



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 05 December 2019
To: United States Forest Service
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: South Red Bird Wildlife Enhancement Project

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for the actions outlined in the South Red Bird Wildlife Enhancement Project. 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 that the proper management of our forests is vital to the preservation of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. It is no longer responsible to leave our forests unmanaged. The current science supports active management practices similar to those being proposed in the South Red Bird Wildlife Enhancement Project. This active management of our forests is the responsibility of our government agencies to protect the wildlife that belongs in a trust for all of the American public to enjoy. Activities outlined in the proposal to improve the diversity of wildlife habitat, oak regeneration, and the presence of young forests will greatly benefit wildlife including the white-tailed deer.

White-tailed deer are an important driver of the economy and will benefit substantially from this proposal. On a national level, whitetails are the most popular big game animal, 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. On the state level, according to the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Kentucky's sportsmen and women contribute \$2 billion annually to the state's economy and support 35,000 jobs. These vital contributions to the state's economy provided by sportsmen and women must not be ignored. These sportsmen and women who care deeply for the land, the whitetails that utilize it, and conservation depend on your approval of this proposal. 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