



# Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

## Strengthening Our Action Plan



Great Lakes Advisory Board



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# Agenda

- ▶ Welcome on behalf of IATF
- ▶ Action Plan FY10–14
  - Results
- ▶ Action Plan FY 15–19
  - Timeline
  - “Leaner” and more focused
  - Responsive to input
  - Focus area by focus area summary

# Action Plan 2010-2014

- ▶ The agencies have removed 50 Beneficial Use Impairments at 18 Areas of Concern since 2009.
- ▶ Led by White House Council on Environmental Quality, federal, state, provincial and municipal partners have helped keep silver and bighead carp from becoming established in the Great Lakes.
- ▶ As of the last Report to Congress, the agencies are meeting or exceeding 18 of 28 Measures of Progress. More work remains to be done under six Measures and for four Measures data are not yet available to accurately assess progress.

# Action Plan 2015–2019

## Timeline

- Anticipate release of draft in first full week of June
- No formal public comment period.
- Input most helpful within first 30 days of draft release, but will consider comments until finalized.
- Input can be through GLRI Public Engagement web page and email address: [actionplan@glrpo.net](mailto:actionplan@glrpo.net)

# Action Plan 2015–2019

## Responsive to Input

- Your input in 2013 through public meetings, webinars and individual stakeholder conference calls (virtual unanimity that Action Plan I identified the right problems).
- Great Lakes Advisory Board.
- GAO.
- Science Advisory Board.
- What the Action Plan is not
  - Recognizes GLRI supplements, does not supplant, base budgets.

# Action Plan 2015–2019

## Leaner & More Focused

- Budget reductions.
- Tracks only what can be achieved under GLRI. This will paint a more accurate picture of what GLRI is accomplishing.
- Under each Focus Area you will see:
  - Principal Initiatives.
  - Commitments.
  - Measures of Progress (with “baselines,” and “universe,” many with annual targets).
  - Tied to long-term goals.

# Action Plan 2015–2019

## Focus Area 1: Toxic Substances & AOCs

- ▶ **Principal Initiative:** Remediate, Restore and Delist Areas of Concern.
- ▶ **Commitment:** Implement management actions necessary to remove Beneficial Use Impairments and delist AOCs.
- ▶ **Measures of Progress with Annual Targets:**
  - ▶ AOCs where all management actions necessary for delisting have been implemented.
  - ▶ AOC BUIs removed.

# Action Plan 2015–2019

## Focus Area 1: Toxic Substances & AOCs

- ▶ **Principal Initiative:** Increase knowledge about contaminants in Great Lakes fish and wildlife.
- ▶ **Commitments:**
  - Reduce human exposure to contaminants from Great Lakes fish consumption.
  - Identify emerging contaminants and assess impacts on Great Lakes fish and wildlife.
- ▶ **Measures of Progress:**
  - Number of people provided information on the risks and benefits of Great Lakes fish consumption by GLRI-funded projects.
  - Number of GLRI-funded projects that identify and assess impacts of emerging contaminants on Great Lakes fish and wildlife.



# Action Plan 2015–2019

## FA2: Invasive Species

- ▶ **Principal Initiative:** Prevent new introductions of invasive species.
- ▶ **Commitments:**
  - Block pathways through which aquatic invasive species can be introduced to the Great Lakes ecosystem.
  - Conduct early detection monitoring activities.
  - Work with Great Lakes states to conduct rapid response actions or exercises.
- ▶ **Measures of Progress:**
  - Number of GLRI-funded projects that block pathways through which aquatic invasive species can be introduced to the Great Lakes ecosystem.
  - Number of GLRI-funded early detection monitoring activities conducted.
- ▶ **Measures of with Annual Targets:**
  - Number of GLRI-funded Great Lakes rapid responses or exercises conducted.

# Action Plan 2015–2019

## FA2: Invasive Species

- ▶ **Principal Initiative:** Control established invasive species.
- ▶ **Commitments:**
  - Implement control projects for GLRI-targeted invasive species.
- ▶ **Measures of Progress:**
  - Number of tributary miles protected by GLRI-funded projects.
- ▶ **Measures of with Annual Targets:**
  - Number of aquatic/terrestrial acres controlled by GLRI-funded projects.

# Action Plan 2015–2019

## FA2: Invasive Species

- ▶ **Principal Initiative:** Develop invasive species control technologies and refine management techniques.
- ▶ **Commitments:**
  - Develop/enhance technologies and methods to prevent the introduction and to control the spread of invasive species.
  - Develop/enhance invasive species–specific collaboratives to support rapid responses and communicate the latest control and management techniques.
- ▶ **Measures of Progress:**
  - Number of technologies and methods field tested by GLRI–funded projects.
  - Number of collaboratives developed/enhanced with GLRI funding.

# Action Plan 2015–2019

## FA3: NPS Pollution Impacts on NS Health

- ▶ **Principal Initiative:** Reduce nutrient loads from agricultural watersheds
- ▶ **Commitment:**
  - Implement agricultural practices or other nutrient reduction practices in GLRI targeted watersheds.
- ▶ **Measures of Progress:**
  - Number of GLRI-funded nutrient and sediment reduction projects in targeted watersheds (measured in acres).
  - Measured nutrient and sediment reductions from monitored GLRI-funded projects in targeted watersheds (measured in pounds)
- ▶ **Measures of with Annual Targets:**
  - Predicted nutrient and sediment reductions from GLRI-funded projects in targeted watersheds (measured in pounds)

# Action Plan 2015–2019

## FA3: NPS Pollution Impacts on NS Health

- ▶ **Principal Initiative:** Reduce untreated runoff from urban watersheds.
- ▶ **Commitment:**
  - Implement watershed management projects in urban areas that have adopted a watershed strategy.
- ▶ **Measures of Progress:**
  - Number of GLRI-funded projects implemented to reduce the impacts of untreated urban runoff on the Great Lakes.
  - Measured volume of untreated urban runoff captured or treated by monitored GLRI-funded projects.
- ▶ **Measures of with Annual Targets:**
  - Predicted volume of untreated urban runoff captured or treated by GLRI-funded projects.

# Action Plan 2015–2019

## FA4: Habitat and Species

- ▶ **Principal Initiative:** Protect, restore and enhance habitats to help sustain healthy populations of native species.
- ▶ **Commitments:**
  - Remove or bypass barriers on Great Lakes tributaries to facilitate fish passage.
  - Protect, restore and enhance Great Lakes coastal wetlands.
  - Protect, restore and enhance GLRI-targeted habitats in the Great Lakes basin .
- ▶ **Measures of with Annual Targets:**
  - Number of miles of Great Lakes tributaries reopened by GLRI-funded projects.
  - Number of miles of Great Lakes shoreline and riparian corridors protected, restored and enhanced by GLRI-funded projects.
  - Number of acres of Great Lakes coastal wetlands protected, restored and enhanced by GLRI-funded projects.
  - Number of acres of other habitats in the Great Lakes basin protected, restored and enhanced by GLRI-funded projects.

# Action Plan 2015–2019

## FA4: Habitat and Species

- ▶ **Principal Initiative:** Maintain, restore and enhance populations of native species.
- ▶ **Commitments:**
  - Promote the recovery of priority federally-listed endangered, threatened and candidate species.
  - Promote self-sustaining populations of GLRI-targeted native, non-threatened and non-endangered species.
- ▶ **Measures of Progress:**
  - Number of GLRI-funded projects that promote recovery of federally-listed endangered, threatened, and candidate species.
  - Number of GLRI-funded projects that promote populations of native non-threatened and non-endangered species self-sustaining in the wild.

# Action Plan 2015–2019

## FA5: Integrated Solutions to Cross-Cutting Issues

- ▶ **Principal Initiative:** Ensure climate resiliency of GLRI-funded projects.
- ▶ **Commitment:**
  - Incorporate climate resiliency criteria in project selection processes.
- ▶ **Measures of Progress:**
  - By 2016, a standardized set of climate resiliency criteria will be developed for GLRI-projects.
  - Starting in 2017, projects will include climate resiliency criteria in planning and implementation.



# Action Plan 2015–2019

## FA5: Integrated Solutions to Cross-Cutting Issues

- ▶ **Principal Initiative:** Educate the next generation about the Great Lakes ecosystem.
- ▶ **Commitment:**
  - Promote Great Lakes–based environmental education and stewardship, with a focus on educator training.
- ▶ **Measures of Progress:**
  - Number of educators trained through GLRI–funded projects.

# Action Plan 2015–2019

## FA5: Integrated Solutions to Cross-Cutting Issues

- ▶ **Principal Initiative:** Implement a science-based adaptive management approach for GLRI.
- ▶ **Commitment:**
  - Evaluate the effectiveness of GLRI-funded projects.
  - Assess the overall health of the Great Lakes ecosystem and identify the most significant remaining problems.
  - Identify watersheds, habitats, and species to be targeted by the GLRI.
  - Report on GLRI progress and Great Lakes ecosystem health.
- ▶ **Measures of Progress:**
  - Project evaluations completed and used to prioritize GLRI funding decisions each year.
  - Annual Great Lakes monitoring conducted and used to prioritize GLRI funding decisions each year.
  - GLRI-targeted watersheds, habitats and species identified and used to prioritize GLRI funding decisions.
  - Issue annual GLRI Reports to Congress and the President.
  - Issue Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement triennial Progress Reports of the Parties.
  - Issue triennial State of the Lakes reports.
  - Periodically update publicly available online information about the GLRI.