

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

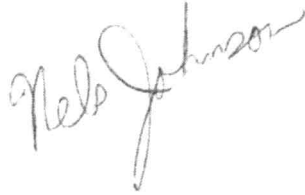
Roscommon, Michigan 48653
Region II
August 1, 1983

TO: Richard Elden, Assistant Chief, Wildlife Division
FROM: Nels I. Johnson, Assistant Regional Wildlife Biologist
SUBJECT: Transfer of Lands to the Dept. of Military Affairs

The lands for which the Department of Military Affairs has requested a transfer of title and permanent use permit have good to excellent wildlife populations, especially deer and ruffed grouse and much of the area is heavily used by the public for hunting. If we grant this request, I strongly urge that the documents be worded so that the continued use of the land by the public for hunting and other compatible recreational purposes will be assured.

The land requested for transfer of title have a substantial amount of active Kirtland's warbler nesting habitat. Forty-eight pairs or almost 23 percent of the breeding population was found here in 1983. Since two large tracts which burned in 1975 are just now becoming occupied, Kirtland's warblers will be present in the area for at least the next ten to fifteen years. The DNR has attempted to negotiate "a memo of understanding", with the Military that would spell out the responsibilities of both parties in protecting the existing habitat and breeding population. So far we have been unsuccessful. I do not believe that we should proceed with the proposed transfer until such time as "a memo of understanding" adequately protecting the Kirtland's warbler is signed and put into effect by both parties.

NIJ:meh
cc: MacGregor
Gerald Rose
Boushelle
Taylor
Compeau



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August 3, 1983

TO: Bob Compeau - Deputy Director

FROM: Charles Guenther - Chief, Wildlife Division

SUBJECT: Wildlife Concerns - Proposed Transfer of Lands to Department
of Military Affairs (MDMA, Camp Grayling)

The Wildlife Division has several areas of concern:

1. Hunting opportunity should not be reduced either in the amount of land available or the time that hunting is allowed (September 15 through March 31).
2. Every consideration should be given to protect nesting Kirtland's warblers. The Kirtland's warbler recovery plan is to develop habitat outside the military area. However, habitat which may be created through the military's use of the land should be protected during development and occupation by warblers (the first 20 years). A detailed memo of understanding for the enhancement of the Kirtland's warbler on military lands should be signed by MDNR and the MDMA prior to any land transfer.
3. All Game and Fish purchased lands within the area must be exchanged for equal habitat values elsewhere. We want to work with the Lands Division in working out a settlement. We understand there are about 3,100 acres involved.
4. We should retain our habitat management option to insure no loss of wildlife values in the future. We have invested substantial deer range improvement funds on these lands and want to maintain wildlife productivity.

All of these concerns should be written into any exchange agreement with the MDMA.

CG/ST/sam

cc: Elden
Arnold
Vogt
Burgoyne
Boushelle
N. Johnson
Havard
Janson
Taylor

Charles J. Guenther