

Kirtland warbler aid plan signed

LANSING/199 Michigan's efforts to protect the endangered Kirtland's warbler have received a boost with a Department of Military Affairs pledge to avoid crucial nesting grounds in northern Michigan.

The Military Affairs and Natural Resources departments signed a joint management plan Thursday setting aside about 4,000 acres of military land for protection of the birds, the DNR said.

The Military Affairs Department also agreed to restrict its maneuvers on other warbler-occupied, military-owned lands until the birds leave older jack pine stands for younger stands of trees, the DNR said.

The agreement follows conflicts between the Camp Grayling military base and the DNR, particularly over the 40,000-acre army tank maneuver range. The pact will supplement a long-term program, already under way, to plant new jack pine stands on blocks of state and federal land in the area.

Kirtland's warblers are known to nest only in jack pine forests of north-central Lower Michigan.

Warbler efforts boosted

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