

SUMMARY COMMENTS

Morgan Monroe State Forest Compartment 13 Tract 2 30 Day Comment Period Ending: 10/24/2014 Comments Received: 5

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"> • Opposes active forest management. Preserve for future generations. Let nature take its course. • Concern on impacts to recreation (trails in particular) and wildlife habitat. Need more balance. • Concern on extent of harvesting on the State Forest. Favors interior forest preservation instead of logging. • Concern on impacts to soil erosion, sedimentation and effective use of BMPs. • Concurs with some report of conditions within the RMG, but based on commenter’s interpretation of the inventory and stocking data (stocking) questions the prescribed management to achieve desired results. • Resultant extensive canopy openings would have long term detrimental impacts on forest interior habitat • Commenter would like more details than provided in the guide as it relates to wildlife and timber inventories and assessments. • Concern of potential impact to Indiana and Northern long eared bat, and endangered/threatened species in general. Recommends detailed environmental inventory of birds, wildlife and plants be conducted/included in DMG. • Concern on potential spread of invasive species as result of management activity. • Concerned about utilitarian terminology used to describe trees and forest conditions and that full range of values are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed management will temporarily impact recreational use of the area, during which the area and trails will be closed to public access for safety reasons. Closure would likely be 1-4 months in duration. Where practicable, alternate temporary trail routes will be identified. • 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. • The management guide provides an overview of wildlife and timber resources rather than full data and details utilized for guide development and implementation. Timber inventory and wildlife data/assessments are available. • 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 bird and wildlife species on or near the management unit. Concern also addressed in the DoF Environmental Assessment. • Extensive canopy openings are not prescribed. Forest regeneration openings are temporary in nature, without long term negative impacts on forest interior habitat. HEE research has indicated such openings are consistently utilized by a broad array

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<p>not considered. Concern about utilitarian (tree farm) management philosophy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concern RMG does not address impacts on climate change and carbon sequestration. Suggests DoF put in place evaluation standards to consider the cumulative impacts of all state and federal forest management projects across the state.• Opposes prescribed managed harvest during this 15 year management cycle.	<p>of species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of the RMG will utilize guidance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other sources to avoid take impacts to the Indiana and other Listed bat species.• Invasive species presence, management and control are incorporated in the RMG.• 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.• Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.• 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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