



# Huron-Manistee National Forests

WITH THOUSANDS OF LAKES and miles of sparkling rivers and streams, the Huron-Manistee National Forests epitomize the splendid beauty of the Great Lakes region. Their combined 981,052 acres stretch across Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula, from Manistee's 140-foot-high wilderness dunes through rolling hills and thick hardwood and pine forests of the Huron. These forests are known for their many bird species, including shorebirds, gulls, eagles, hawks and loons. The Au Sable River Valley is home to a rare jack pine ecosystem, important habitat for the endangered Kirtland's warbler.

Jack pine seedlings are actively being planted at a density of 1,452 trees per acre, at 5 x 6 foot spacing, in an effort to create Kirtland's warbler breeding habitat. Approximately one ¼-acre opening would be left unplanted using an opposing wave pattern. This pattern will be ideal for nesting Kirtland's warblers. The continued creation of young Jack pine habitat will aid in the ongoing recovery of the threatened and endangered bird.

Tree planting on the Mio Ranger District began in mid-April. In northern Michigan, it is rare the snow has melted and the ground has thawed in March or early April. The planting contractor committed a total of 11 people, with each individual planting 3,000–4,000 trees per day. The project took a little more than a week to plant 341,000 trees. This work would not be without the gracious support of Arbor Day Foundation partners and supporters!

