



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative BIA Program Update

PARTNERS IN ACTION ANNUAL MEETING
SAULT STE. MARIE, MI
JULY 19, 2016



Overview

- What is GLRI, BIA's role and its significance for Tribes?
- GLRI Action Plan II: Focus Areas, Objectives, Commitments & Measures
- GLRI Program Updates:
 1. Program expansion
 2. Open Request for Proposals: Great Lakes tribal invasive species projects
 3. New GLRI EAGL Reporting System
- On the Horizon:
 1. Climate Resiliency Criteria
 2. GLRI Action Plan III
 3. Opportunity for a distinct Tribal GLRI Program?

GLRI Task Force

Council on Environmental Quality

Department of Agriculture

Department of Commerce

Department of Defense

Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Homeland Security

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Department of the Interior

Department of State

Department of Transportation

Environmental Protection Agency

What is the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)?

- Launched in 2010 to accelerate efforts to protect & restore the largest system of freshwater in the world – the Great Lakes.
- Annual congressional appropriation has ranged between \$300M - \$475M per year.
- Coordinated by the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force (IATF) and Regional Working Group, led by EPA.

BIA's Role under GLRI

- ❖ Administer GLRI funding to federally-recognized Tribes and Intertribal Organizations throughout the Great Lakes region
- ❖ Annual competitive grant program & tribal capacity-building program
- ❖ Participate in broad collaboration with other federal agencies on the Regional Working Group
- ❖ Facilitate communication of tribal priorities within GLRI budget frameworks

Importance of GLRI for Tribes

Tribal lifeways are dependent on a healthy Great Lakes ecosystem.

For the past 6 years, GLRI has been a significant source of funding for Tribes to protect and restore ecosystems necessary to support treaty resources and culturally important species.



GLRI Action Plan II

Summarizes the actions federal agencies will implement during FY2015-2019 using GLRI funding.

Five Focus Areas:

1. Toxic Substances & Areas of Concern
2. Invasive Species
3. Nonpoint Source Pollution Impacts on Nearshore Health
4. Habitats & Species
5. Foundations for Future Restoration Actions



Focus Area 1: Toxic Substances & Areas of Concern (AOCs)

OBJECTIVES

- Remediate, restore and delist AOCs
- Increase knowledge about contaminants in Great Lakes fish and wildlife

COMMITMENTS

- Implement management actions to remove BUIs and delist AOCs
- Reduce human exposure to contaminants from Great Lakes fish consumption
- Identify emerging contaminants and assess impacts on Great Lakes fish & wildlife

MEASURES OF PROGRESS

- AOCs where all management actions for delisting have been implemented and AOC Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) removed
- Number of people provided information on risks/benefits of Great Lakes fish consumption
- Number of GLRI-funded projects that identify/assess impacts of emerging contaminants on Great Lakes fish & wildlife

Focus Area 2: Invasive Species

OBJECTIVES

- Prevent new introductions
- Control established invasive species
- Develop control technologies and refine management techniques

COMMITMENTS

- Block pathways aquatic invasive species (AIS) can be introduced into the Great Lakes
- Conduct early detection monitoring; Conduct rapid response actions and exercises
- Implement control projects for targeted species

MEASURES OF PROGRESS

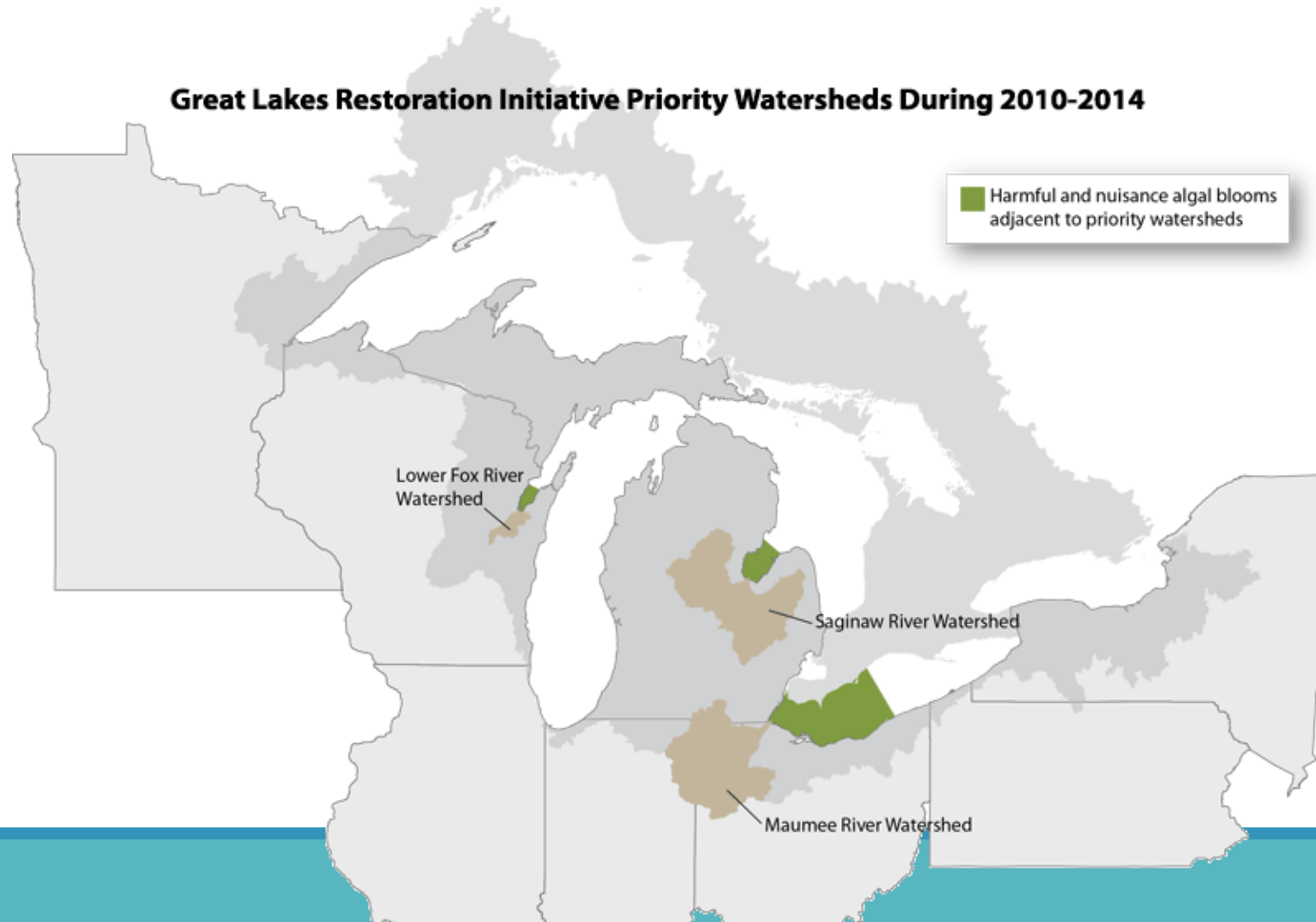
- Number of GLRI-funded projects that block pathways for AIS
- Number of GLRI-funded early detection monitoring activities; Number of GLRI-funded rapid responses conducted
- Number of acres controlled by GLRI-funded projects
- Number of tributary miles protected
- Number of technologies and methods field tested; Number of collaboratives developed/enhanced

Focus Area 2: Invasive Species

New FY16 BIA Great Lakes
Tribal Invasive Species
Program (\$800,000)



Focus Area 3: Nonpoint Source Pollution Impacts on Nearshore Health



Focus Area 3: Nonpoint Source Pollution Impacts on Nearshore Health

OBJECTIVES

- Reduce nutrient loads from agricultural watersheds
- Reduce untreated runoff from urban watersheds

COMMITMENTS

- Implement agricultural practices or other nutrient reduction practices in GLRI targeted watersheds
- Implement watershed management projects in urban areas that have adopted a watershed strategy

MEASURES OF PROGRESS

- Number of GLRI-funded nutrient & sediment reduction projects in targeted watersheds (measured in acres)
- Projected phosphorous reductions from GLRI-funded projects in target watersheds (measured in pounds)
- Number of GLRI-funded projects implemented to reduce impacts of untreated urban runoff
- Projected & measured volume of untreated urban runoff captured or treated

Focus Area 4: Habitats and Species

OBJECTIVES

- Protect, restore & enhance habitats to sustain healthy populations of native species
- Maintain, restore & enhance populations of native species

COMMITMENTS

- Remove or bypass barriers on Great Lakes tributaries to facilitate fish passage
- Protect, restore & enhance Great Lakes coastal wetlands
- Protect, restore & enhance GLRI-targeted habitats
- Promote the recovery of federally-listed species
- Promote self-sustaining populations of native species

MEASURES OF PROGRESS

- Number of miles of Great Lakes tributaries reopened and shoreline/riparian corridors protected, restored and enhanced
- Number of acres of Great Lakes coastal wetlands or other habitats protected, restored and enhanced
- Number of GLRI-funded projects that promote recovery of federally-listed species or populations of native non-threatened species self-sustaining in the wild

Focus Area 4: Habitats and Species

Tribal Grant Program Timeframe:

- Late October: Request for Proposals
- Mid-January: Application deadline
- Late February/early March: Award notification
- April-May: Interagency Agreement
- June-August: Processing/distribution of awards

- Approximately \$3.6 million/year
- Average of about 24 projects/year
- Projects range from restoring fish passage to wild rice restoration to native species restoration, etc.



Focus Area 5: Foundations for Future Restoration

OBJECTIVES

- Ensure climate resiliency of GLRI-funded projects
- Educate the next generation about the Great Lakes ecosystem
- Implement a science-based adaptive management approach for GLRI

COMMITMENTS

- Develop and incorporate climate resiliency criteria into project selection process
- Promote Great Lakes-based ecosystem education and stewardship, with a focus on educator training
- Evaluate the effectiveness of GLRI-funded projects
- Assess the overall health of the Great Lakes ecosystem and identify the most significant remaining problems
- Identify watersheds, habitats, and species to be targeted by the GLRI

MEASURES OF PROGRESS

- By 2016, a standardized set of climate resiliency criteria will be developed; Starting in 2017 projects will include climate resiliency criteria in planning and implementation
- Number of educators trained; Number of people educated on the Great Lakes ecosystem through GLRI-funded place-based experimental learning activities
- Project evaluations completed and used to prioritize GLRI funding decisions each year

BIA GLRI Program Expansion

- FY15: Tribal Adaptive Management component
- FY16: Tribal Capacity-building program
- FY16: New Tribal Invasive Species grant funding

New Invasive Species Funding – Request for Proposals

- FY16 GLRI Tribal Invasive Species Program will support projects that:
 1. Prevent new introductions of invasive species
 2. Control established invasive species

- Proposal are due **August 15, 2016**

- See Funding Notice for eligibility, ranking criteria & how to apply

Environmental
Accomplishments
in the
Great
Lakes



Semi-Annual EAGL Reporting

- New reporting system under the GLRI.
- EAGL Implementation Manual in progress
- Mid-April and Mid-October reporting deadlines
- BIA is responsible for developing its own internal process to audit data and to ensure current, complete, consistent and accurate data
- Data entry subject to multiple levels of review within EPA GLNPO
- Results transferred to public glri.us website and to Annual Report to the President and Congress.

GLAS Reporting

Funding recipients report to their funding agency and to GLAS

Quarterly reporting

Mixed responsibility for data

Hundreds of reporters

Limited guidance/definitions

EAGL Reporting

Funding recipients report to their funding agency

Semi-annual reporting

RWG agencies responsible for their data

Only RWG agencies report

Improved guidance/definitions

On the Horizon...

1. Climate resiliency criteria for all GLRI-funded projects
2. Action Plan III development
3. Proposed creation of a distinct GLRI Tribal Program

Senate Report 114-281

“The committee recognizes the importance of tribal self-governance and encourages the EPA to work with tribal governments and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to develop a proposal for the creation of a distinct tribal GLRI program through which GLRI funds would be provided to allow tribes the flexibility to develop programs that are of the highest priorities to their communities, and which fulfill the spirit of self-determination, meet treaty obligations, and carry out Federal trust responsibilities.”

Tomorrow's GLRI Working Session

Objective: engage initial BIA/Tribal discussion for conceptual development of a potential distinct tribal program within the GLRI

Things to consider:

- What is the tribal vision for the Great Lakes?
- What would a distinct Tribal GLRI program look like?
- What is and isn't working for tribal communities under the GLRI currently?
- How to organize/integrate within existing GLRI frameworks
- Capacity, accountability, etc.

Questions?

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