

# Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

## *An Abundant Resource for Energy and Other Uses*

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry



**Description:** The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is a 5-year Presidential initiative that began in Fiscal Year 2010 to protect and restore water quality and ecosystems in the Great Lakes region. Representatives from 11 Federal agencies jointly crafted an action plan to carry out this initiative. Funding is provided as an earmark in the Department of Interior's appropriation budget to the Environmental Protection Agency, which administers the program and distributes funds to Federal Agencies, States, tribes, municipalities, and nongovernmental organizations.

Funded projects advance the goals and objectives of the GLRI Action Plan. These projects provide immediate, direct ecological benefits; are located in areas identified as Federal priorities, such as national lakeshores and areas of concern; include a detailed budget; and produce measurable results.

### **Key Issues:**

The initiative's goals include these:

- Clean up toxic waste
- Combat invasive species
- Promote near-shore health by protecting watersheds from polluted runoff
- Restore wetlands and other habitats
- Track progress
- Work strategically with partners

### **Project Status:**

The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry received \$3.835 million in GLRI funding in Fiscal Year 2011. We released \$3.750 million through a competitive grant process to fund 22 grants to city, county, State, and nongovernmental organizations. These funds were used to restore urban and community forests, restore brownfields by planting trees to reduce toxic substances, and replanting trees lost to the emerald ash borer. The remainder of the funds will help support the Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and Lake Huron Lakewide Area Management Planning processes and projects in concert with other Federal agencies. We expect to conduct similar activities in Fiscal Year 2012.

“By distributing this money, we are helping to assure that the work to protect the Great Lakes Basin continues well into the future,” said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. “These projects will help offset the adverse effects 30 million people can have on our natural resources. We want to help those living and working in the area to understand there are steps we can take to help mitigate damage to the ecosystem.”

## Budget History:

<b>Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Great Lakes Restoration Initiative</b> <i>(\$ Thousands)</i>			
	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>Tentative FY 2012</b>
Restore urban and community forests for wildlife and stormwater management	\$1,000	\$225	\$500
Emerald ash borer – Forest restoration	\$3,000	\$1,360	\$1,500
Reduce toxic substances in brownfields through forestry	\$2,000	\$1,800	\$1,500
Develop ecosystem services markets	\$500	\$225	\$225
Terrestrial invasive species control	\$250	\$150	TBD
Planning – Salary and travel for three lake plans	\$51	\$75	TBD
Riparian forest establishment and conservation			\$0
Green infrastructure (urban stormwater retention and erosion control)			\$0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$6,801</b>	<b>\$3,835</b>	<b>\$3,725</b>

For more information about the GLRI Initiative

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