

Comments:

Doug Heym and I attended the Kirtlands Warbler recovery team meeting in Mio last week. Attached is the info we presented to the team regarding Hiawatha's KW program. Burt Barnes lead a field trip the first day to look at KW's occupancy and habitat quality in relation to landform and landscape ecology. During the team meeting the 2nd day it was decided we would not trap cowbirds at Raco or 8-mile due to low cowbird numbers, we will move and hide the stockyard trap and continue to operate that trap next year. Banding of young will continue on the HNF this year with a genetic study (feathers) gearing up on banded birds. This spring we had birds hatched last yr at 8-mile return to breed so the source/sink question is still open. Total KW numbers were up to 733 breeding males this yr (from 692 in FY96) with 19 males in the UP, which was up from 14 last year (many more at Qwinn). There were 5 males in Wi this spring. KW recovery team was interested in the xeric ecosystem map Dave Cleland and team are preparing for the HNF and would like to see some of this habitat displayed with KW locations overlaid in GIS format. Dave should be getting the map and methodology ready for us soon...will keep you posted. Let Doug or I know if you have questions/comments on recov team meeting. Thanks, SJS

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HIAWATHA NATIONAL FOREST  
 1997 KIRTLAND'S WARBLER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
 7/10/97

**REFORESTATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**ACRES**

Natural Regeneration and Seeding \*

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Batina sale (Raco) chop-chain-seed (.3 lbs/ac). 1 block    | 132       |
| Comp II sale (Raco) chop-chain-seed. (.3 lbs/ac). 3 blocks | 174       |
| Deer Fly sale (Raco) chop-chain-seed (.5 lbs/ac). 1 block  | 127       |
| Sandy (Raco) chop-chain-seed. (.3 lbs/ac). 3 blocks        | 100       |
| Crago Lake (Raco) chop-chain-seed. (.3 lbs/ac). 1 block    | <u>19</u> |
|  | 552       |

\* many accomps not recorded in CDS until aug. so this is incomplete at this time. Silv. objective of 750 trees/ac.

Planting

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| JP Bug sale (Raco) fill-in                | 34        |
| Chance sale (Raco) full plant jp (766/ac) | <u>32</u> |
|   | 66        |

**CENSUS RESULTS SUMMARY**

| Area (district)        | County            | Acres of Habitat | Males | Females |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------|---------|
| Stockyard (RR)         | Delta             | 1200             | 3     | 1       |
| 8-Mile (Mstq)          | Schoolcraft       | 585              | 7*    | 2*      |
| Highbridge Lake (Mstq) | Delta             | 785              | 1     | 1       |
| Munising (Muni)        | Alger/Schoolcraft | 600              |       |         |
| Raco (Soo)             | Chippewa          | <u>1026</u>      | —     | —       |
| Totals                 |                   | 4196             | 11    | 4       |

\* One male and 1 female were not re-located during census period

**DECISIONS AND LANDSCAPE PLANNING AFFECTING KW**

\* Brimley Grade (Raco LTA)

Desision Notice signed to include:

Clearcut 4,753 acres of jack pine stands and:

- Site preparation and seed 3,301 acres to jack pine obtaining 1,600 trees per acre, randomly spaced, over minimum of 45% of total.
- Site preparation and plant 374 acres to red pine at 800 trees per acre evenly spaced.
- Natural regeneration of 601 acres to aspen, hardwoods, white pine and, mixed species.
- Convert 477 acres to upland opening complex.

\* Whitefish Delta LTA (Stockyard area Rapid River)

(Proposed action calls for 1500 ac KW split into five 300 ac blocks with 600 ac cut this decade and regulated flow. Alts being developed)

\* Kit n Mouse Timber Sale (Munising RD)  
(Still developing alternatives but proposal calls for 280 ac of new  
KW habitat and conversion of 190 ac from jack pine to red pine)

\* Xeric Ecosystem Assessment

Landscape mapping effort lead by Dave Cleland to determine the ecological boundaries of the fire regulated ecosystem (including KW habitat) for entire Hiawatha NF. Preliminary map is manuscripted. With map we can code stands in CDS, run age class distribution, plan for regulation of jack pine system and, develop guidelines for integration of openlands species, KW, timber management, etc.

\* Prescribed burning seed trees in the Raco area (40 ac) - needs burn plan

**BANDING/MONITORING**

Objectives are to learn more about KW survivorship, movement between stands, and duration of stand use. 2 adults banded on 6/23/97 by Carol Bocetti and crew, with Paul Thompson under contract to HNF. 1 Male 8-mile (IAIO) and 1 male at Stockyard (IAXX; right foot missing).

**COWBIRD TRAPPING**

Traps were operated at Stockyard, 8-Mile, and Raco. We experienced problems with cowbird decoys escaping on their own or through vandalism. Most of the spring was spent recapturing decoys and very few new local birds were trapped. There is not a very large cowbird population in KW areas at this time. The time spent, dwindling budgets, and loss of decoy birds, means KW Recovery Team may want to re-evaluate cowbird trapping in the UP for 98.

| <u>Area</u>    | <u># local cowbirds trapped</u> | <u>Remarks</u>                        |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Stockyard (RR) | 11                              | Several decoys escaped/some retrapped |
| 8-Mile (Mstq)  | 1                               | Several decoys escaped/some retrapped |
| Raco (Soo)     | 5                               | Several decoys escaped/some retrapped |
| Totals         | 17                              |                                       |

**QUESTIONS**

Will there be late summer banding of young birds in UP?

Will the revised KW recovery plan include habitat outside NLP and if so, who will be involved and when?