



## QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 16 October 2019  
To: Governor Hutchinson  
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern  
Re: Memorandum of Understanding

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On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your involvement in increasing partnerships for responsible forest management practices through your Memorandum of Understand for Shared Stewardship (MOU). The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. Founded in 1988, the QDMA has over 60,000 members nationwide and our membership includes hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals.

At QDMA, we believe that proper forest management practices are vital to the preservation of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and the white-tailed deer hunting tradition. With proper management of our forests being so vital to their successful preservation, it is important that we encourage sound, science-based forest management activities. Through collaborations such as the one that you have executed, we can begin to see responsible safeguarding of our extensive forest system. Our forests are critical to many species, local economies and communities. This MOU will help ensure the continued viability of one of Arkansas' most valuable natural resources.

White-tailed deer are one of the many species that stand to benefit from this MOU. Whitetails are the most popular big game animal in the U.S., and whitetail hunters are the foundation of a nearly \$67 billion hunting industry. According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, approximately three of every four hunters pursue whitetails and according to the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation Arkansas' sportsmen and women contribute 1.55 billion annually to the state's economy and support 25,393 jobs. The ripple effects from this partnership are immense. The well-being of our nation and Arkansas depends on the well-being of our extensive forest system. It is vital that every agency and legislature continue to work together and take the appropriate steps towards conservation. On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association, we would like to sincerely thank you your dedicated service to the state of Arkansas and your consideration of our comments on this action.

Respectfully,

Jacob D. Pries  
Policy Intern  
Quality Deer Management Association