

SUMMARY COMMENTS

Owen Putnam State Forest **Compartment 5 Tract 3** **30 Day Comment Period Ending: 11/17/2013** **Comments Received: 1**

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"> ● Concern on potential for soil erosion and stream sedimentation and the effective implementation of BMPs ● Concern on stream impacts associated with use of the existing public road stream fords ● Recommends declining large Yellow Poplar trees be allowed to die and create snags rather than actively managing for snags as prescribed ● Questions whether timber sale revenues sufficiently compensate for project impacts to recreation, wildlife habitat and climate change. ● Opposes the prescribed timber harvest at this time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 existing stream fords are part of the public road system in the County. While these are not high flow streams the fords do contribute sediment to the waterway. Operations will result in short term increase of traffic on these roads, but do not pose a major concern to overall water quality. Use of these fords will be monitored during operations. ● Some declining Tulip Poplar and other trees will not be salvaged and have or will be allowed to develop into wildlife snags where not a safety hazard. ● The impacts on biodiversity, forest health and resiliency are important considerations during the development and implementation of the RMG. ● State Forest operations adhere to a comprehensive set of forest certification standards (FSC & SFI) to insure long term forest sustainability. Operations are subject to annual ‘third party’ audits to insure compliance to these standards. ● HEE and other research continue to document forest impacts and indicate increased biodiversity in managed forests. ● State Forest timber revenues are well above cost of operations and contribute positively to local and State economies. ● The prescribed management activities are supported by inventory data and field assessments. The concerns expressed have been considered and may be further addressed during plan implementation.