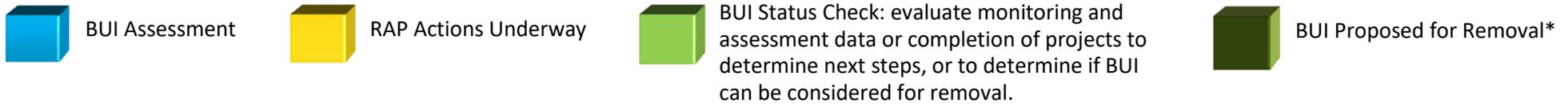
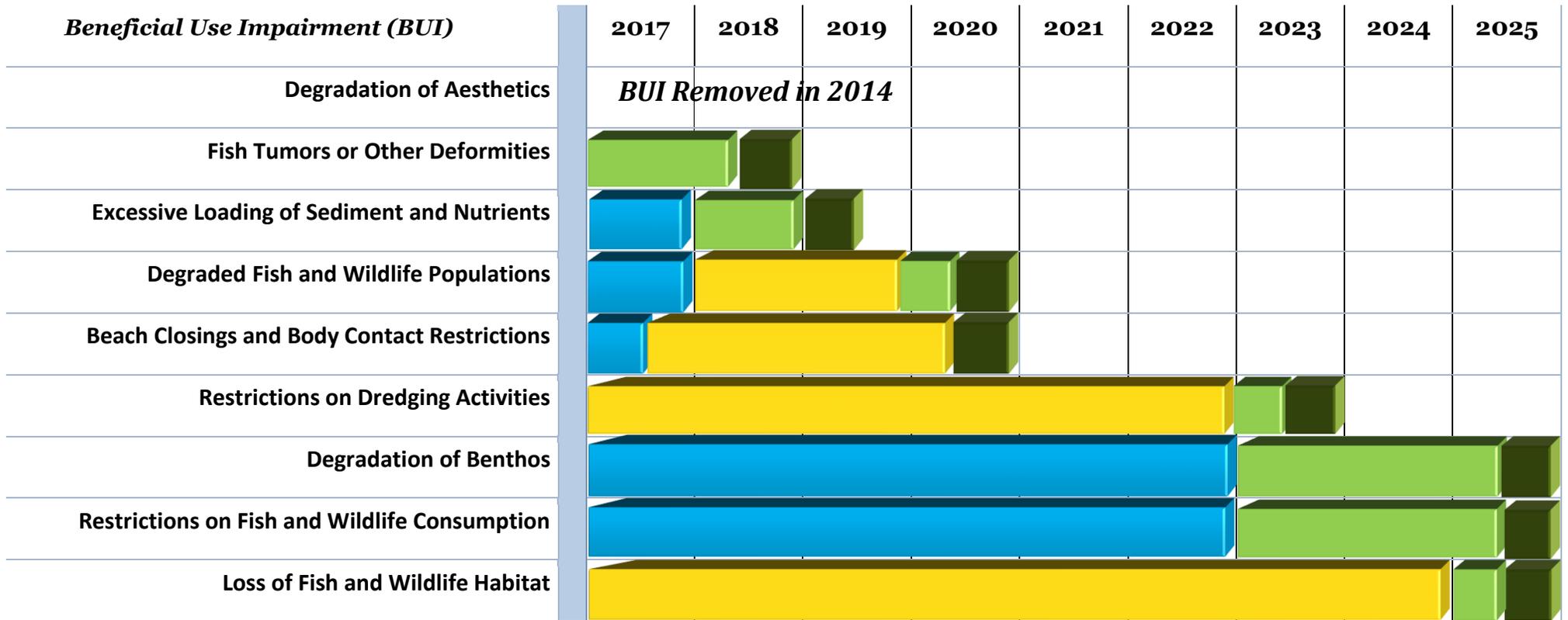


St. Louis River Area of Concern

Beneficial Use Impairment Removal Timeline



* BUI removal dates are approximate based on best professional judgement. Results from BUI assessments and technical team recommendations may alter these dates.

Projects and Milestones

The St. Louis River AOC has made significant progress towards BUI removal. The St. Louis River AOC is implementing many projects and has a goal to have all major actions underway by 2020 with an overall goal of delisting the AOC by 2025. Key tasks for BUI removal are listed here.

Fish Tumors or Other Deformities: BUI targets have been met. The draft BUI removal package was noticed for public input from September 21-October 12, 2018. Comments were addressed in the final version that was submitted to EPA for approval in November 2018. EPA concurrence is expected by the end of 2018.

Excessive Loading of Sediment and Nutrients: All 5 management actions are complete. Final results from 3 water quality studies are available and show improvements in water quality in the riverine portions of the AOC. Phosphorus trends in the nearshore areas have not shown improvement; however, a WDNR study determined that the higher phosphorus and sediment levels in three WI bays are not impairing those biological communities. The draft BUI removal package will be discussed by the technical team. BUI removal is slated for 2019.

Degraded Fish and Wildlife Populations: 3/5 management actions are complete, and the remaining two are underway. The SLR does not meet the Lake Sturgeon removal objective; an assessment is underway to evaluate potential limitations to population recovery. Modeling and design of the piping plover nesting habitat project at the WI Point Bird Sanctuary is nearly complete and construction is planned for 2019. The BUI removal date was moved to 2020 to allow for completion of the Lake Sturgeon study.

Beach Closings and Body Contact Restrictions: One management action is complete, and the remaining 5 are underway. Two contaminated sediment sites with historic body contact restrictions have been remediated and now allow for recreation. Barkers Island beach restoration construction was started and will be completed in 2019. BUI removal is anticipated in 2020.

Restrictions on Dredging Activities: This BUI has 27 management actions: 6 actions are complete and others are at various levels of progress. EPA and WI have entered a cooperative agreement to complete any remaining sediment characterization work. BUI removal is slated for 2023.

Degradation of Benthos: Post construction monitoring is the one action item in this BUI; it will occur after aquatic habitat site construction is complete. The RAP has linked the benthic improvement of 1,700 acres at the aquatic restoration sites to this BUI. A benthic metric has been established to assess the outcomes of restoration projects. Post-construction sampling funding was received; the contract has been awarded to the UWS Lake Superior Research Institute and contract tasks began in 2018. Data will be delivered to the GLDIVER system, and each state will be responsible for analyzing this information for their respective sites. Management actions at remediation sites are ongoing. The BUI removal date is 2025 to allow for sampling to occur after restoration is complete.

Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption: 3/4 management actions are underway. A mercury study was started in 2017 and will assess sources of mercury in AOC and reference site fish. Data analysis will be complete in 2019. PCB modeling was started in 2018 and this work will continue in 2019. BUI removal is anticipated in 2025.

Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat: This BUI has 21 management actions: 8 have been completed, 13 remaining are underway in an effort to reach a target of 1,700 acres of improved aquatic habitat. WI DNR completed the Nemadji River Watershed habitat assessment project in 2018. BUI removal is slated for 2025.