Federal View on the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
Saginaw Bay Watershed Conference
Saginaw Valley State University
March 16, 2012

THE GLRI: ITS PAST

Clean Water Act Section 118
(a)(2) Purpose
It is the purpose of this section to achieve the goals embodied in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978, as amended by the Water Quality Agreement of 1987 and any other agreements and amendments, through improved organization and definition of mission on the part of the Agency, funding of State grants for pollution control in the Great Lakes area, and improved accountability for implementation of such agreement.
Fiscal Year 2012:

The Administrator is authorized to transfer up to $300,000,000 of the funds appropriated for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative under the heading “Environmental Programs and Management” to the head of any Federal department or agency, with the concurrence of such head, to carry out activities that would support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative…

Now in its third year, the GLRI is showing results:

• Beach closings and swimming bans in Chicago at a five-year low.

• Led by the White House Council on Environmental Quality, federal, state and other agencies are using the GLRI and their own agency budgets to keep self-sustaining populations of Asian carp out of the Great Lakes.

• More than 20,000 acres of wetlands have been restored, thanks to the work of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fish & Wildlife Service and others.

• The states, EPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are closing in on removing Areas of Concern from the cleanup list.

• Scientific advancements by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission are making more progress than ever in controlling invasive lamprey.
• President Obama proposed $300 million in GLRI funding for FY13 (starting October 1, 2012).

• White House announced on February 29 that it is interested in continuing the GLRI beyond FY14.

• Need your success stories, particularly as they show the economic benefits of the GLRI.

www.glri.us