

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
and
QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is hereby entered into by and between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, hereinafter referred to as the MDNR, and the Quality Deer Management Association and its Michigan State Chapter and Branches, hereinafter referred to as the QDMA, collectively referred to as the Parties.

A. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a framework for cooperation between the MDNR and the QDMA. This framework provides for jointly planning and accomplishing mutually beneficial projects and activities that maintain and enhance Michigan's wildlife resources.

B. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AND BENEFITS.

The MDNR is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of Michigan's natural resources for current and future generations. Furthermore, the MDNR has a public trust responsibility for the management of all wildlife species and populations. Primary legal authority for wildlife management and regulation comes from the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994. Part 401 of Public Act 451 gives authority to the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and the DNR Director to issue orders (Wildlife Conservation Order) specific to wildlife management and hunting.

Founded in 1988, the QDMA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. The QDMA has members in all 50 states, Canada and several countries and a network of volunteer Branches in more than 30 states and Provinces. Collectively, these members and Branches promote quality deer management (QDM) and advance the mission of the QDMA. The QDMA is North America's leading advocate for healthy deer herds in balance with existing habitat conditions and featuring more natural adult sex ratios and buck age structures. This management approach is predicated on the four cornerstones of QDM – herd management, habitat management, hunter management and herd monitoring – and requires an increased knowledge of deer biology and active participation in management.

In consideration of the above premises, the Parties agree as follows:

C. MDNR SHALL:

1. Provide leadership for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of projects or research efforts approved by all parties of this MOU and developed subsequent to this agreement.
2. Participate in projects or research efforts with the QDMA. Examples of these efforts may include: on-the-ground habitat restoration and enhancement projects (e.g. wildlife food plots, prescribed burning, winter range evaluation, etc.); deer habitat research projects; and educational programs.
3. Manage white-tailed deer populations following the guidelines outlined in the Michigan Strategic Deer Management Plan.
4. Advocate appropriate consideration of wildlife resources and proper management, particularly white-tailed deer and enhancement of associated habitat, in State and private forestry program delivery and related private landowner assistance activities and initiatives.
5. Advise the QDMA on the administration of natural resources management programs affecting public and private lands.

D. QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION SHALL:

1. Participate in the development and execution of projects or research efforts approved by all parties to this MOU. Projects may include habitat, education and/or deer management efforts.
2. Disseminate information concerning the planning, management, and conservation of white-tailed deer and other natural resources.
3. Provide information as appropriate to the MDNR related to the needs and concerns of QDMA members regarding the management of Michigan's natural resources.
4. Establish, implement, and conduct informational and educational programs oriented toward natural resources conservation, hunter safety and ethics, and landowner assistance.
5. Work with MDNR staff to identify preferred harvest strategies to achieve desired regional antlered and antlerless deer harvest goals.

E. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY ALL PARTIES THAT:

1. **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA):** Any information furnished to the MDNR under this MOU is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C 552).
2. **MODIFICATION:** Modification within the scope of the MOU shall be made by mutual consent of the Parties, by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by all parties, prior to any changes being performed.
3. **PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES:** This MOU in no way restricts the MDNR or the QDMA from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
4. **COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION DATE:** This MOU is executed as of the last date shown below and expires no later than December 31, 2014, at which time it is subject of review and renewal, or expiration.
5. **TERMINATION:** Either party(s), in writing, may terminate the MOU in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of expiration.
6. **PRINCIPAL CONTACTS:** The principal contacts for this MOU are:

MDNR Contact	Cooperator Contact
Rebecca A. Humphries	Brian Murphy
Michigan DNR	Quality Deer Management Association
Director	CEO
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MDNR Project Contact	Cooperator Project Contact
Russ Mason	Kip Adams
Michigan DNR-Wildlife Division	Quality Deer Management Association
Chief	Director of Education and Outreach – Northern Region
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MDNR Project Contact	Michigan QDMA Contact
	Leon Hank
	Quality Deer Management Association
	Michigan State Chapter President
	4644 Crampton Way
	Holt, MI 48842
Phone:	Phone: (517) 699-2393
Fax:	Fax:
Email:	Email: leonhank@yahoo.com

7. MEETINGS: Meetings or teleconferences will take place periodically to discuss and identify opportunities for mutually beneficial projects and activities.

8. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES: By signing below, the cooperator certifies that the individuals listed in this document are representatives of the cooperator and are authorized to act in their respective areas for matter related to this MOU.

THE PARTIES HERETO have executed this MOU.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director, Michigan DNR

Brian Murphy
CEO, QDMA

Date

Date

Russ Mason
Chief, MDNR-Wildlife Division

Leon Hank
Michigan State Chapter
President, QDMA

Date

Date