

# 2025 Great Lakes Federal Priorities



**W**ildlife and people rely on clean, fresh water. NWF's Great Lakes Regional Center is committed to being a unifying, effective voice for wildlife, people, and water. We are working to protect fish and wildlife and our outdoor recreation traditions, and to improve the quality of life of all people who call this region home. We also work to ensure that the communities most impacted by pollution are prioritized when it comes to implementing solutions.

## **NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION URGES CONGRESS AND THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO:**

**Restore Watersheds**

**Protect Our Natural Resources**

**Safeguard Water for Wildlife and People**

**Protect Public Lands and Wildlife**

**Advance Climate Solutions and Resiliency**



## RESTORE WATERSHEDS

### Great Lakes Restoration

- Pass the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act that will reauthorize the GLRI at \$500 million annually in support of restoration actions across the Great Lakes;
- Fully fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative at \$500 million in fiscal year 2025 to continue to restore fish and wildlife habitat, clean up toxic pollution, reduce nutrient pollution that leads to harmful algal blooms, and protect the Great Lakes from invasive carp.



### Ohio River Restoration

- Support the reintroduction of the bipartisan Ohio River Restoration Program Act that will restore fish and wildlife habitat, clean up toxic pollution, and curb runoff pollution to protect the drinking water, public health, recreation, and economy for the more than 30 million people in the 14-state Ohio River basin.

## PROTECT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

### Stop the Spread of Invasive Species

- Continue to fund the Brandon Road Project to help prevent the movement of invasive carp and other invasive species from the Mississippi River basin into the Great Lakes;
- Authorize a study to determine the economic feasibility of installing ballast water treatment technology on all vessels that operate in the Great Lakes to prevent non-native species from entering U.S. waters.

### Protect the Great Lakes from Harmful Algal Blooms

- Increase funding for proven programs to reduce point and nonpoint source nutrient discharges, limit erosion, and protect and restore wetlands;
- Expand funding and technical support to help implement existing commitments and agreements relating to Lake Erie;
- Increase support to implement plans addressing harmful algal blooms for inland waters and across the Great Lakes.

### Secure Water and Wildlife Conservation through the Farm Bill

- Protect and build on the conservation dollars provided in the *Inflation Reduction Act* to boost long-term funding for Farm Bill conservation programs that help farmers be better land stewards of our soil, water, wildlife and climate in the Great Lakes and throughout the country. The remaining conservation dollars should be moved into the conservation baseline;
- Increase the Farm Bill's focus on supporting wildlife corridors and connectivity through USDA conservation programs and encourage the Administration to expand wildlife corridor pilot programs and double down on secretarial orders that support wildlife corridors and connectivity.



## SAFEGUARD WATER FOR WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE

### Protect People and Wildlife From PFAS

- Support the bi-partisan Relief for Farmers Hit with PFAS Act, which would establish a USDA program to help farmers address PFAS contamination through testing, compensation for contaminated land, and researching and implementing remediation strategies for contaminated farmland;
- Support implementation of the EPA's PFAS Action Plan, and support efforts to improve monitoring, detection, and coordination between state and federal agencies to clean up PFAS pollution from former military bases (such as Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Michigan).

### Restore and Strengthen the Clean Water Act

- Defend against additional rollbacks to clean water laws and ensure robust funding for the EPA water quality and enforcement programs;
- Support state and Tribal efforts to enact or strengthen protections for the waters we all rely on, including through securing strong funding for key federal wetland conservation programs, like the *North American Wetlands Conservation Act* and EPA's Wetland Program Development Grants.

### Improve Water Infrastructure and Affordability

- Increase funding under the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to help improve drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in towns and cities, especially in communities that have been most impacted by pollution;
- Support efforts to address water affordability, and end water shut-offs in lower-income communities.

## PROTECT PUBLIC LANDS AND WILDLIFE

### Pass Recovering America's Wildlife Act

- Support the reintroduction of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, RAWA. This bill would bring much-needed resources to wildlife professionals tasked with conserving the diversity of America's native fish and wildlife species.

### Protect the Great Lakes Fishery

- Support the reintroduction of the Youth Coastal Fishing Program Act that would create a \$2 million grant program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for projects that take children fishing in the Great Lakes and in the ocean, with priority given to projects that serve underserved communities.

### Support the Boundary Waters Canoe Area

- Support the reintroduction of The Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Prevention Act. This bill would permanently protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park from irresponsible resource extraction and help sustain the outdoor recreational and economic vitality of this wildlife-rich region.

### Strengthen Access to Public Lands and Water

- Support legislation that would improve and enhance equitable public access to hunt, fish and recreate on public land and waters.

### Advance Solutions to Chronic Wasting Disease

- Fully fund the Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act programs that will advance research and manage the spread of chronic wasting disease throughout our deer populations.



## ADVANCE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS AND RESILIENCY

### Protect the Great Lakes from Oil Spills

- Ensure the next reauthorization of the Pipeline Safety Act includes reforms that empower regulators to proactively protect fish and wildlife habitat, strengthen land and water rights for states, communities and the rights of Tribal nations.

### Advance Climate Policies

- Maintain bipartisan commitments to reducing emissions, supporting clean energy technology, and conservation actions by states, municipalities, businesses and private landowners that help protect fish and wildlife and strengthen our resiliency for urban and rural communities.

### Strengthen Coastal Resiliency

- Increase funding for federal forecasting and modeling of lake level variability, extreme storm events, precipitation and flooding that are unique to the Great Lakes that will help states and local municipalities plan and prepare to protect and strengthen coastal shorelines and private property with natural solutions from erosion and high water levels.



## STATE AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION



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