

**SUMMARY COMMENTS**

**Harrison Crawford State Forest      Compartment 31 Tract 3      30 Day Comment Period Ending: 2/19/2016      Comments Received: 7**

The table below is a summary of public comments received concerning the draft Resource Management Guide. 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"> <li>• Opposes prescribed managed harvest for following reasons:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential impacts to Indiana Bat and potentially other RTE species.</li> <li>○ Potential impacts to forest ecosystem, biodiversity, habitat composition and wildlife</li> <li>○ Potential impacts on climate change and carbon sequestration</li> <li>○ Potential impacts on forest recreation, trails and aesthetics</li> <li>○ Potential impacts on soils and water quality</li> <li>○ Potential impact to karst resources and the Blue River</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Suggest tract be evaluated and considered for possible set aside for conservation, old or wild forest values, and recreational opportunities, including horseback riding, hiking, hunting, and camping.</li> <li>• Recommends no timber harvests along the Adventure Hiking Trail (AHT).</li> <li>• Concerns about stainability of harvest practices and State Forest timber harvest levels.</li> <li>• Recommends following US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service Management Guidelines to prevent take of the Indiana bat.</li> <li>• Recommends detailed flora and fauna inventory be conducted/included in RMG.</li> <li>• Suggests DoF should focus management on interior forest habitats.</li> <li>• Concern on potential for soil erosion and sedimentation and the effective implementation of BMPs, particularly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Detailed flora and fauna inventories are beyond the scope of tract level management guides.</li> <li>• Further information on direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats are found in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment. <a href="http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests_EA.pdf">http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests_EA.pdf</a></li> <li>• Best management practices will be implemented and monitored to address the soil erosion and sedimentation concerns. BMPs, including karst buffers, will be required of operator and included in timber sales contracts. DoF will respond to reported BMP departures.</li> <li>• The tract does not adjoin, nor is it within the Blue River watershed.</li> <li>• Invasive species presence and control needs are incorporated in the management guide. The primary species of concern noted is Ailanthus which is widespread in the County. A variety of management measures are considered in an overall integrated pest control strategy. Strictly manual measures are seldom effective control strategies by themselves.</li> <li>• Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.</li> <li>• Recreation disruption will occur during management activities. Hunting access and trails will be temporarily closed or rerouted for safety reasons during operations. The AHT rework will include interpretive information on forest resource management, habitat diversity and sustainability.</li> </ul>

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<p>impact on karst features. Recommends avoiding or buffering these features.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concern on potential spread and introduction of invasive species as result of management activity. Supports efforts to control invasives (by manual methods only).</li><li>• Supports the management and retention of snags and cavity trees for wildlife values as outlined in the RMG.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• Recommends longer than a 30 day public comment period.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Indiana State Forests contain approximately 1.15 billion board feet of timber and add an additional 24 million board feet of growth annually. Current harvest levels only remove an average of 14 million board feet/year- a fraction of the annual new growth. Timber harvest levels on State Forests are currently set at a level where approximately half the annual growth is utilized. These levels are periodically reviewed as new inventory data is collected. See <a href="http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-State_Forest_CFI_Report_2010_2014.pdf">http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-State_Forest_CFI_Report_2010_2014.pdf</a></li><li>• 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 anytime. (example: Cemetery information)</li><li>• The prescribed management activities are supported by inventory data and field assessments. The concerns expressed have been considered and may be further addressed during plan implementation.</li></ul>
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