

AUG 17 1976

Major General John A. Johnston
Adjutant General
Michigan National Guard
Director of Military Affairs - Michigan
2500 South Washington Avenue
P. O. Box 210
Lansing, Michigan 48901

Dear General Johnston:

On August 11, we received word that a fire or series of fires destroyed 335 acres of prime breeding habitat of the Kirtland's warbler, an endangered species. Investigations of the fire revealed that the National Guard has been conducting tank maneuvers in the area and other areas which may be essential for the warbler.

As these activities may adversely modify critical habitat or jeopardize the continued existence of an endangered species, I recommend that the consultation process be initiated.

I am enclosing a set of guidelines developed to assist Federal agencies in complying with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. If you need farther information, please advise.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Jack E. Hemphill

Regional Director

Attachment

cc: John Byelich
Team Leader
Dr. Howard Tanner
Director, Mich DNR

--- bcc: ADC

Director, Washington, D.C. (AFA)

Act no
Regional Director, Twin Cities, Minn. (AFA-SE)

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WAS/Concern Alert on Kirtland's Warbler

As indicated in the attached Concern Alert, up to ten percent of existing Kirtland's warblers may have been affected by recent fires.

7s/ George G. ... Paris

Attachment:

cc: Recovery Team members:
John Dyalich
William Irvine
Neil Johnson
Wesley Jones
Harold Mayfield
Robert Radtke
William Shake

CONCERN ALERT

Subject and Status: Essential Breeding Habitat of Kirtland's Warbler Destroyed by Fire and Subjected to National Guard Tank Maneuvers.

The recovery team leader for the Kirtland's warbler reported a fire or series of fires destroyed 335 acres of prime breeding habitat. Five to ten nesting pairs were residing in the area and a Service cowbird trap has been burned.

No proof exists that the fires were started by Guard activities though the likelihood exists. There is evidence that the Guard is conducting maneuvers in areas inhabited by the warbler; informal agreements consummated over the past two years excluded these areas from Guard activities.

Action or Decision: The National Guard will be advised their activities may have adverse impacts on critical habitat and are requested to enter into the consultation process.

Responsibility: Regional Director, Region 3. (ARD-AFA Del Rasmussen; Senior Staff Biologist - Endangered Species, James Engel. Telephone 725-3596 or 3569.)

Key Dates: ASAP