buffering will be implemented and monitored to address the soil erosion, sedimentation and water quality concerns. BMPs to be implemented also address concerns associated with hellbender habitat. 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
- Assessment of public road conditions are outside the scope of tract level management guides. Road weight limits are enforced by State and local authorities.
- 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. Growth on this tract are expected to meet or exceed harvest levels over time. Timber markets remain positive at time of this review. See http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-State_Forest_CFI_Report_2010_2014.pdf
- Invasive species presence and control needs are incorporated in the management guide. The species noted are widespread in the County.
- EAB is now found throughout Indiana and widespread across Indiana's forests. While the prescription will remove many affected Ash trees it will not slow the spread of EAB, nor is it able to remove all affected Ash. Recruiting Ash regeneration is an expected and

	<p>desired outcome of group selection silviculture. Conservation of healthy ash found after the EAB killing wave will be incorporated into the plan implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exclusive of cedar, group selection silviculture is expected on less than 10-15% of management unit. Regeneration is expected to include a broad mix of native hardwood species. Deer herbivory does impact forest regeneration to some degree. However, with the active hunting and rapid, dense regrowth response found on State Forest lands regeneration of mixed hardwoods is expected to exceed target levels of 1,000 seedlings per acre.• Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.• An overview of tract soil types, including steepness rating can be found in the DRMG. Further information is available at https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx• There are no recreation trails or facilities in the tract. Recreational use of this tract is primarily hunting and foraging. Those uses will continue, however access may be limited during management activity periods for safety.• State Forest management is guided by science and implementation of sound silvicultural principles to insure long term forest health and sustainability. State Forest management adheres to legal mandates and voluntary compliance to comprehensive forest certification standards.• 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.
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