



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 16 October 2019
To: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: Dan River Game Land

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to respectfully request that you consider the impacts of white-tailed deer and white-tailed deer hunters moving forward with the Dan River Game Land Plan. The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. The QDMA has over 60,000 members nationwide and our membership includes hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals.

Hunting is a tradition that runs deep within the state of North Carolina and across the country. Hunters are the original conservationists and contribute immensely to the preservation of wildlife. At QDMA, we would like to see the Dan River Game Land Plan take into consideration the interests of those conservationists and keep public hunting access a priority. According to the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, North Carolina's sportsmen and women contribute \$2.3 billion annually to the state's economy and support 35,088 jobs. These vital contributions to the state's economy provided by sportsmen and women must not be ignored moving forward. North Carolina stands to benefit immensely from increasing public access to the lands available to sportsmen and women. Additionally, we request that you take into consideration furthering the habitat suitability for white-tailed deer within the Dan River Game Land through responsible management activities. At QDMA, we believe that proper habitat management practices are vital to the preservation of deer, wildlife habitat and the deer hunting tradition. With proper management of habitat being so vital to their successful preservation, it is important that we encourage sound, science-based management activities.

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, \$872 million was raised by hunting license fees just last year. Since 1939, state fish and wildlife agencies have received over \$62.1 billion in funds directly from sportsmen and women. As you allow for sportsmen and women to garner experiences on our nation's public lands, you allow for those individuals to develop an unbridled passion for them that will last a lifetime. This passion turns into action, this action turns into conservation, and this conservation turns into generations of wildlife for the people of North Carolina to enjoy. On behalf of the QDMA, we would like to thank you for your time and consideration of our comments on this matter.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries
Policy Intern
Quality Deer Management Association