Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry State Forest Resource Management Guide Public Comment Summary

SUMMARY COMMENTS

<u>Jackson Washington State Forest</u> Compartment 2 Tract 14

30 Day Comment Period Ending: 1/16/2014 Comments Received: 1

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

- Concerned about BMP implementation and logging impacts on soil erosion and sediment delivery to nearby Knob Lake. And, placement of regeneration opening above Knob Lake.
- Concern of potential impact to endangered/ threatened species. Recommends detailed inventory of birds, wildlife and plants be included in DMG.
- Questions cutting and utilization of the leaning high risk trees vs letting them fall on their own.
- Concern on terminology used to describe trees is based soley on human utility.
- Concern that harvest will negatively impact recreational use of nearby recreation facilities. Higher priority should be given to habitat and recreation.

Division of Forestry Response

- The DMG acknowledges and addresses steep terrain and considerations for Knob Lake.
- 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.
- Habitats, communities and species are considered as part of the management planning process. Along with field observations, Natural heritage data are reviewed to check for threatened or endangered bird and wildlife species on or near the management unit. Also addressed in the DoF Environmental Assessment.
- As standard practice, the Division of Forestry utilizes guidance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other sources to avoid take impacts to the endangered bat species.
- The prescribed management activities are consistent with silvicultural principles and supported by inventory data and field assessments. The concerns expressed have been considered and may be further addressed during plan implementation.
- The RMG uses forest science terminology which integrates many considerations including biological, human utility and more. Sometimes the scope of considerations are not readily portrayed by the terminology.
- The management guide addresses the recreational use of the area and the temporary impacts. Mixed uses are maintained.

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