

**Endangered Species Program Fiscal Year 2012  
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Program  
Notice of Availability of Federal Assistance**

**Program Overview Information**

Federal Agency: Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species Program.

Funding Opportunity Title: Fiscal Year 2012 Endangered Species Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant Program

Announcement Type: Initial announcement for the fiscal year 2012 request for proposals

Funding Opportunity Number: F12AS00051

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 15.662

Dates: Proposals must be submitted electronically through [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) by March 16, 2012. Subject to funding availability, proposals may be considered for funding until September 29, 2012.

**Additional Information:**

To accelerate the restoration of the Great Lakes, the President's FY 2012 budget includes a \$300 million inter-agency initiative to address issues that affect the Great Lakes, such as invasive species, non-point source pollution, and toxics and contaminated sediment. The Initiative builds upon five years of work of the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force (IATF) and stakeholders, guided by the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy. The Initiative supports federal projects and over \$250 million in grants and project agreements, jump-starting achievement of long term goals: safely eating the fish and swimming at our beaches, assuring safe drinking water, and providing a healthy ecosystem for fish and wildlife.

The Initiative was announced in May of 2009 as part of the President's FY2010 budget. Information about the Initiative, Agency-by-Agency funding allocations, and general descriptions of the work they will do has been posted to <http://greatlakesrestoration.us/>. The FWS-ES-GLRI provides grants and other assistance on a competitive basis to individuals, groups and agencies engaged in voluntary conservation efforts to benefit species listed, proposed, or candidates for listing as endangered or threatened under the

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), on private lands within the United States.

Information on the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Endangered Species Recovery is also available from the following sources:

Within Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio, contact Lisa Mandell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 5600 American Blvd. West, Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-1458, 612/713-5343, or [lisa\\_mandell@fws.gov](mailto:lisa_mandell@fws.gov)

Within Pennsylvania and New York, contact David Stilwell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York Field Office, 3817 Luker Road, Cortland, NY 13045, 607/753-9335, ext. 123, or [david\\_stilwell@fws.gov](mailto:david_stilwell@fws.gov).

## **I. Funding Opportunity Background**

The Endangered Species Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grants Program (GLRI-ES) provides grants and other assistance on a competitive basis to those individuals, groups, and government agencies engaged in voluntary conservation efforts to benefit species listed or proposed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), candidate species, or other at-risk species within the Great Lakes Watershed of the United States.

We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are soliciting project proposals for Federal assistance under the GLRI-ES. This document describes how you may apply for funding under the GLRI-ES and how we will determine which project proposals will be funded.

The Service will award grants for actions and activities that protect and restore habitats that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species. Additionally, the Service, in cooperation with the grantees, must address Federal compliance issues, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Endangered Species Act. For the projects that are selected to receive funding, we will provide additional guidance on compliance requirements. Please see Section III for minimum eligibility criteria and Section V for additional application review information, including proposal evaluation criteria.

## **II. Award Information**

The Service will make selections based upon those proposals submitted for consideration through this announcement. The Fiscal Year 2012 GLRI-ES (F12AS00051) provides up to \$600,000 in grants on a competitive basis to individuals, groups, and government agencies engaged in private, voluntary conservation efforts that benefit species listed or proposed as endangered or threatened or candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), within the Great Lakes Watershed of the United States. Grant and/or cooperative agreements may be implemented. For cooperative agreements, the substantial involvement by the Service will be determined on a case-by-

case basis.

### III. Eligibility Information

#### 1. Eligible Applicants

Private landowners, individually or as a group, are encouraged to submit project proposals for their properties. Individuals or groups (for example land conservancies, community organizations, or conservation organizations) working with private landowners or their own properties on conservation efforts are also encouraged to submit project proposals. Other governmental entities or affiliates, including federal, state, county, or other local governments or State-supported universities, are eligible to apply for funding. In order to receive funding, projects will need to ensure that landowners are willing to allow the Service access to the project area in order to check on its progress when necessary.

#### 2. Cost Sharing or Matching

To receive credit toward additional points in the ranking criteria, a project proposal must include a cost sharing component of the partners involved in the project (the cost-share may be an in-kind contribution, including equipment, materials, operations, and maintenance costs). The cost share must come from sources other than the GLRI-ES. Applications submitted without a cost sharing component will be considered eligible, but will not receive credit for such during the proposal review and evaluation process.

#### 3. Other

Table 1 indicates which species are endangered (E), threatened (T), proposed endangered (PE) or candidates (C) occurring within the Great Lakes Watershed. In addition, FY 2012 funding will be prioritized to focus on projects that benefit piping plover, pitcher’s thistle, and the bog turtle. While projects for other species will be considered, additional points will be awarded for projects that specifically benefit these three species (as reflected in Section V, below). The “Trend” column indicates the general population trend of the species as either stable (S), increasing (I), or declining (D).

Table 1. List of federally listed and candidate species within the Great Lakes.

SPECIES	LISTED STATUS	TREND	SPECIES	LISTED STATUS	TREND
Canada Lynx	T	S	Hungerford’s Crawling Water Beetle	E	S
Indiana Bat	E	D	Karner Blue Butterfly	E	S
Clubshell	E	D	Mitchell’s Satyr Butterfly	E	D

Northern Riffleshell	E	S	American Hart's-tongue Fern	T	D
Rayed bean	PE	D	Dwarf Lake Iris	T	S
Kirtland's Warbler*	E	S	Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid	T	S
Piping Plover*	E	I	Fassett's Locoweed	T	I
Bog Turtle*	T	S	Houghton's Goldenrod	T	S
Copperbelly Watersnake	T	D	Lakeside Daisy	T	S
Eastern Massasauga	C	D	Leedy's Roseroot	T	S
Chittenango Ovate Amber Snail	T	D	Michigan Monkey-flower	E	S
American Burying Beetle	E	S	Northern Wild Monkshood	T	S
Hine's Emerald Dragonfly	E	S	Pitcher's Thistle	T	S
Snuffbox	PE	D	Prairie Bush Clover	T	S
			Small Whorled Pogonia	T	S

The GLRI-ES supports on-the-ground conservation actions as well as applied research activities. Examples of the types of projects that may be funded include managing invasive species, reintroducing imperiled species, implementing measures to minimize risk from disease, securing populations with species management plans, restoring streams that support imperiled species, documenting species presence, or planting native vegetation to restore a rare plant community. This is not an exhaustive list of the various projects that may be funded under the initiative. We recognize that there are many ways to benefit imperiled species conservation and recovery.

The following criteria must be satisfied for a proposal to be considered for funding:

(1) The project must involve voluntary conservation efforts within the Great Lakes Watershed boundary of the United States. As a voluntary program, we will not grant funding for projects that serve to satisfy regulatory requirements of the Act, including complying with a biological opinion under section 7 of the Act or fulfilling commitments of a Habitat Conservation Plan under section 10 of the Act, or for projects that serve to satisfy other local, State, or Federal regulatory requirements (e.g., mitigation for local, State, or Federal permits).

(2) The project must benefit species listed as endangered or threatened under the Act by the Service, or species proposed or designated as candidates for listing by the Service that are native to the United States portion of the Great Lakes watershed (Table 1). Projects that specifically benefit the Piping Plover, Pitcher's Thistle and Bog Turtle will be ranked higher for FY 2012. We may fund the acquisition of real property either through fee title or easements, however acquisition proposals for easements will be ranked lower.

(3) If the project is submitted on behalf of a group of landowners, the proposal must either identify some of the specific landowners who have confirmed their intent to participate in the conservation efforts or provide other information to demonstrate that the project, if funded, would have full landowner participation.

(4) The proposal must include a reasonably detailed budget indicating how the funding will be used and how each partner is contributing. The proposal must also indicate the time commitment for maintaining the project's benefits. The total costs of a project consist of all allowable costs you incur, including the value of in-kind contributions, in accomplishing project objectives during the life of the project.

(5) The proposal must include quantifiable measures that can be used to evaluate the project's success. These quantifiable measures must be specific, clear, and provide demonstrable benefits to the target species such as increased habitat quantity or quality. The project proposal should specify in detail how the habitat quantity or quality will be improved (e.g., acres, species, etc.) and the anticipated use of that habitat by the target species (e.g., numbers, duration, etc.). Proposed methods of monitoring, evaluating, and reporting these measures in comparison to an initial baseline should also be included in the proposal.

(6) To qualify for cost-share points in the proposal evaluation process, the proposal must include specifics on the partners involved in the project. The cost share must come from sources other than the GLRI-ES.

#### **IV. Application and Submission Information**

##### **1. Proposal Narrative**

The narrative description of your project proposal should specifically address each of the eligibility criteria and each of the ranking factors. We recommend the following format for the project narrative –

(1) Title Page. You should list on the Title Page a project title, objectives, duration, summary of costs (amount of GLRI-ES funding needed and cost sharing), and contact information (name, address and phone number).

(2) Project Description. The project proposal must identify which species will benefit, how they will benefit, and describe the project's significance to each target species (goals and objectives for the project). List all other sources of funding you have or are seeking

for the project and any known Federal, State, Tribal, or local government programs or activities that this project would affect.

(3) Statement of work. The statement of work is an action plan of activities you will conduct during the period of the project. You must prepare a detailed narrative; fully describing the work you will perform to achieve the project goals and objectives. The narrative should respond to the following questions:

- (a) What is the project design? What specific work, activities, and procedures will you undertake? Specifically list the species (see Table 1, above) that will benefit from the proposed project.
- (b) Who will be responsible for carrying out the various activities? Describe how the project will be organized and managed. Identify the person(s) responsible for the project and other project participants.
- (c) What are the project milestones? Each project should first clearly describe the baseline conditions as they exist prior to project implementation. List any milestones, describing the specific activities and associated time lines to conduct the scope of work. Describe the time lines in increments (e.g., month 1, month 2), rather than by specific dates.
- (d) Specify the criteria and procedures proposed to evaluate the success in achieving project objectives.
- (e) For what period of time will you commit to maintain the habitat improvements or other benefits from the project? Describe the steps you will take to ensure that the benefits of the project continue throughout this time period.

(4) Project Budget. You must submit a reasonably detailed budget for the project. The budget should indicate the breakdown of costs proposed to be funded through the GLRI-ES and other costs, through both cash and in-kind contributions. To support your project's budget, also describe briefly the basis for estimating the value of the cost sharing derived from in-kind contributions.

(5) Supporting Documentation. You should include any relevant documents and additional information (maps, background documents) that will help us to understand the project and the problem/opportunity you seek to address. Reference the recovery plan action (for listed species) that you are planning to address when applicable.

## 2. Content and Form of Application

For general guidance on developing and writing grant proposals, see the CFDA Internet site at <https://www.cfda.gov/>

Applications must be submitted through the Grants.gov internet site (<http://www.grants.gov/>) following all instructions provided by Grants.gov to ensure that your electronic application is received by March 16, 2012. Your completed application

must be filed by the deadline to be considered in the initial request for proposals. We highly recommend that applicants begin the application process well in advance of the closing date for submission of applications. The application process through Grants.gov requires applicants complete a registration process and requires that all materials submitted are completely and accurately filled out.

The project proposal is a narrative description of your project. Completion of an additional required Federal form occurs through the Grants.gov process. The ultimate size of the proposal will depend on its complexity, but we request that you attempt to minimize the size of the proposal narrative. The project proposal should also indicate whether partial funding of the project is practicable, and, if so, what specific portion(s) of the project could be implemented with what level of funding. A project proposal that is a part of a longer-term initiative will be considered; however, the proposed project's objectives, benefits, and tasks must stand on their own, as there are no assurances that additional funding will be awarded in subsequent years for associated or complementary projects.

Proposals may be considered for funding until September 29, 2012, subject to funding availability.

The Service, the Department of the Interior, and the Office of Management and Budget, have established requirements concerning Federal financial assistance. This includes established principles for determining which costs are allowable or eligible based on the type of applicant (see Table 3 in section VI.2 below). Your project proposal must comply with these requirements.

### 3. Submission Dates and Times

To be eligible for the initial request for proposals, grant project proposals must be submitted to the Grants.gov internet site by March 16, 2012. The proposals must be received by 5:00 pm. Proposals received by this date and time may be reviewed and considered as eligible until September 29, 2012, or until project funds have been depleted. To confirm the receipt of your proposal you must contact the Regional Office program coordinator (Lisa Mandell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 5600 American Blvd. West, Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-1458, 612/713-5343, or [lisa\\_mandell@fws.gov](mailto:lisa_mandell@fws.gov)).

### 4. Intergovernmental Review

This funding opportunity is subject to Executive Order (EO) 12372 "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." Applicants should contact the Service's Regional Office program coordinator and/or the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for Federal Executive Order 12372 to determine whether the application is subject to the State intergovernmental review process. The following States and Territories have designated SPOCs: Illinois, Michigan, and New York. A complete list of the names and addresses for the SPOCs may be found at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants\\_spoc](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc).

## 5. Funding Restrictions

The proposal must indicate the time commitment for maintaining the project's benefits. A project begins on the effective date of an award agreement between you and an authorized representative of the U.S. Government and ends on the date specified in the award. Accordingly, we cannot reimburse you for time that you expend or costs that you incur in developing a project or preparing the application, or in any discussions or negotiations you may have with us prior to the award. We will not accept such expenditures as part of your cost share. We will also not consider fees or profits as allowable costs in your application. The total costs of a project consist of all allowable costs you incur, including the value of in-kind contributions, in accomplishing project objectives during the life of the project.

The final exact amount of funds, the scope of work, and terms and conditions of a successful award will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the prospective recipient and the Service's representatives. The prospective recipient will be asked to sign an agreement that specifies the project requirements, such as the cost share, the project design, the time commitment for maintaining the project's benefits, and the reporting requirements, and that provides for Service access to the project area in order to check on its progress. In order to receive funding, prospective recipient will also need to provide assurances and certifications of compliance with other Federal requirements (for example see Standard Form 424-B available at <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/ToolkitFiles/toolkit.pdf> and Department of the Interior form DI-2010 available at <http://www.doi.gov/nbc/formsmgt/forms/di2010.pdf>). The recipient is reimbursed based on the cost-sharing formula in the Agreement. An applicant should not initiate a project in expectation of GLRI-ES funding, nor should the purchase of materials or initiation of work occur until such time as the final grant award document is signed by an authorized Service official.

## **V. Application Review Information**

### 1. Criteria

Members of a review panel will individually score each proposal based on a set of ranking factors, which include (1) the number of eligible species that will benefit from the project; (2) benefit to FY 12 priority species; (3) the importance of the project to the conservation of the target species, including the duration of the benefits, the magnitude of the benefits, and the urgency of the project; (4) the contribution of a cost share; and (5) other proposal merits, such as whether the project complements other conservation projects in the area, the project's unique qualities, feasibility of the project, or any other appropriate justifications, including particular strengths in the above categories (e.g., extraordinary benefits).

Due to the wide variety of project proposals that will likely be submitted, the scoring system must provide a relatively high degree of flexibility. Therefore, a scoring system that is relatively simple, but allows project proposals to be evaluated qualitatively as well

as quantitatively is desired. The five ranking factors will be scored as described in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Project Proposal Scoring Guidelines (18 points maximum):

<b>Ranking Factor:</b>	<b>Project Proposal Assessment:</b>	<b>Number of Points</b>
(1) The number of federally listed, proposed, or candidate species that will directly benefit from the project.	1 listed species 2 + listed species	1 2
(2) The importance of the project to the recovery of piping plover, pitcher's thistle and/or bog turtle	1 priority species included 2-3 priority species included	1 2
(3) The importance of the project to the conservation of the target species, including the duration of the benefits, the magnitude of the benefits, and the urgency of the project.	Qualitative	1 - 6
(3) The contribution of cost share:	- 10-20% cost share - 20-30% cost share - 30-40% cost share - >40% cost share	1 2 3 4
(4) Other Proposal Merits. Whether the project complements other projects in the area, the project's unique qualities, feasibility of the project, or any other appropriate justifications, including particular strengths in the above categories (e.g., extraordinary benefits).	Qualitative	0 - 3

## 2. Process for Review and Selection of Proposals.

A panel of representatives will assess the applications and make funding recommendations to the Service. The purpose of using the panel is to obtain individual advice on project selection from an array of interests involved with conservation efforts throughout the Great Lakes basin. The Service will use the individual panel member recommendations in selecting projects, although geographic distribution of projects, the amount of funding requested for a project compared with the total amount of funding available, and other such factors may also be considered. Partial funding of one or more projects, when practicable, may be considered. After reviewing the individual panel member recommendations and the other factors, the appropriate Service Managers will make funding selections.

## 3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

The Service anticipates making the initial award announcements for the fiscal year 2012 competition in May 2012.

## **VI. Award Administration Information**

### **1. Award Notices**

Awards will be announced through a regional press release and a letter to the award recipient notifying them of the selection for an award. This letter is not an authorization to begin performance. An applicant should not initiate a project in expectation of funding, nor should purchase of materials or work be initiated until such time as the final grant award document is signed by an authorized Service official. Unsuccessful applicants will also be notified via telephone, electronic mail, or via a letter delivered through the postal mail.

Those individuals or groups that wish to have this information withheld from the public, including the name of the applicant and location of the project **MUST** clearly state this within the proposal. Upon request the Service will withhold such information to the maximum extent of the law. However, applicants should be aware that applications submitted to the Service for funding consideration are a matter of public record, and such information is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

### **2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

Listed in Table 3 below are the administrative requirements that will apply to your project if funded through the GLRI-ES. The documents listed below establish principles for determining which costs are allowable or eligible (“cost principles”) and describe other requirements that apply to receiving funding. These requirements apply to recipients and subrecipients of GLRI-ES funding. In some cases, the requirements vary depending upon the type of organization receiving funding or subrecipient funding. For projects that are selected for funding, we will also offer additional technical assistance to facilitate the prospective recipients’ understanding of the financial requirements.

On June 27, 2003, The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published a Federal Register notice (68 FR 38402) that announced final policy issuance on the use of a universal identifier by grant applicants. The policy requires applicants applying for Federal grants or cooperative agreements on or after October 1, 2003, to acquire a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number. It is the responsibility of the organization seeking Federal funds to obtain a DUNS, as necessary. Grant and cooperative agreement applicants (excluding individuals) need to ensure they have a DUNS number. Therefore, private individual landowners submitting proposals for consideration **DO NOT** need to acquire a DUNS number, however, organizations representing private landowners **MUST** acquire a DUNS number to be submitted with the proposal. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or online at [www.dnb.com](http://www.dnb.com).

Table 3. Administrative Requirements for FWS-ES-GLRI Funding Awards

Category:	Specific Requirements:
Individuals, private firms, and other non-profits excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-122	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Federal Acquisition Regulation Subpart 31.2</li> <li>* 43 CFR 18 (New Restrictions on Lobbying)</li> <li>* 48 CFR 31 (Contracts with Commercial Organizations)</li> </ul>
Non-Profit Organizations covered under OMB Circular No. A-122	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 43 CFR 12 (Administrative and Audit Requirements and Cost Principles for Assistance Programs)</li> <li>* 43 CFR 18 (New Restrictions on Lobbying)</li> <li>* OMB Circular No. A-110 (Administrative Requirements for Grants)</li> <li>* OMB Circular No. A-122 (Cost Principles)</li> <li>* OMB Circular No. A-133 (Audits)</li> </ul>
Educational Institutions (even if part of a State or local government)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 43 CFR 12 (Administrative and Audit Requirements and Cost Principles for Assistance Programs)</li> <li>* 43 CFR 18 (New Restrictions on Lobbying)</li> <li>* OMB Circular No. A-21 (Cost Principles)</li> <li>* OMB Circular No. A-110 (Administrative Requirements for Grants)</li> <li>* OMB Circular No. A-133 (Audits)</li> </ul>
States, local governments, and Indian Tribes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 43 CFR 12 (Administrative and Audit Requirements and Cost Principles for Assistance Programs)</li> <li>* 43 CFR 18 (New Restrictions on Lobbying)</li> <li>* OMB Circular No. A-87 (Cost Principles)</li> <li>* OMB Circular No. A-102 (Grants and Cooperative Agreements)</li> <li>* OMB Circular No. A-133 (Audits)</li> </ul>

### 3. Reporting

Grant recipients may be required to complete one or more of the following financial forms:

- SF - 269/269A, Financial Status Report
- SF - 270, Request for Advance or Reimbursement
- SF - 271, Outlay Report and Request for Reimbursement for Construction Programs
- SF - 272, Federal Cash Transactions Report.

Financial and performance reports are due upon project completion if performance is less than one year, and annually, and upon completion if the period of performance is greater than one year. Recipients will also be responsible for adhering to OMB Circular A-133, regarding single audit requirements.

Applicants are advised to work with the appropriate Regional Office program contacts to determine if any additional reporting requirements must be met based on individual applicant status following the administrative requirements as outlined in Table 3. Please note that additional information describing predicted and/or final resource outcomes for projects selected for funding through this RFP may be required at a later date (due to funding requirements of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative).

Delinquent submittal or non-submittal of reports will be construed by the Service as a failure by the grantee to accomplish objectives and may be grounds for withholding payments; suspending or terminating the award; and barring the recipient from receiving future awards from the Service until the delinquent reports are received.

## **VII. Agency Contacts**

Please refer to following program contacts:

- In Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan or Ohio, contact Lisa Mandell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 5600 American Blvd. West, Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-1458, 612/713-5343, or [lisa\\_mandell@fws.gov](mailto:lisa_mandell@fws.gov).
- Within Pennsylvania and New York, contact David Stilwell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York Field Office, 3817 Luker Road, Cortland, New York 13045, 607/753-9335, ext. 123, or [david\\_stilwell@fws.gov](mailto:david_stilwell@fws.gov).

## **VIII. Other Information**

Please note that the Federal Government is not obligated to make any awards as a result of this announcement, and only official Service grant officers can bind the Government to the expenditure of funds. Please be aware that if you are selected as a Federal grant recipient, the funds you receive may be subject to Federal and other taxes.