

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Huron-Manistee National Forests
421 South Mitchell Street - Cadillac, Michigan 49601

REPLY TO: 2600 Wildlife

August 29, 1975

SUBJECT: Activities for Kirtland's Warbler Management on the
Huron National Forest - FY 1975

TO: John Byelich, Leader
Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team
Wildlife Division, DNR
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The following activities for the management and protection of the Kirtland's Warbler and its habitat were accomplished during fiscal year 1975:

Protection - There were 4,670 acres of the Huron National Forest involving three Kirtland's Warbler nesting areas closed to entry by the public between May 1 and August 15, except by conducted tours. Some 953 people visited the area via these tours. There were no citations issued to people who were found on the area, but the few found were asked to leave and warned about the closure. The respect shown this closure by all types of Forest visitors was exceedingly good.

Census - Forest Service employees participating in the 1975 census were Bill Irvine, Phil Schempf and Craig Orr. They were assisted by Dr. and Mrs. Dale Zimmerman, Al Zimmerman, Doris Lea, and Jean Skellenger (all volunteers), and Judy Alderson of the Fish and Wildlife Service. The census areas they covered were in Crawford and Oscoda Counties.

Cowbird Control - The Fish and Wildlife Service operated six traps on the three nesting areas on the Huron.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT - Inventory - The jack pine stands that are found on Grayling sands have been identified through the examination of vegetative type soils map for the Huron. There has been some field examination of these stands and the data can be used for tentative identification of the critical nesting habitat for the Kirtland's Warbler and as a basis for planning habitat work.

Development - Work to create potential nesting habitat was employed through direct means or in coordination with timber activities in selected jack pine stands as follows:

2.

- a. 358 acres prescribe burned of which 160 acres were planted to jack pine in a Kirtland's Warbler nesting habitat configuration. The balance 198 acres to be planted in FY '76. (McKinley and Luzerne areas).
- b. 183 acres planted to pine in Kirtland's Warbler nest habitat configuration without being burned prior to planting. (Luzerne and McKinley areas).
- c. 93 acres were burned in preparation for possible natural jack pine regeneration. (Some 120 acres adjacent to this stand are scheduled for burning during FY '76). (Hunt Creek area).
- d. 520 acres of jack pine was prepared and offered for sale in preparation for regeneration to jack pine by prescribed burning in FY '77. (250 acres were sold and 270 acres yet to be sold - no bids received). (Pine River area).

The following activities are planned for fiscal year 1976:

Census - Continue

Cowbird Control - To be continued by F & WS.

Protection -

- a. continue closure order for active nesting areas.
- b. continue conducted tours.
- c. Patrol and enforce closure of nesting areas.

Habitat Management -

- a. Compile inventory data and complete the long range habitat plan.
- b. Prescribe burn 360 acres.
- c. Plant jack pine on 450 acres.
- d. Remove excessive oak sprouts on 320 acres of jack pine reproduction.
- e. Continue sales preparation in selected jack pine stands for subsequent regeneration of potential Kirtland's Warbler nesting habitat.

There were no wild fires of any significant size in jack pine on the Huron during the past year.

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