

Ferdinand State Forest **Compartment 6 Tract 9** **Comment Review: 9/26/2018** **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 impacts to soil and water resources and effective implementation and monitoring of BMPs. Suggests riparian area buffers or avoidance measures during management operations. • Concern of potential impact to Eastern Box Turtle, Indiana bat and other RTE species that may be present. Recommends following USFWS guidance for Indiana bat conservation, or hands off approach. • Recommends detailed flora and fauna inventory be conducted/included in RMG. • Suggests DoF focus management on interior forest habitats. • Commenter would like more details than provided in the guide as it relates to wildlife assessments and BMPs. • Concerns about long term forest sustainability and harvest levels on State Forests. • DRMG should evaluate area potential for High Conservation Value (HCVF) or old forest designation. • Concern on potential spread and introduction of invasive species as result of management activity. Supports non-herbicide invasive species control measures. • Suggests DoF evaluate impacts on climate change and carbon sequestration. Or, put in place evaluation standards to consider the cumulative impacts of all state and federal forest management projects across the state on carbon sequestration and climate change. 	<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. BMP guidance can be found at: http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-2005_Forestry_BMP_Field_Guide.pdf • 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 has been reviewed to check for threatened or endangered species on or near the management unit. No HCVF or old growth forests were noted on this tract. 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 • Implementation of the RMG will utilize guidance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other sources to avoid take impacts to the Indiana bat and other listed species.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invasive species presence and control needs will be monitored as part of normal operations. A variety of management measures are considered in an overall integrated pest control strategy, including manual controls, defensive plantings and treatments with approved herbicides.• Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.• Indiana State Forests contain approximately 1.15 billion board feet of timber. Managed harvest levels are set at a level to insure long term sustainability. These levels are periodically reviewed as new inventory data is collected. See http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-State_Forest_CFI_Report_2010_2014.pdf• 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.
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