



Reply to: 2430 Commercial Timber Sales

Date: July 29, 1982

Subject: Hunter's Lake Timber Sale, proposed

To: District Ranger, Mio

At the request of Lee Fox, I reviewed this proposed sale on the ground and have the following comments.

The M18 and F97 corridors are visually sensitive corridors because of the high numbers of vehicles and nature of use they receive. For instance on July 28, the day I visited the site there were at least 20 private autos past the sale area on F97 in the half hour period of time. Presuming this is typical, I'd project about 350-400 ADT. This is sufficient to cause the route to be sensitivity level 1.

I have attached a map illustrating the following points. I feel that with all the existing clearcutting up to the road, much of which has no reproduction showing along with the sensitivity of the corridors involved you should give consideration to the following ideas.

Unit #1 - I understand there may be a chance to increase the size of this unit. I suggest two things. Where oak understory exists, I feel it should be saved and protected from yarding damage. I also suggest you consider this unit for creating an "irregular" shaped opening. I would be glad to work with Lee in establishing the best boundary.

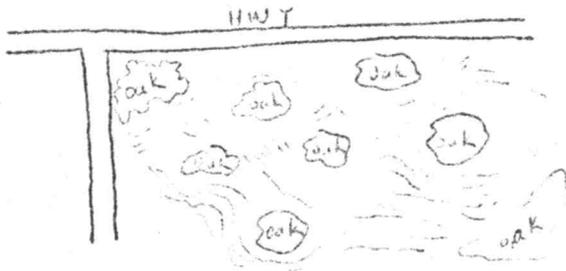
Unit #2 - I would rather see you exclude the south  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the unit (leave strip) as there is a lot of shoulder-height reproduction which is valuable to the view. Also I'd like to see all the dead snags or whips cut down to present as clean a unit as possible. If the slash can be reduced by roller-chopping this would be desirable as well. Can the older existing clearcut behind the leave strip be treated to cut all the standing dead stuff:

Unit #3 - I had the most concern with this unit. I realize it's main purpose is to create habitat for the D-W, but I still recommend the following. I hope these changes will be acceptable for wildlife.



a) where oak exists - mostly in the north section and along the south edge, I'd like to see you have a J.P. only removed. This will, of course effect the habitat. Perhaps a large enough block can be left in the center of the unit (J.P. clear-cut).

b) The center portion should be left as originally proposed (clearcut), but I'd like to see it treated for slash. If burning is a must, try to not burn the oak portions. I suggested to Lee that perhaps the oak portions could be roller chopped. This would only be in areas where oak is not too thick. Perhaps a scheme as shown below would work.



I understand the southwest corner is to be an overstory removal. Perhaps it can be worked in with the oak area to be a modified layout. I visualize a result something like the clearcut to the south of Hunter's Lake road north of Kellogg Lake.

Unit #4 - This unit would also be a good one to feather into the stands behind it. I think the more irregular we can make this unit, the better. If the boundaries can be adjusted to create irregular lines so much the better. I would be glad to work with Lee on this one also.

The remainder of the sale units proposed don't seem to be of much problem esthetics-wise.

*Ross Frid*

ROSS FRID  
Landscape Architect

RSFrid:sp

Enclosure



Reply to: 2430 Commercial Timber Sale  
2630 Wildlife Habitat

Date: August 12, 1982

Subject: Comments on Ross Frid's Hunter Lake Sale  
(Reference 7/29/82 memo)

To: District Ranger, Mio Ranger District

The rationale of establishing management areas, units, and blocks for KW management is to manage (cut-regenerate) large contiguous blocks of 200+ acres in even age classes. By repeatedly "dipping" into these blocks with periodic small cuts and grossly "modifying" for visual management, we are defeating the whole purpose of the approved management plan for this endangered species. Also, as I understand it, leaving older age jack pine over or adjacent to young trees encourages jack pine budworm. I realize, during this first rotation, we will have difficulty in some areas achieving full age class regulation; but by cutting parts of blocks and leaving parts, we may further delay reaching our objective. Furthermore, it is now and for the next several decades that the Kirtland's Warbler needs help to merely remain in existence, much less expand in numbers. On the Huron National Forest, we have over 425,000 acres of Federal ownership, 59,000 acres of which has been established as KWCH. This leaves 373,000 acres on which we can manage more intensively for visual consideration. At this time we have a commitment and are mandated by Congress to do all we can to keep this species existent. In doing so we are full and equal partners with the State of Michigan. I do not see much, if any, on-the-ground evidence that Michigan DNR is allowing visual considerations to in any way impede them in regenerating their KW habitat. I will be the first one to endorse, small cuts, irregular cutting patterns, and oak retention in managing for most Michigan wildlife (increased age class and type diversity, increased ecotone or edge areas, and retention of valuable mast producers). But I do not endorse such practices in managing for the Kirtland's Warbler at this time. As a bonus though, large-block KW management does benefit many other wildlife species. (See KW Management Plan and 2600 files.)

With the above thoughts in mind, I would like to comment on Ross's ideas as he made them - unit by unit.

Unit #1 - Cutting in this Block III (Rock Cemetary Unit) at this time should be held to an absolute minimum and only in cases of high risk, e.g. severe budworm areas. I do not concur with the suggestion that we should encourage any existing oak understory. Whenever possible, we are trying to discourage oak in KW habitat; and this area should be no different. Regarding cuts, KW management should always be directed at achieving and maintaining an even



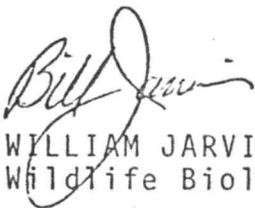
age jack pine stand throughout each block. A small opening right at the junction of FR 4479 and M-18 would be acceptable, however.

Unit #2 - I would encourage cutting this entire "leave strip" (Stand 2, Block I, Hunters Lake Unit). See my 8/3 memo, regarding removal of all "standing dead ~~stuff~~" in Stands 2 and 3. I heartily disagree; pine and oak snags are utilized by KW's (singing perch), many cavity dwellers (bluebirds, wrens, several woodpeckers, etc), and other insectivores - they are a natural feature of this community type.

Unit #3 - The main purpose for all 4 units is to create KW habitat. This entire triangular portion of Block II (Hunters Lake Unit) appears to be well suited for a prescribed burn following a strip cut, shelterwood or clearcut. See 8/3 memo. However, it would be acceptable to leave a few scattered oaks (1 per acre) in a 5-10 acre area to the far north of the block and a 10-15 acre area along the south edge. But, the area(s) should not be excluded from the burn - perhaps slash could be removed immediately under oaks to be saved.

Unit #4 - Proposed action sounds okay; but at least the entire stand (14) should be regenerated.

Please contact me if there are any questions or if you need additional help (layout, etc.)



WILLIAM JARVIS  
Wildlife Biologist, Huron Zone

cc: Irvine  
Frid