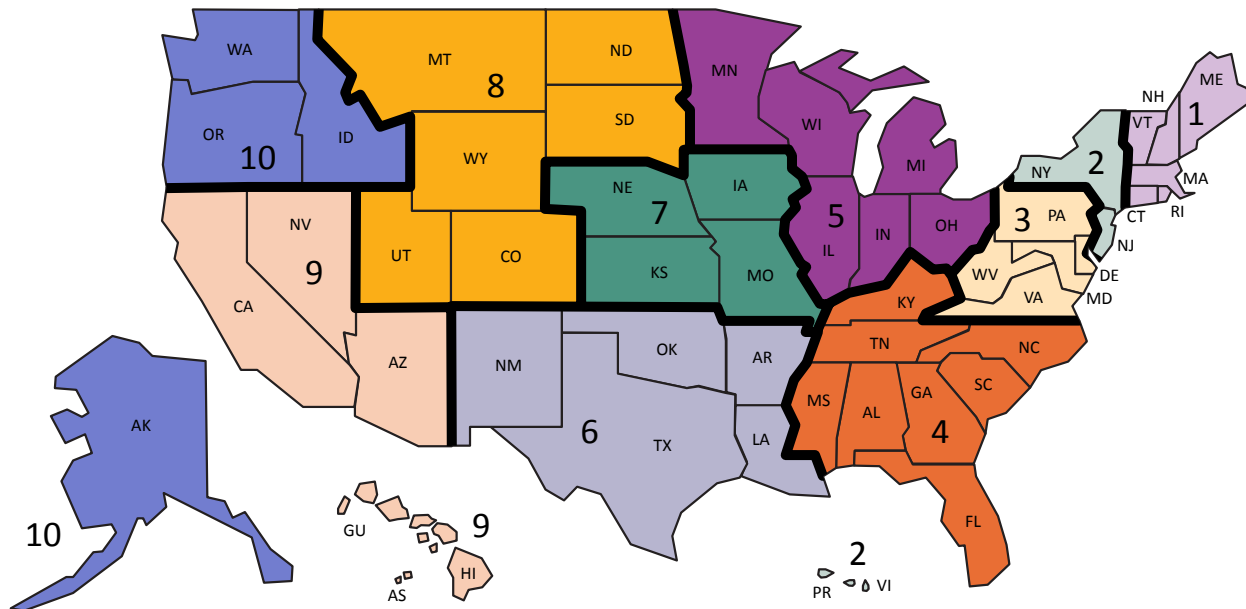


## FY 2015 REGIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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### Region 1

**Improving Lead-Based Paint Compliance in New Hampshire:** In Nashua, New Hampshire, EPA sent letters to over 300 home renovation and painting contractors, property managers, and landlords outlining steps EPA is taking to increase compliance with the [Renovation, Repair and Painting \(RRP\) Rule](#) and the [Lead Paint Disclosure Rule](#). EPA then followed up with 21 contractor inspections and 18 landlord inspections to assess compliance with the rules. Nashua was selected for [the initiative](#) because it is an [environmental justice](#) area with a high proportion of older housing stock and very high blood lead levels. EPA is still assessing the results of the Nashua effort; however, [a similar effort in New Haven](#), Connecticut resulted in six enforcement actions and contributed to an increase in applications for lead-based paint certification.

### Region 2

**Expanding Air Monitoring through Citizen Science:** The Air Program, the Office Research and Development, and EPA Region 2 [piloted community use of air sensor technologies](#) in collaboration with the Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) in Newark, New Jersey. Over the course of six months, community members independently sited, operated, and collected data from air monitors in over 20 locations. ICC staff, volunteers, and EPA scientists jointly presented results and lessons learned to the community. EPA and its partners believe that Citizen Science projects that connect local residents to air quality data are a valuable way to prioritize community public health and build community capacity to advocate for health-protective policies.

### Region 3

**Responding to an Oil Spill Emergency in West Virginia:** Region 3 led EPA's response to a discharge of volatile Bakken and sweet crude oil into and along Armstrong Creek and the Kanawha River near Mount Carbon, West Virginia. Twenty-seven railcars carrying over 750,000 gallons of oil derailed, causing explosions and fires that burned for 5 days, destroying a home, requiring evacuation of area residents, and compelling a gubernatorial state-of-emergency declaration.

### Region 4

**Cleaning up and Revitalizing a Railroad Corridor in Georgia:** The Atlanta BeltLine is a sustainable redevelopment project that will provide a network of public parks, multi-use trails and transit in Atlanta, Georgia. The project is sited along a historic 22-mile railroad corridor that circles downtown and connects 45 neighborhoods, including Proctor Creek, one of the Region's five Making a Visible Difference (MVD) Communities. The project's success is a direct result of broad public/private partnerships. Since the \$1 million revolving loan fund (RLF) award, the BeltLine has received an additional \$600,000 in EPA Brownfields Cleanup funds. Region 4's cumulative jobs leveraged in the Brownfields program increased from 97 jobs in FY 2014 to 6,821 jobs in FY 2015.

### Region 5

**Cleaning up Contaminated Areas and Restoring the Great Lakes:** Since 2010, EPA and its partners have invested over \$600 million in multi-agency efforts to clean up highly contaminated areas of the Great Lakes region as part of the [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative \(GLRI\)](#). Through FY 2015, GLRI efforts have led to the remediation of six of the 31 U.S. Areas of Concern and a substantial acceleration of cleanup activities. For more information, [view the infographic](#).

### Region 6

**Connecting Homes to Drinking Water and Wastewater Sanitation:** In the U.S.-Mexico border region, EPA Region 6 has completed a series of projects that connect homes to safe drinking water and wastewater sanitation. From 2003 through the latest project completion in FY 2015, EPA's efforts in the region have delivered health and safety benefits to nearly 3 million residents. For more information, [view the infographic](#).

### Region 7

**Reducing Lead Releases and Improving Air Quality in Missouri:** EPA and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) entered a multi-media consent decree with the Doe Run Co., which operates a number of lead mines and mills in southeast Missouri and a primary lead smelter just south of St. Louis. The decree, which required closure and remediation of the smelter site and significant upgrades of the mining and milling sites to reduce releases of lead and other heavy metals to the environment, has prevented the release of over one million pounds of lead to the environment and resulted in annual air emission reductions of 42,000 tons of sulfur dioxide and 101,000 tons of carbon dioxide. In addition, Doe Run has spent \$7.8 million on community-based mitigation projects and stream clean-up activities in southeast Missouri and will provide \$40 to \$50 million for a financial assurance trust fund to address future

remediation activities at the mines and mills. The first phase of the remediation, conducted by a private developer under MDNR's voluntary cleanup program, is nearing completion and includes a river port facility that is already operating at near capacity.

Overseeing implementation of the consent decree provisions and remediation of the smelter properties will require long-term EPA and MDNR resource commitments.

## **Region 8**

**Assessing Waters and Shaping Recoveries in Montana:** On December 17, 2014, EPA and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) completed the last of a series of court-ordered [Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\) reports required under a Section 303\(d\) of the Clean Water Act](#). TMDLs calculate the maximum amount of pollutants a waterbody can tolerate, allocate reductions to pollution sources, and serve as a planning tool for restoration or protection activities. In all, EPA and MDEQ completed over 1,400 TMDLs by developing, implementing, and revising thoughtful strategic approaches to adapt to changing factors during the 14 years of dedicated work to complete the TMDLs.

## **Region 9**

**Cutting Air Emissions and Protecting Residents in Indian Country:** Under a [June 2015 settlement with EPA](#), the owners of the Four Corners Power Plant in New Mexico will modernize the facility, resulting in almost 5,540 tons per year of reductions of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions. The plant is one of two very large coal-fired plants on the Navajo Nation and one of the largest sources of NO<sub>x</sub> in the United States. The owners will also fund over \$6.7 million in mitigation projects to improve the health of neighboring communities. Projects include replacing wood-burning appliances with cleaner burning, more energy efficient heating systems; weatherizing homes near the plant; and funding a health care trust fund to pay for medical expenses for nearby residents. The owners will also pay a \$1.5 million penalty.

## **Region 10**

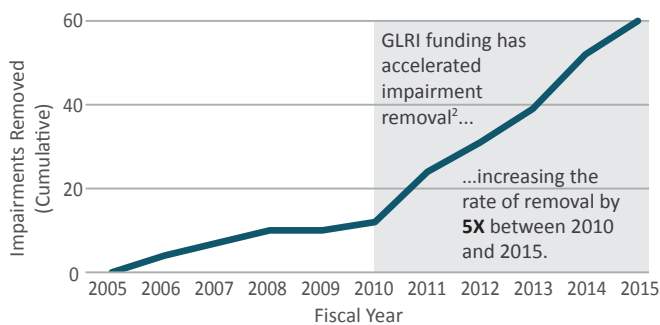
**Cleaning Up Contaminated Sediment in Washington:** Cleanup actions undertaken by the major responsible parties at the [Lower Duwamish Superfund Site](#) in FY 2015 resulted in cleanup of 50 percent of most heavily contaminated sediment at the Seattle, Washington site. The \$342 million [Record of Decision](#) for the site will ultimately lead to a 90 percent reduction in PCB contamination along a 5-mile stretch of the river using dredging, capping, and other remediation methods. The resulting pollution reductions will make it safer for people to eat fish and shellfish from the waterway. The Duwamish River is a source of food and recreation for local residents, including minority and low income residents, as well as tribal and commercial fishers who rely on the river for their livelihoods.

# Extreme Makeover: Great Lakes Edition

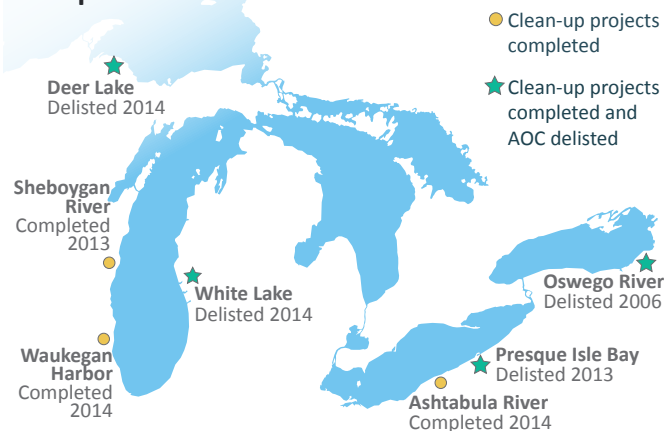
For decades, the Great Lakes region has been home to significant environmental problems, including 43 highly contaminated areas (31 in the United States and 12 in Canada) called Areas of Concern (AOC). The communities near these areas have been impacted by contaminated fish and wildlife, habitat loss and lost economic and recreational opportunities. Since the start of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in 2010, EPA and its partners<sup>1</sup> have invested over \$600M to address these impacts in U.S. AOCs and accelerate clean-up. Between 1987 and 2010, only one U.S. AOC was cleaned up to the point it could be taken off the list of AOCs (delisted). Since the start of the GLRI, six other U.S. AOCs have been cleaned up and three of those sites have been formally delisted. That's progress!

## What Has GLRI Accomplished?

**EPA and partners have made significant progress in restoring the Great Lakes AOCs.**



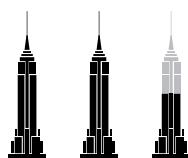
**Clean-up and restoration projects have been completed at seven AOCs.<sup>3</sup>**



Four of the seven areas have met monitoring standards and have been delisted as AOCs.<sup>4</sup>

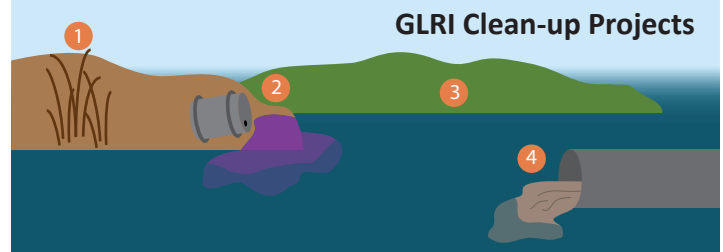
## Restoring AOCs can involve substantial effort.

Since GLRI began, 3.5 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment have been remediated. That's enough to fill two and a half Empire State Buildings!



## The Transformation of White Lake

Decades of industrial pollution left Michigan's White Lake suffering from multiple impacts, including polluted sediment and degraded wildlife habitats. The GLRI provided \$5.3M to finish clean-up efforts that had begun in the 1980s. Now people can fish, boat and enjoy the shores of the White Lake area once again.



- 1 Created or restored 38 acres of wetlands.
- 2 Replaced 8,600 cubic yards of contaminated sediment with clean sand.
- 3 Improved over 8,000 feet of shoreline.
- 4 Implemented green infrastructure to reduce runoff.



- 5 Improved opportunities for recreational activities like boating and fishing.
- 6 Restored fish and wildlife habitats.

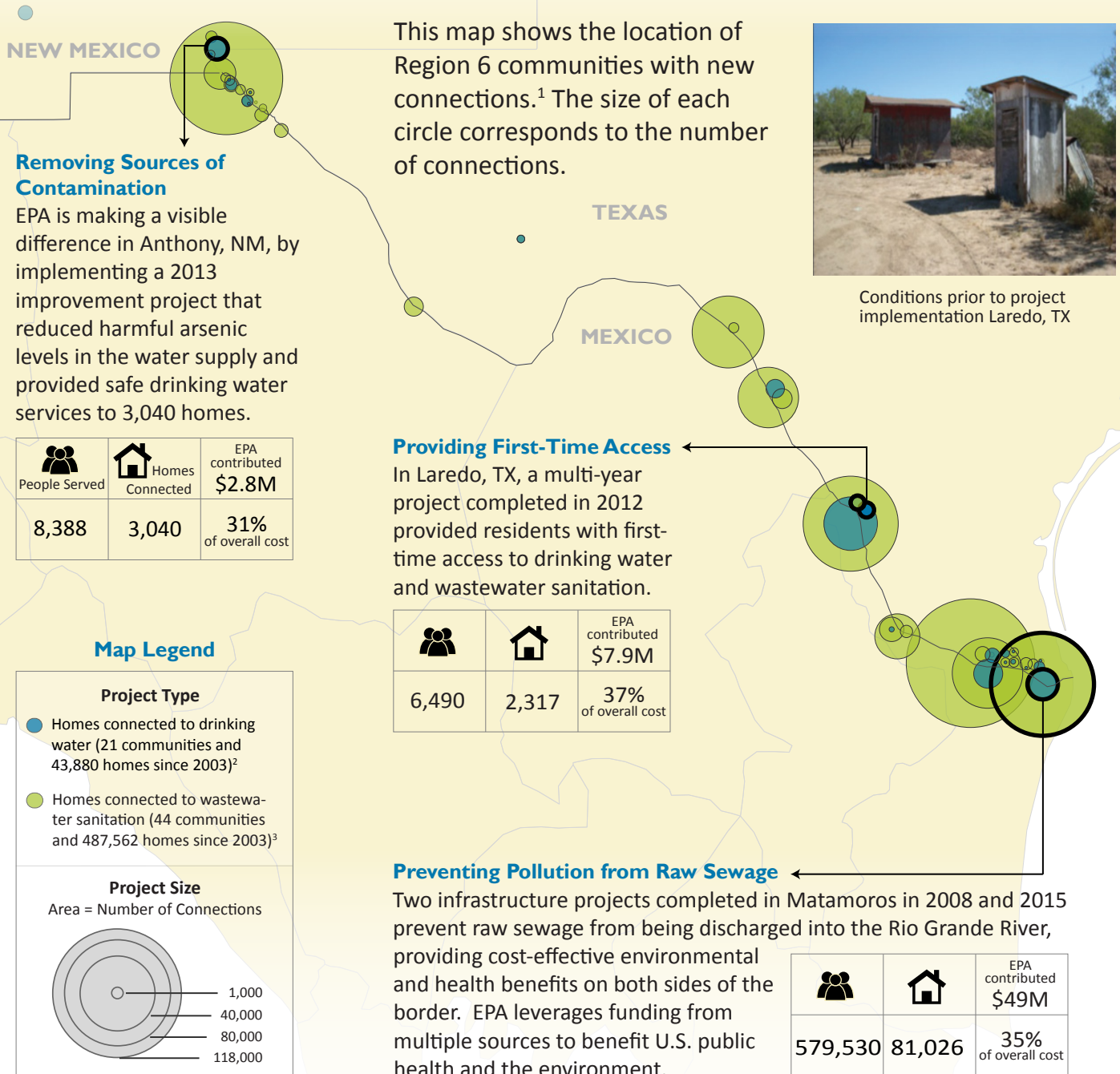
**White Lake is now a better community in which to live, work and play!**

<sup>1</sup>This document describes EPA's involvement in delisting White Lake, MI, as an AOC. Critical contributions were also made by: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Muskegon Conservation District and White Lake Public Advisory Council. <sup>2</sup>Based upon Performance Measure 625: Areas of concern beneficial use impairments removed (cumulative). <sup>3</sup>Based upon Performance Measure 626: Number of areas of concern in the Great Lakes where all management actions necessary for delisting have been implemented. <sup>4</sup>Refers to Areas of Concern (AOCs) removed from the list of designated Areas of Concern by the U.S. and Canada. Oswego River was delisted in 2006, prior to GLRI.

# The Long Road to Safer Water

How far are you from the nearest faucet or bathroom facility? What if these basic necessities were not available inside your home? For some residents living in communities along the U.S.-Mexico border, this is a reality. Since 2003, EPA's U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Grant Program has invested more than \$600 million to provide safe drinking water and wastewater sanitation to underserved border communities. This investment has prevented many raw sewage discharges to U.S. waters and reduced the risk of contamination and disease. In Region 6 alone, just under 3 million residents have benefited from drinking water and wastewater projects. That's more than the entire population of Chicago!

## Region 6 Projects Connecting Homes to Drinking Water and Wastewater Sanitation



<sup>1</sup>The center of the circle represents the geographic location of the 51 communities shown on the map that received drinking water connections, wastewater sanitation or both between FY 2003 and FY 2015. <sup>2</sup>Based on Performance Measure xb2: Number of additional homes provided safe drinking water in the U.S.-Mexico border area that lacked access to safe drinking water in 2003. <sup>3</sup>Based on Performance Measure xb3: Number of additional homes provided adequate wastewater sanitation in the U.S.-Mexico border area that lacked access to wastewater sanitation in 2003.