

SUMMARY COMMENTS

Owen-Putnam State Forest Comp 5 Tract 6, Comp 5 Tract 8, Comp 7 Tract 7, and Comp 9 Tract 9

30 Day Comment Period Ending: 7/19/2023

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"> Natural Heritage Database (NHD) does not provide enough information. Comment regarding the good neighbor program. Comment regarding stocking levels and triggers for initiating management activities (i.e., timber harvest). Comment suggesting the visual enhancement area (VEA) distance be enlarged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, Natural Heritage Data is reviewed for threatened or endangered species on or near the management unit. <i>Please note, for the protection of sensitive flora and fauna NHD review results are not disclosed in draft RMGs.</i> Further information on direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats are found in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment. http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests_EA.pdf 51% of the state forest acres are dominated by oak. This figure increases when considering other forest types where oak is a component. CFI Data suggests oak is being replaced in the understory by shade tolerant species such as beech and maple. The ecological role oaks play in the forested landscape make efforts to sustain it all that more important. Forest tract inventories are completed to gain current information and conditions on a tract. Information and conditions at the time of an inventory determine the silvicultural prescription. Regardless of the percent stocking level a tract may or may not receive a prescription. For example, a tract that was established through multiple land acquisitions may have an overall low

	<p>percent stocking but have pockets of higher percent stocking. An option might be a light thinning harvest to release desired tree species for advancement, promote diversity, and reduce competition within the higher stocked pockets. Another option might be timber stand improvement only, or perhaps no prescription necessary at the time of the inventory and the tract is scheduled to be inventoried again in 10-20 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Silvicultural prescriptions proposed in draft RMGs include NHD reviews as well as Division of Forestry staff reviews, which include forest wildlife specialist and forest ecologist/botanist. Further information on direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats are found in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment. http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests_EA.pdf• Each State Forest maintains a good neighbor program designed to keep adjoining neighbors informed. The program notifies adjoining or closely adjacent landowners by letter of major management activities before they occur in the field. Additionally, adjacent landowners are made aware of management highlights, ongoing and planned projects, and forest management activities through an annual newsletter and open house event.• The Division of Forestry does consider recreational impacts during the planning and execution of management activities. The visual enhancement area (VEA) policy requires visual consideration when managing within 100 feet of high-use public roads or high-use recreational facilities (i.e., picnic area, campground, etc.). This distance may be increased if deemed necessary by the marking forester or property manager.
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