

**SUMMARY COMMENTS**

**Yellowwood State Forest      Compartment 12 Tract 8      30 Day Comment Period Ending: 2/13/2016      Comments Received: 13**

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 harvest of timber 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, Cerulean Warbler).</li> <li>○ Potential impacts on soils and water quality</li> <li>○ Potential impacts on aesthetics, tourism and recreation (hunting, hiking)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Suggests some State Forest acreage be managed for old forest conditions or set asides.</li> <li>• Concerns about sustainability of harvest practices and State Forest timber harvest levels.</li> <li>• Concerned on impacts to the Tecumseh Trail and suggests no harvesting along trail corridors.</li> <li>• Recommends following US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service Management Guidelines to prevent take of the Indiana bat.</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 spread and introduction of invasive species as result of management activity.</li> <li>• Suggests DoF evaluate impacts on climate change and carbon sequestration. Or, put in place evaluation</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.</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. BMP guidance can be found at: <a href="http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-2005_Forestry_BMP_Field_Guide.pdf">http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-2005_Forestry_BMP_Field_Guide.pdf</a></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.</li> <li>• Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.</li> <li>• Hunting access and trails will be temporarily closed or rerouted for</li> </ul>

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<p>standards to consider the cumulative impacts of all state and federal forest management projects across the state on carbon sequestration and climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Would like more info on impacts to ecologic service, wildlife, BMPs</li><li>• Supports or understand need for forest management</li><li>• Supports harvests for forest health purposes, but not for revenue or job creation.</li><li>• Suggests public comment period longer than 30 days</li></ul>	<p>safety reasons during operations. Tecumseh Trail considerations will be incorporated into the implementation of the RMG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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 any time. (example: Cemetery information)</li><li>• Indiana State Forests contain approximately 1.15 billion board feet of timber. 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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