

## \$1.8 million in grants awarded to protect and restore Great Lakes wetlands and wildlife habitat

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Midwest Regional Director Tom Melius and Northeast Regional Director Marvin Moriarty jointly announced today the approval of \$1.8 million in grants aimed at protecting and/or restoring 1,566 acres of wetlands and wildlife habitat in Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

**Wisconsin** - The Nature Conservancy was granted \$371,400 for the Door Peninsula Bird Habitat Protection Project. It will protect 83 acres in the Door Peninsula located in the Mississippi flyway, and its general north-south orientation enhances its significance as migratory bird stopover habitat for a number of bird groups including waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and passerines.

**Michigan** - Ducks Unlimited Inc., was granted \$99,750 for the Shiawassee Flats Floodplain Wetland Restoration Project. It will restore 141 acres of sustainable high-quality emergent wetland habitat that will contribute to the health of the Saginaw River and Saginaw Bay.

**Ohio** - Ducks Unlimited, Inc. was granted \$150,013 for the Magee Marsh project. It will reduce habitat fragmentation and improve water quality in a highly altered watershed through the restoration of 110 acres of forested and emergent wetlands and enhancement of 282 acres of emergent wetlands.

**Wisconsin** - The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources was granted \$145,500 for the Chiwaukee State Natural Area project. It will protect 12 acres in one of the Upper Midwest's premier coastal wetland complexes and is the only Wisconsin example of a

Great Lakes-influenced coastal wetland composed mostly of tall grass prairie and fen communities.

**Michigan** - The Nature Conservancy was granted \$103,400 for the Completing the Swamp Lakes Wetland project. It will protect 150 acres in one of the best examples of a peat land-forest ecosystem in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

**Pennsylvania** - The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy was granted \$496,549 for the Roderick Wildlife Reserve Expansion project. It will protect 197 acres on the longest stretch of undeveloped shoreline on the southern shore of Lake Erie, in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

**New York** - Ducks Unlimited, Inc. was granted \$432,865 for the Indian River Lakes Wetland Protection project. It will protect 591 acres which will provide connectivity to existing protected lands, as well as protect 1.75 miles of Oswegatchie River frontage and floodplain grass and scrub.

The grants were awarded under the Great Lakes Watershed Habitat and Species Restoration Initiative Grants Program, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a Department of the Interior agency. The grants were funded by the President's 2010 Budget which provided \$475 million for the Environmental Protection Agency – led, interagency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. A portion of those funds were provided to the Upper Mississippi/Great Lakes and Atlantic Coast Joint Ventures for priority bird habitat conservation projects.

Passed in 2010, GLRI provides matching grants to organizations to restore and protect habitats for the conservation of native Great Lakes fish and wildlife populations.