

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Department of Agriculture - Forest Service, R-9
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

Memorandum

TO : Chief

File No. 2630 - 7

FROM : George S. James, Regional Forester, By:

Date: November 25, 1964

SUBJECT: Habitat (Endangered Species Areas)

Your references: 11/4 & 11/16

Species considered rare and in possible danger of extinction in Region 9 include the Kirtland's Warbler, Bald Eagle, Prairie Chicken, and Spring Cave-Fish. We are also enclosing material on the Fisher Management Area, and other species rare in this Region. Our report is presented in brief and follows the outline in your memorandum of November 4, 1964.

1. Established areas managed for endangered species:

Kirtland's Warbler Management Area.

- a. Established - 1962.
- b. 4,010 acres.
- c. Access to area limited by permit only. See enclosed brochure. Copies are enclosed for the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Bald Eagle-Osprey Nesting Sites. Although these species do not appear on the Department of Interior's list of near-extinct species, we have established special measures to insure their survival. These procedures are outlined in FSM 2633.4, 1964 Supplement No. 23 (copy enclosed). A copy of our annual Bald Eagle-Osprey Nesting report is also enclosed.

- a. Established by FSM Supplement - 1964.
- b. Acreage - estimated 1,000 - 1,500 acres (approximately 10 acres per nest site).
- c. Restriction on use detailed in FSM Supplement, item d. - Multiple-Use Considerations.

2. Endangered species receiving special protection other than by established areas:

Spring Cave-Fish (Chologaster apassini). This species is included in "Preliminary List of Rare, Restricted, and/or Threatened North American Freshwater Fishes" by Robert R. Miller, University of Michigan, 1963. However, his reprint, "Extinct, Rare, and Endangered American Freshwater Fishes", Vol. 8, "Science and Man Symposium" of the XVI International Congress of Zoology, Washington, D. C., August 20-27, 1963, does not list this species.

We quote from his preliminary report:

Although of fairly widespread distribution in southern Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee (Woods and Anger, 1937, Amer. Midl. Nat., 58: 238 and fig. 10), it would be desirable to seek protection for certain populations of this species. An isolated population that is favorably located for preservation lives in the Pine Hills, Union County, a state recreation area. Setting this aside as a wildlife monument would also preserve a relict population of the bantam sunfish, Lepomis microlophus Forbes, as well as other unique biological features of the area.

Protection to the Spring Cave-Fish on the Shawnee National Forest (Pine Hills - La Rue Scenic Area) has been requested for the plant and animal values to be protected in this historical location and adjacent bluff area. Although we have not published this species on the snakes for which the area is noted, enough scientific and professional collectors use the area to threaten a number of species. A study of the situation should be made to indicate any action in need.

John G. Weise reported on "The Spring Cave-Fish, Chologaster microlophus, in Illinois" in Ecology Vol. 38, pp. 2, April 1957.

Greater Prairie Chicken: The Shyenne National Grassland offers habitat for this species. Management efforts have been considered for the Wildlife Plan for this Grassland. Biologists of the North Dakota Fish and Game Department consider the Shyenne National Grassland as one of the most promising areas in North Dakota to maintain a population of this species. Management would also include the sharp-tailed grouse. The Grassland has a rather limited mixed population of prairie chicken and sharp-tailed grouse.

There are a number of sharp-tailed grouse areas in Region 9. None of these, however, are known to contain a population of Prairie Chicken.

3. Endangered species which should be considered for special protection or included on the endangered list. Enclosed are the forms requested for your memorandum of November 14, 1964. We also suggest the Committee check Miller, Robert R., 1963, Extinct, Rare, and Endangered American Freshwater Fishes, Vol. 8, Science and Man Symposium--The Fabrication of Vanishing Species, XVI International Congress of Zoology, Washington, D. C., 15 pp.

- a. Spring Cave-Fish. We consider an evaluation of this species is needed.
- b. Bald Eagle. This species should be included. We feel present populations are as much in danger as the Crown Turtle which, "In U. S., probably scarce, but worldwide, still fairly abundant." or the Florida Sandhill Crane which is, "Rare and localized, but no indication that they are endangered at present." The Bald Eagle in Alaska may be satisfactory, but the declining population in the U. S. is far below that reported for certain species now included in the proposed list.
- c. Red Wolf (Canis niger) and Gray or Timber Wolf (Canis lupus). We feel a review of the status of the Timber Wolf, and more particular the Red Wolf is needed. It has been predicted that at the present rate of depletion, the area encompassed by the Superior National Forest (primarily the BLM) will soon include most of the remaining animals of this species in the U. S. Although populations do not appear to be endangered in Alaska and Canada, their status is unknown. The Red Wolf is much more rare. We feel an evaluation of its status would classify it as an endangered species. We only have limited knowledge of these species, and therefore have not prepared a writeup sheet.
4. Species which we consider need special protection in Region 9, and in which we have established management areas:

Fishing: Management efforts for this species are covered in the attached paper, "The Restocking of Fisher in Public State Forests". In addition to the Fisher Management Area (123,000 acres) established on the Nicolet National Forest considerations are being given to the establishment of a similar area on the Otter National Forest (317,000 acres).

Common Loon: You are aware of the large number of loons found dead last year in Lake Michigan (estimated 5,000). It appears as if at least another 10,000 will die this fall and winter. (This species won't be so "common" if this continues!) The U.S.F.W.S. has not definitely established this die-off as due to botulism, Type E. Some biologists consider the die-off of loons, ducks, gulls, etc., is caused by a change occurring in the Great Lakes. If this change is from pollution, it could have far reaching consequences. Preliminary results of a 1964 re-survey of Sig Olson's study of loons in Minnesota (Knife Lake Area - MCA) has shown no drop in population. A continuing study of this situation is needed.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: A number of Sharp-tailed grouse areas have been established with the dual objective of providing habitat to preserve the species, and to maintain a huntable population. Approximately 48,000 acres are classified. These areas are currently being evaluated to determine their multiple use potential, and development needs to maintain populations of Sharp-tailed grouse, and provide other resources.

Sandhill Crane: A nesting population of Sandhill Cranes exists on the Hiawatha National Forest. Management of Sharp-tailed Crane benefits this species. The Forest Wildlife Plan will give consideration to this species. Controlled burns may be employed. No areas have been specifically set up for this species.

We are enclosing several photographs of the Kirtland's Warbler and controlled burning taken by Dow Chemical Company (who assisted the Forest in the 500 acres controlled burn). We suggest these be sent to Mr. Janzen in reference to his request for photos in the Wildlife Management Institute's "Outdoor News Bulletin" of October 23, 1964 (Vol. 18, #21). We also suggest that Mr. Janzen contact Mr. Harold Mayfield (author - The Kirtland's Warbler, 1960, Cranbrook Institute of Science) for additional information on this species. We consider Mr. Mayfield the "authority" on this species. He has given the Forest considerable help. (His address is River Road, Waterville, Ohio.)

There is one question which we felt may need some clarification. This is the matter of land purchase under the Land and Water Bill for the management of endangered species. What, if any, are the limitations concerning purchase, and will specific species be spelled out which are eligible under provisions of the Bill? We feel that preservation of Bald Eagle nest sites is the key to maintaining this species in the U. S. If land purchase for endangered wildlife is to be based on the Committee's list, it is imperative that the Bald Eagle be included. Recent research shows about 75% of successful nesting (outside of Florida) reported by the Continental Bald Eagle Survey. A number of nests occur on private lands within the Forest.

The Hiawatha National Forest has a number of tracts which they desire to be included within the Kirtland's Warbler Management Area.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Janzen, and his reply to our request to discuss cooperative aspects of rare species management.

Enclosure

cc: Chicago

Eliot W. Zimmerman

Administrative