



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 29 August 2019
To: INFF
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: Support for Indiana Division of Forestry

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for the forest management activities in the state of Indiana by the Division of Forestry (DOF) under the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). 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.

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. With 151,708 forested acres under the management of the DOF, it is vitally important that the DOF has the ability to conduct management activities within these forests to keep them in the healthiest condition possible for the citizens of Indiana to enjoy. Many communities rely on these forests as a source of solitude, recreation, and as an economic driver for their businesses. The continued existence of these forests and the well-being of the communities that rely upon them hinges on the ability of the Indiana DNR's DOF to conduct science-backed management activities.

White-tailed deer are one of the many species that stand to benefit from the activities of Indiana DNR's DOF. 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, \$872 million was raised by hunting license fees just last year. Additionally, Indiana's deer hunters have contributed \$37.56 million to conservation within the state. Simply put, the well-being of Indiana's economy depends on the well-being of Indiana's extensive forest system. On behalf of the QDMA, we would like to sincerely thank you for your consideration and your time on this matter.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries
Policy Intern
Quality Deer Management Association