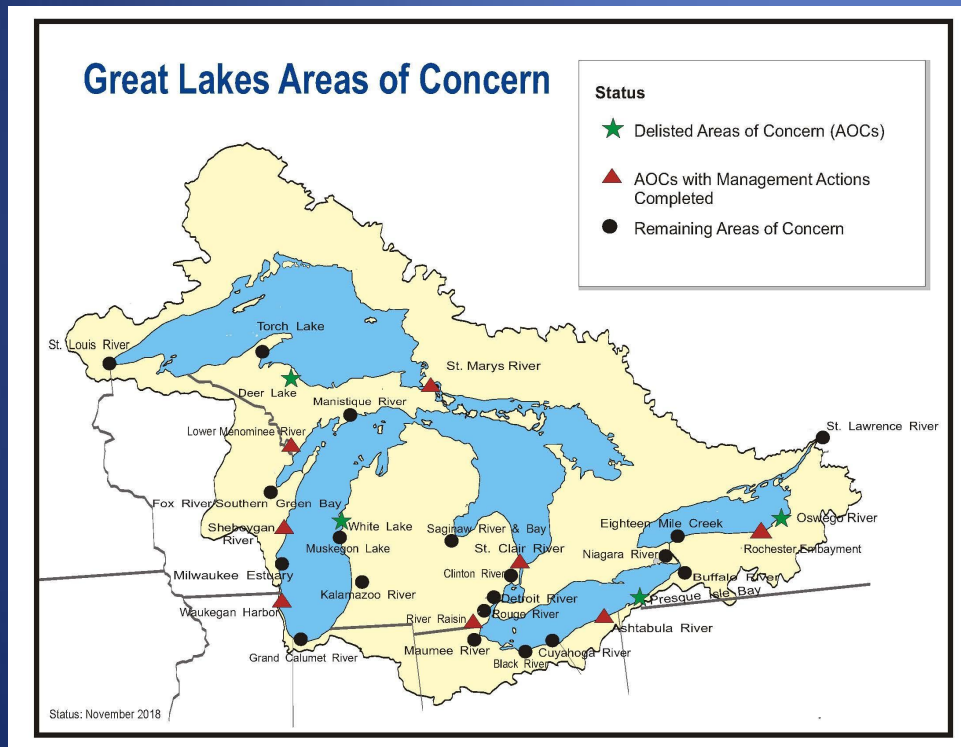


# *From Remediation to Revitalization: Cleaning Up Great Lakes Areas of Concern and Economic Benefits from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative*



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Great Lakes Orientation for Congressional Staff  
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# Background on the Areas of Concern

- Heavily degraded “problem areas” identified by the states and provinces
- Based on 14 Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs)
- 1987 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement formally established the AOC program with 43 AOCs
- 26 U.S. AOCs, 12 Canadian AOCs, and 5 binational AOCs; one or more AOC in each Great Lakes state
- AOC program is administered by U.S. EPA in partnership with state environmental agencies and local public advisory committees

# Great Lakes Areas of Concern

## Status

- ★ Delisted Areas of Concern (AOCs)
- ▲ AOCs with Management Actions Completed
- Remaining Areas of Concern



Status: November 2018

# Beneficial Use Impairments

- Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption
- Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavor
- Degraded Fish and Wildlife Populations
- Fish Tumors or Other Deformities
- Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems
- Degradation of Benthos
- Restrictions on Dredging Activities
- Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae
- Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odor Problems
- Beach Closings
- Degradation of Aesthetics
- Added Costs to Agriculture or Industry
- Degradation of Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Populations
- Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat

# Progress in the AOCs

- Approximately \$800 million spent in AOCs (approx. 1/3 of GLRI funding)
- 4 AOCs delisted
- 8 AOCs with management actions completed
- 85 BUIs removed (out of 255 total)
- Approximately 3 million cubic yards of contaminated sediments remediated under the Great Lakes Legacy Act
- \$330 million leveraged from non-federal partners for sediment cleanups

# **GLRI Action Plan III**

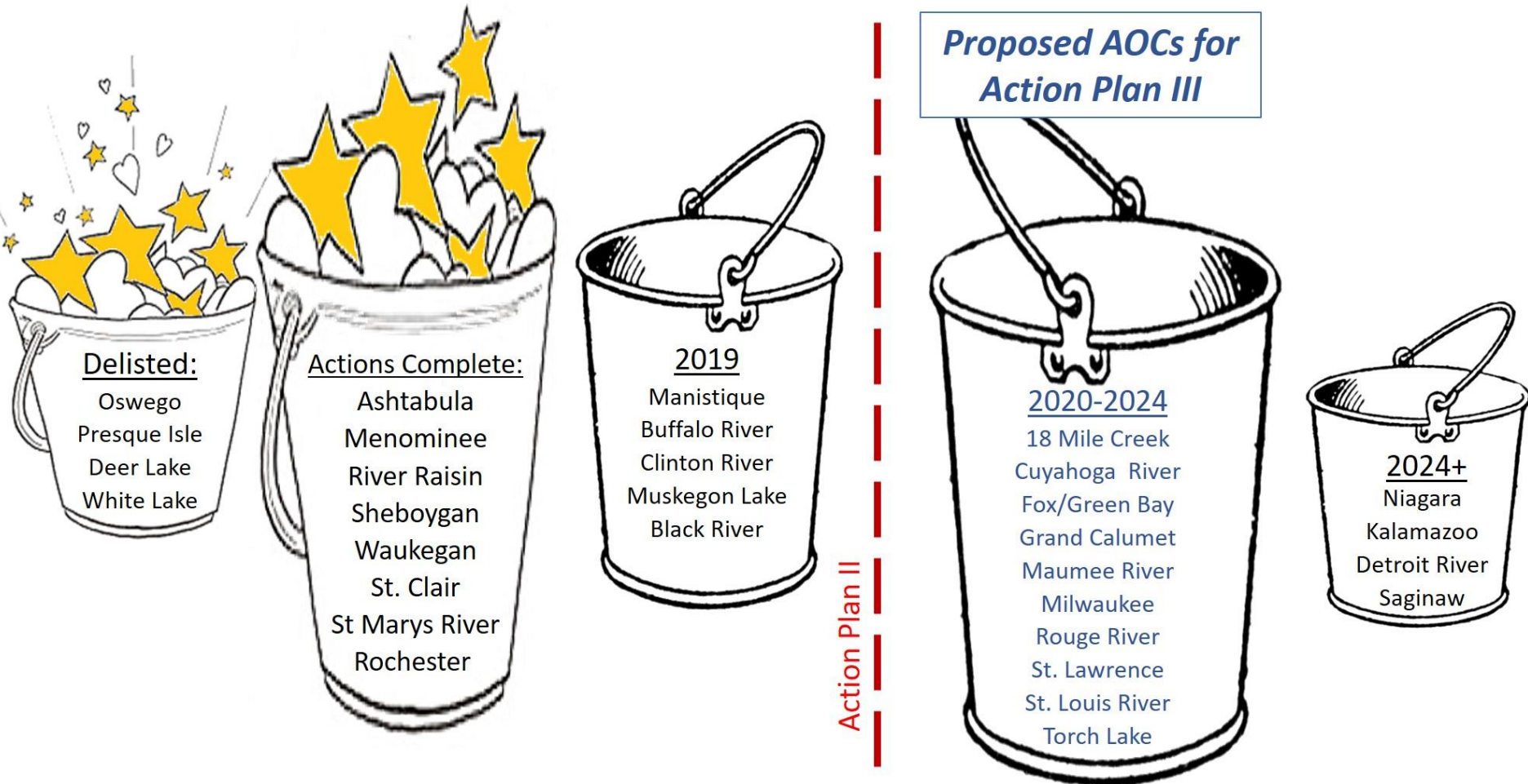
## **AOC performance measures**

- Remove half of all remaining BUIs
- Complete management action lists for all AOCs
  - Agreed-upon lists of the on-the-ground projects necessary to be implemented to remove BUIs
- Complete all management actions at 5 of 10 potential AOCs



# The Bucket List!

Projected progress to completing all management actions in the AOCs



# Assessing the Investment: The Economic Impact of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

- Integrated study approach
  - Econometric analysis of impact of GLRI spending from 2010-2016
  - Regional economic modeling to project future impacts through 2036
  - Case studies to illustrate impacts in specific Great Lakes communities
- Economics research team
- Expert panel of regional economists
- Advisory Panel
- Case study team



# Case Study Locations



# Study Results

- ***Every dollar spent on GLRI projects between 2010 and 2016 will generate \$3.35 in additional economic activity through 2036.***
  - Erie, PA: New Harbor Place development (\$150M)
  - Muskegon, MI: \$47 million in waterfront development; new corporate HQ for kayak company (\$9 million, 150 jobs)
  - Ashtabula, OH: 27 new businesses in Harbor business district
- ***In certain case study communities, the longer-term impact will be even greater: every dollar of federal GLRI spending from 2010-2016 will produce more than \$4 of additional economic activity through 2036.***
  - Buffalo, NY: Canalside (\$\$ multimillion)
  - Detroit, MI: Developers have invested nearly \$400 million in new waterfront developments and improvements to existing ones

# Study Results

- *For every dollar spent on GLRI projects from 2010 to 2016, additional tourism activity generated by the GLRI will increase regional economic output by \$1.62 from 2010–2036. This is nearly half of the total increase in economic output documented by the study.*
  - Ashtabula, OH: Pleasure boat registrations up 42% 2008 to 2017
  - Sheboygan, WI: Visitor spending up 32% 2010 to 2016
  - Muskegon, MI: Pearl Mist cruise ship now stopping, \$50,000 in direct spend in one cruise season

# Study Results

- *Every dollar of GLRI spending from 2010–2016 increased local house values by \$1.08, suggesting that GLRI projects provided amenities that were valuable to local residents and improved the region's quality of life.*
  - Detroit, MI: >\$100M in new residential on the river since 2013
  - Duluth, MN: \$38M new mixed use residential opened in 2017
  - Buffalo, NY: Former shipping facility redeveloped into apartments that opened in 2017 (\$18M)

# Themes from Stakeholder Interviews

## *The GLRI has...*

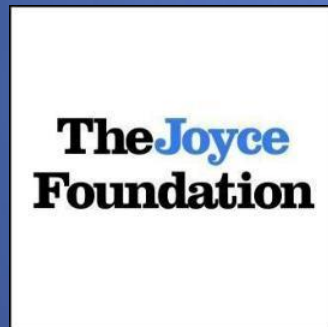
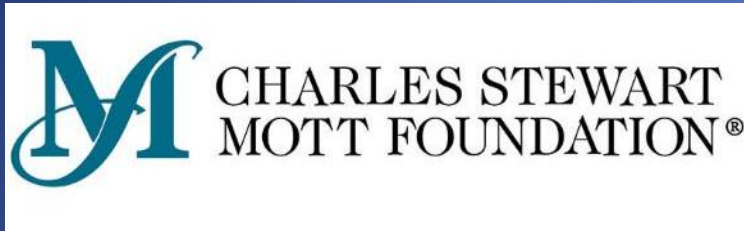
- has been a “catalyst” for new real estate and commercial development, especially in waterfront communities challenged by decades of decline
- improved community awareness of, and access to, Great Lakes water resources
- deepened perceptions of “community” and optimism for the future in “rust belt” areas
- helped communities tackle problems they previously believed were insurmountable obstacles to development
- generated growth in the tourism sector and changed stakeholder perceptions of the value of their communities for water-based tourism

# Study Team





# Funders



# Thank you for supporting our Great Lakes Restoration Efforts!

