

March 2014

Great Lakes Restoration at work in Ohio



The state of Ohio – together with local communities, tribes, nongovernmental organizations and business and industry – is collaborating with the federal government to implement a comprehensive restoration strategy for the Great Lakes. With strong support from Congress and the Administration, this partnership is generating on-the-ground actions that will improve Ohio's economy, environment and quality of life. This fact sheet describes how Great Lakes restoration is benefiting Ohio and showcases selected restoration projects now underway.

The Great Lakes: A Vital Economic Asset for Ohio

Lake Erie is one of Ohio's most valuable natural resources and an essential element in Ohio's economic development strategy. The lake provides water for drinking and industry, shipping of commodities, commercial fishing, and waterborne transportation. Visitors to Ohio's Lake Erie region spend more than \$10.7 billion annually – nearly 30 percent of Ohio's total tourism dollars. Regional tourism also supports more than 100,000 northern Ohio jobs and generates \$750 million in state and local taxes. The Lake Erie region also contributes to

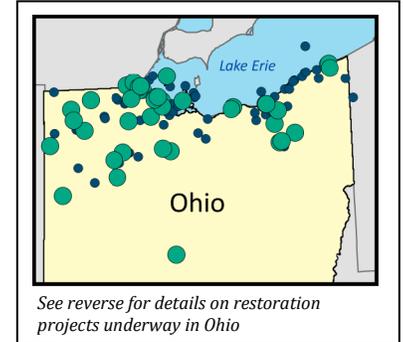
- exceptional hunting and fishing opportunities that annually attract an estimated 1.5 million hunters and anglers who spend \$2 billion;
- a recreational boating industry that supports more than 26,000 jobs with an economic impact of \$3.5 billion annually; and
- drinking water for 3 million Ohio residents.

As these figures show, cleaning up the Great Lakes isn't just about correcting mistakes of the past, but of leveraging a vital resource to build a better future.

Investing in Ohio's Waterfront Communities

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is supporting implementation of a comprehensive cleanup plan that has been broadly endorsed by the region's governors, tribes, cities, conservation groups, and business and industry. Begun in 2009, the Initiative builds on years of work to identify solutions to key problems facing the Great Lakes:

- Combating aquatic invasive species, such as Asian carp
- Cleaning up contaminated sediments in Areas of Concern
- Controlling polluted runoff and cleaning up beaches
- Restoring degraded wetlands
- Conserving and enhancing valuable fish and wildlife resources



The GLRI is supported by sound science and guided by an Action

Plan with detailed performance goals and clear accountability standards. An interagency task force, led by U.S. EPA, is coordinating federal efforts and directing a majority of funding to states, cities and nongovernmental groups that are best able to address local restoration priorities.

Economic Benefits from Restoring the Great Lakes

Restoring the Great Lakes advances the region's broader strategy to create jobs, stimulate economic development and invest in freshwater resources and waterfront communities. A detailed study by The Brookings Institution found that fully implementing the Great Lakes restoration strategy would generate \$80 billion to \$100 billion in benefits, including

- \$6.5 billion to \$11.8 billion in direct benefits from tourism, fishing and recreation;
- \$50 million to \$125 million in reduced costs to municipalities; and
- \$12 billion to \$19 billion in increased property values in degraded shoreline areas, including up to \$3.7 billion for the Cleveland metro area alone.

Solving Problems Facing Lake Erie

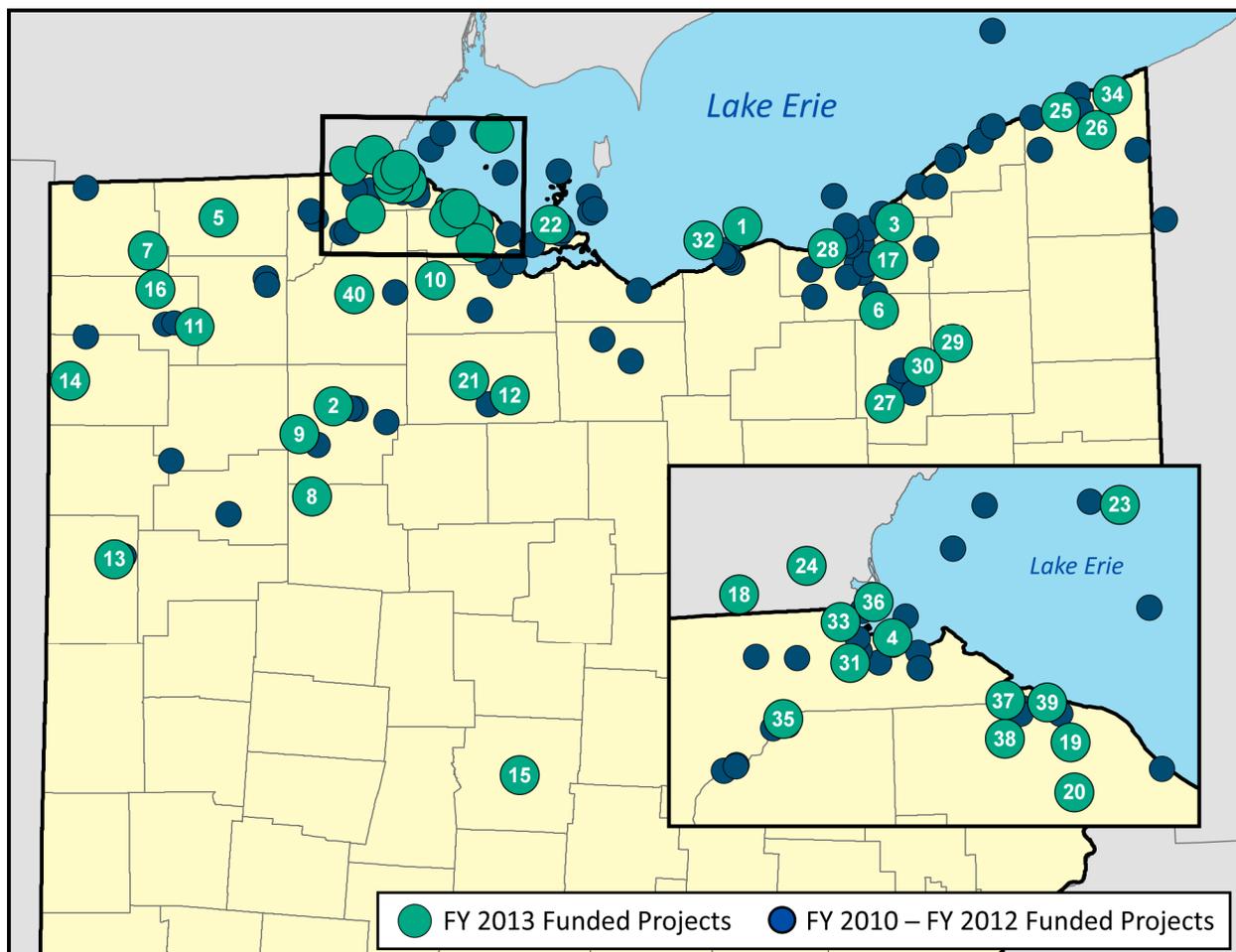
The GLRI builds on local and state efforts to solve problems facing Lake Erie. The *Lake Erie Protection & Restoration Plan* outlines priority actions to restore the lake and its watershed, including reducing nonpoint source pollution; minimizing impacts from invasive species; enhancing coastal areas; cleaning up Areas of Concern; preventing the release of and exposure to toxic substances; restoring fish and wildlife habitat; measuring the effectiveness of restoration efforts; promoting sustainable practices; reducing impacts of water withdrawals; improving dredged sediment management; adapting to climate change; and using the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan to track progress, share information and build partnerships.

Great Lakes Restoration in Ohio

The GLRI is well underway in Ohio, with more than \$84 million coming into the state to implement 146 local and on-the-ground restoration projects in the first four years, FY 2010-2013. This federal support is leveraging substantial resources from state and local governments. Restoration projects funded in fiscal year 2013 are featured on the map below and more details are provided in the attached table. In addition to these site specific projects, Ohio will also benefit from funding for broad-scale projects and activities that are underway under the GLRI that will strengthen restoration efforts across the region:

- **Engineering and design** of sustainable restoration projects, new technologies to detect bacterial contamination, and techniques to monitor invasive species.
- **Pollution prevention** to keep the Great Lakes clean, prevent beach contamination, safeguard investments in restoration and prevent polluted runoff that contributes to harmful algal blooms.
- **Outreach** to engage citizens in restoration efforts; promote best practices to prevent the introduction of invasive species; improve fish consumption and beach advisories; and keep pesticides, pharmaceuticals and other pollutants out of the lakes.
- **Monitoring** of mercury pollution to protect children's health; beaches to enhance swim advisories; and Great Lakes water and wildlife to detect contaminants.
- **Research to strengthen management**, including on control methods for invasive species such as Asian carp, Phragmites and sea lamprey; preventing the introduction of invasive species in ballast water; enhancing knowledge of the Great Lakes ecosystem; protecting endangered species; identifying habitat for sensitive species; and understanding climate change impacts.
- **Capacity building** to help states and local governments implement restoration projects, improve collaboration, and educate health care providers about fish consumption advisories.
- **Sound science and accountability** to ensure that funds are spent effectively and that the GLRI reflects a strong, science-based understanding of the Great Lakes.

These activities will benefit the next generation of Ohio citizens who will look to the Great Lakes as an important resource to improve their quality of life and economic well-being.



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in Ohio

Site Specific Projects Funded in Fiscal Year 2013

An **interactive map** featuring Great Lakes Restoration Initiative projects funded in fiscal years 2010 through 2013 is available at projects.glc.org/restore/grimap.

Map Number	Project Title	Recipient Agency or Organization	Total Funding Amount	Fiscal Years Funded
1	Lower Riley Creek in Allen County	Blanchard River Watershed Partnership	\$29,899	2013
2	Initiative to Restore Cleveland's Urban Tree Canopy	City of Cleveland	\$250,000	2013
3	Under Cover in the Tiffin & Lower Maumee River Watersheds	Conservation Action Project (CAP)	\$133,750	2013
4	The Howard Farms Habitat Restoration Project in the Maumee AOC	Ducks Unlimited	\$1,350,000	2013
5	Flat Run-Tiffin River	Fulton County Soil and Water County District	\$23,669	2013
6	Identify & Restore Contaminated Sites in National Park Units	National Park Service	\$700,000	2013
7	Conservation Treatment on 6594.6 acres of working lands in the Tiffin watershed.	Natural Resource Conservation Service (Conservation Programs contracts with 36 landowners)	\$1,746,781	2010, 2011, 2013
8	Farm Bill Program Implementation in the Auglaize River Watershed	Natural Resources Conservation Service	\$63,737	2013
9	Farm Bill Program Implementation in the Blanchard Watershed	Natural Resources Conservation Service	\$215,685	2013
10	Farm Bill Program Implementation in the Cedar-Portage Watershed	Natural Resources Conservation Service	\$181,985	2013
11	Farm Bill Program Implementation in the Lower Maumee River Watershed	Natural Resources Conservation Service	\$233,972	2013
12	Farm Bill Program Implementation in the Sandusky River Watershed	Natural Resources Conservation Service	\$624,767	2013
13	Farm Bill Program Implementation in the St. Mary's River Watershed	Natural Resources Conservation Service	\$24,158	2013
14	Farm Bill Program Implementation in the Upper Maumee River Watershed	Natural Resources Conservation Service	\$12,744	2013
15	Farm Bill Program Technical Assistance	Natural Resources Conservation Service	\$1,715,931	2013
16	Cuyahoga Area of Concern - Mill Creek Wetlands Protection Project (Great Lakes Area of Concern Land Acquisition Program)	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	\$411,435	2013
17	Maumee Area of Concern - Tenmile Creek Floodplain Restoration: Lloyd Homestead (Great Lakes Area of Concern Land Acquisition Program)	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	\$149,465	2013
18	Fish passage restoration at Toussaint Marsh	Ottawa Soil and Water Conservation District	\$74,000	2013
19	Lake Erie Coastal Cover Crops	Ottawa Soil and Water Conservation District	\$30,000	2013
20	Covering Erosion Concerns with Soil Savings	Seneca Soil and Water Conservation District	\$250,000	2013
21	Coastal Habitat Restoration in the Western Lake Erie Basin	The Nature Conservancy	\$1,406,658	2013
22	Oak Openings Inter-Agency Restoration Team (Ohio and Michigan)	The Nature Conservancy	\$1,244,754	2011, 2013

Map Number	Project Title	Recipient Agency or Organization	Total Funding Amount	Fiscal Years Funded
23	Oak Openings Interagency Restoration Team II	The Nature Conservancy	\$810,160	2013
24	Multiple Projects Aimed at Habitat Restoration - Protection of Native Turtle Species	U. S. Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service	\$65,000	2013
25	Aquatic Plant Control, Walnut Beach Demo, OH	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers	\$4,000	2013
26	Ashtabula Harbor, OH - Strategic Dredging	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers	\$8,342,700	2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
27	CAP 206 - Little Cuyahoga River, Akron, OH	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers	\$897,300	2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
28	Cleveland Harbor, OH - Strategic Dredging	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers	\$271,000	2010, 2011, 2013
29	Euclid Creek Spillway, OH - Feasibility Study for Habitat Restoration in the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers	\$100,000	2012, 2013
30	Great Lakes Remedial Action Plan - Cuyahoga River Area of Concern - Gorge Dam Feasibility	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers	\$594,000	2013
31	Great Lakes Tributary Model - Maumee Sedimentation	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers	\$100,000	2013
32	Lorain Harbor, OH - Strategic Navigation Dredging	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers	\$215,000	2012, 2013
33	Ottawa River, OH - Feasibility Study for Habitat Restoration in the Maumee River Area of Concern	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers	\$250,000	2012, 2013
34	Ashtabula River Area of Concern (Great Lakes Legacy Act)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	\$1,400,000	2013
35	Maumee River Area of Concern (Great Lakes Legacy Act)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	\$289,000	2013
36	Re-Connecting Lakes Erie's Wetlands	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$190,917	2012, 2013
37	A Multifaceted Urban Stream Restoration Project for the Ottawa River	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$161,132	2011, 2013
38	Partners for Fish and Wildlife - OH	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$322,419	2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
39	New Strategies for Restoring Coastal Wetland Function	U.S. Geological Survey - Great Lakes Science Center	\$1,858,040	2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
40	Reducing Agricultural Sediment in the Portage River	Wood County Soil and Water County District	\$200,000	2013