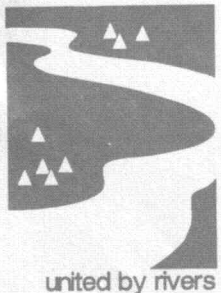


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# Huron-Manistee National Forests

## District offices

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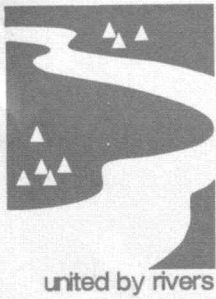
For immediate release

September 29, 1995

### LOCAL GROUP WINS NATIONAL AWARD

The Kirtland's Warbler Festival Committee in Mio, Michigan received the 1995 Spirit Award from the USDA Forest Service this month. The \$5,000 award was given to the group in recognition of their tremendous efforts in organizing the first-ever Kirtland's warbler festival in 1994 and its continuation this year. The Kirtland's warbler is an endangered songbird which nests and breeds only in a few counties of northern Michigan. The Kirtland's Warbler Festival was a landmark effort to blend the needs of people with the endangered bird. By focusing on eco-tourism, the Mio community (and partners) were able to attract visitors interested in the Kirtland's warbler and at the same time benefit economically from the festival and its activities. The Mio community was able to turn an endangered species into an asset rather than a liability.

In celebration of their efforts the festival committee received the Spirit Award for their collaboration. The partners involved included a mix of industry, government, small businesses, conservation organizations and universities. The award will be used by the Festival Committee to increase participation in festival events and purchase signs.



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September 27, 1995

For immediate release

## RANGER WINS TOP AWARD

Mio Ranger Connie Chaney won a top U.S. Department of Agriculture award last week for her efforts in presenting educational information about the Kirtland's warbler. The Kirtland's warbler is an endangered songbird which nests only in northern Michigan. The U.S. Forest Service manages a significant portion of its habitat in the Mio area. The activities Chaney helped implement included:

- First-ever annual Kirtland's warbler festival in Mio
- Completion of the Jack Pine Wildlife Auto Tour
- Construction of a hiking trail through Kirtland's warbler habitat
- 100 % increase in participation in Kirtland's warbler walking tours

These activities could not have been accomplished without the efforts of many individuals and agencies. Connie Chaney's award is a testimony that partnerships for natural resources is the best, most efficient way to produce real accomplishments.

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