

# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA Forest Service Huron-Manistee National Forests

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### **Huron National Forest Celebrates Centennial**

CADILLAC, MICHIGAN, — With his signature, President Theodore Roosevelt authorized the creation of the Huron National Forest on February 11, 2009 – 100 years ago.

The lands between Grayling and Oscoda had been severely logged over between 1870 and 1890. Attempts to create farms in the area failed because of the poor quality of the soil. In some areas of especially poor soils, the federal Government Land Offices had been unable to sell the land more than 60 years after it had been purchased from the Chippewa Indians through treaties in 1820 and 1836.

Almost immediately after President Roosevelt authorized the National Forest, efforts began to replant the forest that had fallen to the timbermen's saw. To support the reforestation efforts, tree nurseries were established at East Tawas and Silver Creek.

Soon after the establishment of the National Forest, nature demonstrated a need for the creation of new, vigorous forest, as a forest fire in 1911 swept across the heavily timbered Au Sable River area and destroyed the communities of Au Sable and Oscoda.

In 1928, the forest's name was changed from the Michigan National Forest to the Huron National Forest to avoid confusion with forests owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In 1945, the Huron National Forest was consolidated with the Manistee National Forest on the western side of Michigan and was called the "Lower Michigan National Forest." In 1963, that name was changed to the Huron-Manistee National Forests.

In addition to re-establishing the forest, the Huron-Manistee National Forests have played an important role in bringing the endangered Kirtland's warbler back from the brink of extinction. The National Forest now maintains 88,000 acres of habitat suitable for breeding of the Kirtland's warbler.

For more information about the Centennial of the Huron National Forest, please visit [www.fs.fed.us/r9/hmnf/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hmnf/index.shtml)

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