Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
State Forest Resource Management Guide Public Comment Summary

## **SUMMARY COMMENTS**

<u>Jackson Washington State Forest</u> <u>Compartment 11 Tract 18</u> <u>30 Day Comment Period Ending: 3/7/2014</u> <u>Comments Received: 1</u>

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
Comment Summary:  General concern on harvest impacts on private and public lands in the area.  Concern on harvest impacts to Knobstone Trail. Especially concerned about possible regeneration harvests next to trail.  Suggests alternate management strategy to promote habitat diversity and regenerate area.  Concerned about potential soil erosion and proper implementation of BMPs.  Concern on timeliness of handling public records request.  Concern of potential impact to endangered/threatened species. Recommends detailed inventory of birds, wildlife and plants be included in DMG.  Concern on terminology used to describe trees is utilitarian in nature.  Opposes prescribed commercial harvest	<ul> <li>The management guide addresses the recreational use of the area and the temporary impacts. Tree selection and tract management will consider trail impacts. The trail will be temporarily rerouted for user safety.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>As standard practice, the Division of Forestry utilizes guidance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other sources to avoid take impacts to the Indiana bat</li> <li>Public record requests are handled according to policy.</li> <li>Habitats, communities and 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.</li> <li>The RMG uses forest terminology which integrates many considerations including biological, human utility and more. Sometimes the scope of considerations are not readily portrayed by the terminology.</li> <li>The prescribed management activities are consistent with silvicultural principles and supported by inventory data and field assessments. Prescription promotes habitat diversity across the landscape.</li> <li>The concerns expressed have been considered and may be further addressed during plan implementation.</li> </ul>