

HEALTHY LAKES, HEALTHY LIVES

# Support Great Lakes Restoration



A vital part of our nation's economic recovery will be to restore one of the nation's most important natural, economic resources—the Great Lakes. Forty-two million people depend on the Great Lakes for their drinking water, and millions more benefit from the business, industry and commerce that depend on them.

Today, the health of our Lakes is seriously threatened by problems such as untreated sewage and invasive species.

America must invest in our Great Lakes today or these problems will get worse and the price we pay will be higher. A Brookings Institution report concludes that restoring the health of the Great Lakes will create \$50 billion dollars in new jobs, development, and increased property values.

The plan for Great Lakes restoration and economic recovery is a multi-year strategy to tackle problems facing the Lakes by: modernizing sewage treatment; cleaning-up polluted harbors; restoring wetlands; and preventing unwanted, new invasive species from invading the lakes. Each of these steps is essential if we are to restore the lakes and revive our economy.

We must act now to restore our great freshwater treasure. Every day we wait, the problems get worse and the solutions get more costly.

## TAKE ACTION

- Fund and strengthen Great Lakes restoration
- Stop Asian carp
- End sewage pollution
- Stop invasive species
- Address global warming changes
- Restore Clean Water protections



**Congress can lay a foundation for long-term economic recovery by responding to President Obama's call for \$5 billion for Great Lakes restoration.**

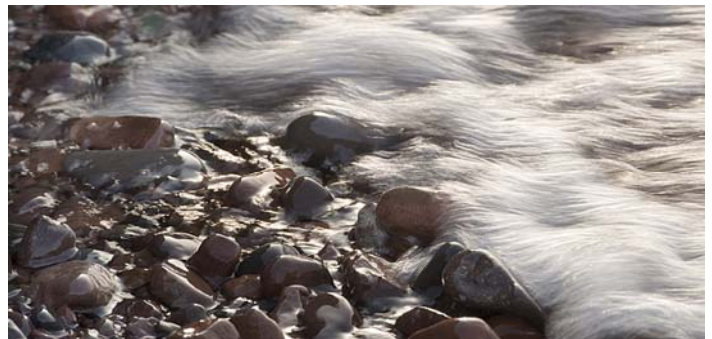


**Fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) at \$475 million**

Last year the President proposed a new multi-year initiative to accelerate progress in restoring the Great Lakes. The GLRI puts people to work by funding solutions that address the most urgent problems facing the Lakes. Sustained investment in the GLRI will clean up toxic pollution that poses a threat to people and wildlife; restore wetlands to improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat that is important to the region's tourism industry; and prevent and control new invasive species that cost the region at least \$200 million every year.

The President committed to a five-year, \$5 billion program to implement the Great Lakes restoration and protection strategy. The \$475 million provided for FY 2010 is a strong start. Sustained, consistent funding is needed to keep pace with the urgent threats to the Lakes; make up for years of inadequate federal investment; fulfill the President's promise; and ensure the GLRI's long-term success.

The need remains greater than ever. The EPA recently requested proposals for approximately \$120 million in GLRI funds. Over 1,050 proposals totaling more than \$940 million were submitted from every Great Lakes state. This level of demand will result in a significant number of unfunded projects, as demand is seven times more than the supply of available funds.



The GLRI's investment in well-defined regional restoration programs needs to supplement -- not supplant-- funding for other vital Great Lakes programs. Great Lakes restoration and economic recovery hinges on continued congressional support for programs, such as: Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration (Army Corps-\$10.0M); Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal Invasive Species Dispersal Barrier and Ecosystem Separation Study (Army Corps-\$13.65M); Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (USFWS-\$8.0M); Great Lakes Fishery Commission (State Dept.-\$22.2M); Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control (USDA-\$5.0M).

<b>Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funding Proposals Received - First RFP</b>		
<b>State</b>	<b>Number of Proposals Submitted</b>	<b>Total Amount Requested</b>
Illinois	103	\$60,854,985
Indiana	63	\$37,169,510
Michigan	348	\$219,375,984
Minnesota	60	\$33,697,756
New York	111	\$70,801,012
Ohio	116	\$83,502,682
Pennsylvania	15	\$10,033,315
Wisconsin	190	\$105,168,417
Regional	42	\$322,633,976
Canada	9	\$3,294,868
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,057</b>	<b>\$946,532,505</b>

**TAKE ACTION:** Congress must help implement the region's comprehensive strategy by funding the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and other key programs to restore and protect the Great Lakes.

# Strengthening Great Lakes Restoration

Great Lakes restoration will only be successful if funding is targeted on the right priorities and in the right areas. The need for Great Lakes restoration dollars remains high after years of inadequate budgets. Spending new resources must be done effectively and transparently resulting in cleaner water, healthier people, new jobs, and an enhanced way of life.

Congress has the opportunity to enact legislation that propels restoration forward by formally authorizing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and reauthorizing the Great Lakes Legacy Act in a bill that enhances regional coordination, increases accountability and ensures that the restoration efforts focus on the right priorities that produce the most benefit to the Lakes and the people, businesses and communities which depend on them.

Through the reauthorization of EPA's Great Lakes Program, Congress can enact a permanent Great Lakes restoration framework that:

- Remains focused on on-the-ground restoration activities that are guided by science and can be adjusted to changes on the ground
- Creates a stakeholder board that sets clear restoration goals and priorities each year, which federal agencies use to develop their annual budgets and restoration plans;
- Improves coordination among federal agencies by establishing the federal Great Lakes Interagency Task Force and enhances collaboration between the federal government, state, local, tribal, and non-governmental agencies and organizations; and,
- Recognizes the current leadership role for the Environmental Protection Agency.



## Stop Asian Carp

Asian carp are voracious feeders that can grow 4 feet long and weigh 100 pounds. By gobbling up the food that sustains native fish populations, the non-native Asian carp can quickly dominate water habitats. The carp also jump out of water, injuring boaters. They threaten the region's \$7 billion fishing industry and \$16 billion recreational boating economy. If the fish take hold in the Great Lakes, the impact would be irreversible to the people, wildlife, and economies that rely upon the Lakes.

We know from experience the devastating impacts of invasive species on the Great Lakes. Once invasive species take hold, they are impossible to eradicate, which is why new invasive species such as the Asian carp need to be stopped from entering the Great Lakes and establishing breeding populations. Too rarely do we have the opportunity to prevent the damage of invasion before it begins, yet such an opportunity is now on our doorstep. There are no second chances.

There is a permanent solution: Restore the ecological barrier between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds. This long-term solution is the only way to permanently address invasive species from moving back and forth between two of our country's largest and most important bodies of water.

**TAKE ACTION:** Congress must hold the agencies' feet to the fire so every action possible - including lock closure, fish harvesting, chemical treatment, etc. - is taken to keep carp out of the Great Lakes and must legislatively direct the Administration to expedite a plan of action on how to separate the Great Lakes from the Mississippi River basin by 2011.

**TAKE ACTION:** Co-sponsor legislation that authorizes EPA's Great Lakes Program and permanently establishes the GLRI to manage and strengthen our region's restoration efforts.



## End Sewage Pollution

Communities receive federal assistance to fix old sewers through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund. The popular and successful national program, unfortunately, has not received funding to keep pace with the serious threat sewage contamination and polluted runoff poses to the Great Lakes and the nation. While the program received \$2.1 billion in regular FY 2010 appropriations, more needs to be done. The Clean Water SRF can fund solutions to improve Great Lakes water quality, create jobs, and improve the quality of life of millions of people.

**TAKE ACTION:** Invest in the Clean Water SRF by providing \$2.7 billion in FY 2011 to meet existing needs and setting aside a portion of that funding to go towards non-structural, "green" solutions.

## Stop Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species cost Great Lakes citizens, businesses and communities at least \$200 million annually. In 2005 the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy recommended that the U.S. government set strong national ballast water standards to protect U.S. taxpayers, businesses, and municipalities from the economic and environmental damage from invasive species and that live organisms be screened before they are imported into the United States. A new aquatic invasive species is discovered in the Great Lakes every 28 weeks. Congress and the Obama Administration need to address this ongoing problem, which could undermine Great Lakes restoration progress.

**TAKE ACTION:** Put in place strong ballast water and screening programs that will stop aquatic invasive species.

## Address Global Warming Changes

Global warming is having a profound effect on the Great Lakes' ecology and economy. Restoration programs address the impacts of global warming by restoring wetlands, combating the spread of invasive species, and conserving water in the face of declining lake levels. Congress can help the Great Lakes combat the impacts of global warming by passing legislation that addresses the harmful impacts greenhouse gases are having on our planet and provides incentives to help our natural resources, including the Great Lakes, deal with those impacts.

**TAKE ACTION:** Enact global warming legislation that directs adaptation funding to restore the Great Lakes and other iconic U.S. waters.

## Restore Clean Water Protections

The GLRC Strategy's goal to protect and restore 1 million acres of wetlands and habitat cannot be achieved unless Congress restores Clean Water Act protections for wetlands, lakes, and streams. Two Supreme Court decisions (*SWANCC*, 2001, and *Rapanos*, 2006) and subsequent agency guidance stripped these water bodies of their protections. The Clean Water Restoration Act restores protections to waters that prevent floods, recharge groundwater, filter pollutants from drinking water sources, and provide essential fish and wildlife habitat.

**TAKE ACTION:** Tell congressional leaders to introduce and pass the Clean Water Restoration Act this year.

## About the Healing Our Waters® – Great Lakes Coalition

More than 110 organizations representing millions of people are uniting to restore one of America's greatest natural wonders—the Great Lakes. The coalition seeks to stop sewage contamination, shut the door on invasive species, and restore wetlands and other damaged habitat, each of which is an essential component of restoring the health of the Great Lakes.

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