

SUMMARY COMMENTS

Morgan Monroe State Forest Compartment 17 Tract 15 30 Day Comment Period Ending: 9/13/2014 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"> • Concern on impacts to soil erosion, sedimentation and effective use of BMPs. • Commenter would like more details than provided in the guide as it relates to wildlife and timber inventories and assessments. • Concern on potential spread of invasive species as result of management activity. • Concern on impact to wildlife, in particular bats, frogs, salamanders and observed mating box turtles. • Objects to harvest and utilization of Ash trees ahead of Emerald Ash Borer infestations. • Concerned about utilitarian terminology used to describe trees and forest conditions. • Concern RMG does not address impacts on climate change and carbon sequestration. Suggests DoF put in place evaluation standards to consider the cumulative impacts of all state and federal forest management projects across the state. • Opposes harvest recommendation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • The management guide provides an overview of wildlife and timber resources rather than full data and details used for guide development. Additional assessment data may be available by request. • Tract will be evaluated for invasive species occurrence before and after harvests and appropriate control measures. • 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. • Wildlife considerations and Recreation use on the tract is considered during development and implementation of the RMG. • As standard practice, the Division of Forestry consults with and utilizes guidance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other sources to conserve habitat and avoid take impacts to the Indiana and NLE bat.

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- Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.
- There are an estimated 1.6 million Ash trees on State Forests. It is estimated that significantly less than 10% of Ash will be utilized before they die and decay due to EAB. Recruiting Ash regeneration ahead of the EAB wave is expected and desired outcome of group selection silviculture.
- The prescribed management activities are consistent with silvicultural principles and supported by inventory data and field assessments.
- The concerns expressed have been considered and may be further addressed during plan implementation.