

SUMMARY COMMENTS

Morgan-Monroe State Forest Storm Salvage

30 Day Comment Period Ending: 8/4/2026

Comments Received: 6

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
- General concerns for invasive species, use of chemicals, wildlife impacts including RTE species, steep slopes, and soil impacts from equipment used for salvage operations. - Concern about not knowing the exact salvage area boundaries and volumes to be removed. - Concern about no control areas to let nature take its course. - Concern about contract logging companies having no oversight or guidelines to follow.	- Tracts were identified on the map labeled "Tracts in the Storm Salvage Area". State Forest compartment and tract information, including tract numbers, are available to the public at the following link: State Forest Property Compartment and Tracts. Below are the tract numbers as identified by the Tracts in the Storm Salvage Area map: 6371004, 6371010, 6371005, 6371011, 6371015, 6371007, 6371122, 6371123, 6371110, 6371111, 6371112, 6371113, 6371104, 6371107, 6371106, 6371119, 6371121, 6371105, 6371102, 6371101, 6371207, 6370703, 6370702, 6370701, 6370809, 6371201, 6371204, 6371207, 6370808, 6371202, 6370811, 6370807, 6370519, 6370509, 6370508, 6370507, 6370520, 6370504, 6370502, 6370505, 6370506, 6370501, 6370516, 6370515, 6370601, 6370603, 6370604, 6370605, 6370602, 6370607, 6370608, 6370401, 6370514, 6370310, 6370613, 6370801 - Not all identified tracts will require salvage. Damage appears most severe in core-area tracts, while perimeter tracts show reduced damage. As assessments continue, several tracts will likely be excluded from salvage due to minimal damage or topographic constraints. These areas will be monitored and

	managed as needed. Past large-scale storm events on DNR lands will also be used for comparison. • Residual debris from splintered or dead trees and crowns will remain in the forest providing large amounts of down woody debris of various diameters to contribute to nutrient cycling. • AmeriFlux tower additions to the state forest have been considered; however, the associated costs are the limiting factor. • This large-scale storm event occurred less than two months ago, monitoring and research planning will continue to evolve. • Large-scale storm events require rapid response to open key areas, prevent economic loss, reduce the risk of insect and disease outbreaks, and fuel loads. • Chemicals applied on State Forests follow forest certification standards, are annually reported to certifying bodies, and product labels followed. • The board-foot estimate from the CFI data reflects timber likely affected by the tornado and represents what was present before the event. It does not indicate the volume that will be recovered through salvage harvesting. Some areas will be inaccessible, many trees were damaged beyond salvage, significantly reducing usable volume, and undamaged trees within the perimeter will remain. • The estimated core area (i.e., 852 acres) represents approximately 3% of Morgan-Monroe State Forest, or 0.5% of all State Forest land. While this storm event created a large block of contiguous young forest habitat for Morgan-
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	Monroe; it remains an underrepresented forest age class across State Forests. • Within the core area, the tornado uprooted trees, snapped crowns, and shattered boles, leaving the forest resembling a clear-cut. Even after salvage operations are completed, this portion will continue to appear clear-cut due to the extent of the damage. Because the initial acreage estimates were based on drone imagery, the actual size of both the core and perimeter zones may be smaller than first projected. The rugged terrain and large volume of downed material make it impractical to define precise boundaries among the core, perimeter, and outer impacted areas. The perimeter zone experienced similar types of damage but with less consistency and intensity, resulting in fewer uprooted or broken trees. Some pockets within the perimeter exhibit concentrated damage and will be salvaged, creating patch-cut-like openings. Areas where damage is limited to single trees or small groups will resemble single-tree or group-selection harvests after salvage. • Guidelines will apply to any logging company that assists with the salvage operations. Much like regular State Forest management timber harvests, guidelines will be addressed in agreements and monitored for compliance. • Invasive species are monitored and managed as part of routine property operations. Treatment may occur before or after timber harvests or as needed based on local conditions. Methods range from minor to intensive and may include manual, mechanical, chemical, prescribed fire, or combined approaches. Chemicals used follow forest
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	certification standards and label requirements. • Archeological reviews are conducted for each State Forest timber harvest. • The silvicultural prescriptions in the draft salvage RMG are reviewed by the Division of Forestry's forest wildlife specialist and forest ecologist/botanist through a formal ecological review process. This review incorporates historical data, known resource information, and NHD assessments. Additional details on direct and indirect impacts to species and habitats are provided in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment. • Current timber harvesting policies will remain in effect. Any new information or research indicating a need for policy adjustments will be reviewed, and changes will be made as appropriate.
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