

**Resource Management Guides
Jackson-Washington State Forest
30-day Public Comment Period (December 5 – January 3, 2022)**

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 tract to guide their management through a 15-25 year management period. There are 1,590 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 Jackson-Washington State Forest RMGs listed below were previously posted for a 30-day public comment period. Because 5 or more years has elapsed since the last comment period with no prescribed management activities initiated, the original RMG(s) are being reposted for public comment. The tracts have been reviewed and any amendments to the original RMG(s) addressed below.

Compartment 1 Tract 14
Compartment 3 Tract 13
Compartment 7 Tract 3
Compartment 13 Tract 1

Compartment 1 Tract 15
Compartment 7 Tract 2
Compartment 11 Tract 21 & 22

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.

**Jackson-Washington State Forest
Compartment 1 Tract 14
Resource Management Guide (Amendment)
October 7, 2022**

Link to original RMG:

https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-JW_C1_T14_12162010.pdf

Compartment 1 Tract 14 (Amendment)

Identified as 6350114 https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/compmaps/fo-JW_CT_Boundaries.pdf

During a recent field reconnaissance of compartment 1 tract 14, the following observations were noted.

- Sassafras seedlings constitute the primary regeneration in the oak cover type. However, pignut and shagbark hickory seedlings and some Northern red and chestnut oak seedlings are scattered throughout.
- The transition between the chestnut oak and oak cover types, mixed hardwood species have become more predominant. Tulip poplar, sugar maple, and American beech have outcompeted and displaced the oaks that were present during the inventory.
- Some isolated pockets of grapevine and Japanese stiltgrass were observed in the central portion of the tract. Their presence is minimal and will be monitored and treated on a situational basis.
- A follow-up review of the Natural Heritage Database was conducted.

The original RMG did not consider the use of prescribed fire. It is recommended that a prescribed fire regime be developed for the tract and implemented following the prescribed timber harvest and post-harvest timber stand improvement (TSI) to improve microclimate conditions for species that require scarification, sunlight, and contact with bare mineral soil to germinate.

The net gain from overall growth is estimated to add an additional 10- 15% removal volume to the original projected harvest volume.

**Jackson-Washington State Forest
Compartment 1 Tract 15
Resource Management Guide (Amendment)
September 26, 2022**

Link to original RMG:

https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-JW_C01_T15_04112013.pdf

Compartment 1 Tract 15 (Amendment)

Identified as 6350115 https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/compmaps/fo-JW_CT_Boundaries.pdf

In the mixed hardwoods cover type the overstory was predominately sugar maple with some American beech, tulip poplar, red oak, and white oak. Yellow poplar no longer dominates the overstory in the mixed hardwoods. Grapevines were observed in the lower slopes, but not excessive as stated in the original RMG. The understory is dominated by maple and beech and regeneration is primarily these two species with some oak in both the mixed hardwoods and oak-hickory cover types. The original RMG did not address the use of prescribed fire. It is recommended within two years following post-harvest timber stand improvement (TSI) a prescribed fire regime be established to reduce the understory and improve oak seed germination to promote species which require light and contact with bare mineral soil for seed germination.

A follow-up review of the Natural Heritage Database was conducted.

The net gain from overall growth is estimated to add an additional 10- 15% removal volume to the original projected harvest volume.

**Jackson-Washington State Forest
Compartment 3 Tract 13
Resource Management Guide (Amendment)
September 26, 2022**

Link to original RMG:

https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-JW_C3_T13_09262013.pdf

Compartment 3 Tract 13 (Amendment)

Identified as 6350313 https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/compmaps/fo-JW_CT_Boundaries.pdf

A review of the tract reveals the majority of sawtimber ash that was present at the time of the inventory has fell victim to emerald ash borer. Ash seedlings were observed in the understory. The mixed hardwoods understory on the lower slopes and drainage areas is primarily spicebush and pawpaw with grapevines present. Yellow poplar in the tract appears to be recovering from past or recent droughts. The understory, including the midstory, is dominated by maple and American beech. The original RMG did not address the use of prescribed fire. It is recommended within two years following post-harvest timber stand improvement (TSI) a prescribed fire regime is implemented to reduce the shade tolerant understory and improve oak seed germination. This will promote species which require light and contact with bare mineral soil for seed germination.

A follow-up review of the Natural Heritage Database was conducted.

The net gain from overall growth is estimated to add an additional 10- 15% removal volume to the original projected harvest volume.

**Compartment 7 Tract 2
Resource Management Guide (Amendment)
October 6, 2022**

Link to original RMG:

https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-JWSF_C7T2_01232015.pdf

Compartment 7 Tract 2 (Amendment)

Identified as 6350702 https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/compmaps/fo-JW_CT_Boundaries.pdf

Despite the loss of ash in the overstory due to emerald ash borer, no amendment to the silvicultural prescription was warranted.

A follow-up review of the Natural Heritage Database was conducted.

The net gain from overall growth is estimated to add an additional 10- 15% removal volume to the original projected harvest volume.

**Compartment 7 Tract 3
Resource Management Guide (Amendment)
October 7, 2022**

Link to original RMG:

https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-JWSF_C7T3_02112015.pdf

Compartment 7 Tract 3 (Amendment)

Identified as 6350703 https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/compmaps/fo-JW_CT_Boundaries.pdf

Despite the loss of ash in the overstory due to emerald ash borer, no amendment to the silvicultural prescription was warranted.

A follow-up review of the Natural Heritage Database was conducted.

The net gain from overall growth is estimated to add an additional 10- 15% removal volume to the original projected harvest volume.

**Compartment 11 Tract 21 & 22
Resource Management Guide (Amendment)
September 26, 2022**

Link to original RMG:

https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-JW_C11_T21_22_060112.pdf

Compartment 11 Tract 21 & 22 (Amendment)

Identified as 6351121 and 6351122 https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/compmaps/fo-JW_CT_Boundaries.pdf

Despite the loss of ash in the overstory due to emerald ash borer, no amendment to the silvicultural prescription was warranted.

A follow-up review of the Natural Heritage Database was conducted.

The net gain from overall growth is estimated to add an additional 15- 25% removal volume to the original projected harvest volume.

**Compartment 13 Tract 1
Resource Management Guide (RMG) Amendment
September 26, 2022**

Link to original RMG:

https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-JWSF_C13T1_11182015.pdf

Compartment 13 Tract 1 (Amendment)

Identified as 6351301 https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/compmaps/fo-JW_CT_Boundaries.pdf

During a recent field reconnaissance, changes in species composition were observed that warranted an update to the silvicultural prescription. Significant numbers of oak and hickory seedlings are present on side slopes where canopy closure is reduced. However, a dense midstory of American beech and sugar maple are shading this regeneration suppressing its further advancement within the tract. The original RMG did not address the use of prescribed fire. A prescribed fire regime should be implemented in these areas following both a harvest and post-harvest timber stand improvement (TSI) to maintain tree species that are intermediate in shade tolerance.

A change in species composition in the lower slope areas was also observed. Tulip poplar and sugar maple dominate, with little to no live ash trees remaining in the overstory or midstory. Additionally, both Japanese stiltgrass and Tree of Heaven were noted in the bottomland area in the southeast quarter of the tract. These should be treated prior to the commencement of management activities.

A follow-up review of the Natural Heritage Database was conducted.

The net gain from overall growth is estimated to add an additional 15- 25% removal volume to the original projected harvest volume.