



# FACT SHEET

## Fiscal Year 2010 Great Lakes Restoration Budget Initiative: Background

The President proposed to accelerate Great Lakes restoration and protection in his fiscal year 2010 budget proposal, which he released on May 7, 2009. The budget included two requests:

First, the President's budget request included \$475 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative within the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Programs and Management (EPM) account. This funding is targeted specifically to address the highest priority restoration areas identified by the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's *Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes* (GLRC Strategy; [www.glrc.us](http://www.glrc.us)): toxic substances and Areas of Concern; invasive species; near-shore health and nonpoint source pollution; habitat and wildlife protection and restoration; and accountability, monitoring, evaluation, communication and partnerships.

Second, the budget also included a proposed administrative provision that authorizes the EPA Administrator to transfer up to \$475 million from the EPM account to other federal agency's to carry out activities that would support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Each federal agency will spend their allocations using existing authorizations. It also authorizes grants to non-federal governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, institutions, and individuals in support of these two programs.

The EPM budget includes details of a potential allocation of the \$475 million (<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/glri/index.html>). EPA would retain about half of the funds (\$234 million), much of which will be awarded as competitive grants and project agreements with next four largest recipients being the Fish and Wildlife Service (\$57.5 million), Army Corps of Engineers (\$45.9 million), Natural Resources Conservation Service (\$33.6 million), and NOAA (\$32.2 million). The initial allocation presented in the budget does not set aside any grants to nonfederal entities.

### Fiscal Year 2010 Planning

Federal agencies initiated a planning process in February 2009 to develop an overall plan for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Placing an emphasis on implementation, the agencies put together a provisional funding plan that links strategic and measurable environmental outcomes to the highest priority issues; creates a bias for ready-to-go projects; bases decisions on sound science; and takes into account the recommended priorities and actions in the GLRC Strategy. The Strategy is the comprehensive blueprint for Great Lakes ecosystem restoration, which is rooted in several underlying technical plans developed pursuant to state law, federal law and/or international agreement, including:

- Lakewide Management Plans for each Great Lake
- Remedial Action Plans for each Area of Concern, or highly polluted sites, developed by the EPA in keeping with a bi-national agreement with Canada
- State Wildlife Action Plans
- National Fish Habitat Action Plan, developed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries, developed by the binational Great Lakes Fishery Commission
- Upper Mississippi River/Great Lakes Joint Venture plans (North American Waterfowl Management Plan, etc.)

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