EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

MARCH 2013
Federal Policy Agenda - 2013

Strengthening the Great Lakes as an Environmental and Economic Asset
Regional Priorities for Restoration and Protection
MARCH 2013

Sustaining Environmental Restoration and Economic Revitalization in the Great Lakes Region
Great Lakes Commission Federal Priorities for 2013
MARCH 2013

Investing in Our Future
The Great Lakes are an invaluable environmental and economic resource for the eight states and Canadian provinces they serve. Their benefits and benefits to the region include:
- Abundant natural resources
- High-quality water
- Unique biodiversity
- Strong agricultural and tourism economies
- Significant natural and cultural landscapes

Sustaining Our Progress
Our region has made substantial progress, and we continue to build on that success. We are working collaboratively to improve the quality of our water, protect our natural resources, and ensure that future generations can enjoy the same benefits that we have today.

The Great Lakes are an invaluable resource that supports
1.6 million jobs generating $72 billion annually
96 million acres of prime fishing grounds
23 million acres of coastal wetlands
48 million acres of forest

Sustaining Environmental Restoration and Economic Revitalization in the Great Lakes Region

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is addressing water quality issues facing the Great Lakes by
- Investing in our Future
- Sustaining Our Progress

The Great Lakes region is united in asking Congress to support these priorities.

GREAT LAKES COMMISSION SEMIANNUAL MEETING | March 5-6, 2013 | WASHINGTON, D.C.
Federal Policy Agenda - 2013

• Fund Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)
• Pass comprehensive Great Lakes legislation
• Address low water levels by funding dredging
• Fund waste and drinking water infrastructure
• Pass Farm Bill
• Stop Asian carp and other aquatic invasive species
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

• Mid-way through 5-year, $2.2 billion program
• Over $1 billion appropriated to date - $300M for FY13
• 1,400 projects underway
• Strong congressional and stakeholder support
• Three key priorities for 2012 and 2013:
  – clean up AOCs;
  – reduce nutrient inputs;
  – prevent new invasive species introductions
• Cuts will slow progress, make cleanup more expensive
The state of Wisconsin — together with local communities, tribes, nongovernmental organizations and business and industry — is collaborating with the federal government to implement a comprehensive restoration strategy for the Great Lakes. With strong support from Congress and the Administration, this partnership is generating on-the-ground actions that will improve Wisconsin’s economy, environment and quality of life. This fact sheet describes how Great Lakes restoration is benefiting Wisconsin and showcases selected restoration projects now underway.

The Great Lakes: A Vital Economic Asset for Wisconsin

The Great Lakes have profound effects on Wisconsin’s environment, culture and quality of life. Lakes Michigan and Superior provide:

- sport fishing opportunities for more than 250,000 anglers, bringing $252 million to lakeshore communities annually;
- the foundation for a $3 billion tourism industry in lakeshore counties;
- water vital for manufacturing;
- harbors and marinas that support a $9.4 billion annual recreational boating industry; and
- a maritime transportation network that supports the movement of $7 billion in cargo through Wisconsin ports annually.

As these figures show, cleaning up the Great Lakes isn’t just about correcting mistakes of the past, but of leveraging a vital resource to build a better future.

Investing in Wisconsin’s Waterfront Communities

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is supporting implementation of a comprehensive cleanup plan that has been committed by the state and local governments. A recent study by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources shows that implementing the Great Lakes restoration strategy would generate $80 billion to $100 billion in benefits, including:

- $6.5 billion to $11.8 billion in direct benefits from tourism, fishing and recreation;
- $50 million to $125 million in reduced costs to municipalities; and
- $12 billion to $19 billion in increased property values in degraded shoreline areas, including up to $2.3 billion for the Milwaukee metro area alone.

Economic Benefits from Restoring the Great Lakes

Restoring the Great Lakes advances our region’s broader strategy to create jobs, stimulate economic development and invest in freshwater resources and waterfront communities. A detailed study by The Brookings Institution found that fully implementing the Great Lakes restoration strategy would generate $80 billion to $100 billion in benefits, including:

- $6.5 billion to $11.8 billion in direct benefits from tourism, fishing and recreation;
- $50 million to $125 million in reduced costs to municipalities; and
- $12 billion to $19 billion in increased property values in degraded shoreline areas, including up to $2.3 billion for the Milwaukee metro area alone.

Solving Great Lakes Problems

The GLRI builds on state and local efforts to solve problems such as reducing harmful algal blooms, cleaning up contaminated sites, improving water quality and restoring degraded ecosystems.

See resource for details on projects underway in Wisconsin.
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Projects, FY 2010-2012

Select Jurisdictional Boundary Layer
- None
- Congressional Districts
- Counties

Use Selection Below to Filter Table and Zoom To State
- Select State
- Enter keyword to search

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Recipient Organization</th>
<th>GLRI Award</th>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>State</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tribal Capacity - 1854 Treaty Authority (Grand Portage and Bois Forte Bands of Chippewa)</td>
<td>1854 Authority</td>
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<td>A Unique Approach to Sediment Reduction in Blue Creek and St. Marys River Watersheds</td>
<td>Adams County Soil and Water Conservation District</td>
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<td>Alger-Marquette (MI) Cross-Border Restoration Project</td>
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<td>Collaborative Partnership to Restore Alger County Watersheds</td>
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<td>Promoting Sediment Reduction in Upper Maumee Watershed</td>
<td>Allen County SWCD for Upper Maumee River Watershed Partnership</td>
<td>$550,400</td>
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<td>Marine Debris Removal and Prevention on Sable Island</td>
<td>Alliance for the Great Lakes</td>
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<td>Deploying Tools to Analyze and Reduce Coastal Vulnerability to Climate Change in Michigan City, IN</td>
<td>Alliance for the Great Lakes</td>
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<td>Milwaukee Volunteer Restoration Project</td>
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<td>$100,000</td>
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<td>Northeast Indiana Riverine Restoration &amp; Monitoring Program</td>
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<td>$150,000</td>
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For additional background on the GLRI and specific projects, go to [http://www.glri.us](http://www.glri.us).

Note: Jurisdictional boundary data was acquired from U.S. Census Bureau. If you have any additional questions and concerns about a GLRI project(s), please e-mail us.

[www.glc.org/restore/glrimap](http://www.glc.org/restore/glrimap)
Great Lakes Restoration At Work
Site-specific Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Projects, FY 2010-2012

Select Jurisdictional Boundary Layer
- None
- Congressional Districts
- Counties

Use Selection Below to Filter Table and Zoom To State

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<td>$411,063*</td>
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Note: Jurisdictional boundary data was acquired from U.S. Census Bureau. If you have any additional questions and concerns about a GLRI project(s), please [e-mail us](mailto:).
www.glc.org/restore/glrimap
Comprehensive Great Lakes Legislation

- Reauthorize Great Lakes National Program Office
- Great Lakes Advisory Board
- Federal Interagency Task Force
- Authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative - $475 Million per year
- Reauthorize the Great Lakes Legacy Act - $150 Million per year
Legacy Act – Task Force

- Reauthorize at $150 Million (currently $50 M)
- Address cost share for “no responsible parties”
- Address sites nearby but not within boundaries
Low water levels - Dredging

• Reform Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund
• HR 335 (RAMP Act)
• S 218 (Levin bill)
## Lakes Michigan–Huron Water Levels - February 2013

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
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**Chart Datum: 577.5 feet (175.0 meters)**

**Legend**

- **Recorded**
- **Projected**

**Average**
- 1985
- 1985
- 1973
- 1973

**Maximum**
- 1936
- 1934
- 1926
- 1934

**Minimum**
- 1985
- 1934
- 1926
- 1934

**Note:** Average, Maximum and Minimum for period 1918-2011
Benefits of the Great Lakes Navigation System

- 227,000 Jobs
- $33.5 Billion in business revenue
- $14.1 Billion in annual personal income
- $6.4 Billion in local purchases
- $4.6 Billion in tax revenue
- $3.6 Billion in Transportation Rate Savings
Beneficial Use of Dredged Materials
Beneficial Use of Dredged Materials

Times Beach, Buffalo

Cleveland brownfield capping
Fund wastewater infrastructure

- $70 Billion need in Great Lakes
- 70% of nation’s CSOs are in our 8 states
- Reps Bishop and Higgins bills

Pass Farm Bill

- Regional Conservation Partnership
Stop Aquatic Invasive Species

Separation Alternatives
- Down River
- Mid-System
- Near Lake
Stop Aquatic Invasive Species

• Reform Lacey Act
  – Prevent dangerous imports
  – Scientific screening – pre import
  – Allow screening for species already in trade.

• Fund Asian carp, base budgets
Tab 6 – Workplan Updates

Strategic Plan Core Services

Communications

Info Integration/Reporting

Facilitation/Consensus Building

Policy Coordination/Advocacy

Workplan Program Areas

Clean Energy and Climate

Water-Dependent Economy and Infrastructure

Invasive Species

Water Resource Management

Water Quality and Ecosystem Health

Habitat and Coastal Management