



► EVALUATING BUI #4
BULLHEAD TUMORS
AND DELTS



► HABITAT INVENTORIES



► GLLA SEDIMENT
CHARACTERIZATION

Maumee AOC

REPORT FROM OHIO EPA
MAUMEE RAP COORDINATOR

Maumee AOC Spring Summit
May 16, 2013

EVALUATING BUI #4: TUMORS AND DELTS

This project began in 2012, however due to low water levels and difficulty access some streams Ohio EPA was not able to complete the data collection. Ohio EPA with it contractor, Midwest Biodiversity Institute (MBI), is completing the collection of bullhead last week and this week. A final report is expected this coming Fall. This study is being used to help determine the status of BUI #4 (Fish Tumors and Deformities) in the three Ohio AOCs.

SUMMARY HABITAT INVENTORY AND RESTORATION SITES REPORT

Ohio EPA has had several meetings and conference calls with US EPA to discuss habitat and restoration projects in the Maumee AOC. The two *Inventory Reports* that have been developed for the Maumee AOC were reviewed site-by-site. A “Big Thanks” to Tim Walters for assisting with these reviews. Following these reviews, a “*Summary Habitat Inventory*” was created to highlight the 43 sites in the two *Inventory Reports* along with information regarding potential restoration projects on public and protect lands. Although these public and protected sites were mostly excluded from the *Inventory Reports*, they are important and necessary sites in the restoration of population, benthos and habitat beneficial uses of the Maumee AOC. This *Summary Habitat Inventory* report is not intended to capture all the possible restoration projects that are needed to restore the beneficial uses; however it is a listing of those sites that are known at this time. Copies of this report can be downloaded from the PCS web site.

GLLA SEDIMENT CHARACTERIZATION

In 2011, US EPA collected sediment samples in select areas of the Swan Creek and Maumee River. I presented some of this information at the last AOC Summit in the December. Reports on both of these studies are available from US EPA or contact me for an electronic copy. Based on these results, US EPA is planning to return to Swan Creek for further studies. These will include collecting sediment upstream of the first study area and looking more in depth for some parameters in the original study area. This study has been delayed. The US EPA Mudpuppy II will be here to conduct Phase 2 of the Maumee River sampling. Phase 1 was from the I-280 Bridge to Walbridge Park. Phase 2 will take place next month and will be from the mouth to the I-280 Bridge. It will analyze for similar parameters as the Phase 1 study.



CREATING NEW BUI RESTORATION (DELISTING) TARGETS FOR OHIO

Ohio EPA has been working diligently to update Ohio's BUI Restoration Targets. This will be the most comprehensive review/update of these targets since they were written in 2005. Most of the updates are to make the targets more easily and clearly measurable. The new document will include step-by-step guidance on how to do such things as "remove a BUI" and "delist a watershed." This new "*Delisting Guidance and Restoration Targets for Ohio's Areas of Concern*" is expected to be available this summer. These new targets will be the foundation for BUI evaluations in the Data Management and Delisting System (DMDS) that is currently being developed by PCS and Ohio EPA.

OHIO EPA STREAM ASSESSMENTS AND TMDL REPORTS

Ohio EPA assessed most of the Ottawa River/Tenmile Creek Watershed in 2011. Most of the stream data from this sampling event is available on the Interactive Map portion of Ohio EPA's DSW website. The TSD (Technical Support Document) is expected in late Summer/early Fall of this year. Ohio EPA is working on the TMDL. It may be available for public comment this Fall with submission to US EPA for approval expected in late 2013/early 2014.

The Maumee River (3 Large River Units) was assessed by Ohio EPA last summer. The stream data from this sampling event will be placed on the Interactive Map portion of Ohio EPA's DSW website as soon as it is available. Currently, US EPA has hired a contractor to assist Ohio EPA in the development of the TMDL for these assessment units.

US EPA REORGANIZES AOC COORDINATION

With the increased attention and focus on AOCs in the U.S. and the creation of the GLRI in 2010, US EPA (like many of us) has been very busy the last very years. GLNPO has responded to this by re-organizing its personnel and structure to more efficiently and effectively remove BUIs and delisting AOCs. With this reorganization, the Maumee AOC has a new Task Force Leader (f.k.a. RAP Liaison), Kevin O'Donnell.

The role of the Task Force Leader (TFL) is to help the states with technical and financial resources, often through the coordination of communication, projects and funding with the other federal agency partners. Contaminated sediments and habitat projects are the primary focus for US EPA. Funding will be prioritized to AOCs that have plans with clear paths to delisting. AOCs that are larger and more complex (like the Maumee AOC) need to have a plan that will move them down the path toward BUI removal. There will be competitive grant programs to facilitate this progress. Priority AOCs (those that are close to delisting) will be provided direct funding to "push them over the finish line".

In 2010 the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force (IATF) released a GLRI Action Plan covering FY2010-2014. The Action Plan identified the goals, objectives, measurable ecological targets, and specific actions to help rehabilitate the Great Lakes and has guided the use of GLRI funds. The IATF is currently seeking comments on how the FY10-14 Action Plan may be refined to increase the effectiveness of these investments during the FY15-19 Action Plan phase. Meetings in our area and webinars that are being held are listed below. More public comment opportunities may be announced. Please visit <http://glri.us> for updates.

Thursday, May 23, 2-4 pm CDT - Webinar: Comment Opportunity for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan, Registration Web Link: https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/439355408	Wednesday, June 5, 6-8 pm EDT - Cleveland Public Library, Louis Stokes Annex, 325 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, OH. Thanks to the U.S. Coast Guard for serving as local federal agency host.
Monday, June 3, 5-7 pm CDT - Webinar: Comment Opportunity for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan, Registration Web Link: https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/911554472	

URBAN RIVERS INITIATIVE

On May 10th, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (comprised of 13 federal agencies) released the names of 11 new project locations. These projects will further the goals of the partnership and address a wide range of issues such as improving water quality, restoring ecosystems and enhancing public access to urban waters. On Tuesday, May 14th, US EPA, NRCS, and US ACE hosted a press conference at the Middlegrounds Metropark to share information on Toledo's selection as one of those new project locations.

The Urban Water Initiative strives to revitalize urban waterways and reconnect citizens to open spaces, while having a positive economic impact on local businesses, tourism and property values, and spurring private investment and job creation in communities.

