

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources / Office of the Great Lakes
WDNR Office of the Great Lakes GLRI Update
10/07/2009 (10/30/2009 updates in red)

We know that you are eagerly awaiting the EPA's formal GLRI Request for Proposals. While the formal RFP is not yet available, there are things we can all be working on to give Wisconsin's projects the best chance of funding.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION TIMELINE: Once the RFP is released, we understand that we will have a 60 day window for final project submittal. Don't wait! Everyone can be working now to prepare draft proposals. Please see the link to the EPA's pdf "Great Lakes Multi-Year Restoration Action Plan Outline" and the accompanying "Funding Guidance" at www.epa.gov/grtlakes/glri.

FUNDING SOURCES: Project proposals should be submitted to the most appropriate funding source (e.g., wildlife-related proposals to USFW). Please check the list on the "Interagency Funding Guide" link at www.epa.gov/grtlakes/glri to determine the best funding source for your project.

FUNDING TIMING: Due to the delayed RFP release we expect funding will also be delayed. Please plan this into your field season or habitat restoration work. Since funding may cover 18 months, at least part of two field seasons may fall in the grant time frame. To get the most out of your money, you will need to plan accordingly. Furthermore, the GLRI is a five-year plan so while this round of funding won't be provided beyond year one, project activities and costs for years two through five should be identified as applicable. We fully expect Congress to provide additional funding beyond 2010.

STAFF NEEDS: Please be sure to provide details on any staff needs related to your project. Include a list of tasks, staff qualifications, and total hours needed to complete these tasks. Then assess whether there is sufficient capacity with current staffing levels to complete this work. If not, include all costs associated with hiring someone to do the work. That includes computer needs, travel, indirect costs, etc.

NOTE: Statewide DNR core staff needs (grant support, finance management, GLRI grant oversight and possibly state-wide tracking) will be compiled and submitted by the Office of the Great Lakes. Staffing needs for your project(s) should be included in your project proposal.

GRANT PROPOSAL COORDINATION: While the DNR Office of the Great Lakes will NOT be responsible for writing your proposals, there are many things we can do to help coordinate statewide efforts and maximize funding potential. We encourage you to submit your draft proposal to the OGL. We will give suggestions for strengthening proposals, look for opportunities to collaborate and help connect grant writers working on similar projects, and identify statewide project opportunities. Kim Walz kimberly.walz@wisconsin.gov, Kate Barrett kate.barrett@wisconsin.gov, or Shaili Pfeiffer shaili.pfeiffer@wisconsin.gov can all be contacted for advice on drafting proposals. Pre-proposals should be submitted according to the pre-proposal guidance issued Oct.30, 2009.

PROPOSAL BUNDLING: Consistent with Wisconsin's Great Lake's Strategy and the GLRI, the OGL will facilitate coordination of grant proposals by topic area as well as three geographic focus areas. Focus topics identified in the GLRI include:

Toxic Substances and AOCs

Invasive Species

Nearshore Health and NPS Pollution

Habitat and Wildlife Protection and Restoration

Accountability, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication and Partnerships

Wisconsin Great Lakes geographic focus areas include:

Milwaukee River Basin

Fox River and Green Bay

Chequamegon Bay and Bad River