



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
SENEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
HCR #2, Box 1  
Seney, Michigan 49883

IN REPLY REFER TO:

May 30, 1990

## Memorandum

To: Regional Director, FWS , Twin Cities, MN (WAM1)  
From: Refuge Manager, Seney Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Seney, MI  
Subject: Kirtland Warbler Program

I am slowly easing into the Kirtland program given the sensitive issues, problems and relationships. Cowbird trapping and current management techniques used have been observed and reviewed. On DNR and Forest Service lands considerable land management (tree planting) is being done specifically for the bird. These plantations are just now growing into the proper stage for bird use and it is too early to tell if they will approach the quality of wildfire established jack pines.

I have talked to a few DNR biologists and will be talking to others. There are some intense feelings, concerns and disagreement in the DNR as to how the Fish and Wildlife Service lands should be managed. There are concerns over a "third" national wildlife refuge being established in Michigan and a possible closure to public hunting. One biologist I talked to said that the turf battles over control (or management) of Service owned lands is on an equal level with the welfare of the bird.

I am in somewhat of a difficult position in that I do not know exactly what the Service position is concerning the various Service owned tracts. I am keeping an open mind with what is best for the warbler my guiding direction. If there are any other concerns or Service positions I need to know where we stand.

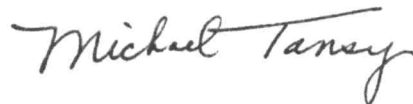
To date I have identified five options for the scattered Service owned tracts. What the DNR or Service position is on any of these is not known for sure. Practical management of the many scattered small tracts by the Service alone is not possible.

Options identified to date include:

1. Continue scattered Service ownership with the DNR management the same as their adjacent lands via cooperative agreement.

2. Fee title transfer to DNR with no strings.
3. Fee title transfer to DNR with an easement or deed restriction for Kirtland Warbler management.
4. Land consolidation via land exchange to establish FWS blocks of a manageable size. Management by cooperative agreement. Utilize the 5500 acres as experimental tracts where techniques could be tried that may not be possible elsewhere. Prescribe fire with shared liability between the Service and DNR may be possible on these lands.
5. Land exchange with FWS scattered inholdings to DNR and DNR lands adjacent to Seney National Wildlife Refuge or Shiawassee to the Service.

As I get more involved, I am sure I will develop additional options. I will be attending the recovery team meeting on June 18 and 19. I'll keep you posted.



Michael G. Tansy