

SUMMARY COMMENTS

Yellowwood State Forest Compartment 7 Tract 17 30 Day Comment Period Ending: 1/16/2014 Comments Received: 1

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"> • Recommends light thinning of pole timber through TSI to regenerate Oak rather than group selection silviculture. • Concerned about potential soil erosion and proper implementation of BMPs. • Contends premature sedimentation of Yellowwood Lake correlates with recent sharp increase in timber harvests. • Commenter would like more details than provided in the guide as it relates to harvest levels, wildlife and timber inventories and assessments. Recommends detailed inventory of birds, wildlife and plants be included in DMG. • Concern on spread of stilt grass as result of management activities. • Concern that harvest will negatively impact recreational use of tract (horse trail). Encourages balanced approach to habitat and recreation (mixed use management). • Recommends guide be reposted with additional information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prescribed management activities are consistent with silvicultural principles and supported by inventory data and field assessments. The suggested light pole thinning to promote oak regeneration is not an effective treatment. • 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. • Yellowwood Lake studies do not support contention YWSF timber harvests as a primary contributor to the lake sedimentation. • Habitats, communities and species are considered within the management planning process. Along with field observations, Natural heritage data are reviewed to check for threatened or endangered bird and wildlife species on or near the management unit. • The posted management guide provides an overview of wildlife and timber resources rather than the full data and details used for guide development. Timber inventory and wildlife data/assessments on file. • Harvest levels will maintain woodlands in fully stocked range, exclusive of ROs. • The management guide notes presence of exotic species in the area. Site will be monitored for stilt grass populations. • Implementation of the management guide will consider the recreational use of the area. The noted horse trail receives relatively low use and will be temporarily closed during management activity. Mixed uses remain a tract objective. • As standard practice, the Division of Forestry utilizes guidance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other sources to avoid take impacts to the Indiana bat • The concerns expressed have been considered and may be further addressed during plan implementation.