

SUMMARY COMMENTS

Yellowwood State Forest **Compartment 12 Tract 6** **30 Day Comment Period Ending: 2/12/2016** **Comments Received: 15**

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
<p>Comment Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposes prescribed managed harvest for following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Potential impacts to Indiana Bat and potentially other RTE species ○ Potential impacts to forest ecosystem, biodiversity, habitat, wetlands and wildlife ○ Potential impacts on climate change, carbon sequestration and ecological services ○ Potential impacts on soils and water quality ○ Impacts to aesthetics and recreation • Comment contending young forest areas are abundant (including nearby power line) and more emphasis needed to promote mature and interior forest habitat for wildlife and forest users. • General comment encouraging some State Forest no-harvest set asides for future old growth areas. Suggest this area be considered. • Comment on recreationist desire for more undisturbed forests (no harvest areas) • Concerned on aesthetic and other impacts of the prescribed harvests to the Tecumseh hiking trail, trail users and recreation in general. • Suggests that hiking pass fees be used to offset the harvest revenues. • RMG does not provide enough for recreation and tourism. • Suggests managing for recreation (revenue) instead of selling timber. • Comment opposing improved public roads, expanding RV camping opportunities, and taking of land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Forest system is made up of 13 working and research forests, which also allow for recreational use. Recreational use of this tract is primarily hunting, foraging and gold panning. The tract contains no designated hiking trails. • Trail user fees, RV camping, land acquisition and improving public roads are not within the scope of the RMG • Implementation of the RMG will utilize guidance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other sources to avoid take impacts to the Indiana and other listed bat species. • Invasive species presence and control needs are incorporated in the RMG and will be monitored as part of normal operations. A variety of management measures are considered in an overall integrated pest control strategy, including manual controls, defensive plantings and treatments with approved herbicides. Strictly manual measures are seldom effective control strategies by themselves. • The 30 day public comment period will remain as standard procedure. However, if individuals have information that is pertinent and specific to the tract they can present that information at anytime. (e.g. Cemetery information) • Best management practices will be implemented and monitored to address the soil erosion and sedimentation concerns. BMPs

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerned that the management guidelines are being driven by the income needs, rather than by an objective assessment of forest ecology.• Concern on overall State Forest harvest levels, impact on private land timber sales and that harvest levels at YW State Forest is not sustainable.• Suggests management cycle should be greater than 20 years to allow forests to mature and recover.• Concern on potential spread of invasive species as result of management activity. Supports non-herbicide efforts to remove exotic invasive species.• Would like alternate to glyphosate for exotic treatments.• Recommends detailed environmental inventory of birds, wildlife and plants be conducted/included in DMG.• Concern on management impact to future oak resources.• Concern on impacts to 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.• Concern on potential erosion, sedimentation and ineffective use of BMPs to protect water quality.• The RMG for tract 5 mentions it will be combined with tract 6 for management. This should also be reflected in the tract 6 RMG.• Would like comment period to be longer than 30 days.	<p>will be required of operator and included in timber sales contracts. DoF will respond to reported BMP departures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.• 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.• Indiana State Forests contain approximately 1.15 billion board feet of timber and add an additional 24 million board feet of growth annually. Current harvest levels only remove an average of 14 million board feet a year- a fraction of the annual new growth. Timber harvest levels on State Forests are currently set at a level where approximately half the annual growth is utilized. These levels are periodically reviewed as new inventory data is collected. See www.in.gov/dnr/forestrv/files/fo-CFI_Report_2008-12.pdf• Habitats, communities and wildlife 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. HEE and other research continue to document forest impacts and indicate increased biodiversity in managed forests.• Forest assessments indicated no old growth forests on the tract.• Tract 5 and 6 combined management will be correctly noted in the RMG.
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- While the State Forest managed timber sales provide important contributions to the State economy and revenues which subsidize many Division of Forestry programs, including recreation, private landowner assistance, conservation education and others, the resource management decisions are guided by science and the principles of forestry and forest sustainability.
- 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.
- The prescribed management activities are consistent with silvicultural principles, promotes habitat diversity and supported by inventory data and field assessments. The concerns expressed have been considered and may be further addressed during plan implementation.