

Supplemental Report to the Exhaust Fire Kirtland's Warbler Environmental Assessment:

Page 5; the following paragraph has been removed from the EA:

- The exhaust fire left 76 acres of habitat unburned. According to past monitoring efforts it is thought that the shape and size of the remaining habitat make it less desirable than larger contiguous blocks of habitat. Therefore, habitat suitability within this portion of the Pine River KWMA depends upon immediate reforestation of the entire Kobs KW block in order to provide a large-scale landscape of core habitat.

Page 5; the following clarification was made to Alternative 2 (The Proposed Action). Text italicized and in bold indicate the clarification:

- Site prep approximately 341 acres *of burned and unburned* jack pine with mechanical methods

Page 8; the following paragraph was added:

- While this action would have a beneficial effect on Kirtland's warbler by creating more habitat in the future, it would remove existing occupied habitat now and potentially cause the five pairs to move into adjacent habitat. Concern was raised over the effect of removing the 76 acres of occupied habitat and its potential adverse effect on these five pair of Kirtland's warblers. Alternative 3 was developed to address this concern.

Page 9; the following has been added to paragraph three:

- While this action would have a beneficial effect on Kirtland's warbler by creating more habitat in the future, it would remove existing occupied habitat now and potentially cause the five pairs to move into adjacent habitat. Concern was raised over the effect of removing the 76 acres of occupied habitat and its potential adverse effect on these five pair of Kirtland's warblers. Alternative 3 was developed to address this concern.

Page 10; the following paragraph has been removed from the EA:

- An alternative that would treat only the 260 burned acres rather than the entire 341 acres was considered but eliminated from detailed study. Habitat suitability within this portion of the Pine River KWMA depends upon immediate regeneration of the entire Kobs KW block in order to provide a large-scale landscape of core habitat. The 76 acres of currently suitable habitat that was unburned may be occupied by Kirtland's warbler as long as five years, but is unlikely to be occupied for the usual ten years, as previous monitoring results suggest. Treating only the burned area would not create optimal conditions for Kirtland's warbler because as the unburned 76 acres matured, it would quickly become a barrier in the middle of the surrounding regenerated block.

Page 10; the following clarifications were made to Section 2.2. Text italicized and in bold indicate the clarification:

- *Three* alternatives are considered in detail, Alternative 1 (The No Action Alternative), and Alternative 2 (The Proposed Action) *and Alternative 3 (The Modified Proposed Action)*. Alternative 2 follows management direction established in the Forests' Plan and the Strategy for Kirtland's Warbler Habitat Management, as described in Section 1.4 of this document *and*

proposes treatments for the entire Kobs KW block. Alternative 3 proposes treatments only on the 260 acres of the Kobs KW Block that was burned.

Page 10; the following clarification was made to the Summary of the proposed federal actions. Text italicized and in bold indicate the clarification:

- Site prep approximately 341 acres *of burned and unburned* jack pine with mechanical methods

Page 11; Alternative 3 was included in the EA for consideration:

- **Alternative 3; The Modified Proposed Action**

Direction provided in the Forests’ Plan and the *Strategy for Kirtland’s Warbler Habitat Management (2001)*, and external concerns were incorporated into Alternative 3 – The Modified Proposed Action. The Modified Proposed Action is designed to achieve the primary purpose of Management Area 4.2 KW, to create habitat for Kirtland’s warbler, but only treats the habitat lost by the Exhaust Fire. The Exhaust Fire KW Modified Proposed Action Map, is located in Appendix A.2.

- **A summary of the proposed federal action is as follows:**

- Site prep approximately 260 acres of burned jack pine with mechanical methods
- Regenerate by planting 260 acres of jack pine back to densities required for KW nesting habitat

Table 1; Alternative 3 - Vegetative Management Proposals by Compartment, Stand, and Forest Type (All acreages are approximate)

Compartment	Stands	Acres	Forest Type	Prescription
333	08	255 of 336 acres*	013	Site prep, plant
333	17	5 of 27*	014	Site prep, plant

Page 12: The following clarifications were made to Table 2. Text italicized and in bold indicate the clarification:

Purpose and Need Indicators and Project Objectives	Alternative 1 – No Action	Alternative 2 – Proposed Action	Alternative 3
<i>Wildlife Habitat Indicators</i>			
Kirtland’s warbler nesting habitat created (acres)	0	341	260
<i>Fuels Reduction Indicators</i>			
Acres of project area fuels treated	0	341	260

Page 14: the following sentence was added to the direct and indirect effects of Alternative 2 and 3:

- Under Alternative 3 only the burned portion of the Kobs KW Block (260 acres) would be treated.

Page 15: the following sentence was added to paragraph 2 for clarification:

- Alternative 3 would not treat the unburned portion, so there would be no effects.

Page 18: the following sentence was added to paragraph three under the Direct and Indirect Effects of Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 heading. Text italicized and in bold indicate the clarification:

Specifically, the action alternatives would indirectly benefit Kirtland's warbler by creating approximately 341 acres under Alternative 2, *and 260 acres under Alternative 3, of future occupiable* Kirtland's warbler breeding and nesting habitat.

Page 19: The following paragraph was added for clarification:

- Under Alternative 3, the unburned portion would not be treated, in order to minimize disturbance and the potential for adverse affects to Kirtland's warblers by causing them to move to other, adjacent habitat. The size and shape of this existing habitat, may result in direct impacts to Kirtland's warblers. For example, Kirtland's warbler (and all passerines) nesting in small patches of habitat experience higher predation rates and are also susceptible to increased parasitism from brown-headed cowbird until the adjacent treated area reaches 4-5 years of age. Leaving this unburned portion would create an uneven aged, two-story block of habitat, which could have the indirect effect of reducing the useable acres in the newly planted portion.

Page 21: the following sentence was added to the first paragraph:

- Alternative 3 would have no direct effects, and the creation of 260 acres of habitat would result in beneficial indirect effects.

Page 27: The following paragraph was added for clarification:

- In the short term, fuel loading in the burned area would be approximately 3-5 tons/acre (at least approximately 780 tons) and approximately 7-9 tons/acre (approximately 608 tons) in the unburned portion of the project area.