

Harrison-Crawford State Forest **Compartment 29 Tract 2** **Comment Review: 3/29/2018** **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"> • Opposes the harvest prescription within the DRMG due to potential impacts to plants, animals, habitat, recreation and ecological services. • Questions need for the prescribed managed harvest and timber market conditions. • Concern on steep slopes, karst features and potential impacts to soil and water resources and the effective implementation of BMPs. Support buffer considerations stated in the DRMG. • Concern on potential impacts regarding invasive species (Ailanthus). • Concern on potential presence of and impacts to RTE species (Eastern hellbender, Northern cavefish, Eastern woodrat), depth of wildlife inventories and disclosure of RTE species identified on the tract. • Concern on impact of deer browse on hardwood regeneration success. • Suggests there is no need for additional early successional habitat on the landscape as would be created under the prescribed management. Recommends the area be allowed to grow undisturbed and achieve an old growth condition and be considered for HCV. • Recommends snag retention and/or snag creation by girdling large diameter trees. • Concern on carbon sequestration and how the proposed management affects rate of carbon sequestration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment period clarification: The 30 public comment period for web posted Resource Management Guides begins the day of posting and runs for the following 30 days. • Compartment and Tract boundaries can be found at: http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/3635.htm The INdianaMap.org site contains a managed lands layer indicating property boundaries, but not management units which are subject to periodic change. • 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. Detailed flora, fauna and landscape level habitat inventories are beyond the scope of tract level management guides. While locations of RTE species are not disclosed for protective purposes, the species of concern are not expected to be adversely impacted by the prescription. Further information on direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats are found in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment. http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests_EA.pdf • Snags and habitat (legacy) trees are considered at the tract and compartment level. The prescription supports this habitat, structural diversity and abundance targets across the landscape. • Best management practices, including buffers and slope considerations are addressed in the DRMG and will be implemented and monitored to address the soil erosion, sedimentation and water quality concerns. BMPs will be required of operator and included in timber sales contracts. DoF will respond to reported BMP departures. BMP guidance can be found at:

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suggests DOF provide the exact deadline for public comments.• Suggests compartment and tract shapefiles be available via INdianaMap.org	<p>http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-2005_Forestry_BMP_Field_Guide.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indiana State Forests contain approximately 1.15 billion board feet of timber. Managed harvest levels on State Forests are set at a level to insure long term sustainability, and are periodically reviewed as new inventory data is collected. Timber markets remain positive at time of this review. See http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-State_Forest_CFI_Report_2010_2014.pdf• Invasive species presence and control are incorporated in the management guide. The species noted are widespread in the County.• Single Tree selection is expected to be the primary silvicultural treatment used during the prescribed harvest. Group selection for regeneration will be used to a lesser degree, and regrowth is expected to include a broad mix of native hardwood species. Deer herbivory does impact forest regeneration to some degree. However, with the active hunting and rapid, dense regrowth response found on State Forest lands regeneration of mixed hardwoods is expected to exceed to target level of 1,000 seedlings per acre. Early successional habitat created through group selection openings helps provide important habitat diversity on the Forest and across the landscape.• Assessing rates of carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.• There are no recreation trails in the tract. Recreational use of this tract is primarily hunting and foraging. Those uses will continue, however access may be limited during management activity periods for safety.• State Forest management is guided by science and implementation of sound silvicultural principles to insure long term forest health and sustainability. State Forest management also adheres to legal mandates and voluntary compliance to comprehensive forest certification standards.• 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.
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