



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Purpose: This fact sheet provides general information about the role of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE or Corps) in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

Background: The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is a multi-year, multi-agency Administration Budget Initiative for the restoration of the Great Lakes ecosystem. The EPA is leading this Initiative and has developed, with input from Corps and other Federal agencies, a 5-year Action Plan. This Action Plan identifies five focus areas for GLRI funding, with near-term and long-term objectives for each focus area and metrics for measuring progress:

- Toxic Substance and Areas of Concern
- Invasive Species
- Habitat and Wildlife Protection and Restoration
- Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution
- Accountability, Education, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication and Partnerships



The GLRI provides new funding for restoration actions through existing authorities and programs of Federal agencies and by states and local stakeholders through existing Federal grant programs. The Administration Budget request for FY 2010 included \$475 million for GLRI and the FY 2011 Budget included \$300 million.

USACE Actions: In the first year of GLRI, the USACE received \$44 million for over 80 projects. Over 65 percent of these funds are being used for construction of nine restoration projects. In the second year, the USACE will use over 85 percent of GLRI funds for construction.

The first project constructed with GLRI funds by the USACE was a 13 mile barricade along the DesPlaines River in Illinois (right) to prevent Asian carp from bypassing the electric fence in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and invading Lake Michigan. Construction of this project was completed in October 2010.



The USACE will be using FY 2010 GLRI funding to remove up to 400,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments from the navigation channel in the Buffalo River Area of Concern. This dredging will complement the cleanup dredging outside the navigation channel by EPA under their Legacy Act program.



FY 2010 GLRI funds are also being used to initiate construction of seven habitat restoration projects under the Corps' Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER) program:

63 rd Street Dune and Beach, IL
Burnham Prairie, IL
Calumet & Ivanhoe, IN
DuPont Natural Area, IL
Orland Tract Perimeter, IL
Washington Park, IL
Northwest Indiana Wetlands, IN

In addition to the above projects, the USACE is planning and designing a number of other restoration projects that could be constructed with GLRI funding in FY 2011 and FY 2012, including the following:

The USACE has scheduled three projects involving the removal of contaminated sediments from Areas of Concern (AOC). A routine dredging is planned at Monroe Harbor, Michigan navigation channel in FY 2011 with USACE base funding. GLRI funds would be used to remove an additional 30,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments to complement a planned cleanup project on the River Raisin Area of Concern by EPA under its Legacy Act program. About 65,000 cubic yards of sediments are planned to be removed from the Ashtabula Harbor AOC in Ohio. Another 20,000 cubic yards would be removed from the Duluth Harbor (left) and used to help restore a strip mine.



GLRI funds are scheduled to be used to supplement the Corps' funding for controlling aquatic invasive species, including the Asian carp and Sea lamprey (right). Funds could be used to design and construct a barrier for preventing Asian carp from entering Lake Erie through a connection of the Maumee and Wabash Rivers.

Construction could also be started in FY 2011 on a barrier for preventing Sea lamprey from migrating upstream on the Manistique River in Michigan to spawn. Finally, GLRI funds will be used to accelerate the comprehensive study for preventing the migration of aquatic invaders between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins (known as the GLMRIS study).



The largest restoration project the USACE has scheduled is located in the Green Bay/Fox River AOC (left). This project would restore the Cat Island chain which has been almost completely eroded, restore and protect over 1,000 acres of coastal wetlands, and provide for the safe management of sediments dredged from the harbor. There are many smaller habitat restoration projects that are currently scheduled to be ready for construction with FY 2011 and 2012 GLRI funding. These include projects that will restore fishery passages around dams, natural river features in urbanized areas, wetlands, provide habitat for the Sturgeon and other threatened species, and replace invasive plants with native species.

Frankenmuth Fishery Passage, MI	Boardman Dams, MI
Irondequoit Creek, NY	Marion Mill Pond, MI
Harpersfield Dam, OH	Conneaut Creek, PA
Wynn Road, OH	Elkhart River, IN
Menominee River, MI/WI	St. Mary's River, MI
Zion Beach & Ridge, IL	Upper Rouge River, MI
Ft. Sheridan Coastal, IL	Rosewood Park, IL

The USACE is proud to be among the team of Federal agencies that are contributing to the restoration of the Great Lakes through the GLRI.

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