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

Jackson Washington State Forest **Compartment 7 Tract 1** **30 Day Comment Period Ending: 6/11/2015** **Comments Received: 3**

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
• Supports the RMG and the prescribed harvests for Oak/Hickory renewal. • Supports efforts to control invasive species • Opposes prescribed timber harvest, stating 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. Concerned with the length of management cycles. • Commenter would like more details than provided in the guide as it relates to wildlife and timber inventories and assessments. Commenter would also like more information as it relates to RTE species. • Concern on potential for soil erosion and stream sedimentation and the effective implementation of BMPs. Cites concerns with soil types present on the tract. • Would like comment period to be longer than 30 days. • Concern RMG does not address impacts on climate change and carbon sequestration. Suggests DoF put in place evaluation standards to consider the cumulative impacts of all state and federal forest management projects across the state. • Concern there is a predominantly utilitarian (tree farm) management philosophy. Questions the wildlife value of Oak species relative to other species. • Concern of potential impact to endangered/threatened species, including Indiana bat. Recommends detailed environmental inventory of birds, wildlife and plants be conducted/included in DMG. • Concerned legacy tree data is not included in the RMG. Recommends the DoF leave ample numbers of declining trees in the 9”+DBH category for snag development. • Discourages measures to control wild grapevines due to wildlife benefits	• 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. • Habitats are considered during development and implementation of the RMG. The management approach encourages a diversity of age classes and successional stages. Grapevine control measures specifically call for retention of a vine component. Snag retention and recruitment are expected management outcomes. • Invasive species presence will be monitored as part of normal operations. • 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. http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests_EA.pdf • State Forest operations adhere to a comprehensive set of forest certification standards (FSC & SFI) to insure long term forest sustainability. Operations are subject to annual 'third party' audits to insure compliance to these standards.

	• Best management practices will be implemented and monitored to address the soil erosion and sedimentation concerns. Riparian areas were specifically noted in the RMG. BMPs will be required of operator and included in timber sales contracts. DoF will respond to reported BMP departures. BMP guidance can be found at: http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-2005_Forestry_BMP_Field_Guide.pdf • Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs. • The RMG uses forest terminology which integrates many considerations including biological, human utility and more. The scope of considerations are not always fully portrayed by the terminology. • 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 http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-State_Forest_CFI_Report_2010_2014.pdf • The 30 day public comment period will remain as standard procedure. However, if individuals have information that is pertinent and specific to the tract they can present that information at any time. • 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.