

## **Proposal**

### **Great Lakes Habitat Protection & Restoration Implementation Plan**

1. **Purpose.** This paper presents a proposal by the Great Lakes & Ohio River Division (LRD) to develop a regional implementation plan for the protection and restoration of wetlands and aquatic habitat within the Great Lakes Basin that builds upon the Strategy of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, a partnership of federal agencies, eight states, tribal and local governments, established under Executive Order 13340.

2. **Background.** The Great Lakes system holds six quadrillion gallons of fresh water, which is one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water and 95 percent of the U.S. supply. The ecological resources of the Great Lakes Basin includes more than 10,000 miles of coastline with over 530,000 acres of coastal wetlands, the world's largest system of freshwater dunes, more than 30,000 islands, and thousands of tributaries, streams, and upland lakes.

This vast freshwater basin is not only impressive because of its sheer size and natural beauty; it also holds the key to the economic prosperity, environmental health and quality of life of 40 million residents in eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces. A significant fraction of the U.S. gross domestic product—over \$150 billion in goods—is generated annually in the Great Lakes region. The region owes this global significance largely to the Great Lakes freshwater system that fostered regional development and prosperity. Today, the Lakes continue to serve as commercial waterways; supply water for agricultural, municipal and industrial use; and provide numerous opportunities for outdoor recreation and tourism.

On 18 May 04, President Bush signed Executive Order (EO) 13340 which designated the resource issues of the Great Lakes as nationally significant and defined a federal policy to support local and regional efforts to restore and protect the Great Lakes ecosystem through the establishment of regional collaboration. In the 20 months following that event, a number of activities have been accomplished by Federal agencies working in partnership with state, tribal and local governments in response to this Executive Order. The LRD has been a major participant in these activities.

The EO established the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, composed of Secretaries from the Departments of State, Army, Agriculture, Commerce, HUD, Homeland Security, Interior, Transportation, the Administrator of the EPA and the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality. Mr. Woodley, the ASA(CW), is the DA representative on this Task Force. The Task Force worked with the Governors of the eight Great Lakes States, Mayors and Tribal leaders to establish the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC). This partnership of federal, state, tribal, and local governments was officially formed in December 2004 in a ceremony attended by the ASA(CW) who signed the Collaboration charter for the DA. The initial goal of the GLRC was to develop a Strategy for the Protection and Restoration of the Great Lakes within one year. The GLRC developed the Strategy through Teams for the following eight priority issues identified by the Great Lakes Governors and Mayors:

- |                        |                            |                             |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| coastal health         | non-point source pollution | toxic contaminants          |
| invasive species       | habitat/species            | contaminated sediments/AOCs |
| indicators/information |                            | sustainable development     |

Over 1,500 stakeholders from federal, state, tribal, and local governments, industry, and interest groups participated on these Teams. The GLRC completed its Strategy in December 2005. The product includes detailed descriptions of the regional needs related to these eight issue areas, as well as numerous recommendations of near-term actions. While this Strategy provides detailed information on the opportunities and obstacles for restoration and protection of the Great Lakes, it does not provide an implementation plan with detailed information on costs, priority setting for limited resources, responsibility assignments, nor schedules for actions.

3. **Habitat Issue Area.** One of the eight priority issue areas identified by the Great Lakes Governors and Mayors and included in the GLRC Strategy was to “enhance fish and wildlife by restoring and protecting coastal wetlands, fish and wildlife habitats.” The natural resources of the Great Lakes Basin include diverse types of habitat: The Habitat/Species section of the GLRC Strategy summarizes key threats and issues that are keeping these habitats from reaching their desired states, which include: habitat destruction and fragmentation; alteration of natural flows and lake levels; invasive species; excessive sedimentation, and; toxic contaminants. The Strategy also identified the priority systems where protection and restoration efforts should be focused: fish and wildlife populations in open and nearshore waters; wetlands; riverine habitats, and; coastal shore and upland habitats.

The GLRC Strategy provides long-term goals for each of these focus areas and some near-term recommendations. The near-term recommendations represent a blend of regulatory, policy, research, monitoring, management, and restoration actions. The GLRC Strategy also provides recommendations for increased funding to existing programs for habitat protection and restoration.

Among the limitations of the GLRC Strategy were the general terms in which recommendations were presented and the lack of balance between the actions recommended for federal, state, tribal and local governments. In order to take the Habitat portion of GLRC Strategy to the level of an implementation plan, additional effort is required for more detailed evaluation of the recommended actions, development of comparable cost and benefit information, and a method for prioritizing and scheduling actions in line with fiscal resource limitations. These needs were echoed by the comments of numerous Members of Congress on the draft GLRC Strategy.

4. **Proposed Analyses.** The objective of this proposal is to develop an implementation plan for actions to protect, restore and manage aquatic habitat in the Great Lakes Basin that builds upon the GLRC Strategy. Emphasis will be placed on wetlands and coastal habitats. The final product of this effort will be a report that provides the following information and analyses:

- Compilation of information from existing inventories of wetlands and coastal habitat and existing habitat priority setting efforts
- Development of regional ecological performance measures for prioritization of actions
- Greater definition of potential implementable actions for habitat protection, management and restoration, including estimation of costs and characterization of ecological benefits
- Cross-linkages of proposed actions with existing governmental and non-governmental programs based on program capabilities and requirements
- Prioritization of proposed actions utilizing adopted performance measures, integration of priority actions into a comprehensive implementation plan with cost and schedule information

5. **Major Activities.** The above information and analyses will be developed through stages for each activity.

Stage 1 will compile existing information on location-specific actions for protection and restoration of Great Lakes wetlands and coastal habitat from federal, state, local and non-governmental sources including the Wildlife Action Plans developed by each of the eight states, the Great Lakes blueprint of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the regional strategy of Ducks Unlimited, Remedial Action Plans from the 31 U.S. and binational AOCs, North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and projects proposed under FWS, NRCS and Corps funding programs. This information will include any existing design or cost data. The emphasis will be to utilize information from existing sources rather than reinvent these lists and inventories of actionable items.

Stage 2 will include the development of ecological performance measures for prioritization of actions to preserve, manage, and restore Great Lakes wetlands and aquatic habitat. This effort will utilize existing USACE performance measures for ecosystem projects as a starting place, with modifications appropriate to the reflect regional habitat goals outlined in the GLRC Strategy, as well as those of the U.S. – Canada Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries, Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, and TNC Conservation Blueprint.

Stage 3 will bring together the products of the first two stages. Potential actions will receive a rough screening to eliminate those that are no longer considered implementable or inconsistent with study objectives. The remaining actions will be evaluated in sufficient detail to provide comparable information on costs and benefits in line with the performance metrics.

Stage 4 will align the proposed actions with existing federal, state, tribal, local, and nongovernmental programs. In many cases, actions may be implementable through more than one program or initiative. This analysis will consider the requirements and capabilities of the existing programs to offer the “best fit.” A partial list of programs that will be linked with proposed actions includes:

- Section 404 Permitting (USACE and USEPA)
- Coastal Zone Management (States)
- Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration Program (USACE)
- Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Restoration Act (USFWS)
- Wetlands Reserve Program (USDA-NRCS)
- Great Lakes Fishery Management (Great Lakes Fishery Commission)

Stage 5 will include the application of performance measures developed in stage 2 to the proposed actions in order to develop a priority sequence for these actions, as well as the integration of all actions into a comprehensive implementation plan.

6. **Other Project Purposes.** The proposed project will interface with, and provide substantial benefits to other regional issues identified in the GLRC Strategy, most notably sustainable development, nonpoint pollution, coastal health, and Areas of Concern. The actions for wetlands protection and restoration analyzed and prioritized though this effort will provide long-term cost benefits to navigation and flood damage protection projects through reductions in

soil loss and sedimentation in channels and impoundments enhance and sustain recreational uses of the Great Lakes and tributaries, reduce nonpoint source pollution, and help restore beneficial uses necessary to delist Areas of Concern, a commitment of the U.S.-Canadian Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Further, this collaborative effort will demonstrate how a systematic analysis of water resource issues and options can be conducted within a large, multi-jurisdictional watershed as complex as the Great Lakes, and yield an implementation plan that covers a wide range of actions for diverse stakeholder interests.

The proposed effort will be interfaced with the following ongoing USACE activities in the Great Lakes region to provide mutual benefits:

- Development of a Regional General Section 404 Permit to expedite restoration projects in the Great Lakes in cooperation with USEPA (pledge made by EPA Administrator Steve Johnson at GLRC Summit II in Chicago on 12 Dec 05, attended by ASA(CW) Woodley)
- Mapping of Great Lakes shoreline to be initiated in 2006 by the USACE in cooperation with the Navy as part of National Coastal Mapping Program (NCMP). Photographic data can be used to greatly enhance mapping of coastal wetlands.
- Demonstration project on Great Lakes under Regional Sediment Management (RSM) program that will examine basinwide opportunities for beneficial use of dredged material.
- Development of a web-based, basinwide tool to support state and local decision making regarding soil conservation and habitat restoration through the Great Lakes Tributary Model program.

7. **Project Delivery Team (PDT).** The proposed PDT will reflect the interdisciplinary and multi-jurisdictional scope of this investigation. The Team will include members from the USACE, other Federal agencies, regional and binational organizations. Below are the USACE members of the PDT (biographical information on project manager is attached):

- David Gesl - Project manager/Regulatory, Detroit District, 21 years experience
- Phil Berkeley – Planning lead, Buffalo District, 30 years experience
- Frank Veraldi – Fisheries biologist, Chicago District, 6 years experience
- Jim Galloway – Ecologist, Detroit District, 24 years experience
- Jon Brown – Economist, Buffalo District, 28 years experience

The Planning Center of Expertise (CX) and Engineering Research & Development Center (ERDC) will be requested to participate in the independent technical review (ITR) of the report.

Other agencies and organizations that have expressed support for this proposal and will designate their PDT members in the coming weeks include, but are not limited to: USEPA, USFWS, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Great Lakes Commission, The Nature Conservancy, and State Fish & Wildlife Agencies. Interest in this proposed effort is so broad that sub-groups will be formed by the PDT for specific tasks or stages in order to involve more stakeholders. In particular, task 2 (performance measures) will engage a number of governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders.

In addition to participation on the PDT, this project would be fully coordinated with other Federal agencies through the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force and with state, tribal, and local governments through the GLRC.

8. **Expressions of Support.** Mr. Woodley expressed his support to use \$1 million of the FY 2006 GE funding for a basinwide study that supports the recommendations of Great Lakes Regional Collaboration during a briefing for him by the LRD Commander on 21 Nov 05.

This proposal has been coordinated with agencies and organizations representing federal, state, and local governments and non-governmental organizations that participated in the GLRC and Habitat Team. Attached are seven letters of support for this proposal provided by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (binational organization established by U.S.- Canada Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries), Great Lakes Commission (compact of eight states), The Nature Conservancy (Great Lakes Program), Ducks Unlimited (Great Lakes/Atlantic Regional Office), Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (representing mayors of 85 U.S. and Canadian cities and towns), and the co-chairs of the GLRC Habitat Team (Todd Ambs, the Administrator of the Division of Water of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Leon Carl, Director of the USGS Great Lakes Science Center).

9. **Project Budget and Schedule.** This proposal includes a budget of \$1.0 million with a scheduled start in March 2006 and completion in two years. An interim report will be produced after one year and include the status of the project and results of stages 1 and 2. A draft report will be distributed for agency and public review. Although this effort will not include an EA/EIS, the interagency coordination embodied in the process and public review will produce information that should expedite NEPA compliance for any Federal actions that might subsequently follow.

10. **Other Considerations.** This multi-jurisdictional, watershed analyses will provide the following tangible benefits to the Great Lakes ecosystem, Administration, state, tribal and local governments, and the USACE:

- Provide an implementation plan for federal, state, tribal and local governments, including a prioritized set of actions with comparable cost and benefit information
- Demonstrate Administration commitment to the Executive Order and Great Lakes Regional Collaboration
- Demonstrate Administration commitment to the U.S.-Canada Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
- Enhance coordination of Great Lakes activities with the National Fish Habitat Initiative of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Enhance the capacity of state, tribal, and local governments to make decisions regarding ecosystem management, protection, and restoration
- Enhance existing relationships between the USACE and other federal, state, tribal and local governments, binational organizations, and nongovernmental organizations
- Enhance the USACE ecosystem performance metrics to optimize their utility for ranking projects within regional programs (e.g., Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration) and CAP programs (204, 206, and 1135)

11. **MSC Point of Contact.** Mr. Jan Miller, Great Lakes District Support Team, Great Lakes & Ohio River Division, (312) 353-6354 [jan.a.miller@usace.army.mil](mailto:jan.a.miller@usace.army.mil)

## **Biographical Information**

**David W. Gesl**

### Education:

B.S. - Biological Science from Michigan State University (concentration on aquatic ecosystems) with subsequent M.S. work in fisheries.

### Work Experience:

Project Management, Civil Works, USACE Detroit District 2000-2005

Served as lead project manager for the Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER), a regional program with \$100M of authority for planning, design and construction of projects for ecosystem restoration. Developed the Support Plan for program in partnership with Buffalo and Chicago Districts and Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Also managed a series of projects for controlling the invasive species, sea lamprey, through the Section 1135 program. Both programs involved basin-wide collaboration with other Federal agencies, state natural resources organizations, tribal resource managers, local governments, non-government organizations and stakeholders. The sea lamprey barrier projects also involved bi-national cooperative efforts with Canadian organizations. Served as the District's primary representative to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Project Management, Regulatory, USACE Detroit District 1985-2000, 2006

Involved with highly complex, controversial, and or precedent setting permit actions. Most notable were the "Made in Detroit" and "Homestead" decisions, which had potential national programmatic implications. Led actions setting precedents for wetland protection, Native American Trust responsibilities, endangered species, boating traffic, and mitigation of shoreline damages. Also served as the District's primary representative for regulatory public outreach and communication.



February 6, 2006

Mr. Jan Miller  
Great Lakes & Ohio River Division  
U.S. Army Engineers  
111 North Canal Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-7205

Dear Mr. Miller

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is interested in participating with the Corps of Engineers in the development of a comprehensive implementation plan for protection and restoration of wetlands and aquatic habitat in the Great Lakes that builds on the Strategy of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. This Collaboration was formed in response to Executive Order 13340, which recognized the national importance of the Great Lakes environmental and natural resource issues. The commission has worked with the corps on a number of restoration initiatives—including the Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration Program and the “section 1135” environmental program—and we have found the collaboration to be worthwhile and beneficial to the Great Lakes.

The FY 2006 Water Resources Development Act provides the corps with an opportunity to make meaningful contributions to the work of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. The commission believes that the proposed project would provide an integrated plan for implementing recommendations of the collaboration, which were developed by more than 1,500 participants from state and federal agencies, tribal and local jurisdictions, and other stakeholders. I urge the Corps to work closely with the eight Great Lakes States’ fish and wildlife agencies as you move forward with this initiative. Each of the states has recently completed a Wildlife Action Plan as required under the State Wildlife Grants Program. These plans, in addition to the work of the Collaborative, will be invaluable in helping focus the proposed initiative on those habitats in greatest need of protection or restoration. Additionally, I encourage you to closely coordinate this effort with the National Fish Habitat Initiative being led by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in partnership with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

We strongly support the proposed implementation plan for protection and restoration of Great Lakes wetlands and aquatic habitat and look forward to working with the Corps on this nationally important effort. If you need additional information, please contact Marc Gaden or John Dettmers of the commission staff at 734-662-3209.

Sincerely,

Gerry A. Barnhart  
Chair

Cc: J. Baughman, IAFWA  
D. Austen, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission  
CLC

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# Great Lakes Commission des Grands Lacs

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**INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Thomas R. Crane

February 3, 2006

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Resources  
Madison, Wisconsin

*Ensuring environmental and economic  
prosperity for the Great Lakes-St.  
Lawrence region through  
communications, policy research and  
development, and advocacy.*

Mr. Jan Miller  
Great Lakes & Ohio River Division  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
111 North Canal Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-7205

Dear Mr. Miller:

I am writing on behalf of the Great Lakes Commission to express support for the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division's proposal to develop a plan for implementing recommended actions to protect and restore aquatic habitat in the Great Lakes basin. The recommendations were developed under the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC), which recently released a comprehensive restoration and protection strategy for the Great Lakes pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 13340. The Executive Order recognized the Great Lakes as a "national treasure" and established an Interagency Task Force - including the Corps of Engineers - to coordinate federal efforts to restore the Great Lakes.

The GLRC restoration strategy is an important step forward for the Great Lakes region. However, in many areas the plan lacks sufficient detail to effectively implement the recommended actions, including, among others, more detailed evaluation of the proposed actions, cost effectiveness analyses, funding options, federal and nonfederal sponsors, and prioritizing and scheduling of actions. These outstanding needs are well recognized in the region and have been noted by numerous Members of Congress.

The Great Lakes Commission has reviewed the Corps proposal and believe it will provide vital information that will enable the Corps, as well as other federal, state and local agencies and nongovernmental entities, to implement the GLRC habitat recommendations in an effective and rational manner. The Corps is uniquely suited to carry out this study given its important role in waterways management, wetlands regulation, sediment management, and its broad ecosystem restoration authority. Moreover, the Corps' strong regional presence, its technical capabilities, and its relationships with other stakeholders provide the needed capacity to carry out this study. Finally, the study will align regional evaluation and prioritization efforts with ecological performance measures established at the national level.

The Commission commends the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division for proposing this important study effort. It is consistent with the Congressional authorizing language and will demonstrate the Corps commitment both to the Great Lakes and to the President's directives under Executive Order 13340. Our staff and our member states look forward to working with you and your colleagues to advance this vital component of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. If you have questions or wish to discuss the proposal further, please contact me at 651-296-2228 or Tom Crane, Interim Executive Director at 734-971-9135, [tcrane@glc.org](mailto:tcrane@glc.org).

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Huntley, Ph.D., Chairman  
Great Lakes Commission



The Nature Conservancy  
Great Lakes Program  
8 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 2301  
Chicago, IL 60603

tel [312] 759-8017

fax [312] 759-8409

[nature.org/greatlakes](http://nature.org/greatlakes)

January 30, 2006

Mr. Jan Miller  
Great Lakes & Ohio River Division  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
111 North Canal Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-7205

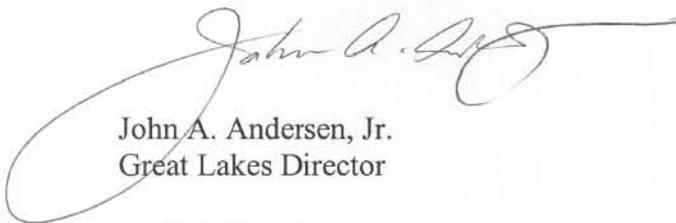
Dear Mr. Miller:

The Nature Conservancy is interested in participating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the development of a comprehensive implementation plan for protecting and restoring wetlands and aquatic habitat in the Great Lakes. We believe the proposed work offers a unique opportunity to advance recommendations in the Habitat/Species section of the final report of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. As designed, the proposed project will help to identify priority places and actions for protecting and restoring Great Lakes native species, natural communities and aquatic systems.

The Nature Conservancy was an active contributor to several of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy Teams, including the Habitat/Species Team. The Nature Conservancy is an international, nonprofit, science-based organization dedicated to the conservation of biological diversity. The goal of the Conservancy's work in the Great Lakes region is to conserve the range of natural systems that support the tremendous variety of plants and animals in the Great Lakes region, many of which occur nowhere else on Earth. Our work in the eight Great Lakes states is supported by more than 235,000 individual members.

We strongly support the development of an implementation plan for protecting and restoring Great Lakes wetlands and aquatic habitat and look forward to working with the Corps on this nationally important project. If you need additional information, please contact me or Lois Morrison, Director of Conservation for The Nature Conservancy's Great Lakes Program, at (312) 759-8017 ext. 14, [lmorrison@tnc.org](mailto:lmorrison@tnc.org).

Sincerely,



John A. Andersen, Jr.  
Great Lakes Director

cc: Lois Morrison



February 7, 2006

Mr. Jan Miller  
Great Lakes & Ohio River Division  
U.S. Army Engineers  
111 North Canal Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-7205

Dear Mr. Miller:

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is interested in participating with the Corps of Engineers in moving forward with implementation of protection and restoration actions for wetlands and aquatic habitat in the Great Lakes that builds on the Strategy of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. This Collaboration was formed in response to Executive Order 13340, which recognized the national importance of the Great Lakes environmental and natural resource issues.

We believe that the multi-jurisdictional, comprehensive watershed analyses, as provided in the FY06 Energy and Water Appropriations Act offers a unique opportunity to advance the recommendations of the Regional Collaboration and fulfill the commitment of the President in Executive Order. The proposed project would provide an integrated plan for implementing recommendations of the Regional Collaboration, which were developed by more than 1,500 participants from state and federal



agencies, tribal and local jurisdictions, and other stakeholders. Most importantly, it can help set priorities and identify programs that can be used to protect wetlands and habitat. Although some of this additional preliminary work is important, it is even more important that we move forward with protection and restoration of wetlands and aquatic habitat.

We strongly support the proposed implementation plan for protection and restoration of Great Lakes wetlands and aquatic habitat and look forward to working with the Corps on this nationally important effort.

If you need additional information, please contact me at 312-201-4516

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David A. Ullrich'.

David A. Ullrich  
Executive Director



**State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Jim Doyle, Governor  
Scott Hassett, Secretary**

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January 30, 2006

Mr. Jan Miller  
Great Lakes & Ohio River Division  
U.S. Army Engineers  
111 North Canal Street  
Chicago, IL 60606-7205

Dear Mr. Miller:

We are very interested in participating with the Corps of Engineers and other regional interests in the efforts to develop a comprehensive approach for protecting and restoring wetlands and aquatic habitats in the Great Lakes basin. Such an effort will build on the strategy created through the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. This Collaboration was formed in response to Executive Order 13340, which recognized the national importance of the Great Lakes and the associated environmental and natural resource issues.

We believe that the multi-jurisdictional, comprehensive watershed analyses, as provided in the FY06 Energy and Water Appropriations Act offers a very significant opportunity to advance some of the recommendations of the Regional Collaboration and to begin the types of projects needed to fulfill the commitments of the President in Executive Order. The proposed project could provide an integrated plan for implementing habitat protection and restoration recommendations of the Regional Collaboration Strategy. These recommendations were developed through the involvement of more than 1,500 participants from state and federal agencies, tribal and local jurisdictions, and other stakeholders and advocacy interests.

We fully support the proposed implementation plan for protection and restoration of Great Lakes wetlands and aquatic habitat and look forward to working closely with the Corps on this nationally significant effort.

If you need additional information, please contact: **Mr. Chuck Ledin at 608\266-1956.**

Sincerely,

Todd Ambs, Administrator  
Division of Water



# United States Department of the Interior

## U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Great Lakes Science Center  
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January 31, 2006

Mr. Jan Miller  
Great Lakes & Ohio River Division  
U.S. Army Engineers  
111 North Canal Street  
Chicago, IL 60606-7205

Dear Mr. Miller:

As co-chair of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Habitat/Species Strategy Team, I am writing to express my support for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes Ecosystem Restoration Proposal (draft dated 21 January, 2006). I believe that the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive watershed analyses, as provided in the FY06 Energy and Water Appropriations Act, offers a unique opportunity to advance the recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration and fulfill the commitment of the President in Executive Order #13340. The proposed project would provide an integrated plan for implementing recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, which were developed by more than 1,500 participants from state and federal agencies, tribal and local jurisdictions, and other stakeholders.

I strongly support the proposed implementation plan for protection and restoration of Great Lakes wetlands and aquatic habitat and look forward to working with the Corps on this nationally important effort.

If you need additional information, please contact: Sandra Morrison at 734-214-9393.

Sincerely,

Leon M. Carl  
Center Director