

**SUMMARY COMMENTS**

**Yellowwood State Forest    Compartment 11 Tract 5    30 Day Comment Period Ending: 5/20/2016    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"> <li>• Opposes prescribed managed harvest for following reasons:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential impacts to forest ecology and habitat.</li> <li>○ Potential impacts to global environment, climate change and carbon sequestration</li> <li>○ Potential impacts to wildlife and RTE species (e.g. Indiana Bat).</li> <li>○ Potential impacts on soils and water quality</li> <li>○ Concern on the potential impacts on forest recreation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Suggest tract be evaluated and considered for possible set aside for conservation, old or wild forest values.</li> <li>• Concerns about sustainability of harvest practices and State Forest timber harvest levels.</li> <li>• Recommends following US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service Management Guidelines to prevent take of the Indiana bat. Also, recommends hands off approach.</li> <li>• Recommends detailed flora and fauna inventory be conducted/included in RMG.</li> <li>• Suggests DoF should focus management on interior forest habitats.</li> <li>• Concern on potential for soil erosion and sedimentation and the effective implementation of BMPs. Recommends avoiding or buffering sensitive features.</li> <li>• Concern on potential spread and introduction of invasive species as result of management activity. Supports efforts to control invasives (by manual methods only).</li> <li>• Supports the management and retention of snags and cavity trees for wildlife values as outlined in the RMG.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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. As a protective measure the location of RTE species (if any) are not disclosed in the RMG.</li> <li>• Detailed flora and fauna inventories are beyond the scope of tract level management guides.</li> <li>• Further information on direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats are found in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment. <a href="http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests_EA.pdf">http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests_EA.pdf</a></li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The proposed management will temporarily disrupt recreational use of the area (primarily hunting and foraging), during which the area will be closed to public access for safety reasons.</li> <li>• Invasive species presence and control needs are incorporated in the management guide. The species noted are widespread in the County. A variety of management measures are considered in an overall integrated pest control strategy. Strictly manual measures are seldom effective control strategies by themselves.</li> <li>• Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.</li> <li>• State budgeting is outside the scope of RMGs.</li> </ul>

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

State Forest Resource Management Guide Public Comment Summary

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concerned that the management prescriptions are being driven by the income needs. Suggests State Forest budgets be increased.</li><li>• 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 forest management projects across the state on carbon sequestration and climate change.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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/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 <a href="http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-State_Forest_CFI_Report_2010_2014.pdf">http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-State_Forest_CFI_Report_2010_2014.pdf</a></li><li>• 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.</li></ul>
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