



## Great Lakes RESTORATION

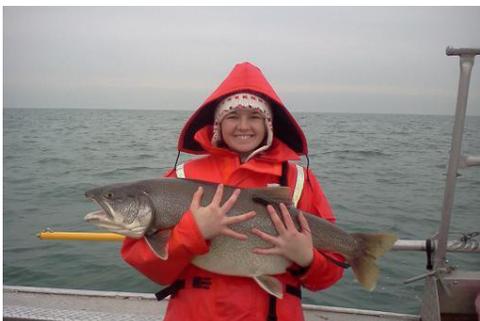
## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)



Bird and bat radar unit

Credit: USFWS



Lake trout restoration.

Credit: USFWS



Lake sturgeon streamside rearing unit

Credit: USFWS



Mobile eDNA lab.

Credit: USFWS

### Why save the Great Lakes?

Comprised of more than 10,000 miles of coastline and 30,000 islands, the Great Lakes provide drinking water, transportation, power and recreational opportunities to the 30 million citizens who call the Great Lakes Basin “home.” Fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching in the Great Lakes generate almost \$18 billion in annual revenue. As the largest group of fresh water lakes on Earth, the Great Lakes hold 95 percent of the United States’ surface fresh water. Unfortunately, years of environmental degradation has left the Great Lakes in need of immediate on-the-ground action to save this precious resource for generations to come.

### What is the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative?

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is a driver for environmental action in the Great Lakes. Building upon strategic recommendations for how to improve the Great Lakes ecosystem presented in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy of 2005, President Obama’s FY 2010 budget invested \$475 million for GLRI. Funding decreased to \$300 million in FY 2011, FY 2012 and FY 2013. GLRI represents a collaborative effort on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and 15 other federal agencies, including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to address the most significant environmental concerns of the Great Lakes.

### What is the USFWS’s role in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative?

The Service facilitates the implementation of GLRI Action Plan priority programs, projects and activities to protect, restore, and maintain the Great Lakes ecosystem. Through an interagency agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Service was allocated approximately \$69 million in FY 2010, \$37.4 million in FY 2011, \$43.6 million in FY 2012 and \$40.5 million in FY 2013 to work on projects in the following focus areas:

- Toxic Substances and Areas of Concern (AOCs): Years after pollution stops persistent pollutants can remain in the environment, often trapped in sediments below the surface of the water. The areas of the Great Lakes Basin most severely impacted by these pollutants are known as Areas of Concern (AOCs). Service will work to restore and protect aquatic ecosystems in the Great Lakes from the threat of persistent pollutants. In addition, the Service is initiating an effort to address the looming threat of emerging contaminants, such as hand sanitizers, pharmaceuticals, and personal care products, in the Great Lakes.

- Invasive Species: More than 180 non-native species are established in the Great Lakes. The most invasive of these reproduce and spread, ultimately degrading habitat, out-competing native species, and disrupting food webs. Service activities will work to control and eradicate harmful non-native species in the Great Lakes. In FY 2013 \$3.4 million in GLRI funding was allocated to the Service to work specifically on Asian carp control and management, with an additional \$5.3 million allocated for state projects.

- Habitat and Wildlife Protection and Restoration: From climate change to increasing development activities along the shores of the Great Lakes, a multitude of threats are affecting the health of the Great Lakes habitats and native wildlife. Service projects will work to identify, restore, and protect important habitat for the area’s fish and wildlife.

- Accountability, Education, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication, and Partnerships: The Service will foster coordination of management activities to create synergy with project partners.

(From the top) The Service is working to identify ecologically important areas for birds and bats in the Great Lakes. Millions of lake trout are tagged and stocked into the Great Lakes through the mass marking program. In the streamside rearing unit juvenile lake sturgeon are raised in their natal waters. The mobile eDNA lab provides a sterilized environment to process water samples at remote locations.

Want more information?  
Go to <http://www.fws.gov/GLRI>

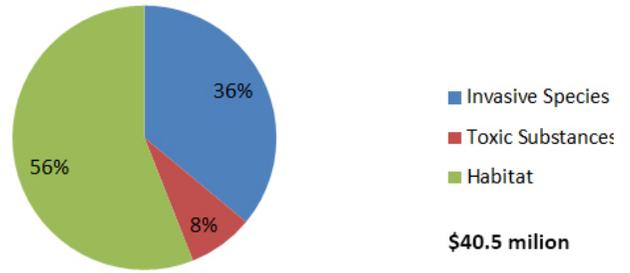
**GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE**

**Proud Partner**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a proud partner in the implementation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Working with our conservation partners and utilizing our field based organization; we help to bring positive environmental change to the Great Lakes region.



**FY 2013 Distribution of USFWS GLRI Funds by Focus Area**



*Piping plover species recovery*

Credit: USFWS



*Asian carp education and outreach*

Credit: USFWS



*Contaminants of emerging concern research*

Credit: USFWS



Diversity and the Great Lakes: GLRI represents the collaborative efforts of a diverse group of stakeholders. Pictured above are State, Federal and Tribal representatives who participated in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Conveners Meeting held in Chicago, IL in December of 2004. This group is just a sub-set of the more than 1,500 stakeholders who helped identify needed priority actions in the Great Lakes, many of which are now being implemented through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

**Want more information?  
Go to <http://www.fws.gov/GLRI>**