

**Resource Management Guides
Ferdinand State Forest
30-day Public Comment Period (February 20 – March 21)**

The Indiana State Forest system consists of approximately 160,251 acres of primarily forested land. These lands are managed under the principle of multiple use-multiple benefit to provide forest conservation, goods, and services for current and future generations. The management is guided by scientific principles, guiding legislation and comprehensive forest certification standards which are independently audited to help insure long term forest health, resiliency, and sustainability.

For management and planning purposes each State Forest is divided into a system of compartments and tracts. In general terms compartments are 300-1,000 acres in size and their subunits (tracts) are 10 - 300 acres in size. Resource Management Guides (RMGs) are then developed for each compartment or tract to guide their management through a 15-25 year management period. There are approximately 1,600 tracts in the State Forest system. During annual planning efforts 50-100 tracts are reviewed and RMGs developed based on current conditions, inventories and assessments.

The RMGs listed below and contained in this document are part of the properties annually scheduled forest inventories under review for Ferdinand State Forest.

Compartment 1 Tract 9 (Amendment)

To submit a comment on this document, go to:

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/state-forest-management/public-comment/submit/>

You must indicate the State Forest Name, Compartment number and Tract number in the "subject or file reference" line to ensure that your comment receives appropriate consideration. Comments received within 30 days of posting will be considered and review posted at:

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/state-forest-management/public-comment/>

Note: Some graphics may distort due to compression.

Ferdinand-Pike State Forest
Compartment 1 Tract 9
Resource Management Guide Amendment
February 8, 2023

The most recent management guide for Compartment 1 Tract 9 (6310109) posted for public comment May 16, 2016, did not include the use of prescribed fire as an option for management within the tract. A significant portion of the tract consists of white oak sawtimber, but the understory in these areas primarily consists of sugar maple and American beech regeneration. Additionally, this tract contains a fire lane and trail system which would function well as a fire break for a prescribed fire. The most recent management guide prescribed a harvest across the tract, so data indicates the need for management.

This area would be a high priority candidate for prescribed fire considering the combination of good white oak seed source, the need for oak regeneration in the understory, and the current lack of such, and the good access for a prescribed fire. The only challenge to using fire in this area would be the nearby turkey farm. This concern could be mitigated in the plan by limiting fire application to preclude any east wind component. The original inventory and management plan was never executed and exceeds the five-year policy for reposting. The tract will be reevaluated (i.e., forest inventory and new RMG) before the timber harvest prescription of the guide is executed. In the meantime, a prescribed fire regime is recommended to improve conditions making them favorable for the establishment and advancement of oak and hickory species in advance of a timber harvest.