

Jackson Washington State Forest **Compartment 7 Tract 3** **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"> • 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 management cycle length. • Concern of potential impact to wildlife habitats, and potentially to endangered/threatened species, including Indiana bat. Concerned that the natural heritage database may be outdated, and would like more information on what species were identified. Recommends detailed environmental inventory of birds, wildlife and plants be conducted/included in DMG. Concern about a lack of legacy tree count. • Concern on impacts to soils, erosion, sedimentation and effective use of BMPs. • Would like comment period to be longer than 30 days. • Concern on impacts to species diversity, forest resiliency and genetic diversity. • 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 on potential spread of invasive species as result of management activity. • Concern there is a predominantly utilitarian (tree farm) management philosophy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As standard practice, the Division of Forestry consults with and utilizes guidance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other sources to conserve habitat and avoid take impacts to the Indiana bat. • 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. • 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 • Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs. • 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. • Some declining Tulip Poplar and other trees will not be salvaged and have or will be allowed to develop into wildlife snags where not a safety hazard. • 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

	<p>the terminology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. 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• 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 a 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.
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