

SUMMARY COMMENTS

Morgan Monroe State Forest Compartment 12 Tract 5 30 Day Comment Period Ending: 12/5/2015 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	Division of Forestry Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern of potential impact to Indiana and Northern long eared bat and other RTE species. Recommends detailed environmental inventory of birds, wildlife and plants be conducted/included in DMG. State Forest management should focus on preservation of deep forest habitats. • Concern on impacts to soil and water resources and effective implementation and monitoring of BMPs. Suggests sinkhole areas be avoided or buffered during harvests • Commenter would like more details than provided in the guide as it relates to wildlife inventories and assessments. • Contends the removal of Ash through the prescribed sanitation harvest will not slow the spread of Emerald Ash Borer. Suggests harvest of Ash may reduce ash genetic diversity important to long term survival of the species. • DRMG does not evaluate area potential for High Conservation Value or old forest designation. • 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 on climate change. • Opposes the harvest prescription within the RMG due to potential impacts to habitat and ecological services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. Old growth forests were not identified on this tract. • Further information on direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats are found in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment. • The management guide provides an overview of wildlife resources rather than full data and details utilized for guide development and implementation. Wildlife data/assessments are available. • 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 bat species. • 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. • EAB is now found in 82 of Indiana’s 92 counties. And, in all counties where State Forests are located except, Parke County. http://www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo/files/ep-EABstate.pdf Since

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

	<p>State Forests are a relatively small part of the forest make up in Indiana the removals of Ash under these salvage operations will have little impact of slowing the spread of EAB across the State. Slow the spread benefits would be limited to localized benefits (tract and compartment level) and those affects are expected to be minimal given current spread of EAB in Indiana. Prescribed regeneration openings will capture some ash seed and regeneration which will escape the initial wave of EAB. Not all Ash trees will be removed. Recruiting ash regeneration is an expected and desired outcome of the prescribed treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.• 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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