



The mission of the Superior Watershed Partnership is to protect and improve the natural resources of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on a watershed basis; by promoting responsible individual and community actions that ensure a sustainable environment, encourage a sustainable economy and help improve quality of life.

Mr. Carpenter,

Can you please share my humble comments regarding GLRI? I offer these in the best possible light. If you are not the appropriate person can you please forward my comments to the appropriate person?

Regarding GLRI: The Superior Watershed Partnership (Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Lake Huron) applauds the intent of the GLRI but as a regional Great Lakes non-profit we feel that far too much of the GLRI funding ends up in administration and not enough goes to implementation of projects. Specifically, we feel that too many federal agencies, universities and multi-national conservation organizations receive a disproportionate amount of the GLRI funding.

Dollar-for-dollar the most "real work" gets done when funding is distributed at the local level to competent local organizations or local units of government that have the existing relationships with local partners and know the local Great Lakes projects that truly need to be funded. The current top-down process simply wastes too much of this important, very limited GLRI funding. Also, there appears to be a disturbing trend of for-profit consulting firms developing proposals, seeking out qualified applicants and ultimately receiving funding for projects that are not a local priority let alone a Great Lakes priority.

In short, although the GLRI is a laudable program more funding needs to reach local government and local organizations so more Great Lakes restoration can occur with less funding. Thanks for your consideration.

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