Appendix B – Ray Kuhns WMA Forest Habitat Improvement and Fuels Reduction Project Scoping Notice Summary of Public Comments

FWP issued a Public Scoping Notice for the Proposed Forest Habitat Improvement and Fuels Reduction Project on Ray Kuhns Wildlife Management Area (WMA) on May 1, 2023. Public comment was accepted for 30 days from May 1 to May 30, 2023. FWP received 13 comments during the comment period. One additional comment was received on June 1, 2023. Many of the comments had overlap regarding a specific issue or resource, therefore FWP combined multiple comments around the same issue or resource into a single comment. Table B.1 below lists the comment (summarized by FWP), number of times the comment was received, and FWP response.

Table B.1 - Summary of Public Comment Received and FWP Response

Summary of Public Comment (# of times the comment was received)	FWP Response
Commenter stated support for the proposed project. (8)	No response.
Commenter stated opposition to the proposed project. (5)	No response.
FWP should consider using prescribed burning to achieve the project objectives. (1)	Prescribed burning (jackpot/pile and burn) treatments are included in the proposed action and follow-up activities, primarily to address residual fuels (slash) and to prepare the site for natural regeneration. Broadcast burning within the proposed project area without prior thinning would not be practical or safe due to heavy fuel loading and dense forest conditions that would likely result in undesirable outcomes.
Request for more information about the proposed treatments. (1)	See Appendix A – Detailed Unit Descriptions and Proposed Treatments.
The proposed project may affect biodiversity, sensitive species, and/or species of concern. (3)	See Section X.A.1 Terrestrial, Avian and Aquatic Life Habitats and X.A.8 Unique, Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources.
The proposed project may affect white-tailed deer winter range. (4)	See Section X.A.1 Terrestrial, Avian and Aquatic Life Habitats. While a short-term reduction in white-tailed deer winter range quantity is expected, treatments are designed to prevent further habitat degradation and promote long-term retention of winter range habitat
The proposed project may affect big game forage quantity and/or quality. (3)	Understory ungulate forage (i.e. forbs, grasses) and early seral browse is expected to be enhanced within the project area.
The proposed project may affect game damage on private lands. (1)	While there may be some temporary wildlife displacement from the WMA during project implementation, the proposed project is not expected to significantly alter existing wildlife use on the WMA or surrounding properties.

Summary of Public Comment (# of times the comment was received)	FWP Response
The proposed project may affect potential fire risk/severity. (6)	See Section X.A.5 – Vegetation Cover, Quantity, and Quality
The proposed project may affect snags and large woody debris. (2)	
The proposed project may affect susceptibility of forests to bark beetle infestation. (2)	
The proposed project may affect proliferation of noxious weeds. (3)	
The proposed project may affect wildlife-related recreational opportunity. (1)	See Section X.B.3
The proposed project may affect deer-vehicle collisions. (1)	Some proposed treatments will result in reduced forest stand density along Farm-to-Market Road, which may improve driver visibility. However, treatments are principally designed to minimize the impact to closed canopy stands which provide winter range for white-tailed deer. The proposed action is expected to have little impact on deer-vehicle collisions.
The proposed project may affect visual quality/viewshed. (1)	See Section X.A.6
The proposed project may affect carbon storage, sequestration, and climate change. (2)	See Section II – Background and Description of the Proposed Project and See Section X.A.5 – Vegetation Cover, Quantity, and Quality