

SUMMARY COMMENTS

Owen Putnam State Forest Compartment 4 Tract 10 30 Day Comment Period Ending: 4/15/2016 Comments Received: 4

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 on the potential impacts to forest ecosystem, bio diversity, habitat composition and wildlife • Concern on the potential impacts on forest recreation (horse trail and nearby campground) and aesthetics • Concern on potential impacts to Indiana Bat and Northern Long Eared Bat and potentially other RTE species • Suggest tract be evaluated and considered for possible set aside for high conservation values and recreation • Concern on potential spread and introduction of invasive species as result of management activity. Concern that control strategies are not sustainable. Supports efforts to control invasives (by manual methods only). • Concerns about State Forest timber harvest levels • Recommends detailed flora and fauna inventory be conducted/included in RMG. • Suggests DoF should focus management on interior forest habitats • Supports the management and retention of snags and cavity trees for wildlife values • Suggestions that no harvest buffer be implemented along recreational trails and facilities. • Concern on impacts to soil and water resources and effective implementation and monitoring of BMPs. Suggests a 50' riparian buffer along intermittent streams to protect water quality • Potential impacts on climate change and carbon sequestration • Suggests DoF evaluate impacts on climate change and carbon sequestration. Or, put in place evaluation standards to consider the cumulative impacts of all state and federal 	<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, and also the Northern long eared bat, which is not a federally listed endangered species. • 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. • Detailed flora and fauna inventories are beyond the scope of tract level management guides. • The management and retention of snags and cavity trees for wildlife values are included in the RMG • 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 • Best management practices will be implemented and monitored to address the soil erosion and sedimentation concerns, including riparian buffers. BMPs will be required of operator and included in timber sales contracts. DoF will respond to reported BMP departures. • Invasive species: The primary species of concern noted is multi flora rose, which is widespread in the County. Manual measures alone are seldom effective control strategies. • Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs. • Temporary recreation disruption will occur during management activities. The proposed management will temporarily disrupt recreational use of

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<p>forest management projects across the state on carbon sequestration and climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comments that the last harvest was 15 years ago and believes a 20 year cycle may be more sustainable.	<p>the area, during which the area will be closed to public access for safety reasons. Project implementation will consider approaches to minimize trail impacts. Where practicable, alternate temporary trail routes will be identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indiana State Forests contain approximately 1.15 billion board feet of timber and add an additional 24 million board feet of growth annually. Current harvest levels only remove an average of 14 million board feet a year- a fraction of the annual new growth. Timber harvest levels on State Forests are currently set at a level where approximately half the annual growth is utilized. 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 last managed harvest in the tract was 19 years ago- nearly matching the suggested 20 year cycle.• The prescribed management activities are 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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