

Support the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act

Introduced by Rep. Debbie Dingell, Rep. Candice Miller and Rep. Darin LaHood

Supported By: Ducks Unlimited, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, American Sportfishing Association, Alliance for the Great Lakes, Trout Unlimited, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever, Ohio Conservation Federation

Enacted in 1990, the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (GLFWRA) authorizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to provide assistance to Great Lakes fish and wildlife agencies to encourage cooperative conservation, restoration, and management of the fish and wildlife resources and their habitats. Projects are selected through a competitive review process from proposals submitted by states, tribes, and other interested entities. Local entities must come up with a 25% non-federal match.

Since 1998, GLFWRA has provided more than \$22.8 million in federal funding to 148 research and restoration projects. When leveraged with the local match, more than \$33.9 million has been dedicated to critical restoration projects in the Great Lakes basin.

For example, in 2015, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources received \$260,822 to restore habitat for the Kirtland Warbler, an endangered species, and the University of Illinois received \$177,316 to detect the successful reproduction of Lake Trout in southern Lake Michigan.

The program has not been reauthorized since 2006. The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2016, introduced by Reps. Debbie Dingell (D-MI), Darin LaHood (R-IL), and Candice Miller (R-MI), reauthorizes the program through 2021 and makes the following changes.

- Authorization level has been reduced to \$6m from \$14m.
- Permits the value of land acquired by private groups and states to qualify as the non-federal match.
- Allows the non-federal match on projects up to 2 years previous.