

Land Acquisition

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STATE OF MICHIGAN



JAMES J. BLANCHARD, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING
BOX 30028
LANSING, MI 48909

RONALD O. SKOOG, Director

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

THOMAS J. ANDERSON
MARLENE J. FLUHARTY
STEPHEN V. MONSMA
O. STEWART MYERS
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JAN 15 1986

Mr. Harvey K. Nelson
Regional Director
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Building, Fort Snelling
Twin Cities, Minnesota 55111

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Harvey

Please excuse the delay in responding to your November 15, 1985, letter requesting the State of Michigan to purchase four parcels optioned under the Kirtland's warbler program.

In phone conversations with Mr. Ross Grimwood from your Realty Division, my staff was advised that additional Federal funds were obtained recently and that the four parcels will be acquired.

We have no funding available this year to purchase lands specifically for Kirtland's warbler management. In the past, we have acquired some lands using our Deer Range Improvement Fund, but these lands must meet our acquisition criteria for deer habitat. We have no deer range acquisition funding available in the program at this time nor do we anticipate an active program in the foreseeable future. The other option available to us is via a three-way exchange. In future years we might be able to assist under the three-way exchange program. I understand your immediate funding needs have been met to acquire the parcels you optioned this year.

I am pleased to learn that the Kirtland's warbler continues to be a high priority for the Federal Endangered Species Program and that the goal for acquisition of Kirtland's warbler habitat has been increased from 4,500 to 7,700 acres. A letter has been sent to my field staff advising them of your interest in other parcels with suitable habitat. We will advise your staff if any of these parcels become available on the open market.

Sincerely,

Ronald O. Skoog
Director
517-373-2329

cpy to Grimwood 1/23/86

