Appendix F

Public Comments to Predecisional Environmental Assessment and Agency Responses

Each response received during the scoping process for the environmental analysis was categorized to identify specific comments, issues, and concerns. These comments were identified and sorted and are presented here in synopsized format. Following each comment is a summary of how the comment was addressed in the analysis.

Comments are indicated by a "C".

- Direct quotes are within quotation marks.
- Comments are grouped by issues.
- Numbers in parenthesis at the end of the comments refer to the number assigned for tracking purposes.

The USDA Forest Service response is indicated by an "R".

Approximately 290 groups, individuals, and neighbors were contacted regarding the proposed project. Those who responded during the public scoping process are listed below. A complete listing of the individuals contacted can be found in the project file.

Name	Response Number
Esarey, William E. and Sol E. Esarey	01

ISSUE A: Environmental Effects of the Federal and Private Lands

No public comments were received.

ISSUE B: Protection of the Private Lands

No public comments were received.

ISSUE C: Consolidation of Federal Lands

No public comments were received.

ISSUE D: Crawford County Property Taxes

D-1
C. The removal of the private Crawford County tract from the tax base (as well as all National Forest System (NFS) land in the Crawford County) has some people concerned that the amount of money taken in by property taxes will be less than if the land were in private ownership, and therefore, place an undue burden on Crawford County. (01)

R. This comment is noted and was addressed in Appendix A, Comment D-1. If the exchange were implemented, payments to Crawford and Orange Counties would decrease by an estimated $806.33 annually. It is estimated that payments to Crawford County would decrease by an estimated $752.19. Concerns regarding the effects of all NFS land in Crawford County on the county are not the subject of the analysis and, since the other NFS land would not be affected by the decision to be made, the concerns are outside the scope of this analysis.

ISSUE E: The Valuation Process

No public comments were received.

ISSUE F: General

F-1
C. Some people are concerned that Environmental Justice was not addressed in the environmental assessment. (01)

R. There is no reason to think that this land exchange would disproportionately affect minority populations. Based on U.S. Census Date and State estimates, Indiana consists of 9.6% minority and 8.7% low-income populations. The figures for Crawford County are 0.5% and 13.5%, respectively. The percentage of minority and low-income populations in the county are less than twice that of the percentages of the State population. This demographic information indicates that Crawford County does not qualify as an environmental justice community.