

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources / Office of the Great Lakes  
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)  
10/07/2009 (updates in red 10/30/09)

As many of you have probably heard, the US Congress is expected to provide \$475M in funding to protect and clean up the Great Lakes through restoration efforts, invasive species control, toxic and nonpoint source pollution mitigation and critical habitats protection. These monies will be appropriated as part of EPA's budget with roughly half being passed through to other federal agencies. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are expected to be issued soon. There are a few things that we already know that we would like to pass on to assist you in getting a head start on preparing competitive proposals.

This we know:

**A. Focus Areas:** Projects must address one or more of the five focus areas identified in the Initiative.

Toxic Substances and Areas of Concern

Invasive Species

Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution

Habitat and Wildlife Restoration and Protection

Accountability, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication and Partnerships

**B. Feasibility of prompt implementation:** While the term "shovel ready" has not been used to describe GLRI projects, proposals should demonstrate the ability to achieve strategic and measurable environmental outcomes within a two-year period. Longer term projects should be designed in phases and identify the deliverables that would be achieved within a two-year period. GLRI is considered a five-year funding opportunity; however, the initial \$475M is for the first year but projects may be extended for an additional year. New funds will hopefully be appropriated each year for 5 years; hence, the overall planning period is for five years.

**C. Accountability:** To ensure future funding commitment from Congress, it is imperative that we be accountable for ensuring that our investments in time and resources are achieving expected results. It is why the fifth Focus Area is specific to that effort. As you prepare your proposals, consider how you plan to measure, track and report your success. Project selection criteria will likely include how outcomes will directly impact the quality of Lake Superior or Lake Michigan. Inland lake projects, even those that are within the Great Lakes Basin, will have a difficult time demonstrating a measurable impact on the Great Lakes and, therefore, should not be considered. Tributaries to the Great Lakes or nearshore projects are encouraged.

Do not recreate the wheel: Be efficient and draw as much as you can from existing systems, databases, and/or other reporting mechanisms to track and report on-the-ground success. Describe the system and how you plan to use it for your project. When the RFP is released, EPA may designate which monitoring system we use for tracking progress. We will convey any information on those requirements as soon as

possible. Nonetheless, we should proceed with planning projects knowing that there will be a robust tracking and reporting aspect for projects that needs to be addressed in your proposals.

**D. Partnerships:** Priority will likely be given to those projects which are "bundled" with other projects. Build on partnerships and previous collaboration work for a more robust project proposal. If you are planning to submit an application with an external partner, it is advisable to have any intergovernmental agreements or similar contracts completed at the time of submittal, if possible. You can also coordinate larger projects with multiple partners as long as you are clear in the scope of work that this is a multi-partner project with each partner submitting projects separately.

**E. Watershed Approach:** If you are coming in for watershed funding, emphasize why this watershed is a priority for the Lake (i.e., highest tributary contaminant loadings, nutrients loadings, etc.) and on what scientific basis you are relying.

**F. Staff Capacity:** Determine both internally and with your partners if you will be able to successfully implement the project with existing staff. Factor in staff costs as you prepare your project budget. (Projects should not be designed to simply add staff. Rather they should identify staffing needs to carry out tasks listed in the scope of work.) Budgets for staffing should show salary + fringe benefits, supplies and services, and equipment costs. Indirect costs are not eligible. We are working with the Secretary's office, DOA, and the Governor's office to ensure that if projects that require additional staffing are selected, that we will have the ability to hire positions to perform the work as described in the proposal.

**G. Match:** Many of the federal programs indicate that there will be no match required. However, all indications point to a ranking that will favor projects that demonstrate the ability to leverage local investments. Document any match including in-kind and the amount expected to be spent on the project. Partnership contributions may also be considered if they are participating in the proposal. Funds already used as match for another Federal program cannot be used as match again for this Initiative.

**Projects Submittal to GLNPO:** The Office of the Great Lakes (OGL) will work with partner groups, local governments, and others to cluster project proposals by geographic region/watershed or Focus Area to coordinate and enhance the environmental benefit for the ecosystem. We will stress partnerships and encourage applicants to work closely with the Department so that we can submit a coordinated list of projects to have the greatest impact on protecting and restoring Lake Superior and Lake Michigan. **See the October 30, 2009 pre-proposal information for submitting pre-proposals.**

**Links:** Use the following web sites to find additional information and details about GLRI. We will communicate changes through the Great Lakes Program Coordinators, John Jereczek (Lake Superior) and Steve Galarneau (Lake Michigan). Please keep them apprised of any letters of support and work with them for any project proposals to ensure they meet with the intent of GLRI.

Office of the Great Lakes/GLRI Information: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/greatlakes/glri/>  
U.S. EPA/GLNPO: Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/glri/>