



SUMMARY COMMENTS

Jackson-Washington State Forest Comp 7 Tract 5, Comp 8 Tract 14 & 15, Comp 9 Tract 3, and Comp 11 Tract 6

30 Day Comment Period Ending: 9/3/2020

Comments Received: 9

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"> • General comment supporting active forest management to sustain forest ecosystems and keep forests vigorous and healthy. • General comments opposing logging citing concerns of potential impacts to animals, habitat, recreation, and climate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indiana DNR land portfolio covers 520,000+ acres. State Forests are the only DNR properties where long term forest and timber management practices occur. State Forests represents approximately 30% of the DNR portfolio. Set aside lands that are trending towards old growth conditions can be found on a variety of DNR lands, including established nature preserves on State Forests, State Parks, Fish & Wildlife Areas and Nature Preserve lands. These continue to be important conservation strategies. • The Division of Forestry manages its lands for multiple uses/multiple benefits proving timber production, biodiversity, watershed protection, recreation, and research areas. Recreational benefits include over 430 miles of designated recreational trails (e.g., horse, bike, hiking and interpretive), over 940 campsites/cabins, back country camping, swimming beaches, hunting, fishing, picnicking, mushrooming and many other opportunities under this management philosophy. • The state forest system was established in 1903 to restore eroded, worn-out farm land that become abandoned early in the century and directed by Indiana Code. The Division of Forestry has actively managed its land for nearly 120 years for multiple uses/multiple benefits.

- The Division of Forestry actively manages its lands for multiple use/multiple benefits. A part of that management is timber production. Annually, the division plans, schedules and implements forest management activities across all state forests. Activities may include: forest inventories, timber harvests, timber stand improvement, tree plantings, invasive species control, and prescribed fire. These activities help sustain the diverse hardwood landscape present and ensure state forests remain vigorous and healthy providing the multiple use/multiple benefits philosophy for future generations.
- Indiana State Forests contain approximately 986 million board feet (Doyle) of sawlog volume. Managed harvest levels are set at a level to insure long term sustainability. These levels are periodically reviewed as new continuous forest inventory data is collected. See https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-Continuous_Forest_Inventory_Property_Report_2015-2019.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. See http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests_EA.pdf.
- State Forest operations adhere to a comprehensive set of forest certification standards to insure long term forest sustainability. Operations are subject to annual 'third party' audits to insure compliance to these standards.
<https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/7532.htm>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs. See https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fw-carbon_assessment.pdf• State Forest management is guided by science and implementation of sound silvicultural principles to insure long term forest health and sustainability. State Forest management adheres to legal mandates and voluntary compliance to comprehensive forest certification standards.• Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment (HEE) and other research continue to document forest impacts and indicate increased biodiversity in managed forests. http://www.heeforeststudy.org/• Forest management activities ensure forests remain healthy, vigorous, diverse, and adequately stocked. Overstocking and largely over mature conditions jeopardize forest health, resiliency and resistance making them more vulnerable to mortality and disease and insect outbreaks.
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