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

Contends State Forests have requirement to demonstrate market need

for timber, consider slope steepness, and conserve State Forests for

## Owen-Putnam State Forest Compartment 1 Tract 2 Comment Review: 3/12/2018 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** The comments received pertain primarily to the managed timber harvest Comment period clarification: The 30 public comment period prescribed in the RMG. for web posted Resource Management Guides begins the day of posting and runs through the following 30 days. Comment Summary: Compartment and Tract boundaries can be found at: Opposes the harvest prescription within the DRMG due to potential http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/3635.htm The INdianaMap.org site contains a managed lands layer indicating impacts to plants, animals, habitat, aesthetics, recreation and ecological services. property boundaries, but not management units which are Questions need for a forest harvest and timber market conditions. subject to periodic change. Concern on background water quality within the watershed, steep slopes Habitats, communities and species are considered as part of and potential impacts to soil and water resources and the effective the management planning process. Along with field observations, Natural heritage data has been reviewed to implementation of BMPs. check for threatened or endangered bird and wildlife species Concern on potential impacts regarding invasive species (multi flora rose on or near the management unit. Detailed flora, fauna and and stiltgrass), Ash resiliency and spread of EAB. Suggests leaving dead landscape level habitat inventories are beyond the scope of and dying Ash trees for wildlife snags and roost trees. tract level management guides. Locations of RTE species are Concern on potential presence of and impacts to RTE species, depth of wildlife inventories and disclosure of RTE species identified on the tract. not disclosed for protective purposes. Further information on direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats are found Would like more detail about which areas will be treated with group in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment. selection versus single tree selection. And, impact of deer browse on http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests EA.pdf hardwood regeneration success. Snags and habitat (legacy) trees are considered at the tract Suggests there is no need for additional early successional habitat on the and compartment level. The prescribed management supports landscape as would be created under the prescribed management. this habitat, structural diversity and abundance targets across Concern on carbon sequestration and how the proposed management the landscape. affects rate of carbon sequestration. Best management practices, including slope considerations, Concern on potential impacts to recreation opportunities as a result of will be implemented and monitored to address the soil the proposed management activities.

erosion, sedimentation and water quality concerns. BMPs will

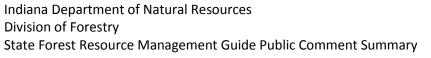
be required of operator and included in timber sales contracts.

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

future generations.

- Suggests DOF provide the exact deadline for public comments.
- Suggests compartment and tract shapefiles be available via INdianaMap.org

- Karst features were not noted in this tract. DoF will respond to reported BMP departures. BMP guidance can be found at: <a href="http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-2005">http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-2005</a> 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, and are periodically reviewed as new inventory data is collected. Timber markets remain positive at time of this review. See <a href="http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-State">http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-State</a> Forest CFI Report 2010 2014.pdf
- Invasive species presence and control are incorporated in the management guide. The species noted are widespread in the County.
- EAB is now found in nearly all of Indiana's 92 counties and widespread across Indiana forests. State Forests are a relatively small part of the forest make up in Indiana. While the prescription will remove many infected Ash trees it will not slow the spread of EAB, nor remove all dead and dying Ash. Remaining Ash snags will provide temporary wildlife benefits. Prescribed regeneration opening will capture some ash seed and regeneration which escape the initial wave of EAB. Recruiting Ash regeneration is an expected and desired outcome of group selection silviculture.
- Group selection silviculture is expected to be used on approximately 10% of this tract, or less. Regeneration is expected to include a broad mix of native hardwood species. Deer herbivory does impact forest regeneration to some degree. However, with the active hunting and rapid, dense regrowth response found on State Forest lands regeneration of mixed hardwoods is expected to exceed to target level of 1,000 seedlings per acre. Early successional habitat created through group selection openings helps provide important



habitat diversity on the Forest and across the landscape. Aesthetics along public roadways will be taken into account during the tree marking process. This may include lighter marking along the roadways, and log landing design features. Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs. There are no recreation trails or facilities in the tract. Recreational use of this tract is primarily hunting and foraging. Those uses will continue, however access may be limited during management activity periods for safety. State Forest management is guided by science and implementation of sound silvicultural principles to insure long term forest health and sustainability. State Forest management also adheres to legal mandates and voluntary compliance to comprehensive forest certification standards. 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.