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WARBLER RECOVERY
GOAL OF NEW PLAN

LANSING---Wayne K. Mann, Forest Supervisor, Huron-Manistee National Forest, and Howard A. Tanner, Director, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, have signed a joint long-range Management Plan for Kirtland's Warbler Habitat in Michigan. The Kirtland's warbler is an endangered bird which nests only among young jack pine in northern lower Michigan.

The minimum safe population level for the species is estimated at 1,000 pairs. In 1980, however, only 243 singing males were recorded in the annual Kirtland's warbler census.

The joint management plan is based on a commercial timber rotation for jack pine using approximately 135,000 acres of state and national forest land. The rotation will result in a perpetual harvest of 50-year-old jack pine coupled with maintenance of between 30,000 and 36,000 acres of young pines at the ideal stage for use by the Kirtland's warbler.

This plan is unique among endangered species recovery attempts in that it also includes as a goal improvement of future timber resources. In the plan's foreword, Mann and Tanner aptly cite Aldo Leopold's statement, "The land and the wild things living on it is a community to which man belongs."

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