



Quality Deer Management Association  
Maryland State Chapter



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28 August 2008

Mayor's Office  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore, MD.

Dear Mayor Dixon,

On behalf of the Maryland State Chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to provide input on the Loch Raven Watershed Deer Management Plan. The QDMA is an international nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ethical hunting, sound deer management and preservation of the deer-hunting heritage. The QDMA has over 50,000 members nationwide including more than 3,000 wildlife biologist, foresters and natural resource professionals. As such, QDMA is widely regarded as the most respected whitetail organization in the United States.

There is a need for a white-tailed deer management plan for the Loch Raven Reservoir that supports long-term protection, preservation and restoration of native vegetation and water clarity. A successful deer management program will balance the deer herd with the available habitat and keep deer from adversely impacting forest regeneration, sensitive vegetation and other wildlife species. The current deer density is higher than desired, and the habitat shows signs of an overabundant deer herd.

We request that you consider regulated archery hunting as a management strategy. Regulated hunting has been proven to be an effective deer management tool, it is cost effective, and it results in immediate removal of animals from the population. By using regulated hunting, biologists can maintain deer populations at desirable levels and/or adjust them in accordance with local biological and social needs. Archery hunting has the advantage of being a relatively discreet and silent activity. These attributes and the limited shooting range make archery hunting a safe and non-disruptive removal technique. Archery hunters have safely and effectively reduced deer populations, deer-vehicle accidents, the incidence of Lyme disease and other deer-human conflicts in many communities.

In addition to safety concerns, we understand that many segments of the public enjoy watching this highly visible deer population. However, when deer densities surpass the carrying capacity of the habitat, deer and habitat health decline. This situation is neither good for the deer population nor for the habitat or other wildlife species.

The Maryland State Chapter and the over 1,800 QDMA members with-in Maryland would like to commend Baltimore City's existing successful archery hunting programs in Liberty and Pretty Boy Reservoirs. In closing, we reiterate our support for Mayor Dixon and staff on their decision to use recreational bow-hunting as a management tool at Loch Raven Water Shed and look forward to working with Baltimore City Departments on deer issues in the future.

Respectfully,  
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