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

SUMMARY COMMENTS

<u>Jackson Washington State Forest</u> <u>Compartment 4 Tract 9</u> <u>30 Day Comment Period Ending: 8/17/2013</u> <u>Comments Received: 1</u>

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
 Concern of potential impact to Indiana bat and recommends following US Fish and Wildlife Service management guidelines. Concern of potential impact to wildlife habitats, and potentially to endangered/threatened species. Recommends inventory of birds and wildlife be conducted before plan implementation. Concern on impacts to soil and water resources and the effective implementation and monitoring of BMPs. Concern on potential impacts to recreation, and aesthetics along Skyline Drive as well as safety along the road. Would like to see greater consideration of dispersed recreation and habitat within the plan. Apposes timber harvest at this time. 	 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 and other listed species. 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. Further information on direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats are found in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment. Detailed inventories are beyond the scope of tract level RMGs. 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. Road safety will be incorporated during plan implementation. DoF will respond to reported BMP departures. Recreational use and amenities of the area are addressed in the RMG and will be further addressed during RMG implementation. 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.