



# QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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10 March 2009

Mr. Carl Roe  
Executive Director, Pennsylvania Game Commission  
2001 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Dear Mr. Roe,

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) and Pennsylvania State Chapter we are writing to provide support for the use of prescribed fire on State Game Lands in Pennsylvania. The QDMA is an international nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ethical hunting, sound deer management and preservation of the deer-hunting heritage. Among QDMA's 53,000 members are more than 3,000 of the nation's leading wildlife and forestry professionals. As such, QDMA is widely regarded as the most respected whitetail organization in the United States.

Fire has played a major role in determining the distribution of plants across many areas of Pennsylvania. Historically, some plant communities burned frequently as a result of naturally-occurring or man-made fires, and some even required fire to establish or replace themselves in the forested environment. According to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, prescribed fire is defined as fire applied in a knowledgeable manner to forest fuels on a specific land area under selected weather conditions to accomplish predetermined, well-defined management objectives. Prescribed fire vastly differs from "wildfire" and it is currently applied to millions of acres of land in the United States annually. Prescribed fire can be used to achieve the following benefits:

- Improve wildlife habitat
- Reduce hazardous fuels
- Prepare sites for seeding & planting
- Dispose of logging debris
- Manage competing vegetation
- Control disease
- Enhance appearance
- Perpetuate fire-dependent species
- Cycle nutrients
- Manage endangered species

Fire is a natural agent in the environment, and it helped establish and perpetuate many of Pennsylvania's plant communities. Prescribed fire is a valuable management tool and it is the best tool to release oaks from competing vegetation. The QDMA advocates the use of prescribed fire and would support the Game Commission employing it on State Game Lands. Please contact me if I can provide any additional information and thanks for your commitment to Pennsylvania's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams  
Northern Director of Education & Outreach / Wildlife Biologist

Steve Trupe  
President, PA State Chapter

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*The QDMA is dedicated to ethical hunting, sound deer management  
and the preservation of the deer-hunting heritage.*

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