

SUMMARY COMMENTS

Pike State Forest, Compartment 12, Tracts 5 & 6

30 Day Comment Period Ending: 1/25/2024

Comments Received: 1

The table below is a summary of public comments received concerning the draft Resource Management Guide(s). 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"> • General concern with forest management on public land, wildlife, and cultural resources. • Concern 1,260 white oak trees will be removed from compartment 9 tract 5. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The silvicultural prescription for compartment 9 tract 5 does not suggest 1,260 white oak trees will be harvested. The inventory data presented in the tract summary data table in the resource management guide estimated 1,260 white oak trees with a diameter greater than 11” were present in the tract. • Silvicultural prescriptions proposed in draft RMGs include NHD reviews as well as Division of Forestry staff reviews, which include forest wildlife specialist and forest ecologist/botanist. Further information on direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats are found in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment. Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment • The state forest system encompasses 160,251 acres. Each state forest is divided into compartments and tracts. Within those compartment and tract acres there are water features, nature preserves, high conservation value forests, campgrounds, shelters and picnic areas, administration areas, and other sensitive areas removed from active forest management.

Comment Summary	Division of Forestry Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Detailed flora and fauna inventories are beyond the scope of tract level management guides. Habitats, communities, and species are considered as part of the management planning process. Along with field observations, Natural Heritage Data review for threatened or endangered species (federally and state) on or near the management unit are considered. <i>Please note, for the protection of sensitive flora and fauna NHD review results are not disclosed in draft RMGs.</i> Further information on direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats are found in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment. Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment</p> <p>The Division of Forestry staffs a Forest Archeologist. Archeological reviews are part of any disturbance activity on state forests before the activity is permitted. Any area identified as sensitive is protected following guidance from the Division of Forestry Archeologist and Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology (DHPA).</p>