



## QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 5 November 2019  
To: United States Forest Service  
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern  
Re: House Rock Wildlife Area Habitat Management Plan

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On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for the proposed House Rock Wildlife Area Habitat 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. 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 deer, wildlife habitat and the 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. We strongly encourage the United States Forest Service to continue to consider activities that promote habitat enhancement, forest resiliency, and public access. Additionally, we want to encourage the United States Forest Service to consider the impacts of facilitating the continued existence of a healthy deer population. A healthy deer population within Arizona contributes to a deeply rooted hunting tradition. Deer hunters are an important driver of the local economy. According to the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Arizona's hunters help contribute \$1.2 billion annually while supporting 18,220 jobs. The economic well-being of Arizona depends on responsible management policies from the United States Forest Service.

The deer that hunters pursue depend on the sound and updated forest management activities in this proposal. Additionally, they depend on increased access to engage in the time-honored tradition of hunting. Hunters are the original conservationists who have continually provided extensive funding to wildlife and habitat conservation efforts. In order to ensure this funding and the continued existence of wildlife on public lands, we must continue to encourage public access to these wild places. By increasing the accessibility to these lands, you will increase the opportunity for individuals to experience what makes being outside and partaking in the time-honored tradition of hunting so great, thus ushering in the next generation of conservationists. For the aforementioned reasons, it is critical that you move this plan forward and support the plan's proposed initiatives. On behalf of the QDMA, we would like to thank you for your time on this matter and consideration of our comments.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries  
Policy Intern  
Quality Deer Management Association