

OBJECTIVE

The Great Lakes Habitat Initiative (GLHI) is a 2-year investigation that will identify high quality projects for the protection and restoration of aquatic habitat in the Great Lakes region and provide tools for guiding the implementation of these and other habitat restoration projects.

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THE GREAT LAKES HABITAT INITIATIVE

*Developing the tools to get your
Habitat Restoration Projects
up and running.*



US Army Corps
of Engineers

BACKGROUND

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration is a partnership of federal, state, tribal, and municipal governments that was initiated by Executive Order 13340, which was signed by the President and designated the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes to be a national priority.

Over 1,200 members from the Regional Collaboration participated in a one-year effort that culminated in the release of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes in December 2005. This Strategy included recommendations aligned with eight priority issues identified by the Governors and Mayors of the Great Lakes states and cities.

HABITAT PRIORITY

One of the eight priority issues addressed in the Strategy of the Regional Collaboration was the deterioration of fish and wildlife habitat in the region that includes a loss of more than half of the original wetlands. The recommendations of the Strategy included broad-based actions to protect and restore wetlands and coastal habitat and enhance biodiversity and Great Lakes fisheries. These actions include increased funding for programs, policies to protect critical resources, and studies to focus restoration.

IMPLEMENTATION

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIONS

Restoration of the Great Lakes will be the result of many site-specific actions.

The Great Lakes Habitat Initiative is developing an implementation plan that identifies site-specific projects for aquatic habitat protection and restoration in the Great Lakes region which can be realized through existing funding programs.

Each project is unique and will involve the protection or restoration of habitat at a specific site. In order to evaluate the outcomes of a project and compare these outcomes with other potential projects, a system of metrics is needed.

There are a variety of funding programs for habitat protection and restoration managed by governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations. Each funding program has its own requirements, procedures, and focus. Potential habitat projects must be matched up with the most appropriate funding program(s).

PARTNERING

The Habitat Initiative is being managed and implemented in cooperation with partners from international, federal, state, tribal, and municipal agencies and nongovernmental groups. In addition, the Habitat Initiative is being coordinated extensively with The Great Lakes Interagency Task Force and the Regional Collaboration.

PRODUCTS

FUNDING PROGRAMS

A summary of information about existing governmental and non-governmental funding programs that apply to Great Lakes habitat protection and restoration.

PROJECTS LIST

A compilation of potential, site-specific, aquatic habitat projects, with available information on projected costs, outputs, and requirements.

PERFORMANCE METRICS

A summary of performance measures and metrics that can be used to evaluate the ecological outcomes of a site-specific project and compare the outcomes of several projects.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

An integrated plan that includes a number of high quality, site-specific habitat projects that are matched with suitable funding program(s).

USING THE PRODUCTS

These products will be used to integrate the various habitat funding programs for the Great Lakes region and help agencies, groups and individuals identify potential habitat projects that they can sponsor and support.