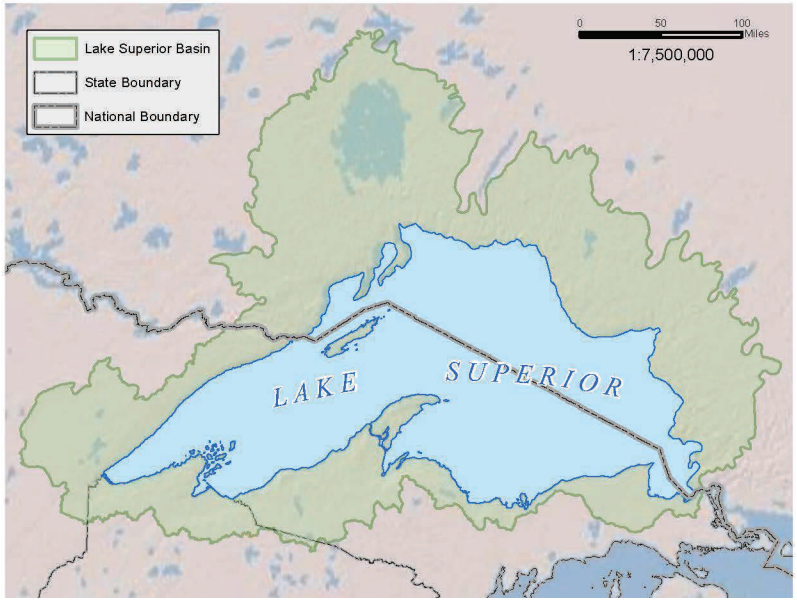
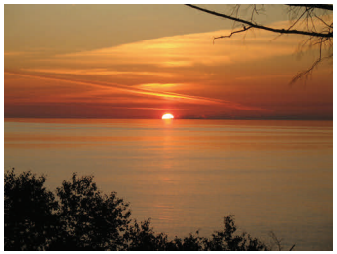


WDNR

LAKE SUPERIOR LaMP: WISCONSIN STORIES

A 1987 international agreement between the U.S. and Canada known as the *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement* required the creation of Lakewide Management Plans, or LaMPS, to establish shared management goals and actions among the many stakeholders in each lake basin. Partners in the U.S. and Canada share responsibility for implementing The Lake Superior LaMP. This fact sheet highlights some of the progress that Wisconsin partners have made in helping to protect and improve Lake Superior's ecosystem and local communities.

More than a third of Wisconsin's residents live in a Great Lake county, but less than four percent of its coastal residents live along Lake Superior. Yet six percent of Lake Superior's surface area and 153 miles of its mainland shore lie in Wisconsin. Its waters form a beautiful and environmentally valuable part of the state's northern boundary.



Joe Graham

Forces that degraded the environment in other Great Lakes in the last century spared Lake Superior to some extent. The basin's poor soils, cool temperatures and short growing season limited agriculture and intensive industrial and commercial development. Timber, mining and transportation have been the region's economic mainstays. Looking ahead, the region is challenged with promoting economic development, recreation and tourism while balancing the needs of this unique environment.

WDNR

Wisconsin Lake Superior Accomplishments

Chequamegon Bay Area Partners have restored streams, replaced culverts and installed bridges with GLRI funding to improve fish habitat, reduce erosion and long-term road maintenance costs. These projects have restored access to more than 20 miles of stream habitat for trout and other aquatic species.

Aquatic Invasive Species are being held in check. The WDNR's Ballast Water Inspection and General Permit Program are helping to control and prevent aquatic invasive species (AIS) spread. To learn more about this program visit http://dnr.wi.gov/news/mediakits/mk_ballast.asp. Through GLRI funding, WDNR is also monitoring for AIS throughout the Lake Superior basin counties and educating the public.

Progress is being made to clean-up the Ashland/Northern States Power Lakefront Superfund Site. A proposed Consent Decree is underway requiring the Northern States Power Company to perform the on-land portion of the site cleanup and to conserve 1400 acres of land to benefit the natural resources affected by the hazardous substances at the site.

Chequamegon Bay Area Partners with GLRI funds conducted beach cleanup and water quality monitoring at Maslowski Beach in Ashland and Thompson's West End Beach in Washburn. Tourism is essential to the Chequamegon Bay Region's economy, so safe and clean public beaches are critical.

Highlights for Wisconsin Lake Superior Projects

The Chequamegon Bay Area Partnership

Chequamegon Bay Area Partnership

The Chequamegon Bay Area Partnership (CBAP) is a regional network of municipalities, tribal governments, non-profit organizations, and government agencies implementing a collaborative approach for maintaining and improving the health of the Chequamegon Bay region of Lake Superior. With funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), the partners of CBAP efficiently and effectively leveraged federal funds to protect and restore Lake Superior and its communities. Recent projects include beach clean-up efforts, restoration of native fish habitat, culvert replacements, and sediment reduction and slow-the-flow watershed projects with landowners in the Fish Creek and Marengo River watershed. Reducing sedimentation in the Lake Superior Basin in Wisconsin is a priority, as sediment results in the loss of habitat, impedes navigation, carries toxins, and reduces the appeal for recreation in the lake. To learn more visit www.northland.edu/cbap.

Lake Superior Nearshore Monitoring

Lake Superior Research Institute

The University of WI Superior's Lake Superior Research Institute (LSRI) received $971,714 through U.S. EPA GLRI funding to work with the Wisconsin DNR in monitoring the condition of coastal wetlands, tributaries and near-shore waters of Lake Superior in northwestern Wisconsin. LSRI scientists are establishing 71 permanent monitoring sites for collecting biological, physical, and chemical data, which include 20 in the nearshore, 17 in coastal wetlands and 34 in tributary streams. At these stations, scientists are analyzing water quality and inventorying invertebrates, plants, amphibians and birds to establish existing conditions of these aquatic systems and allow for future detection of changes and/or trends. This baseline information will enable scientists to take a long-term look at the ecological condition of the coast so they can prioritize problems and manage and protect the resource.

Ashland Shoreline Restoration at Memorial & Bayview Parks

WDNR

Through U.S. EPA GLRI funding, WDNR, Northland College's Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, the City of Ashland, Ashland County Land and Water Conservation Department, the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area, UW-Extension and many volunteers are working to restore 4,100 feet of shoreland at Memorial and Bayview Parks in the City of Ashland to native plant communities by eliminating invasive species, planting native species, and then measuring the ecological benefits. Historical industrial activity negatively impacted the ecology of this once pristine environment. While much of the industrial activity has ended, significant amounts of debris still pollute Ashland's waterfront. Restoration of these lands to natural shorelines will enhance scenic beauty, protect the region's ecology, and provide more opportunities for recreation and tourism. To learn more visit http://ashlandshorerestore.org/

WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

For more information, contact Cherie Hagen, Lake Superior Binational LaMP Coordinator, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Superior, WI.
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