



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Strengthening Our Action Plan



Congressional Staff Briefing



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Ann Mills, Deputy Undersecretary for N.R. & Environment, USDA
June 11, 2014

House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Room – Rayburn 2167



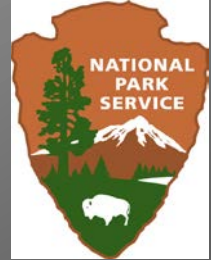
Agenda

- ▶ Welcome on behalf of IATF
- ▶ Action Plan FY10–14
 - Results
- ▶ Action Plan FY 15–19
 - Timeline
 - “Leaner” and more focused
 - Responsive to input
 - Focus area by focus area summary

Action Plan 2010-2014

- ▶ The agencies have removed 50 Beneficial Use Impairments at 18 Areas of Concern since 2009.
- ▶ Led by White House Council on Environmental Quality, federal, state, provincial and municipal partners have helped keep silver and bighead carp from becoming established in the Great Lakes.
- ▶ As of the last Report to Congress, the agencies are meeting or exceeding 18 of 28 Measures of Progress. More work remains to be done under six Measures and for four Measures data are not yet available to accurately assess progress.

Action Plan 2010-2014



Restoring Habitats through Invasive Species Control



1,650 acres of NPS lands treated for invasive species; thousands more inventoried and monitored.

Seasonal rangers and multiple media, including a **partnership with Wildlife Forever**, communicate the impacts of invasive species and the need for prevention: **reached over 108,250 visitors** through direct contacts, volunteer events and education programs.

The **Great Lakes Early Detection Network**, a public-private interagency collaboration, now provides a central data hub to report new sightings of invasive species.

Restoring Wetlands at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

600 acres of wetlands in the park restored

Working with Shirley Heinze Land Trust to restore adjacent wetlands



Action Plan 2010-2014



Fish Passage Facilities Plan

Downstream Fish Bypass at
Park Mill Dam

Upstream Sturgeon Trap
and Transport Facility at
Menominee Dam

Downstream Fish Bypass at
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Menominee River Fish Passage Project

Lake sturgeon population in decline

Dams a major factor

Fish passage needed to pass adults
to high quality habitat upstream and
provide safe downstream passage to
Lake Michigan

\$4.2 million of GLRI funds with a
match is funding construction of
upstream and downstream fishways

Action Plan 2010-2014

Nonpoint source pollution

USGS scientists conduct edge of field monitoring to assess the impact of agricultural best management practices in the Fox River (WI), Saginaw River (MI) and Maumee River (OH) and help managers reduce Harmful and Nuisance Algal blooms in the Great Lakes.



Fish Habitat Restoration

USGS scientists provide relevant new science to assist resource managers in making decisions concerning restoration of native aquatic species and their habitats in the greater Detroit area known as the Huron-Erie Corridor.

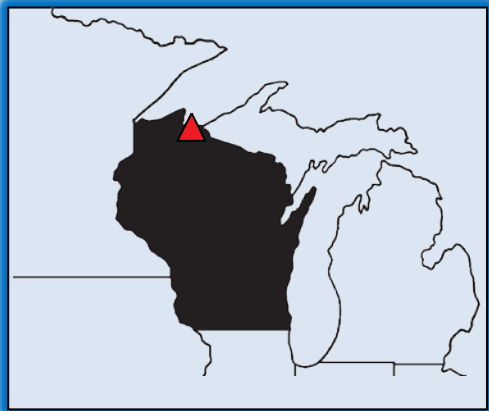


Asian Carp Control

USGS scientists are conducting many projects to support decisions related to controlling Asian carps and keeping them out of the Great Lakes. In 2013, we successfully used an Integrated Pest Management approach in the field, combining food attractants, waterguns, hydroacoustics, and commercial fishing in collaboration with the IL DNR to capture and remove large numbers of Asian carp from an Illinois River backwater.



Action Plan 2010-2014



Aquatic and Wetland Resources Enhancement on the Bad River Reservation, WI

Aquatic enhancement of drainage area feeding the Kakagon Sloughs – an internationally recognized pristine wetland



Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa partnered with USDA–NRCS

Activity on 34 acres of wetlands and 2 miles of tributary feeding the Sloughs

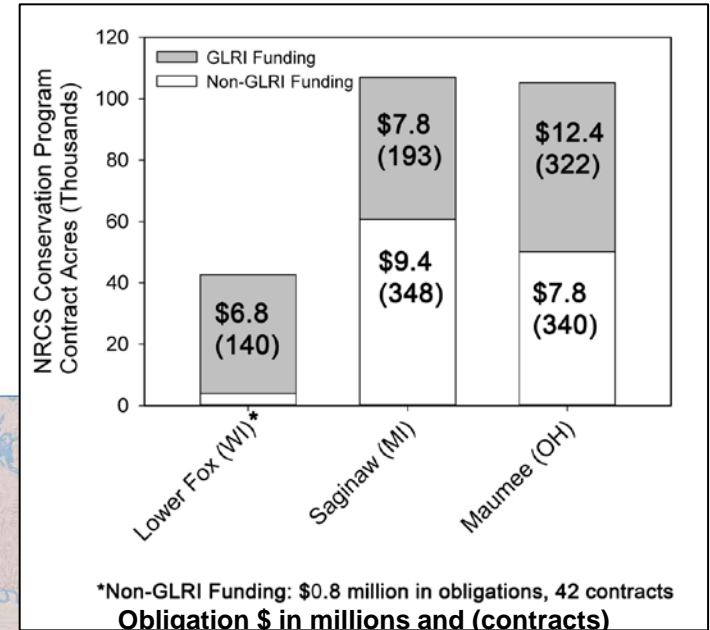
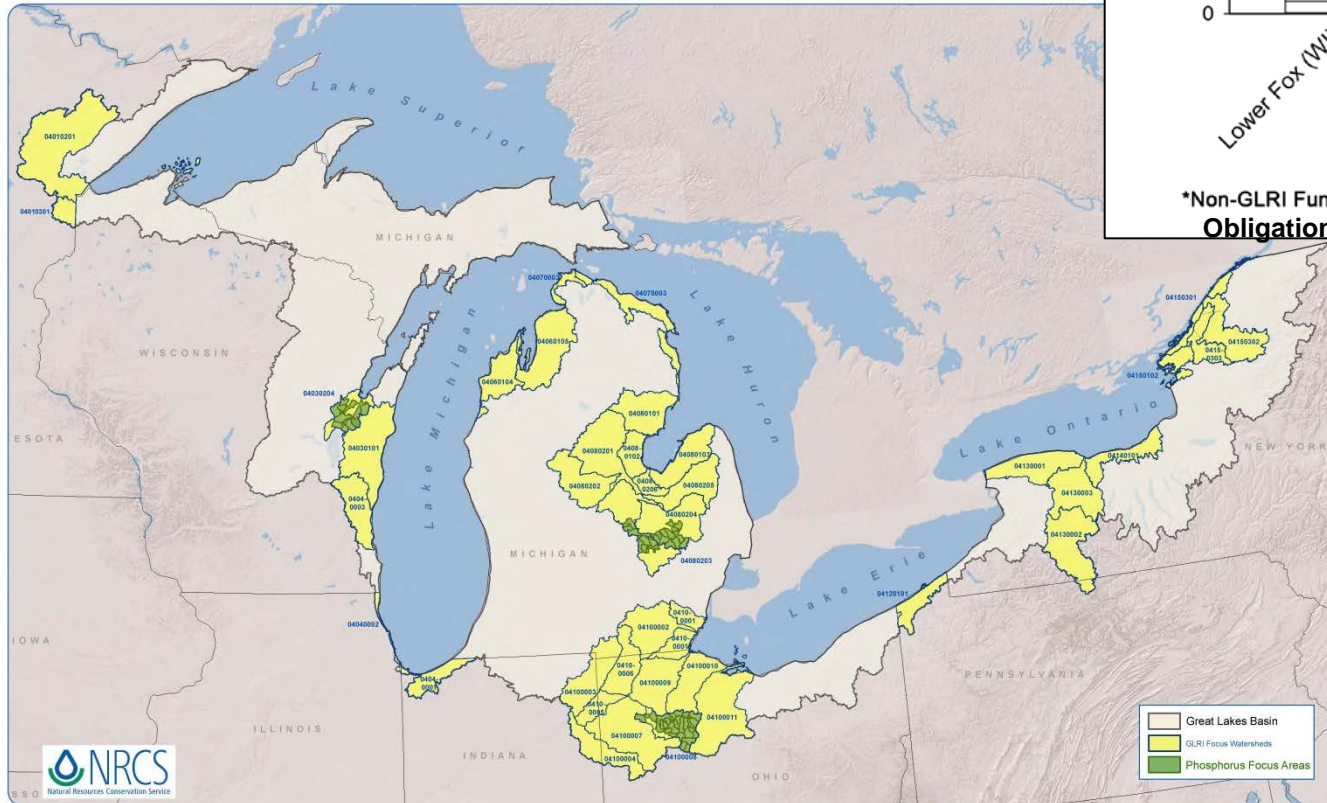
- Removed 11 beaver dams
- Removed 3 beaver colonies
- Removed obsolete road

Planted native seed mix

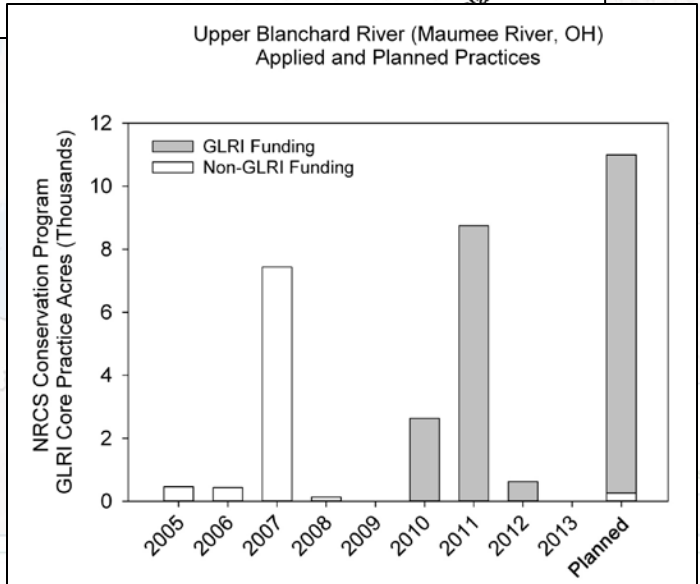
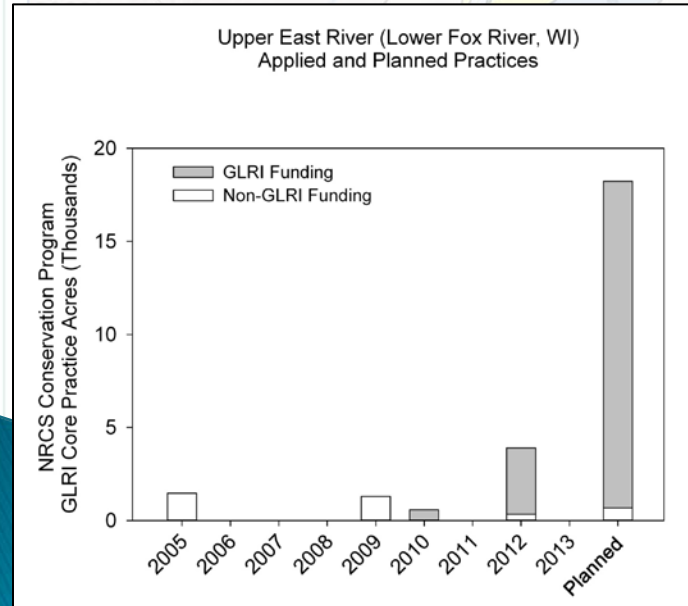
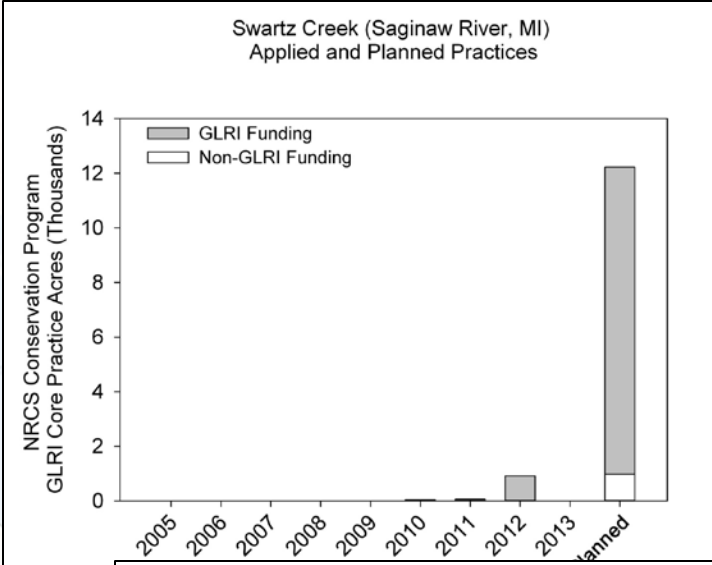
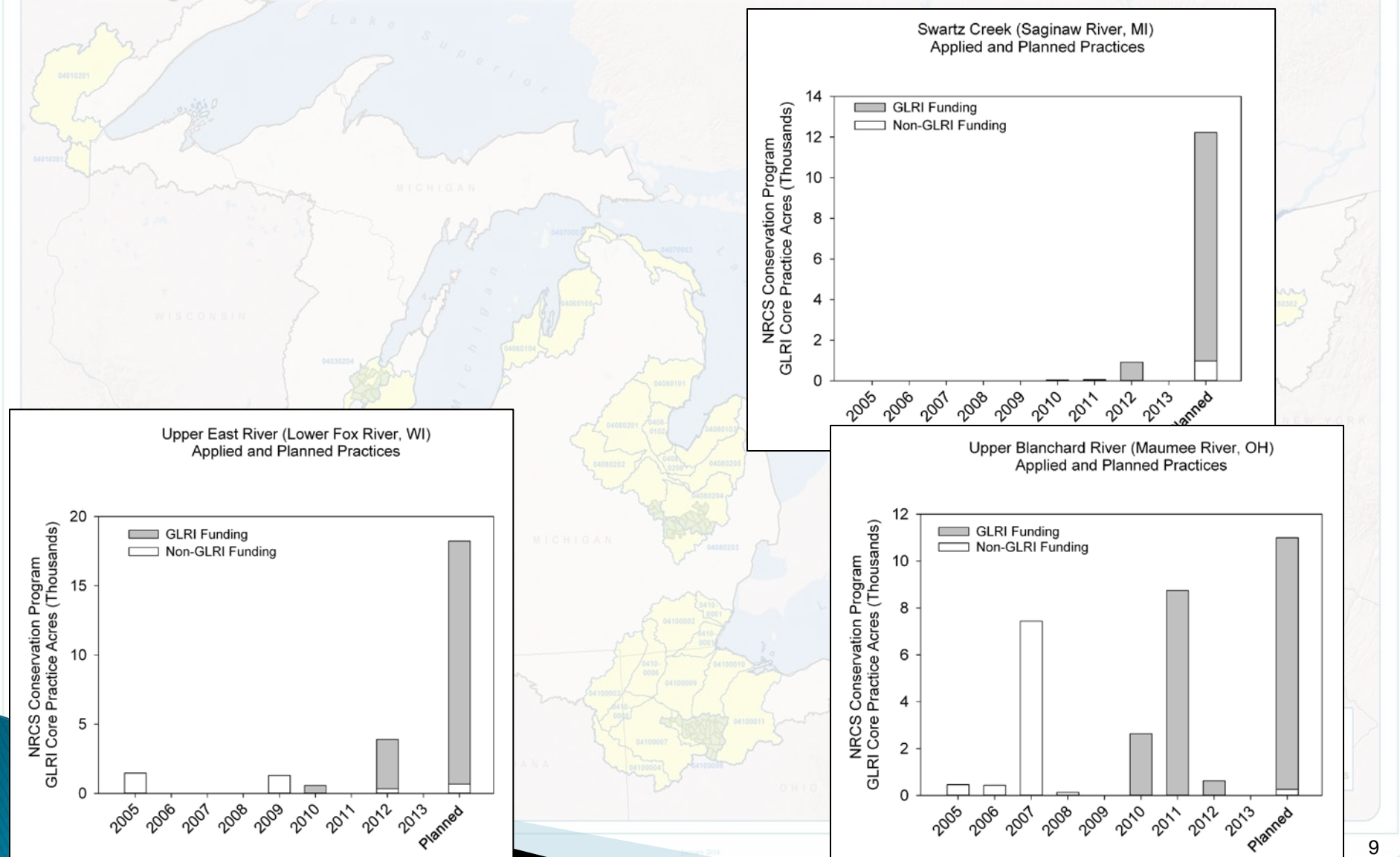
Installed protection to restored area to minimize ATV disturbance

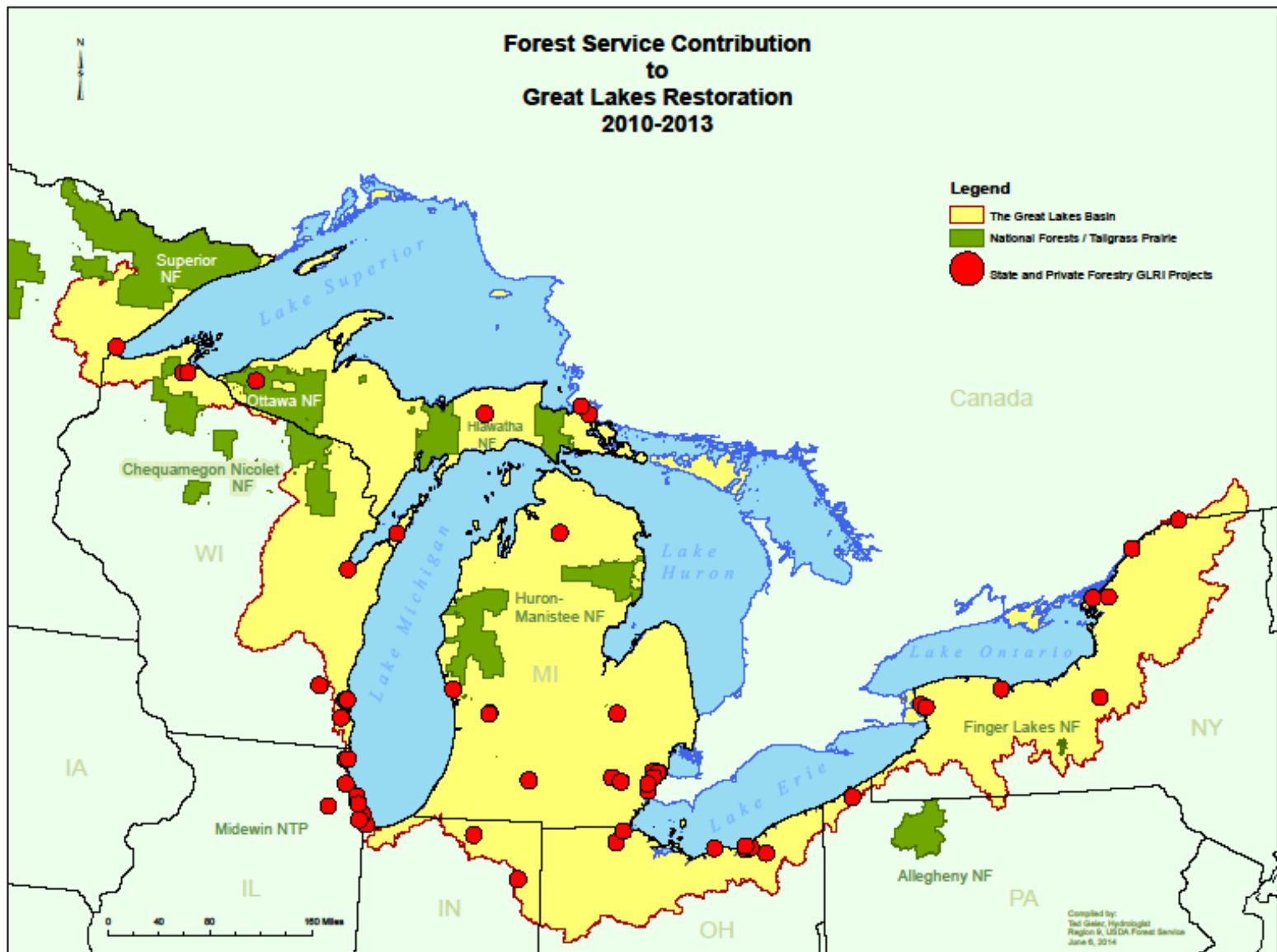
USDA/NRCS FY10-13 Accomplishments

Selected GLRI Action Plan Watersheds



Acceleration of planned and implemented conservation





Action Plan 2015–2019

Timeline

- Draft Action Plan was released on May 30, 2014.
- No formal public comment period.
- Input most helpful within first 30 days of draft release, but will consider input until finalized.
- Input can be through GLRI Public Engagement web page and email address: actionplan@glrpo.net

Action Plan 2015–2019

Responsive to Input

- Your input in 2013 through public meetings, webinars and individual stakeholder conference calls (virtual unanimity that Action Plan I identified the right problems).
- Great Lakes Advisory Board.
- GAO.
- Science Advisory Board.
- Virtual consensus in the region that Action Plan I identified the right stressors and problems; same basic Focus Areas retained.
- What the Action Plan is not
 - Recognizes GLRI supplements, does not supplant, base budgets.

Action Plan 2015–2019

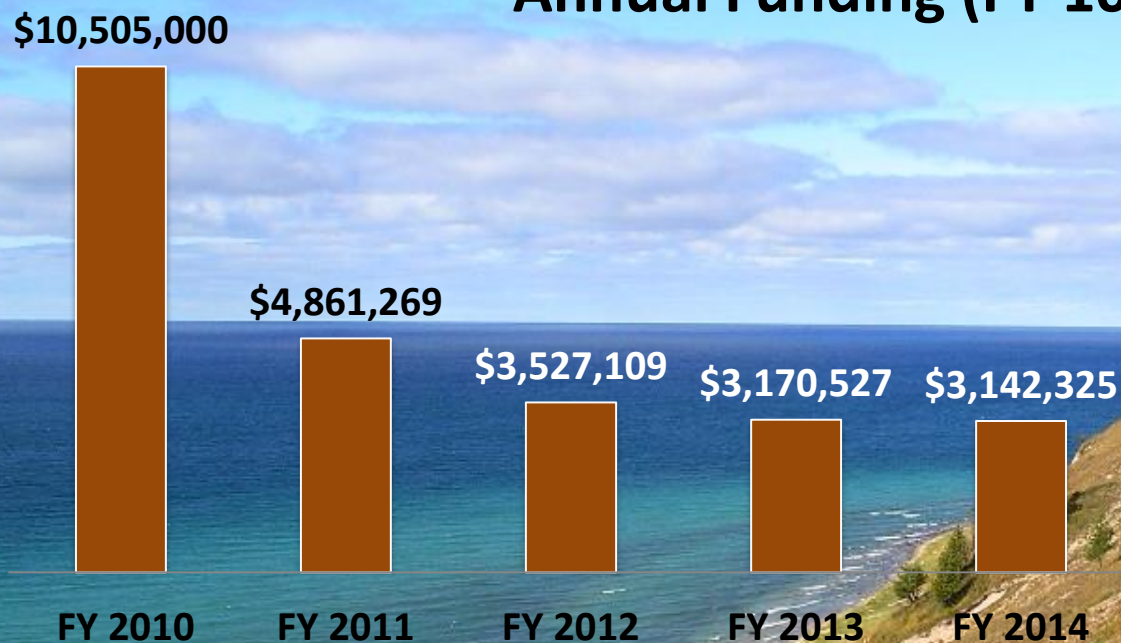
Leaner & More Focused

- Budget reductions.
- Tracks only what can be achieved under GLRI. This will paint a more accurate picture of what GLRI is accomplishing.
- Under each Focus Area you will see:
 - Principal Initiatives.
 - Commitments.
 - Measures of Progress (with “baselines,” and “universe,” many with annual targets).
 - Tied to long-term goals.

Action Plan 2015–2019

- ▶ Input on Action Plan:
 - Several webinars
- ▶ Email for Comments
 - actionplan@glngo.net, or
 - <http://glri.us/actionplan.html>
 - For more info: <http://glri.us>
- ▶ NOTE: No slides for Focus Areas

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative National Park Service Annual Funding (FY 10-14)



National Park Service – GLRI project highlights



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Great Lakes Restoration Initiative U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Annual Funding (FY 10-14)



Great Lakes piping plover

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – GLRI project highlights



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Great Lakes Restoration Initiative U.S. Geological Survey Annual Funding (FY 10-14)

\$23,600,000

\$14,500,000

\$13,100,000

\$12,700,000

\$17,500,000

FY 2010

FY 2011

FY 2012

FY 2013

FY 2014



USGS – GLRI project highlights

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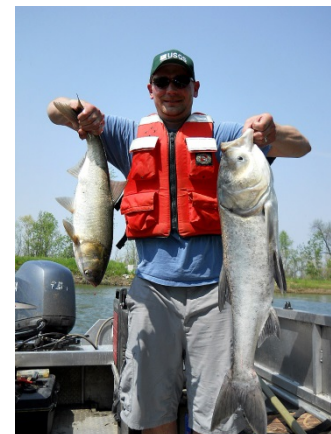
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HEC Initiative Partners



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Bureau of Indian Affairs Annual Funding (FY 10-14)



BIA – GLRI project highlights



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