



## QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 27 November 2019  
To: Tennessee Department of Agriculture  
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern  
Re: Harvest Plan for Sustainable Forests for 2020

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On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to applaud the forest management activities located within your Harvest Plan for Sustainable Forests 2020. 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 white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and the white-tailed deer hunting tradition. With proper management of our forests being so vital to their successful preservation, it is important to support forest management activities that encourage a diversity of age classes facilitating the increased viability of wildlife habitat. The sustainable management of our forests leads to a sustainable population of white-tailed deer within the state of Tennessee.

A healthy population of white-tailed deer within Tennessee contributes to a deeply rooted hunting tradition and white-tailed deer hunters are an important driver of the state's economy. The white-tailed deer that hunters pursue depend on the sound forest management activities outlined in this plan. 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, \$20.72 million was raised by hunting license fees in Tennessee just last year. Additionally, the hunting industry within Tennessee helps to contribute \$1.8 billion per year to the state's economy and helps support 26,389 jobs. The economic wellbeing of the state depends on the sound forest management strategies outlined in this plan.

According to the very successful North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, wildlife is held in a trust for all of Americans to enjoy. It is the duty of our government and we as citizens to protect this trust. The forest management activities that have been outlined in this plan to improve wildlife habitat help us live up to that duty. On behalf of the QDMA, we would like to applaud your efforts to create more sustainable forests across the state of Tennessee. Thank you for your time, consideration and dedicated service to the state of Tennessee.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries  
Policy Intern  
Quality Deer Management Association