

SUMMARY COMMENTS

Owen Putnam State Forest Compartment 4 Tract 4 30 Day Comment Period Ending: 1/15/2015 Comments Received: 2

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
<p>Opposes prescribed managed harvest for following reasons and potential impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts to Indiana Bat and potentially other RTE species • Impacts to forest ecosystem, succession, biodiversity, habitat composition and native wildlife • Impacts on climate change, carbon sequestration and pollution mitigation • Impacts on forest recreation and aesthetics • Impacts on soils and water quality • Impact on long-term health of Indiana’s native forests and their ability to respond to climactic events. • Concern on spread of invasive species- particularly multi flora rose. • Recommends thorough environmental impact survey be conducted and that cumulative impacts on climate change be evaluated • Suggests research be cited within the RMG to support findings and recommendations • Recommends longer than a 30 day public comment period • Recommends more State Forests should be protected (from logging) to maintain undisturbed habitat for diverse species • Recommends declining large Yellow Poplar trees be 	<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. • The impacts on biodiversity, forest health and resiliency are important considerations during the development and implementation of the RMG. Further information on direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats are found in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment. HEE research can be found at http://heeforeststudy.org/ • 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. • 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. • 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. • Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs. • Recreation and wildlife habitat are considered during development and implementation of the RMG. This tract is accessible, but lightly used for recreation. Hunting is the primary activity.

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

<p>allowed to die and create snags rather than actively managing for snags as prescribed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerned at level of harvest volume that may be removed• Concern on effective implementation of BMPs• Suggests access to the tract (Surber Road) and is problematic for heavy traffic.• Recommends excluding tracts that receive heavy recreational use from the regular harvest cycle• Recommends this tract and the surrounding tracts be designated as wild areas for wilderness type recreation and habitat benefits.• Questions why Oak and Hickory are preferred species to manage for over other hardwoods. Opposed to the manipulation of Indiana's state forests to favor oak and hickory regeneration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 30 day public comment period will remain as standard procedure. However, if individuals have information that is pertinent and specific to the area they can present that information at anytime. (example: Cemetery information)• Recreational use of the area is fairly low and provides a primitive, undeveloped experience. There is no wild area designation within DNR.• Public road access to the area was improved by the county in 2014 (Keene Road).• See the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment for discussion on the importance of Oak-Hickory forest and their management and other supporting literature. www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests_EA.pdf• 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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