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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

HOUGHTON LAKE WILDLIFE RESEARCH STATION  
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Box #158

July 24, 1987



TO: Greg Huntington, Environmental Liaison, Department of  
Military Affairs

FROM: Jerry Weinrich, Wildlife Habitat/Research Biologist,  
Department of Natural Resources

After our inspection and discussion of the areas of concern on July 1, 1987, I have considered a number of options for future management of these areas. My overriding concern is the welfare of the Kirtland's warbler, and in consideration of the current low population level and overall limited availability of developing nesting habitat, I am of the opinion that the Department of Military Affairs should be required to do all that it can to protect this habitat from degradation or destruction.

Until the warbler population shows a significant increase, and exceeds at least 200 singing males in the census count, I think it is prudent to do all we can to encourage this habitat to develop for use by the Kirtland's. At this point, intensive posting, and even fencing, of these areas is in order.

I think it is possible, within the next 2-3 years, that the Warbler population will exceed the 200 singing male level cited in the Agreement. When this occurs, and if occupation trends in other new habitats suggest further increases in these developing areas, it might be acceptable to allow elimination of these areas of habitat, even if warblers have occupied them--but obviously these management activities would have to occur when the warbler is not present (i.e. October through April).

Again, the final decision(s) will be up to the Recovery Team.

JW:kd  
cc: Byelich  
DeCapita

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jerry".