



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative



Strengthening Our Action Plan

Cameron Davis

**Senior Advisor to the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**May 28, 2013
Buffalo, NY**



Agenda

- ▶ Welcome – This is YOUR Plan
- ▶ GLRI FY10–14 – Background
 - Action Plan
 - Results
- ▶ GLRI FY 15–19 – Assumptions
 - Short, effective planning process
 - Adaptive Science
- ▶ Comments, Questions, Discussion

GLRI Action Plan

FY2010 – FY2014

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan



February 21, 2010

*White House Council on Environmental Quality
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of State
U.S. Department of the Army
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of Transportation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

“The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, as it is called, is a truly bipartisan and binational enterprise, involving leaders and groups from eight states, innumerable communities, the two major U.S. political parties...The 30 million people who live in this region make it a major political battleground. In an age of rampant distrust, I can't think of a better way to show that government can work. “

David Broder, Washington Post
February 25, 2010

The Results

- ▶ The agencies have removed 24 Beneficial Use Impairments at 11 Areas of Concern since 2009.
- ▶ Led by White House Council on Environmental Quality, federal, state, provincial and municipal partners have helped keep Asian carp from becoming established in the Great Lakes.
- ▶ Swimming bans and advisories have been at a five-year low at Chicago's beaches due in part to clean beach practices supported in part by GLRI.



The Results – Accountability

Find a Project

Enter a location (such as area of concern or watershed) or a project name in the search box.

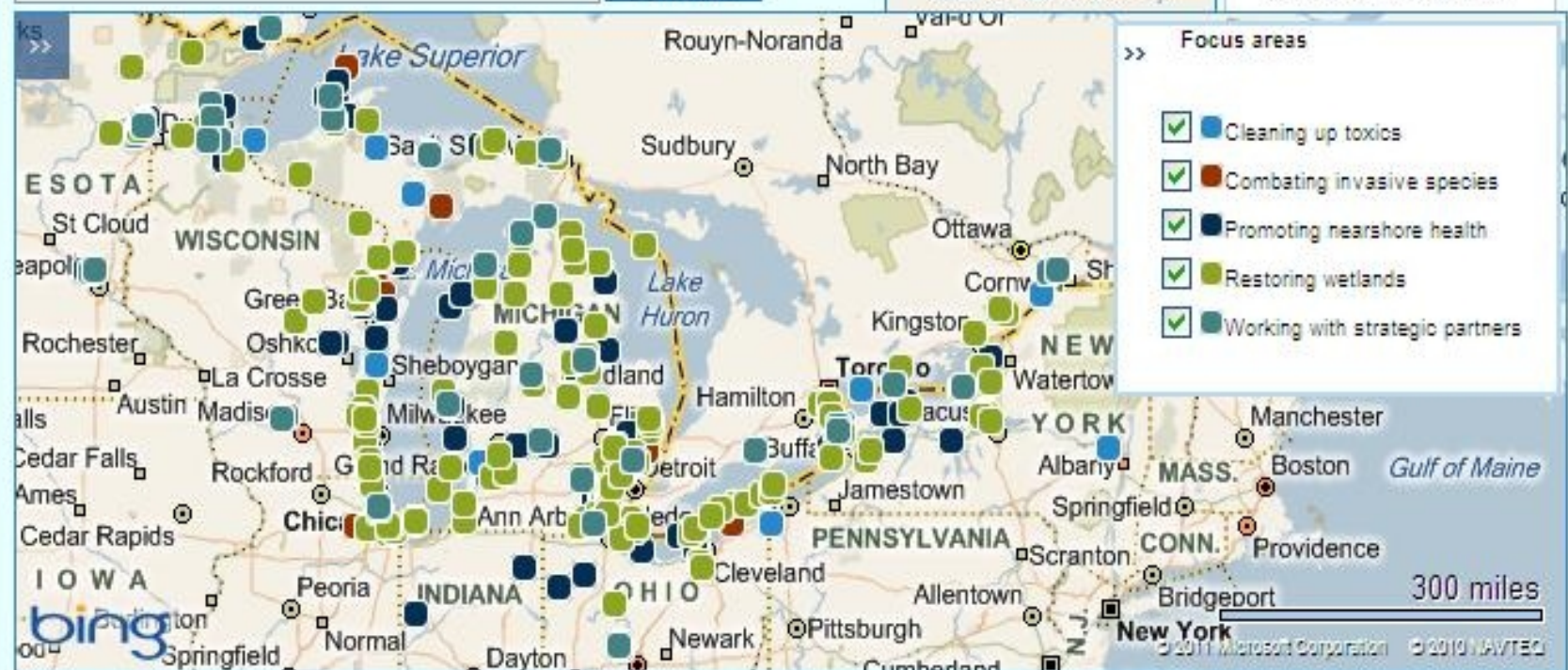
Search

Search Results for: All 2010 Grants

Results found: [407](#) | Current view: 408 | [Clear Results](#)

Search results on map

Search results as a list



GLRI Action Plan FY15-19



- This is YOUR plan.
- “Short and sweet” planning process.
- The GLRI is an “accelerator,” not a stand-alone program.
- The Federal agencies are considering changes they think are warranted:
 - Fulfillment of GLWQA
 - Adjustments to MOPs
 - Consider indicators
- Adaptive Science-Based Framework

GLRI Action Plan FY15-19

Charge Questions

- ▶ Currently climate change impacts and adaptation are not explicitly included in the Action Plan. Should the connection between the Action Plan focus areas and the protection of the Great Lakes from the impacts of climate change be expressed more clearly in the next Action Plan? If so, how?
- ▶ In FY13, the federal agencies emphasized investments on three “priority” subjects: (1) expediting AOC cleanups, (2) reducing nutrients in priority watersheds, and (3) preventing the establishment of invasive species, particularly Asian carp. Should we keep or modify these three priorities?
 - If we keep the current priority to expedite AOC cleanups, should we continue to balance our investments in efforts to so that we are completing all management actions to take some AOCs off the cleanup list soon while continuing to invest in AOCs that may not be taken off the cleanup list for several years?

GLRI Action Plan FY15-19

Charge Questions

- ▶ In FY13, the federal agencies emphasized investments on three “priority” subjects: (1) expediting AOC cleanups, (2) reducing nutrients in priority watersheds, and (3) preventing the establishment of invasive species, particularly Asian carp. Should we keep or modify these three priorities?
 - The federal agencies have targeted three priority watersheds for accelerated nutrient reduction work: (1) Maumee River/Western Lake Erie, (2) Lower Fox River/Green Bay, (3) Saginaw River/Bay watersheds. If we keep the current priority to reduce nutrients in priority, should we also continue to focus conservation activities to have a stronger impact in some sub-watersheds of these three priority watersheds? Or should we disperse our conservation activities so they may have a wider geographical impact throughout the three priority watersheds (but potentially weaker impact across sub-watersheds)? How can we improve participation of key landowners in conservation programs in these watersheds?
 - If we keep the current priority to prevent invasive species from becoming established, should we target our GLRI investments at a few specific species? Or should we address other invasive species, too, and if so, which ones? How do we strike the right balance between investing in the control of invasive species already in the Great Lakes and preventing new invasive species from entering them?

GLRI Action Plan FY15-19

Charge Questions

- ▶ How should the next Action Plan provide better guidance on the selection and prioritization process for restoration projects outside of AOCs?
- ▶ Should the next Action Plan give priority to activities that leverage non-GLRI funding, where applicable, thereby enabling the GLRI funding to do more? Should it give greater priority to large-scale restoration projects (\$3–10M) that are less likely to ever be realized without GLRI resources?

GLRI Action Plan FY15-19

Charge Questions

- ▶ Should the GLRI track jobs created or sustained through GLRI projects? Should the GLRI help promote environmental justice and support disadvantaged communities?
- ▶ Should scientific indicators developed by the International Joint Commission or other official processes be considered for use refining Measures of Progress or other aspects of the GLRI Action Plan? If so, how should indicators be taken into account in the next GLRI Action Plan?

Adaptive Science-Based Framework

- ▶ Helps refine investment decisions based on best available science
- ▶ Brief History
 - Appropriations Requirement
 - SAB
- ▶ Two Major Recommendations
 - Adaptive decision-making process
 - Information System

YOUR PLAN

- ▶ GLAB: June 12
- ▶ Public Meetings
 - May 28 – Buffalo
 - May 30 – Milwaukee
 - June 5 – Cleveland
- ▶ Webinar:
 - Monday, June 3, 2013 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM CDT
 - Registration Web Link:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/911554472>
- ▶ Email for Comments
 - Action plan: actionplan@glmpo.net
 - Science framework: science@glmpo.net
- ▶ Public Comment Period Deadline July 12
- ▶ For more info: <http://glri.us>