



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

NC  
For  
Viking



Reply to: 4200

Date: May 21, 1988

Subject: Wildlife Management of Jack pine Forest Type

To: Timber-Wildlife Staff Officer  
Huron-Manistee National Forest

I have had several conversations with Huron-Manistee biologists about managing jack pine for wildlife species other than Kirtland's Warbler. As you know, Kirtland's Warbler (KW) management is a very expensive program. I understand that the costs of regenerating jack pine for KWs or other resource benefits are about twice the current receipts from timber sales. Thus, it is highly desirable to emphasize, publicize, and maximize other wildlife benefits that are derived from jack pine management.

For your information, the enclosed list of species that have habitat potential in jack pine include about three dozen species that should be recognized because of their status as ETS or game species. Some of these species could be considered for special management. Of course, many of these species are more abundant in other forest types, and it may be difficult to establish or increase populations of some wildlife species in Lower Michigan. The qualitative importance classes as listed in the Table can be modified by the land manager according to local or temporal conditions. At present, I am using this predicted wildlife list as an example for integrating the expected wildlife response to forest maturation and silvicultural treatment in one or more forest types.

Wildlife species preferring early successional stages should benefit from the large management blocks in the KWMA's--especially as these areas approach balanced rotation. Difficult or ambitious projects, (such as sharp-tailed grouse re-introduction) should be delayed until most management units provide minimum habitat and scheduling for future needs. Regular timber harvest in the KWMA's need not conflict with any current or future proposals to set aside large areas of uncut forest in the Forest as a whole. Preservation of large mature forest blocks would still be possible at other locations because management of KWMA's is concentrated into large, contiguous areas separated from one another.

It is unlikely that we will do any field research on jack pine wildlife but it is possible to manage jack pine wildlife (based on existing literature and data bases) without compromising habitat quality for Kirtland's Warblers. It may be advantageous to publicize the other wildlife benefits of KW management.

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to help justify the current program. You also may wish to incorporate some jack pine wildlife management into your existing plans and make additions to the LMP at the appropriate time. We can discuss this further at the planned Huron-Manistee and NCFES interchange.

JOHN R. PROBST  
Wildlife Biologist

Enclosures

cc: Tawas RD  
Mio RD  
Harrisville RD  
D. Elsing, Hiawatha N.F.  
RO - Radtke  
T. Crow, NCFES  
S. Taylor, MI DNR  
J. Weinrich, MI DNR  
T. Weise, MI DNR  
R. Baker, MN DNR  
L. Gregg, WI DNR (Park Falls)  
C. Adams, WI DNR (Spooner)



# DRAFT - SUBJECT TO REVISION

Study Series: Integrate multi-species habitat needs across ownerships for large areas of young habitat.

Problem: Traditional wildlife habitat modelling and management deals with single species at local levels such as a stand or compartment. Stand designation and scheduling must accommodate cumulative effects of forest type and age on different species with contrasting requirements. This study will emphasize habitat quality and biogeography of species that require large blocks of habitat. Minimum habitat requirements of wide-ranging species often cannot be met without cooperative land management among government agencies.

Objectives: (1) Devise a management strategy to provide habitat for viable populations of a variety of key wildlife species in jack pine and oak forest types. Species that are Endangered, Threatened, game, furbearer, or special interest include Kirtland's Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, Eastern Bluebird, Upland Sandpiper, Lincoln's Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Spruce Grouse, White-tailed Deer, Badger, Short-tailed Weasel, Red Fox, Coyote, and several raptors. (2) Plan for adjacent and disjunct habitat in federal, state, county, and private ownership to provide adequate quantity and spatial arrangement of habitat for as many key species as possible. (3) Devise stand scheduling scheme that develops large blocks of mature habitat from staggered regeneration of early succession habitat.

Methods: (1) Assemble maps of habitat and potential management areas from Michigan GIS (MIRIS), State and USFS aerial photos and compartment records. (2) Devise integrated management strategy for species using forest regeneration as well as those requiring large permanent openings utilizing juxtaposition of adjacent forest types and ownerships to provide minimum area requirements of most species. (3) Design monitoring for viable populations if plan is implemented.

Location: Northern Lower Michigan, Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula, or Northwestern Wisconsin.

Cooperation: Huron-Manistee, Hiawatha, or Chequamegon National Forest, Michigan DNR, or Wisconsin DNR, Burnett and Douglas Counties, Wisconsin.

Duration: 2-4 years.

