



Mr. Tracy Casselman
Refuge Manager
Seney National Wildlife Refuge
1674 Refuge Entrance Road
Seney, MI 49883

Dear Tracy:

Please find enclosed the report entitled *Ecological Assessment of the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service's Kirtland's Warbler Wildlife Management Area*. This final and comprehensive report describes the assessment of the various aspects of the Kirtland's Warbler Wildlife Management Area (KWWMA) we were tasked to complete starting in 2004. This includes a landscape-level analysis of KWWMA stands, a stand-level assessment of the current KWWMA stands, and a stand-level assessment of songbird use of KWWMA stands. I have worked with Greg to develop this report and he has reviewed earlier drafts. Also enclosed with the final report are several CDs that include an electronic copy of the enclosed report, updated GIS layers, digital orthophotography, stand inventory summaries, and songbird survey summaries.

There are several interesting findings in the report. First, the stands that comprise current habitat for Kirtland's warbler (i.e., those 5-23 years old) are understocked. Second, although the stands do not provide optimal Kirtland's warbler habitat, they do support Kirtland's warbler. Finally, the diverse age structures, species composition, and stand structures that comprise the KWWMA provide high quality habitat for a variety of other songbird species of concern.

Finally, thank you for the financial support to complete this assessment. I hope that you will find it informative and it will be useful as you plan future management activities in the KWWMA.

Please feel free to call me or send me an email [redacted] if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Charles Goebel
Assistant Professor