



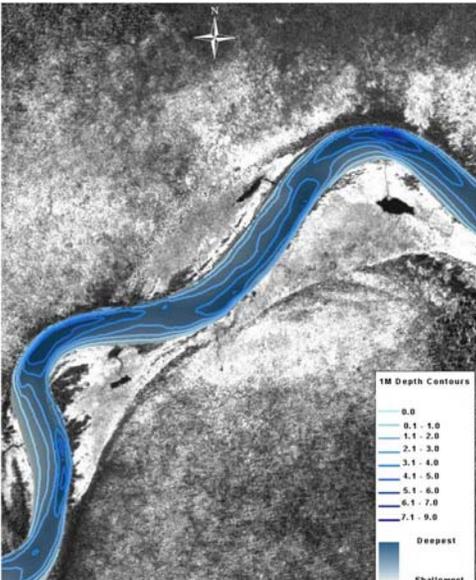
Act projects have supported fish and wildlife habitat restoration.



-Ducks Unlimited

Wetland restoration assists wildlife and fish species and has been the focus of many GLFWRA funded projects.

Act projects results have described the status of fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.



-USGS

GIS and other habitat mapping efforts have been funded to aid in restoration efforts.



-Conservation Resource Alliance

Perched and undersized culverts fragment aquatic habitats and populations and occur throughout the Great Lakes basin. A portion of selected projects address these problem sites.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2006 (1998-2012)

Providing Leadership to Conserve, Enhance and Restore the Great Lakes Ecosystem

The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (Act) authorizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to work in partnership with states, tribes, and other federal agencies “to develop and implement proposals for the restoration of fish and wildlife resources in the Great Lakes Basin and to provide assistance to Great Lakes fish and wildlife agencies to encourage cooperative conservation, restoration and management of the fish and wildlife resources and their habitats.”

Restoration and Research Projects

Originally enacted in 1990 and reauthorized in 1998 and 2006, the Act authorizes \$14 million annually to implement fish and wildlife restoration projects and Service activities of regional importance.

Fish and wildlife restoration and research projects are selected through a competitive review process from proposals submitted by states, tribes and other interested entities. A 25% non-federal match is required. To date, more than \$17.3 million in federal funds, matched by over \$8.7 million in nonfederal funds, have supported 123 projects during 1998-2012, including 4 regional projects. These projects were selected from a total of 678 project pre-proposals submitted, with accompanying requests of more than \$107.1 million.

Projects have focused on developing ecosystem management tools; restoring wetlands; restoring aquatic habitat; fish and wildlife community research and assessment; and ecological monitoring and modeling. Projects have contributed important information and actions toward meeting Great Lakes restoration needs as identified in the 1995 Great Lakes Fishery Resources Restoration Study and priorities of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission Lake Committees. See <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/fisheries/glfwra-grants.html> for additional information.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Activities

The 2006 Act authorizes \$2 million annually to support the coordination and technical assistance activities of the Service’s Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices, and establishes six goals for Service programs related to Great Lakes fish and wildlife resources:

- 1) Restoring and maintaining self-sustaining fish and wildlife resources.
- 2) Minimizing the impacts of contaminants on fishery and wildlife resources.
- 3) Protecting, maintaining, and, where degraded and destroyed, restoring fish and wildlife habitat, including the enhancement and creation of wetlands that result in a net gain in the amount of those habitats.
- 4) Stopping illegal activities adversely impacting fishery and wildlife resources.
- 5) Restoring threatened and endangered species to viable, self-sustaining levels.
- 6) Protecting, managing, and conserving migratory birds.

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act

These goals tie activities authorized under the Act together with Service resource management programs authorized and funded through many other laws, treaties, agreements, codes and guiding documents.



-Ohio DNR

Dams stop the passage of aquatic organisms and alter natural processes both above and below the structure. Funding for removal of Ballville Dam was awarded with GLRI through the Act.



-Ducks Unlimited

Efforts to reduce and inhibit the growth and after-growth of invasive plants help to restore biodiversity in monoculture stands and improve habitat conditions.



-USFWS

The Act supports native species rehabilitation efforts such as for coaster brook trout in Lake Superior.

Building Partnerships

Funds provided through the Act have increased partnership development among state, tribal, federal and provincial management agencies and NGO's for cooperative conservation, enhancement and restoration of Great Lakes fish and wildlife and their habitats. During 1998-2012, projects were implemented in collaboration with more than 70 partner organizations that provided funds, in-kind contributions and expertise. Interagency partnerships continue to grow and become more effective each year, as additional stakeholders join in Act supported activities.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

The Presidents 2010-2012 Budget provided funding for a new initiative focusing on Great Lakes Restoration. This was an important and much needed initiative, and ultimately has provided, through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), an additional \$11 million in funding to the Act in FY2010-FY2012. These funds were used to select excellent projects that will do many things for the Great Lakes ecosystem, including wetland restoration, fisheries and wildlife research, aquatic habitat restoration, lake trout restoration across the entire basin, and fund regional large scale projects in the basin.

Looking to the Future

To date 123 projects have been selected and worked on ranging all across the Great Lakes ecosystem. Future work via the Act will continue to encourage cooperative conservation, restoration, and management of fish and wildlife and their habitats and address impacts associated with invasive species, population growth, demand for water, pollution and contamination, habitat alteration and destruction, and fish and wildlife diseases.

The Act provides powerful and effective tools for agencies and organizations to address future challenges together. It will play an important role in implementing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and in addressing the Council of Great Lakes Governors' priorities. Continued investment in the Act as an interagency strategy will yield direct benefits to Great Lakes fish and wildlife resources and their habitats and to the 35 million people living within this unique region.

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