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Form 990

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public

▶ Information about Form 990 and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990

OMB No 1545-0047

2016

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2016 calendar year, or tax year beginning 07-01-2016 , and ending 06-30-2017

B Check if applicable

☐ Address change

☐ Name change

☐ Initial return

☐ Final

☒ Return/terminated

☐ Amended return

☐ Application pending

C Name of organization

Great Lakes Observing System Regional Association

Doing business as

Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address)

4840 S State Road

Room/suite

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

D Employer identification number

26-0711287

E Telephone number

(734) 741-2294

G Gross receipts \$ 1,528,015

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III ☐

☐

GLOS was established to advance the coordination of the extensive network of people, processes, and technology that work together to maximize access to critical real-time and historical information about the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system for use in managing, safeguarding, and understanding our immensely valuable freshwater resources.

☐ Yes ☒ No

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O

4. Describe the function of the following structures:

11

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

	Yes	No
1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? If "Yes," complete <i>Schedule A</i> 	Yes	
2 Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> (see instructions)? 	Yes	
3 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of any candidate?		No

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

- 20a** Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? *If "Yes," complete Schedule H*
- b** If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?
- 21** Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? *If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II*
- 22** Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for domestic individuals on Part IX, column (A), line 2? *If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III*
- 23** Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? *If "Yes," complete Schedule J*
- 24a** Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of

	Yes	No
20a		No
20b		
21	Yes	
22	Yes	
23		No
24a		

Part V **Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V ☐

1a Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096 Enter -0- if not applicable	1a	5		Yes	No
b Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a Enter -0- if not applicable	1b	0			
c Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?			1c	Yes	
2a Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return	2a	4			
b If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? Note. If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file (see instructions)			2b	Yes	
3a Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?			3a		No
h If "Yes" has, it, filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No" to line 3h provide an explanation in Schedule O			3h		

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI ☒

Section A. Governing Body and Management

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year		
	If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O		
1b	Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent		
2	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?		No
3	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?		No
4	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?		No
5	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?		No
6	Did the organization have members or stockholders?		No
7a	Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?	Yes	
7b	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?	Yes	
8	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following:		
8a	The governing body?	Yes	
8b	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	Yes	
9	Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O		No

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

		Yes	No
10a	Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?		No
10b	If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?		
11a	Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	Yes	
11b	Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990		
12a	Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13	Yes	
12b	Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	Yes	
12c	Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done	Yes	
13	Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?		No
14	Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	Yes	
15	Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
15a	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	Yes	
15b	Other officers or key employees of the organization		No
	If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions)		
16a	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?		No
16b	If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation		

Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent ContractorsCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII ☐

Part VII Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees *(continued)*

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for which the individual was compensated)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)	(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
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2 Underdistributions, if any, for years prior to 2016 (reasonable cause required--see instructions)			
3 Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2016			
a			
b			
c From 2013.			
d From 2014.			
e From 2015.			
f Total of lines 3a through e			
g Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
h Applied to 2016 distributable amount			
i Carryover from 2011 not applied (see instructions)			
j Remainder Subtract lines 3g, 3h, and 3i from 3f			
4 Distributions for 2016 from Section D, line 7 \$			
a Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
b Applied to 2016 distributable amount			
c Remainder Subtract lines 4a and 4b from 4			
5 Remaining underdistributions for years prior to 2016, if any Subtract lines 3g and 4a from line 2 (if amount greater than zero, see instructions)			
6 Remaining underdistributions for 2016 Subtract lines 3h and 4b from line 1 (if amount greater than zero, see instructions)			
7 Excess distributions carryover to 2017. Add lines 3j and 4c			
8 Breakdown of line 7			
a			
b Excess from 2013.			
c Excess from 2014.			
d Excess from 2015.			
e Excess from 2016.			

Part VIII Statement of RevenueCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII ☐

			(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512-514
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1a Federated campaigns . . .	1a				
	b Membership dues . . .	1b	7,547			
	c Fundraising events . . .	1c				
	d Related organizations	1d				
	e Government grants (contributions)	1e	1,514,783			
	f All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f	1,686			
	g Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$ _____					
	h Total. Add lines 1a-1f		1,524,016			
Program Service Revenue			Business Code			
	2a _____					
	b _____					
	c _____					
	d _____					
	e _____					
	f All other program service revenue					
	g Total. Add lines 2a-2f					
Other Revenue	3 Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)		15			15
	4 Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds					
	5 Royalties					
			(i) Real	(ii) Personal		
	6a Gross rents					
	b Less rental expenses					
	c Rental income or (loss)					
	d Net rental income or (loss)					
			(i) Securities	(ii) Other		
	7a Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory					
	b Less cost or other basis and sales expenses					
	c Gain or (loss)					
	d Net gain or (loss)					
	8a Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c) See Part IV, line 18		a			
	b Less direct expenses		b			
	c Net income or (loss) from fundraising events					
	9a Gross income from gaming activities See Part IV, line 19		a			
	b Less direct expenses		b			
	c Net income or (loss) from gaming activities					
	10a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances		a			
	b Less cost of goods sold		b			
	c Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory					
Miscellaneous Revenue		Business Code				
11a Other related revenue		900099	3,984	3,984		
b _____						
c _____						
d All other revenue						
e Total. Add lines 11a-11d			3,984			
12 Total revenue. See Instructions			1,528,015	3,984	15	

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX ☐**Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.**

	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21.	425,944	425,944		
2 Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22.	0			
3 Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign	38,040	38,040		

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII ☐**Part V Endowment Funds.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance					
b Contributions					

Part X Balance SheetCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX ☐

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
1	Cash—non-interest-bearing	147,268	1	71,033
2	Savings and temporary cash investments	6,546	2	8,809
3	Pledges and grants receivable, net	242,423	3	323,885
4	Accounts receivable, net		4	

Part XIII Supplemental Information

Provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9, Part III, lines 1a and 4, Part IV, lines 1b and 2b, Part V, line 4, Part X, line 2, Part XI, lines 2d and 4b, and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
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Schedule D (Form 990) 2015

Part XI **Reconciliation of Net Assets**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI ☐

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	1,528,015
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	1,483,284
3	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	44,731
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 32)	4	98,375

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Additional Data

Software ID: 16000333
Software Version: 17.2.1.0
EIN: 26-0711287
Name: Great Lakes Observing System Regional Association

Form 990 (2016)

Form 990, Part III, Line 4a:

GL OS coordinates a network of data users and data providers to improve the collection, management, and delivery of data across the Great Lakes region. GL OS sponsors

SCHEDULE A (Form 990 or 990-EZ)	Public Charity Status and Public Support Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust. ▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. ▶ Information about Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990 .	OMB No 1545-0047 2016 Open to Public Inspection
	Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Name of the organization Great Lakes Observing System Regional Association	Employer identification number 26-0711287

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.
The organization is not a private foundation because it is (For lines 1 through 12, check only one box)

- 1 ☐ A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i)**.
- 2 ☐ A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)**. (Attach Schedule E (Form 990 or 990-EZ))
- 3 ☐ A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**.
- 4 ☐ A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**. Enter the hospital's name, city, and state _____
- 5 ☐ An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv)**. (Complete Part II)
- 6 ☐ A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v)**.
- 7 ☒ An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II)
- 8 ☐ A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)** (Complete Part II)
- 9 ☐ An agricultural research organization described in **170(b)(1)(A)(ix)** operated in conjunction with a land-grant college or university or a non-land grant college of agriculture See instructions Enter the name, city, and state of the college or university _____
- 10 ☐ An organization that normally receives (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975 See **section 509(a)(2)**. (Complete Part III)
- 11 ☐ An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety See **section 509(a)(4)**.
- 12 ☐ An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in **section 509(a)(1)** or **section 509(a)(2)**. See **section 509(a)(3)**. Check the box in lines 12a through 12d that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 12e, 12f, and 12g
- a ☐ **Type I.** A supporting organization operated, supervised, or controlled by its supported organization(s), typically by giving the supported organization(s) the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the directors or trustees of the supporting organization **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and B.**
- b ☐ **Type II.** A supporting organization supervised or controlled in connection with its supported organization(s), by having control or management of the supporting organization vested in the same persons that control or manage the supported organization(s) **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and C.**
- c ☐ **Type III functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with, and functionally integrated with, its supported organization(s) (see instructions) **You must complete Part IV, Sections A, D, and E.**
- d ☐ **Type III non-functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with its supported organization(s) that is not functionally integrated The organization generally must satisfy a distribution requirement and an attentiveness requirement (see instructions) **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and D, and Part V.**
- e ☐ Check this box if the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, Type III functionally integrated, or Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organization
- f Enter the number of supported organizations _____
- g Provide the following information about the supported organization(s) _____

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1- 10 above (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization listed in your governing document?		(v) Amount of monetary support (see instructions)	(vi) Amount of other support (see instructions)
			Yes	No		
Total						

Part II

Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, 8, or 9 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support						
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a)2012	(b)2013	(c)2014	(d)2015	(e)2016	(f)Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received (Do not include any "unusual grant.")	1,532,859	892,225	1,285,909	1,535,301	1,524,016	6,770,310
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3	1,532,859	892,225	1,285,909	1,535,301	1,524,016	6,770,310
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4						6,770,310

Section B. Total Support						
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a)2012	(b)2013	(c)2014	(d)2015	(e)2016	(f)Total
7 Amounts from line 4	1,532,859	892,225	1,285,909	1,535,301	1,524,016	6,770,310
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources					15	15
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI)		8,811	7,658	16,220	3,984	36,673
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						6,806,998
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc (see instructions)					12	
13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here ► ☐						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage		
14 Public support percentage for 2016 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	99.460 %
15 Public support percentage for 2015 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	99.440 %
16a 33 1/3% support test—2016. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here . The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ ☒		
b 33 1/3% support test—2015. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here . The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ ☐		
17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2016. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here . Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ ☐		
b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2015. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here . Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ ☐		
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions ▶ ☐		

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 10 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a)2012	(b)2013	(c)2014	(d)2015	(e)2016	(f)Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5						
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support. (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a)2012	(b)2013	(c)2014	(d)2015	(e)2016	(f)Total
9 Amounts from line 6						
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b						
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)						
13 Total support. (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)						

14 **First five years.** If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and **stop here** ► ☐

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2016 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	0 %
16 Public support percentage from 2015 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2016 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	
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Part IV Supporting Organizations

(Complete only if you checked a box on line 12 of Part I. If you checked 12a of Part I, complete Sections A and B. If you checked 12b of Part I, complete Sections A and C. If you checked 12c of Part I, complete Sections A, D, and E. If you checked 12d of Part I, complete Sections A and D, and complete Part V.)

Section A. All Supporting Organizations

		Yes	No
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Part IV Supporting Organizations (continued)

- 11** Has the organization accepted a gift or contribution from any of the following persons?
- a** A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (b) and (c) below, the governing body of a supported organization?
- b** A family member of a person described in (a) above?
- c** A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (a) or (b) above? *If "Yes" to a, b, or c, provide detail in Part VI*

	Yes	No
11a		
11b		
11c		

Section B. Type I Supporting Organizations

- 1** Did the directors, trustees, or membership of one or more supported organizations have the power to regularly appoint or elect at least a majority of the organization's directors or trustees at all times during the tax year? *If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organization(s) effectively operated, supervised, or controlled the organization's activities. If the organization had more than one supported organization, describe how the powers to appoint and/or remove directors or trustees were allocated among the supported organizations and what conditions or restrictions, if any, applied to such powers during the tax year.*
- 2** Did the organization operate for the benefit of any supported organization other than the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization? *If "Yes," explain in Part VI how providing such benefit carried out the purposes of the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised or controlled the supporting organization.*

	Yes	No
1		
2		

Section C. Type II Supporting Organizations

- 1** Were a majority of the organization's directors or trustees during the tax year also a majority of the directors or trustees of each of the organization's supported organization(s)? *If "No," describe in Part VI how control or management of the supporting organization was vested in the same persons that controlled or managed the supported organization(s).*

	Yes	No
1		

Section D. All Type III Supporting Organizations

- 1** Did the organization provide to each of its supported organizations, by the last day of the fifth month of the organization's tax year, (i) a written notice describing the type and amount of support provided during the prior tax year, (ii) a copy of the Form 990 that was most recently filed as of the date of notification, and (iii) copies of the organization's governing documents in effect on the date of notification, to the extent not previously provided?

	Yes	No

Copy this sheet to all forms required to be filed. Report separately for the calendar year beginning on the date of notification.

11a

11b

11c

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations

- 1** ☐ Check here if the organization satisfied the Integral Part Test as a qualifying trust on Nov. 20, 1970. **See instructions.** All other Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations must complete Sections A through E.

Section A - Adjusted Net Income

	(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1 Net short-term capital gain	1	
2 Recoveries of prior-year distributions	2	
3 Other gross income (see instructions)	3	
4 Add lines 1 through 3	4	
5 Depreciation and depletion	5	
6 Portion of operating expenses paid or incurred for production or collection of gross income or for management, conservation, or maintenance of property held for production of income (see instructions)	6	
7 Other expenses (see instructions)	7	
8 Adjusted Net Income (subtract lines 5, 6 and 7 from line 4)	8	

Section B - Minimum Asset Amount

	(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1 Aggregate fair market value of all non-exempt-use assets (see instructions for short tax year or assets held for part of year)	1	
a Average monthly value of securities	1a	
b Average monthly cash balances	1b	
c Fair market value of other non-exempt-use assets	1c	
d Total (add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c)	1d	
e Discount claimed for blockage or other factors (explain in detail in Part VI)		
2 Acquisition indebtedness applicable to non-exempt use assets	2	
3 Subtract line 2 from line 1d	3	
4 Cash deemed held for exempt use. Enter 1-1/2% of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions)	4	
5 Net value of non-exempt-use assets (subtract line 4 from line 3)	5	
6 Multiply line 5 by .035	6	
7 Recoveries of prior-year distributions	7	
8 Minimum Asset Amount (add line 7 to line 6)	8	

Section C - Distributable Amount

		Current Year
1 Adjusted net income for prior year (from Section A, line 8, Column A)	1	
2 Enter 85% of line 1	2	
3 Minimum asset amount for prior year (from Section B, line 8, Column A)	3	
4 Enter greater of line 2 or line 3	4	
5 Income tax imposed in prior year	5	
6 Distributable Amount. Subtract line 5 from line 4, unless subject to emergency temporary reduction (see instructions)	6	
7 ☐ Check here if the current year is the organization's first as a non-functionally-integrated Type III supporting organization (see instructions)		

Section D - Distributions

Current Year

Section E - Distribution Allocations (see instructions)	(i) Excess Distributions	(ii) Underdistributions Pre-2016	(iii) Distributable Amount for 2016
1 Distributable amount for 2016 from Section C, line			

[illegible]

Part VI **Supplemental Information.**

Provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; Part III, line 12; Part IV, Section A, lines 1, 2, 3b, 3c, 4b, 4c, 5a, 6, 9a, 9b, 9c, 11a, 11b, and 11c; Part IV, Section B, lines 1 and 2; Part IV, Section C, line 1; Part IV, Section D, lines 2 and 3; Part IV, Section E, lines 1c, 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b; Part V, line 1; Part V, Section B, line 1e; Part V Section D, lines 5, 6, and 8; and Part V, Section E, lines 2, 5, and 6. Also complete this part for any additional information. (See instructions).

Facts And Circumstances Test

Part II Section B Line 10 Other related revenue

SCHEDULE D
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

► Complete if the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990,
Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b.
► Attach to Form 990.

Information about Schedule D (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No 1545-0047

2016

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

Great Lakes Observing System Regional Association

Employer identification number

26-0711287

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

(a) Donor advised funds

(b) Funds and other accounts

1	Total number at end of year		
2	Aggregate value of contributions to (during year)		
3	Aggregate value of grants from (during year)		
4	Aggregate value at end of year		
5	Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the property of the donor?		

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets *(continued)*

- 3** Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply)
- a** ☐ Public exhibition
- b** ☐ Scholarly research
- c** ☐ Preservation for future generations
- d** ☐ Loan or exchange programs
- e** ☐ Other
- 4** Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII
- 5** During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

- 1a** Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- b** If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table
- | | Amount |
|--|-----------|
| c Beginning balance | 1c |
| d Additions during the year | 1d |
| e Distributions during the year | 1e |

Part VII

Investments—Other Securities. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11b.
See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives		
(2) Closely-held equity interests		
(3) Other _____		
(A) Financial derivatives and other financial products		
(B) Closely-held equity interests		
(B)		
(C)		
(D)		
(E)		
(F)		
(G)		
(H)		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 12) ▶		

Part VIII

Investments—Program Related. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11c.
See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation Cost or end-of-year market value
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 13) ▶		

Part IX

Other Assets. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11d See Form 990, Part X, line 15

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1)	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 15) ▶	

Part X

Other Liabilities. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11e or 11f.
See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value	
(1) Federal income taxes		
Federal income taxes		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 25) ▶		

2. Liability for uncertain tax positions In Part XIII, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740) Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII

☐

Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements	1	1,528,015
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12		
a	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	2a	
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b	
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	2d	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	1,528,015
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1		
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	4b	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	
5	Total revenue. Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12)	5	1,528,015

Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return.

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements	1	1,483,284
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25		
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a	
b	Prior year adjustments	2b	
c	Other losses	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	2d	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	1,483,284
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1 :		
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	4b	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	
5	Total expenses. Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.)	5	1,483,284

Part XIII	Supplemental Information (continued)
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Return Reference	Explanation
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**SCHEDULE F
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Statement of Activities Outside the United States

► Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990,
Part IV, line 14b, 15, or 16.

► Attach to Form 990. ► See separate instructions.

► Information about Schedule F (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No 1545-0047

2016

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization
Great Lakes Observing System Regional Association

Employer identification number

26-0711287

Part I General Information on Activities Outside the United States. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 14b.

1 For grantmakers. Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of its grants and other assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

2 For grantmakers. Describe in Part V the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of its grants and other assistance outside the United States

3 Activities per Region (The following Part I, line 3 table can be duplicated if additional space is needed)

(a) Region	(b) Number of offices in the region	(c) Number of employees, agents, and independent contractors in region	(d) Activities conducted in region (by type) (e g , fundraising, program services, investments, grants to recipients located in the region)	(e) If activity listed in (d) is a program service, describe specific type of service(s) in region	(f) Total expenditures for and investments in region
(1) North America			Grant to recipient located in the region	Support data management	38,040
(2)					
(3)					
(4)					
(5)					
3a Sub-total					38,040
b Total from continuation sheets to Part I					
c Totals (add lines 3a and 3b)					38,040

Part II **Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations or Entities Outside the United States.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 15, for any recipient who received more than \$5,000. Part II can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

1	(a) Name of organization	(b) IRS code section and EIN (if applicable)	(c) Region	(d) Purpose of grant	(e) Amount of cash grant	(f) Manner of cash disbursement	(g) Amount of non-cash assistance	(h) Description of non-cash assistance	(i) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)
(1)			North America	Capacity to support data management and enable web-accessibility of data products	38,040	Check			
(2)									
(3)									
(4)									

- 2 Enter total number of recipient organizations listed above that are recognized as charities by the foreign country, recognized as tax-exempt by the IRS, or for which the grantee or counsel has provided a section 501(c)(3) equivalency letter ► _____
- 3 Enter total number of other organizations or entities ► 1

Part III **Grants and Other Assistance to Individuals Outside the United States.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 16.

Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

(a) Type of grant or assistance	(b) Region	(c) Number of recipients	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Manner of cash disbursement	(f) Amount of non-cash assistance	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)
(1)							
(2)							
(3)							
(4)							
(5)							
(6)							
(7)							
(8)							
(9)							
(10)							
(11)							
(12)							
(13)							
(14)							
(15)							
(16)							
(17)							
(18)							

Part IV Foreign Forms

- 1 Was the organization a U.S. transferor of property to a foreign corporation during the tax year? *If "Yes," the organization may be required to file Form 926, Return by a U.S. Transferor of Property to a Foreign Corporation (see Instructions for Form 926)* ☐ Yes ☒ No
- 2 Did the organization have an interest in a foreign trust during the tax year? *If "Yes," the organization may be required to separately file Form 3520, Annual Return to Report Transactions with Foreign Trusts and Receipt of Certain Foreign Gifts, and/or Form 3520-A, Annual Information Return of Foreign Trust With a U.S. Owner (see Instructions for Forms 3520 and 3520-A)* ☐ Yes ☒ No
- 3 Did the organization have an ownership interest in a foreign corporation during the tax year? *If "Yes," the organization may be required to file Form 5471, Information Return of U.S. Persons with Respect to Certain Foreign Corporations (see Instructions for Form 5471)* ☐ Yes ☒ No
- 4 Was the organization a direct or indirect shareholder of a passive foreign investment company or a qualified electing fund during the tax year? *If "Yes," the organization may be required to file Form 8621, Information Return by a Shareholder of a Passive Foreign Investment Company or Qualified Electing Fund (see Instructions for Form 8621)* ☐ Yes ☒ No
- 5 Did the organization have an ownership interest in a foreign partnership during the tax year? *If "Yes," the*

Part V **Supplemental Information**

Provide the information required by Part I, line 2 (monitoring of funds); Part I, line 3, column (f) (accounting method; amounts of investments vs. expenditures per region); Part II, line 1 (accounting method); Part III (accounting method); and Part III, column (c) (estimated number of recipients), as applicable. Also complete this part to provide any additional information (see instructions).

Return Reference	Explanation
Part I Line 2	GLOS reviews requested period progress reports from the grantees. The organization also monitors the grants by reviewing the expenses charged on the invoices against budgeted expenses.

Schedule I (Form 990)	Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations, Governments and Individuals in the United States Complete if the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 21 or 22. ▶ Attach to Form 990. ▶ Information about Schedule I (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.	OMB No 1545-0047
		2016
		Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service	Name of the organization Great Lakes Observing System Regional Association	Employer identification number 26-0711287
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Part I

General Information on Grants and Assistance

- 1

Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of the grants or assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance?

☒ Yes☐ No
- 2

Describe in Part IV the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of grant funds in the United States

Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments, Grants to Foreign Organizations, and Grants to Foreign Governments

1. Name of the organization

2. EIN

3. Address

4. Telephone number

5. Website

6. State

7. Country

8. Principal office

9. Other office

10. Other office

11. Other office

12. Other office

13. Other office

14. Other office

15. Other office

16. Other office

17. Other office

18. Other office

19. Other office

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93. Other office

94. Other office

95. Other office

96. Other office

97. Other office

98. Other office

99. Other office

100. Other office

Part III **Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Individuals.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 22

Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed

(a) Type of grant or assistance	(b) Number of recipients	(c) Amount of cash grant	(d) Amount of non-cash assistance	(e) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(f) Description of non-cash assistance
(1) Data Challenge winner	1	5,010			
(1)					
(2)					
(3)					
(4)					
(5)					
(6)					
(7)					

Part IV **Supplemental Information.** Provide the information required in Part I, line 2, Part III, column (b), and any other additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
Part I Line 2	GLOS reviews requested period progress reports from the grantees. The organization also monitors the grants by reviewing the expenses charged on the invoices against budgeted expenses.

Additional Data

Software ID: 16000333
Software Version: 17.2.1.0
EIN: 26-0711287
Name: Great Lakes Observing System Regional Association

Form 990, Schedule I, Part II, Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments.

(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
Regents of University of Minnesota PO Box 1450 Minneapolis, MN 55485	41-6007513	170a1	30,229				Monitoring stations around the St Louis Estuary and into Lake Superior
IOOS Association 205 Oakledge Road Harpwell, ME 04079	27-4702525	501c3	168,863				Supports regional associations of the US IOOS program

Form 990, Schedule I, Part II, Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments.							
(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
Regents of University of Michigan 500 Wolverine Tower 3003 S State Ann Arbor, MI 48109	38-5600063	501c3	29,368				Monitoring in Lake Erie and climate data products
Cornell University PO Box 22 Ithaca, NY 148510022	15-0532082	501c3	16,357				Aiding management and advancing GL ecology

Form 990, Schedule I, Part II, Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments

Line	Grant or assistance made to	Amount
1		
2		
3		
4		
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Form 990, Schedule I, Part II, Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments.							
(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
Great Lakes Commission 2805 S Industrial Hwy Suite 100 Ann Arbor, MI 48104	38-6027814	501c1	10,898				Server hosting support
University of Wisconsin Milwaukee 320 Chapman Hall PO Box 413 Milwaukee, WI 53201	39-1805963		56,913				Monitoring programs in Lake Michigan

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue ServiceName of the organization
Great Lakes Observing System Regional Association**Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ**Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

▶ Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at
www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No 1545-0047

2016**Open to Public
Inspection****Employer identification number**

26-0711287

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
Form 990, Part VI, Section A, Line 7a	The members elect the directors

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
Form 990, Part VI, Section A, Line 7b	The members elect directors No other decisions were made

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
Form 990, Part VI, Section B, Line 11b	Management Executive Director and Business Manager and the Board Treasurer review the Form 990 and report it to the Board

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
Form 990, Part VI, Section B, Line 12c	Each board member is briefed on the GLOS board/staff conflict of interest policies in the bylaws when they are appointed. Members are required to self-identify issues or situations in which they are in real or perceived conflict, and the board then follows procedures for managing the conflict as outlined in the bylaws.

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
Form 990, Part VI, Section B, Line 15a	The compensation of the Executive Director is reviewed by the full board

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
Form 990, Part VI, Section C, Line 19	The organizations governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements are available to the public upon request