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REGION 4

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
HURON-MANISTEE NATIONAL FORESTS
CADILLAC, MICHIGAN 49601

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LABORATORY	
PLANT	
SOIL	
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WILDLIFE	
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
5150
March 10, 1964

Mr. Troy Yoder
Acting Regional Supervisor
Region 2
Michigan Department of Conservation
Roscommon, Michigan

Dear Mr. Yoder:

We are planning on a Prescribed Burn on the Kirtland's Warbler Wildlife Management Area on the Mio District this spring. The actual burn will be contingent upon favorable weather conditions.

The burn will cover 480 acres and will be an excellent training opportunity for our forest fire fighters. We invite you to participate in this burn.

Fire Staff, Earl Hansen, discussed this with your assistant Ron Bird earlier this month. We also plan to discuss this at our Annual Tippy Dam Meeting. Our purpose at this time is to learn how much equipment and men we could expect.

At present, we are setting up plans for management of the burn. Our plan is to put the State people on the windward side of the fire. The fire is ours to manage. We will take the smoke side. The windward side will consist of one and three quarters miles of patrol line. At a minimum, we would like to see a tractor plow unit and two mobile tankers with radio. We will need to discuss aerial detection and photography at a later date. We have also asked Mr. Such for the use of the Sandcaster on the fire.

We think that prescribed burning has a very definite place in the hands of skilled foresters as a silvicultural tool. This fire, if successful, will go a long ways toward establishing prescribed burning as a practice. We would be most appreciative of your cooperative efforts.

Sincerely yours,

L. A. POMMERENING
Forest Supervisor

By D. D. Westerberg, Acting



PREScribed BURNING UNIT PLAN

For The Kirtland's Warbler Management Area

A. Purpose of Burn:

Prescribed burning will be undertaken within the management units of the Kirtland's Warbler Management Area. This prescribed burn is necessary to achieve the objectives set forth in the Management Plan (Ref: 2650) for this area - that of extensive, homogeneous areas of young jack pine interspersed with small openings. Under natural conditions, the habitat of the Kirtland's Warbler is produced only by forest fires. This bird is, therefore, unusual among living creatures in being dependent upon fire. A hot burn will be required to produce the desired results.

The prescribed burn has also been set up as a training exercise to train district and S.O. overhead personnel in fire characteristics, planning and control. Personnel from the supervisor's office will act in their capacity as assigned in the "S.O. Overhead Fire Team". District rangers will train their personnel as outlined in our memorandum of May 1, 1961 - "Fire Qualifications and Training Needs". A thorough review of the R-9 Fire Overhead Notebook is recommended. FSH2 5125.4 will be used.

B. Area To Be Burned:

1. Section 3, T 25 N - R 3 E. Estimated acreage - 500
2. Timber Type - Jack pine, mixed with scattered oak trees. Burning to follow cutting operations as outlined in the Management Plan. Jack pine slash to be spread to obtain optimum burning conditions on the area. Selected seed trees (15-17 per acre) to be reserved from cutting to provide seed source. Combination backing and head fire to be used to obtain a hot burn, with high temperatures necessary to open the cones of the seed trees. Existing timber type shown in Appendix B of the Management Plan; and on page 31.
3. Topography - level. Road conditions good in area. Sandy soils.

C. Timing Of The Burn: Considerations:

1. Silviculturally a spring burn would give seeds the best chance of survival. Summer burns have been very successful in getting regenerations established also.

2. Kirtland's Warbler arrives on area about May 20 to nest. Desirable to burn before they arrive, or in the late summer.
3. The prime consideration for a successful burn is to have the optimum conditions for burning. When these conditions are right, we must move promptly to accomplish the objective. For our purpose either a spring or summer burn will do the job. A summer burn would be easier and safer to manage.

D. Conditions For Burning:

Spring: 5-7 days without rain (on B.I. Meter).
35% humidity (+ or minus 5 points).
Gentle wind not to exceed 10 M.P.H.

Summer: 7-8 days without rain (on B.I. Meter).
40% humidity (+ or minus 5 points).
Wind not to exceed 15 M.P.H.

If the humidity is lower than indicated it may be safe to burn provided the wind is calm or very gentle.

Humidities lower than specified and higher winds than allowed makes conditions critical and burning should not be attempted.

E. Coordination W/Research:

These plans have been reviewed by the Research Branch in Cadillac and are approved. The Research Center has been contacted and we will make full use of their experience in conducting the burn.

The State Research Center at Roscommon will work with the sandcaster on the area to test its capabilities and safeguard the area.

F. General:

The prevailing wind in the summer is from the southwest. This plan is based on this concept. However, the plan is flexible in that it will work whichever direction the wind blows. Fire camp headquarters will be set up on the windward side.

G. Training and Manpower Needs:

For fire training purposes, the fire will be managed as a 3 division fire.

Line

3 Division Bosses
6 Sector Bosses
1 Firing Boss
4 Crew Bosses for individual firing crews. (4 man teams)

Headquarters Staff

- Intelligence Officer for patrol and scouting.
- Information and public relations.
- Maps and records.
- Service Chief.
- Plans Chief.
- Finance Chief.
- Safety Officer.
- Photographer.
- Supply Officer.
- Equipment Officer.
- Communications Officer.
- Air Operations Officer.
- Time keepers.
- Obligations and Claims Officer

These positions will be filled prior to the fire. Michigan Department of Conservation personnel and equipment will be invited to participate in the training exercise. Definite assignments will be made prior to the fire. (Much will depend upon the availability of men and equipment at the time.)

The fire boss and his overhead team will conduct an on the ground orientation on the day before the fire. The labor force will arrive at 10:00 a.m. the day of the burn for their orientation and job assignment. Headquarters on the area will have a map for this purpose.

H. Information and Education:

The size of this fire and its purpose has created much interest by various organizations. To the extent possible, news media such as newspapers, radio, and television will be notified of the event. Audubon and other like bird societies will be informed, as well as the Michigan State Department of Conservation.

We will make every effort to document pictorially this burn. Those agencies which will aid us in this endeavor will be given assistance in their work. To avoid congestion on the area, the general public will not be invited to watch the proceedings.

I. Safeguards:

A single fire plow line will be put in approximately 100 yards out from the exterior boundary of the fire. Within the fire line for the first 200 feet all white birch trees and dead snags over 6 foot tall will be filled prior to burning. The south boundary will be made accessible to tankers by constructing a travelable road across the south edge of the area. The other three sides are already accessible by existing roads.