

Jackson Washington State Forest **Compartment 10 Tract 30** **30 Day Comment Period Ending: 6/11/2015** **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"> • Opposes prescribed timber harvest, stating State Forests should be preserved from harvests as much as possible. Cites general concerns on impacts to climate change, environmental pollution, wildlife, invasive species, forest ecosystems, and aesthetics. Cites concerns about the dramatic increase in timber harvests • Concerned with the length of the management cycle. Citing concerns over the lack of “old growth forests”. • Concern on impact to the Knobstone Trail and trail user experience. Suggests no harvesting of trees along the trail corridor. • Concern of potential impact to wildlife habitats, and potentially to endangered/threatened species. Would like more information on specific measure taken to manage potential impacts. • Concern on impacts to soils, erosion, sedimentation and effective use of BMPs. And, similar concerns specific to Spurgeon Hollow Lake. • Would like comment period to be longer than 30 days. • Concern RMG does not address impacts on climate change and carbon sequestration. • Concerned about utilitarian management philosophy and terminology used to describe trees and forest conditions and that full range of values are not considered. • Concern on potential impacts to backcountry areas. • Concern of potential impact to endangered/threatened species. Recommends comprehensive inventory of birds and wildlife be conducted before plan implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana State Forests contain approximately 1.15 billion board feet of timber. Managed harvest levels on State Forests 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 Knobstone Trail is not located on this tract. However, hunting and other recreational use of the area will be closed for safety reasons during operations. • Habitats, communities and wildlife 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 bird and wildlife species on or near the management unit. Old growth forests are not found on this tract. • The management approach encourages a diversity of age classes and successional stages. Grapevine control measures specifically call for retention of a vine component. 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

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concern on potential spread of invasive species as result of management activity. Supports efforts to control invasive (by manual methods only). Concerned about wild grape vine control, citing it being a native species important to wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where applicable resource management will follow backcountry management guidelines.• 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• The 30 day public comment period will remain a standard procedure. However, if individuals have information that is pertinent and specific to the tract they can present that information at any time. (e.g. Cemetery information)• Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.• The RMG uses forest terminology which integrates many considerations including biological, human utility and more. The scope of considerations are not always fully portrayed by the terminology.• 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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