

FWS/ARW-WAM1

Mr. David Hales
Director
Department of Natural Resources
Box 30028
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Mr. Hales:

Over the past several months we have received several inquiries from Michigan residents who are concerned about the possibility of closing the National Wildlife Refuges to public hunting. Enclosed is a copy of one of the letters and a copy of our reply to it.

We are not certain what has stimulated that concern but believe that it may have resulted from press coverage about a public meeting held in Lansing, Michigan, by some private organizations who were trying to enlist support for proposed federal legislation that would restrict some activities in the National Wildlife Refuge System. At about that same time there was some publicity about the issue of compatibility of some activities, including hunting, with the primary objectives of some of our national wildlife refuges. Subsequent to these events, Seney National Wildlife Refuge Manager, Mike Tansy, was misquoted in the Michigan press about the closing of some hunting activities on Seney National Wildlife Refuge. Whatever the reason, there is, obviously, some concern among Michigan residents about the closure of the Michigan National Wildlife Refuges to public hunting.

We wish to reassure you that any such ideas and/or proposals are not coming from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. We have no intention of curtailing public hunting per se on any National Wildlife Refuge. There might be from time to time some adjustment of hunting to meet changing local conditions but there are no plans within this organization to generally curtail public hunting on national wildlife refuges and that includes the lands within the Kirtland's Warbler National Wildlife Refuge.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

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