Accomplished	Report Type	FWS $	Total $	GEO	Originating Office	Author	Key	Created/ Updated
09/17/1999	A	$6,000	$45,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	399	10/13/1999 12/21/1999

LaCrosse FRO Studying Effect of River Channel Dredging on Fish

Executive Summary: Staff at LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office completed the monthly, and final sampling for Fiscal Year 1999 for a Dredge Placement Project on the Mississippi River's Pool 12. More than 15,000 fish were collected identified, weighed and measured during the year as part of the sampling.The project will help identify impacts to the fishery from dredging operations on a main channel site. LaCrosse FRO staff currently have one year of pre-dredging data analyzed and year two sampling is nearly complete. Year one results are similar to the previous year; indicating very little difference in abundance or diversity between control and dredge sites The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposes placing dredge material on the site in October. After dredging is conducted we will monitor the fishery impacts for a minimum of two years.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Rock Island FO
Resource Outputs: Over 15,000 fish were collected identified, weighed and measured in FY 99 concerning the Pool 12 Dredge Project. The results were similar to the previous year which indicated very little difference in abundance or diversity between control and dredge sites. Dredging will be conducted in October and post-dredge sampling will be initiated the following monday.
Partners: Rock Island Army Corps of Engineers

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Illinois * Iowa

Accomplished	Report Type	FWS $	Total $	GEO	Originating Office	Author	Key	Created/ Updated
09/15/1999	A	$5,000	$5,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	424	10/14/1999 12/20/1999

LaCrosse FRO Staff Harvest Walley Fingerlings at Rydell NWR

Executive Summary: Staff from LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office helped harvest more than 4,500 large (eight to 10-inch) walleye fingerlings from Rydell National Wildlife Refuge for stocking into waters on the Red Lake Reservation (Minnesota) and Desoto NWR. Approximately 2,000 fish were sent to Desoto NWR which meet their request for this year. The remainder were stocked into a small lake on the Red Lake Reservation. Both stockings help provide increased recreational fishing opportunities.
Offices Involved: R3-Rydell NWR R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Genoa NFH LaCrosse FRO Rydell NWR

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Iowa * Minnesota

Accomplished	Report Type	FWS $	Total $	GEO	Originating Office	Author	Key	Created/ Updated
08/15/1999	A	$1,000	$1,000	1	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	431	10/14/1999 11/18/1999

Controlling Carp Population Key to Waterfowl Use at Horicon NWR

Executive Summary: Staff at Horicon NWR conducted surveys of Refuge fishery and water levels in August to provide information on refuge carp populations and water volume. The information will be used to determine quantities of rotenone necessary to treat the marsh this winter and for evaluating the success of the project. Carp are the main reason vegetation will not establish on the marsh which reduces waterfowl use. Over 90 percent of the fish sampled at Horicon NWR this past summer were carp and the biomass was greater than 98 percent carp. These high carp numbers result in an absense of vegetation; significantly reducing waterfowl use. A carp treatment is scheduled this winter as part of an intergrated carp control plan that includes trapping, spot treatments, predator stocking, water level manipulation and screening.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Horicon NWR
Resource Outputs: Over 90% of the fish sampled at Horicon NWR this past summer were carp and the biomass was > 98% carp. These high carp numbers result in an absense of vegetation which reduces waterfowl use significantly. This winter a carp treatment is scheduled which is a key factor in attempting to control carp at Horicon. The treatment is one aspect of an intergrated carp control plan which includes trapping, spot treatments, predator stocking, water level manipulation and screening.

Partners: WDNR

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

06/25/1999	A	$1,500	$10,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	494	10/15/1999 11/03/1999

LaCrosse FRO, Park Service Monitor Zebra Mussels in St. Croix River

Executive Summary: A week long zebra mussel monitoring effort coordinated by the LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office and the National Park Service was completed on the St. Croix River June 25. More than 700 boats were inspected by divers with evidence of the mussels found on only two boats. These boats were lifted and cleaned. Zebra mussels were also found in the lower river on native mussels. This is significant, due to the importance of this rivers native mussel populations.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Twin Cities FO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: National Park Service-St.Croix Scenic Riverway MN/WI Boundry area Commission MNDNR WIDNR Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Coast Guard NSP Corps of Engineers

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Ecological Services * Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

05/19/1999	A	$3,000	$15,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	496	10/15/1999 11/01/1999

LaCrosse FRO Assists With Regional Fishing Day Activities

Executive Summary: LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office co-sponsored the Tomah Veterans Administration Hospital's Fishing Day May 19. Approximately 100 patients participated, trying their luck at catching a rainbow trout or largemouth bass as stocked by Genoa National Fish Hatchery. LaCrosse FRO also assisted with Fishing Day events at the Upper Mississippi, Minnesota Valley and Necedah NWR's. Hundreds of kids and adults participated in these events which helped to improve their fishing skills and knowledge the aquatic world.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-ABA (Personnel) R3-Minnesota Valley NWR R3-Trempealeau NWR R3-ABA (CSG) R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Necedah NWR R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse R3-External Affairs R3-Twin Cities FO R3-Federal Aid R3-Fisheries R3-Law Enforcement RO R3-Refuges&Wildlife R3-Ecological Services R3-Regional Director's Office
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Upper Miss. Refuge Winona Dist. (Lead for Winona fish day) Genoa NFH (assisted on Tomah fish day) Tomah Veterans Administration Hospital American Legion of Wisconsin Tomah Middle School Volunteers

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

09/09/1999	A	$1,000	$3,000	1	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	439	10/14/1999 12/17/1999

Service Staff and Partners Collect Round Goby for Research

Executive Summary: Service staff from LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office and Chicago Field Office, joined members of the Illinois Natural History Survey, Perch America and other volunteers to collect approximately 1,600 round goby from Lake Michigan and transport them to LaCrosse, Wisc. The goby will be used in toxicity tests to determine the effectiveness of various chemicals on the exotic species. If a chemical can be effective in controlling the exotics, it may be used in conjunction with the electrical barrier being constructed to restrict the range of gobies on the Chicago waterway.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Chicago FO
Resource Outputs: Over 1,600 round goby were collected in Lake Michigan and transported to LaCrosse, WI. USGS-research will use the goby to determine the effectiveness of pisicides on the bottom dwelling exotics.
Partners: Ill. Natural History Survey Army Corps of Engineers Genoa NFH Perch America Volunteers

Notes:
Ecosystems: 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Fisheries
States: Illinois

08/20/1999	A	$1,000	$2,500	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	443	10/14/1999 12/28/1999

White Earth Reservation Surveys

Executive Summary: Service Staff from LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office conducted surveys on four lakes on the White Earth Reservation in an effort to determine the success of the walleye stocking program. The lakes were netted and electrofished by personnel from White Earth Biology Department(WEBD) assisted by LaCrosse FRO. The walleye management program is the most time consuming project that the WEBD works on, managing over 50 lakes for walleye.
Offices Involved:
Resource Outputs:
Partners: White Earth Biology Dept.

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

07/22/1999	A	$3,500	$3,500	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	446	10/14/1999 12/13/1999

LaCrosse FRO Staff Surveys Fish at Trempealeau NWR

Executive Summary: Staff from LaCrosse Rishery Resources Office conducted a week-long fishery survey on Treampealeau NWR in July in an effort to determine the impact of the Refuge's Habitat Rehabilatation and Enhancement Project. This is a multi-year evaluation which was initiated by LaCrosse FRO in 1992. During the study there has been slight shifts in abundance of various species however the dominant species (bullhead, carp, perch and northern pike) hasn't changed. This survey will provide valuable insight as to how future management of the fishery at Trempealeau should proceed and if the habitat manipulations can benefit fisheries.
Offices Involved: R3-Trempealeau NWR R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Wisconsin Conservation Corps Minnesota Conservation Corps Refuge volunteers

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

04/26/1999	A	$10,000	$150,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	503	10/15/1999 10/29/1999

Walleye Population Estimates for the Ceded Territory of WI.

Executive Summary: From mid-April to mid-May,1999, the Service's LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) assisted the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)and Ashland FRO with walleye population surveys on more than 20 lakes in northern Wisconsin (the Ceded Territory of Wisconsin.) Surveys are conducted during the spawning season, which occurs usually during a three week period after the ice leaves the lakes. Night electrofishing is the method used to sample walleye and a mark/recapture technique is used to estimate populations. The population estimates help managers make sound management decisions and set safe harvest levels. The Wisconsin DNR also conducts numerous population surveys, coordinating with GLIFWC on which agency will work on certain lakes.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Ashland FRO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Wisconsin DNR

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

01/19/2000	A	$0	$0	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	875	02/07/2000 02/07/2000

LaCrosse FRO Assists in Horicon Marsh Carp Treatment

Executive Summary: Staff from the LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) assisted the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and members of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with a carp control project on Horicon Marsh. FRO staff attended project coordination meetings, assisted with water level and flow measurements to help determinethe proper amount of Rotenone to use, recruited staff from Genoa National Fish Hatchery, and assisted with the application of Rotenone, a pesticide, on both the federal and State portions of the Marsh.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Horicon NWR R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Wisconsin DNR-Horicon Offices Volunteers

Notes:
Programs: Fisheries

01/19/2000	A	$0	$0	1	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	876	02/07/2000 03/03/2000

LaCrosse FRO Partners to Control Carp on Horicon Marsh

Executive Summary: Staff from the LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) assisted the Horicon NWR and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with the carp control project on Horicon Marsh. Staff members attended project coordination meetings, assisted with water level and flow measurements to help determine the proper amount of rotenone to use, recruited staff from Genoa NFH, and assisted with the application of rotenone on both the Federal and State portions of the Marsh.
Offices Involved:
Resource Outputs:
Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 24-GREAT LAKES
States: Wisconsin

02/24/2000	A	$18,000	$135,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	974	02/28/2000 03/02/2000

Draft of Pool 12 Dredge Placement Report Completed

Executive Summary: The draft progress report (2nd year) of the Dredge Placement study in Pool 12 of the Upper Mississippi River was completed and sent to the Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District for review. This project was called for by river resource managers in an attempt to identify impacts from dredging. Dredge placement occurred this year in October. This year La Crosse FRO will conduct the first full year of post-dredge sampling. This report discribed the year two findings from the project site for six months (Ap.-Sept.) prior to dredging and one month (Oct.) after dredging occurred. Results are to be held inhouse until the work group has a chance to review the draft.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: The Corps of Engineers Rock Island Dist. Rock Island ES River managers from Ill. and Iowa.

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Illinois * Iowa

02/28/2000	A	$500	$500	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	978	02/28/2000 03/02/2000

Outreach at La Crosse FRO

Executive Summary: La Crosse FRO has conducted several outreach items during the last few months. In January we held our volunteer banquet in conjunction with the La Crosse Dist. of the UMRWFR which was an uplifting event and coordinated primarily by Mary Stefanski. This years volunteer of the year was Bob Ruud who contributed over 200 hours again. Presentations were given at two area elementry schools on river issues and careers. A local high school requested our assistance with judging their science fair and we also worked together with the La crosse Dist. to sponsor a booth at the La

Crosse Outdoor Exhibit, which was very well attended. Key issues were water level management, paddlefis h, habitat monitoring and refuge regulations.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse
Resource Outputs: Over 150 students attended the presentations, and more than 300 students participated in the science fair. Additionally several thousand people attended the La Crosse area Outdoors show, with several hundred visting our FWS booth.
Partners: La Crosse Dist of UMRNWFR

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries

02/28/2000	A	$7,500	$15,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	986	03/01/2000 03/02/2000

Fishery Assessment Report completed for Prairie Is. Reservation

Executive Summary: A fishery assessment report on Sturgeon and North Lakes (Miss.R backwaters) was completed for the Priarie Island Dakota Community. This report summarized the first five years sampling that was conducted by La Crosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO). Results indicated similar results as previous surveys. This information will be used to base management decisions on in the future by comparing abundance trends for key species.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: This report will be used to meet trust responsibilites to the tribes by utilizing the data to make future management decisions.
Partners: Prairie Island Dakota Community

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

03/08/2000	A	$50	$200	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	1054	03/15/2000 03/20/2000

LaCrosse FRO Coordinates Annual Meeting of White Earth Tribe, Minnesota DNR and Service

Executive Summary: LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) coordinated and participated in the annual meeting between the White Earth Conservation Department(Doug McAuther, Randy Zortman), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Dave Friedl, Roy Johannes and Henry Drewes)and LaCrosse FRO (Scott Yess). Participants addressed 1999 and 2000 activities, lake sturgeon and fish passage. New projects concerning fish passage on the Red River Drainage and which will be considered for future funding. The annual coordination meeting has been a great method for improving relations between the three agencies and eliminate duplication of effort. The meeting was held at the Federal building in St. Cloud, thanks to Pat Kimbal for assisting on meeting logistics.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: .
Partners: White Earth Biology Department Minnesota DNR Fisheries - Bemidji, Detroit Lakes and St. Paul Offices

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

04/19/2000	A	$15,000	$150,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	1164	04/19/2000 05/09/2000

Service Assists Indian Commission Survey Walleye Populations in Ceded Territory of Wisconsin

Executive Summary: Staff from the LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) assisted the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission to survey walleye populations in 19 lakes in Northern Wisconsin. Service staff from Ashland FRO also participated during the three-week sampling effort completed April 19. The walleye were collected by night electrofishing, using a mark recapture technique. The walleye population data collected during this effort is used to set safe harvest levels for hundreds of lakes within the Ceded Territory of Northern Wisconsin. The walleye is one of the most popular fish species in Wisconsin.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Ashland FRO

Resource Outputs:
Partners: Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Wisconsin DNR

Notes:
Ecosystems: 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

04/18/2000	A	$18,000	$150,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	1233	05/09/2000 05/09/2000

LaCrosse FRO Samples Dredge Affects on Upper Mississippi River's Pool 12

Executive Summary: Staff from the LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) completed April 18, 2000, the first sampling period for the Upper Mississippi River's Pool 12 Dredge Project near Bellevue, Iowa. This is the third year of work on this project and the goal is to determine fishery impacts from dredge placement. The data and information gathered from this study will assist river resource managers with decisions concerning dredge placement activities.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: US Army Corps of Engineers

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Illinois * Iowa

05/03/2000	A	$300	$300	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	1235	05/09/2000 05/10/2000

LaCrosse FRO Staff Teach Conservation Topics at Winona Middle School

Executive Summary: The LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) joined forces with the Upper Mississippi Refuge staff during a May 3 visit to Winona Middle School. Over 150 students learned how to dissect fish and how organs functions, how to band birds, waterfowl identification and life history. The students from sixth grade science classes participated in demonstrations on fish dissection, bird banding and waterfowl identification. The main complement was that the kids had a hands-on learning experience and thus would retain the information.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ R3-UMRNW&FR-Winona Dist.
Resource Outputs: Over 150 middle school students from Winona School Dist# 861 learned how to dissect fish and the organs functions, how to band birds and waterfowl identification and life history. Young minds want to know!
Partners: Winona Middle School

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Minnesota

05/06/2000	A	$750	$5,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	1237	05/09/2000 05/11/2000

Service, Canadian Tribes Partner For Lake Sturgeon Spawning at Rainy River First Nations

Executive Summary: Staff from LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) and Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH) travelled to Emo, Canada, to assist the Rainy River First Nations Hatchery and the White Earth Biology Department with spawning lake sturgeon. The Rainy River First Nation tribe is rearing lake sturgeon in an effort to increase the population on the border waters. Joe Hunter, hatchery manager, is willing to sell surplus fish to the White Earth Reservation. It is the goal of the White Earth Biology Department and the Service to restore lake sturgeon to the Reservation. This project is also being accomplished in coordination with the Minnesota DNR's effort to restore lake sturgeon to the Red River drainage. Approximately 40 quarts of lake sturgeon eggs will be hatched at the Rainy River First Nations Hatchery. The First Nations will stock fish into the Rainy River, some will be used for a genetics study, and 40,000 fry will be purchased by the White Earth Biology Dept. and shipped to Genoa NFH and Neosho NFH to be raised to 6 inches. These fish will then be tagged and stocked into White Earth and Round Lakes on the White Earth Reservation. This effort coordinates well with the Minnesota DNR's work on restoring lake sturgeon to the Red River drainage.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: Approximately 40 quarts of lake sturgeon eggs will be hatched at the Rainy River First Nations Hatchery.

The First Nations will stock fish into the Rainy River, some will be used for a genetics study and 40,000 fry will be purchased by the White Earth Biology Dept. and shipped to Genoa NFH and Neosho NFH to be raised to 6'. These fish will then be tagged and stocked into White Earth and Round Lakes on the White Earth Reservation. This effort coordinates well with the MNDNR's work on restoring lake sturgeon to the Red River drainage.
Partners: White Earth Biology Dept. Rainy River First Nations

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

07/20/2000	A	$18,000	$110,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	1473	07/28/2000 07/31/2000

LaCrosse FRO Conducts Monthly Sampling as Part of Dredge Placement Study

Executive Summary: LaCrosse FRO personnel finished their monthly sampling on the Dredge Placement Study in Pool 12 of the Upper Mississippi River. The study, in its third year, focuses on the impact of dredge placement on the upper Mississippi River fishery. The project is in its first year of post-dredge placement. Information from this study will assist river managers with decisions with dredge placement issues. This is a ongoing problem for resource managers along the river. The study will help answer some questions on dealing with dredge material however additional research is needed.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Information from this study will assist river managers with decisions with dredge placement issues. This is a ongoing problem for resource managers along the river. The study will help answer some questions on dealing with dredge material however additional research is needed.
Partners: Rock Island Army Corps of Engineers River resource managers from Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Missouri.

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Illinois * Iowa

07/12/2000	A	$15,000	$15,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	1475	07/28/2000 08/01/2000

Fishery survey completed at Trempealeau NWR

Executive Summary: The LaCrosse FRO staff assisted by Trempealeau NWR personnel and volunteers conducted a three day fishery assessment of Pool B. Since 1992, a fishery survey has been conducted at Trempealeau NWR in an effort to evaluate the habitat improvement project. This project has more potential for wildlife management however there maybe some limited opportunities to improve the refuges fisheries also.
Offices Involved: R3-Trempealeau NWR R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Information from this study will be used to better manage shallow water impoundments for fisheries in coordination with waterfowl/wildlife management.
Partners: Trempealeau NWR volunteers Wisconsin Conservation Corps Perot State Park

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

07/15/2000	A	$1,500	$1,500	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	1485	08/03/2000 08/09/2000

Outreach at La Crosse FRO

Executive Summary: LaCrosse FRO personnel have conducted several outreach projects during the last two monthes which include presentations on fish disection to two local schools involving over 200 students. This was a hands on exercise which most kids appreciated and enjoyed. A presentation on paddlefish was given at Perot State Park and a new park was dedicated in Goodview, MN (Winona) and information and handouts were provided at the FWS booth. A public meeting in Detroit Lakes,MN was attended to provide support and information to the White Earth Biology Dept. This agency has been under fire by local anglers upset with tribal netting.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ R3-UMRNW&FR-Winona Dist.

Resource Outputs: These outreach activities were attended by over 500 people who in one way or another better understand what the FWS role in issues or their community is.
Partners: Winona Middle School Perot State Park White Earth Biology Dept. MNDNR City of Goodview St. Mary's Elementary School

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

07/26/2000	A	$100	$100	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	1487	08/03/2000 08/09/2000

Service Divers Assist MacAlaster College St. Croix Mussel Project

Executive Summary: Divers from the Service and National Park Service, members of the Zebra Mussel Task Force, assisted Dr. Mark Hove of Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., monitor native mussels on the St. Croix river July 26. This project will help determine the mussel status on the St. Croix and will support monitoring by the Zebra Mussel Task Force.
Offices Involved: R3-Twin Cities FO
Resource Outputs: The information gathered on these mussel resources will provide river managers the data they need to make informed decisions and also assists on the monitoring of zebra mussels.
Partners: Macalester College NPS

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

08/01/2000	A	$100	$100	1	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	1489	08/03/2000 08/11/2000

Horicon Fish Survey Completed

Executive Summary: The annual fish survey was conducted August 1 at Horicon NWR by staff from La Crosse Fishery Resources Office. Preliminary results indicated carp are present, however, their numbers are reduced after the winter rotenone treatment. This shows the importance of a integrated approach to manage the carp population. Additional steps to the program will be construction of a fish trap, stocking of predators, and possible spot treatments.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Horicon NWR
Resource Outputs:
Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

11/27/2001	H	$5,000	$200,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	5324	11/28/2001 12/04/2001

LaCrosse FRO Receives Grant for Fish Passage Project

Executive Summary: The LaCrosse FRO was awarded a $65,000 grant which will be matched with funds and in kind services from partners to build a fish passage structure on the Wild Rice River near Twin Valley, Minnesota. Participates on this project include the Minnesota DNR, White Earth Biology Department and the Wild Rice Watershed District. The Wild Rice River is a major tributary to the Red River of the North which has numerous dams and barriers to fish migration. Such barriers limit fish movement to critical habitats and therefore reduce populations and diversity. One prime example is the lake sturgeon which once were abundant in the Red River Watershed now have to be reintroduced. Surveys completed by both the Minnesota DNR and the White Earth Biology Department indicate the species diversity is greater below the Heiberg Dam with essentially no sport fish species collected above the dam. So providing fish passage will increase fish diversity and also increase the chance of success with the lake sturgeon reintroduction projects conducted by the Minnesota DNR, White Earth Biology Dept. and the Service. This project will allow fish to migrate past the Heiberg Dam which will provide access to over 120 miles of the watershed. A boulder stair stepped rapids will create a water flow that fish will be able to negociate. A similar structure was installed at a dam in Fargo, ND with success. The structure created a rapid type river flow which also provides a unique kayaking opportunity. The Red River Watershed has numerous dams and fish barriers along its stretch

which hinder fish migration resulting in reduced diversity and populations. It is the goal of several resource agencies to remove or alter as many of these barriers as possible. This project will allow fish migration to over 120 miles of riverine habitats along the Wild Rice River watershed which is a major tributary to the Red River. It will not only increase species diversity but will have major benefits to lake sturgeon and sport fish populations.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: White Earth Biology Department Minnesota DNR Wild Rice Watershed District

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

11/16/2000	A	$15,000	$115,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	2428	12/28/2000 01/02/2001

Results from Pool 12 Dredge Placement Study Presented

Executive Summary: Preliminary results from the Pool 12 Dredge Placement Project were presented to the Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee Nov. 16, 2000. The Committee will use this information to decide where they want to go from here. Several members would like to conduct a similar study but at a different site. Some biologists would like to see at least one more year at the current site. If funding allows both could be accomplished, according to corps of engineers staff. Results indicate that the dredge placement site is lower in diversity however an additional dredging event has a short term impact on the fishery.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Rock Island FO
Resource Outputs: Information from this study will assist river resource managers in making sound decisions on what and where to place dredge material.
Partners: Rock Island Corps of Engineers IllDNR Iowa DNR Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Illinois

01/26/2001	A	$1,500	$1,500	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	2600	01/31/2001 02/01/2001

LaCrosse FRO/Refuge District Honor Volunteers

Executive Summary: Over 60 people attended the annual volunteer banquet held for volunteers of the LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office and the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge - LaCrosse District. The event was highlighted by a presentation on the geology and history of resources along the Mississippi River by Dr. Calvin Fremling, a former WSU professor. Attendees were treated to dinner and awards. Volunteers contributed more than 1,000 hours to the LaCrosse FRO on projects such as sturgeon netting, native mussel propagation, fish surveys and data analysis. Without this effort several projects would not have been accomplished. Volunteer banquets help recognize volunteer efforts and helps build support. The banquets also help in recruiting new volunteers to Service projects.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse
Resource Outputs:
Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries

07/18/2003	A	$4,000	$4,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	9650	08/15/2003 11/04/2003

Fishery Surveys Conducted at Tamarac NWR

Executive Summary: Fishery surveys were conducted at Tamarac NWR by LaCrosse FRO personnel with assistance from the refuge staff. Pine, South Chippewa and Blackbird Lakes were sampled with gill nets and trap nets and at Johnson Lake night electrofishing was conducted. The Ottertail River was also monitored at three separate sections. Initial observations indicate the fishery in Pine and Blackbird Lakes appears to be most appealing to anglers. Pine Lake currently has a good

population of northern pike and Blackbird Lake has a nice population of northern pike and pumpkinseed sunfish. The Ottertail river was targeted in an effort to collect lake sturgeon and non-game species. Lake sturgeon have been stocked in Round Lake which is in the Ottertail drainage. No lake sturgeon were collected however the Ottertail River holds a diverse fish community due to its great water quality and habitat. Data analysis will be conducted during the winter months and management recommendations will be made.
Offices Involved: R3-Tamarac NWR R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Results from this effort will be used to create management plans to better manage the fishery resources of the refuge and to help determine the long term changes to the fishery.
Partners: White Earth DNR

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

08/12/2003	A	$2,500	$2,500	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	9651	08/15/2003 11/04/2003

LaCrosse FRO assists Fish Health on Wild Fish Health Survey

Executive Summary: La Crosse FRO staff and volunteers assisted the La Crosse Fish Health Center with their wild fish health survey on the Upper Mississippi River. Pool three was sampled using boat electrofishing as a collection technique. All fish over 100 mm were netted for the fish health staff. These fish were processed by fish health in an effort to identify diseases and determine the general health of the fish. The wild fish health survey is a nation wide effort which is focused on many of the nations major watersheds. Fish samples were also taken for the Prairie Island Dakota Community, these fish will be tested to determine levels of radio nuclides in fish tissue.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: A major benefit of this project is that it could provide an advanced warning for a disease out break, additionally it can be used as trend information on the health of the fishery. The catch information can also be used to show population trends by species. Additionally, information determined from the fish that were sent to determine radio active levels are viewed as vital for the Prairie Island Dakota Community, who live next to a nuclear power plant.
Partners: Prairie Island Dakota Community

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

07/01/2003	A	$1,500	$1,500	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	9652	08/15/2003 02/19/2004

Fish Thrive Near Habitat Project On Upper Miss

Executive Summary: LaCrosse FRO initiated a new project this year as requested by the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge - Winona District. The study is designed to determine fish usage in Polander Lake's new island complex. These islands were constructed as part of the Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP) on the Upper Mississippi River. Several HREP's have islands as a feature built into the project. The goal of these islands is to help break up wind fetch which should reduce suspended sediments. The islands create slack water habitat which promotes vegetation growth and provides food and cover for both fish and wildlife. The islands also create nesting habitat for waterfowl and turtles. Fishery monitoring was conducted on June 30th and July 1st and will be conducted for the third and final time in September. This will help determine seasonal use. Both electrofishing and trap netting are conducted at fourteen sites. The fishery looked good and was dominated by bluegill and bass, walleye were also present. Non-game species such as redhorse, drum and carp were also caught. Aquatic vegetation is abundant and provides excellent cover and food. This project is a great follow up to the paddlefish work which was conducted in Polander last year.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-Winona Dist.
Resource Outputs: Results from this study will give river resource managers the data they need to determine if the habitat projects are of value and what species benefit from such work.
Partners: volunteers

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries

States: Minnesota

02/11/2001	A	$0	$0	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	2755	02/23/2001 02/26/2001

LaCrosse FRO Reaches Thousands at LaCrosse Sportsmans Show

Executive Summary: Staff from the LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office coordinated with the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge (LaCrosse District) and Fish Health Center to develop and staff a booth at the LaCrosse sportsman's show Feb. 11, 2001 in LaCrosse, Wis. Several thousand visitors toured the show and many were interested in the Service booth. Service staff answered questions concerning Mississippi River drawdown, exotic species, paddlefish and fish diseases. The event was a great outreach opportunity, allowing face-to-face interaction with numerous customers.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse
Resource Outputs:
Partners:

Notes:
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries

03/31/2001	A	$15,000	$120,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	3166	04/09/2001 04/10/2001

Draft Report of Pool 12 - Upper Mississippi River Dredge Placement Study Completed

Executive Summary: The draft report for the Pool 12 on the Upper Mississippi River (UMR) Dredge Placement Study was sent to the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for review and distribution March 31. The study examines the impacts to the fishery due to dredge material placement completed by the Corps in September 1999. The report will be finalized following review by the Corps and other members of the UMR Fish and Wildlife Work Group. Results of the study will assist fishery managers in determining future locations for dredge material, and what management practices will reduce the impacts of dredge material on the fishery.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Rock Island FO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Army Corps of Engineers - Rock Island Districrt Iowa DNR Illinois DNR Wisconsin DNR Missouri DOC

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Illinois * Iowa

02/28/2001	A	$100	$100	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	2944	03/15/2001 03/16/2001

LaCrosse FRO Helps Coordinate State, Tribal Fishery Projects

Executive Summary: Staff at the LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) met with members of the White Earth Biology Department and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Feb. 28, 2001, to coordinate agency efforts relating to fish stocking, surveys, lake sturgeon, fish passage and permits. The Minnesota DNR is grateful for Service support and funding for the Fargo North Dam fish passage project and the Dunton Locks fish passage project. With support of the Minnesota DNR, staff at LaCrosse FRO will rewrite this year's Flex-Fund project to provide funding for the White Earth Biology Department to install a fish passage structure on White Earth Lake. The Service and White Earth Biology Department will again work with Rainy River First Nations to provide lake sturgeon eggs for Genoa and Neosho National Fish Hatcheries in an effort to re-introduce Lake sturgeon to Reservation waters. The Minnesota DNR requested any excess fry from our work this spring.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Coordination meetings are critical to the success of all three agencies participating and projects such as lake sturgeon reintroduction and fish passage on the Red River have a higher chance of success with a greater number of partners
Partners: White Earth Biology Dept Minnesota DNR fisheries

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

04/09/2001	A	$0	$0	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	3168	04/09/2001 04/18/2001

Three Wisconsin Fisheries Program Offices Organizing Friends Group For Upper Mississippi Fishe ry

Executive Summary: Three Service fisheries offices in Wisconsin are working to form a Friends Group that will help provide outreach, education and other volunteer support efforts to each of the offices. Staff at LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO), Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH)and LaCrosse Fish Health Center had held an initial meeting with five candidate members to discuss language for the groups' mission statement, goals and memorandum of understanding. Staff from each office will create the documents and bylaws. So far, five local individuals have expressed an interest in helping establish a Friends Group by reveiwing the initial documents and recruiting. The individuals have expertice in a variety of areas and should provide exceptional leadership.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs:
Partners: So far we have five local individuals who have expressed an interest in helping to establish this group by reveiwing the initial documents and recruiting. These five individuals have expertice in a variety of areas and should provide exceptional leadership.

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Fisheries

05/15/2001	A	$1,500	$5,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	4248	06/29/2001 07/02/2001

Lake Sturgeon Successfully Spawned at Rainy River Hatchery

Executive Summary: Fish and Wildlife Service joined forces with the White Earth Biology Department and the Rainy River First Nations (Canada) to spawn lake sturgeon at the Rainy River First Nations Hatchery. Personnel from LaCrosse FRO,Genoa NFH and White Earth Biology Department assisted Joe Hunter and staff with striping 15 female and over 35 male lake sturgeon. Approximately 100,000 eggs were then flown by Bob Foster to Neosho NFH for rearing to fingerling (6') size. These fish will be restocked on the White Earth Reservation in an effort to restablish the population in the Red River Drainage. The White Earth Lake Sturgeon Management Plan identifies the Rainy River for the source of lake sturgeon to be restocked into the Red River Drainage. These fish are likely to have similar genetic makeup. The Rainy River First Nations have been raising lake sturgeon for several years and were happy to partner on this project. Eggs were taken in mid-May by staff from Rainy River First Nations, White Earth Biology Dept., LaCrosse FRO and Genoa NFH. The eggs were then flown (by Bob Foster) to Neosho NFH to be raised to fingerling size. In the fall these fish will be tagged and stocked on the White Earth Reservation. The LaCrosse Fish Health Center is also monitoring the eggs and fry for disease
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Refuges&Wildlife R3-Genoa NFH R3-Neosho NFH
Resource Outputs: The White Earth Lake Sturgeon Management Plan identifies the Rainy River for the source of lake sturgeon to be restocked into the Red River Drainage. These fish are likely to have similar genetic makeup. The Rainy River First Nations have been raising lake sturgeon for several years and were happy to partner on this project. Eggs were taken in mid-May by staff from Rainy River First Nations, White Earth Biology Dept., LaCrosse FRO and Genoa NFH. The eggs were then flown (by Bob Foster) to Neosho NFH to be raised to fingerling size. In the fall these fish will be tagged and stocked on the White Earth Reservation. The LaCrosse Fish Health Center is also monitoring the eggs and fry for disease.
Partners: Rainy River First Nations - Canada White Earth Biology Department Regional Pilot - Bob Foster

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

05/15/2001	A	$500	$1,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	4312	07/11/2001 07/12/2001

Fishing Day at Tomah Veterans Administration Hospital

Executive Summary: For more than 10 years, staff from the LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) and Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH)has assisted the Tomah Veterans Administration with its annual Fishing Day event. This year, the event was held at the Hospital's fishing pond which is stocked with trout and bass from Genoa NFH. More than 100 veterans

participated in the fishing day and prizes were awarded for largest trout, bass and sunfish. The American Legion of Wisconsin prepared lunch and Service staff fried over 100 pounds of fish. The kids from Tomah Middle School assisted the patients with fishing activities.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: Its value in human satisfaction is off the scale. Both participates and volunteers have a great time. Over 100 Veterans participate and approximately 200 people are involved in contucting this event.
Partners: Tomah Veterans Administration Hospital American Legion of Wisconsin Tomah Middle School

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

05/24/2001	A	$1,000	$1,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	4314	07/11/2001 07/17/2001

Fishery Survey Conducted at St.Croix Wetlands District

Executive Summary: Fishery surveys were conducted on waterfowl production areas (WPA)at St.Croix Wetlands District in an attempt to determine its existing fishery community. Two of the areas were netted and electrofished to determine species composition and relative abundance. The WPA's have not been sampled since the early 1990s. This information will be analyzed and used in future management plans.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-St. Croix WMD
Resource Outputs: This information will assist provide needed information to make proper resource decisions.
Partners: Wisconsin DNR

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

06/05/2001	A	$2,500	$2,500	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	4315	07/11/2001 07/17/2001

Fishery Survey conducted at Prairie Island Dakota Community

Executive Summary: The long term monitoring program on Prairie Island's Sturgeon Lake (Pool 3 of the Upper Mississippi River continued this year and initial results indicated no significant changes from years past. This work was coordinated with the Wild Fish Health Survey conducted by the LaCrosse Fish Health Center.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: This long term fishery survey will help fishery managers get a better picture on fishery trends occuring on the UMR. This information will be used to update management plans and also fish were collected for the Wild Fish Health Survey and contaminants work to provide information on relative health and contaminant issues.
Partners: Prairie Island Dakota Community

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

08/10/2001	A	$5,000	$10,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	4549	08/10/2001 09/25/2003

Dive Team Completes Zebra Mussel Monitoring on the St. Croix River

Executive Summary: Service dive team members Nick Rowse, Scott Yess joined divers Byron Karnes and Bob Whaley of the National Park Service and dive tenders Collen Whaley and Liesel Virchow to complete approximately 25 dives to check zebra mussel distribution and abundance on the St. Croix River. This was the second of three dive weeks scheduled for 2001. To date, results have been better than expected. Zebra mussel numbers appear to be less than 2000 results, and no zebra mussels were found north of Hudson, Wis. Information obtained from the underwater surveys assist the Multiagency Zebra Mussel Task Force to make sound management decisions on issues such as boating restrictions, mussel management and public education. Also the St. Croix has several threatened and endangered species including the Winged Maple Leaf, one of the rarest mussel species in North America.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Twin Cities FO

Resource Outputs:
Partners: National Park Service - St. Croix River MNDNR WIDNR MN and WI Boundry Area Commission COE Coast Guard

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Ecological Services * Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

08/22/2001	A	$500	$5,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	4665	08/27/2001 08/28/2001

LaCrosse FRO Assists Fort McCoy With Milfoil Removal

Executive Summary: Scott Yess assisted Fort McCoy Biologists John Noble and Shawn Giblin with a milfoil removal project on a small impoundment that supports a trout and trophy largemouth bass fishery. Two days were spent scuba diving for the exotic milfoil. The plant was pulled out by the roots and placed in dive bags, then later disposed of. John Noble feels very confident that this manual method of removal has had a major impact on the milfoil abundance due to the fact that 80-90 percent of last year's crop did not reestablish.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: This effort will reduce the threat of milfoil becoming the dominate aquatic plant in Sandy Lake and also reduce the probablity of spreading this exotic to other water bodies.
Partners: Assisted Fort McCoy Biology Dept.

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

10/16/2001	A	$500	$5,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	5233	11/02/2001 11/05/2001

LaCrosse FRO Assists With Brook Trout Management at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin

Executive Summary: LaCrosse FRO personnel and volunteer Steve Klankowski assisted biologists from Fort McCoy by relocating brown trout in an effort to improve brook trout populations in Silver Creek, Monroe County, Wis. Several miles of stream were electrofished and brown trout were collected, measured and restocked in the LaCrosse River. This effort will help sustain the valued brook trout fishery.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Prime Brook Trout streams are very difficult to find and are a valued resource for many trout anglers. This effort will help sustain a quality brook trout fishery in Western Wisconsin an area of the state where many anglers target trout as their primary species.
Partners: Fort McCoy

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

08/23/2001	A	$3,000	$3,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	4711	09/05/2001 09/18/2001

LaCrosse FRO Helps LaCrosse Fish Health With Wild Fish Health Project

Executive Summary: Scott Yess LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) and volunteers Lindsey Becker and Taylor Yess assisted the staff from LaCrosse Fish Health Center on its Wild Fish Health Survey of Pools 4 and 7 of the Upper Mississippi River. Two days were devoted to the fish collection with a wide variety of species sampled. The fish were caught with the aid of an electroshocking boat. Knowing what types of disease or parasites are occurring on our wild fish give resource managers and fish health professionals advanced warning of a major fish kill and provide early indicators of poor environmental conditions.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: The benefits of knowing what types of disease or parasites are occurring on our wild fish may give resource managers and fish health professionals advanced warning of a major fish kill or help be an indicator of poor environmental conditions.

Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

09/11/2001	H	$35,000	$50,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	4780	09/14/2001 09/26/2003

6,000 Lake Sturgeon Stocked on the White Earth Reservation

Executive Summary: It has been many years since lake sturgeon have been seen on the White Earth Reservation, that should change after a recent stocking at Round Lake in Becker, County. Approximately 6,000 fingerling lake sturgeon were stocked into Round Lake September 11 by the White Earth Natural Resources Department and the Service's LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office. These fingerlings traveled a long way to finally reach Round Lake. The effort began in May at the Rainy River First Nations Hatchery in Canada. Randy Zortman, John Annette and Tom McCully from White Earth Natural Resouces Department along with Service fishery biologists Scott Yess, Todd Turner and Dan Kumlin assisted Joe Hunter and his staff at the First Nations Hatchery with spawning over 50 adult lake sturgeon. Fin clips and ovarian fluid were also sent to Terry Ott at the LaCrosse Fish Health Center for disease inspections. The eggs were then flown by Bob Foster to Neosho NFH in late May. The staff at Neosho did a fantastic job raising over 18,000 lake sturgeon to fingerling size (6 inches) of which the first 6,000 were stocked into Round Lake. The remaining 12,000 lake sturgeon will be stocked into White Earth Lake in late September. A short ceremony was held and the lake sturgeon were blessed by Tribal Spiritual Leader Joe Bush. This effort is in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource's efforts to reestablish lake sturgeon within the Red River Drainage. This stocking is the beginning of a major effort to reestablish lake sturgeon populations onto the White Earth Reservation and on a border scope within the Red River Drainage. Lake Sturgeon are spiritually significant to the Native American community and also served as a major food source.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH R3-Neosho NFH
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Rainy River First Nations (Canada) Minnesota DNR

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

09/15/2001	A	$750	$2,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	4985	10/03/2001 10/09/2001

LaCrosse FRO Assists White Earth Natural Resources Department With Walleye Harvest.

Executive Summary: Walleye are a very popular sport fish in Minnesota as well as on the White Earth Reservation. Every fall, Randy Zortman White Earth Natural Resources Fishery Manager, harvests thousands of walleye fingerlings to stock into Reservation waters. Approximately 40 lakes on the Reservation are managed for walleye. Service staff from LaCross Fishery Resources Office(FRO) frequently assist with the walleye harvest and this year was no exception. Hundreds of 6'-10' walleye were harvested during a four day period in mid-September by Randy Zortman and Tom McCully of the White Earth Natural Resource Department and Scott Yess from LaCrosse FRO. The fish were stocked into North Twin Lake, a popular fishing lake in Mahnomen County.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Over 6,000 6'-10' walleye fingerlings were harvested and stocked into popular walleye lakes on the White Earth Reservation during a four day period in mid-September. Over 40 lakes are managed for walleye by the White Earth Natural Resources Dept. with technical assistance provided by the LaCrosse FRO. These lakes receive heavy pressure from locals and non-local anglers.
Partners: White Earth Natural Resources Department

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

09/19/2001	H	$30,000	$40,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	5003	10/03/2001 10/09/2001

Resource Agencies Partner to Restore Lake Sturgeon to White Earth Reservation Waters

Executive Summary: The White Earth Natural Resources Department, assisted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Rainy River First Nations, entered into an agreement to restore Lake Sturgeon in White Earth Lake and Round Lake on the White Earth Reservation. Lake Sturgeon once inhabited the Red River and its tributaries. In 1926, a lake sturgeon weighing 176 pounds was caught in White Earth Lake. However, since the turn of the century, lake sturgeon populations have declined due to over harvest, pollution and water development projects. The last record of a lake sturgeon in this area came from Lake Lida in 1957. It is a goal of the resource agencies to restore lake sturgeon to this part of its original range. The management plan calls for 8,000 fingerlings to be stocked in White Earth Lake and another 5,000 fingerling to be stocked in Round Lake. The fish will be raised by the Rainy River First Nation which will use Rainy River lake sturgeon as parental stock. These sturgeon are genetically suitable for introduction into the Red River watershed as determined from recent studies by the Minnesota DNR and University researchers. Prior to stocking in October, the sturgeon will be tagged to monitor growth and survival. Lake sturgeon (Acipenser fulvescens) are primitive fish that historically inhabited many of Minnesota's large rivers and the lakes associated with those rivers. Native American cultures were partially dependent on the availability of lake sturgeon. Indian villages were often located near waters were sturgeon spawned. Early European settlement on Lake of the Woods was due to commercial fishing for lake sturgeon when their caviar and fine flesh were known worldwide. It has been many years since lake sturgeon have been seen on the White Earth Reservation, hopefully that will change in the near future due to the stocking that occurred on White Earth Lake. The stocking on September 19th is the first step to recovery for this species. Four more years of stocking will occur and monitoring of the stock will be conducted on a annual basis. Approximately 12,000 fingerling lake sturgeon were stocked into White Earth Lake on September 19th by the White Earth Natural Resources Department and the FWS. These fish traveled a very long journey to finally reach the Reservation. This effort began in May at the Rainy River First Nations Hatchery in Canada. Randy Zortman, John Annette and Tom McCully from White Earth Natural Resources Dept. along with Scott Yess, Todd Turner and Dan Kumlin from FWS assisted Joe Hunter and his staff at the First Nations Hatchery with spawning over 50 adult lake sturgeon. Fin clips and ovarian fluid were also sent to Terry Ott at the LaCrosse Fish Health Center for disease inspections. The eggs were then flown by Bob Foster to Neosho NFH in late May. The staff at Neosho did a fantastic job raising over 18,000 lake sturgeon to fingerling size (6'),of which the first 6,000 were stocked into Round Lake. The remaining lake sturgeon were stocked into White Earth Lake. A short ceremony was held and the lake sturgeon were blessed by a Tribal Spiritual Leader. This effort is in coordination with the Minnesota DNR's efforts to reestablish lake sturgeon within the Red River Drainage.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: Over 12,000 fingerling lake sturgeon were stocked into White Earth Lake in an effort to re-establish a species that once inhabited this pristine lake. This species is culturally significant to the Native American people and is hoped to provide a fishery in the future.
Partners: White Earth Natural Resources Department Rainy River First Nations Minnesota DNR

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

09/21/2001	A	$500	$500	1	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	4995	10/03/2001 10/11/2001

Fishery Survey conducted at Horicon NWR

Executive Summary: The annual fishery survey was conducted at Horicon NWR by Diane Pentilla, Jon Krapfl (Horicon NWR) and Scott Yess (LaCrosse FRO). The results from this survey can help give insight to the carp and bullhead populations which are trying to be reduced. Carp and bullhead thrive in the marsh to the demise of the aquatic vegetation and other sport fish. It is the goal of Horicon NWR and LaCrosse FRO to reduce carp and bullhead populations.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Horicon NWR
Resource Outputs: Information from this survey will be analyzed with past years data to determine the status of carp and bullhead populations and whether attempts to reduce their populations is successful.
Partners: WIDNR

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

10/22/2001	H	$1,500	$9,000	1	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	5235	11/02/2001 11/07/2001

Lake Sturgeon Restocked Into Menominee Waters

Executive Summary: The lake sturgeon has been a major focal point of Menominee Indian culture for many centuries. Historically, tribal members living in northeastern Wisconsin were nutritionally dependent upon an annual subsistence harvest of lake sturgeon each spring when large numbers of the fish swam upstream in certain Great Lakes tributaries to spawn. In the Lake Winnebago-Wolf River system, lake sturgeon were able to swim far upstream to traditional spawning sites located on the Menominee Indian Reservation until the early 20th century, when a pair of hydroelectric dams were built several miles downstream of the reservation. As a consequence of these barriers to upstream fish passage and continued harvest pressure, lake sturgeon were eventually extirpated from the river reaches upstream of the dams. Lake sturgeon remained a missing component of the native fish community here until 1995, when a long-term multi-agency restoration and management plan was initiated for this ancient species. Each year as a part of this plan, a dozen or more Wolf River lake sturgeon have been captured at sites located downstream of the dams, tagged, and released in river reaches located upstream of the dams and within the Menominee Indian Reservation. Through 2001, a total of 110 feral lake sturgeon had been relocated in this manner to help achieve the long-term goal of re-establishing a self-sustaining population here. Wolf River lake sturgeon relocation efforts in 2001 took place at the end of October. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff electrofished and captured 21 lake sturgeon. These included several large fish that ranged up to 72 inches in total length and nearly 95 pounds in weight. The fish were initially transported about 20 miles upstream in a DNR fish distribution truck to a tributary stream on the reservation. Tribal, and Service biologists met to tag each fish with three unique markers. As in past years, a numbered aluminum strap tag was externally attached to musculature at the base of the dorsal fin. This tag is easily recognizable and encourages angler participation in lake sturgeon management by reporting the status and location of individual fish. Next, a passive integrated transponder tag was implanted behind the head in musculature beneath a dorsal scute with a syringe. This internal tag should remain with the fish throughout the remainder of its life and can be detected electronically by state and federal biologists to quickly identify an individual fish. Finally, an external radio transmitter was attached to a dorsal scute, permitting tribal biologists to track the location of each fish on the reservation and identify seasonal habitat preferences. In previous years, radio transmitters were surgically implanted in the abdominal cavity. However, this invasive procedure could adversely impact the ability of a fish to later spawn, a requisite for re-establishing a self-sustaining population here. The use of external radio transmitters in 2000 also offered several other advantages over internal transmitter implants, including: attachment in a fraction of the time; no requirements for surgical skills, equipment, or anaesthesia; and a reduced risk of secondary infections. The opportunity to work cooperatively with partners in restoring these magnificent fish to Menominee tribal waters of the Wolf River was a great treat for all participants in 2001!

Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO

Resource Outputs: The lake sturgeon was a long missing component of the Wolf River's native fish community on the Menominee Indian Reservation in northeastern Wisconsin until a long-term multi-agency restoration and management plan for this species was initiated here in 1995. Each year as a part of this plan, a dozen or more feral Wolf River lake sturgeon have been captured at sites located downstream of hydroelectric dams near the reservation, tagged with radio transmitters, and released in river reaches upstream of the dams and within the reservation. Through 2000, a total of 89 lake sturgeon had been relocated in this manner to help achieve the long-term goal of re-establishing a self-sustaining population here. A total of 21 additional lake sturgeon were similarly relocated in the fall of 2001. Each of these fish received three different tags: an external aluminum strap tag attached to the dorsal fin; an external radio transmitter attached to a dorsal scute; and a passive integrated transponder tag implanted in musculature beneath a dorsal scute. This combination of tags will help state, federal, and tribal biologists evaluate the seasonal movements, habitat preferences, and growth rates of these long-lived fish. In addition, the use of external radio transmitters (rather than internal transmitters that were used in previous years) increases the probability that these fish will successfully spawn in the future, a requisite for re-establishing a self-sustaining lake sturgeon population in reservation waters of the Wolf River.

Partners: Menominee Indian Tribe Menominee Conservation Department Wisconsin DNR

Notes:

Ecosystems: 24-GREAT LAKES

Programs: Fisheries

States: Wisconsin

11/06/2001	A	$2,500	$2,500	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	5286	11/15/2001 12/04/2001

Friends Group Assists LaCrosse FRO With Sturgeon Tagging

Executive Summary: Members of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services Friends Group assisted LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) with a lake sturgeon tagging operation. Approximately 200 subadult lake sturgeon were measured and tagged with both micra tags and speghetti tags before being stocked onto the Menominee Reservation. These fish were given to the FWS by the Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center - USGS. These fish were raised at the center but were not needed for study. The lake sturgeon were Wolf River strain which is the strain stocked on the Menominee

Reservation. The Friends group volunteers also assisted with tagging several hundred fingerling lake sturgeon raised at Genoa NFH. These fish will all contribute to the goal of restoring lake sturgeon on the Menominee Reservation. Lake sturgeon populations have been depleted or reduced in many of their historic watersheds. A Lake Sturgeon Management Plan is in place for the Menominee Indian Reservation which has a goal of restoring lake sturgeon in the Wolf River and Legend Lake. The assistance we received from our Friends group was critical due to tight time constraints to get these fish tagged and ready for transport.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Friends Group USGS

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

11/14/2001	A	$3,000	$3,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	5293	11/16/2001 12/17/2001

LaCrosse FRO Assists Genoa NFH With Brood Stock Collections

Executive Summary: Four days of shocking in the Mississippi River were conducted by LaCrosse FRO and Genoa NFH personnel with help from volunteers in an effort to replenish the smallmouth and largemouth bass brood stock for Genoa NFH. Genoa prides itself on the ability to raise several species of fish and they also retain brood stock for some of the species. Both largemouth and smallmouth bass stocks were getting old and the staff requested LaCrosse FRO's assistance on collecting new spawners. Approximately 100 brood stock bass were collected along with several fingerlings of a variety of species which will be used for mussel host experimentation.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: Genoa NFH raises largemouth and smallmouth bass for stocking into several management areas within the region, additionally these fish will be used as hosts for the endangered higgins' eye mussel. Fresh brood stock are critical to produce healthy offspring with a strong genetic makeup.
Partners: Volunteers

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

12/04/2001	A	$1,000	$1,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	5372	12/05/2001 09/26/2003

Fish Roundup Saves Sportfish at Service's Genoa Hatchery

Executive Summary: Service biologists from LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) and Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH)in Wiscosin teamed up in early December to rescue and relocate about 950 fish that had been trapped in a hatchery pond since the spring. Dave Wedan, Mark Steingraeber and Scott Yess from LaCrosse FRO joined Jeff Lockington from Genoa NFH for the operation. Several hundred northern pike (650) and more than 300 fish of a variety of species including smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie and walleye were netted. The fish had entered a hatchery pond during heavy spring flooding. The pond was drained and the fish netted. The northern pike will be stocked at Horicon NWR in southeast Wisconsin in support of the refuge's rough fish control effort.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs:
Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

08/28/2003	A	$0	$12,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	9852	09/05/2003 11/04/2003

LaCrosse FRO supports USGS on NAQWA Study

Executive Summary: La Crosse FRO receives frequent requests for assistance on from several partners on a wide variety of

fishery issues. During the week of August 25th personnel from La Crosse FRO assisted the Iowa City Office of the US Geological Survey on their National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) program. This program was implemented in 1991 to support informational needs and decisions related to water-quality management and policy. The NAWQA Program is designed to answer questions concerning our nation's water resources. Information on water chemistry, physical characteristics, stream habitat, and aquatic life are collected. This allows resource managers to make science-based decisions on water quality issues. La Crosse FRO has been called on to provide their expertise on the fishery aspects of this project. Three sites along the Iowa River and one site on the Wapsipinicon River were electrofished to determine the fish community structure. All fish were identified to species and weighted and measured. This fishery information will be analyzed in combination with the other aspects of the study which will allow water resource managers to make informed decisions. The NAWQA Program has been active for over ten years and 42 of the original 51 Study Units will be reassessed for an additional ten years.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: This data will provide insight to water quality problems in eastern Iowa and give resource managers the information they need to improve current conditions.
Partners: USGS - Iowa City Office

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Iowa

02/26/2002	A	$5,000	$5,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	5738	03/18/2002 03/19/2002

Headwaters/Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem team has successful meeting

Executive Summary: The Headwaters/Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem team held a very successful winter meeting at Minnesota Valley NWR on Feb. 26-27, 2002. The team wanted to continue to expand our partnering efforts, and this was accomplished by inviting new partners to present their programs. Representatives from two new partners, Red River Basin Institute and Bois Forte Reservation along with staff from the Red Lake Natural Resources Department, White Earth Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Corps of Engineers. Information shared by the visiting agencies will assist in developing new partnerships. Several regional office staff members were present and provided updates on their programs. Products which resulted from the meeting were the establishment of two new subgroups, one dealing with drainage issues which will be lead by Steve Delehanty; the other a biologists subgroup which will increase involvement by staff biologists. Dave Connor from Red Lake Reservation told the group of their concern for the Circle of Flight program. This program was not included in the President's budget and Dave requested support from FWS and the Ecoteam.
Offices Involved:
Resource Outputs: Two new sub-groups were formed, the first will deal with drainage issues and the second will be a biologists based group. The team will also seek support of the regional director for the circle of flight program. Additionally approximately 80 resource managers from several agencies attended the invertebrate workshop which was held in conjunction with the team meeting.
Partners: Red Lake DNR White Earth DNR Minnesota DNR Red River Basin Institute Minnesota Waterfowl Association Board of Water and Soil Resources US Corps of Engineers Nett Lake Reservation

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Ecosystem Teams
States: Minnesota

02/22/2002	A	$750	$750	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	5745	03/19/2002 03/19/2002

La Crosse FRO and UMR Refuge - La Crosse District host volunteer banquet

Executive Summary: La Crosse Fishery Resources Office and the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge - La Crosse District hosted their annual awards banquet on Feb. 22. The event was a tremendous success. Approximately 50 people attended and were treated to a Chinese dinner. The conference room was tastefully decorated with a Chinese theme to match the presentation by Pam Thiel. Pam recently worked a two week detail in China and her presentation focused on China's fishery resources and Chinese culture. The topic was extremely interesting and entertaining. Awards were presented to all volunteers. Several new fishery volunteers received fish pins and bird houses. Hal Young received special recognition for his efforts on the Pool 12 Dredge Project by providing over 100 hours of volunteer time. La Crosse FRO named Don

Schroeder as their 'Volunteer of the Year' for the second straight year. Don contributed over 200 hours in 2001, providing assistance on field projects and maintenance work, he also received his 500 hour pin. Thanks again to our volunteers who provided so much time and effort.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse
Resource Outputs: The annual volunteer banquet gives us a chance to thank our volunteers for all their great work. Many projects would not be possible without volunteer assistance. Over the last eight years La Crosse FRO has been assisted by over 140 volunteers who donated over 10,000 hours. Big Thanks!!!!!!!!!
Partners: Volunteers

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

03/15/2002	A	$1,000	$1,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	5858	04/05/2002 04/18/2002

Outreach activities conducted by La Crosse FRO

Executive Summary: Several outreach activities were conducted during March. In the beginning of the month personnel from La Crosse Fisheries Resource Office (FRO) participated in the regional science fair for middle and high schools, held at St. Marys University. Bangor Middle School requested a presentation on careers and activities of a fishery biologist which was presented to 30 students. Presentations were also prepared and presented on paddlefish and zebra mussels at the Winona Area Learning Center to students aged 12-16. Last but not least was a water quality demonstration which involved hands on water quality monitoring by the Central Elementary fifth grade students. Over 300 students were involved in the activities.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Over 300 elementary, middle and high school students heard a presentation, participated in a water quality monitoring exercise or had their science paper judged by a representitive of the FWS. These experiences help educate our youth about natural resources and the goals of the FWS.
Partners: St. Marys Univ. Winona State Univ. Bangor Middle School Winona High School Winona Middle School Winona Area Learning Center

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

03/19/2002	A	$100	$100	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	5859	04/05/2002 04/18/2002

La Crosse FRO facilitates successful coordination meeting

Executive Summary: The annual coordination meeting between White Earth Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Minnesota DNR and the USFWS was held as a conference call this year. Key issues discussed were lake sturgeon management and stocking, fish passage, field activities from 2001 and proposed field activities for 2002, new regulations, permits and creel census. Fish passage discussions centered around the White Earth and Heiberg Dam projects. These two dams will have sloped rock fishways built below the dam which creates a simulated rapid run which fish can swim up. When completed these two passages will open up over 175 miles of river and stream habitats that are currently blocked and allow fish to migrate from the Red River to White Earth Lake. These projects are critical to the lake sturgeon recovery efforts in this drainage. Several action items were identified and will be addressed by the responsible agency.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: This coordination meeting benefits the resource because the projects these three agencies are working on will be accomplished more efficiently due to this effort.
Partners: White Earth DNR Minnesota DNR

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

05/08/2002	A	$10,000	$40,000	3	R3-LaCrosse	Scott Yess	6204	05/20/2002 05/23/2002

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Lake Mille Lacs Walleye Survey Completed

Executive Summary: The spring walleye spawn was on and that meant it was survey time. The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission requested assistance from both La Crosse and Ashland Fisheries Resource Office's to help with the annual walley survey. Personnel from La Crosse FRO worked on Mille Lacs Lake this year in what proved to be extremely difficult weather conditions. However, dispite the foul weather, four to five shocking crews tagged over 12,000 fish during the two-week spawning run. The majority of the fish were 14-22 inches in length. This information will be used to determine the overall population and make harvest regulations for this valuable walleye resource.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Ashland FRO
Resource Outputs: Mille Lacs Lake is the premier walleye lake in Minnesota and its walleye population has enormous commercial and recreational value. Walleye are harvested by tribal netters and spearfishing and by angling. Although difficult at times, tt is vital to sustain this resource for all users. Last year the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources tighted the regulations on the angling harvest in an effort not to over harvest the population. This year extra effort by GLIFWC, MNDNR and FWS to tag several thousand fish will provide information to better determine the population and assist in harvest regulations.
Partners: Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Minnesota DNR

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

05/15/2002	A	$1,500	$5,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	6207	05/20/2002 10/03/2003

Disabled Veterans Fishing Day Event a Huge Success

Executive Summary: The annual Tomah Veterans Administration Hospital fishing day event was held on May 15th in Tomah, Wis. Over 100 physically and mentally challenged veterans fished for brook trout, bluegill and largemouth bass that are stocked by Genoa National Fish Hatchery. U.S. Fish and Wildlife personnel from La Crosse Fisheries Resource Office, Genoa National Fish Hatchery and La Crosse Fish Health Office prepared fried fish, assisted with weighing the fish, conducted a fish dissection demonstration and provided prizes for the participants. Local junior high school students assisted the patients with fishing activities and the American Legion prepared a hot lunch and provided prizes. A La Crosse area news station covered the event and captured Dave Wedan from the La Crosse FRO serving catfish fillets to a happy participant.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: This event honors our nations Veterans and gives them an opportunity to participate in a very friendly fishing contest. They also spent time with local middle school students which they all seem to greatly appreciate. The patients deeply appreciate the effort the agencies put out and it gives us the opportunity to give back to the dedicated veterans who defended this country.
Partners: Tomah Veterans Administration Hospital American Legion of Wisconsin Tomah Middle School

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

04/26/2002	A	$500	$500	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	6208	05/20/2002 05/23/2002

La Crosse Fisheries Resource Office Prints Fishy Shirts

Executive Summary: La Crosse Fisheries Resource Office personnel visited two elementary schools in April and worked with K-5th grade students on making fish printed t-shirts. Over 300 students from Mindoro Elementary and Trempealeau Elementary schools painted bluegill molds then pressed a t-shirt onto the mold creating a beautiful shirt. The kids also learned about the bluegill life history. The enjoyed this creative day.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Over 300 elementary students learned about fish and their habitats while making a very attarctive t-shirt featuring a beautifully painted bluegill. All involved enjoyed this event.
Partners: Trempealeau Elementary,WI Mindoro Elementary, WI

Notes:

Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

04/23/2002	A	$2,000	$3,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	6209	05/20/2002 05/23/2002

La Crosse FRO Assists on Rice Lake Refuge Review

Executive Summary: La Crosse Fisheries Resource Office personnel assisted on the biological review at Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge in April. Several other state, federal and local biologists and foresters participated providing input on the management practices at Rice Lake NWR. Scott Yess provided fishery management options for the staff to consider. Issues included, fish passage at the outlet structure, stocking, fishing regulations and access.
Offices Involved: R3-Rice Lake NWR R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Neal Smith NWR R3-Ecological Services R3-Private Lands
Resource Outputs: This information will be used to update management plans and for the upcoming CCP process.
Partners: MNDNR

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Ecological Services * Fisheries
States: Minnesota

05/15/2002	A	$4,000	$10,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	6210	05/20/2002 05/23/2002

La Crosse Fisheries Office Assists at River Fest

Executive Summary: La Crosse Fisheries Resource OfficeO staff assisted on the River Festival held at Wylusing State Park near Prairie Du Chein, Wis. The festival was attended by over 600 area middle school students who participated in demonstrations concerning fisheries, wildlife, landscapes and forestry. The event was a great success and received high marks by the teachers.
Offices Involved: R3-Trempealeau NWR R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse R3-UMRNW&FR-McGregor Dist. R3-Fisheries R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: Over 600 middle school students experienced natural resource issues, monitoring or other type of demonstration which helped educate them about their environment.
Partners: Wylusing State Park, WI Iowa DNR NPS Several local agencies

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

07/18/2002	A	$1,000	$1,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	6703	08/02/2002 10/03/2003

Fishery Survey Conducted at Big Stone Refuge Finds Increased Fish Populations

Executive Summary: Heidi Roesler and Scott Yess of the La Crosse Fisheries Resource Office assisted Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge Manager Brett Wehrle with a fishery survey conducted on the refuge. The East Pool of the refuge was electrofished and both gill and trap nets were also deployed. Results indicated a noticeable increase in the number and size of game species such as walleye, largemouth bass and northern pike. This increase could be attributed to the mild winters southern Minnesota has experienced over the last few years. Additional sites were added on tributaries to the East Pool for this survey and will remain as part of the long-term monitoring program. The survey is part of an effort to monitor non-game species population trends on the refuge to help form management options.
Offices Involved: R3-Big Stone NWR R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs:
Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

08/06/2002	A	$10,000	$10,000	2	R3-LaCrosse	Scott Yess	6746	08/08/2002

					FRO			11/04/2003

La Crosse Fishery Offices Partner to Complete Wild Fish Health Survey

Executive Summary: As part of a national effort to monitor the health of fish populations in major watersheds, the La Crosse Fisheries Resources Office staff and volunteers assisted the La Crosse Fish Health Center staff with wild fish health survey on the Upper Mississippi River. Pools three, four and seven were sampled using boat electrofishing as a collection technique. All fish species over 100 mm were netted. The fish were then processed by the Fish Health Center staff in an effort to identify diseases and determine the general health of the fish population. A main goal of this project is to provide advanced warning of any disease outbreaks in native fish populations. Additionally data collected can be used to monitor health trends in the fishery. The catch information can also be used to show population trends by species.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Volunteers have contributed greatly to this effort.

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

09/16/2002	A	$3,000	$50,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	7111	09/25/2002 10/17/2002

La Crosse Fishery Office Assists Geologic Survey

Executive Summary: The La Crosse Fisheries Resource Office receives frequent requests for assistance from several partners on a wide variety of fishery issues. During the week of Sept. 16, personnel from La Crosse FRO assisted the Iowa City Office of the U.S. Geological Survey on their National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program. This program was implemented in 1991 to support informational needs and decisions related to water-quality management and policy. The NAWQA Program is designed to answer questions concerning our Nation's water resources. Information on water chemistry, physical characteristics, stream habitat and aquatic life are collected. This allows resource managers to make science based decisions on water quality issues. La Crosse FRO has been called on to provide their expertise on the fishery aspects of this project. During the week of September 16, three sites along the Iowa River and one site on the Wapsipinicon River were electrofished to determine the fish community structure. All fish were identified, weighted and measured. This fishery information will be analyzed in combination with the other aspects of the study which will allow water resource managers to make informed decisions. The NAWQA Program has been active for over 10 years and 42 of the original 51 Study Units will be reassessed for an additional ten years.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: The NAQWA Program has a goal to provide current and trend information on the status of the Nation's water resources, which will allow resource managers make informed decisions. Information on the quality of the Nation's water resources is critical to assuring the long-term availability of water that is safe for drinking and recreation and suitable for fish and wildlife.
Partners: USGS

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Iowa

10/04/2002	A	$2,500	$5,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	7455	10/16/2002 12/31/2003

Dive Team Locates Leading Edge of Zebra Mussels in the St. Croix River

Executive Summary: Divers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commmission searched for zebra mussels during the first week of October. Divers searched the St. Croix River, starting just north of the Stillwater Bridge and working south. The dive team changed their monitoring technique, in an effort to cover the substrate more thoroughly and attempted to detect the leading edge of zebra mussel reproduction. This strategy worked nicely and the first sign of reproduction was determined to be just north of Bayport, Minn., at river mile 20.5. The exotic mussels were found near a small marina and a popular boating location. Reproduction was apparent, however, the number of zebra mussels were not greater than one per meter square. It is also interesting to note that populations found in August below Afton, Minn., were greater than any populations found near Bayport during the October dives. During the summer, two additional monitoring dives were conducted, data from the three dives will be analyzed along with data from multi-plate monitoring to form recommendations which will be presented to the St. Croix Zebra Mussel Task Force. Nick

Rowse (USFWS) and Bob Whaley (NPS) presented the results of the October dive at the St. Croix Research Rendevous.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Twin Cities FO R3-Ashland FRO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: National Park Service Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Ecological Services * Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

09/09/2002	H	$25,000	$50,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	7450	10/11/2002 10/17/2002

Lake Sturgeon Stocked at White Earth Reservation

Executive Summary: The White Earth Natural Resources Department, assisted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Rainy River First Nations, entered into an agreement to restore Lake Sturgeon in White Earth Lake and Round Lake on the White Earth Reservation. Lake Sturgeon once inhabited the Red River and its tributaries. In 1926, a lake sturgeon weighing 176 pounds was caught in White Earth Lake. However, since the turn of the century lake sturgeon populations have declined due to over harvest, pollution and water development projects. The last record of a lake sturgeon in this area came from Lake Lida in 1957. Lake sturgeon are primitive fish that historically inhabited many of Minnesota's large rivers and the lakes associated with those rivers. Native American cultures were partially dependent on the availability of lake sturgeon. Indian villages were often located near waters where sturgeon spawned. Early European settlement on Lake of the Woods was due to commercial fishing for lake sturgeon when their caviar and fine flesh were wanted worldwide. It is a goal of the resource agencies to restore lake sturgeon to this part of its original range. The management plan calls for 8,000 fingerlings to be stocked in White Earth Lake and another 5,000 fingerling to be stocked in Round Lake. It has been many years since lake sturgeon have been seen on the White Earth Reservation, hopefully that will change in the near future. Approximately 8,000 fingerling lake sturgeon were stocked into White Earth Lake and another 5,000 were stocked in Round Lake in early September by the White Earth Natural Resources Department and the Service. These fish traveled a very long journey to finally reach their destination. This effort began in May at the Rainy River First Nations Hatchery in Canada. Personnel from the White Earth Natural Resources Department and LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office assisted Joe Hunter and his staff at the First Nations Hatchery with spawning over 50 adult lake sturgeon. Prior to spawning, fin clips were analyzed by the LaCrosse Fish Health Center for viral diseases. The eggs were then transported to Genoa National Fish Hatchery. The staff at Genoa did a fantastic job raising over 13,000 lake sturgeon to fingerling size (6') and transporting them to the White Earth Reservation. Volunteers assisted Service personnel with tagging each sturgeon so their origin can be traced. On the stocking day, Tribal Spiritual LeaderJoe Bush, led a ceremony to bless the fish.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: To restore this majestic species to its former range will have great social and recreational benefits. Lake Sturgeon reach weights over 100 pounds and can live over 100 years. They were a significant species to both the Native Americans and Europeans. In watersheds that have lake sturgeon populations that can sustain harvest it is a very prized catch.
Partners: White Earth Department of Natural Resources Rainy River First Nations Hatchery

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

10/07/2002	A	$5,000	$15,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	7460	10/16/2002 10/21/2002

Divers Continue to Search for Endangered Winged Maple Leaf Mussels

Executive Summary: Divers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission assisted Dr. Mark Hove from the University of Minnesota, in an effort to locate winged maple leaf mussels. Winged maple leaf mussels are an endangered species considered to be one of the rarest mussels in North America and are only found in a short stretch of the St. Croix River near Taylor's Falls, Wisc. Dr. Hove, along with researchers from the U.S. Geologic Survey and the LaCrosse Fisheries Office are trying to determine the host fish species for the winged maple leaf.. A critical step to this research is finding gravid winged maple leaf samples. To date, this has been a major obstacle, of the nearly 30 mussels found only one has been gravid. Three additional days were devoted to searching for the rare mussel by the team, however, the effort was unsuccessful.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Twin Cities FO
Resource Outputs:

Partners: National Park Service Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission University of Minnesota

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Ecological Services * Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

02/06/2004	A	$1,000	$1,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	11415	02/10/2004 02/12/2004

Volunteer Banquet is a Moment in History

Executive Summary: The Annual Volunteer Banquet was held for the LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office and the LaCrosse District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge on Feb. 6. Attendance was very good despite the snow and icy roads. This year's theme was history and everyone enjoyed the down home pig roast and root beer floats. Ken Visger presented a history of the Upper Miss which was followed by several unique and oftentimes humorous short stories told by Ken and Terry Visger. In fiscal year 2003 fishery volunteers contributed over 800 hours to the LaCrosse FRO; assisting in lake sturgeon and paddlefish netting, endangered mussel propagation, exotic species monitoring, lake sturgeon tagging, fish collections for the wild fish health survey and several general fishery surveys. More than 30 individuals contributed to this volunteer effort and LaCrosse FRO would like to recognize Don Schroeder (Onalaska, Wis.) as the volunteer who contributed the most hours in 2003 with a total of 217 hours. Don assists on almost every type of project our office is involved in. He is a huge asset to our program; and not only is he experienced with field work, but he has fantastic shop skills and was instrumental in construction of our new native mussel display. Don is also a two-time Volunteer of the Year and this year reached the 1,000 hour club for volunteer service with LaCrosse FRO. LaCrosse FRO also would like to recognize Jeff Dahl (LaCrosse, Wis.), our 2003 Volunteer of the Year. Jeff is the youngest volunteer (16) to contribute 70 hours in a single year. With great enthusiasm and energy Jeff assisted on native mussel projects, lake sturgeon netting and several fishery surveys. His father (Tom Dahl) works for FWS as a Wetlands Specialist. Other special awards went to Arnie Swartz (LaCrosse) who was the first President of our Friends Group. Arnie was instrumental in getting the Friends group off the ground and running and did a great job recruiting several new members. Ruth Nissen also received special recognition for contributing over 100 hours of volunteer service in just three years.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse
Resource Outputs: The banquet is a great event which recognizes the efforts of our great volunteers and Friends. Its our way to show our appreciation to a fantastic group of dedicated people fighting for the resource.
Partners: Volunteers and Friends

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

11/01/2002	A	$100	$100	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	7612	11/15/2002 11/21/2002

Winona Senior High Students Discover Service/Fishery Management

Executive Summary: Scott Yess from the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office visited a senior high biology class in Winona, Minn., to discuss careers in the Service and fishery management. A question and answer session followed the presentation and the program ended with a problem-solving session. Five groups were formed and each was provided with a real-life fishery resource issue. A list of management options was provided and the students had to sort which options fit their scenario. A group leader was selected and they presented the solution to the class. This hands-on problem solving was a hit with the students.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Approximately 25 students gained insight to the FWS and the Fishery program. Several of the students appeared interested in persueing careers in the biological field.
Partners: Winona Senior High School

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

11/13/2002	A	$2,000	$2,000	1	R3-LaCrosse	Scott Yess	7615	11/15/2002 11/21/2002

					FRO			

LaCrosse Fishery Office Assists Genoa Hatchery With Bass Broodstock Collections

Executive Summary: Staff members from LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office assisted Geonoa National Fish Hatchery personnel on three seperate dates in late October and early November to collect broodstock bass. Both largemouth and smallmouth bass were collected from the Wisconsin River near Wisconsin Dells. After the first collection was made, the LaCrosse Fish Health Center tested the fish for bass virus. Once the fish were cleared, approximately 70 additional smallmouth and 60 largemouth bass were collected.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: Over 150 bass were collected to be used as broodstock at the Genoa NFH. These broodstock will produce thousands of young which will be used to fill stocking requests.
Partners: Wisconsin DNR

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

10/23/2002	A	$4,000	$4,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	7616	11/15/2002 11/18/2002

Big Walleye Harvested at Rydell Refuge

Executive Summary: The annual walleye harvest at Rydell National Wildlife Refuge was conducted during the week of Sept. 16 and a follow-up effort was made in October. Dave Wedan from LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office, Dan Kumlin and Jeff Lockington from Genoa National Fish Hatchery with assistance from Rick Julian, Bob Hiltner, Becky Ekstein and Juancarlos Giese from Rydell National Wildlife Refuge all contributed on this project. Over 500 large walleye (10'-15') were collected in September with an additional 600 in October. The extra large size of the fish can be attributed to the over wintering of the 2001 fish. Methods used to collect the walleye were trapnet and electrofishing. These large walleye were stocked on the Red Lake Reservation in Minnesota and the Crane Naval Base, Ind.
Offices Involved: R3-Rydell NWR R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: Over 1,100 large walleye were harvested and stocked into managed waters by the FRO program. These fish will enhance recreational fishing opportunities on the prespective water bodies.
Partners: Red Lake Indian Reservation Crane Naval Base Minnesota DNR

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Minnesota

02/12/2003	H	$25	$25	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	8048	02/13/2003 02/14/2003

Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services Receive Award

Executive Summary: Arnie Swartz, president of Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services, received an award from Scott Yess (LaCrosse FRO) for the group's support of the fishery program. This new group recently completed a recruiting brochure explaining the organizations mission and goals. Additionally, six members of the group (Arnie Swartz, John Derrickson, Julie Derrickson, Gil Hanesworth, Chuck Snyder and Tom Zieja) assisted in staffing the Service's booth at the LaCrosse Sports Show. Upcoming projects include mussel cage construction at Genoa National Fish Hatchery and developing a fund raising partnership with the Upper Mississippi River Refuge Friends group and a fishing day.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Friend of the Upper Mississippi Fis hery Services

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

12/18/2002	H	$0	$0	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	7802	01/10/2003 01/15/2003

Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services Names Arnie Swartz as President

Executive Summary: Arnie Swartz was nominated as the President of the Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services at the Group's December meeting. Arnie is a life-long resident of LaCrosse and former owner and president of the Swartz Office Supply, which operated eight stores. Mr. Swartz is also extremely involved with state and local environmental issues, having served as President of the local chapter of Ducks Unlimited and Badger State Sportsmens. He also was instrumental in the establishment of Goose Island County Park. Arnie also has served for three years as President of the American Legion for the state of Wisconsin. He has a keen interest in curling and also served as President of the LaCrosse Curling Club. His membership on many other local groups including the Rotary Club have made Arnie a huge asset to his community.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs:
Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries

03/14/2003	A	$3,000	$3,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	8346	03/28/2003 03/28/2003

Volunteer Banquet a Huge Success

Executive Summary: The Fiscal Year 2002 Volunteer Banquet was held for the LaCrosse District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge and the LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office on Mar. 14., the 100th Birthday of the Refuge System, which added to this special event. Attendance was at a record level with approximately 90 people in attendance. Everyone enjoyed BBQ fish and chicken, and door prizes were also given out. Ann Blankenship provided the entertainment with an expertly produced slide show, set to music, which featured incredible natural resource photos. In Fiscal Year 2002 fishery volunteers contributed more than 1,300 hours to the LaCrosse FRO; assisting in lake sturgeon and paddlefish netting, endangered mussel propagation, exotic species monitoring, lake sturgeon tagging, fish collections for the wild fish health survey and several general fishery surveys. More than 30 individuals contributed to this volunteer effort and LaCrosse FRO would like to recognize Don Schroeder of Onalaska, Wis., as the volunteer who contributed the most hours in with a total of 390. Don assists on almost every type of project our office is involved in. He is a huge asset to our program; and not only is he experienced with field work, but he has fantastic shop skills and has conducted our shop safety course. Don is also a two-time Volunteer of the Year. LaCrosse FRO also would also like to recognize LaVerne Schaller, from Bangor, Wis., our 2002 Volunteer of the Year. Better known as Vern to our staff, he would always be there when called on. During Vern's volunteer career he contributed over 200 hours and never had a bad word to say about anything or anybody. Vern always came to work with a great attitude and willing to try any project. Vern is retiring from volunteering with LaCrosse FRO and we wish him the best. A new award was established this year and we call it the Volunteer Hall of Fame. Three fishery volunteers were inducted into the Hall in 2002. Our first is Jerry Schotzko, of Winona, Minn., a former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee. Jerry volunteered on paddlefish netting and tracking during the early 90s, and weathered many a lousy day during the early spring to help on these surveys. Jerry died in 1998 and he will be surely missed. Our next nominee is also deceased and will be fondly remembered as a expert electrician and a rare gem who could work on electrofishing boats and actually fix them. We want to thank Chuck Lawton of Onalaska, Wis., for all he contributed. Our third nominee for the Hall of Fame is a man that has contributed over 900 hours in the last three years. He is our "do all and know all" volunteer that you can always count on, Don Schroeder. Thanks to Don we can attempt several extra projects.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse
Resource Outputs: Volunteers supplied over 1300 hours service to the LaCrosse FRO last year which is equal to 8 monthes of full time work. This is an incredible gift to the resource and the Nation. Thank You Volunteers.
Partners: Our volunteers and Friends Groups

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries

05/04/2003	A	$4,000	$4,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	8734	05/12/2003 02/23/2004

Crews Experience Calm Waters on the Mille Lacs Lake Walleye Tagging Project

Executive Summary: The spring walleye spawn at Lake Mille Lacs in north central Minnesota came on strong during April and that meant survey time. The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission requested assistance from both LaCrosse

and Ashland Fisheries Resource Office's. Dave Wedan, Heidi Keuler, Mark Steingraeber and Scott Yess from La Crosse FRO and Gary Czypinski from Ashland FRO all assisted on Mille Lacs Lake this year, in what proved to be the opposite extreme from last year. Weather conditions were favorable during the two-week spawning run. Due to the ideal working conditions, the team which consisted of two GLIFWC boats, two FWS boats and one Fond Du Lac boat, tagged over 20,000 walleye. The majority of the fish were males in the 14-22 inch range. This effort was conducted in conjunction with an effort by the Minnesota DNR which involved fyke netting. The information will be used to determine the overall population and make walleye harvest regulations. Mille Lacs Lake is the premiere walleye lake in Minnesota and for the last several years the harvest has been allocated for both sport fishing and tribal spearing and netting. Harvest limits are set based on population estimates and the surplus that can be removed without damaging the population. Regulations are then set based on the pounds of fish to be harvested.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Ashland FRO
Resource Outputs: The population information that will be obtained through tag returns is vital to fishery managers to set harvest quotas for both the sport and netting/spearing harvest. Accurate information is critical to help sustain this incredible walleye fishery.
Partners: Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Minnesota DNR

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

04/29/2003	A	$1,000	$1,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	8725	05/09/2003 02/23/2004

Abundant Bluegills Found Druing Polander Lake Survey

Executive Summary: The LaCrosse Fisheries Resource Office initiated a new project this year as requested by the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge - Winona District. The study is designed to determine fish usage in Polander Lake's new island complex. These islands were constructed as part of the Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP) on the Upper Mississippi. Several HREP's have islands as a feature built into the project. The goal of these islands is to help break-up wind fetch which should reduce suspended sediments. The islands also create slack water habitat which promotes vegetation growth and provides food and cover for both fish and wildlife. The islands also create nesting habitat for waterfowl and turtles. Fishery monitoring was conducted on April 28 and 29 and will be repeated during summer and fall, which will help determine seasonal use. Electrofishing and trap netting are being conducted at fourteen sites. During this survey, bluegill were the dominant species collected and were present at several sites. Rock bass were also plentiful but were collected primarily on the rock rip-rapped portions of the islands. Other species present included: carp, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, freshwater drum and northern pike. The fish collected were weighed, measured and released. This project is a great follow-up to the paddlefish surveys conducted in Polander last year.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-Winona Dist.
Resource Outputs: This study will help determine which fish species prefer the new habitats created by the habitat project which will help provide insight to project design in the future.
Partners: volunteers

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Minnesota

05/23/2003	H	$4,000	$9,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	8824	05/23/2003 05/28/2003

Teamwork is Key for Lake Sturgeon Recovery Effort

Executive Summary: Lake Sturgeon once inhabited the Red River of the North and its tributaries. In 1926 a lake sturgeon weighing 176 pounds was caught in White Earth Lake. However, since the turn of the century, lake sturgeon populations have declined due to over harvest, pollution and water development projects. The last record of a lake sturgeon in this area came from Lake Lida in 1957. In 1997 the White Earth Natural Resources Department, assisted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Rainy River First Nations, entered into an agreement to restore Lake Sturgeon in White Earth Lake and Round Lake on the White Earth Reservation. Lake sturgeon are primitive fish that historically inhabited many of Minnesota's large rivers and the lakes associated with those rivers. Native American cultures were partially dependent on the availability of lake sturgeon. Indian villages were often located near waters where sturgeon spawned. Early European settlement on Lake of the Woods was due to commercial fishing for lake sturgeon when their caviar and fine flesh were known worldwide. It is a goal

of the resource agencies to restore lake sturgeon to this part of its original range. The management plan calls for 8,000 fingerlings to be stocked in White Earth Lake and another 5,000 fingerlings to be stocked in Round Lake. Prior to stocking fingerlings a significant team effort takes place. One huge hurdle is to test the sturgeon for viral infections prior to shipping the eggs. In a normal year this is completed in advance to the egg shipment, however, in 2003 this was not possible. It took a true team effort to accomplish this goal. First, Rick Nelson (LaCrosse Fish Health Center) negotiated an agreement with the Wisconsin Health Lab to allow the Service to ship the eggs prior to completion of the viral tests. This could only occur if Doug Aloisi (Genoa National Fish Hatchery) agreed to isolate the eggs until the viral clearance was given. This meant extra work for both offices but it was accomplished without hesitation. On May 18, Randy Zortman and Tom McCully (White Earth Natural Resources Dept.) along with Scott Yess (LaCrosse FRO), assisted Joe Hunter and his staff (Rainy River First Nations) with spawning more than 30 adult lake sturgeon. At the same time, fin clips were being screened for virus infection by Terry Ott (LaCrosse Fish Health Center). On May 21, the eggs were delivered to Doug Aloisi and Jeff Lockington (Genoa National Fish Hatchery). The staff at Genoa did a fantastic job to prepare an isolation facility to receive the eggs. Results of the viral tests proved negative and were completed on May22. This will allow the staff at Genoa NFH to raise the sturgeon outside the isolation facility. In late summer the sturgeon will be tagged and then transported to the White Earth Reservation. This was an incredible team effort and thanks to all who participated.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: The goal of this project is to restore lake sturgeon back onto the White Earth Reservation, which will help re-establish a population in the Red River of the North. This portion of the project is vital to building a population base.
Partners: White Earth Department of Natural Resources Rainy River First Nations - Canada

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

07/21/2003	H	$16,000	$30,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	9392	07/25/2003 07/29/2003

White Earth Fish Passage Project Completed

Executive Summary: LaCrosse FRO joined forces with White Earth DNR on a fish passage project on the White Earth River, on the White Earth Reservation in northwest Minnesota. White Earth Lake is one of the premier lakes on the White Earth Reservation and is currently being stocked with lake sturgeon to restore this majestic fish into the Red River watershed. One obstacle to fish movement within the drainage was the dam on White Earth Lake. It's a small dam built in the 1930's to raise the lake level and store flood water. This dam would not allow fish to migrate back to White Earth Lake, so a plan was prepared by the two offices to create a rock rapids allowing fish passage. Additionally Luther Aadland (Minnesota DNR stream specialist) was consulted for design and engineering on the project. The contract was let by the White Earth DNR to Butch Gordon, and on July 21 the project was completed. This project will not only benefit the recently stocked lake sturgeon but will also provide excellent habitat for several other riverine species. Much gratitude goes to Gary Robideaux who provided access to the project from his property.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: This fish passage project is a piece to a larger effort which is to link as much of the Red River Drainage as possible to allow fish movement. This will especially benefit the newly restored lake sturgeon populations. Lake Sturgeon are currently being stocked into White Earth Lake now with the passage project they have a chance to migrtate to the Red River and back.
Partners: White Earth Department of Natural Resources Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

08/22/2003	A	$7,500	$15,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	9996	09/18/2003 09/25/2003

Fish and Wildlife Service and Park Service Search St. Croix River for Zebra Mussels

Executive Summary: Divers from both the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service continued their search for zebra mussels on the St. Croix River near Stillwater, Minn., during the third week of August. Divers began just north of the Stillwater lift bridge and worked their way South. The dive team changed their monitoring technique, in an effort to cover the substrate more thoroughly and try to detect the leading edge of zebra mussel reproduction. This strategy worked nicely

and the first sign of reproduction was determined to be just south of Hudson, Wis. The exotic mussels were found near a marina and a popular boating location. While reproduction was apparent, the number of zebra mussels was less than 5 per meter square. One additional dive will be conducted in October, data from the three annual dives will be analyzed along with data from the multi-plate monitoring to form recommendations, which will be presented to the St. Croix Zebra Mussel Task Force. The data gathered from the monitoring of zebra mussels is vital to resource managers who are working to reduce the impact of this exotic species. It is also used in the recovery plans for two species of federally endangered mussels.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Twin Cities FO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Minnesota DNR Wisconsin DNR Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission National Park Service Corps of Engineers Coast Guard

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Ecological Services * Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

09/25/2003	A	$2,000	$2,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	10425	10/14/2003 10/16/2003

LaCrosse FRO staff review Tribal Grants

Executive Summary: Staff from LaCrosse FRO assisted on the evaluation of the tribal grants that were submitted for funding. Project ranking was challenging but very interesting. Projects were interesting and well written with a wide variety of resource concerns ranging from wildrice to lake sturgeon. It was evident that the majority of the proposals were organized and thorough and should compete favorably on the national level. This was a regional review of resource projects submitted by the tribes to the FWS for funding. The highest ranked projects will compete nationally for funding and should be very competitive with the other regions. Good luck!
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-External Affairs R3-Fisheries R3-Ecological Services R3-Migratory Birds & State Pgm R3-Wildlife and Habitat (ARW)
Resource Outputs:
Partners: BIA

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries

09/26/2003	A	$5,000	$5,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	10566	10/28/2003 11/06/2003

Island Construction Benefits Fishery on Upper Miss.

Executive Summary: LaCrosse FRO initiated a new project this year as requested by the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge - Winona District. The study is designed to determine fish usage in Polander Lake's new island complex. These islands were constructed as part of the Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP) on the Upper Miss. Several HREP's have islands as a feature built into the project. The islands help break up wind fetch which should reduce suspended sediments, they also create slack water habitat which promotes vegetation growth and provides food and cover for both fish and wildlife. Nesting habitat for waterfowl and turtles are also benefits of island construction. Fishery monitoring was conducted Sept. 25-26. This information will be compared to the spring and summer data which will help determine seasonal use. Both electrofishing and trap netting were conducted, and fish collected were weighed, measured and released. This project is a great follow up to the paddlefish work which was conducted in Polander last year. The information obtained from this project will help resource managers make critical decisions on habitat projects.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-Winona Dist.
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Volunteers

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Minnesota

10/01/2003	A	$3,000	$3,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	10568	10/28/2003 11/19/2003

Divers search for Endangered Winged Mapleleaf

Executive Summary: Divers from the Fish and Wildlife Service assisted Dr. Mark Hove, U of Minnesota, in an effort to locate winged mapleleaf mussels. Winged mapleleaf are an endangered species considered to be one of the rarest mussels in North America and are only found in a short stretch of the St. Croix River near Taylor's Falls. Hove, along with researchers from USGS and La Crosse FRO, are trying to determine the host fish species for the winged mapleleaf.. A crit ical step to this research is finding gravid winged mapleleaf. To date this has been a major obstacle, but in 2003 several gravid mussels were stocked piled and transferred to Dr. Hove's lab. These mussels should produce sufficient numbers of glocidia to conduct the host research. Four new winged mapleleaf were collected for use in the host fish research. These mussels are critical to the success of the research.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Twin Cities FO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: National Park Service

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Ecological Services * Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

11/20/2003	A	$150	$150	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	10934	12/05/2003 12/05/2003

Students Enjoy Fish Dissection

Executive Summary: Rainbow trout were inspected and dissected by 25 high school students from Cochrane Fountin City Senior High. Scott Yess (LaCrosse FRO) discussed the internal and external organs of a fish and demonstrated a fish dissection prior to giving each student a trout of their own to dissect. Many of the students successfully removed all the organs and knew their function at the conclusion of class. The trout were donated by Genoa NFH. A description of LaCrosse FRO's activities and FWS careers were also presented. This is an outreach activity that should help educate today's youth as to the value of fishery resources and the environment.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Cochrane/Fountain City High School

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

12/15/2003	A	$3,000	$3,000	1	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	10933	12/05/2003 12/19/2003

LaCrosse FRO assists Genoa NFH on Brood Stock Collections

Executive Summary: Dave Wedan and Scott Yess (La Crosse FRO), with help from volunteer Bill Brockman, assisted Roger Gordon, Nick Starzl and Tony Brady (Genoa NFH) on largemouth and smallmouth bass brood stock collections. More than 70 smallmouth were collected along with approximately 30 largemouth bass during three days of electroshocking on the Wisconsin River near The Dells. The La Crosse Fish Health staff ran virology tests on the bass prior to transporting to Genoa, all tests were negative. These brood stock will help supply the region with young stock sized bass for several years.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs:
Partners: volunteers

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

10/30/2003	H	$500	$1,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	10931	12/04/2003 12/23/2003

A Lake Sturgeon Success Story

Executive Summary: A lake sturgeon success story is unfolding on the White Earth Reservation due to the efforts of several partners. Partners such as White Earth DNR, Rainy River First Nations and US Fish and Wildlife Service have worked as a

well oiled machine to make this a reality. Great recognition should go to Randy Zortman and his staff at White Earth DNR and Joe Hunter and his staff at Rainy River First Nations who have worked with four main fishery stations; Genoa National Fish Hatchery, Neosho National Fish Hatchery, LaCrosse Fish Health Center and LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office. A lake sturgeon management plan for the White Earth Reservation was completed in 1998 and after three years of successful stocking, survival and growth were documented this year. During surveys conducted in October two young lake sturgeon were collected from White Earth Lake and four were caught at Round Lake. The number of fish are not so important at this point as the fact that lake sturgeon are present and healthy. The management plan calls for two more years of stocking then an evaluation will be made on the stocking recommendations.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: This survey will provide information necessary to make changes to the lake sturgeon management plan, if needed. Monitoring of the survival and growth is critical to a successful restoration project.
Partners: White Earth Department of Natural Resources

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

01/17/2004	A	$400	$500	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	11236	01/22/2004 01/28/2004

Icy Day for Ice Fishing on the Upper Mississippi

Executive Summary: The first annual Ice Fishing Day sponsored by the Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services and the USFWS fishery program offices in southwest Wisconsin (Genoa NFH, LaCrosse Fish Health Center and LaCrosse FRO) was almost cancelled due to ice. But, hey don't you need ice for ice fishing? Yes! however we had extra ice covering everything including the roads. Fortunately everyone drove carefully and the event was a huge success! Several area scout troops were contacted and over 40 youth attended this special event. Prior to fishing Dave Wedan, Doug Aloisi and Heidi Keuler educated the young anglers about fishing techniques and ice safety. Fishing gear was provided for the kids who did not bring their own tackle, bait was also provided. With tackle and bait in hand the scouts hit the ice running, well, not running but they fished hard. At first fishing was a little slow but after some moving around several sunfish were caught. After nearly two hours of fishing the group was treated to a lunch provided by the Friends Group. Once most the hot dogs and chips were consumed we drew names for prizes and handed out grab bags with all types of ice fishing goodies. Every scout left with a full stomach, fishing supplies and some knowledge of fishing on hard water. The Fishery crew would also like to thank Tony Batya, Brian Pember and Brian Stemper (UMRWFR - Winona Dist.) for their assistance with this event. It was a great way to spend a winter day.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-Winona Dist. R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: Educational opportunity for forty one youth to experience ice fishing and learn about winter fishing and ice safety. Several parents expressed their gratitude and learned about the FWS and their Friends Group.
Partners: Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

03/21/2004	A	$2,000	$2,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	11844	04/08/2004 04/14/2004

Anglers get hooked on fishing at the Mississippi Valley Fishing Expo

Executive Summary: The fishery stations (LaCrosse FRO, Genoa NFH and LaCrosse FHC) on the Upper Mississippi River joined forces to setup and staff a booth at the First Annual Mississippi Valley Fishing Expo which was sponsored by the Onalaska Omni Center. This first year event was attended by over 3,000 people who found the FWS booth to be very interesting. Featured displays included; native mussels, mounted fish, an aquarium with trout and lake sturgeon, video on exotic carp and endangered mussels, and numerous posters on a variety of aquatic topics. A majority of the questions and concerns were about the exotic carp and our native mussels. The lake sturgeon in the aquarium and large mount were also a big hit. Sunglasses, key chains and coloring books were distributed to the children. Holding the Expo in March is perfect timing for spring fever anglers. The staff heard very positive comments on our display and the Expo in general. This event was an excellent outreach opportunity and should be attended next year.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs:

Partners: The Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

03/15/2004	A	$3,000	$3,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Scott Yess	11845	04/08/2004 04/13/2004

Fishery management reports completed for White Earth Reservation and Tamarac NWR

Executive Summary: A lake sturgeon status report was completed for the White Earth DNR. The report highlights the lake sturgeon restoration effort currently being conducted by the White Earth DNR and FWS. Our partners on this project include Rainy River First Nations, Minnesota DNR and the White Earth Land Recovery Project. Lake Sturgeon have not been caught on the reservation since the early 1900's. This majestic species is not only unique but is culturally significant to Native Americans. Since 2001 over 30,000 fingerling lake sturgeon have been stocked into White Earth and Round Lakes. Survival of these stocked fish was documented in October 2003 and we expect this project to be a restoration success story. The Tamarac NWR was also surveyed in 2003 and northern pike are the dominant predator in Pine, Blackbird and South Chippewa. A baseline community survey was conducted on the Ottertail River and 21 species were collected. The report includes fishery management recommendations.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: White Earth DNR

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Minnesota

05/22/2000	A	$875	$1,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	1388	06/20/2000 08/21/2000

Anglers Collect Goby for Piscicide Tests

Executive Summary: The Great Lakes continue to be invaded by a variety of non-indigenous aquatic species, presumably as a result of ballast water releases from ocean-going ships. As these exotic organisms become more abundant and widely distributed in the Great Lakes region, it is increasingly likely that some will expand their range to suitable portions of other interior drainage basins. The Illinois Waterway System (IWS), located near Chicago, is a part of the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS) and provides a direct connection for the continuous transfer of water from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River. This is the presumed route by which zebra mussels (Dreissena polymorpha) were transmitted to distant portions of the Mississippi River drainage basin in the past decade. The round goby (Neogobius melanostomus) is yet another, more recently introduced aquatic nuisance species that is poised to follow the same path as the zebra mussel from the Great Lakes to the interior of North America. While this sedentary benthic fish resembles a sculpin (i.e., a native fish) in its general appearance and certain other traits, its much more aggressive behavior and prolific reproductive capabilities are believed to be responsible for displacing populations of some native benthic fishes with which it competes for optimal spawning and feeding habitats. Although an electrical barrier will soon be deployed in a portion of the IWS in hopes of containing the range of this species to a small portion of the Mississippi River basin, performance tests of a prototype electrical barrier suggest that this strategy will be only partially effective. Therefore, the application of selective chemical piscicides may some day be warranted in particular locations as another means to help control the range and density of round goby. The FWS has been working cooperatively with the U.S. Geological Survey's Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center (UMESC) since 1998 to examine the potential use of certain piscicides for controlling round goby. To date, test results indicate that delayed-release formulations of Bayluscide and anitmycin provide the greatest species selectivity for the normally bottom-dwelling round goby by treating only the benthic zone of water rather than the entire water column. In order to help meet some of the regulatory requirements necessary for the emergency use of these piscicides to control round goby in the UMRS, additional laboratory tests are needed to determine the influence of temperature and dissolved oxygen levels on the toxicity of these chemicals to goby. In preparation for this work, staff from the La Crosse FRO, La Crosse FHC, and Genoa NFH used hook and line gear to collect more than 900 feral round goby "test subjects" along Chicago's Lake Michigan shoreline in late-May. Also assisting in this collection effort were staff from the UMESC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as several local sportfish anglers. All but one of the fish caught throughout the nearly 8-hour collection period were round goby, indicating the serious threat this nonindigenous species represents to certain native fish species and sportfish anlgers. With prior approval from the states of Illinois and Wisconsin, the round goby were transported to a secure containment facility at

the UMESC in La Crosse, Wisconsin, where they await use in the scheduled toxicity tests.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: In order to help meet some of the regulatory requirements necessary for the potential emergency use of two piscicides to control round goby in the Upper Mississippi River System, more laboratory tests are needed to determine the influence of temperature and dissolved oxygen levels on the toxicity of these chemicals to goby. In preparation for this work, staff from the La Crosse FRO, La Crosse FHC, and Genoa NFH used hook and line gear to collect more than 900 feral round goby "test subjects" along Chicago's Lake Michigan shoreline in late-May. Also assisting in this collection effort were staff from the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as several local sportfish anglers. All but one of the fish caught throughout the nearly 8-hour collection period were round goby, indicating the serious threat this nonindigenous species represents to certain native fish species and sportfish anlgers. With prior approval from the states of Illinois and Wisconsin, the round goby were transported to a secure containment facility operated by the U.S. Geological Survey in La Crosse, Wisconsin, where they await use in scheduled toxicity tests.
Partners: U.S. Geological Survey U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Notes:
Ecosystems: 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Fisheries
States: Illinois

10/22/1999	H	$9,500	$11,000	1	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	767	12/17/1999 07/24/2000

Round Goby Pass Beyond Chicago Waterways Barrier Site

Executive Summary: Annual round goby surveillance activities coordinated by the La Crosse FRO last summer indicated the range of this small but aggressive nonindigenous fish had doubled in a portion of the Illinois Waterway System during the past year. From mid-summer 1998 to 1999, round goby were found to have expanded their range in metropolitan Chicago at least 15 miles further downstream and were now distributed over a 30-mile reach of inland waters that included portions of the Calumet and Little Calumet Rivers, as well as the entire Calumet Sag Channel. Though round goby had yet to be found in the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal (the next successive downstream link in the Illinois Waterway System) by summers' end, they were known to be less than 7 miles upstream of the site where an electrical barrier designed to impede the movement of fish between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins will be installed by June 2000. Due to the round goby's close proximity to the barrier site and its apparently accelerated rate of downstream movement in the past year, several stakeholders recently expressed concern that additional complimentary management strategies may be needed to increase the effectiveness of the electrical barrier. In order to evaluate some of these options in a timely manner, it would be necessary to determine the current relative abundance of round goby in portions of the Calumet Sag Channel, the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal, and the Des Plaines River. With this task as its primary objective, the La Crosse FRO coordinated another week of round goby surveillance activities here in October 1999. Other Service offices participating in the fall survey included Ashland, Chicago, and northern Indiana. Service staff and volunteers were joined in this effort by partners from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, and Perch America. Efforts to capture round goby with a variety of gears (bottom trawl, baited minnow traps, and angling) were quantified and the subsequent catch of round goby was tallied for each river mile within a 50-mile reach of the Illinois Waterway System near Chicago. Comparable levels of fishing effort at most locations during the week resulted in a combined catch of 384 round goby in a 24-mile reach of the Little Calumet River and Calumet Sag Channel. Meanwhile, only 4 round goby were captured throughout a 26-mile reach of the lower Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal and upper Des Plaines River. Minnow traps were judged to be the most effective and efficient gear used to sample for round goby in the Illinois Waterway System because they accounted for more than half (58%) of the total round goby catch for the week and were able to capture these fish at several locations where the other gears either did not, or, could not be used. Both the minnow trap and angling results indicated the relative abundance of round goby peaked at river mile 318 of the Calumet Sag Channel (near the Little Calumet River confluence) where mean catch rates were 3.5 goby/24 hours and 7.4 goby/1 hour, respectively. Meanwhile, trawling results indicated a peak in goby abundance (4 fish/1 minute) two miles further upstream in the Little Calumet River (mile 320), as well as a similar peak further downstream in the Calumet Sag Channel at river mile 305. Three of the four round goby captured in the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal were caught at river mile 302, about 1 mile downstream of the Calumet Sag Channel confluence. However the remaining fish was captured at river mile 290, just one-quarter mile upstream of the Des Plaines River confluence. This location now represents the known downstream leading edge of the round goby's distribution in the Mississippi River basin and is nearly 6 miles downstream of the site where a channel-wide electrical barrier will be installed by mid-2000 that is designed to slow the spread of round goby and other nonindigenous species of fish between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. Continued downstream movements of the pugnacious round goby may soon threaten certain members of the diverse assemblage of native fishes that inhabit the Des Plaines River and some of its more pristine tributary streams. Periodic surveys using consistent, standardized sampling methods to determine the range and

relative abundance of round goby in the Illinois Waterway System will be necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of the electrical barrier once it is installed and to identify reaches where other management strategies may be needed to limit the spread of this exotic nuisance species in the Mississippi River basin.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Ashland FRO R3-Bloomington FO R3-Chicago FO
Resource Outputs: Efforts to capture round goby with a variety of gears (bottom trawl, baited minnow traps, and angling) were quantified and the subsequent catch of round goby was tallied for each river mile within a 50-mile reach of the Illinois Waterway System near Chicago. Comparable levels of fishing effort at most locations during the week resulted in a combined catch of 384 round goby in a 24-mile reach of the Little Calumet River and Calumet Sag Channel. Meanwhile, only 4 round goby were captured throughout a 26-mile reach of the lower Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal and upper Des Plaines River. Minnow traps were judged to be the most effective and efficient gear used to sample for round goby in the Illinois Waterway System because they accounted for more than half (58%) of the total round goby catch for the week and were able to capture these fish at several locations where the other gears either did not, or, could not be used. Both the minnow trap and angling results indicated the relative abundance of round goby peaked at river mile 318 of the Calumet Sag Channel (near the Little Calumet River confluence) where mean catch rates were 3.5 goby/24 hours and 7.4 goby/1 hour, respectively. Meanwhile, trawling results indicated a peak in goby abundance (4 fish/1 minute) two miles further upstream in the Little Calumet River (mile 320), as well as a similar peak further downstream in the Calumet Sag Channel at river mile 305. Three of the four round goby captured in the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal were caught at river mile 302, about 1 mile downstream of the Calumet Sag Channel confluence. However the remaining fish was captured at river mile 290, just one-quarter mile upstream of the Des Plaines River confluence. This location now represents the known downstream leading edge of the round goby's distribution in the Mississippi River basin and is nearly 6 miles downstream of the site where a channel-wide electrical barrier will be installed by mid-2000 that is designed to slow the spread of round goby and other nonindigenous species of fish between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. Continued downstream movements of the pugnacious round goby may soon threaten certain members of the diverse assemblage of native fishes that inhabit the Des Plaines River and some of its more pristine tributary streams.
Partners: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Illinois Department of Natural Resources Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Perch America

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Ecological Services * Fisheries
States: Illinois

04/26/2000	A	$450	$600	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	1227	05/05/2000 05/16/2000

Service Monitors Return of Spawning Tribal Lake Sturgeon

Executive Summary: The lake sturgeon has long been a major focal point of Menominee Indian culture. Historically, tribal members living in northeastern Wisconsin were nutritionally dependent upon an annual subsistence harvest of lake sturgeon each spring when large numbers of the fish swam upstream in certain Great Lakes tributaries to spawn. In the Lake Winnebago-Wolf River system, lake sturgeon were able to swim far upstream to traditional spawning sites located on the Menominee Indian Reservation until the early 20th century, when a pair of hydropower dams were built several miles downstream of the reservation. The swift and boulder strewn reach of river just below the dam located furthest downstream, in Shawano, is now the site of the most intensive lake sturgeon spawning activity. As a consequence of these barriers to upstream fish passage and continued harvest pressure, lake sturgeon were eventually extirpated from the river reaches upstream of the dams. Lake sturgeon remained a missing component of the native fish community here until 1995, when a long-term, multi-agency restoration and management plan was initiated for this ancient species. Since that time, a total of 66 feral Wolf River lake sturgeon have been captured at sites located downstream of the dams, surgically implanted with radio transmitters, and released at sites located upstream of the dams in reservation waters of the Wolf River. Although many of these fish remain in waters upstream of the dams and on the reservation, others have returned to waters downstream of the dams. In order to evaluate the temporal desire of radio-tagged lake sturgeon that are now located downstream of the dams to return upstream in the vicinity of these structures, staff from LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) recently established an automated radio-telemetry data logging station at each of the dams. Private partners in this effort include the Little Rapids Corporation and Northwoods Hydro Incorporated, the respective owners of the Shawano and Balsam Row dams, who have provided secure access and space to deploy telemetry equipment at the dams. In addition, staff from the Menominee Indian Tribe's Environmental Services Department maintain this equipment, download the electronic data it collects, and transmit this information to the LaCrosse FRO for validation and interpretation. Several radio-tagged lake sturgeon were present near the Shawano dam when data collection began in early March and remained there intermittently throughout the month. A total of 11 different radio-tagged lake sturgeon were simultaneously observed near the dams when spawning peaked in late April. The majority of these fish (9) were observed at the Shawano dam for several consecutive days. These observations indicate a

continued desire among the previously relocated radio-tagged lake sturgeon to return upstream towards the Menominee Indian Reservation in the spring to spawn, despite their prior downstream movements that carried them off of the reservation. When combined with corresponding water temperature and discharge data, the automated telemetry observations may also indicate environmental cues that stimulate these fish to move upstream to a dam's tailwater zone, as well as downstream past a dam. Automated telemetry observations for radio-tagged lake sturgeon are expected to continue at the dams throughout the remainder of the year.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Several radio-tagged lake sturgeon were present near the Shawano dam when data collection began in early March and remained there intermittently throughout the month. A total of 11 different radio-tagged lake sturgeon were simultaneously observed near the dams when spawning peaked in late April. The majority of these fish (9) were observed at the Shawano dam for several consecutive days. These observations indicate a continued desire among the previously relocated radio-tagged lake sturgeon to return upstream towards the Menominee Indian Reservation in the spring to spawn, despite their prior downstream movements that carried them off of the reservation. Automated telemetry observations for radio-tagged lake sturgeon are expected to continue at the dams throughout the remainder of the year. When combined with corresponding water temperature and discharge data, the automated telemetry observations may also indicate environmental cues that stimulate these fish to move upstream to a dam's tailwater zone, as well as downstream past a dam.
Partners: Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin Little Rapids Corporation Northwoods Hydro, Incorporated

Notes:
Ecosystems: 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

07/18/2000	A	$15,427	$17,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	1567	08/18/2000 09/05/2000

Round Goby Surveillance Expanded in Illinois Waterway

Executive Summary: The LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) recently completed its fifth annual "Goby Round-Up" in the Illinois Waterway Waterway System (IWS) in metropolitan Chicago. This survey encompassed a nearly 110-mile continuous reach of waters from Chicago to Hennepin, and included portions of the Calumet Sag Channel, the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, the Des Plaines River, and the Illinois River. The survey covered nearly one-third the length of the IWS, and was the most geographically extensive survey for round goby thus far. Staff members from seven Service field offices participated in the effort, including the La Crosse, Ashland, and Carterville FROs, the LaCrosse Fish Health Center, and the Chicago, East Lansing, and northern Indiana Ecological Service Field Offices. Nearly 450 baited minnow traps were deployed at approximately one-quarter mile intervals and examined the following morning for three successive days. Participants were also provided with suitable fishing tackle and bait to angle for goby during the remainder of the day. A total of four round goby were captured during the week. All of these fish came from the survey reach located furthest upstream, in portions of the Calumet Sag Channel and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. Round goby were not found beyond the site in Romeoville, where an electrical fish barrier is to be installed, nor the site located further downstream in Joliet, where they were confirmed to have penetrated to earlier this year. However, water stage and current velocity were abnormally elevated throughout the week due to intense regional precipitation. This made for less than optimal sample conditions, caused the loss of more than 25% of the traps, and may have transported some round goby (undetected) further downstream. Thus, while the limited number and distributional range of round goby found during this most recent survey is encouraging, it may yet prove to have been deceiving. The Illinois Waterway System (IWS) in metropolitan Chicago connects the Great Lakes and Mississippi River drainage basins. This series of navigation channels facilitated the spread of the infamous zebra mussel, an exotic aquatic nuisance species, to environmentally sensitive portions of the several interior North American drainage basins during the past decade. Now there is concern that the round goby, a nonindigenous fish recently introduced to the Great Lakes from central Asia, may similarly expand its range across the mid-continent with adverse consequences for some native species of aquatic fauna. The La Crosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has coordinated annual surveillance activities to detect the apparent downstream leading edge of the round goby's distribution in the IWS since 1996. By the spring of 2000, round goby were known to inhabit a nearly 50-mile reach, representing the uppermost 15 percent of this 333-mile navigation corridor that flows diagonally across Illinois from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River. A non-lethal, horizontal gradient electrified barrier should be installed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at an IWS site in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (river mile 296.5) near Romeoville by the end of this year to slow the continued downstream movement of round goby and other nuisance species of fish from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River basin. In addition, it will serve as an impediment to other nonindigenous species of fish that are moving upstream from the Mississippi River drainage to the Great Lakes basin. By spring 2000, a total of only two round goby had been collected downstream of the barrier site. Participating partners included the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Natural History Survey, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, and

Cook County Forest Preserve. Additional assistance was provided by the Friends of the Chicago River, Perch America, Equistar, and several volunteers.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-Carterville FRO R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Ashland FRO R3-Bloomington FO R3-Chicago FO R3-East Lansing FO
Resource Outputs: The La Crosse FRO recently completed its 5th annual "Goby Round-Up" in the IWS. This survey encompassed a nearly 110-mile continuous reach of waters from Chicago to Hennepin and included portions of the Calumet Sag Channel, the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, the Des Plaines River, and the Illinois River. Covering nearly one-third of the length of the IWS, it was the most geographically extensive survey for round goby thus far. Staff members from seven Service offices, eight other agencies (county, regional, state, and federal), and two non-governmental organizations participated in this effort. Nearly 450 baited minnow traps were deployed at approximately one-quarter mile intervals and examined the following morning for three successive days. Participants were also provided with suitable fishing tackle and bait to angle for goby during the remainder of the day. A total of four round goby were captured during the week. All of these fish came from the survey reach located furthest upstream, in portions of the Calumet Sag Channel and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. Round goby were not found beyond the site in Romeoville, where an electrical fish barrier is to be installed, nor the site located further downstream in Joliet, where they were confirmed to have penetrated to earlier this year. However, water stage and current velocity were abnormally elevated throughout the week due to intense regional precipitation. This made for less than optimal sample conditions, caused the loss of more than 25% of the traps, and may have transported some round goby (undetected) further downstream. Thus, while the limited number and distributional range of round goby found during this most recent survey is encouraging, it may yet prove to have been deceiving.
Partners: U.S. Army U.S. Army Corps of Engineers U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Illinois Department of Natural Resources Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Illinois Natural History Survey Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Cook county Forest Preserve Friends of the Chicago River Perch America Equistar

Notes: cc:Rick Schuldt Brian Lubinski Charley Wooley John Christian
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Ecological Services * Fisheries
States: Illinois

08/22/2000	A	$20	$20	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	1916	09/29/2000 11/15/2000

Revealing America's Hidden Treasure

Executive Summary: Two La Crosse FRO outreach activities were conducted during the summer of 2000 to make more than 50 vacationing grade school students in the area more aware of one of America's hidden treasures: freshwater mussels. Using a variety of visual aids, including the Service-sponsored video entitled "Help Save America's Pearly Mussels" and the poster exhibit entitled "Freshwater Mussels: America's Hidden Treasure," more than 50 school children were educated in the biology of freshwater mussels, their ecological value, their cultural and economic importance, factors threatening their existence, and local Service efforts to protect and recover federally threatened and endangered mussel species in the Mississippi River basin. The highlight of these presentations was a concluding "tactile experience" when each child was able to handle and curiously investigate several different species of live mussels that were brought for display. The most memorable experiences occurred when some of the mussels would actively siphon (expel) a stream of water onto a child! Following the hour-long presentation, each child left with a greater appreciation for freshwater mussels, one of America's hidden natural treasures.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Two La Crosse FRO outreach activities were conducted during the summer of 2000 to make vacationing grade school students in the area more aware of one of America's faunal treasurers that is normally hidden from their view: freshwater mussels. During these presentations, more than 50 school children in summer daycare programs were educated in the biology of freshwater mussels, their ecological value, their cultural and economic importance, factors threatening their existence, and local Service efforts to protect and recover federally threatened and endangered mussel species in the Mississippi River basin. Following the hour-long presentation, each child went away with a greater appreciation for freshwater mussels, one of America's hidden natural treasures.
Partners:

Notes: Native mussel outreach activity
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

10/31/2000	A	$1,000	$8,250	3	R3-LaCrosse	Mark	2565	01/23/2001

					FRO	Steingraeber		10/09/2001

Annual Wolf River Lake Sturgeon Restoration Activities: A Y2K Halloween Treat

Executive Summary: The lake sturgeon has been a major focal point of Menominee Indian culture for many centuries. Historically, tribal members living in northeastern Wisconsin were nutritionally dependent upon an annual subsistence harvest of lake sturgeon each spring when large numbers of the fish swam upstream in certain Great Lakes tributaries to spawn. In the Lake Winnebago-Wolf River system, lake sturgeon were able to swim far upstream to traditional spawning sites located on the Menominee Indian Reservation until the early 20th Century, when a pair of hydroelectric dams were built several miles downstream of the reservation. As a consequence of these barriers to upstream fish passage and continued harvest pressure, lake sturgeon were eventually extirpated from the river reaches upstream of the dams. Lake sturgeon remained a missing component of the native fish community here until 1995, when a long-term multi-agency restoration and management plan was initiated for this ancient species. Each year as a part of this plan, a dozen or more Wolf River lake sturgeon have been captured at sites located downstream of the dams, tagged, and released in river reaches located upstream of the dams and within the Menominee Indian Reservation. Through 1999, a total of 68 feral lake sturgeon had been relocated in this manner to help achieve the long-term goal of re-establishing a self-sustaining population here. Wolf River lake sturgeon relocation efforts in 2000 took place during a period of unseasonably mild weather at the end of October. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff electrofished and captured 21 lake sturgeon. These included several large fish that ranged up to 68 inches in total length and nearly 80 pounds in weight. The fish were initially transported about 20 miles upstream in a DNR fish distribution truck to a tributary stream on the reservation where they held overnight. State, tribal, and Service biologists met the next morning (Holloween) to tag each fish with three unique markers. As in past years, a numbered aluminum strap tag was externally attached to musculature at the base of the dorsal fin. This tag is easily recognizable and encourages angler participation in lake sturgeon management by reporting the status and location of individual fish. Next, a passive integrated transponder tag was implanted behind the head in musculature beneath a dorsal scute with a syringe. This internal tag should remain with the fish throughout the remainder of its life and can be detected electronically by state and federal biologists to quickly identify an individual fish. Finally, an external radio transmitter was attached to a dorsal scute, permitting tribal biologists to track the location of each fish on the reservation and identify seasonal habitat preferences. In previous years, radio transmitters were surgically implanted in the abdominal cavity. However, this invasive procedure could adversely impact the ability of a fish to later spawn, a requisite for re-establishing a self-sustaining population here. The use of external radio transmitters in 2000 also offered several other advantages over internal transmitter implants, including: attachment in a fraction of the time; no requirements for surgical skills, equipment, or anaesthesia; and a reduced risk of secondary infections. All 21 fish were tagged and returned to the distribution truck within 2.5 hours for a brief 15-mile trip further upstream to the picturesque release site located near a reach known as “The Dalles”. Prior to the release of the fish, a tribal spiritual leader recited traditional prayers of thanksgiving to the Creator for the return of this species to the reservation and blessed them with an offering of tobacco. All aspects of the two-day relocation effort were recorded by a DNR-hired film crew to produce a video highlighting this joint sturgeon restoration project. The opportunity to work cooperatively with partners in restoring these magnificent fish to Menominee tribal waters of the Wolf River during such mild autumn weather was a great Halloween “treat” for all participants in 2000!

Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO

Resource Outputs: The lake sturgeon was a long missing component of the Wolf River’s native fish community on the Menominee Indian Reservation in northeastern Wisconsin until a long-term multi-agency restoration and management plan for this species was initiated here in 1995. Each year as a part of this plan, a dozen or more feral Wolf River lake sturgeon have been captured at sites located downstream of hydroelectric dams near the reservation, tagged with radio transmitters, and released in river reaches upstream of the dams and within the reservation. Through 1999, a total of 68 lake sturgeon had been relocated in this manner to help achieve the long-term goal of re-establishing a self-sustaining population here. A total of 21 additional lake sturgeon were similarly relocated in the fall of 2000. Each of these fish received three different tags: an external aluminum strap tag attached to the dorsal fin; an external radio transmitter attached to a dorsal scute; and a passive integrated transponder tag implanted in musculature beneath a dorsal scute. This combination of tags will help state, federal, and tribal biologists evaluate the seasonal movements, habitat preferences, and growth rates of these long-lived fish. In addition, the use of external radio transmitters (rather than internal transmitters that were used in previous years) increases the probability that these fish will successfully spawn in the future, a requisite for re-establishing a self-sustaining lake sturgeon population in reservation waters of the Wolf River.

Partners: Menominee Indian Tribe - Conservation Department Menominee Indian Tribe - Environmental Services Department Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Notes:

Ecosystems: 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

02/22/2001	A	$120	$120	3	R3-LaCrosse	Mark	3198	04/11/2001

					FRO	Steingraeber		05/16/2001

Diversity Outreach Effort - Iowa Women in Natural Resources

Executive Summary: Pam Thiel, project leader of the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office, gave a slide show presentation entitled 'Our Journey to the Top' to a group of about 50 women at the Iowa Women in Natural Resources Conference on February 22nd in Cedar Falls,Iowa. This presentation, based on many years of personal experience and accomplishments, highlighted strategies for women to succeed in traditionally male dominated natural resource occupations and careers.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Shared knowledge of employment strategies to help women establish careers in natural resource management occupations and increase the diversity of employees in these professions.
Partners:

Notes: Goal 12 - Participation in minority conference
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Ecological Services * Fisheries * Diversity and Civil Rights * Office of Law Enforcement * External Affairs * Migratory Birds & State Programs
States: Iowa

02/13/2001	A	$35	$35	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	3200	04/11/2001 04/17/2001

Diversity Outreach Effort - UW Eau Claire Conservation Class

Executive Summary: Pam Thiel, project leader of the LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office, gave a slide show presentation entitled 'Invasive Species: The Challenge' to a group of about 150 students enrolled in the Conservation of the Environment class at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Feb. 13, 2001. The purpose of the presentation was to inform interested members of this diverse university community of (1)the complex challenges which invasive species pose to the conservation of native fauna and flora, and (2) Service initiatives to meet these challenges.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Shared knowledge and increased awareness among nearly 150 members of a diverse university community regarding (1)the challenges and threats which invasive species pose to the conservation of native fauna and flora and (2) Service actions to meet these challenges.
Partners:

Notes: Goal 1 - Recuit a Servicewide workforce that reflects the diversity of the nation's population.
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Ecological Services * Fisheries * Budget and Administration * Diversity and Civil Rights * Office of Law Enforcement * External Affairs * Ecosystem Teams * Migratory Birds & State Programs
States: Wisconsin

03/22/2001	A	$0	$0	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	3207	04/12/2001 04/16/2001

Diversity Outreach: Power of the River Presented to UW La Crosse Literature Studentss

Executive Summary: Pam Thiel, project leader of the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office, gave an invited audio-visual presentation to a group of about 30 students enrolled in an Environmental Literature class at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse on March 22, 2001. A slide show of common river scenes and Service related images of the Upper Mississippi River ecosystem was presented along with complimentary readings of river-related passages of prose (written by several well known authors) to illustrate the inspirational power that rivers and river biota represent for the human spirit.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Shared river images and complimentary passages of river-related literature to introduce 30 members of a diverse university community to the inspirational power of Service-managed waters and biota in the Upper Mississippi River ecosystem.
Partners:

Notes: Goal 12: Recruit a Servicewide workforce that reflects the diversity of the nation's population.
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Ecological Services * Fisheries * Diversity and Civil Rights * External Affairs * Ecosystem Teams
States: Wisconsin

02/27/2001	A	$175	$175	3	R3-LaCrosse	Mark	3208	04/12/2001

					FRO	Steingraeber		05/18/2001

Invasive Species Outreach - Minneosta Waterfowl Association

Executive Summary: Pam Thiel, project leader of the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office, gave an invited slide show presentation entitled 'The Control and Management of Invasive Species' to about 70 members of the Minnesota Waterfowl Association at a meeting in Bloomington, Minn. Feb. 27, 2001. The talk helped inform the group of outdoor enthusiasts of the widespread and serious problems created by the introduction and proliferation of a variety of invasive plant and animal species across the country, as well as Service efforts to help control and manage these pests.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Informed 70 active and influential members of this state-wide waterfowl conservation group of the serious problems created by the widespread introduction and proliferation of a variety of invasive plant and animal species, as well as Service efforts to help control and manage these pests. Charged members with the task of helping to educate other Minnesota waterfowl enthusiasts about invasive species and methods to prevent or control their spread in the state.
Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Ecological Services * Fisheries * External Affairs * Ecosystem Teams * Migratory Birds & State Programs * National Wildlife Refuge System
States: Minnesota

03/21/2001	A	$0	$0	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	3209	04/12/2001 04/16/2001

Diversity Outreach Effort - Bangor Schools Career Day

Executive Summary: Mark Steingraeber and Ann Runstrom, fishery biologists at the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office, participated in a Career Day event for students at Bangor Junior and Senior High Schools in Bangor, Wisconsin on March 21st. Along with Lisa Flottmeyer, a food microbiologist working in private industry, Mr. Steingraeber met with a group of about 20 diverse students to discuss the wide variety of career opportunities that are available today in the biological sciences and the educational requirements needed to pursue some of these careers. Ms. Rustrom met with about 20 other diverse students who were specifically interested in natural resource management careers to discuss educational requirements and employment opportunities for these occupations.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Shared information gained from first-hand personal experiences regarding the types of knowledge, skills, and abilities that are useful to pursue careers in a variety of biological science disciplines (including natural resource management) with a total of about 40 diverse middle and high school students from a small, rural community in western Wisconsin.
Partners: Lisa Flottmeyer

Notes: Goal 14: Career Days
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Ecological Services * Fisheries * External Affairs * Migratory Birds & State Programs
States: Wisconsin

02/13/2001	A	$0	$0	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	3217	04/12/2001 05/29/2001

Freshwater Mussel Outreach - La Crosse Area Students

Executive Summary: Mark Steingraeber, a fishery biologist at the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office, gave a presentation on freshwater mussels to a group of about 50 fourth grade science students at Blessed Sacrament Grade School in La Crosse, Wisconsin on Jan.4, 2001. This outreach effort complimented an invertebrate zoology study unit that the students recently completed and highlighted the unique biology of freshwater mussels, their ecological value, their cultural and economic importance, factors threateneing their existence, and local Service efforts to prevent the extinction of federally endangered mussel species in Upper Mississippi River basin ecosystems. A variety of visual aid were used during the presentation, including the Service-sponsored video entitled 'Help Save America's Pearlymussels', the Service-sponsored poster entitled 'Freshwater Mussels: America's Hidden Treasure', a PowerPoint slide show depicting freshwater mussel resources in several Upper Mississippi River basin ecosystems, and a collection of native mussel shells.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Informed nearly 50 grade school science students of the biology of freshwater mussels, their ecological

value, their cultural and economic importance, factors threatening their exis tence, and local Service efforts to prevent the extinction of federally endangered mussel species in Upper Mississippi River basin ecosystems.
Partners: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (development of PowerPoint presentation)

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Ecological Services * Fisheries * Office of Law Enforcement * External Affairs
States: Wisconsin

03/15/2001	A	$0	$0	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	3220	04/12/2001 09/15/2003

Boundary Area Commission, Congressional Staff Learn About Freshwater Mussel Restoration Efforts

Executive Summary: Fishery Biologist Mark Steingraeber of the LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) presented 'Freshwater Mussel Resources and Restoration in the Upper Mississippi River Basin' during a public meeting of the Mississippi River Regional Committee of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission (BAC) March 15, in Onalaska, Wis. The 30-minute narrated slide and video show highlighted the unique biology of freshwater mussels, their ecological value, their cultural and economic importance, factors threatening their existence, and examples of ongoing Service efforts to prevent the extinction of federally endangered mussel species in the Upper Mississippi River basin. Steingraber gave the presentation at the invitation of the BAC, which oversees natural resources issues along the Minnesota-Wisconsin border. The presentation helped educate and inform 10 Commission members, congressional staff and several local citizens about freshwater mussel conservation, one of the most important issues confronting the interstate boundary waters.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (co-produced PowerPoint presentation)

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Ecological Services * Fisheries * Office of Law Enforcement * External Affairs * Ecosystem Teams
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

03/09/2001	A	$0	$0	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	3227	04/16/2001 04/19/2001

Hazardous Laboratory Chemicals Training at La Crosse FRO

Executive Summary: Eight employees and two volunteers recently learned to safely use and handle hazardous chemical products used in a lab shared by staffs of the LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) and the La Crosse District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The half-day training was conducted March 9, by Fishery Biologist Mark Steingraeber of the LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO). Steingraeber also serves as a chemical hygiene officer and laboratory supervisor in LaCrosse. Throughout the training, emphasis was placed on personal responsibility, the safety of others, and environmental integrity when working with hazardous chemicals. Key portions of the training included detailed reviews of: (1) the FRO Hazard Communication Plan and its availability; (2) the material safety data sheets for all chemical products maintained in the laboratory by the FRO and their availability; (3) the health and safety risks posed by each hazardous chemical; (4) recommended procedures to safely handle and use each hazardous laboratory chemical, as well as to collect associated hazardous wastes; (5) hazard communication responsibilities regarding contractors who work in Service facilities and all other visitors to Service facilities; (6) the location and availablility of appropriate personal protective equipment, labelling materials, first aid supplies, spill clean up materials, fire extinguishers and alarms, and emergency response phone numbers; and (7) new FRO administrative procedures to follow when requisitioning any new chemical product. Upon completion of this training, all participants received an Initial Training Certificate for the Safe Use and Handling of each of five hazardous chemical products that are currently used or stored by the FRO in the shared laboratory. These certificates also note the personal role and responsibility of each individual to comply with the FRO Hazard Communication Plan and are kept in personnel files to document this training for regulatory compliance purposes.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse
Resource Outputs: A total of 10 individuals received initial training in the safe use and handling of hazardous chemical products that are used and stored in a laboratory shared by staff of the La Crosse FRO and the La Crosse District of the Upper

Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Participants included 8 Service employees (6 FRO and 2 refuge), as well as 2 volunteers who assist with a wide variety of Service activities for these offices. Participation in this training program should improve personal, public, and environmental safety regarding the use of hazardous chemicals by these Service representatives. In addition, the certificates granted to each participant provide the Service with the documentation necessary to prove compliance with certain regulatory workplace standards for hazardous chemicals.
Partners:

Notes: DOCUMENTATION OF INITIAL SAFETY TRAINING IN THE USE OF HAZARDOUS LABORATORY CHEMICALS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING HAZARD COMMUNICATION
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

03/08/2001	A	$50	$50	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	3260	04/19/2001 09/15/2003

Oxygen Levels Support Fish Over Winter at Harvey's Pond, Necedah NWR

Executive Summary: Henry's Pond is a relatively small (7.5 acre), shallow (14-foot maximum depth) man-made impoundment located on the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in central Wisconsin. Since the pond was constructed and initially stocked with gamefish in the 1970s, winterkill conditions have occassionally occurred there during extended periods of thick snow and ice cover. However, its connectivity to a nearby wetland that was recently restored with support from Ducks Unlimited should provide the pond with increased inflows of fresh water while providing its resident fish with oxygen necessary to survive long, cold and snowy winters. At the request of the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, staff from the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office in Onalaska, Wis., periodically monitored dissolved oxygen concentrations in Henry's Pond during the severe 2000-01 winter season to evaluate whether levels of this essential gas are now adequate for fish to survive here through most winters. Depth stratified measurements of both the dissolved oxygen concentration and water temperature were recorded from mid to late winter at two fixed sites in the northern portion of the basin, where the bathmetry and close proximity to water flowing from the inlet to the outlet structure were thought to provide the best potential winter habitat in the pond for fish. Dissolved oxygen concentrations near the water surface remained at levels greater than 4 mg/L throughout the latter half of the winter. These under ice conditons were likely maintained by a continuous laminar flow of thermally stratified cold water from the wetland source upstream that became enriched with atmospheric oxygen as it entered the pond. Therefore, this portion of the pond should be capable of supporting an appropriate density of game and forage fish species with no significant mortality due to asphyxiation during most winters of extended cold and significant snow accumulation. These findings also lend biological support for planned efforts to enhance recreational fishing opportunities at Harvey's Pond.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Necedah NWR
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Ducks Unlimited

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

04/27/2001	A	$0	$0	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	3327	04/30/2001 05/03/2001

Services' Hands-On Contributions Benefit Student Romp in the Swamp

Executive Summary: Three employees from two Service offices gave a series of hands-on presentations covering a variety of fish and wildlife related topics to about 150 grade school students during A Romp in the Swamp program April 27, at Trempealeau Elementary School in Treampealeau, Wis. Scott Yess and Mark Steingraeber, both fishery biologists at the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office, made several 40-minute presentations on fish anatomy and freshwater mussel resources during the school's 14th Annual Environmental Awareness Day. Mr. Yess guided pairs of students as they dissected more than 25 fresh rainbow trout (provided by the Genoa National Fish Hatchery) to identify major organ systems and anatomical features of these fish. Meanwhile, Mr. Steingraeber's presentation stressed the importance of freshwater mussel resources and was highlighted by a concluding 'tactile experience' in which students curiously handled several species of live mussels that were brought in for display. In addition, Brian Pember, a biologist at the Winona District Office of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, informed students on his use of radio telemetry methods to study frog populations. Students in this group were able to observe several live frogs and become acquainted with a variety of radio telemetry equipment used to track the frogs. Students and school district residents who participated in this years' event were also

informed on a wide variety of other fish, wildlife, and wetland habitat related topics by more than 20 other invited speakers.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-Winona Dist. R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs:
Partners:

Notes: Earthweek related outreach activity
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

06/15/2001	A	$850	$1,800	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	4302	07/10/2001 09/25/2003

Round Goby Survey Aids Fish Barrier Evaluation

Executive Summary: A large electrical barrier that will help deter the movement of exotic fish between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River basin is now under construction in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal near Romeoville, Illinois. Although a major impetus for the construction of the barrier is to diminish the invasive downstream movements of the exotic round goby from Lake Michigan toward the Mississippi River, it is also hoped that the barrier will be effective here in preventing interbasin movements of all other fish species (native as well as non-native). Investigators from the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) and the University of Illinois (UI) Sea Grant College Program are preparing to evaluate the performance of this barrier. Their plans for this study include the initial capture, marking, and release of as many feral fish as possible near the barrier before it is placed into operation later this summer. Once the barrier is electrified, additional sampling to recapture marked fish will help in evaluating its overall performance. Staff from the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office and the Cook County Forest Preserve District fisheries crew provided technical assistance to INHS and UI researchers in capturing fish to mark for this study while they participated in the recent 6th annual round goby survey of the Illinois Waterway System. The experience of these round goby survey participants in collecting fish near the electrical barrier site (one of the most industrialized and congested portions of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal) over the past several years made for the safe and efficient collection of 115 fish representing 8 species over a 4-day sampling period in June 2001. A graduate student marked several of these fish subcutaneously with non-toxic latex paint in distinctive colors that will allow researchers to quickly identify a recaptured fish and its original capture location (i.e., upstream or downstream of the barrier). Catch comparisons of the two baited collection gears that were used here indicated that the wire-mesh minnow traps used exclusively for the Service-sponsored round goby survey of the Illinois Waterway were more effective in capturing this exotic species (as well as several native fish species) than were the similarly-sized and less expensive white plastic-mesh traps that the researchers had used here earlier. In addition, several private businesses provided logistical support by allowing direct access to certain sites along the bank that were otherwise difficult to sample in a safe and effective manner. As a result of this collaborative effort, the researchers now plan to use the more effective wire-mesh minnow traps and concentrate their future sampling efforts in accessable areas where they are more likely to capture, mark, and recapture the fish needed to help evaluate the barrier's performance.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Staff from the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office and the Cook County Forest Preserve District fisheries crew provided technical assistance to Illinois Natural History Survey and University of Illinois Sea Grant researchers in capturing fish to mark for a fish barrier performance study while they participated in the 6th annual round goby survey of the Illinois Waterway System. The experience of these round goby survey participants in collecting fish near the electrical barrier site (one of the most industrialized and congested portions of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal) over the past several years made for the safe and efficient collection of 115 fish representing 8 species over a 4-day sampling period in June 2001. A graduate student marked several of these fish subcutaneously with non-toxic latex paint in distinctive colors that will allow researchers to quickly identify a recaptured fish and its original capture location (i.e., upstream or downstream of the barrier).
Partners: Cook County Forest Preserve District Illinois Natural History Survey University of Illinois (Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program) Material Service Corporation Garvey Marine, Incorporated Dillingham, Healy, Grow, & Dew, Incorporated Heritage Environmental Services, LLC Egan Marine, Incorporated

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Illinois

06/15/2001	H	$13,816	$15,816	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	4294	07/09/2001 09/25/2003

Survey Finds Exotic Goby More Abundant And Widespread in Illinois Waterways

Executive Summary: A series of waterways in metropolitan Chicago connect the Great Lakes and Mississippi River drainage basins. For more than a decade, these shipping channels have facilitated the spread of the now infamous zebra mussel, an aquatic nuisance species, from Lake Michigan to many environmentally sensitive portions of the Mississippi River basin. Now there are growing concerns that the round goby, a non-indigenous fish recently introduced to the Great Lakes from central Asia, may likewise expand its range to the midst of North America with adverse consequences for native aquatic fauna. In response to this goby threat, Service staff and volunteers from seven offices in four states recently participated in the 6th annual survey to determine the range and assess the relative abundance of round goby in portions of the Illinois Waterway System. This surveillance activity was led by staff from the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office and encompassed a nearly 90-mile continuous reach that included parts of the Sanitary and Ship Canal, the Des Plaines River, and the Illinois River from metropolitan Chicago downstream to near Hennepin, Illinois. Partners in the four-day survey included representatives from three federal, three state, and two local natural resource agencies, as well as one university. In addition, five private businesses provided logistical support for this year's survey by allowing some participants direct access from land to several sites along the bank that were otherwise difficult to sample in a safe and effective manner. Fish were collected in near shore habitats with baited wire-mesh minnow traps set overnight or by angling. Results of the 2001 survey indicated that although round goby did not progress any further downstream from where they were detected one year ago (Des Plaines River mile 285), their relative abundance nearby had now increased 10-fold since they were first observed here less than two years ago. In addition, three grass carp and two bighead carp were found by survey participants near La Salle and Peru, Illinois (Illinois River mile 222-225). Although these fish were dead when located, their presence here suggests that these nuisance species are continuing to expand their range further upstream in the Illinois Waterway toward Lake Michigan. An oriental weatherfish was also collected on the periphery of metropolitan Chicago in a downstream reach of the Sanitary and Ship Canal (river mile 292) where this exotic species has seldom been previously reported. The increased abundance and expanded distribution of several exotic fish species observed during the 2001 round goby survey of the Illinois Waterway is alarming. Should these and other non-indigenous fish continue to spread unchecked across Illinois, they may pose a significant threat to some native fish species that inhabit tributaries like the Kankakee, Fox, and Des Plaines Rivers which also flow through portions of surrounding states. An electrical fish barrier is now being constructed at a site along the Sanitary and Ship Canal near Romeoville, Illinois and should be in operation later this summer. Although round goby have already passed beyond this site, the barrier may yet diminish the spread of round goby downstream, prevent Asian carp from entering Lake Michigan here, and help to deter the movements of other fish species between the Mississippi River and Great Lakes drainage basins.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-Alpena FRO R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Rock Island FO R3-Ashland FRO R3-Bloomington FO R3-Chicago FO R3-Large River Fish Coord Ofc
Resource Outputs: Partners in the effort include the U.S. Army; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Illinois Natural History Survey; Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Cook County Forest Preserve District; Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago; Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program (University of Illinois); Material Service Corporation; Garvey Marine Incorporated; Dillingham, Healy, Grow, & Dew Incorporated; Heritage Environmental Services, LLC and Egan Marine Incorporated.
Partners: U.S. Army U.S. Army Corps of Engineers U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Illinois Natural History Survey Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Illinois Department of Natural Resources Cook County Forest Preserve District Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program (University of Illinois) Material Service Corporation Garvey Marine, Incorported Dillingham, Healy, Grow, & Dew, Incorporated Heritage Environmental Services, LLC Egan Marine, Incorporated

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Ecological Services * Fisheries
States: Illinois

06/12/2001	A	$350	$350	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	4378	07/18/2001 07/24/2001

Media Tour of Chicago Fish Dispersal Barrier Helps Focus Public on Goby Threat

Executive Summary: Pam Thiel, project leader of the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office and the Service's regional Aquatic Nuisance Species coordinator, co-hosted a tour for members of the press on June 12th at the site of a fish dispersal barrier now under construction in the Chicago Sanitary and Shipping Canal. External affairs staff from the Service's regional and field offices helped coordinate this media outreach event to focus local, regional, and national attention on efforts to help control the movements of non-native fish here in the waterway that links the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Chicago district office is funding the construction of a $1.3 million electrical fish barrier here as a short-term (3-year) demonstration project to study the effectiveness of this control strategy. While other smaller-scale electrical fish barriers designed by the project engineer (Smith-Root, Inc.) have been highly effective in controlling fish

movements elsewhere, the performance of a much larger and more technologically sophis ticated barrier that is required here in one of the nation's busiest commercial waterways remains to be seen. With several species of non-native fish (e.g., round goby, bighead carp, silver carp) now threatening to rapidly expand their range and abundance across more of the nation via this portal, the ecological stakes associated with the performance of this barrier are high. Reporters and photographers from eight media broadcast and print media outlets attended the mid-morning event near Romeoville, Ill., while clad in hard hats, or, made arrangements for telephone interviews later. Besides Ms. Thiel, representatives from other project partners including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Smith-Root, and Patrick Engineering were also present to assist with the barrier site tour and speak to reporters. Meanwhile, the juxtaposed images of several live round goby on display in an aquarium and of construction workers toiling on a hot summer day to install the electrical barrier illustrated the urgency of the situation here for the reporters throughout the 90-minute meeting. Within one week, reports on the barrier project and on concerns for nonindigenous fish in the mid-west had: aired on three Chicago metropolitan radio stations (WBEZ, WBBM, and WGN) and one international radio broadcast service (Voice of America); appeared as news articles in at least two metropolitan (Chicago Tribune, Daily Southtown) and two suburban newspapers; and were under consideration for publication in a weekly science magazine (Science News). Although it remains to be seen how effective an electrical fish barrier will be in this waterway, the media outreach event was successful in widely informing the general public of threats posed by exotic nuisance fish in the mid-west and of measures to control their spread here.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-External Affairs
Resource Outputs: On the morning of June 12, reporters and photographers from a total of 8 media outlets (including both the print and broadcast industry) attended a Service-sponsored tour of a site near Romeoville, Illinois where a $1.3 million electrical fish barrier is being contructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Chicago Sanitary and Shipping Canal. The purpose of this 90-minute outreach event was to focus local, regional, and national media attention on efforts to help control the movements of non-native fish here in the waterway that links the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. Within one week, reports on the barrier project and on concerns for nonindigenous fish in the mid-west had: aired on three Chicago metropolitan radio stations (WBEZ, WBBM, and WGN) and one international radio broadcast service (Voice of America); appeared as news articles in at least two metropolitan (Chicago Tribune, Daily Southtown) and two suburban newspapers; and were under consideration for publication in a weekly science magazine (Science News). Although it remains to be seen how effective an electrical fish barrier will be here in the nation's busiest waterway, this media outreach event was successful in widely informing the general public of threats posed by exotic nuisance fish in the mid-west and of measures to control their spread here.
Partners: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Smith-Root, Incorporated Patrick Engineering, Incorporated

Notes: KUDOS TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FOR HELPING TO COORDINATE THIS LONG-DISTANCE EVENT WITH THE LA CROSSE FRO!
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries * External Affairs
States: Illinois

11/02/2001	A	$0	$100	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	5247	11/06/2001 12/17/2001

Diversity Outreach - Pathways to an Environmental Career

Executive Summary: Mark Steingraeber, a fishery biologist at the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office, spoke to a diverse group of about 40 students at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Nov. 2, as a part of the Fall 2001 seminar series titled "Resources, Environment, and the Human Species". As a member of an invited panel of five professional biologists representing a diverse range of environmental disciplines in both the public and private sector, Mr. Steingraeber discussed prospects and preparations for environmental science occupations and shared personal strategies used to achieve success when embarking on such a career path. Common themes mentioned by the speakers included: a broad background of scientific knowledge; technical experience or skills in a specialized area of interest; written and oral communication skills; utilizing volunteer and internship opportunities to gain practical experience and make professional contacts; long-term career commitment; and personal flexibility. Opportunities for students to work and gain valuable experience in the Service's SCEP and STEP programs were also discussed. Following the presentations, students had the opportunity to ask questions and meet individually with the panelists. University faculty and staff who planned the forum were pleased with the interactive exchange of information that occurred and were confident that it benefitted participating students by highlighting how a balanced mix of academic and non-academic skills and experiences represent initial stepping stones on diverse paths that can lead to successful and rewarding environmental science careers.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: A diverse group of about 40 students at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse recently attended an environemntal career forum at which Mark Steingraeber, a Service fishery biologist, discussed prospects and preparations for environmental science occupations and shared personal strategies used to achieve success when embarking on such a career path. Opportunities for students to work and gain valuable experience in the Service's SCEP and STEP programs were also

disucssed. University faculty and staff who planned the forum were pleased with the interactive exchange of information that highlighted how a balanced mix of academic and non-academic skills and experiences represent initial stepping stones on diverse paths that can lead to successful and rewarding environmental science careers.
Partners: University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Notes: Goal 14: Career Days
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries * Diversity and Civil Rights
States: Wisconsin

02/09/2002	A	$5,260	$5,260	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	5649	02/28/2002 09/26/2003

Winnebago Sturgeon Spearers Aid Service's Fish Health Survey

Executive Summary: Lake Winnebago in east-central Wisconsin is the largest inland lake in the state (about 132,000 acres) and is inhabited by part of the largest naturally sustaining lake sturgeon population in the world. Due to its great abundance here, Winnebago-strain lake sturgeon are used as an egg source for lake sturgeon re-introduction and rehabilitation projects throughout this species' historical North American range. Lake sturgeon are also harvested from Lake Winnebago during a popular mid-winter spear fishing season that began here in the early 1930s and has been held for more than 70 consecutive years. The total number of state-licensed spearers here has grown dramatically in recent years as more people seem willing to travel greater distances from around Wisconsin and beyond to annually participate in what has become a unique recreational fishing event. Given the ecological significance of this fish population and the local cultural and economic importance of the spear fishery it sustains, the health status of the Lake Winnebago lake sturgeon population is of interest to fish managers throughout the region. Therefore, Service staff from the La Crosse Fishery Resource Office (FRO) and La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC) teamed with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) personnel to collect tissue samples from lake sturgeon harvested Feb. 9, the opening day of the 2002 spear fishing season, near Stockbridge, Wisc. A total of 26 spearers who registered their fish here with the WDNR permitted FRO staff to collect tissue samples that were later processed by FHC staff at their laboratory in Onalaska, Wisc. Diagnostic tests are now underway on these lake sturgeon samples to determine the incidence of certain bacterial (e.g., Aeromonas salmonicida, Renibacterium salmoninarum, Edwardsiella ictaluri) and viral (e.g., infectious pancreatic necrosis, viral hemorrhagic septicemia, iridiovirus) pathogens that could compromise the health of this globally signficant sturgeon population and lead to disease outbreaks in a wide variety of other fish species. Test results will be entered into the Service's National Wild Fish Health Survey data base to plot the distribution of these and other fish pathogens across the country. This comprehensive fish health information system provides a national perspective that is used by the Service and its partners to improve their efforts in protecting, restoring, and managing fish populations across the country. For more information on the Service's National Wild Fish Health Survey, visit the Internet at www.wildfishsurvey.fws.gov.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Service staff from the La Crosse Fishery Resource Office (FRO) and La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC) teamed with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) personnel to collect tissue samples from 26 lake sturgeon harvested February 9th, the opening day of the 2002 Lake Winnebago lake sturgeon spear fishing season, near Stockbridge, Wisconsin. A total of 26 spearers who registered their fish here with the WDNR permitted FRO staff to collect tissue samples that were later processed by FHC staff at their laboratory in Onalaska, Wisconsin. Diagnostic tests are now underway on these samples to determine the incidence of certain bacterial (e.g., Aeromonas salmonicida, Renibacterium salmoninarum, Edwardsiella ictaluri) and viral (e.g., infectious pancreatic necrosis, viral hemorrhagic septicemia, iridiovirus) pathogens that could compromise the health of this globally significant sturgeon population and lead to disease outbreaks in a wide variety of other fish species. Test results will be entered into the Service's National Wild Fish Health Survey data base to plot the distribution of these and other fish pathogens across the country. This comprehensive fish health information system provides a national perspective that is used by the Service and its partners to improve their efforts in protecting, restoring, and managing fish populations across the country.
Partners: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Notes: Lake Winnebago lake sturgeon health assessment
Ecosystems: 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

02/10/2002	A	$200	$200	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	5727	03/18/2002 09/26/2003

Local Service Activities and Opportunities Highlighted at La Crosse Outdoors Show

Executive Summary: Local examples of the Service's diverse natural resource management activities in the upper Mississippi River basin and their public benefits were highlighted in a variety of displays that were exhibited by representatives from three Service offices during the 25th Annual La Crosse Boat, Sports, and Travel Show. This four-day mid-winter event (Feb. 7-10) was held overlooking the upper Mississippi River at the spacious (38,000-square foot) La Crosse Exhibition Center and was attended by more than 23,000 adults, many of whom were accompanied by children. With an inviting array of diverse educational materials, maps, photographs, taxidermy mounts and live animals prominantly displayed in an area located at the main entrance to the exhibition hall, visitors of all ages had an opportunity to learn more about their local environment and the Service's role in environmental issues of local, regional and national concern. Major natural resource issues that were emphasized this year included: water level management of the upper Mississippi River and biological responses to the 2001 summer drawdown in Pool 8; "Leave-No-Trace" guidelines for refuge visitors; aquatic nuisance species awareness and control efforts; and freshwater mussel awareness and conservation efforts. As in past years, the taxidermy displays, mussel shells, fur pelts and wildlife coloring books proved very popular with many children and helped draw more adults to the Service booth. Once here, the visitors leisurely browsed through informational displays and asked Service representatives questions on a range of environmental topics. Also on prominent display here were two large posters prepared especially for this event to highlight career opportunities at several local Service offices in 2002. One poster listed anticipated job vacancies for a variety of permanent, temporary and term positions at duty stations including the La Crosse Fishery Resource Office, the La Crosse Fish Health Center, the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, and the Winona, La Crosse and McGregor District Offices of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The Internet address for the U.S. Office of Personnel Managment web site that lists these and other official federal job vacancy announcements (www.usajobs.opm.gov) was displayed on this poster as well. Meanwhile, the second poster recognized the vital role that volunteers play at local Service offices and encouraged others to participate as Service volunteers at area offices for a productive and rewarding experience. The opportunity to personally exchange both natural and human resource information in a relatively short period of time with the large and diverse audience that attends this annual outdoors show makes participation here a valuable outreach tool for all Service offices in the La Crosse area.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse R3-UMRNW&FR-McGregor Dist. R3-UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ R3-UMRNW&FR-Winona Dist. R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: Local examples of the Service's diverse natural resource management activities in the upper Mississippi River basin and their public benefits were highlighted in a variety of displays that were exhibited by representatives from three Service offices during the 25th Annual La Crosse Boat, Sports, and Travel Show. This four-day mid-winter event (February 7-10) was held overlooking the upper Mississippi River at the spacious (38,000-square foot) La Crosse Exhibition Center and was attended by more than 23,000 adults, many of whom were accompanied by children. With an inviting array of diverse educational materials, maps, photographs, taxidermy mounts, and live animals prominantly displayed in an area located at the main entrance to the exhibition hall, visitors of all ages could liesurely browse through informational displays and ask Service representatives questions on a range of local, regional, and national environmental topics. Also on prominent display here were two large posters prepared especially for this event to highlight career opportunities at several local Service offices in 2002. One poster listed anticipated job vacancies for a variety of permanent, temporary, and term positions at duty stations including the La Crosse Fishery Resource Office, the La Crosse Fish Health Center, the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, and the Winona, La Crosse, and McGregor District Offices of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Meanwhile, the second poster recognized the vital role that volunteers play at local Service offices and encouraged others to participate as Service volunteers at area offices for a productive and rewarding experience. The opportunity to personally exchange both natural and human resource information in a relatively short period of time with the large and diverse audience that attends this annual outdoors show makes participation here a valuable outreach tool for all Service offices in the La Crosse area.
Partners:

Notes: Public information exchange and diversity outreach activity conducted cooperatively by several Service program offices (Fisheries, Refuges) reaches an audience of more than 23,000 in the La Crosse area.
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries * Diversity and Civil Rights * External Affairs * Ecosystem Teams
States: Iowa * Minnesota * Wisconsin

02/15/2002	A	$1,200	$1,200	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	5759	03/22/2002 09/26/2003

Artificial Fish Cribs Improve Sport Fish Habitat in Necedah Refuge Pond

Executive Summary: Harvey's Pond is a small (7.5-acre), shallow (14-foot maximum depth), artificial impoundment located on the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in west-central Wisconsin. Excavated to supply construction materials for a nearby highway, the pond was originally built as a closed-system with no water inlet or outlet. The basin was filled with water and initially stocked with sport fish in the 1970s to increase recreational fishing opportunities at the refuge. Although winter-kill conditions occasionally occurred during extended periods of thick snow and ice cover, the pond was renovated in 1999 and

now receives a sufficient supply of oxygen-rich fresh water from a restored wetland that ensures fish overwinter survival. Despite this significant improvement in water quality, a recent survey conducted by the La Crosse Fishery Resource Office (FRO) indicated that the growth of most sport fish species here is stunted with populations typically dominated by large numbers of small individuals. FRO and refuge staff subsequently met this winter to discuss several complimentary management strategies that could be used to improve sport fish quality and recreational fishing opportunities at Harvey's Pond. Suggestions included habitat enhancement, predator stocking, angler education, voluntary creel surveys and standardized annual sampling. Of immediate concern was the overwhelming lack of any significant submerged physical structures that could provide sheltered habitat for fish in the artificial pond. Given the ideal working conditions that the mid-winter ice cover provided on the surface of the pond, a decision was made to proceed with the immediate construction and placement of wooden fish cribs. By mid-February, a total of six cribs were built on the ice at deep water sites by members of a Wisconsin Conservation Corps crew that worked at the refuge this winter. The square-shaped cribs were assembled with small diameter conifer trees that were harvested from the refuge. The logs were stacked perpendicularly to a height of about four feet, fastened together, filled with brush, and weighted with several concrete blocks. As the pond ice melts, the cribs will sink into position, offering several sites of protective year-round cover for sport fish here. With the completion of this simple habitat enhancement project, a strong foundation is now in place upon which other management actions will soon be implemented to further improve recreational fishing at Harvey's Pond.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Necedah NWR
Resource Outputs: Staff from the La Crosse Fishery Resource Office and the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge met this winter (January 24) to discuss several complimentary management strategies that could be used to improve sport fish quality and recreational fishing opportunities at a small man-made refuge impoundment (Harvey's Pond). Suggestions included habitat enhancement, predator stocking, angler education, voluntary creel surveys, and standardized annual sampling. Of immediate concern was the overwhelming lack of any significant submerged physical structures that could provide sheltered habitat for fish in the artificial pond. Given the ideal working conditions that the mid-winter ice cover provided on the surface of the pond, a decision was made to proceed with the immediate construction and placement of wooden fish cribs. By mid-February, a total of six cribs were built on the ice at deep water sites by members of a Wisconsin Conservation Corps crew that worked at the refuge this winter. The square-shaped cribs were assembled with small diameter conifer trees that were harvested earlier from the refuge. The logs were stacked perpendicularly to a height of about 4 feet, fastened together, filled with brush, and weighted with several concrete blocks. As the pond ice melts this spring, the cribs will sink into position, offering several sites of protective year-round cover for sport fish here. With the completion of this simple habitat enhancement project, a strong foundation is now in place upon which other management actions will soon be implemented to further improve recreational fishing at Harvey's Pond.
Partners: Wisconsin Conservation Corps

Notes: Sport fish habitat enhancement and management assistance at Necedah NWR
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

07/30/2002	A	$10	$10	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	7165	09/30/2002 10/21/2002

Novice Anglers Get Fishy Fingers

Executive Summary: On July 30, staff from the La Crosse Fishery Resource Office and the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge - Winona District Office guided about 40 summer day care students from the Christian Chapel Day Care Center in Onalaska, Wisc., on a day of fishing at Veterans' Memorial Park in West Salem, Wisc. For many of the children, who ranged in age from five to nine, this was their first angling experience. The days' activities began with the children viewing an educational video produced by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission entitled 'Grandpa, can we go fishing?' which introduced a wide range of aquatic natural resource topics including identification and biology of common native fish, aquatic plants, water safety, fishing ethics and angling techniques. After the video, the group boarded a bus for a brief ride to the park where they put into practice the angling skills they had just been taught. In a short time, most of the students successfully caught and released bullheads or bluegill while fishing from the banks of the pond. Judging from the children's excitement and by the large number who developed 'fishy fingers' by the end of the day, this outdoors adventure was a great success!
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-Winona Dist.
Resource Outputs: Educational outreach program on aquatic natural resources, angling techniques, and fishing ethics presented to 40 summer day care students by Service staff from the La Crosse FRO and Upper Mississippi River NW&FR.
Partners:

Notes:

Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

08/13/2002	A	$900	$10,900	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	7197	09/30/2002 10/22/2002

Sky's the Limit for 'Into the Outdoors' Paddelfish Production

Executive Summary: On Aug. 13, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees and volunteers from the La Crosse Fishery Resource Office and the La Crosse Fish Health Center assisted staff from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Discover Wisconsin Productions in highlighting the Service's recent paddlefish research and management activities in western Wisconsin's Chippewa River for presentation in an upcoming episode of 'Into the Outdoors.' This popular, award-winning weekly children's television program is broadcast in portions of Iowa and Minnesota, as well as throughout Wisconsin. has an associated Internet web site (http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eek/ito); and is a key outreach tool for the WDNR's highly successful and multi-faceted Environmental Education for Kids initiative. For example, in the Milwaukee metropolitan area, the largest television market where the show is broadcast, 'Into the Outdoors' has earned the top rating among all children's programming in the highly competitive and cartoon-dominated Saturday morning television lineup. Therefore, when La Crosse FRO staff were initially approached by the WDNR to lead a group of young volunteers in a day on the water to demonstrate how radio telemetry is used to learn more about this unique and seldom seen species, they enthusiastically accepted the invitation with the notion that 'the sky was the limit' for this production. With a three-person film crew recording the sights and sounds along a scenic reach of the lower Chippewa River near Eau Claire, the youths helped set and retrieve nets that yielded a 46-pound paddlefish in just a matter of minutes. The young actors and actress then watched as FRO staff proceeded to quickly mark the fish with three unique identity tags: a short length of binary-coded, magnetized micro-wire implanted in the rostrum; a numbered jaw band; and a small external radio transmitter designed especially for attachment to the lower jaw of a paddlefish. Shortly after the multi-tagged fish was released, the children had an opportunity to determine its location in the river by tracking the source of the signal broadcast from the radio transmitter tag, just as Service fishery biologists do to identify the types of habitats that are preferred by this ancient species in modified rivers like the Chippewa. Finally, the script called for filming to conclude that day high above the water in 'the wild blue yonder' with the Service's Regional pilot demonstrating to one of the children how Service aircraft are used to quickly search and locate radio tagged fish. However, mandatory aircraft maintenance that day precluded this previously scheduled flight mission. But despite being "grounded" for the day, the children thoroughly enjoyed their 'Into the Outdoors' adventure with paddlefish ... an educational adventure that many other children in the Midwest will also be able to enjoy early next year. (NOTE: broadcast of the paddlefish radio telemetry episode is tentatively set for March 2003. Consult your local television listings or the 'Into the Outdoors' website for broadcast stations and times.)
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Refuges&Wildlife
Resource Outputs: Four employees and four volunteers from the La Crosse Fishery Resource Office and one employee from the La Crosse Fish Health Center assisted staff from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and Discover Wisconsin Productions highlight the Service's recent paddlefish research and management activities on the Chippewa River in western Wisconsin for presentation in an upcoming episode of 'Into the Outdoors'. This popular, award-winning weekly children's television program: is broadcast in portions of Iowa and Minnesota as well as throughout Wisconsin; has an associated Internet web site (http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eek/ito); and is a key outreach tool for the WDNR's highly successful, multi-faceted Environmental Education for Kids initiative. For example, in the Milwaukee metropolitan area, the largest television market where the show is broadcast, 'Into the Outdoors' has earned the top rating among all children's programming in the highly competitive and cartoon-dominated Saturday morning television lineup. The five children who participated in this feature thoroughly enjoyed their 'Into the Outdoors' adventure with paddlefish ... an educational adventure that many other children in the Midwest will also be able to enjoy early next year.
Partners: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Discover Wisconsin Productions, Incorported

Notes: Please note the involvement of Brian Lubinski, regional pilot, in preparing detailed plans to highlight the role of aircraft for use in radio telemetry observations.
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

09/11/2002	A	$250	$250	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	7602	11/13/2002 11/27/2002

Improved Fishing On Its Way to Harvey's Pond

Executive Summary: Harvey's Pond is a small (7.5-acre), shallow (14-foot maximum depth), artificially-made impoundment located at the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in west-central Wisconsin. Excavated to supply construction materials for a

nearby highway, the pond was originally built as a closed-system with no water inlet or outlet and lacked any significant submerged structures that could provide sheltered habitat for fish. Nevertheless, the basin was filled with water and initially stocked with sport fish in the 1970s to increase recreational fishing opportunities at the refuge. However, the fish were occasionally subjected to hypoxic winterkill conditions that often resulted in significant mortality. To prevent the recurrence of this intermittent annual event, the pond was recently modified with the addition of water inflow and outflow structures that deliver and distribute oxygen-enriched water beneath the ice. The first standardized fish survey since this modification of the pond was conducted by the La Crosse Fishery Resource Office in September 2001. Results indicated that the growth of most sport fish species was stunted, with populations typically dominated by large numbers of small individuals. A series of complimentary management actions were subsequently proposed to improve sport fish quality and recreational fishing opportunities at Harvey's Pond. Among the list of suggested actions, one of the most cost-effective and easily achieved was the placement of cribs to provide year-round protective cover for a variety of sport fish. Therefore, six wooden fish cribs were built and submerged at deep water locations in spring 2002. In September 2002, the second annual standardized fish survey at Harvey's Pond was conducted by staff from the La Crosse FRO with assistance from Wisconsin Conservation Corps members stationed at the Necedah NWR. Results of this netting survey indicated a substantial decrease in the total abundance of fish at both the littoral (72 percent decline) and deep-water (95 percent decline) sampling sites during the past year. Each species likewise exhibited a sharp decline in its abundance, except for bluegill, which were much more abundant (72 percent increase) at littoral sites in 2002. It remains unknown whether these large declines in the abundance of most species are a reflection of recent rates of annual mortality, the success of nearby cribs in providing more attractive habitat for these fish, or other factors. Meanwhile, the average total length of yellow perch and bluegill (the two most abundant sport fish caught in the littoral-zone) increased by 11 percent and 62 percent in the past year, respectively. If such growth trends can continue for several more years in these sport fish populations, recreational anglers should be rewarded in the near future with catches of higher quality panfish at Harvey's Pond.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Necedah NWR
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Wisconsin Conservation Corps

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

10/22/2002	A	$10,000	$40,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	7635	11/20/2002 11/27/2002

Volunteers Aid Paddlefish Survey on 'Old Man River'

Executive Summary: "Summertime, and the livin' is easy .... paddlefish are jump in' on the Upper Mississippi ..." While a musical lyric such as this may not make it on Broadway, it could well have been in the hearts or on the lips of many volunteers who frequently assisted the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) during 2002 on "Old Man River" with field work to evaluate paddlefish use of Polander Lake in Upper Mississippi River Navigation Pool 5A near Winona, Minn. This netting survey, funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' St. Paul District, was conducted to help evaluate the impact of a recently constructed artificial island complex and associated dredging activities on the pre-existing utility of this backwater impoundment to paddlefish. One or more of sixteen volunteers accompanied La Crosse FRO staff on 21 of their 46 sampling dates during the coarse of a 28-week (April-October) field season and contributed a total of 264 hours of effort in support of this project. In addition, nearly two dozen employees stationed at several nearby Service offices (Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge - Winona, La Crosse, and McGregor Districts; Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge; Necedah National Wildlife Refuge; La Crosse Fish Health Center; and, the Twin Cities Regional Office) enthusiastically volunteered to participate in the survey when invited to go fishing on the river! For some of these individuals, the day-long outings represented the first professional fisheries experience of their career. A total of 14 paddlefish that ranged in size from eight to 58 pounds were captured, tagged and released at several sites around the lake during the survey. Likewise, a total of 21 lake sturgeon (another migratory species related to the paddlefish) that ranged in size from 14 to 43 pounds were coincidentally caught and tagged. Before these fish were released however, a small portion of fin tissue was collected from each and preserved as samples for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources researchers to use in a statewide genetics analysis of lake sturgeon populations. Besides the opportunity for volunteers to take part in trying to catch some of these remarkable fish and perhaps have their picture taken with one of them before its release, survey participants also gained a greater awareness of the diverse assemblage of native fauna that inhabit the river (e.g., fishes, reptiles, mollusks) and the ecological threats posed by expanding populations of invasive species here. Analysis of the paddlefish catch data is now underway and a project report is scheduled for completion early in 2003.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-Minnesota Valley NWR R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Necedah NWR R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse R3-UMRNW&FR-McGregor Dist. R3-UMRNW&FR-Winona Dist. R3-Upper Mississippi TLP EcoTm

Resource Outputs:
Partners: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - St. Paul District Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Wisconsin Conservation Corps

Notes: Volunteer participation highlighted
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

10/28/2002	A	$1,000	$5,500	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	7739	12/12/2002 12/31/2003

Menominee Indian Sturgeon Restoration Program -- a Fall Treat for All

Executive Summary: The lake sturgeon is a major focal point of Menominee Indian culture. Historically, tribal members living in northeastern Wisconsin were nutritionally dependent upon an annual subsistence harvest of lake sturgeon each spring when large numbers of the fish swam upstream in tributaries of Lake Michigan to spawn. In the Lake Winnebago-Wolf River system, lake sturgeon were able to swim far upstream to traditional spawning sites located on the Menominee Indian Reservation until the early 20th century, when a pair of hydroelectric dams were built several miles downstream of the reservation. As a consequence of these barriers to upstream fish passage and continued harvest pressure, lake sturgeon were eventually extirpated from the river reaches upstream of the dams. Lake sturgeon remained a missing component of the native fish community here until 1995, when a long-term multi-agency restoration and management plan was initiated for this ancient species. Each year, as a part of this plan, a dozen or more Wolf River lake sturgeon have been captured at sites located downstream of the dams, tagged, and released in river reaches located upstream of the dams and within the Menominee Indian Reservation. Through 2001, a total of 110 feral lake sturgeon had been relocated in this manner to help achieve the long-term goal of reestablishing a self-sustaining population here. Annual lake sturgeon relocation efforts in 2002 took place near the end of October on a mild and sunny day. These pleasant conditions occurred just days after the surrounding area was blanketed by more than six inches of snow from an early season storm. Snowmelt runoff caused the river stage to rise above normal and impeded electrofishing efforts by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff who eventually captured 22 lake sturgeon by mid-day. These included several large fish that ranged up to 66 inches in total length and 70 to 75 pounds in weight. All the fish were transported about 35 miles upstream in a DNR fish distribution truck to the tag and release site located just below Sullivan Falls on the Menominee Reservation. Service and tribal biologists affixed three unique tags to each fish. As in past years, a numbered aluminum strap tag was attached externally at the base of the dorsal fin. This tag is easily recognizable and promotes public participation in management of the popular Lake Winnebago-Wolf River lake sturgeon resource by encouraging anglers to report the status and location of fish that are recaptured. A passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag was also implanted into the fleshy lobe of the pectoral fin (near the base of the pectoral spine) with a syringe. This small hidden tag allows fishery biologists equipped with an electronic PIT tag reader an alternative means to accurately identify a recaptured fish that has lost its external dorsal fin tag. Finally, an external radio transmitter was secured to a dorsal scute, permitting tribal biologists to track the location of each fish on the reservation and identify its seasonal habitat preferences. Prior to 2000, radio transmitters were surgically implanted into the body cavity of the fish. In fact, one of the fish relocated in 2002 was originally captured and relocated to the reservation in 1999 and still retained its implanted radio transmitter. Although this healthy looking individual appeared to have made a full recovery from the earlier operation, the invasive procedure used to tag fish like this in earlier years and the long-term retention of large internal transmitters could adversely impact the ability of many relocated fish to spawn and could thus prevent or prolong the re-establishment of a self-sustaining population here. Other advantages of the external transmitter include: attachment in a fraction of the time; no requirement for surgical skills, equipment, or anaesthesia; and a reduced risk of secondary infection. The fish were released into the swift flowing water below the picturesque falls immediately after they received their final tag. The opportunity to work cooperatively with partners to restore these magnificent fish to Menominee Reservation waters of the Wolf River on such a beautiful autumn day was a pre-Halloween “treat” for all participants in 2002.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Notes:
Ecosystems: 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

02/09/2003	A	$1,750	$1,750	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	8040	02/12/2003 02/13/2003

Fishery and Refuge Programs Highlighted at La Crosse Sport Show

Executive Summary: Conservation partnership achievements and opportunities in the Service's Fishery and Refuge programs were highlighted to the public with a variety of informative displays exhibited by staff from four La Crosse area offices (Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge-La Crosse District, La Crosse Fishery Resources Office, La Crosse Fish Health Center and Genoa National Fish Hatchery) and members of their Friends Group organizations during the 26th Annual La Crosse Boat, Sports and Travel Show. This mid-winter event was held Feb. 6-9, near the banks of the upper Mississippi River at the spacious La Crosse Exhibition Center. Nearly 3,000 visitors entered the Service's booth, which was expanded nearly 50 percent in size this year when the La Crosse National Weather Service office made most of the unused area in the rear of its adjoining booth available for fish and wildlife displays. An inviting array of diverse educational materials, photographs, videos, taxidermy mounts, live fish, and animal pelts were prominently displayed near the main entrance to the exhibition hall. These displays encouraged visitors of all ages to learn more about their local fauna and flora and the Service's role in protecting, restoring and enhancing trust resources for the continuing benefit of all Americans. Natural resource topics emphasized by the Service at the show included: plant and waterfowl responses to summer water level reductions in parts of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge; nature observation and photography opportunities on refuges; the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial celebration; aquatic nuisance species awareness and control efforts; freshwater mussel and native fish restoration programs; and, recent fish disease outbreaks and implications. The taxidermy displays, mussel shells, animal pelts, live fish, and wildlife coloring books were very popular with children and also helped draw accompanying adults to the Service booth. After entering the booth, visitors could leisurely browse through printed informational materials, vote for their favorite refuge scene in a Friends Group-sponsored photography contest, identify live native fishes, watch a video of "flying" Asian carp, discuss environmental topics of concern with Service representatives and learn more about the Friends Group organizations that support Service offices. The opportunity to personally exchange natural resource information in a short period of time with the large and diverse audience that attends this annual outdoors show makes participation here a valuable outreach tool for all Service offices in the La Crosse area.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: Conservation partnership achievements and opportunities in the Service's Fishery and Refuge programs were highlighted to the public with a variety of informative displays exhibited by staff from four La Crosse area offices (Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge-La Crosse District, La Crosse Fishery Resources Office, La Crosse Fish Health Center, Genoa National Fish Hatchery) and members of their Friends Group organizations during the 26th Annual La Crosse Boat, Sports, and Travel Show. A total of nearly 3,000 visitors entered the Service's booth, which was expanded nearly 50% in size this year when the La Crosse National Weather Service office made most of the unused area in the rear of its adjoining booth available for fish and wildlife displays. An inviting array of diverse educational materials, photographs, videos, taxidermy mounts, live fish, and animal pelts were prominently displayed here, encouraging visitors of all ages to learn more about their local fauna and flora and the Service's role in protecting, restoring, and enhancing trust resources for the continuing benefit of all Americans. The opportunity to personally exchange natural resource information in a short period of time with the large and diverse audience that attends this annual outdoors show makes participation here a valuable outreach tool for all Service offices in the La Crosse area.
Partners: Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges National Weather Service - La Crosse office

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Iowa * Minnesota * Wisconsin

11/26/2002	A	$4,000	$22,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	8165	03/03/2003 03/11/2003

Fish Host Test Results Inconclusive for Winged Mapleleaf

Executive Summary: The winged mapleleaf mussel (Quadrula fragosa) is a federally-listed endangered species that exists only as a remnant population in a 20 kilometer reach of the lower St. Croix River. One of the primary factors identified by the as limiting this population is a lack of knowledge of the mussel's life history. Today, more is known about the winged mapleleaf reproductive cycle (e.g., gravidity peaks early in autumn) than when the species was listed in 1991. However, one of the most critical pieces of life history information that remains unknown and still poses a serious obstacle for recovery efforts is identification of the fish species that this mussel's parasitic larvae require as a host to successfully transform into free-living juveniles. Researchers at the University of Minnesota have annually conducted long-term (3 to 6-month) laboratory tests since fall 2000 to determine a suitable host fish for the winged mapleleaf, but none has yet been identified. Continued delay in identifying the winged mapleleaf's host fish represents a serious obstacle for the recovery of this endangered species and fails to reduce the risk of extinction for its only remaining population. Therefore, the La Crosse Fisheries Resource Office staff worked cooperatively with mussel experts at the U.S. Geological Survey's Upper Midwest

Environmental Sciences Center (in La Crosse, Wis., to conduct additional laboratory fish host tests during the fall of 2002. This initiative was also supported by an interagency team of divers who searched the St. Croix River reach inhabited by winged mapleleaf to recover gravid females (i.e., containing larvae) and by fish culturists at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery. Only one gravid female winged mapleleaf was located by divers during their 3-week search period. This mussel released about 300 apparently mature glochidia (larvae) early in October while held in laboratory captivity at the University of Minnesota. Roughly one-half of these glochidia were used for long-term fish host tests that are still continuing; while the remainder were used for a short-term fish host test at the U.S.G.S. facility. The viability of the microscopic (80-µm diameter) glochidia was checked prior to the start of the test by exposing several individuals to crystals of sodium chloride and verifing their responce. Once viability was confirmed, about 30 glochidia were pipetted onto the gills of each of five large channel catfish. For the next 55 days, these fish were reared in an aquarium supplied with a continuous flow of 22°C fresh water. Fish were periodically anesthetized during the 8-week test to examine the gills and fins with a dissection microscope for attached glochidia. Debris was also siphoned from the bottom of the aquarium several times a week and passed through a graded series of fine-mesh filters. Particles retained by the filters were thoroughly examined under magnification by two or more individuals to detect glochidia that either sloughed off the fish and died or successfully transformed into juvenile mussels. No glochidia were observed attached to the fish during the test. Likewise, no sloughed glochidia or transformed juveniles were observed among particles recovered from the bottom of the aquarium. However, numerous rotifers were detected in water filtered from the aquarium during the latter half of the test. Early life stages of this parasite likely infected the fish earlier in the year while they were in outdoor ponds and was undetected. Due to the small number of apparently viable glochidia that were collected and the presence of predacious rotifers in the aquarium, the results of this short-term test should be considered inconclusive. Continued interagency collaboration is recommended to resume fish host testing in 2003 under a study design similar to that used in 2002; provided that a larger number of viable glochidia are collected from more than one female mussel and additional fish culture practices are taken to limit the possible introduction of unwanted parasites and disease organisms into the test system.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Twin Cities FO R3-Ecological Services R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: No winged mapleleaf glochidia were observed attached to the fish during the test. Likewise, no sloughed glochidia or transformed juveniles were observed among particles recovered from the bottom of the test aquarium. Due to the small number of apparently viable glochidia that were collected from just one female mussel and the presence of predacious rotifers in the aquarium, the results of this short-term test should be considered inconclusive. Continued interagency collaboration is recommended to resume fish host testing at the UMESC in 2003 under a study design similar to that used in 2002, provided that a larger number of viable glochidia are collected from more than one female mussel and additional fish culture practices are taken to limit the possible introduction of unwanted parasites and disease organisms into the test system.
Partners: University of Minneosta - Department of Fisheries and Wildlife U.S. Geological Survey - Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center National Park Service - St. Croix National Scenic River Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Ecological Services * Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

02/04/2003	A	$2,500	$2,500	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	8135	02/26/2003 03/04/2003

Director's Visit Highlights 2004 Budget and Fisheries Vision

Executive Summary: Service Director Steve Williams braved the cold and snow that blanketed the upper midwest and received a warm 'Coulee Country' welcome when he visited the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Resource Center in Onalaska, Wis., Feb. 4. The Director visited the region to highlight the $1.3 billion budget that President Bush has proposed to fund the agency in 2004. Speaking at a public news conference attended by reporters, congressional staffers, concerned citizens and Service employees from more than a dozen area offices, Williams noted that congressional approval of the proposed 2004 budget would represent a $120 million appropriations increase over the 2002 budget. Key features of the proposed budget include: a $25.5 million increase for the National Wildlife Refuge System to protect trust resources, improve public access to recreation and better serve surrounding communities; a $15 million increase for cooperative conservation initiatives with partners; an $11 million increase to prevent the spread of invasive plants and animals; an $8 million increase for fish hatchery operations and maintenance; and, a $1 million increase to combat aquatic nuisance species. Since becoming Director nearly a year ago, Williams has also placed a personal priority on reinvigorating the agency's fisheries program, largely through a 'Vision for the Future' initiative that is supported by many partners. 'Sport fishing is important to millions of Americans, not only as a recreational activity, but as a family experience that strengthens links between children, parents, and grandparents, and in doing so, helps guide future generations of our citizens,' said Williams. 'The Fisheries program's 'Vision for the Future,' with the backing of this Presidential budget request, will help the Service better support the sportfishing community, which has historically been one of this agency's most valuable and valued partners. It also will help efforts to restore

imperilled species.' In Wisconsin, some of these proposed fishery initiatives could result in an additional $167,000 for brood stock isolation and mussel propagation facilities at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, $95,000 to support lake sturgeon restoration on the Menominee Indian Reservation, and $39,000 for native fish restoration in the Great Lakes. Following the public press conference, Fish and Wildlife Resource Center staff hosted an employee reception for the director that featured smoked sturgeon from the upper Mississippi River. Before his evening departure, Williams also had an opportunity to meet with project leaders and tour the Center to learn more about the diverse duties that Service offices fulfill in this portion of the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region.

Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-Trempealeau NWR R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse R3-UMRNW&FR-McGregor Dist. R3-UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ R3-UMRNW&FR-Winona Dist. R3-External Affairs R3-Fisheries R3-Ecological Services R3-Onalaska LE R3-Genoa NFH R3-Driftless Area NWR

Resource Outputs: Service Director Steve Williams visited the Fish and Wildlife Resource Center in Onalaska, Wisconsin on February 4 to highlight the $1.3 billion budget that President Bush has proposed to fund the agency in 2004. Speaking at a public news conference, Williams noted that Congressional approval of the proposed 2004 budget would represent a $120 million appropriations increase for the agency since 2002, demonstrating a continued commitment to better protect America's natural resources and support community partners in conservation efforts. Key features of the proposed budget include: a $25.5 million increase for the National Wildlife Refuge System to protect trust resources, improve public access to recreation, and better serve surrounding communities; a $15 million increase for cooperative conservation initiatives with partners; an $11 million increase to prevent the spread of invasive plants and animals; an $8 million increase for fish hatchery operations and maintenance; and a $1 million increase to combat aquatic nuisance species. Since becoming Service director nearly a year ago, Williams has also placed a personal priority on reinvigorating the agency's Fisheries program, largely through a 'Vision for the Future' initiative that is supported by many partners. Williams stated 'The Fisheries program's 'Vision for the Future', with the backing of this Presidential budget request, will help the Service better support the sportfishing community, which has historically been one of this agency's most valuable and valued partners. It also will help efforts to restore imperilled species.' In Wisconsin, some of these proposed fishery initiatives could result in an additional $167,000 for brood stock isolation and mussel propagation facilities at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, $95,000 to support lake sturgeon restoration on the Menominee Indian Reservation, and $39,000 for native fish restoration in the Great Lakes. Before his departure, Williams also had an opportunity to meet with project leaders and tour the Fish and Wildlife Resource Center to learn more about the diverse duties that Service offices fulfill in this portion of the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region.

Partners: Participants from other Service office not otherwise listed included: Brian Lubinski (Region 3 pilot) Tom Dahl (National Wetlands Inventory Program) Bob Bartels (Region 3 Refuge Law Enforcement Coordinator)

Notes:

Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 24-GREAT LAKES

Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries * Migratory Birds & State Programs

States: Wisconsin

04/15/2003	A	$0	$0	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	8910	06/06/2003 06/10/2003

UMR Paddlefish and Sturgeon Habitat Needs Discussed

Executive Summary: On April 15, a group of Upper Mississippi River (UMR) managers and researchers met at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Resource Center in Onalaska, Wis., to learn more about the different types of river habitats that are preferred by paddlefish, lake sturgeon and shovelnose sturgeon. The meeting, convened by Pam Thiel, project leader of the Service's LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office, was attended by 24 professionals from three state and three federal agencies who were eager to learn more about the habitat needs of these interjurisdictional fish. Steve Zigler and Brent Knights, research fishery biologists for the U.S. Geological Survey, began the meeting with informative presentations of the results of their recent radiotelemetry studies that tracked the movements of paddlefish and lake sturgeon in the Upper Mississippi River System and quantified microhabitat characteristics (e.g., current velocity, depth, eddies) of sites preferred by these species. For example, paddlefish were often located at deep water sites (depth > 2 m) with tranquil flows (0.1-0.3 m/sec) or in the vicinity of eddies. Meanwhile, lake sturgeon often preferred sites near the confluence of large tributaries and river channels where these characteristics were more variable. Mark Steingraeber, a fishery biologist at the Service's La Crosse FRO, then presented a summary of recent Service studies to determine paddlefish habitat preferences before and after a Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP) at Polander Lake in UMR Navigation Pool 5A. Preliminary results of this work suggest that additional paddlefish habitat was probably created here when a five-meter deep channel was recently dredged in a remote portion of the tranquil lake to supply borrow material for the construction of an island. A thoughtful discussion then ensued among the hydrologists, biologists and river managers about how the detailed information that was presented could be used to plan and perhaps create new habitat for these migratory species in other appropriate HREPs, as well as in certain river channel maintenance practices. By the conclusion of this 5-hour upbeat meeting, all participants were pleased with the wealth of information that had been exchanged, the new personal contacts that were made, and enthused to aid paddlefish and sturgeon

in the future when the right opportunity comes along.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR - Savanna District R3-UMRNW&FR-McGregor Dist. R3-UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ R3-UMRNW&FR-Winona Dist. R3-Twin Cities FO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: U.S. Geological Survey, Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Minnesota Department of natural Resources Missouri Department of Conservation

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Ecological Services * Fisheries
States: Iowa * Minnesota * Wisconsin

05/21/2003	A	$200	$600	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	8888	06/03/2003 06/09/2003

Tomah Fishing Tourney Benefits Veterans & Students

Executive Summary: For more than 50 years, Service employees at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery have annually raised a variety of game fish species for stocking in public waters, including the American Legion Fishing Pond at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Tomah, Wis. Angling is a very popular activity here that provides Tomah VA clients with many hours of therapeutic outdoor recreational opportunities. Since 1991, Service staff and volunteers from the Genoa NFH, the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office, and the La Crosse Fish Health Center have helped sponsor a hospital-wide fishing tournament at the pond. The 2003 fishing tourney was held May 21 under sunny blue skies with a stiff westerly wind that aided the casts of anglers on the handicap accessible fishing pier. Tomah Middle School students were also on hand to aid veterans who needed some assistance angling. Successful anglers then registered their catch to win prizes awarded by the Tomah American Legion. By all accounts, there was a lot of exciting action during this year's event as many more larger fish (rainbow trout, largemouth bass, bluegill) were caught than at any past tourney, making for some very memorable moments. The popularity of this annual event, complete with a lunchtime fish-fry prepared and served by Service staff, has grown into a highly anticipated and rewarding springtime event for all participants.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: Provided therapeutic recreational fishing opportunities for U.S. Armed Forces veterans served by the Tomah Veterans Administration Medical Center (many of whom are disabled and would not otherwise be able to enjoy sport fishing) and Tomah Middle School students.
Partners: Tomah Veterans Administration Medical Center Tomah American Legion Tomah Middle School

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

06/13/2003	A	$15,000	$18,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	9371	07/22/2003 07/25/2003

Invasive Fish Cross Paths in Illinois Waterway

Executive Summary: A series of man-made waterways near Chicago link the Great Lakes and Mississippi River drainage basins. These navigable channels were built a century ago to flush sewage away from Lake Michigan, the source of drinking water for the city. More recently however, these canals have acted as portals for invasive aquatic nuisance species to move freely between two of the largest drainage basins in North America. The capability of invasive fish like Asian carp and the round goby to readily disperse here from one basin to another threatens the functional integrity of these vast ecosystems, the survival of certain native fishes, and regional fishing economies in both the United States and Canada. A variety of temporary barriers and management actions, designed to reduce the interbasin movements of fish, have been enacted or are under consideration for use here until a more permanent solution to the problem can be put into place. To help make these control efforts more timely and effective, periodic surveillance with standardized sampling gears deployed at fixed sites is needed to determine the distribution and relative abundance of these invasive fish species. Therefore, Service representatives from eleven field offices (5 Fisheries, 4 Ecological Services, and 2 Refuges) in four midwestern states recently participated in the 8th annual Goby Roundup and 2nd annual Asian carp Corral, a 4-day survey to determine the range and relative abundance of these invasive fish in the upper reaches of the Illinois Waterway System. Other survey participants included representatives from four federal, one state, and two regional resource agencies, five private businesses, and two educational institutions. With an armada of 12 boats, this surveillance activity encompassed a nearly 100-mile continuous reach that included parts of the Calumet-Sag Channel, the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, the Des Plaines River, and the Illinois River from south

Chicago downstream to near Hennepin, Illinois. Round goby were surveyed in near shore habitats throughout the study area, primarily with smelt-baited wire-mesh minnow traps set overnight. Meanwhile, sampling effort for Asian carp was more widely scattered in the study area and relied mostly upon trammel, gill, and fyke nets set overnight. As part of the Service's Wild Fish Health Survey, tissue samples were also collected from round goby and Asian carp to screen for certain viral and baterial pathogens and parasites. Results of the 2003 survey indicated that the relative abundance of round goby had decreased substanitally in the lower reaches of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and the Des Plaines River during the past year. In comparison to the 2002 results, round goby catch per unit effort in minnow traps at the three sampling areas located furthest upstream was reduced by 44 percent to 83 percent (63 percent mean reduction). Causes for these signficant declines in abundance are unknown. Despite its decreased abundance, a round goby was captured near river mile 278 in the Des Plaines River. This represents a 7-mile expansion in the downstream range of the round goby during the past year and is the greatest expansion in the distribution of this invasive species that has been reported since 1999, when its range grew a distance of 13 miles downstream. Thus, round goby are now at least 55 miles inland from Lake Michigan, about 18 miles downstream of the electical fish barrier in Romeoville, and have covered about 17 percent of the distance on their way to the Mississippi River. Meanwhile, no Asian carp were collected in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, nor in the Des Plaines River, where a bighead carp was captured in 2002 near Channohan. Therefore, Asian carp still appear to be about 21 miles below the electrical fish barrier and 50 miles from Lake Michigan. However, bighead carp, silver carp and grass carp were caught in abundance in the Illinois River near La Salle and Peru, about 100 miles from Lake Michigan. Results of the of fish health survey are not yet available. These surveillance findings were reported in Chicago in early July at meetings of the Asian Carp Rapid Response Team and the Chicago Barrier Advisory Task Force to help guide their upcoming actions to limit the continued dispersal of these invasive fishes.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-Illinois River NWFR R3-Carterville FRO R3-Alpena FRO R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Rock Island FO R3-UMRNW&FR - Savanna District R3-Ashland FRO R3-Chicago FO R3-East Lansing FO R3-Northern Indiana ES Sub Ofc
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Cook County Forest Preserve U.S. Army (Joliet Arsenal) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Chicago District) Field Museum of Natural History Illinois Department of Natural Resources U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Chicago office) U.S. Geological Survey (Upper Midwest Environemntal Sciences Center) Garvey Marine, Inc. Egan Marine, Inc. Material Service Corporation Heritage Environmental Services, LLC Dillingham, Healy, Grow, & Dew University of Illinois

Notes: There were many other media contacts besides the two listed ... time does not permit me to enter all of the new media contacts as Internet access to ARS submission may be curtailed at COB today ... therefore, they briefly include 1)News Tribune (La Salle, IL) 2)Daily Herald (Morris, IL) 3)The Daily Times (Ottawa, IL) 4)Minneapolis Star Tribune 5)Central Wisconsin Sunday 6) WCCO radio 7) NBC Nightly News (Tom Brokaw)
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Ecological Services * Fisheries
States: Illinois

01/06/2004	H	$40,000	$50,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	10970	12/09/2003 02/04/2004

Laboratory Study Jump-Starts Winged Mapleleaf Recovery Efforts

Executive Summary: The winged mapleleaf mussel is a federally listed endangered species that has received considerable management attention in recent years. Once found throughout many Midwestern rivers, only two known populations exist, one of which is in a 10-mile stretch of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway that borders Minnesota and Wisconsin. This population is at risk from zebra mussel infestation, the effects of variable water releases at an upstream hydro power dam and an incomplete knowledge of its life history. Among the recognized factors that are limiting the recovery of this mussel is the lack of data regarding which species of fish can serve as hosts for its parasitic glochidia (mussel larvae). Since 1997, a team of biologists working at the University of Minnesota (UMN) has conducted research to identify potential host fish for this endangered mussel. Beginning in 2001, Department of the Interior colleagues working in western Wisconsin at the Fish and Wildlife Service's La Crosse Fishery Resources Office and Genoa National Fish Hatchery, the National Park Service's St. Croix National Scenic Riverway in St. Croix Falls, and the Geological Survey's Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center (UMESC) in La Crosse joined other team members in cooperative annual efforts to expand and accelerate the laboratory host fish identification program by making use of the well-equipped aquatic research facilities available at the UMESC. Prior to 2003, more than 60 species of fish comprising 14 taxonomic families had been investigated as potential host fish for winged mapleleaf glochidia. These early efforts achieved very limited success with only certain catfish species (Family Ictaluridae) because the long-term tests were often beset by problems (e.g., fish mortality) that yielded inconclusive results. These tests were also limited by the ability of divers to find sufficient numbers of gravid female winged mapleleaf in the fall to provide the necessary glochidia for testing. In the summer of 2003 however, an interagency dive team stockpiled adult winged mapleleaf in the St. Croix River into small aggregations that were placed near one another to increase chances

for successful reproduction. Divers returned early in the fall and collected several gravid females that later released large numbers of viable glochidia for testing. These glochidia were used to infest the gills of four Ictalurid species (blue catfish, channel catfish, flathead catfish, and slender madtom) in similar temperature-controlled tests that were initiated in early October at both the UMESC (19°C) and the UMN (22°C). Approximately 8 to 12 weeks after the fish were infested, a total of about 11,000 living juvenile winged mapleleaf mussels were recovered from the blue catfish and about 9,000 juveniles were recovered from the channel catfish. In mid-November, dive team members placed most of the juveniles produced by the blue catfish into cages that were submerged at sites near existing mussel beds in the St. Croix River. The survival rate of these mussels will be checked periodically. The remaining juveniles are being used experimentally in laboratory tests at the UMESC to determine the over-winter survival rate at two different temperatures. The overwhelming test results achieved in 2003 conclusively indicate that both blue catfish and channel catfish are suitable hosts for glochidia of the endangered winged mapleleaf mussel. These findings may soon be applied to artificially propagate winged mapleleaf juveniles for augmentation of existing populations and for reintroduction at Mississippi River basin sites within the species' historic range where populations have long been absent, and may thus help to recover this species from the brink of extinction.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-External Affairs R3-Twin Cities FO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: A total of about 11,000 living juvenile winged mapleleaf mussels were recovered from the blue catfish and about 9,000 juveniles were recovered from the channel catfish during laboratory fish host tests conducted in fall 2003. Divers placed most of the juveniles produced by the blue catfish into cages that were submerged at sites near existing mussel beds in the St. Croix River. These efforts have 'jump-started' winged mapleleaf recovery efforts in the Mississippi River basin. The overwhelming test results achieved in 2003 by colleagues from 3 DOI agencies and the Univeristy of Minnesota conclusively indicate that both blue catfish and channel catfish are suitable hosts for glochidia of the endangered winged mapleleaf mussel. These findings may soon be applied to artificially propagate winged mapleleaf juveniles for augmentation of existing populations and for reintroduction at Mississippi River basin sites within the species' historic range where populations have long been absent, and may thus help to recover this species from the brink of extinction.
Partners: University of Minnesota-Department of Fisheries,Wildlife,& Conservation Biology U.S. Geological Survey-Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-St. Paul District National Park Service-St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Notes:
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Ecological Services * Fisheries * External Affairs
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

01/06/2004	A	$0	$0	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Mark Steingraeber	11314	01/30/2004 02/04/2004

Students Shadow Mussel Recovery Efforts

Executive Summary: Two La Crosse-area high school science students interested in biology careers had the unique opportunity to “shadow” Mark Steingraeber, a fishery biologist for the Service's La Crosse Fishery Resources Office, and Michelle Bartsch, a general biologist for the U.S. Geological Survey, as these Interior Department colleagues led successful interagency cooperative efforts to identify host fish species for the endangered winged mapleleaf mussel at the Survey’s Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center in La Crosse, Wis.,during fall 2003. Jeff Brown, a sophomore at La Crosse Central High School, was on hand at the start of the fish host test and helped infest four different species of fish with microscopic glochidia (larvae) from the endangered mussel. Several weeks later, Galesville-Ettrick-Trempealeau High School junior Annie Greylak accompanied the biologists for a day and learned how to recover mussel glochidia that successfully transformed into juveniles, as well as to distinguish live from dead individuals using a dissection microscope and cross-polarized light. It is hoped that real-world, hands-on job exploration experiences like these with Interior Department biologists will encourage Jeff, Annie, and other young science students to continue their pursuit of careers as professional biologists.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: U.S. Geological Survey - Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center La Crosse Central High School Galesville-Ettrick-Trempealeau High School

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

08/17/1999	A	$5,000	$10,000	1	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Ann Runstrom	400	10/13/1999 11/18/1999

Lake Sturgeon Reintroduced to Menominee Reservation in Wisconsin

Executive Summary: The Service's LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office coordinated the reintroduction of lake sturgeon to Menominee Reservation waters of the Wolf River August 16-17, 1999. for most of this century, Lake sturgeon had been extirpated from this portion of their native range. In 1995, the Menominee Reservation Lake Sturgeon Management Plan was initiated and involves the transfer of Lake sturgeon captured from other area waters. This year, 22 lake sturgeon were captured by the Wisconsin DNR on the Wolf River, downstream from the Shawano dam. A Wisconsin DNR hatchery truck transported the fish to a holding area on the reservation where fishery biologists from the Service, U.S. Geogolical Survey, and veterinarian "sturgeon surgeons" implanted radio transmitters in the fish. After recovery from the surgery, the DNR hatchery truck transported the fish to the reintroduction site. Since introduction, 10 of the fish have moved upstream, while the remaining 12 fish linger in a half-mile stretch below the reintroduction site. This year's numbers of adult sturgeon transferred was double the numbers from prior years. Prior to implementation of the re introduction project, lake sturgeon had been absent from this portion of their range, and absent from the culture of the Native Menominee People since the early 1900's. Lake sturgeon are a species of cultural and spiritual significance to the Menominee people. The recent reintroduction into Reservation waters now allows the people to practice their traditional spring sturgeon ceremonies with sturgeon actually present.

Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO

Resource Outputs: An adult lake sturgeon population has been restored to a portion of its historic range. Prior to implementation of the reintroduction project, lake sturgeon had been absent from this portion of their range, and lacking from the culture of the Native Menominee People since the early 1900's. Lake sturgeon are a species of cultural and spiritual significance to the Menominee people. The recent reintroduction into Reservation waters now allows the people to practice their traditional spring sturgeon ceremonies with sturgeon present.

Partners: Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin, Wisconsin DNR, BIA, USGS-BRD Madison and La Crosse, Dr. Paul Reifenrath, DVM

Notes: Utilize this report for the regional roundup and other summaries of "hot" projects in R3.

Ecosystems: 24-GREAT LAKES

Programs: Fisheries

States: Wisconsin

09/28/1999	A	$10,000	$12,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Ann Runstrom	518	10/15/1999 12/22/1999

LaCrosse FRO Continues to Monitor Fish Species of Concern

Executive Summary: Staff at LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office continued to monitor interjurisdictional fish species of Special Concern through Fiscal Year 1999. Sampling efforts collected adult paddlefish and lake sturgeon in the Wisconsin, Chippewa, Minnesota, and Mississippi Rivers. Larval samples were collected on the Chippewa River. Seventy-eight paddlefish were newly tagged and 30 were recaptured from previous tagging efforts, some as far back as 1993. Of the 64 lake sturgeon capture events, six were recaptures. One lake sturgeon originally tagged in Pool 5A of the Mississippi River in 1995 was recaptured by hook and line two times in the same week in Pool 10. Paddlefish and lake sturgeon were the target species of the sampling efforts, but this year was the first time blue sucker were also collected. In April of 1999, twenty blue suckers with free flowing eggs and milt were captured in the Wisconsin River near Prairie du Sac Wisconsin. The blue sucker is listed as a Threatened Species by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and is a federal species of Special Concern. Collection of spawning blue sucker in the sampling area further documents the importance of this habitat for numerous fish populations. The additional tag data collected on paddlefish has been added to the FRO's extensive paddlefish tag database and will enable thorough and continued assessment of this species' population status. The lake sturgeon tag database is in its infancy and will require additional efforts to enable assessment of lake sturgeon population status. La Crosse FRO is gearing up to initiate a mark-recapture study on blue sucker for FY2000.

Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO

Resource Outputs: Efforts continued to monitor the status of paddlefish and lake sturgeon in the Upper Mississippi River basin. Enough tag data had been collected to conduct a robust assessment of paddlefish population status, and initial data has been collected to gather some insight into lake sturgeon status. Additional data documents a spawning population of blue sucker in the Wisconsin River.

Partners: Minnesota DNR, Wisconsin DNR, USGS-BRD La Crosse

Notes:

Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE * 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

Programs: Fisheries

States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

07/30/2001	A	$10,000	$14,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Ann Runstrom	4829	09/21/2001 10/12/2001

American Fisheries Society Publishes Service's Paddlefish Study

Executive Summary: The results of a paddlefish study conducted by the La Crosse FRO were recently published in Transactions of the American Fisheries Society Vol. 130, No. 4. The article entitled Population Statistics for Paddlefish in the Wisconsin River was written by Service biologist Ann Runstrom and co-authored by Bruce Vondracek and Cecil Jennings of the U.S. Geological Survey. The status survey conducted after the 1989 petition to list paddlefish as a threatened species revealed a near complete absence of population data in the Upper Mississippi River basin. This publication summarizes the most recent and robust data for paddlefish populations in the Wisconsin and Minnesota region. An abstract of the article can be viewed in the Journals Online section of the American Fisheries Society web page at http://afs.allenpress.com/afsonline/?request=index-html. Reprints can be requested by contacting Ann Runstrom at the La Crosse FRO.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: This study improved knowledge of population status which was previously not well understood. Potential causes of observed unnatural mortality wer identified. Study published in a scientific peer-reviewed journal. Study was filmed as part of a documentary on the Lower Wisconsin River which has been aired numerous times on Wisconsin Public Television.
Partners: U.S. Geological Survey, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Ecological Services * Fisheries * External Affairs
States: Wisconsin

03/29/2001	A	$105,000	$105,000	1	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Ann Runstrom	3164	04/09/2001 09/15/2003

Multi-Agency Lake Sturgeon Committee Marks Seven Years of Success

Executive Summary: The Multi-agency Menomonee Reservation Lake Sturgeon Committee met March 29, 2001, to review progress on its sturgeon management plan and determine work plans for the 2001 field season. The meeting marked the seventh successful year of work on a management plan to restore lake sturgeon to tribal waters. The committee represents partnerships and cooperative efforts between the Service's LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (MITW), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Genoa and Neosho National Fish Hatcheries (NFH) Green Bay Ecological Service's Field Office, U.S. Geological Survey-BRD and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Implementation of the Menominee Reservation Lake Sturgeon Management Plan began in 1994 when over 4,000 young-of-year lake sturgeon were stocked into inland waters on the Reservation. Since then, three populations of lake sturgeon, numbering more than 30,000 have been stocked in Reservation waters. Annual assessments indicate the restoration effort is a success. Over 70 lake sturgeon were captured during the 2000 fishery assessment survey of Legend Lake. All of these individuals showed signs of excellent condition, and some exceeded 36 inches in length. Another successful effort has been the reintroduction of adult lake sturgeon into Reservation waters of the Wolf River. To date, 87 adult and juvenile fish have been transferred above two dams blocking their migration to the Reservation. This has resulted in enough adults in Reservation waters that spawning may take place in this stretch of river for the first time in over fifty years. The members of the team are excited about this potential and are committed to continue implementation of the plan. The committee will highlight its efforts at the upcoming Fourth International Lake Sturgeon Symposium July 8-13, 2001 in Oshkosh, Wis. Information about the symposium can be viewed on the Web at http://www.sturgeonsymposium.org. After reviewing past achievements, plans were made for the 2001 field season. An ad-hoc committee was formed to begin a feasibility and development plan for a Tribal Lake Sturgeon Culture Facility. Lake sturgeon are a species of cultural and spiritual significance to the Menominee people. These restored populations represent the return of lake sturgeon to the Menominee culture after an absence of over 50 years.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-Green Bay FO R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH R3-Neosho NFH
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Geological Survey - BRD

Notes:
Ecosystems: 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Ecological Services * Fisheries * Federal Aid * External Affairs
States: Wisconsin

07/13/2001	A	$0	$0	0	R3-LaCrosse	Ann Runstrom	4835	09/21/2001

					FRO			10/12/2001

Large River FWS Biologists Attend International Sturgeon Symposium

Executive Summary: Recognizing the significance of a once in a career opportunity, biologists from La Crosse FRO, Carterville FRO, Columbia FRO, Genoa NFH, and Neosho NFH attended the Fourth International Sturgeon Symposium in Oshkosh, Wisconsin July 8-13, 2001. La Crosse FRO biologists were significant contributors to the symposia activities. Ann Runstrom presented a paper entitled "Lake Sturgeon on the Menominee Indian Reservation: an Effort toward Co-management and Population Restoration." Runstrom and La Crosse FRO Project Leader Pam Thiel were tour guides on two of the seven buses carrying symposia participants to the Menominee Reservation. The challenges we face in management of sturgeon resources are in part driven by international circumstances. The symposium created the environment for incredible information exchange and increased awareness of problems around the world. Previous symposia, held every 4 years, took place in Italy, Russia, and France. The next symposium, planned for 2005, will be held in China.
Offices Involved: R3-Columbia FRO R3-Carterville FRO R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH R3-Neosho NFH
Resource Outputs:
Partners:

Notes:
Programs: Fisheries

07/01/2001	A	$1,000	$2,000	1	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Ann Runstrom	4893	09/27/2001 10/12/2001

Purple Loosestrife Meets Beetle on Menominee Indian Reservation

Executive Summary: Wild rice is a dominant wetland plant species in the Wolf River watershed, however, in recent years, rice beds have become inundated with purple loosestrife. A purple loosestrife biological control program was initiated on the Menominee Indian Reservation in 2001. Thousands of Galerucella calmariensis, a species of beetle native to Europe but approved for release in North America as a biological control agent, were obtained from Red Lake, MN. The beetles were released into three loosestrife/wild rice stands in the Wolf River. Site monitoring indicates that loosestrife budding has been reduced by as much as 80%. Monitoring will continue in 2002 and additional beetles will be introduced. This project was funded by Joint Venture.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Budding was reduced by 80% on three purple loosestrife beds on the Menominee Indian Reservation. Sites were previously dominated by native beds of wild rice
Partners: Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

Notes:
Ecosystems: 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Fisheries * Migratory Birds & State Programs
States: Wisconsin

10/25/2001	A	$6,000	$6,000	1	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Ann Runstrom	5308	11/20/2001 12/17/2001

Lake Sturgeon Survey Completed on Reintroduction Lakes of the Menonimee Indian Reservation

Executive Summary: Annual fishery surveys were conducted on three inland lakes of the Menominee Indian Reservation Oct. 25 to assess the progress of lake sturgeon management efforts on the Reservation. Two of the lakes have been stocked with lake sturgeon and one is a seepage lake into which one of the lake sturgeon target lakes drains. Legend Lake is a 1,200 acre impoundment, and the primary target lake for the Menominee Reservation Lake Sturgeon Managment Plan. Fingerling lake sturgeon have been stocked there annually since 1994. Lake sturgeon were the dominant species in the assessment, with a catch rate over twice what it was in the previous years assessment. Upper Bass Lake has been stocked with lake sturgeon in 1995, 1999, and 2000. Lake sturgeon were the third most abundant species in the assessment catch. Kokanee salmon were the most abundant species in Upper Bass Lake. Introduced by an area resident in the 1930's, this is the only population of kokanee salmon east of the Continental Divide. Legend Lake drains into Moshawquit Lake and local residents had reported siting lake sturgeon in Moshawquit Lake. No lake sturgeon were captured in the survey of Moshawquit Lake.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH R3-Neosho NFH
Resource Outputs: Lake sturgeon population established in two inland lakes of the Menominee Indian Reservation. Assessments of these population allows managers to adapt management plans and make decisions to ensure correct actions. This helps ensure the lake sturgeon population remains healthy.
Partners: Menominee Department of Conservation, Menominee Environmental Services, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Notes: Hatchery product evaluation of lake sturgeon stocked on the Menominee Indian Reservation
Ecosystems: 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

05/08/2002	A	$5,300	$35,000	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Ann Runstrom	6306	06/03/2002 10/03/2003

Service Joins Forces with Forest Service, DNR, and Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe to Study Lake Sturgeon

Executive Summary: Upstream from the Chippewa Flowage in northern Wisconsin, a small hydropower dam on the East Fork of the Chippewa River blocks lake sturgeon from moving upstream into suitable spawning and nursery habitat. Lake sturgeon are known to inhabit the Chippewa Flowage downstream and reaches of the East Fork Chippewa River above the dam. However little is known about habitat use, population status, or the effects of this dam on lake sturgeon. Area biologists are concerned that the inability of lake sturgeon to move upstream into additional habitat may limit reproduction and recruitment for this species of special concern. The La Crosse Fisheries Resource Office with funding from Region 3 Ecological Services, the U.S. Forest Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Lac Court Oreilles Band of Ojibwe pooled resources and staff to implement a radio telemetry study and document habitat use and movement behavior of lake sturgeon in this reach of the Chippewa River system. On a cold rainy week in early May, La Crosse FRO, assisted by the Forest Service and Wisconsin DNR, captured 22 lake sturgeon and tagged 14 with external radio tags. Lac Courte Oreilles Band is currently tracking each fish bi-weekly and an automated data logger set up by La Crosse FRO is documenting the presence and absence of lake sturgeon at the tailwater of the dam. Wisconsin DNR will analyze the data and results will be used in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission re-licensing process of the dam.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Ecological Services
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Ojibwe

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Ecological Services * Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

06/10/2002	A	$2,000	$20,000	1	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Ann Runstrom	6386	06/17/2002 10/03/2003

La Crosse FRO and U.S. Geological Survey Assist Menominee Tribe in Lake Sturgeon Study

Executive Summary: The La Crosse Fishery Resources Office has been working with the Menominee Indian Tribe to establish a lake sturgeon population on the reservation since the early 1990's. Since 1994, Genoa National Fish Hatchery has annually stocked lake sturgeon into Legend Lake, an inland reservation lake. The tribe has initiated a study to monitor the movements and habitat use of the stocked fish. La Crosse FRO and a fishery biologist from the USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center assisted the Menominee Tribe by capturing and tagging lake sturgeon with SONIC tags. Running gillnets to capture the fish, La Crosse FRO biologists worked through the night to minimize mortalities to fish entangled in the net. All lake sturgeon were tagged with external spaghetti tags and scanned for coded wire tags that were implanted before the fish were stocked. SONIC tags were surgically implanted in lake sturgeon that exceeded 3 lbs. in weight. The tribe will continue the study by following the movements and documenting habitat use of each individual fish.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs:
Partners: U.S. Geological Survey - Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

Notes:
Ecosystems: 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

08/07/2003	A	$100	$100	2	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Ann Runstrom	9991	09/18/2003 09/24/2003

Live Paddlefish Displayed for Habitat Project Dedication

Executive Summary: Staff from the La Crosse Fishery Resource Office netted four paddlefish for viewing by the public at the Polander Lake Dedication held August 7, on the Winona District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and

Fish Refuge. The rare fish was viewed by over 100 visitors, including aides for Representatives Ron Kind and Gil Gutnecht. Reactions to the large prehistoric fish were varied. Some people were unaware that such a beautiful (or frightening) fish existed, while others were delighted to set their eyes on the unusual creature that they had only read or heard stories about. To add to the delight (or horror), another ancient species, the silver lamprey, was attached to the fish, showing the public a real life example of external parasitism. The dedication ceremony, a celebration of the completion of a habitat improvement project, was hosted by the Winona District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Prior to construction of this project, concerns were raised about the possible negative impact it might have on the area as paddlefish habitat. La Crosse FRO completed a pre- and post-construction study on paddlefish habitat use of the area and found that paddlefish have not been negatively impacted. In fact, it appears that a secondary goal of the project, enhancing paddlefish habitat, was accomplished. The four paddlefish were captured in an area that was dredged as part of the project. Use of this area by paddlefish was not documented in the pre-construction study, but frequent use was documented in the post-construction study.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ R3-UMRNW&FR-Winona Dist.
Resource Outputs:
Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: External Affairs * National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

10/22/2003	A	$4,000	$6,000	1	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Ann Runstrom	10824	11/20/2003 12/04/2003

Lake Sturgeon Reintroduction on Menominee Indian Reservation

Executive Summary: Fishery biologists from La Crosse FRO and Genoa NFH, along with the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Wisconsin DNR and the U.S. Geological Survey, conducted efforts to restore a lake sturgeon population on the Menominee Indian Reservation in northeast Wisconsin on October 21 and 22. Lake sturgeon had been extirpated from this part of their range after construction of two dams in the early 1900s. Since 1995, the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office has taken the lead to restore this population of lake sturgeon and this year, as in years past, adult lake sturgeon were captured downstream from the dams, tagged with radio transmitters and reintroduced to reservation waters of the Wolf River upstream from the dams. The fish were anesthetized to enable biologists to surgically implant transmitters that have a battery life of fourrs. The transmitters allow tribal biologist to track fish movements, habitat use, and determine whether or not individuals migrate back downstream through the dams. Although over half the 151 fish reintroduced since the first reintroduction effort in 1995 have migrated downstream, biologists are hopeful that enough fish may be present to support some natural reproduction as abundant high quality spawning habitat exists in the reintroduction area. Adequate natural reproduction will hopefully someday lead to the overall goal of the project, a self-sustaining lake sturgeon population. Status of a local lake sturgeon population improved from extirpated to what might be considered endangered. Improved access to high quality spawning habitat by a limited number of adult lake sturgeon.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Conservation Department of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Ecological Services Dept. of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, U.S. Geological Survey, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Notes:
Ecosystems: 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin

02/04/2003	A	$3,000	$3,000	1	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Dave Wedan	8095	02/21/2003 02/24/2003

Annual MOCC Instructor Meeting

Executive Summary: The Annual Region 3 Motorboat Operator Certification Course (MOCC) instructor team meeting was held in February at the new Green Bay Fishery Resources Office. The event was hosted by Green Bay FRO Project Leader Mark Holey and the Great Lakes Lead Instructor Stewart Cogswell. The scheduling and training session was chaired by Region 3 MOCC Coordinator Dave Wedan, and co-chaired by the Regional Safety Manager Patrick McDermott. A total of fourteen MOCC instructors overcame poor winter driving conditions to attend. Adam Kowalski from Alpena FRO was welcomed to the group as a recently certified instructor. Topping the agenda was the development of the Fiscal Year 2003 training schedule, which includes the required basic three-day MOCC course, the one-day Airboat Module and the four-day

Open-Water (Great Lakes/Big Water) Module. This year only, there will be a two-day version of the open-water course for those interested who have already taken the basic introductory course and would like to receive the open-water training only. MOCC course scheduling, descriptions, and registration information will be sent to all regional project leaders in early March. Other agenda topics included an emphasis on boating safety, accident reporting procedures and the Safety Management Information System, budget, the five-year MOCC refresher, accomplishment reporting system (ARS) and recommended and required equipment. Also covered was instructor and course development and standardization. Excellent instructor and student manuals, materials and CD's have been developed and supplied by Chris Horsch of NCTC along with the development of a service-wide MOCC training data base. MOCC and Airboat Instructor Bill Thrune gave a presentation on the "Go-Devil," a possible alternative to airboats in certain shallow water situations. Airboat Lead Instructor, Robert Drieslein and Open-Water leader Cogswell led training and scheduling sessions with their instructor crews.
Offices Involved: R3-Trempealeau NWR R3-Alpena FRO R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Rock Island FO R3-Green Bay FRO R3-Marquette Bio Station R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse R3-UMRNW&FR-Winona Dist. R3-Twin Cities FO R3-Ludington Bio. Station R3-Genoa NFH R3-Mark Twain NWR, HqtrsOffice R3-Safety Office
Resource Outputs: FY2003 Region 3 Boat Safety (MOCC) Training Schedule Developed
Partners:

Notes:
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Ecological Services * Fisheries

02/10/2004	A	$0	$0	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Dave Wedan	11567	03/03/2004 03/04/2004

FY 2004 (MOCC) Motorboat Operator Certification Course Schedule

Executive Summary: On February 10, 2004, the Region 3 Watercraft Safety Course Schedule (FY 2004) was developed and sent to the Regional Management Team and all the Regional Project Leaders. Attachments included course descriptions, scheduling, as well as registration information and procedures. This year's offerings include the basic MOCC (mandatory for all regional motorized watercraft operators), airboat, open-water (Great Lakes), and five-year refresher course information. Project leaders and supervisors were reminded that they are responsible for insuring watercraft operators have received adequate training to safely operate their watercraft within the water and environmental conditions they are assigned. (241 FW1, Watercraft Safety) For more information, e-mail or call Dave Wedan, the Regional Watercraft Safety Coordinator at dave_wedan@fws.gov, or 608-783-8435.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs:
Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

02/14/2004	A	$500	$500	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Dave Wedan	11570	03/03/2004 03/09/2004

Lake Winnebago Sturgeon Spearing Long-Term Health Sampling

Executive Summary: In conjunction with the opening of Wisconsin's 2004 lake sturgeon spearing season on Lake Winnebago, Dave Wedan from La Crosse Fishery Resource Office (FRO), Corey Puzach from La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC), and UW-La Crosse Graduate Student/Fish Health Volunteer Scott Hansen, collected tissue, kidney, spleen and blood samples from 60 lake sturgeon. The sturgeon ranged in weight from 11.5 – 117 pounds. The La Crosse FHC is continuing long-term sturgeon diagnostic monitoring, and has done so for the past five years. The completed four years of tests have shown no sign of any disease or virus present in the Lake Winnebago-Wolf River System lake sturgeon, and their overall health is very good. The La Crosse USFWS crew worked closely with a State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources fisheries crew at one of a number of state sturgeon spearing registration stations located around the big lake. The spearing harvest is closely monitored and regulated by DNR biologists. When the "safe-harvest" level of adult female and male sturgeon is reached, notice is given that the annual spearing season will end after the next day of spearing. Because of ideal water clarity and ice conditions, the "safe-harvest" was reached the first day of spearing, limiting the 2004 season to only two days. The highlight of the first day's lake sturgeon harvest this year was the registration of many large fish (60-100 pounds), including a fish weighing in at 189 pounds and 80 inches in length. According to Ron Bruch, DNR fishery supervisor, this sturgeon was aged at 53 years, and was the largest sturgeon harvested from Lake Winnebago in 73 years of record-keeping. Bruch also said the spearing harvest this year totaled 1,854. The Lake Winnebago-Wolf River system probably holds the largest remaining lake sturgeon population in the world. With continued monitoring, research, and management cooperation by the Wisconsin DNR, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), tribes, and partners such as the "Sturgeon For Tomorrow" group, the future for this ancient fish, here since the dinosaurs, looks positive indeed.

Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Sturgeon For Tomorrow Organization State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Native American Tribes of Wisconsin

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries

07/29/2003	A	$1,000	$1,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	9653	08/15/2003 11/04/2003

La Crosse FRO Assists Prairie Island Reservation with Aquatic Vegetation Sampling

Executive Summary: La Crosse Fishery Resource Office staff and volunteers are currently working with Environmental Project Coordinator Craig Wills from the Prairie Island Indian Reservation, near Red Wing, Minn., on an aquatic vegetation sampling project in Sturgeon Lake and North Lake on the Mississippi River. Prairie Island Dakota Community is interested in the establishment rice beds in the study area. Very little data preexists on aquatic vegetation diversity and density, as well as river bottom substrate, and water depth. La Crosse Fishery Resource Office sampled 35 sites in two bays on North Lake. Random sample points located with GPS coordinates were generated previous to the sample dates. Vegetation in the southern bay included submergent species: sago pondweed, curly pondweed, and coontail. Filamentous algae were also present in the samples. The most abundant plant species was sago pondweed. Water depth averaged about 0.5 meters. Plant density was not very high, but detritus was common. The substrate was mostly a combination of silt and clay. Very little vegetation was found in the northern bay due to higher water levels and current. Average water depth was about 1.5 meters. Substrate was mostly silt with clay or silt with sand. Only one sample contained vegetation, but vegetation was observed at another sample area. Only one emergent vegetation species, white water lily, was sampled In Sturgeon Lake 31 sites were sampled and vegetation included submergent, emergent and floating plant species. Species in the sample sites included: Eurasian watermilfoil, white water lily, small duckweed, sago pondweed, longleaf pondweed and coontail. Filamentous algae were abundant in the lake. Very little diversity of plant species was observed. The greatest amount of cover observed was Eurasian watermilfoil. Plant density and diversity was not very high in most of the lake, but was higher in the northern part of the lake near the islands. The lake substrate ranged from silt with clay to sand. A mussel bed was found near Site 82 with several different species present. A full report will be completed during the winter months.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Sixty-six sites were sampled for aquatic vegetation diversity and density, substrate type, and water depth on approximately 800-850 acres of water. This study will help Prairie Island Dakota Community determine the possibility of the establishment of wild rice beds on the Prairie Island Reservation on Sturgeon Lake and North Lake on the Mississippi River.
Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries

07/31/2003	A	$500	$500	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	9654	08/15/2003 08/18/2003

Celebrating a Centennial - La Crosse FRO Style

Executive Summary: Flags and hands were waving and folk music strumming as the massive and very impressive American Queen docked on the banks of the “Mighty Mississippi” in historic La Crosse, Wis. People from all over the Coulee region came to see the floating vessel and to partake in the festive activities during the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial celebration. Many federal and state agencies as well as local organizations set up exhibits to view, activities to have fun with, and had answers to many questions the public had. The newly created Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services had an exhibit and helped pass out beverages with the Refuge’s Friends Group. La Crosse FRO set up several exhibits including: an informational table, an activity called “Factor of Fear,” a fishing pond, a fish imprint table and a casting contest. “Factor of Fear” was a bait-touching contest in which the contestants had to hold on to the plastic worm, nightcrawler, or leech for almost half a minute. Children “fished” for prizes at the fishing pond and casted in the casting contest into hula hoops for coloring books. People made their own handkerchiefs with fish on them at the fish imprint table. Rubber molds in the shape of bluegills were painted bright colors, and then different colored handkerchiefs were placed on top and rolled with rollers. Children’s faces lit up when they saw a mirror image of the fish they just painted. Even though throughout the day there were thunderstorms and light showers, people’s spirits didn’t dampen with all the fun to be had at the Centennial Celebration.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-Trempealeau NWR R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse

R3-UMRNW&FR-Winona Dist. R3-Onalaska LE R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: The National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Celebration was a great opportunity for the La Crosse FRO, La Crosse Fish Health Center, Genoa National Fish Hatchery, and the La Crosse District Refuge Staff to work together as well as many other federal and state agencies. This was a great chance for outreach and a fun day for families. Children not only learned about history, but also about conservation.
Partners: Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

08/15/2003	A	$200	$200	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	9961	09/16/2003 09/24/2003

More to honk about than just ducks

Executive Summary: The 5th Annual Ducks Unlimited Great Outdoors Festival was held August 15-17 at the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Airfield in Oshkosh, Wis. La Crosse FRO employee Heidi Keuler and volunteer Matt Keuler worked in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife tent at the La Crosse FRO and Upper Mississippi Fish and National Wildlife Refuge System displays. Exotic species such as the round goby, zebra mussel and Asian carp, and native species such as mussels, paddlefish and lake sturgeon, were some of the subjects featured by the La Crosse FRO display. The La Crosse District of the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge displayed duck identification (Ducks on a Stick), artwork from the Junior Duck Stamp Contest, the Centennial Quilt and lots of information about Upper Miss. Other Fish and Wildlife exhibitors included Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, Ecological Services Office, Wisconsin Private Lands Office and several others. This was a great event to inform people and answer questions about exotic species (Asian carp, round goby and zebra mussels) and native species (lake sturgeon, paddlefish and Higgins' eye mussels). La Crosse FRO received a great opportunity to 'honk' their horn about their current projects and accomplishments and how they help conserve important natural resources for future generations.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse
Resource Outputs:
Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Ecological Services * Fisheries

09/06/2003	A	$200	$200	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	9963	09/16/2003 09/23/2003

Chaseburg Rod and Gun Youth Learn about Fishery Biology Technology

Executive Summary: Chaseburg Rod and Gun hosted its annual Youth Day on Saturday, September 6. Employees from the La Crosse Fishery Resource Office and Genoa National Fish Hatchery gave presentations to 80 people about technology of fishery biology, identification and biology of fish species, collection of fish for research and hatchery operation. Children and their chaperones viewed electroshocking, radio tele metry and fish tagging equipment, as well as several live mussel and fish species. A shocking boat, was displayed with a generator, shocking box, and booms with droppers. Pit tags, monel tags, spaghetti tags and coded wire tags were some of the tagging devices shown to the audience. Genoa NFH displayed an aquarium that contained lake sturgeon, walleye, largemouth bass and several other species of fish. Other presentations and activities at the event included trap shooting, .22 target shooting, a bow shoot, tomahawk and knife throwing, arrow painting, arrowhead and spearhead crafting, reloading shot gun shells, fishing tackle, dog training and several others. This was a great opportunity for the La Crosse FRO to reach out to local sport clubs and inform them about current projects and issues. There were several groups of people that requested a presentation to their organization in the future.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs:
Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries

03/03/2004	U	$0	$0	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	11562	03/03/2004 03/05/2004

Conservation Career Diversity Intern coming to La Crosse FRO

Executive Summary: The Conservation Career Diversity Intern program is a cooperative agreement between the Service and the Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) that provides internship opportunities for students and recent graduates, particularly those from culturally diverse backgrounds, to experience environmental conservation. The mission of the ECO is to protect and enhance the environment through the development of diverse leaders, the promotion of careers and the inspiration of individual actions. ECO has been a national leader since its inception in 1972 in diversifying the environmental field and creating a long-term impact and permanent change on the nation's environmental community. This is the inaugural year of the Service/ECO partnership to enhance the diversity in our workforce. Some of the other agencies working with ECO include: US Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Land Management, US Geological Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Yale University, and numerous NGOs. More than 300 talented undergraduate students from dozens of institutions spanning the country applied for the 30 positions available this summer. Because of this extremely competitive situation, we received the names of very high caliber students to interview. The internships are for twelve weeks and the associates receive a stipend from ECO of $300 per week. The interviews are complete and we are waiting for acceptance of the selected candidate. Other Region 3 Fishery Offices involved in this program are the La Crosse Fish Health Center, Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH) and Neosho NFH. We are all anxious to welcome the interns to our offices and share our conservation experiences with these future leaders.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: The Conservation Career Diversity Intern program is a cooperative agreement between the Service and the Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) that provides internship opportunities for students and recent graduates, particularly those from culturally diverse backgrounds, to experience environmental conservation. The mission of the ECO is to protect and enhance the environment through the development of diverse leaders, the promotion of careers, and the inspiration of individual actions.
Partners:

Notes: Report written by Pam Thiel, filed by Heidi Keuler
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

03/01/2003	A	$80	$80	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	8517	04/14/2003 01/30/2004

La Crosse Fishery Office Assists Upper Mississippi River Refuge with Ice Fishing Day

Executive Summary: On March 1, 2003, members from the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge - Winona District hosted an Ice Fishing Day for about 30 first-time anglers on Lake Winona, Winona Minn. Upper Mississippi Refuge staff – Winona and La Crosse Districts, and La Crosse Fisheries Resource Office staff teamed up to teach the young anxious anglers about ice fishing. Winona District volunteers and members of the newly formed Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services helped out as fishing guides for the children who were between the ages of 2 and 10. Heidi Keuler from the La Crosse FRO presented information on ice safety and fish identification to the youthful group. Some of the topics covered included: clothing to wear, how to tell the difference between a bluegill and a crappie and what to do if someone falls through the ice. Rob Hirschboeck spoke about some of the laws of ice fishing, and Brian Stemper taught the mechanics of ice fishing. The patient crew of anglers was rewarded with excellent weather conditions and about 100 fish total!
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse R3-UMRNW&FR-Winona Dist.
Resource Outputs: First-time anglers learned how to successfully ice fish and had lots of fun. Cooperating Fish and Wildlife Offices enjoyed working together and built stronger relationships. This was a great outreach activity to meet and teach the public about the USFWS.
Partners: Upper Mississippi Refuge staff – Winona and La Crosse Districts, La Crosse Fisheries Resource Office (FRO) staff, and Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

04/02/2003	A	$0	$0	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	8518	04/14/2003 01/30/2004

La Crosse USFWS Resource Center and Genoa NFH Receive Visit from Westby School District Students

Executive Summary: Thirty students from Westby Area School District visited the USFWS Resource Center in Onalaska, Wis., and the Genoa National Fish Hatchery on April 2. Junior and senior Westby High School students from Steve Huntzicker's natural resource class and four Chaseburg Middle School students from Paul Taylor's class heard presentations

from Scott Yess and Heidi Keuler (La Crosse Fishery Resource Office), Terry Ott (La Crosse Fish Health Center), Jim Nissen (Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge – La Crosse District), Tom Dahl (National Wetlands Inventory Office) and Randy Lilla (La Crosse District Refuge Law Enforcement Officer). The students learned about different careers from each office at the resource center and observed equipment used by biologists and law enforcement officers. Students were given information on how education influenced the careers of the employees. The students then headed to Genoa NFH where they learned about hatchery operation and were taken on a tour with Nick Starzl, a fishery biologist. Coaster brook trout, rainbow trout, native mussels, lake sturgeon, and the incubation of eggs were just a few things the students observed. Doug Aloisi, Roger Gordon, Dan Kumlin and several volunteers from Genoa NFH showed the students the process of artificially spawning of northern pike.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: 30 Westby School District Students learned what kind of education it takes to be employed by the USFWS. The natural resources students gained a better understanding about the USFWS management of natural resources. This was an excellent outreach activity for the La Crosse USFWS Resource Center and Genoa NFH. This was a great opportunity for five different offices to reach out to the public.
Partners: La Crosse Fishery Resource Office, La Crosse Fish Health Center, Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge - La Crosse District, National Wetlands Inventory Office, Genoa National Fish Hatchery, Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries * Office of Law Enforcement
States: Wisconsin

02/12/2004	A	$1,000	$1,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	11498	02/24/2004 02/25/2004

Flying Fish Brought Crowds in Flocks at La Crosse Sports Show

Executive Summary: Flying fish brought diverse crowds in flocks to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's booth at the 27th Annual La Crosse Boat, Sports and Travel Show Feb. 12-15. More than 3,000 visitors viewed the USFWS's booth of displays from the Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH), La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC), La Crosse Fishery Resource Office (FRO), La Crosse District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, and the newly formed Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services (FUMFS). Fish mounts hung from the ceiling appearing to "fly" above the heads of the onlookers and a computer monitor was set up showing the "flying" (jumping) exotic silver carp. Children of all ages were drawn to live juvenile lake sturgeon, walleye, bluegill, perch and several other species displayed in an aquarium, as well as animal pelts and mounted ducks on a stick. A brand new freshwater mussel display was exhibited that included specimens of the endangered Higgins' eye and winged mapleleaf mussels. The refuge's Friends Group sponsored a photo contest in which visitors could vote for entries from photographers from the La Crosse area. Issues discussed by La Crosse area citizens included: the Mississippi River draw-down, aquatic nuisance species control such as information about Asian carp, freshwater mussel propagation, bird and mammal viewing opportunities, waterfowl issues, native fish restoration and several other topics. Several members of FUMFS volunteered their time to speak with the public about issues of concern and about being a member of the Friends Group. A great big thanks goes to the La Crosse National Weather Service for donating half of their exhibition area to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Offices. With this superb outreach opportunity, thousands of people learned about the USFWS's partnership programs, projects, and all the benefits the public receives from federal natural resource management.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs:
Partners: Friends of the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge, Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

04/17/2003	A	$5,000	$100	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	8783	05/16/2003 02/23/2004

Region 3 Director Robyn Thorson Visits Resource Center Staff in Onalaska

Executive Summary: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Resource Center Staff in Onalaska, Wis., had the great privilege to welcome new Region 3 Director Robyn Thorson to their office on April 17. Director Thorson had a busy day starting with a 'Meet and Greet' at the Resource Center, a tour of the facilities, a visit with local Service partners and then finally a tour of Genoa National Fish Hatchery. Approximately 60 employees from Genoa National Fish Hatchery, La Crosse Fishery Resource Office, La Crosse Fish Health Center, National Wetlands Inventory Office, Ecological Services, Onalaska Law

Enforcement Field Office, Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge and Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge -La Crosse and Winona Districts were present to listen to Director Thorson's vision for the future. She challenged Region 3 employees to stand up and utilize a stronger voice nationally. The new director explained her management style and also asked what kinds of things needed attention, and listened carefully to the ideas of the employees. The Director astonished the attentive listeners by reme mbering each employees name after meeting them only briefly once before the meeting. Employees really received a sense of Regional Director Thorson's positive personality through her quick wit and charisma, and truly feel that she is "one of us." The employees thanked the new Regional Director for taking the time to meet them and for learning what they do for the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and look forward to her leadership.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse Fish Health Center R3-Trempealeau NWR R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse R3-UMRNW&FR-Winona Dist. R3-Onalaska LE R3-Regional Director's Office R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs: Director Robyn Thorson initiated a personal working relationship with the staff and developed an understanding of each programs' contribution to the mission of the USFWS. The Director also gained great insight on how local Service partners contribute to our mission.
Partners: Friends of the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
States: Minnesota * Wisconsin

05/13/2003	A	$500	$500	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	8833	05/27/2003 02/23/2004

La Crosse FRO Gave a Shocking Presentation at Mississippi River Festival

Executive Summary: This year's Upper Mississippi River Festival took place May 13-14 on the banks of the "Mighty Mississippi," in the historic river town of Guttenberg, Iowa. Almost 800 students, teachers and chaperones toured three stations, Celebrating a Century of Conservation, the History and Culture of the Upper Mississippi River (Valley) and Aquatic Resources. Topics covered were: amphibians and reptiles, Mississippi River management, stream table demonstrations, analysis of artifacts, tours of Guttenberg's lock and dam, mussels, fish sampling techniques, fish identification and habitat needs, aquatic insect identification, exotic species, history of the National Wildlife Refuge System and "Teddy Roosevelt's" vision of wildlife conservation (Teddy even made a guest appearance). It was hoped that students, teachers and chaperones would learn how valuable a resource the Mississippi River is and how rich it is in culture and tradition. Dave Wedan and Heidi Keuler, along with two volunteers from La Crosse Fishery Resource Office, participated in the Aquatic Resources portion of the event with fish sampling techniques. Students were shown how fishery biologis ts collect fish through electrofishing, netting and trapping. Some groups of students viewed a live "shocking" demonstration and learned how effective of a sampling technique electrofishing is. Tagging and measuring equipment, used for lake sturgeon, paddlefish, walleye and many other species, was also shown to students and chaperones. Groups of students did not visit each station during their rotation because it was hoped that students would share their different experiences on the ride home or back at school. Questions were taken from each presenter at the festival and were gathered into a "Who Wants to be a River Rat?" game modeled after the popular "Millionaire" game on television. This was excellent tool to help students learn facts they did not pick up at the festival and to help students comprehend what they learned. There are plans to hold two Upper Mississippi River Festivals next year in order for more students in Wisconsin and Minnesota to participate.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Almost 800 students, teachers and chaperones learned how valuable a resource the Mississippi River is and how rich it is in culture and tradition. Students also learned how fishery biologists sample fish through different netting, trapping and electrofishing techniques.
Partners: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture,

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries

06/26/2003	A	$400	$400	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	9291	07/17/2003 07/22/2003

National Invasive Species Advisory Committee Goes Fishing

Executive Summary: Members of the National Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) went angling for round gobies in Calumet Harbor of Lake Michigan in Chicago as part of their post-meeting field trip. Pam Thiel, project leader at the LaCrosse Fishery Resource Office, discussed the impact invasive species on the Great Lakes and Mississippi River ecosystems, and then demonstrated goby angling techniques. The 25 participants varied from expert anglers to first-time

fishermen. Everyone had an opportunity to catch gobies and then "pickle" their trophies as a remembrance of the event. ISAC was established by Executive Order 13112 in 1999 to advise the National Invasive Species Council on invasive species issues and act as representatives of the many stakeholders. The Council is an inter-Departmental group that helps to coordinate and ensure complimentary, cost-efficient, and effective Federal activities regarding invasive species. The Council co-chairs are the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce. In addition to angling, their field trip also included a stop at the electrical invasive species barrier site on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, and visits to areas where control and research are being conducted on Asian longhorn beetle, buckthorn, and purple loosestrife. However, Dr. Chris Dionigi, Assistant Director of the Council and organizer of the field trip, said, "Angling for gobies was by far the most fun and memorable activity." ISAC members were amazed at the high density of gobies and their aggressiveness. This angling activity and their take-home piscine memento will help them remember the impact of invasive species on our Region as they provide national policy guidance to the Council.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Through this fun and informative outreach activity, the National Invasive Species Advisory Committee gained a better appreciation and understanding of the invasive species issues facing the Great Lakes/Big Rivers Region.
Partners: National Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) National Invasive Species Council

Notes: Report written by Pam Thiel, filed by Heidi Keuler, Photo by Chris Young (Outdoors Editor for The State Journal-Register)
Ecosystems: 24-GREAT LAKES
Programs: Fisheries * External Affairs

06/07/2003	A	$100	$100	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	9296	07/17/2003 07/22/2003

La Crosse FRO Assists Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge with Fishing Day

Executive Summary: As a massive carp was lifted out of the fish tank on the Kann electrofishing boat, there was nothing but sounds of ooh's and aah's from children standing on the banks of one of the bass ponds at Minnesota Valley NWR during the 2003 annual Fishing Day on June 7. Inner-city youth were bussed out to the refuge to learn about angling, how to handle fish, fish identification, filleting fish and how fishery biologists collect fish by electrofishing. An employee of the La Crosse FRO and a volunteer gave an electrofishing demonstration to more than 120 youth and their chaperones. People were amazed how fast fish could be collected by "shocking." Children were tested on their fish identification skills they learned in a prior station by viewing the fish after they had been shocked in the pond. Gizzard shad, common carp, bluegill, green sunfish, orange spotted sunfish, largemouth bass, bowfin, and yellow perch were some of the species netted in the pond. After a lunch of hotdogs and walleye fillets, children tested their skills by angling in the bass ponds. Although the children wanted to use the shocker, they were quite successful with just their rods and reels!
Offices Involved: R3-Minnesota Valley NWR R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: Inner-city youth learned valuable lessons in the biological, cultural and sport aspects of angling. Children learned fish handling, identification, filleting and collecting techniques. Many children caught and handled fish for their first time.
Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries

02/21/2004	A	$100	$100	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	11506	02/25/2004 03/01/2004

La Crosse FRO Helps Winona District UMFWR with Annual Ice Fishing Clinic

Executive Summary: La Crosse FRO staff and volunteers worked at the annual Ice Fishing Clinic Feb. 21 sponsored by the Winona District of the Upper Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Refuge. The event took place on Lake Winona in front of the Lake Park Lodge in Winona, Minnesota from 10 a.m. 2 p.m. Approximately 45 kids between the ages of 6-13, participated in ice fishing, a fish identification and minor regulations activity, and a safety icepick building activity. Children first learned how to safely ice fish and the benefits of certain types of warm clothing. Children then were split into groups with a group leader and went ice fishing for about an hour before heading in for a lunch. While inside the Lake Park Lodge, children were able to "ice fish" through a table for about 15 different species of cutout fish images. With these "fish" children were able to identify them, measure them and decided if the fish could be legally kept. Gummy worms were given as prizes for participating in the activity. Children were also able to construct safety ice picks with the help of an adult. These ice picks were made with two wood handles, a nail protruding out of each handle, and a cord connecting the picks. These picks could be used to pull someone out of a hole if they accidentally fell through the ice. After lunch the kids headed back outside to fish

for another hour or two. Children had the opportunity to try fishing in and outside of several different kinds of ice fishing shanties. Although the fishing was slow, the day was a success with several of the children catching some nice bluegills and black crappies. At the end of the day prizes such as ice fishing poles and fishing tackle were raffled off. Every participant went home happy because everyone received something to take home such as a photo of themselves, sunglasses, key chains, etc. This public outreach event was a great way for the USFWS to give something back to the community in which they work in and for the public to learn about natural resources benefits gained from the service.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-Winona Dist.
Resource Outputs:
Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries

02/17/2004	A	$300	$300	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	11507	02/25/2004 03/02/2004

La Crosse FRO Helps Build Cages with Genoa NFH

Executive Summary: La Crosse Fishery Resource Office and five of their volunteers worked about 16 hours on Higgins' eye mussel cages at Genoa National Fish Hatchery Feb. 17-18. This enormous partnership of about 20-25 people from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, La Crosse FRO, Genoa NFH and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers created 80 mussel cages in only two days with lots of preparation welding and sawing by Jeff Lockington and Dan Kumlin of Genoa NFH. Mussel cages consist of metal caging pop riveted to welded steel frames. The mussel cages will be used this year to hold largemouth bass until juvenile Higgins' eye mussels drop off of their gills to increase future Higgins' eye pearlymussel populations.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs:
Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries

02/02/2004	A	$1,000	$1,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	11508	02/25/2004 03/01/2004

Vegetation Report Completed for Prairie Island Reservation

Executive Summary: Heidi Keuler and Scott Yess from the La Crosse Fishery Resource Office (FRO) completed a report for the Prairie Island Dakota Community on the aquatic vegetation study that occurred during the summer of 2003. Sixty-six sites were sampled for aquatic vegetation diversity and density, substrate type and water depth on approximately 800-850 acres of water. This study will help Prairie Island Dakota Community determine the possibility of the establishment of wild rice beds in Sturgeon and North lakes on the Prairie Island Reservation.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: This aquatic vegetation study will help to determine the possibility of establishing wild rice beds to improve the fishery and wildlife habitat, and to re-establish a cultural tradition of gathering rice, on the Prairie Island Reservation in Minnesota.
Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries

10/02/2003	A	$100	$100	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	10733	11/13/2003 12/03/2003

1,500 High School Students Learn About Careers at the La Crosse Center's Career Expo

Executive Summary: Approximately 1,500 high school sophomores and juniors from 22 school districts in the La Crosse area attended the La Crosse Center's Career Expo Oct. 2. The Career Expo was a joint effort of the Greater La Crosse Area Chamber of Commerce, Western Wisconsin Technical College, the Wisconsin Education Fair and 22 area high schools. There were 50 different booths which focused on six career clusters including: Agri-Business Science Technology & Natural Resources; Arts, Humanities & Communication; Business Management, Administration & Marketing; Health Care; Human

Services & Education; and Industrial Science & Manufacturing Technologies. About 150 students visited the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service career booth where they could learn about being a wildlife biologist, special agent, refuge manager, a fishery biologist and many other careers in the USFWS. Heidi Keuler from the La Crosse FRO spoke to an ethnically diverse array of students on the career of a fishery biologist. Students were able to ask questions during an informal discussion and gain insight from photos taken of fishery biologists in the field. Many students were very interested in the STEP, SCEP, and volunteer programs. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife booth at the Career Expo was a great opportunity for the students to not only learn about the careers in the USFWS, but also how we help manage natural resources.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs:
Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Ecological Services * Fisheries * Office of Law Enforcement

10/23/2003	A	$500	$500	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	10801	11/18/2003 01/16/2004

LaCrosse Crew Conducts Fall "Young of the Year" Walleye Survey

Executive Summary: An electrofishing crew from the La Crosse Fishery Resource Office (FRO) successfully aided the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) in completing an eight week fall “young-of-the-year” walleye survey from Sept. 2 – Oct. 23. The FRO crew consisting of Dave Wedan, Heidi Keuler, and Steve Skemp helped GLIFWC and Ashland FRO crews survey 27 northern Wisconsin ceded territory lakes, along with Mille Lacs and Green Lakes in Minnesota.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Ashland FRO
Resource Outputs:
Partners: GLIFWC

Notes: Report written by Dave Wedan, filed by Heidi Keuler
Ecosystems: 22-MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries

10/31/2003	A	$2,500	$2,500	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	10807	11/19/2003 12/30/2003

La Crosse Fishery Resource Office and Rydell National Wildlife Refuge 2003 Walleye Harvest

Executive Summary: Seventy acre Clifford Lake on Rydell National Wildlife Refuge yielded a record 83,750 7-10” juvenile walleyes in October to La Crosse Fishery Resource Office, Genoa National Fish Hatchery and Rydell NWR crews. Genoa NFH stocks Clifford with walleye fry each spring. After thriving and growing naturally all summer, Dave Wedan from the La Crosse FRO sets 'trap' or “fyke” nets around the shoreline daily, pulling the net and transferring the lively walleyes to Genoa NFH’s distribution trucks. Genoa crews then distribute and “stock” the walleyes into federally and tribally managed waters. Genoa’s crew consisted of Roger Gordon and Jeff Lockington, along with Rydell NWR’s Bob Hiltner, JuanCarlos Giese, and Dave Bennett. This year, because of the high numbers of walleyes netted, White Earth Tribal Biologists Randy Zortman and Technician Will Bement also provided assistance with the netting, distribution, and stocking efforts.
Offices Involved: R3-Rydell NWR R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-Genoa NFH
Resource Outputs:
Partners:

Notes: Written by Dave Wedan, filed by Heidi Keuler
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: National Wildlife Refuge System * Fisheries

10/01/2003	A	$2,000	$2,000	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	10827	11/21/2003 12/03/2003

No Paddlefish Found Near Pool 8 Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project

Executive Summary: Starting the week of May 5th, 2003, the La Crosse FRO launched another new project to determine paddlefish usage of Navigation Pool 8 Island Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP) area across from the Stoddard boat landing. From studies carried out by U.S. Geological Survey employees Steve Zigler and Brent Knights, it has been determined that paddlefish prefer sites with a depth of greater than two meters and tranquil flows ranging from 0.1-0.3 m/s. Success of paddlefish utilizing sites with these characteristics has also been found near the Pool 5A, Polander Lake,

HREP Islands by U.S. Fish and Wildlife employees. During both HREP projects, deep holes were dredged to supply borrow material for the construction of the islands. Paddlefish were successfully caught in and around the deep holes created in Pool 5A. Since both HREP projects were so similar, it was determined that paddlefish may be utilizing the area near the newly created Pool 8 HREP islands. Mark Steingraeber from La Crosse FRO led the five-month, Pool 8 study. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees from the Upper Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Refuge and La Crosse FRO and 12 volunteers sampled 10 days using 300' long, 24' deep, 5" bar gill nets. The greatest depth in the dredged holes was 39 feet and current flows ranged from 0.01 – 0.50 m/s. Species of fish caught were: bigmouth buffalo, sauger, northern pike, longnose gar, freshwater drum, common carp, walleye and lake sturgeon. A spiny softshell turtle was even caught in the net one day. One of the most noted items netted and recovered during the survey was a historic (pre lock and dam system) refuge sign from the 1920's or 30's. It will be sent to NCTC for preservation. Since no paddlefish were caught during the study, it is doubtful that the study will carry on next year.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO R3-UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse
Resource Outputs:
Partners: U.S. Geological Services U.S. Army Corps of Engineers WI DNR

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries

11/19/2003	A	$100	$100	3	R3-LaCrosse FRO	Heidi Keuler	11123	01/06/2004 01/13/2004

Westby Middle School Students "Fish" for Information on Fishery Careers

Executive Summary: Career Day on Nov. 19, at Westby Middle School in Westby, Wis. was a great success. Heidi Keuler from the La Crosse Fishery Resource Office spoke to about 40 seventh and eighth graders on life as a fishery biologist. A PowerPoint presentation highlighted Region 3, Partners of La Crosse FRO, projects La Crosse FRO works on, a job description, requirements for the job, hours worked, wages and much more. Pictures of fishery biologists on the job were displayed as well as diagra ms of the mussel life cycle. Students were given a mini biology lesson about the life of a mussel and how fishery biologists propagate endangered mussels, such as the Higgins' eye and winged mapleleaf. Some of the students had previously heard about Asian carp so additional information was given about invasive species. Additional information on jobs in law enforcement, health care and business was also provided. Students diligently took notes at each of the four, 30-minute career presentations they rotated to. This was a great opportunity to educate local students and teachers about daily activities of a fishery biologist, inform them about the fishery program, and how they and the environment benefit from the USFWS.
Offices Involved: R3-LaCrosse FRO
Resource Outputs: This was a great opportunity to educate local students and teachers about daily activities of a fishery biologist, inform them about the fishery program, and how they and the environment benefit from the USFWS.
Partners:

Notes:
Ecosystems: 23-UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER/TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
Programs: Fisheries
States: Wisconsin