



SUMMARY COMMENTS

Harrison-Crawford State Forest Comp 19, Tracts 1 & 3, Comp 20 Tracts 5, 6, & 7

30 Day Comment Period Ending: 1/15/2025

Comments Received: 2

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 active forest management on state forests, concern with oak-hickory management, carbon storage, and old growth conditions. • Concern about closure periods in compartment 19 tract 1. • Concern about RTE species and Natural Heritage Database. • Concern with increased logging in state forests since 2005. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Felling restrictions for compartment 19 tract 1 occur between April 1 to November 15. This restriction is based on interim forest management guidelines for federally listed bats on Indiana State Forests. Forest management activities that fell trees in this tract will occur between November 16 to March 30. Recreational trails within tract 1 would be temporarily closed or re-routed during that period for public safety while active management is occurring. • The Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center (INHDC) is managed by the Division of Nature Preserves. This information is kept confidential for the benefit of the species, natural ecosystems, or landscape features. The public may request data through the INHDC portal. • The Division of Forestry is aware of the rivers and streams that flow through Harrison-Crawford State Forest containing hellbender populations. All management activities near rivers and streams follow the guidance for riparian areas as outlined in the 2022 BMP Field Guide. • BMPs are guidelines, not law. However, contractual stipulations require BMPs to be implemented and followed on all State Forests. State Forest staff perform regular site visits

	<p>during active operations and evaluate as part of their post-harvest review. Additionally, BMP monitoring is performed on each harvest for application and effectiveness. There are 58 individual BMPs measured across 5 categories: access/haul road, log landings or yards, skid trails, stream crossings, and riparian management zones (RMZ). View results BMP Monitoring Results for State Forest Properties 1996-2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The annual number of timber sales sold, acres impacted by timber sales, trees sold, and board feet sold has decreased over the past 16 years. The current 10-year average for annual acres impacted by timber sales is 1% of the 160,251 acres.• Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level resource management guides. See Forest Carbon Assessment for Indiana State Forests• The Indiana Division of Forestry represents approximately 30 percent of the Indiana DNR public lands portfolio, which encompasses more than 500,000 acres. The Division of Forestry is the only land holding division with an active timber management program. In addition to the 70 percent of Indiana DNR lands not subject to timber management, the Division of Forestry has over 4,000 acres set aside as no harvesting and 7,700 acres restricted to single tree selection only with longer rotations to mimic older forest conditions. These figures do not include areas removed from timber management such as campgrounds, archeological or geologically unique features, or other special areas.• CFI data indicates stand age diversity across the state forest system at 6 percent young forest (0-19 years of age), 11
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	<p>percent (20-59 years of age), 49 percent (60-99 years of age), and 34 percent older forest (100+ year of age).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) data (2023) indicates Indiana State Forests contain approximately 63.8 million live trees, over 1 billion board feet (Doyle) of sawlog volume with an estimated annual growth of 21.9 million board feet. Managed harvest levels are set at a level to insure long-term sustainability. These levels are periodically reviewed as new data is made available.• State Forest management is guided by science and implementation of sound silvicultural principles. They are managed under the principle that we're stewards of this land for the future. This work is guided through legislation and comprehensive scientific national and international forest certification standards which are independently audited to help insure long-term forest health, resiliency, and sustainability. Forest Certification• Silvicultural prescriptions proposed in draft RMGs go through an ecological review process. This process includes a review of the National Heritage Database (NHD) and staff reviews by the divisions forest wildlife specialist and forest ecologist/botanist. Further information on direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats can be found in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment.• 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, NHD review for
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	<p>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 can be found in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment.</p>
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