**WDNR Project Quarterly Reporting**

**Reporting Period:** *July 1 – September 31st, 2016*

**Project Name:** Semi-aquatic mammal surveys

**Name and Contact Info:**

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Other project contacts: Dr Timothy R Van Deelen (trvandeelen@wisc.edu) and Dr Nathan M Roberts (NathanMRoberts@wisconsin.gov)

**Overall Project Status Summary:**

All field work had been completed for this project in April, 2016. The draft report summarizing data collected and analyses to date was circulated to the AOC wildlife technical team in August 2016, and a meeting was convened between UW/DNR researchers that have been involved with this project specifically and the larger team. The graduate student (Bryn Evans) has continued analysis but overall patterns and conclusions remain unchanged.

**Budget Update: Include amount expended, subcontracts or subgrants awarded, jobs created, and local services or products purchased (for this reporting period).**

The expenditures that were incurred during this reporting period were travel to Superior, WI for Bryn Evans and Tim Van Deelen to attend the late August meeting. Tuition remission and a stipend were also provided for Bryn Evans for the fall 2016 semester. Other expenses may include the contract amount for the helicopter surveys (the invoice total was $6,000 and was funded by a budget code through the Rhinelander DNR office); although the work was performed in the previous quarter, the amount was not awarded until this quarter.

**Work accomplished this reporting period:**

Detection and occupancy modeling was completed on the trail camera data, and further analyses were run to investigate the efficacy of aerial surveys, and potential role of season and other confounding factors. The graduate student prepared a draft of the thesis document that will result from this work, as well as completing analyses specifically investigating aspects of the work relevant to the AOC technical team.

**Work goals for coming reporting period:**

During the October to December work period all analysis will be completed and included into an amended document for AOC technical team records and to ensure the highest scientific rigor in the conclusions.

The graduate student will defend the research at UW Madison and finalize the thesis document.

Lastly, in coordination with Nathan Roberts at the Rhinelander DNR, any tissue samples that might be of future use will be stored and could be augmented by later collection efforts.