

Great Lakes RESTORATION



The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative was launched in 2010 to accelerate efforts to protect and restore the largest system of fresh surface water in the world — to provide additional resources to make progress

toward the most critical long-term goals for this important ecosystem. In 2013, commitment for the next five years, 2015-2019, of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative work was announced. The September 2014 Action Plan provides details on the actions to occur over the next five years: federal agencies plan to continue to use Great Lakes Restoration Initiative resources to strategically target the biggest threats to the Great Lakes ecosystem and to accelerate progress toward long term goals—by combining Great Lakes Restoration Initiative resources with agency base budgets and by using these resources to work with nonfederal partners to implement protection and restoration projects.



So far, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative resources have been used to fund over 2,000 projects to improve water quality, to protect and restore native habitat and species, to prevent and control invasive species and to address other Great Lakes environmental problems. Projects that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service New York Field Office has lead and assisted, in 2010-2014, include projects in the following programs: Endangered Species, Environmental Quality, Conservation Planning and Assistance, and Partners for Fish and Wildlife. For Endangered Species, actions and

activities that protect/restore habitat were conducted for Bog Turtle (*Clemmys [=Glyptemys] muhlenbergii*), Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*), Leedy's roseroot (*Rhodiola integrifolia subsp. leedyi*) and American hart's-tongue fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium var. americanum*). In the Environmental Quality program, projects conducted included an Emerging Contaminants Study, A Fish Tumor Study, a Colonial Waterbird Population Study, a Marsh Anuran and Bird Study, Habitat Evaluation and Restoration, and Technical Assistance to Areas of Concern. For Conservation Planning and Assistance, projects conducted have enhanced information related to shoreline and open water migration corridors and utilization of Great Lakes islands by migratory and breeding birds and bats. In the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, projects restored habitats for native lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), migratory birds, and threatened and endangered species populations within the Great Lakes Basin by removing fish passage barriers, stabilizing stream banks, improving in-stream habitat, and restoring wetland and upland areas to benefit priority species.