



SUMMARY COMMENTS

Clark State Forest, Compartment 7, Tract 10 & Compartment 15, Tract 14

30 Day Comment Period Ending: 3/5/2024

Comments Received: 2

The table below is a summary of public comments received concerning the draft Resource Management Guide(s). 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"> • General concern with forest management on public land, wildlife, water quality, recreation, climate change, and oak-hickory management. • Concerns with Deam Lake and Stone Branch Creek. • Concern with Tree Lane Loop Horse Trail. • Concern regarding stream identification in compartment 7 tract 10. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Forest management is guided by science and implementation of sound silvicultural principles. They adhere to legal mandates and voluntary compliance with a comprehensive set of forest certification standards for long term forest sustainability. State Forests are subject to annual ‘third party’ audits for compliance with these standards. https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/forest-certification/state-forests/ • Silvicultural prescriptions proposed in draft RMGs include NHD reviews as well as Division of Forestry staff reviews, which include forest wildlife specialist and forest ecologist/botanist. Further information on direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats are found in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment. Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment • The state forest system encompasses 160,251 acres. Each state forest is divided into compartments and tracts. Within those compartment and tract acres there are water features, nature preserves, high conservation value forests, campgrounds, shelters and picnic areas, administration areas, and other sensitive areas

	<p>removed from active forest management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Detailed flora and fauna inventories are beyond the scope of tract level management guides. Habitats, communities, and species are considered as part of the management planning process. Along with field observations, Natural Heritage Data review for threatened or endangered species (federally and state) on or near the management unit are considered. <i>Please note, for the protection of sensitive flora and fauna NHD review results are not disclosed in draft RMGs.</i> Further information on direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats are found in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment. Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment• Clarification, compartment 7 tract 10 has two intermittent streams that merge near the center of the tract to become a perennial stream. This notation was inadvertently omitted from the draft RMG. The draft RMG has been updated to reflect what the National Hydrography Dataset indicates for this area.• Continuous forest inventory (CFI) data (2021) indicates Indiana State Forests contain approximately 61.3 million live trees, 1 billion board feet (Doyle) of sawlog volume with an estimated annual growth of 22.1 million board feet. Managed harvest levels are set at a level to insure long term sustainability. These levels are periodically reviewed as new Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) data is collected. See https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-continuous-forest-inventory-property-report-2017-2021.pdf
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- Clark State Forest is currently 4% young forest (0-19 years of age), 1% age 20-39, 44% age 40 – 99, and 51% age 100+. Oak and hickory are key components of several forest types at Clark State Forest, representing approximately 74% of the acres. Chestnut and white oak alone dominate 47% of the acreage. Oak dominated forest types provide many ecological services and retention within the forested landscape is a concern throughout the central hardwood region.
- Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level resource management guides. See https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fw-carbon_assessment.pdf
- Best management practices (BMP) will be implemented and monitored to address the soil erosion and sedimentation concerns. BMPs are required and included in each timber sale contract on state forests. The Division of Forestry will respond to reported BMP departures. BMP guidance can be found at: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/BMP.pdf>
- The Division of Forestry considers recreational impacts during the planning and execution of management activities. The visual enhancement area (VEA) policy requires visual consideration when managing within high-use public roads or high-use recreational facilities (i.e., picnic area, campground, etc.). Sections of recreational trails may require closure or temporary rerouting for public safety during active management. Those sections reopen

	<p>once work is complete.</p>
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