USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Great Lakes RESTORATION

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
GLRI – EQIP
General Sign-Up
Plan of Operations for Fiscal Year 2014

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers financial assistance to agricultural producers to implement on-farm conservation practices. Eligible land is determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and is based on an identified resource concern. Eligible producers may apply for financial assistance for conservation practices that will address the identified resource concerns.

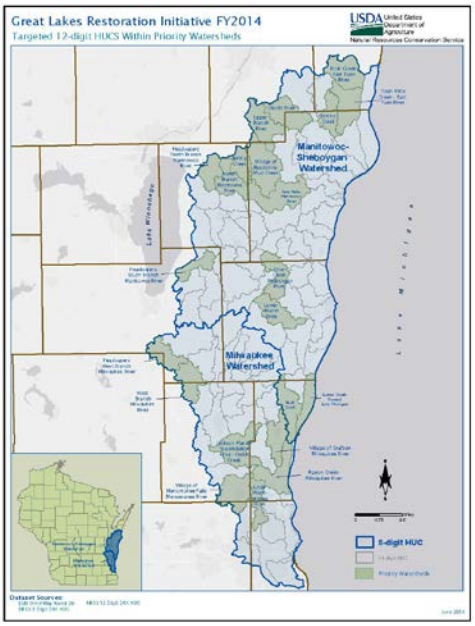
Eligible Watershed Areas:

The map to the right identifies the Wisconsin GLRI Priority Areas.

Eligible watersheds include:

- Manitowoc-Sheboygan
- Milwaukee

The Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD) is the delineation used to identify the watershed boundaries.



Eligible Practices and Payment Rates:

See the documents posted on the Wisconsin NRCS GLRI webpage for the list of eligible conservation practices and payment rates for Fiscal Year 2014 GLRI-EQIP. Applicants who certify they are a Beginning Farmer, Limited Resource Farmer or a Socially Disadvantaged Farmer are eligible to receive a higher practice payment rate.

Application Period:

EQIP applications are accepted on a continuous basis throughout the year. The Fiscal Year 2014 GLRI-EQIP General sign-up period deadline is July 18, 2014. All eligible applications received by the close of business July 18, 2014 will be evaluated for funding consideration.

Interested agricultural producers may apply in person, by telephone, fax, email, or letter at the local NRCS Service Center. The following link provides the location and contact information for local NRCS Service Centers:
http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?service=page/CountyMap&state=WI&stateName=Wisconsin&stateCode=55

Fund Pools:

The following fund pool has been established for Fiscal Year 2014 GLRI-EQIP General sign-up:

GLRI-General 14/15

Applications for Conservation Activity Plan(s) (i.e. Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan CAP, Integrated Pest Management Plan CAP, Drainage Water Management Plan CAP) will be single stand-alone application/contract and will not be included (i.e. merged) with applications/contracts for non-CAP conservation practices.

A separate application form (i.e. NRCS-CPA-1200) does not need to be submitted if the applicant already has an existing unfunded application submitted for Fiscal Year 2014 EQIP.

Resource Concerns:

Addressing surface water quality, wildlife habitat, and invasive species resource concerns in the Great Lakes Restoration Area through the implementation of core conservation practices is considered a priority for the Fiscal Year 2014 GLRI-EQIP General sign-up and is reflected in the application ranking tool.

Ranking:

All applications will receive a High, Medium, or Low application priority as identified on the document titled "WI GLRI FY14 General Screening Tool 6-23-2014" which is posted on the Wisconsin NRCS GLRI webpage. Scoring of applications will be done according to the application ranking document posted on the Wisconsin NRCS GLRI webpage. All rankings will be conducted in ProTracts. Applications identified as High priority will rank ahead of applications identified as Medium priority. Only those applications which are identified as High priority will initially be ranked. Medium priority applications will only be ranked and approved for funding if there is an insufficient quantity of High priority applications to fully obligate the Wisconsin financial assistance allocation. Low priority applications will not be ranked. In the event of application ranking score ties, the application that has the higher tracking code (i.e. random number generated in ProTracts) will receive funding priority.

Funding:

NRCS will allocate the available Fiscal Year 2014 GLRI-EQIP General funds based on the numerical ranking system set forth on the Wisconsin NRCS website. Applications will be selected for plan development and contracted in ranked order according to the application priority and ranking score as funds allow. If there are insufficient funds available to fund an application, applications not selected for contracting will be deferred to the next EQIP application ranking period.

Waste Storage / Alternative Waste Applications:

See the Wisconsin NRCS EQIP webpage for application requirements associated with the following conservation practices:

- Waste Storage Facility (313)
- Composting Facility (317)
- Anaerobic Digester (366)
- Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility (632)
- Waste Treatment (629)