

Yellowwood State Forest **Compartment 7 Tract 19** **30 Day Comment Period Ending: 10/15/2017** **Comments Received: 2**

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"> • Supports the State Forest management efforts, including management activities prescribed. • Not bothered by managed harvest aesthetics, citing that today’s state forests that appear undisturbed are often a product of prescribed management activity. • Supports rerouting or temporary closure of trails during management activities for user safety • Supports efforts to manage invasive species. Encourages public to also practice invasive species control. • Opposes proposed timber harvest citing forests should be allowed to grow to develop its natural conditions. Supports setting aside areas to develop as older forests for a variety of ecological benefits include air, water, species diversity, aesthetics, eco-tourism and carbon markets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitats, communities and wildlife species are considered as part of the management planning process. 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. There are no old growth forests noted on this tract. • We recognize that aesthetic impacts are inherent of many forest management activities. This may include visual impacts along a segment of one of the forests horse trails on this tract. Potential impacts will be considered during activity planning and execution. • Invasive species presence and control needs will be monitored as part of normal operations. The species noted are widespread in the County. A variety of management measures are considered in an overall integrated pest control strategy, including manual controls, defensive plantings and treatments with approved herbicides. • Best management practices will be implemented to address soil and water conservation concerns. BMPs will be required of operator and included in timber sales contracts. BMP guidance can be found at: http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-2005_Forestry_BMP_Field_Guide.pdf • Set aside lands that are trending towards old growth can be found on a variety of DNR lands, including established preserves on State Forests, State Parks, Fish and Wildlife Areas and other Nature Preserve lands. These continue to be important conservation strategies of the DNR. • The prescribed management activities are supported by inventory data and field assessments. The concerns expressed have been considered and may be further addressed during plan implementation.