

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources SWIMS Project Summary

General Project Information

Project ID: GL00E01474_SLR1602_FISH_PASS
Name: Fish Passage Assessment in the St. Louis River Area of Concern in Wisconsin
Type: Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
Subtype: Habitat
Status: FINAL_RPT
Start Date: 07/01/2016
End Date: 09/30/2017
Purpose: The St. Louis River Area of Concern has nine beneficial use impairments (BUI), including two related to fish and wildlife: Degraded Fish and Wildlife Populations, and Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat. The restoration of hydrologically connected habitat is listed as a part of the BUI Removal Target for Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat in the Remedial Action Plan (RAP; MPCA, 2013):

“Additional aquatic or hydrologically connected habitat throughout the AOC watersheds has been successfully protected and rehabilitated sufficiently to maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations through implementation of projects at prioritized restoration sites.”

The tributaries in the Area of Concern are known to support a wide variety of species including cool water species like smallmouth bass and coldwater species like brook trout (See Figure 1). Many estuarine species, such as walleye and smallmouth bass, depend on tributaries for spawning and rearing. White Suckers, a primary prey species for the recreationally-important muskellunge, also depend on tributaries for spawning and rearing. Both walleye and muskellunge are species with specific population targets listed in the RAP under the Degraded Fish and Wildlife Populations BUI (MPCA, 2013).

However, urbanization and development of this area in the past century has resulted in the fragmentation of many streams, preventing fish from accessing vital upstream habitats. During the development of the Remedial Action Plan, road-stream crossings were identified as likely barriers to fish passage in the Wisconsin portion of the Area of Concern. With the exception of a few large barriers, the locations of barriers in the Area of Concern have not been inventoried previously. Data on some existing stream crossings and culverts exists for the City of Superior and Douglas County, but do not include barrier information, and are not comprehensive.

Objective: Priority action 9-17 in the Remedial Action Plan aims to address the fish passage barrier issue: “replace or retrofit a minimum of two perched culverts to allow for fish passage and other aquatic organism passage.” In order to prioritize barriers in the Area of Concern for upgrade to complete action 9-17, the WDNR will contract with University of Wisconsin – Superior Lake Superior Research Institute (LSRI) to conduct an assessment of existing stream crossings. The data will be used to prioritize the upgrade of culverts to allow organism passage based on ecological benefit. This assessment will be used to identify two culvert improvement projects in order to fulfill priority action 9-17 in the RAP. This project will conduct a stream crossing assessment throughout the St. Louis River AOC in Wisconsin. The WDNR will contract with a consultant or local partner to complete the assessment. This assessment will identify barriers to aquatic organism passage and then prioritize the replacement of those culverts in order to maximize ecological benefit. It will create a list of priority road stream crossing projects that will facilitate access to aquatic habitats intended to improve brook trout, walleye, smallmouth bass, and white sucker populations. All three of these species are recreationally-important in this AOC. Pending funding, WDNR will ultimately implement the highest priority projects to fulfill management action 9-17 in the St. Louis River AOC Remedial Action Plan (RAP). The implementation of these projects will make progress towards removing the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat BUI in this AOC. Fish passage projects for walleye, white sucker, and muskellunge identified based on the results of this assessment will also help meet removal targets for the Degraded Fish and Wildlife Populations BUI in this AOC.

Comments: Note: the next step of this project is Fish Passage Culvert Design, which is tracked at SWIMS Project ID "GL00E02288_SLR1809_FishPassage".

Outcome:

Study Design: The Lake Superior Research Institute (LSRI) will work with stakeholders to develop a list of priority sites where hydrologically connected habitat should be restored within the St. Louis River Area of Concern in Wisconsin (WI AOC).

LSRI will convene and lead a Technical Team to assist with compiling and summarizing relevant stream and road data, refining project objectives, developing collection and analysis methods, identifying data transfer and storage methods, reviewing crossing assessment data and developing a list of priority crossings for future assessment and rehabilitation.

LSRI will conduct a stream crossing assessment and inventory at approximately 300 stream crossings in 2016 to characterize the barriers to aquatic organism passage at road-stream crossings throughout the WI AOC. Stream crossings will be identified by the WDNR based on a subset of the intersection of TIGER roads and National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) streams. There are approximately 600 road-stream crossings in the WI AOC (See Figure 1). Lidar assessments in southwestern Wisconsin found that approximately half of those crossings are culverts with a defined channel upstream, therefore approximately 300 stream crossings will be assessed for this project. WI DNR will conduct a

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LiDAR assessment for the St. Louis WI AOC to determine the number of stream crossings to be assessed by LSRI.

Fifteen to twenty crossings out of the ~300 assessed will be further vetted by the Technical Team, out of which 5-10 will be chosen for follow-up assessments in 2017. The additional field data and measurements at these 5-10 sites will be used to rank barriers that will be prioritized and recommended for upgrade or replacement in order to maximize ecological benefit.

QA Measures:

People						
Name	Role	Status	Start Date	End Date	Organization	Comments
ROBERTS, MADELINE E	COORDINATOR	ACTIVE	07/01/2016		Wisconsin DNR	
STEIGER, MATTHEW B	COORDINATOR	COMPLETE	07/01/2016		Wisconsin DNR	
WICK, MOLLY J	PROJECT_MANAGER	INACTIVE	07/07/2016	07/19/2016	Wisconsin DNR	

Project Statuses				
Date	Reported By	Status	Comments	
10/14/2016	MADELINE ROBERTS	Active	While delays in receiving funds and contract approval slowed the start of the project, we were able accomplish key tasks for moving forward. WDNR and LSRI put together a ten person technical team composed of city of Superior, Douglas county, WDNR, and USFW with expertise and local knowledge related to this project. This team held its first meeting October 12, 2016 and discussed the context of the project, known culvert or fish barrier problems, and information needed for culvert replacement prioritization. The team decided to use the Great Lakes Road Stream Crossing Inventory protocol for the field culvert assessment, and decided on walleye, musky, and brook trout for focal species. LiDAR analysis of road-stream crossings will be completed soon once a quality check on the results is done. The QAPP will be started and hopefully completed soon to take advantage of the remaining field season this fall.	
02/28/2017	MADELINE ROBERTS	Active	QAPP is in the final stages and is in the process of being signed and submitted for final approval. LSRI is preparing for upcoming field season, entering and proofing data, and developing a ranking model.	
04/18/2017	MADELINE ROBERTS	Active	QAPP has been submitted for final approval. LSRI has begun the field season by conducting 6 assessments. Assessments will continue weather permitting. Madeline Roberts conducted a surveillance audit on the preliminary assessment with LSRI staff on April 13, 2017. LSRI continues to develop ranking criteria. Priority stream crossings chosen for AOC work. Final report submitted to WDNR. Culvert inventory and database available for future work.	
09/30/2017	MATTHEW STEIGER	Complete		

Project Status Detail	
Answer Set: Q3 2017	
Question	Answer

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Question

Answer

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Reporting Timeframe (Q1) (Q2) (Q3) (Q4): | Q3 2017 |
| 2. Amount expended this reporting period: | 3857.02 |
| 3. Subcontracts or subgrants awarded this reporting period: | NA |
| 4. QAPP (Project Plan) status: | Completed |
| 5. Local services and/or products purchased this reporting period: | NA |
| 6. Number of jobs created this reporting period: | None |
| 7. Work accomplished this reporting period: | <p>Culverts were prioritized by the tech team for additional field data needs (barrier assessments and habitat assessments).</p> <p>LSRI conducted habitat assessments at priority locations.</p> <p>LSRI developed summary sheets for the top priority stream systems.</p> <p>Tech team met September 15 and LSRI presented additional data. The tech team decided on Little Balsam Creek as highest priority for fish passage.</p> <p>All data were cataloged and organized in a database.</p> <p>The final report for the project was completed and electronic data was copied to a thumb drive and provided to WDNR staff.</p> |
| 8. Work goals for coming reporting period: | None for this project. Project completed |
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- | | |
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| 1. Reporting Timeframe Month/Year to Month/Year (Oct-Mar or Apr-Sept): | |
| 2. Quality Documentation status (respond NA if not required): | |
| 3. Describe work performed during this reporting period relating to the activities from the grant workplan (Previous 6 months): | |
| 4. GLRI Action Plan metric(s) accomplished and numerical progress during this reporting period: | |
| 5. GLRI Action Plan metric(s) accomplished and numerical progress since project start (total complete to date): | |
| 6. Percentage (estimate) of project work completed during this reporting period: | |
| 7. Percentage (estimate) of project work completed since the project start (total complete to date): | |
| 8. Is project work on schedule? If no, please explain. | |
| 9. If a problem was encountered, describe the problem and action(s) taken to correct it. | |
| 10. What work is projected during the next reporting period? (Next 6 months): | |
| 11. Will the project take longer than the approved project period? If so, have you requested an extension in writing to the grant coordinator? | |
| 12. Amount expended this reporting period (can be approximate) If no amount expended, explain why. | |
| 13. Is project invoicing/expenditures up to date? If invoicing is more than 3 months overdue, explain why. | |
| 14. Were any significant changes (>10% of the total project amount) made to the project budget? If so, have you notified the grant coordinator in writing? | |

Answer Set: Q2 2017

Question

Answer

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Reporting Timeframe (Q1) (Q2) (Q3) (Q4): | Q2 2017 |
| 2. Amount expended this reporting period: | \$30,000 |

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Question

3. Subcontracts or subgrants awarded this reporting period:
4. QAPP (Project Plan) status:
5. Local services and/or products purchased this reporting period:
6. Number of jobs created this reporting period:
7. Work accomplished this reporting period:

Answer

None by LSRI
complete
None by LSRI

Cory Gephard was hired as an LTE to assist with field surveys. Kim Beesley already on staff at LSRI also assisted.
Field staff: Amy Eliot, Steve Gebhard, Kim Beesely, Nathan Dahlberg, Cory Gebhard, Ryan Herrick conducted preliminary crossing surveys. All were trained in protocols.

Preliminary assessments: 138 preliminary assessments were completed by May 25, 2017. Twelve assessments could not be completed due to access issues. Two alternate sites were assessed in cases where original site was not found or not accessible.

Photo Documentation: Photos from the 2017 assessments have been uploaded to an LSRI computer and saved in folders organized by date per the QAPP.

Prioritization Scheme: A draft list of 15-20 priority crossings was presented to the Technical Team on 6/30/17. The technical team requested additional analysis of the crossings and a revised draft list was sent to the team for review on 7/31/17.

August 7th √ Technical Team comments due.

August 11th √ Amy, Madeline and Matt will talk through the tech team comments and identify priority sites for further field verification and habitat assessment.

August 31st √ LSRI completes field verification and habitat assessment.
Week of September 4th √ LSRI presents field verification/habitat assessment and recommendations to Technical Team. Based on the information provided, the Tech Team will recommend the priority culverts for replacement. Madeline will coordinate and set-up the tech team meeting for a date that tech team members are available that week.
September 30th √ LSRI submits final report with Technical Team recommendations to DNR (Matt Steiger).

8. Work goals for coming reporting period:

1. Reporting Timeframe Month/Year to Month/Year (Oct-Mar or Apr-Sept):
2. Quality Documentation status (respond NA if not required):
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10. What work is projected during the next reporting period? (Next 6 months):
11. Will the project take longer than the approved project period? If so, have you requested an extension in writing to the grant coordinator?
12. Amount expended this reporting period (can be approximate) If no amount expended, explain why.

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Question

13. Is project invoicing/expenditures up to date? If invoicing is more than 3 months overdue, explain why.
 14. Were any significant changes (>10% of the total project amount) made to the project budget? If so, have you notified the grant coordinator in writing?

Answer

Answer Set: Q1 2017

Question

1. Reporting Timeframe (Q1) (Q2) (Q3) (Q4):
 2. Amount expended this reporting period:
 3. Subcontracts or subgrants awarded this reporting period:
 4. QAPP (Project Plan) status:

 5. Local services and/or products purchased this reporting period:
 6. Number of jobs created this reporting period:
 7. Work accomplished this reporting period:

Answer

Q1 2017
 Estimate = \$8500
 None by LSRI
 The QAPP was reviewed and approved by the WDNR Great Lakes Quality Assurance Coordinator on February 24, 2017. Amy Eliot, PI, returned the electronically signed document to Madeline Roberts and Matt Steiger for WDNR signatures on February 24, 2017.
 None by LSRI
 None by LSRI
 QAPP:
 The QAPP was reviewed and approved by the WDNR Great Lakes Quality Assurance Coordinator on February 24, 2017. Amy Eliot, PI, returned the electronically signed document to Madeline Roberts and Matt Steiger for WDNR signatures on February 24, 2017.

Field staff: One LSRI FT staff person (Steve Gebhard) was given crew leader responsibilities for this project and has been trained in protocols. Steve has extensive experience working in the field at LSRI.

Surveillance Audit: A surveillance audit was completed by Madeline Roberts, WDNR Project Coordinator on April 13, 2017.

Preliminary assessments: Scouting for preliminary assessments resumed after weather conditions allowed in early April but were postponed due to ice conditions. Ice remains on some streams, however, some are now open. Six culverts were assessed over April 12th and 13th, 2017. All assessments were completed by 2 or 3 people and the PI was at 2 out of the 6, including at one site that we visited but could not survey due to ice. Field staff were debriefed by PI to assess any unusual issues ; None were reported.

Photo Documentation: Photos from new assessments have been uploaded to an LSRI computer and saved in folders organized by date per the QAPP.

Background Information: Began reviewing literature and background information for target species and the project watershed that will be used in conjunction with technical team information to develop a ranking criteria.

8. Work goals for coming reporting period:

WDNR should complete the QAPP approval process. Complete preliminary assessments and all data entry. Complete the ranking criteria and present draft list of 15-20 priority crossings to the Technical Team in July. Develop a schedule for surveying the 5-10 tier 2 priority crossings and begin Tier 2 assessments in July. Submit invoice for this reporting period.

1. Reporting Timeframe Month/Year to Month/Year (Oct-Mar or Apr-Sept):
 2. Quality Documentation status (respond NA if not required):
 3. Describe work performed during this reporting period relating to the activities from the grant workplan (Previous 6 months):

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Question

4. GLRI Action Plan metric(s) accomplished and numerical progress during this reporting period:
5. GLRI Action Plan metric(s) accomplished and numerical progress since project start (total complete to date):
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12. Amount expended this reporting period (can be approximate) If no amount expended, explain why.
13. Is project invoicing/expenditures up to date? If invoicing is more than 3 months overdue, explain why.
14. Were any significant changes (>10% of the total project amount) made to the project budget? If so, have you notified the grant coordinator in writing?

Answer

Answer Set: Q4 2016

Question

1. Reporting Timeframe (Q1) (Q2) (Q3) (Q4):
2. Amount expended this reporting period:
3. Subcontracts or subgrants awarded this reporting period:
4. QAPP (Project Plan) status:

5. Local services and/or products purchased this reporting period:
6. Number of jobs created this reporting period:
7. Work accomplished this reporting period:

Answer

Q4

ount of the funds expended to date-- this can be approximate if an invoice is not yet available / Estimate = \$11,500

None by LSRI

The draft QAPP was reviewed by WDNR Project Coordinators in early November. Revisions were made and the draft was sent to the WDNR Great Lakes Quality Assurance Coordinator on November 21, 2016 for final review and approval.

LSRI purchased a level telescoping rod; digital laser measurer, batteries, safety cone and safety vests.

LSRI created 3 jobs this period (1-LTE and 2-UWS Students).

QAPP:

The draft QAPP was reviewed by WDNR Project Coordinators in early November. Revisions were made and the draft was sent to the WDNR Great Lakes Quality Assurance Coordinator on November 21, 2016 for final review and approval.

Field staff hired: One LTE crew leader and two UWS students were hired to help with assessments. One LSRI FT staff person was given crew leader responsibilities for this project as well.

Field staff trained: All LSRI field personnel were trained in LSRI Field Safety and GPS and Camera use prior to field training.

The PI and the LTE Crew Leader were trained in field protocols (Great Lakes Road Stream Crossing Inventory Instructions) by WDNR on November 11, 2016. The PI and LTE Crew Leader trained the other LSRI staff and students working on the project during site visits. The PI was present during 20 of the 36 assessments to ensure competency.

Begin preliminary assessments: Thirty-six preliminary assessments were conducted between November 11th and December 6th, 2016. All assessments were completed by 2 or 3 people. The datasheet was

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Question

Answer

revised to include a space for all data categories in the Access database. Data was recorded on datasheets and hard copies were scanned and saved to an LSRI computer. Field staff were debriefed by staff to assess any issues during the surveys. Assessments stopped due to winter weather.

Begin data entry: Data from all sites surveyed have been entered into the `RSX_StLouis_LSRI.mdb` database provided by the WDNR. The database was modified to include all the fields assessed with assistance from WDNR staff. All datasheets were reviewed for completeness by the Crew Leader and/or PI. Thirty percent of the datasheets entered have been QA'd by project staff.

Photo Documentation: Geo-referenced photos from the culverts assessed have been documented, uploaded to an LSRI computer and saved in folders organized by date per the QAPP.

Begin background summary information: Target species data, trout class data and AIS data have been retrieved from the WDNR Surface Water Data Viewer for each crossing assessed. These data fields were added to the datasheet and to the database.

8. Work goals for coming reporting period:

Complete approval process for QAPP and distribute to the distribution list indicated in the QAPP. Hold LSRI meeting to provide field staff with an overview and discussion of the QAPP. Add data field for streams visited but not assessed. Continue quality check of data entry. Check streams for access in mid-March. Schedule first site visit and WDNR audit weather permitting. Continue background summary and begin to build a ranking model that can be tested.

1. Reporting Timeframe Month/Year to Month/Year (Oct-Mar or Apr-Sept):
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Answer Set: Q3 2016

Question

Answer

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Question

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6. Number of jobs created this reporting period:
7. Work accomplished this reporting period:

Answer

Q3
Amount of the funds expended to date-- this can be approximate if an invoice is not yet available / Estimate = \$500.00
N/A
The QAPP has been drafted by the PI with input from WDNR staff and is awaiting review and approval.
N/A
N/A
Technical Team Convened and Meeting 1 Held:
A Technical Team of project experts was convened on October 12, 2016 to guide project decision making. Members of team include: Matt Steiger, WDNR Project Manager/AOC Coordinator; Madeline Roberts, WDNR Project Manager/Water Resources Management Specialist; Paul Piszczek, WDNR Fisheries Biologist; Amy Cronk, WDNR Environmental Analysis and Review Specialist; Craig Roesler, WDNR Water Quality Biologist; Matt Diebel, WDNR Water Resources Management Specialist; Tom Simmons, WDNR GIS Analyst; Christine Ostern, Douglas County Conservationist; Cameron Bertsch, Douglas County Engineering Technician; Kevin Schmid Douglas County Highway Technician; Darienne McNamara, City of Superior Environmental Regulatory Coordinator; Ted Koehler, USFWS Fish and Wildlife. During the first meeting we determined the species and barriers targeted for the project and made a draft list of background information needed to recommend priority sites. (Attached: Presentation; Agenda; Minutes)

QAPP:

The QAPP has been drafted by the PI with input from WDNR staff and is awaiting review and approval (Draft Attached).

LiDAR Analysis:

The LiDAR analysis has been completed by WDNR and a list of 159 culvert crossings have been sent to the PI for review (List Attached).

8. Work goals for coming reporting period:

Complete approval process for QAPP. Hire an LTE and two students to help with assessments. Develop an assessment schedule from the LiDAR list and begin preliminary assessments. Begin background summary information.

1. Reporting Timeframe Month/Year to Month/Year (Oct-Mar or Apr-Sept):
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Question	Answer
<p>12. Amount expended this reporting period (can be approximate) If no amount expended, explain why.</p> <p>13. Is project invoicing/expenditures up to date? If invoicing is more than 3 months overdue, explain why.</p> <p>14. Were any significant changes (>10% of the total project amount) made to the project budget? If so, have you notified the grant coordinator in writing?</p>	

Answer Set: DEFAULT

Question	Answer
<p>1. Reporting Timeframe (Q1) (Q2) (Q3) (Q4):</p> <p>2. Amount expended this reporting period:</p> <p>3. Subcontracts or subgrants awarded this reporting period:</p> <p>4. QAPP (Project Plan) status:</p> <p>5. Local services and/or products purchased this reporting period:</p> <p>6. Number of jobs created this reporting period:</p> <p>7. Work accomplished this reporting period:</p> <p>8. Work goals for coming reporting period:</p> <p>1. Reporting Timeframe Month/Year to Month/Year (Oct-Mar or Apr-Sept):</p> <p>2. Quality Documentation status (respond NA if not required):</p> <p>3. Describe work performed during this reporting period relating to the activities from the grant workplan (Previous 6 months):</p> <p>4. GLRI Action Plan metric(s) accomplished and numerical progress during this reporting period:</p> <p>5. GLRI Action Plan metric(s) accomplished and numerical progress since project start (total complete to date):</p> <p>6. Percentage (estimate) of project work completed during this reporting period:</p> <p>7. Percentage (estimate) of project work completed since the project start (total complete to date):</p> <p>8. Is project work on schedule? If no, please explain.</p> <p>9. If a problem was encountered, describe the problem and action(s) taken to correct it.</p> <p>10. What work is projected during the next reporting period? (Next 6 months):</p> <p>11. Will the project take longer than the approved project period? If so, have you requested an extension in writing to the grant coordinator?</p> <p>12. Amount expended this reporting period (can be approximate) If no amount expended, explain why.</p> <p>13. Is project invoicing/expenditures up to date? If invoicing is more than 3 months overdue, explain why.</p> <p>14. Were any significant changes (>10% of the total project amount) made to the project budget? If so, have you notified the grant coordinator in writing?</p>	

Actions

Action	Detailed Description	Start	End Date	Status
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Monitoring Stations

Station ID	Name	Comments
10051195	Little Balsam Creek at Gandy Dancer Trail Crossing	

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Assessment Units

WBIC	Segment	Local Name	Official Name
2841700	1	Little Balsam Creek	Little Balsam Creek

Lab Account Codes

Account Code	Description	Start Date	End Date
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Forms

Form Code	Form Name
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Methods

Method Code	Description
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Fieldwork Events

Start Date	Status	Field ID	Station ID	Station Name
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Documents

Title	Description	Author	Published	Comments
Final Scope of Work - Assessment - UW-Superior LSRI	Final Scope of Work for Fish Passage Culvert Assessment in the St. Louis River Area of Concern in Wisconsin for UW-Superior Lake Superior Research Institute (LSRI).	Amy Eliot, Madeline Roberts	09/29/2016	
Quarterly Report Jan 2017 Q1		Amy Eliot		
Quarterly Report July 2017 Q2	Quarterly Report for April to July 2017 prepared by Lake Superior Research Institute (LSRI) Amy Eliot.	Amy Eliot	08/03/2017	
Quarterly Report Q3 2016	2016-Q3 Quarterly Report for Fish Passage Project on St. Louis AOC	Amy Eliot	11/01/2016	
Quarterly Report Q4 2016				

Budget

Combined Budgets:
Combined SLOH:
Combined Total:

Funding

Organization	Source	Type	Amount	Start Date	End Date
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