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June 29, 1992

TO: Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team

FROM: Information-Education Steering Committee, Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team

SUBJECT: Kirtland's Warbler Information-Education Steering Committee Progress Report

The Information and Education (I & E) Steering Committee, appointed at the February 1992 Recovery Team meeting, met this spring to begin our assignment of identifying strategies for improving public knowledge and understanding of the Kirtland's warbler and its management program. Committee members include Kate Winsor, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Twin Cities; Mike DeCapita, USFWS, East Lansing; Connie Chaney, U. S. Forest Service (USFS), Mio; and Bob Hess, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Division, Lansing. Dave Case of D. J. Case and Associates was invited and agreed to join the Committee.

Although the Committee was appointed to develop both long-term and short-term information and education strategies, we chose to focus our first efforts on identifying actions to implement this summer. Long-term strategies will be developed at future meetings.

The Kirtland's Warbler I & E plan developed by D. J. Case and Associates, and presented at the February 1992 Recovery Team meeting, was used to identify key issues and concerns and to develop I & E strategies and actions to focus on immediately. Actions are listed below and generally follow the order as they appear in the Actions Section, pages 8 through 12, of the I & E plan.

These recommended actions were developed in response to the major issues and concerns focused around KW habitat management practices--timber management (clear cutting, size of cuttings), forest fire danger (perceived as increased by KW burns), delay in jack pine plantings after cuttings and fires, and general misunderstanding or lack of knowledge on the needs of the warbler and how warbler management is directed at meeting these needs. Local opposition to warbler management centered in the Grayling area on state forest lands and in the Mio area on federal forest lands.

Action 1 Conduct "by invitation" tours.

These special tours will be, in addition to the regularly scheduled public tours, out of the Holiday Inn in Grayling and the Huron National Forest office in Mio.

