

Jackson Washington State Forest Compartment 10 Tract 31 30 Day Comment Period Ending: 1/3/2014 Comments Received: 2

The table below is a summary of public comments received concerning the draft Resource Management Guide (DRMG). 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"> • Concern on economics and impacts to recreation, wildlife habitat and climate change. • Proposes tract to grow for another management cycle in order to help stabilize and replenish the depleted soils • Concern on potential for soil erosion and stream sedimentation and the effective implementation of BMPs • Questions need of prescribed management to achieve desired results. Questions value of actively managing for oak species. • Concerned about utilitarian terminology used to describe trees and forest conditions and that full range of values are not considered. Concern about utilitarian (tree farm) management philosophy. • Concern of potential impact to wildlife habitats, and potentially to endangered/threatened species. Recommends comprehensive inventory of birds and wildlife be conducted before plan implementation. • Objects to harvest and utilization of Ash trees ahead of Emerald Ash Borer infestations. Concern that removals will eliminate potentially resistant trees and not slow the spread of EAB. • Opposes commercial harvesting in this tract and potential backcountry area impacts. • Concern on potential spread of invasive species as result of management activity. Concerned about the removal of wild grapevine from the tract. • Concern RMG does not address impacts on climate change and carbon sequestration. Suggests DoF put in place evaluation standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While the State Forest managed timber sales provide important contributions to the State economy and support many Division of Forestry programs, including recreation, private landowner assistance, conservation education and others, the resource management decisions are guided by science and the principles of forestry and forest sustainability. • 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. BMP guidance can be found at: http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-2005_Forestry_BMP_Field_Guide.pdf • State Forest operations adhere to a comprehensive set of forest certification standards (FSC & SFI) to insure long term forest sustainability. Operations are subject to 'third party' audits to insure compliance to these standards. www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/7532.htm • The RMG uses forest terminology which integrates many considerations including biological, human utility and more. The scope of considerations are not always fully portrayed by the terminology. • Habitats, communities and wildlife species are considered as part of the management planning process. Along with field observations, Natural heritage data has been reviewed to

to consider the cumulative impacts of all state and federal forest management projects across the state.

check for threatened or endangered bird and wildlife species on or near the management unit. Grapevine control measures specifically call for retention of a vine component. 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

- The importance of Oak sp. is well documented. While oak and hickory species may be present in the understory and regeneration layers they will require sunlight to survive, grow and remain in the stand.
- Where applicable, resource management will follow backcountry guidelines.
- EAB is widespread throughout Indiana, including the counties surrounding the State Forest.
<http://www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo/5349.htm> . Recruiting ash regeneration is an expected and desired outcome of the prescribed treatment. While the prescription will remove many infected Ash trees it will not and is unable to remove all infested Ash trees.
- Invasive species presence, management and control are incorporated in the RMG.
- Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.
- 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.