

SUMMARY COMMENTS

Yellowwood State Forest Compartment 14 Tract 13 30 Day Comment Period Ending: 11/28/2014 Comments Received: 2

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 |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that some trees were marked during the public comment period. • Concern that public comments not duly considered. • Concerned on impacts to recreation and wildlife. • Recommends the declining Poplar and defective trees not be harvested, but allowed to remain for habitat benefits. • Commenter would like more details than provided in the guide as it relates to wildlife and timber inventories and assessments. • Takes issue with management of State Forests for timber ('tree farms'). Opposes prescribed timber harvest • Concurs with some report of conditions within the RMG, but questions need of prescribed management to achieve desired results. • Does not share concern of significant trending of forests towards Beech-Maple complex. • Concern on impact to habitat suitability for Indiana and Northern long eared bat. • Concern on impacts to soil erosion, sedimentation and effective use of BMPs. • Concern on potential spread of invasive species as result of management activity. • Concern RMG does not address impacts on 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 • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Per the Resource Management Process, the flowchart order and timeline are for reference and are approximate. Actual process activities may occur somewhat out of the shown order. Comments received during comment periods are given consideration as part of the overall management process. • Marking of some trees did occur prior to the closing of the comment period. This was partly to identify Yellow Poplar trees declining and dying as a result of drought and scale insect infestation. • 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 management guide provides an overview of wildlife and timber resources rather than full data and details used for guide development. Additional assessment data may be available by request. • Recreation and wildlife habitat are considered during development and implementation of the RMG. • As standard practice, the Division of Forestry consults with and utilizes guidance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other sources to conserve habitat and avoid take impacts to the Indiana and NLE bat |

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- 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.
- Invasive species presence will be assessed for control needs
- Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.
- 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.