

A Perspective on Developing Wisconsin's Management Action Lists

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Wisconsin's AOCs

St. Louis River (shared with MN)

Goal to complete major actions by 2020

Lower Menominee River (shared w/MI)

Goal to complete management actions in 2016

Lower Green Bay & Fox River

Management action list in development
(various assessments and stakeholder dialogues in progress)

Sheboygan River

Completed management actions in 2012

Milwaukee Estuary

Expect to complete management action list in 2018 (F&W population & sediment assessments in progress)



Management actions are...

- ▶ Habitat restorations
- ▶ Sediment removal actions
- ▶ Beach restorations
- ▶ Nonpoint source mitigation
- ▶ Aesthetics impairment source mitigation



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They are (generally) not...

- ▶ BUI assessments/verification monitoring
- ▶ Maintenance to ensure successful outcomes for the management actions

(BUT funding is still needed for these things to remove BUIs)



WDNR/USGS



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Number of BUIs

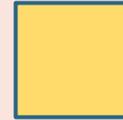
Relative Size: area (sq mi)



Lower Green Bay & Fox River



Milwaukee Estuary



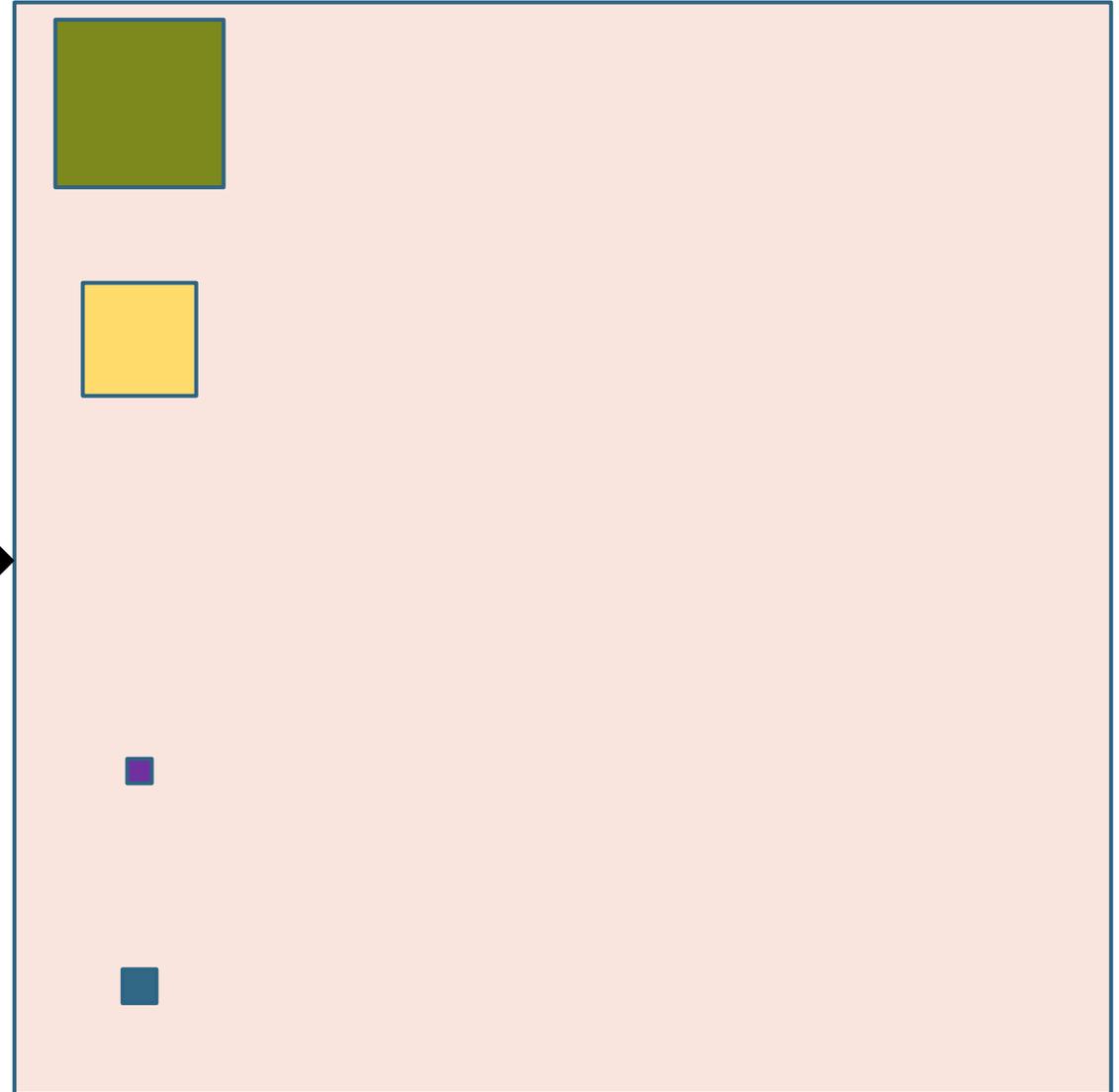
St. Louis River



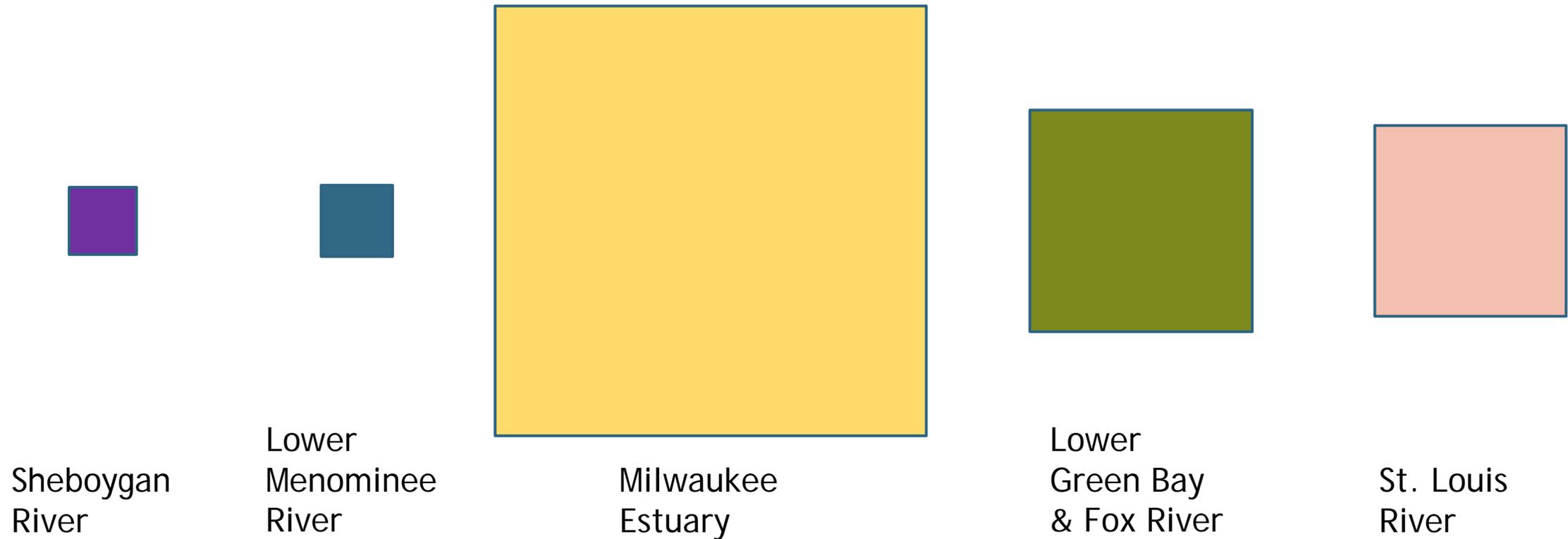
Sheboygan River



Lower Menominee River



Relative Size - 2010 population (municipalities immediately adjacent to or inside of the AOC boundary)



Considerations for “Mega” AOCs

- ▶ Management action list for “mega” AOCs takes more time to develop
 - ▶ Bigger geographic area, more sources of impairment, more BUIs
 - ▶ More stakeholders & partners
 - ▶ More opportunities!
- ▶ Requires a sustained effort over longer period of time
 - ▶ More capacity and partners to do stuff BUT...
 - ▶ ...even so, most likely can't have all stars align for a big implementation push over 1 or 2 years

Different processes can be effective depending on the BUI & local conditions

To identify management actions, we could:

- ▶ Brainstorm a list & filter the ideas through a set of criteria to narrow
 - ▶ Criteria could include access, benefit to desired species/natural communities, timeframe for completion, cost effectiveness
 - ▶ e.g., habitat BUI in Sheboygan
- ▶ Do an assessment
 - ▶ Monitoring, data analysis (e.g. sediment characterization, population study, aesthetics study)
 - ▶ e.g., Milwaukee Estuary fish and wildlife populations BUI, Milwaukee Estuary and Green Bay aesthetics BUIs

Go slow to go fast -

- ▶ Take time to do the assessments
 - ▶ Helps to focus management actions in the best possible direction
- ▶ Take time to engage stakeholders
 - ▶ Ensures that community concerns can be integrated into approaches
 - ▶ Creates local buy-in which in turn creates the path to sustainability
 - ▶ Helps to find efficiencies
 - ▶ Strong partnerships are essential for success
 - ▶ Stakeholders prepared for BUI removals

morgueFile Free Photo: helping hand 2.jpg by
Bonnie Henderson <http://mrg.bz/CRZGtu>



- *but keep in mind...*

...the need to balance planning with doing

- ▶ Acting without enough information can lead to wasted time and resources, however,
- ▶ There will never be as much information as we might ideally like to have.
- ▶ Try to avoid getting bogged down in defining the problem.
- ▶ Start with the “no regrets” projects.
- ▶ Have a mechanism in place to amend the list of management actions if new information arises.
- ▶ Keep decisions grounded in science and focused on achieving the delisting targets.



Thank you!

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