

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Ottawa
National
Forest

2100 E. Cloverland Drive
Ironwood, Michigan 49938
(906) 932-1330 FAX 932-0122
TTY (906) 932-0301

File Code: 2600

Date: June 12, 1996

Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team
Huron-Manistee National Forest
1755 S. Mitchell Street
Cadillac, Michigan 49601

Dear KW Recovery Team:

We have received your letter of April 29, 1996 and pledge our support for continuing the recovery efforts for the Kirtland's warbler in the Upper Peninsula. Enclosed please find a report from one of our biologists who confirmed the presence of a singing KW male on Michigan's Copper Country State Forest within 1/2 mile of the Ottawa. We will continue to search for KW in this area in the future and will report to you and MDNR, Baraga, any new findings.

The Ottawa is presently planning jack pine salvage sales in the area and will facilitate and encourage your participation in the Environmental Assessment for these projects. We will not be revisiting the known nest site, and we will not be promoting visits by others to this site. Please contact Jerry Edde at (906) 667-0261 if you have further questions.

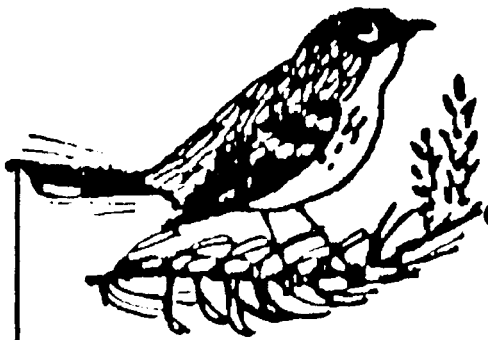
Sincerely

PHYLLIS GREEN
Forest Supervisor

je

Enclosure

cc: Rob Aho, MDNR Baraga
J. Edde, USFS, Bessemer



Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team

Care of: Huron-Manistee National Forests, 1755 S. Mitchell,
Cadillac, MI 49601

June 18, 1996

Stephen J. Sjogren
Hiawathia National Forest
Manistique Ranger District
499 East Lake Shore Drive
Manistique, MI 49854

Dear Mr. Sjogren:

We are encouraged to learn about the number of male Kirtland's warblers being located in the Upper Peninsula (UP) of Michigan this year. It appears that occupancy of specific areas is recurring. Your letter requests the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team to approve of additional monitoring to determine matedness, breeding success, and banding of individual UP Kirtland's warblers. The specific area identified in the request is 8-Mile, located 20 miles north of Manistique. It is also our understanding that Carol Bocetti, National Biological Service, has offered to conduct the banding and assist with the additional monitoring efforts.

The Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team was surveyed and supports these efforts to gain additional information about Kirtland's warbler in the UP. This support extends to efforts related to banding male Kirtland's warblers in this area and to assist in determining if males are mated. To date, we have not discussed the protocol and methods for determining breeding success and are not addressing this issue at this time. Further discussion should occur relating to this aspect of information needs before any actions are undertaken. The protocol for data collection being applied in lower Michigan should be used for work in the UP also. We recognize the data from this effort will assist managers and researchers in their continued evaluation of the Kirtland's Warbler recovery effort. It will also broaden our perspective on colonization and dispersal patterns.

Kenneth Rex Ennis
U. S. Forest Service

Philip W. Huber
U. S. Forest Service

John R. Probst
U. S. Forest Service

Thomas F. Weise
Mich. Dept. of Natural Resources

Gary Boushelle
Mich. Dept. of Natural Resources

William J. Mahalak
Mich. Dept. of Natural Resources

Ronald L. Refsnider
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Michael E. DeCapita
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Cameron B. Kepler
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

You should contact Carol Bocetti and make the necessary arrangement to conduct these activities. If we can be of further assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,

KENNETH REX ENNIS
Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team, Team Leader

cc:Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team
C.Bocetti, NBS

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Hiawatha National Forest
2727 N. Lincoln Road
Escanaba, Michigan 49829

Date: June 19, 1996

File Code: 2600

Subject: Xeric Ecosystems/Kirtland's Warbler

To: District Rangers

By now, you should have all seen the April 29, 1996 letter from the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team recommending actions to perpetuate xeric ecosystems and in particular to improve habitat for Kirtland's warbler on the Forest. The Team believes the xeric systems in the Upper Peninsula could represent an important component to the Kirtland's warbler recovery effort, providing buffers against catastrophic events in the Lower Peninsula and habitat to mitigate loss from global warming, and helping to maintain genetic diversity. The Recovery Team noted that many of the individuals located during the 1995 census in the Lower Peninsula were found in areas specifically planted and managed for warbler habitat, but believe Upper Peninsula habitat requirements can perhaps best be met in the broader context of xeric ecosystem management.

The Forest biologists are currently working on incorporating the Recovery Team's recommendations into the program of work. Three cowbird traps provided by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have been placed on the Forest and are being monitored for activity. Hiawatha biologists are also in the fourth consecutive year of population census on suitable Forest Kirtland's warbler habitat. In addition, biologists are developing a proposal to describe and map xeric ecosystems across the Forest (incorporating information from other large landowners across the Upper Peninsula) and to develop a conservation strategy for rare species of fire-regulated systems. This work is intended to tier to and compliment the ongoing Great Lakes Assessment and provide information directly into the Forest Plan revision process.

Given the anticipated Kirtland's warbler habitat shortfall in Lower Michigan shortly after the turn of the century, it is critical that the Hiawatha understand our role in the recovery effort and be prepared to implement appropriate management strategies. I encourage you to review the Recovery Team letter with your biologists to determine how the recommendations may best be applied to your district. In addition, we will be discussing Kirtland's warbler recovery and the Forest xeric ecosystem analysis proposal at an upcoming Leadership Team meeting.

Page Two
District Rangers

In the interim, when planning large projects in xeric systems, please take some time to consider spatial and temporal species requirements and the effects of management activities on a landscape scale, as we discussed at the recent Monitoring and Evaluation meeting.

Questions regarding Kirtland's Warbler or management of xeric systems should be directed to Steve Sjogren at St. Ignace.

/s/William F. Spinner

WILLIAM F. SPINNER
Forest Supervisor