

**SUMMARY COMMENTS**

**Morgan Monroe State Forest      Compartment 13 Tract 4      30 Day Comment Period Ending: 4/5/2015      Comments Received: 3**

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"> <li>• Concern on impacts to recreational opportunities and that logging not diminish those opportunities.</li> <li>• Would like more information on specific measure taken to manage potential impacts.</li> <li>• Management approach favors commercially valuable species (oak and hickory cited) at expense of others.</li> <li>• Comment on current State Forest system harvest levels.</li> <li>• Concern on potential spread of invasive species as result of management activity.</li> <li>• Opposes the harvest prescription within the RMG citing general concerns on impacts to climate change, environmental pollution, wildlife, forest ecosystems, and diversity.</li> <li>• Concern on potential for soil erosion and stream sedimentation and the effective implementation of BMPs</li> <li>• Concern of potential impact to endangered/threatened species. Recommends detailed environmental inventory of birds, wildlife and plants be conducted/included in DMG.</li> <li>• Commenter would like more details than provided in the guide as it relates to wildlife and timber inventories and assessments</li> <li>• Suggests more land be managed for interior forest habitat. Sites cowbird concerns</li> <li>• Concern prescription conflicts with HEE research buffer guidelines. Supports use of HEE research.</li> <li>• Concern that select harvests will adversely impact genetic diversity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RMG addresses recreational impacts and proposed enhancements. The prescribed management will temporarily impact recreational use of the area, during which the area will be closed to public access for safety reasons. Closure would be approximately 6 months in duration.</li> <li>• The management prescription does prioritize Oak and Hickory due to their overall values to the forest community. While oak may also be a valuable timber species, hickory is of relatively lower commercial value.</li> <li>• Best management practices will be implemented and monitored to address the soil erosion and sedimentation concerns. Riparian areas and sinkhole were specifically noted in the RMG. BMPs will be required of operator and included in timber sales contracts. BMP guidelines can be found at <a href="http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/2871.htm">www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/2871.htm</a></li> <li>• 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. The DoF Environmental Assessment can be found at <a href="http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-">www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-</a></li> </ul>

Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry  
State Forest Resource Management Guide Public Comment Summary

- Concerned about utilitarian terminology used to describe trees and forest conditions and that full range of values are not considered. Concern about utilitarian (tree farm) management philosophy.
- Interest in obtaining more information on proposed bike trail
- 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.

- [StateForests\\_EA.pdf](#)
- 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, wildlife and environmental assessments are available.
  - Invasive species presence, management and control are incorporated in the RMG.
  - Timber harvest levels on State Forests are currently set at a level where approximately half of annual growth is utilized. These levels are periodically reviewed as new inventory data is collected. See [www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-CFI\\_Report\\_2008-12.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-CFI_Report_2008-12.pdf)
  - RMG implementation will give due consideration to HEE research buffers.
  - Utilization of a differing silvicultural systems and measures across the State Forest system helps insure diversity
  - A plan for a Morgan Monroe bike trail is under development at this time.
  - 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 and supported by inventory data and field assessments. The concerns expressed have been considered and may be further addressed during plan implementation.