



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 25 October 2019
To: Whom It May Concern
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: Andrews Community Forest Management Plan

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for the Andrews Community Forest Management 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.

At QDMA, we believe in proper forest management practices to encourage a more sustainable habitat for the benefit of wildlife. Forest management as we know it today has vastly changed over the past few decades. No longer is it responsible to simply leave forests unmanaged or unmaintained. The current science supports sound principles of forest management activities to preserve quality habitat, ensure wildfire resilience, and to prevent the spread of diseases. The opportunity exists for this parcel of newly acquired forest to reap the benefits of a well-maintained forest. We strongly support the active management of the Andrews Community Forest to increase forest resiliency and allow for habitat diversity.

One of the many species that stands to benefit immensely from the conservation and active management of this forest is the white-tailed deer. 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. Hunters contribute immensely to conservation through excise taxes on hunting gear and hunting licenses. Hunters help contribute 80% of the budget for state fish and wildlife agencies each year.

Additionally, hunters provide a free ecological service by maintaining the white-tailed deer population at sustainable levels. At QDMA, we believe in executing proper deer management practices for a deer herd, encouraging a diverse age structure with a balanced sex ratio. We would strongly support the managing of the deer herd in this manner while opening the Andrews Community Forest to hunting for the many benefits it brings to the community, conservation and the state's economy. 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