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

future generations.

Owen-Putnam State Forest Compartment 6 Tract 3 Comment Review: 5/2/2018 **Comments Received: 7**

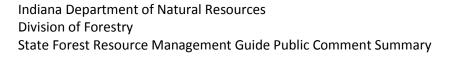
The table below is a summary of public comments received concerning the draft Resource Management Guide (DRMG). The public comments received have been reviewed in their entirety and given due consideration summarized in the Division of Forestry response below.

Comment Summary Division of Forestry Response Opposes the harvest prescription within the DRMG due to potential Comment period clarification: The 30 public comment period impacts to plants, animals, habitat, aesthetics, recreation and ecological for web posted Resource Management Guides begins the day of posting and runs for the following 30 days. services. Questions need for a forest harvest and timber market conditions. Compartment and Tract boundaries can be found at: http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/3635.htm The Concern on background water quality within the watershed, steep slopes and potential impacts to soil and water resources and the effective INdianaMap.org site contains a managed lands layer indicating property boundaries, but not management units which are implementation of BMPs. subject to periodic change. Questions if logging trucks are required to observe legal road load limits. Habitats, communities and species are considered as part of Concern on potential impacts regarding invasive species (multi flora rose the management planning process. Along with field and stiltgrass), Ash resiliency and spread of EAB. observations, Natural heritage data has been reviewed to Concern on potential presence of and impacts to RTE species, depth of wildlife inventories and disclosure of RTE species identified on the tract. check for threatened or endangered bird and wildlife species on or near the management unit. Detailed flora, fauna and Encourages the retention of dead and dying trees for snags and other landscape level habitat inventories are beyond the scope of ecological benefits. Would like more information on snag density tract level management guides. Locations of RTE species are projections before and after proposed management activities. not disclosed for protective purposes. Further information on Would like more detail about which areas will be treated with group direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats are found selection versus single tree selection. And, impact of deer browse on in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment. hardwood regeneration success. http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests EA.pdf Concern on carbon sequestration and how the proposed management Snags and habitat (legacy) trees are considered at the tract affects rate of carbon sequestration. and compartment level. The prescribed management supports Concern on potential impacts to recreation opportunities as a result of this habitat and structural diversity and abundance targets the proposed management activities. across the landscape. Contends State Forests have requirement to demonstrate market need Cultural resource assessments are conducted as part of the for timber, consider slope steepness, and conserve State Forests for planning and operation process. The gravesite on the tract has

been acknowledged and will be buffered.

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- Suggests the tract be considered for set aside as no harvest area.
- Suggests DOF provide the exact deadline for public comments.
- Suggests compartment and tract shapefiles be available via INdianaMap.org
- Concern on potential impacts to cultural resources (gravesite)
- Best management practices, including slope considerations, will be implemented and monitored to address the soil erosion, sedimentation and water quality concerns. BMPs will be required of operator and included in timber sales contracts. Karst features were not noted in this tract. 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
- Road weight limits are enforced by State and local authorities.
- Aesthetics along public roadways are expected to be minimally impacted since the roadway is somewhat distant from the tract.
- 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. Growth on this tract are expected to meet or exceed harvest levels over time. Timber markets remain positive at time of this review. See http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-State Forest CFI Report 2010 2014.pdf
- Invasive species presence and control needs 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 affected Ash. The remaining dead and dying Ash will provide temporary wildlife benefits. Prescribed regeneration opening will capture some ash seed and regeneration which will 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 less than 10% of this tract exclusive of the non-native pine areas. 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. 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
 - 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.