

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Huron-Manistee N.F.'s

REPLY TO: 5100 Fire Management
2500 Soil Surveys

April 20, 1979

SUBJECT: Fuel Management Coordination



TO: District Rangers, Mio, Tawas, & Harrisville

Reference is made to Reedy's (Watson's) 4/5/79 memo and the questions asked at the 4/18 Ranger/Staff meeting concerning prescribed burning for Kirtland's Warbler management. It was intimated that this letter discouraged such a practice.

Quite the contrary. The statement made by Rick is, "Prescribed burning is not an end in itself, but merely one possible alternative to achieve a management objective". He states further on in the letter, "On sandy, poorly developed soils to be managed for Kirtland's Warblers, a hot burn will accomplish the management objective of maintaining jack pine in an optimum size class for a longer period of time." He then compares this to another objective - red pine production, whereby burning with its resultant effects on soil would be adverse.

It might be that the effects of fire on soil is more than maintaining jack pine in an optimum size class. These effects probably are needed to maintain a plant community required for this species. If the poorly developed soils become better developed, and the organic layer builds up and increases the moisture and nutrient holding capacity of the soil, the plant community will undoubtedly change and the site will no longer be Kirtland's Warbler habitat.

G. W. Irvine
GEORGE W. IRVINE
Acting Wildlife Officer

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Dave