

**Jackson Washington State Forest**    **Compartment 5 Tract 14**    **30 Day Comment Period Ending: 6/11/2015**    **Comments Received: 2**

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"> <li>• State Forests should be preserved from harvests as much as possible. Cites general concerns on impacts to climate change, environmental pollution, wildlife, invasive species, forest ecosystems, and aesthetics. Cites concerns about the current logging levels on State Forests.</li> <li>• Commenter would like more details than provided in the guide as it relates to wildlife and timber inventories and assessments. Cites concern of potential impact to wildlife habitats, and potentially to RTE species.</li> <li>• Concern on potential for soil erosion and stream sedimentation and the effective implementation of BMPs.</li> <li>• Would like comment period to be longer than 30 days.</li> <li>• Concern RMG does not address impacts on climate change and carbon sequestration.</li> <li>• Concern on potential spread of invasive species as result of management activity.</li> <li>• Concern of potential impact to wildlife habitats, and potentially to endangered/threatened species. Recommends comprehensive inventory of plants, birds and wildlife be conducted before plan implementation.</li> <li>• Concern on impacts to recreation, existing trails and aesthetics. Recommends excluding tracts that receive heavy recreational use from the regular harvest cycle</li> <li>• Concern on management approach for wildlife legacy trees, snags and cavity trees. Recommends no tree cutting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>• The management guide provides an overview of wildlife and timber resources. 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>• Implementation of the RMG will utilize guidance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other sources to avoid take impacts to the Indiana and other listed bat species.</li> <li>• Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.</li> <li>• Invasive species presence and control needs are incorporated in the management guide. The primary species of concern is multi flora rose which is widespread in the County.</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

	<p>timber sales contracts. DoF will respond to reported BMP departures. BMP guidance can be found at: <a href="http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-2005_Forestry_BMP_Field_Guide.pdf">http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-2005_Forestry_BMP_Field_Guide.pdf</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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. 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>• For user safety recreation access will be temporarily limited during management operations. Trail and recreation use will be considered during implementation of the RMG.</li><li>• The 30 day public comment period will remain a standard procedure. However, if individuals have information that is pertinent and specific to the tract they can present that information at any time.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>
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