



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 160 • 170 Whitetail Way • Bogart, GA 30622
PHONE: 800.209.3337 • FAX: 706.353.0223 • www.QDMA.com

Date: 10 January 2020
To: United States Forest Service
From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation
Re: George Washington and Jefferson National Forest's Liberty Thinning Project

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for the actions outlined in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest's Liberty Thinning 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 50,000 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. Proper forest management benefits a suite of game and nongame species, and the current science supports active management practices similar to those being proposed in the Liberty Thinning 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.

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, Virginia's sportsmen and women contribute greater than \$1.5 billion annually to the state's economy and support over 20,000 jobs. 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,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation