

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

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cc for: SE

RONALD O. SKOOG, Director

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TO SE



APR 02 1985

cc: SE

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Mr. Harvey K. Nelson
Regional Director
U. S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Building, Fort Snelling
Twin Cities, Minnesota 55111

Dear Harvey:

We are extremely pleased with the success your organization is experiencing with regard to acquiring significant habitat for the restoration of the Kirtland's Warbler. You and your staff are to be congratulated.

Relative to the possibility of expanding the acreage goal, serious discussion was held with Wildlife Division personnel and members of the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team.

Their response indicates that during the last eight years, it has become apparent that natural regeneration of jack pine after logging, followed by prescribed burning, rarely produces ideal regeneration of Kirtland's Warbler habitat. Therefore, it has been decided that to produce the best possible stocking of jack pine, the areas should be machine planted soon after the prescribed burn. This treatment produces the most ideal habitat.

Our studies confirm that in the past Kirtland's Warblers have required larger territories in plantations than in habitat created by wildfires. As a result, it would be desirable to acquire additional acreage to meet our objectives for recovery of the species. Therefore, we support an expansion of the land acquisition efforts from 4,500 acres up to 7,600 acres.

Based on your past success, we believe you will succeed with this new acreage goal, which will bring us closer to the day that a land exchange can be completed to transfer ownership of these Federally owned lands now scattered throughout the State Forest system to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. As I understand it, this scattered Federal ownership would be conveyed to the State in exchange for a solid block of State owned lands.



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I have asked Roland Harmes, Chief, Lands Division, to coordinate activities relative to both the acquisition of additional properties by your agency and the future land exchange. I am advised that our Lands Division has an excellent working relationship with Tom Follrath and other members of your Realty Staff.

Harvey, I appreciate the time you took from your busy schedule to meet with me and my management team in February. As requested at the meeting, I am providing the expanded priority list which identifies up to 3,089 acres of desirable Kirtland's Warbler habitat.

Sincerely,



Ronald O. Skoog
Director
517-373-2329

Enc.

cc: J. Bails
C. Guenther
G. Boushelle
R. Harmes