

SUMMARY COMMENTS

Martin State Forest, Prescribed Fire, Compartment 5 and 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 specifically prescribed fire, concern for mature forest, oak-hickory management, carbon sequestration, and Natural Heritage Database. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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 percent (20-59 years of age), 49 percent (60-99 years of age), and 34 percent older forest (100+ year of age).

- 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 threatened or endangered species (federally and state) on or near the management unit are considered. ***Please note, for the protection of sensitive flora and fauna NHD review results are not disclosed in draft RMGs.*** Further information on direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats can be found in the [Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment](#).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prescribed fire detailed plans are internal documents for assessing and planning burns. These plans address various parameters including description of burn area, adjacent areas, fuel models, special considerations, complexity, acceptable burn parameters, site preparation, local contacts, weather, smoke management, equipment needs, personnel, and more. Each plan is approved through DNR - Fire Headquarter.• Fire has been used for thousands of years in the central hardwood region. Native Americans used fire routinely as part of their management, followed by European settlers, and today many forest managers use prescribed fire as a tool to achieve management objectives. Use of fire within the central hardwood region is nothing new to the landscape and it has helped shape the forests we have today.
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