



LAND USE, BUILT ENVIRONMENT, AND THE GREAT LAKES REGIONAL ECONOMY

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COMMON CHALLENGES FOR LAND USE, BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND GREAT LAKES ECONOMY PANEL

- Persistence of jurisdictional, disciplinary and other “isolation inducing” barriers to common approaches
- Addressing the “cumulative impact” of many small actions
- Lack of integration/consultation across decision-making domains
- Fixed approaches to problems

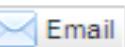
Great Lakes Cleanup Could Generate Billions for Region, Report Says

September 6, 2007



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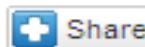
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By John Myers, Duluth News-Tribune, Minn.

Sep. 6—Residents of the Great Lakes region are losing billions of dollars in economic



METROPOLITAN POLICY PROGRAM
THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

Healthy Waters, Strong Economy: The Benefits of Restoring the Great Lakes Ecosystem

By John C. Austin, Soren Anderson, Paul N. Courant, Robert E. Litan

The Great Lakes and its waterways offer a tremendous opportunity for reinvigorating the economy of the region, and boosting the competitiveness of the nation as a whole.

The Great Lakes are one of America's most important—and often-overlooked—natural features. Together, they account for 20 percent of the United States and 20 percent of the world's surface fresh water. The Great Lakes also directly impact the lives of roughly 35 million people who live in the cities, states, and Canadian provinces surrounding them, providing drinking water and recreation, commercial transportation, and both tangible and intangible quality of life benefits.

However, the Great Lakes and surrounding areas face numerous threats to their health and utility. This report presents the major findings of a more in-depth study—*Urging America's North Coast: A Blueprint for the Great Lakes Infrastructure Program*—the benefits and costs of the federal-state Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) Strategy by the same authors. It begins by outlining the major elements of the restoration strategy, and the costs of cleaning and preserving the Great Lakes ecosystem. It then discusses the results of a rigorous analysis of the GLRC Strategy, highlighting the economic benefits of restoration. The report concludes by discussing the likely implications of this analysis, arguing that, because the restoration plan outlined in the GLRC Strategy is likely to produce economic benefits well in excess of its costs, federal and state policy makers should act on its recommendations.

The Midwestern states that surround the Great Lakes are in a time of economic transition—from an agricultural and industrial era that relied on the Great Lakes as waterways for transportation and industrial production, to a global knowledge economy in which the lakes are both an important natural resource, and an important amenity. Outside the region, the United States and other nations around the world are increasingly looking for ways to move beyond economic growth patterns that diminish natural resources to those that support long-term sustainable development.

The Great Lakes and their abundant fresh water offer a critical link to this new economy. In 2006, the Brookings Institution joined with local, public policy, business, environmental, and civic organizations to launch the Great Lakes Economic Initiative, a year-round research and policy development effort focused on supporting economic growth in the Great Lakes region.¹ A pillar of the initiative's agenda is to leverage the r





ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS:

A fundamental understanding of the value of ecosystem integrity to the Great Lakes economy among decision makers at all levels



COMMON APPROACHES TO UNDERSTANDING THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF THE GREAT LAKES

Direct Use
/
Extraction



Multiple
Competing Uses
for Great Lakes
Resources



COMMON APPROACHES TO UNDERSTANDING THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF THE GREAT LAKES 2/

Direct Use
/
Extraction

Multiple
Competing Uses
for Great Lakes
Resources

Direct Use
/ Amenity

Riparian, Wetland and Coastal Restoration

- ✓ Reduced runoff, erosion and sedimentation
- ✓ Less damage due to flooding
- ✓ Enhanced groundwater supplies
- ✓ Protection of waterfront properties
- Healthier fish and wildlife communities
 - Protection of endangered species and biodiversity
 - Improved fishing
 - Preservation of sport fishing related employment
 - Improved waterfowl hunting





MORE CHALLENGING TO DEVELOP...BUT THE FUTURE

Direct Use
/
Extraction

Quality of
Life

Multiple
Competing Uses
for Great Lakes
Resources

Direct Use
/ Amenity



THE FULL PICTURE

Direct Use
/
Extraction

Multiple
Competing Uses
for Great Lakes
Resources

Direct Use
/ Amenity

Quality of
Life

Intrinsic
Value



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