Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry State Forest Resource Management Guide Public Comment Summary

## **SUMMARY COMMENTS**

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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
Opposes prescribed timber harvest Concern area not fully recovered from the 1999 harvest. Recommends delaying harvest to monitor regeneration openings. Concern harvest of pine to accelerate native hardwood restorations is not responsible management approach. Concern on terminology used to describe trees is utilitarian in nature. Concern that harvest will encourage invasive species growth. Concern on timeliness of handling public records request. Concern of potential impact to endangered/threatened species. Recommends detailed inventory of birds, wildlife and plants be included in DMG.	<ul> <li>The 1999 harvest covered 52 acres of the 199 acre tract. Site inventories and assessments document recovery and current conditions.</li> <li>The 1999 regeneration openings will not be included in the prescribed harvest.</li> <li>Habitats, communities and species are considered as part of 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. Also, addressed in the DoF Environmental Assessment.</li> <li>Area will be monitored for invasive species outbreaks and control measures implemented appropriate for the area.</li> <li>The RMG uses forest terminology which integrates many considerations including biological, human utility and more. Sometimes the scope of considerations are not readily portrayed by the terminology.</li> <li>Public record requests are handled according to policy.</li> <li>The prescribed management activities are consistent with silvicultural principles and supported by inventory data and field assessments.</li> <li>The concerns expressed have been considered and may be further addressed during plan implementation.</li> </ul>