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

## **SUMMARY COMMENTS**

<u>Jackson Washington State Forest</u> C

Compartment 3 Tract 21

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**

- Concerns with the timber harvest recommended for this tract, including prescribed regeneration openings (ROs), the tract's steep slopes and the resulting threat of soil erosion and stream sedimentation, adverse impacts on recreational facilities within the tract, and effects on critically endangered species
- Concern of potential impact to wildlife habitats and endangered/threatened species. Recommends detailed inventory of birds, wildlife and plants be included in DMG.
- Recommends declining pine and poplar be allowed to die and create wildlife snags rather than harvesting.
- Concern that 60% canopy cover guideline for Indiana Bat management not being followed.
- Concern on potential spread of invasive species as result of management activity. Recommends taking measures to reduce spread.
- Recommends area should be managed for lowimpact, dispersed recreation as a top priority
- Opposes commercial timber harvest until concerns are addressed

## **Division of Forestry Response**

- Steep slopes, streams and riparian buffers have been acknowledged in the RMG. BMPs will be required by contract should a harvest take place. BMPs will be monitored for compliance.
- Mis-characterizes snag abundance. Overall snag abundance is good with increases expected due to ongoing tree mortality. Some of the declining pine and poplar will be allowed to die and create snags.
- The management guide provides an overview of wildlife and timber resources
  rather than the full data and details used for guide development. Review
  includes field observations, Natural heritage data review for threatened or
  endangered bird and wildlife species and the DoF Environmental Assessment.
- Implementation of the RMG will utilize guidance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other sources, including canopy cover considerations to avoid take impacts to the Indiana bat.
- RMG identifies invasive species concerns and discussion of control options.
- RMG recommendations support habitat diversity, continued recreational uses and sustainable timber production. RMG recognizes recreation use of the area and implementation will also take this use into consideration.
- The concerns expressed have been considered and may be further addressed during plan implementation.