



Foundations for Future Restoration Actions

funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan requires oversight, monitoring, assessment, and coordination to succeed. NOAA is contributing to these needs by establishing a coordinated network of scientific observations, educating the next generation of Great Lakes citizens, and providing information for decision makers about the impacts of climate change. These projects are helping provide the scientific data, education, and collaboration necessary to sustain this investment in Great Lakes restoration.



Implementing a Great Lakes Observing and Response System

NOAA's Great Lakes Synthesis, Observations, and Response System (SOAR) coordinates and integrates coastal ecosystem observations that support Great Lakes restoration projects, including AOC restoration. GLRI funds

have been integral to developing and honing the system, which uses scientific models and observations from on-water and remote sensing platforms to create database products for assessment and decision support. SOAR is focused on Areas of Concern and restoration projects within the Great Lakes. However, its value extends far beyond the region, since SOAR observations feed into a global observation network.

Lake Level Viewer

GLRI funds will expand the coverage and capabilities of the first-generation Lake Level Viewer visualization tool. This tool helps users visualize lake level changes that range from six feet above to six feet below historical long-term average water levels in the Great Lakes, along with potential shoreline and coastal impacts. Communities can use this information to determine what preparations make the most sense in planning for water level change scenarios. Images of local community landmarks, together with maps showing water level scenarios, convey the potential physical, social and economic impacts of lake level change in the U.S. Great Lakes. [Access the viewer at coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/llv](http://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/llv).

LaMP Support and Land Cover Assessment

GLRI funds are supporting the Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-Cap) to update land cover assessments for the five Great Lakes. C-CAP produces a nationally standardized database of land cover and land change information for the coastal regions of the U.S. Having updated standardized data on land cover, land use change and accurate inventories of the coastal areas, wetlands and the adjacent uplands in the tributaries that effect each lake is a priority project identified by all five LaMPs, and provides foundational information needed to make decisions about other LaMP activities and projects.

B-WET

The Great Lakes NOAA Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program is an environmental education program that supports experiential K-12 learning through local competitive grant awards. Great Lakes B-WET is part of the national B-WET Program, and was established in 2011 with GLRI funding. Carefully selected classroom and outdoor educational experiences, driven by rigorous academic learning standards, engender discovery and wonder in students while nurturing a sense of community that connects them with their watershed, reinforces an ethic of responsible citizenship, and promotes academic achievement.

As of 2015, the B-WET Program has engaged 27,430 students and 960 teachers in place-based watershed education.



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www.regions.noaa.gov/great-lakes/index.php/great_lakes-restoration-initiative