



FACT SHEET

February 2015

Genesee River Comprehensive Watershed Study, NY

Section 729 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended
General Investigations

Location

- The Genesee River watershed originates in Potter County in northern PA, running north through west central NY to its mouth at Lake Ontario in Rochester, NY

Project Description

- The purpose of the comprehensive watershed study is to develop a multi-agency strategic plan for recommending and implementing measures that will restore the beneficial uses of the Genesee River. The strategic plan will place emphasis on collaboration and consensus building with all relevant Federal, state, and local stakeholders to maximize implementation of actions identified in the Genesee River Basin Action Strategy, the Rochester Embayment Remedial Action Plan and the Lake Ontario Management Plan
- The Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council brought together hundreds of stakeholders to develop the Genesee River Basin Action Strategy. This document specifically calls for the development of a management plan for the watershed

Importance

- Watershed restoration is most effective and efficient when projects are formulated, designed and implemented in accordance with a strategic plan
- The watershed management study will result in a strategic plan to guide sustainable development and environmental restoration in the watershed. The plan will recommend alternatives and measures to address (among others) comprehensive ecosystem restoration including habitat and wetland restoration, prevention of future environmental losses, reduction of bacterial loadings and pollutants of concern, improvements to navigation channels, flood risk management including assessment of the condition of floodwalls along the river within the city of Rochester, and improvement of combined sanitary sewers and home sewage disposal

Consequences

- Without the study the Genesee River watershed stakeholders will continue to work in the watershed on a project by project basis without the benefits of a strategic watershed plan to reference and use to guide further comprehensive and multipurpose planning and implementation of sustainable solutions to their complex water resource problems

Project Phase	Est. Fed. Cost of Phase	Federal Funding Thru FY14	FY15 Requirement	FY15 Budget	FY16 Requirement	FY16 Budget
Initial Watershed Assessment	\$100k	\$0	\$100k	\$0	\$100k	\$0

Project Sponsor/Customer

- The Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council submitted a Letter of Intent dated September 15, 2004

Congressional Interests

- Representative Tom Reed R-NY-23
- Senator Charles Schumer D-NY
- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand D-NY

Current Status

- Until appropriations are provided, work cannot commence on this study

Issues

- No funding has been appropriated to this project



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