

**SUMMARY COMMENTS**

**Yellowwood State Forest    Compartment 8 Tract 20    30 Day Comment Period Ending: 1/18/2015    Comments Received: 11**

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>• Concern or opposition to harvesting trees on this Yellowwood Lake tract due to erosion, sedimentation, recreation, habitat and aesthetic concerns. Concern on effective use of BMPs.</li> <li>• Concerned on disruptive impacts of prescribed harvests to other forest users and impact to the Tecumseh Trail and trail user experience. Suggests tracts heavily used for recreation be excluded from the regular harvest cycle.</li> <li>• Supports the RMG recommendations and science based silviculture to achieve multi-succession forest and the inherent benefits.</li> <li>• Concern there is a predominantly utilitarian management philosophy</li> <li>• Suggests more land be managed for deep forest habitat.</li> <li>• Suggests there is a shortage of early (young) successional forest</li> <li>• Supports multiple use on public lands. Suggests harvest levels on State Forest be lowered.</li> <li>• Limiting forest harvesting will cause a decrease in wildlife diversity, affecting many species depending on younger wooded areas.</li> <li>• Concern that some tree marking may have occurred in this tract or another referenced tract during the comment period.</li> <li>• Concern that tract is part of a proposed wild area plan.</li> <li>• State Forests should be preserved from harvests as much as possible. Cites general concerns on impacts to climate change, environmental pollution, wildlife, invasive species, forest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the RMG will include a lake buffer and considerations of values and potential impacts to Yellowwood Lake.</li> <li>• Recreation use will be impacted as a result of prescribed harvest operations. However, the hiking trail will be given buffer considerations during tree marking, harvest and site remediation activities. As well as possible interpretive opportunities.</li> <li>• Recreational use of the area will be closed to public access for safety reasons during operations. Closure would likely be 2-6 months in duration. Anticipated frequency of managed harvests in this area is once every 15-20 years.</li> <li>• Per the Resource Management Process, the flowchart order and timeline are for reference and are approximate. Actual process activities may occur somewhat out of the shown order. Comments received during comment periods are given consideration as part of the overall management process.</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 management guide provides an overview of wildlife and timber resources rather than full data and details utilized for</li> </ul>

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ecosystems, and aesthetics.

- Wildlife need a diversity of habitats (mix of forest types) and early successional habitats have greatly declined. Supports managed timber harvests and multiple use management.
- Concern of potential impact to endangered/threatened species. Recommends thorough environmental assessment and detailed environmental inventory of birds, wildlife and plants be conducted/included in DMG.
- Commenter would like more details than provided in the guide as it relates to wildlife and timber inventories, assessments and specific measures to manage potential impacts.
- Concern on potential spread of invasive species as result of management activity.
- Objects to prescribed harvest and utilization of Ash trees (Emerald Ash Borer infestations). Concern that removals will eliminate potentially resistant trees and not slow the spread of EAB.
- Concern RMG does not address impacts on climate change and carbon sequestration. Suggests DoF put in place evaluation standards to consider the cumulative impacts of all state and federal forest management projects across the state.

guide development and implementation. Timber inventory and wildlife assessments are available.

- Habitats, communities and 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. Concern also addressed in the DoF Environmental Assessment. The DoF Environmental Assessment can be found at [www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests\\_EA.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests_EA.pdf)
- There are no designated backcountry recreation areas on this tract, or DNR wild area plan for this area.
- Implementation of the RMG will utilize guidance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other sources to avoid take impacts to the Indiana and other listed bat species.
- Invasive species presence will be monitored as part of normal operations.
- EAB is now found in 82 of Indiana's 92 counties. And, in all counties where State Forests are located except, Parke County. <http://www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo/files/ep-EABstate.pdf> Since State Forests are a relatively small part of the forest make up in Indiana the removals of Ash under these salvage operations will have little impact of slowing the spread of EAB across the State. Slow the spread benefits would be limited to localized benefits (tract and compartment level) and those affects are not expected to be long lasting given current spread of EAB in Indiana. Many ash trees in this tract won't be harvested. Further, prescribed regeneration opening will capture some ash seed and regeneration to bridge the initial wave of EAB.

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	<p>Recruiting Ash regeneration ahead of the EAB wave is an expected and desired outcome of the group selection prescription.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>
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