



Quality Deer Management Association
Maryland State Chapter



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On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) and the Maryland State Chapter we thank you for the opportunity to provide input on Maryland's draft 2009-2018 white-tailed deer management plan. The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ethical hunting, sound deer management and preservation of the deer-hunting heritage. Among QDMA's 50,000 members are more than 3,000 wildlife biologists, foresters and natural resource professionals. As such, QDMA is widely regarded as the most respected whitetail organization in the U.S.

We would like to commend the Department on your deer management program. Your deer seasons provide abundant recreational opportunities and your liberal bag limits provide abundant antlerless harvest opportunities. These opportunities enable hunters to spend additional time afield and are necessary to balance deer herds with their habitats and maximize youth hunter recruitment and retention.

With respect to your draft 2009-2018 deer management plan, we offer the following comments:

- We support your **Population Goal**. We commend you for Objective 6, "*Proactively inform Maryland citizens on your management approach, goals and techniques...*" as open communication between the Department and Maryland's sportsmen is key to a successful program. We also encourage you to design seasons and/or educational programs that will protect the majority of yearling bucks throughout the state.
- We support your **Education Goal**. We especially welcome Objective 6 and look forward to working with the Department to, "*...develop a progressive and complete technical assistance program to guide landowners, clubs, and hunters...*"
- We support your **Recreation Goal**. We appreciate Objective 3 and your effort to, "*...maintain an annual average of 800,000 hunter-days for deer hunting.*" The Strategies within this Objective are all commendable and highlight the Department's emphasis on recognizing, promoting and ensuring the future of hunting in Maryland.
- We support your **Damage Goal**. These Objectives and Strategies ensure you'll maintain a pulse on regional deer populations and user groups impacted by white-tailed deer.
- We support your **Operational Resources Goal**. Objective 2 is becoming increasingly necessary in Maryland and throughout the whitetail's range.

In closing, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on your draft deer management program and look forward to working with the Department on future issues.

Respectfully,

E.W. Grimes
President, Maryland State Chapter

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Director of Education & Outreach