



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 4 November 2019
To: The Sunset Advisory Commission
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). 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.

At QDMA, we believe the role of TPWD is crucial to the continued existence of wildlife, habitat and the deeply rooted hunting tradition within the state. TPWD helps support a hunting industry that is critical to the state's economy. According to the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, sportsmen and women within the state of Texas contribute \$4.1 billion annually while supporting 65,993 jobs. Nationwide, Texas ranks second in the number of sportsmen and women, third in outdoor related jobs, and fourth in spending. It is apparent that the help that TPWD provides to facilitate the activities that keep this industry thriving are crucial to the state's economic well-being.

Additionally, TPWD provides essential programs that ensure the continued existence of the Texas hunting tradition. Through TPWD's Get Outside program, they provide education to children on various outdoor activities such as archery. These newly-acquired skills can lead to time afield in a ground blind pursuing whitetails where the indescribable experiences can lead to a deeper appreciation of something bigger than themselves. Through initiatives such as Project WILD, TPWD works to educate the next generation on the benefits of preserving habitat, the value of flourishing wildlife, and the students' vital place in the natural world. Programs such as Texas Outdoors-Woman Network (T.O.W.N) provides opportunities for outdoors-women to connect throughout the state and partake in time-honored traditions.

These invaluable programs are crucial to ushering in the next generation of conservationists, land stewards, and well-rounded sportsmen and women. It is clear that the programs TPWD puts forth are crucial and relied upon by many sportsmen and women across the state. Abolishing this department would place the hunting tradition, wildlife, and the state's economy in jeopardy. This why we urge you to continue TPWD and fully support these programs. On behalf of the QDMA, we would like to thank you for your time and consideration of our comments.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries
Policy Intern
Quality Deer Management Association