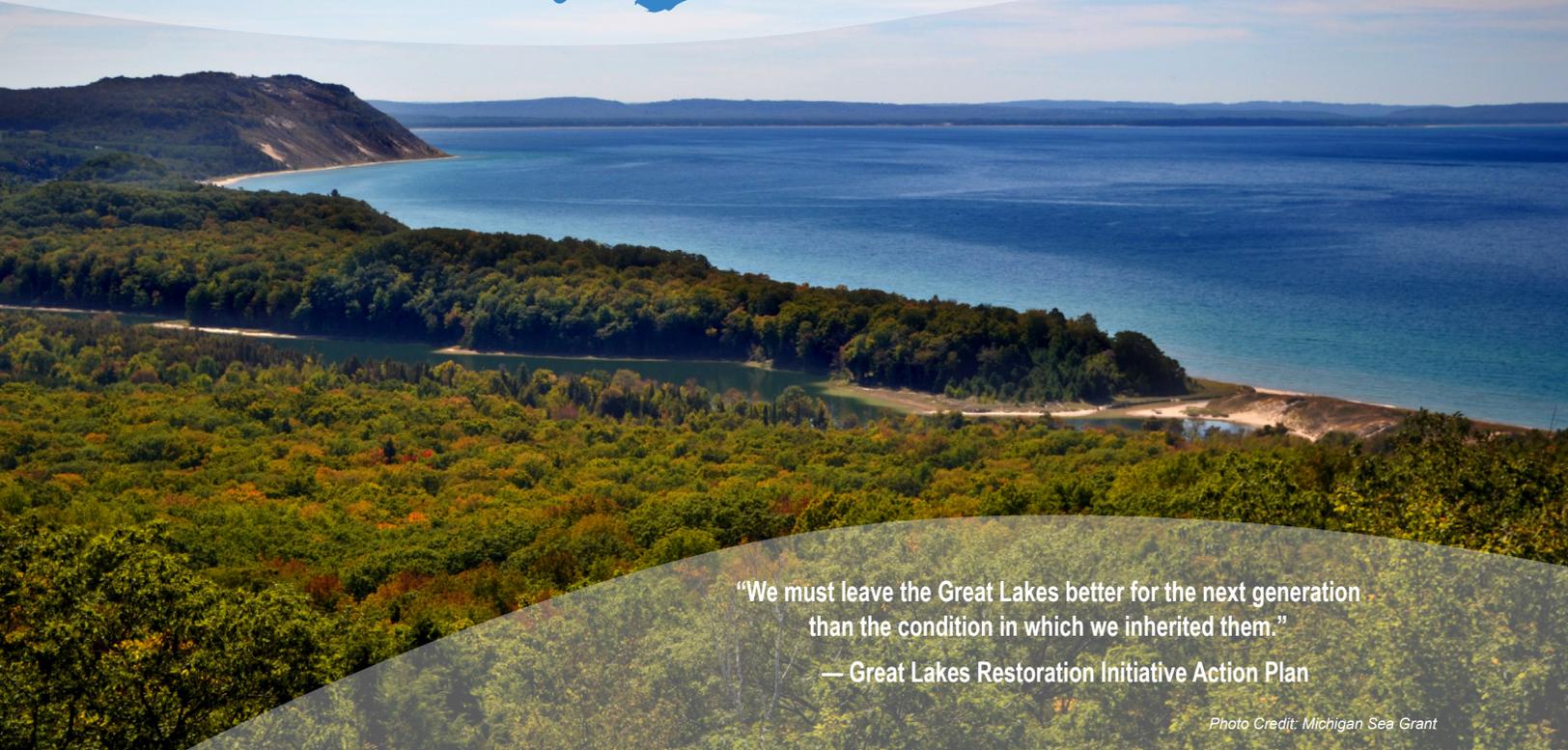


Great Lakes RESTORATION



at NOAA



“We must leave the Great Lakes better for the next generation than the condition in which we inherited them.”

— Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan

Photo Credit: Michigan Sea Grant

The Great Lakes comprise the largest freshwater ecosystem on Earth. The restoration and protection of the Great Lakes is vital, as they contain 95 percent of the surface freshwater in the United States and more coastline than the entire East Coast. Work is needed to clean up toxic hot spots, restore degraded habitat, and reduce nutrient loadings that cause Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).

Since 2010, over \$3.4 billion has been invested in the Great Lakes region for restoration efforts through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The GLRI is a joint initiative of 13 federal agencies led by the U.S. EPA, with the goal of restoring Great Lakes ecosystems. As one of those agencies, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has been allocated over \$244 million since 2010 to accomplish restoration goals by generating ground-breaking science, creating and disseminating data products and services, strengthening predictive capabilities, and forming partnerships.

To guide the work conducted under the GLRI, federal

agencies created the GLRI Action Plan III (2019), a comprehensive plan that identifies key actions and prioritizes restoration and protection activities within five GLRI Focus Areas: Toxic Substances and Areas of Concern (AOC), Invasive Species, Nonpoint Source Pollution Impacts on Nearshore Health, Habitats and Species, and Foundations for Future Restoration Actions.

Under the GLRI Action Plan III, federal agencies aim to clean up Great Lakes Areas of Concern, prevent and control invasive species, reduce nutrient runoff that contributes to harmful/nuisance algal blooms, restore habitat to protect native species, and conduct comprehensive science programs and projects to help prioritize and assess GLRI projects.

NOAA is making significant contributions to the restoration of the Great Lakes through the GLRI by expanding and enhancing many existing programs, and implementing new innovative projects that address the GLRI Action Plan III.



For additional information, please contact:

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Photo credit: Friends of the Detroit River



Photo credit: Great Lakes Aggregates

Shoals constructed at Stony and Celeron Islands near the mouth of Lake Erie provide habitat and protect the islands from strong waves, helping prevent erosion and reform previously lost wetland areas.

FY20 NOAA GLRI-funded projects in each Focus Area include:

Focus Area 1: Toxic Substances & Areas of Concern

- Technical Assistance and Support to AOCs
- Priority Habitat Restoration in AOCs

Focus Area 2: Invasive Species

- Great Lakes Aquatic Nonindigenous Species Information System (GLANSIS): Science Management and Support
- Strategy to Prevent Invasive Crayfish Impacts to the Great Lakes Basin: The Invasive Crayfish Collaborative

Focus Area 3: Nonpoint Source Pollution Impacts on Nearshore Health

- Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast Decision Support Tool
- Decision Support Tools to Link Phosphorus Reductions to HABs Mitigation and Source Water Protection
- Using Tipping Points Planner to support community planning decisions

Focus Area 4: Habitats and Species

- Habitat Restoration through NOAA's Restoration Center
- Great Lakes States Shoreline Assessment
- Collaborative management of emerging littoral issues in Lakes Superior and Michigan
- Sustainable nearshore management solutions to prevent critical habitat loss at Illinois Beach State Park

Focus Area 5: Foundations for Future Restoration Actions

- Great Lakes Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program
- Great Lakes Synthesis, Observation and Response (SOAR)
- SOAR – Under Ice
- Federal Lakewide Action and Management Plans (LAMP) Capacity Building
- Great Lakes Nearshore Geomorphic Vulnerability Index

www.regions.noaa.gov/great-lakes/index.php/great_lakes-restoration-initiative