

# Top Priorities for 2008

Now, more than anytime in recent memory, people are moving to protect and restore our Great Lakes from threats ranging from sewage contamination to invasive species.

Great Lakes governors and mayors are collaborating on Great Lakes issues, and U.S. Senators and Representatives are considering bold new plans for the lakes. Citizens, more than 45 million in the Great Lakes region, are calling for action and expressing concern for their families' health, economy and quality of life.

A comprehensive strategy to restore the Great Lakes has been produced as part of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, a historic initiative kick-started by the Bush Administration. Unfortunately, the President's proposed budget for

2008 shortchanges the Lakes in many areas. Members of Congress can help lay a foundation for long-term Great Lakes restoration and health by supporting key investments in the 2008 budget.

The millions of people who depend on the Lakes for their economic and cultural identity are ready for the promise of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration strategy. Until that comprehensive plan is enacted by Congress, it is important for legislators to support increases in current Great Lakes programs in the 2008 federal budget.

## Healing Our Waters® – Great Lakes Coalition Recommendations

Interior-EPA Appropriations	HOW-GL's 2008 Request	The President's Request
<b>Clean Water State Revolving Fund:</b> Helps end sewage dumping in the Great Lakes by updating aging water infrastructure.	\$1.35 billion	\$688 million
<b>Great Lakes Legacy Act:</b> Cleans up toxic sediments in polluted harbors and rivers.	\$54 million	\$35 million
<b>Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act:</b> Keeps local beaches open year round.	\$10 million	\$9.9 million
<b>U.S. Geological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center:</b> Supports Great Lakes research and monitoring, including additional deepwater fishery science and ecosystem research.	\$13.2 million	\$8 million
<b>Great Lakes National Program Office, EPA:</b> Provides public access to Great Lakes data; helps communities address contaminated sediments and promotes pollution-prevention activities.	\$25 million	\$21.76 million
<b>Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act:</b> Restores fish and wildlife and their habitat, such as wetlands.	\$16 million	\$1.27 million

## Healing Our Waters® – Great Lakes Coalition Recommendations *continued*

Energy-Water Appropriations (Army Corp of Engineers)	HOW-GL's 2008 Request	The President's Request
<b>Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration Act:</b> Restores fish and wildlife and their habitat, such as wetlands.	\$4.5 million	Zero
<b>Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Invasive Species Barrier:</b> Stops Asian carp from entering Great Lakes and destroying the ecosystem and economy.	\$9 million	\$7.65 million
<b>RAP Assistance (Section 401):</b> Supports toxic harbor clean ups and revitalizes coastal attractions.	\$4 million	Zero
Science, State, Justice and Commerce Appropriations		
<b>Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory:</b> Supports Great Lakes research and monitoring and \$1.5 million for habitat restoration initiatives.	\$16.5 million	\$10.4 million
<b>NOAA Extramural Science Program:</b> Supports Great Lakes research and monitoring at Great Lakes colleges and universities.	\$28 million	\$15.8 million
<b>National Coastal Zone Management Grants:</b> Supports Great Lakes coastline restoration and protection.	\$70 million	\$66.2 million
Agriculture Appropriations		
<b>Wetland Reserve Program:</b> Helps landowners, such as farmers, restore or enhance wetlands. We support the President's request to fund the national enrollment cap to protect 250,000 acres of wetlands in FY 2008.	Same	Same
<b>Conservation Reserve Program:</b> Prevents erosion by paying farmers to take highly erodible agricultural land out of production and to plant permanent cover. We support the President's request to fund the national enrollment cap of 39.2 million acres in FY 2008.	Same	Same
<b>Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control:</b> Helps control soil erosion and protect waterways in the Great Lakes.	\$5 million	Zero
State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs		
<b>Great Lakes Fishery Commission:</b> Supports invasive sea lamprey prevention and control.	\$20.2 million	\$12 million
<b>International Joint Commission:</b> Supports Upper Great Lakes study to evaluate impacts of water levels and flow regulation in Upper Great Lakes.	\$7 million	\$6 million

The Healthy Lakes, Healthy Lives campaign is directed by the Healing Our Waters®–Great Lakes Coalition. The coalition consists of more than 90 zoos, aquariums, museums, and hunting, fishing and environmental organizations representing millions of people, whose common goal is to restore and protect the Great Lakes. Formed in 2005 with support from the Wege Foundation, Joyce Foundation, and others, the Healing Our Waters®–Great Lakes Coalition reflects a growing public awareness about the urgent need to protect the Great Lakes.

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