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First name: Jacob

Last name: Pries

Organization: Quality Deer Management Association

Title: Policy Intern

Comments: From: Jacob Pries Sent: Tue, 1 Oct 2019 20:11:18 To: FS-Comments Intermtn Ashley

ForestPlanRevision Cc: Kip Adams Subject: Comments on Ashley National Forest Land Management Plan-

QDMATo Whom It May Concern: I hope this email finds you doing well. On behalf of the Quality Deer

Management Association, we would like to state our support for the Ashley National Forest Land Management

Plan. Attached is a letter outlining our position in full. Your consideration to this matter is greatly appreciated. I

have cc'ed the Director of Conservation at the Quality Deer Management Association in this correspondence.

Please reach out with any questions. Respectfully, Jacob D. Pries QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT

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706.353.0223 [bull] www.QDMA.com Date: 01 October 2019 To: United States Forest Service From: Jacob Pries,

Policy Intern Re: Ashley National Forest Land Management Plan On behalf of the Quality Deer Management

Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for the proposed revising and updating of the Ashley

National Forest Land Management Plan. 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 deer, wildlife habitat and the deer hunting tradition. With proper management of our forests being

so vital to their successful preservation, it is important that we encourage sound, science-based forest

management activities. We strongly encourage the United States Forest Service to continue to consider activities

that promote habitat enhancement, forest resiliency, and public access. Additionally, we want to encourage the

United States Forest Service to consider the impacts of facilitating the continued existence of a healthy deer

population. A healthy deer population within the Ashley National Forest contributes to a deeply rooted hunting

tradition and deer hunters are an important driver of the local economy. The deer that hunters pursue depend on

the sound and updated forest management activities in this proposal. According to the Congressional

Sportsmen's Foundation, Utah hunters help contribute \$1.04 billion dollars annually while supporting 19,677 jobs

and Wyoming hunters help contribute \$778 million annually while supporting 13,943 jobs. With economic

resilience being one of the goals in this proposal, it is clear that the interests of the hunting community must not

be ignored moving forward on this project. Additionally, we would like to see these forest management activities

provide improved access to land within the Ashley National Forest for continued recreational opportunities.

Hunters are the original conservationists who have continually provided extensive funding to wildlife and habitat

conservation efforts. By increasing the accessibility of these lands, you will increase the opportunity for

individuals to experience what makes the time-honored tradition so great, thus ushering in the next generation of

conservationists. On behalf of the QDMA, we would like to thank you for your time on this matter and

consideration of our comments. Respectfully, Jacob Pries Policy Intern Quality Deer Management Association

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