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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

R-9

Caring for the Land and Serving People

Reply to: 2670

Date: MAR 1 1989

Subject: Endangered Species - Kirtland's Warbler

To: Chief

We have been advised that the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) plans to terminate their habitat research efforts on the Kirtland's Warbler. It is important that this effort continue until adequate information is available for management.

The Forest Service and State have a joint habitat management program to meet Recovery Plan goals. This program must be based on sound information. The current research effort by the FWS, initiated in 1987, will be of limited value if research is terminated at the end of FY '89, as planned.

Habitat management for the Kirtland's Warbler is a significant effort in the Eastern Region. This program has been an outstanding example of interagency coordination. This cooperative effort is contingent upon habitat research currently underway by the FWS.

We recommend you advise the FWS of our interest in this program, and our concern that this research effort continue.

A suggested letter is enclosed.

FLOYD J. MARITA
Regional Forester

Enclosure

cc:

Huron-Manistee

rradtke:pc:2/16/89

LBaham RRadtke 1 JMcCormick





To: Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

The Forest Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Service, and various conservation groups are cooperating in an interagency effort for recovery of the Kirtland's Warbler. This has been an outstanding example of cooperation, with each agency having a unique role in the recovery effort. The Forest Service and State have an intensive habitat management program underway to meet objectives of the Recovery Plan and Endangered Species Act.

Habitat management for the Kirtland's Warbler, through commercial timber harvest, is an excellent example of multiple use on National and State Forest lands. Management must be based upon sound information. The current habitat research effort by the FWS, initiated in 1987, is yielding some promising information.

We have been advised that the FWS plans to terminate their habitat research effort in Michigan at the end of FY '89. This study was planned as a long-term effort to guide land management. Research results to date will be of limited value if this project is terminated, as proposed.

Management for the Kirtland's Warbler is one of the best examples of interagency and private cooperation that exists for an endangered species. We do not feel that the Fish and Wildlife Service will be meeting its role and responsibility in this cooperative recovery effort by terminating their habitat research project. The Forest Service has committed substantial funding to this program, and together with the State, are managing some 130,000 acres of jack pine to meet Recovery Plan goals. We strongly object to any proposed plan to terminate research until adequate information is available to guide management.

I am requesting that this research effort continue in FY '90. This information is essential to the management of National Forests and goals of the Endangered Species Act.

We will be glad to discuss this issue with you.

Chief

