



Great Lakes Protection Fund

1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 1370, Evanston, Illinois 60201

Tel 847-425-8150 Fax 847-424-9832 glpf.org

Funded Project

Improving the Ecological Health of the Water Resources of the Great Lakes

Project No.	553
Timeline	1999 – 2005
Award Amount	\$300,000
Team Leader	J. David Allan, University of Michigan
Project Website	http://www.snre.umich.edu/riverflows/

This team identified geographical patterns of flow and evaluated them to determine the influence of land use and structures on flow regimes in the Great Lakes. The team conducted an historical analysis of flow regime for 425 gages in Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Ontario. Results showed that tributary flows have increased in magnitude over the latter part of the 20th century, with extreme flows increasing in frequency. Team members created the most extensive basinwide inventory of dams ever, as well as tools to help users judge the hydrologic alteration of a watershed and identify flow restoration opportunities. The team's GIS product includes mapped gages with hydrologic information, dams with attributes, and biological information. Hydrographs created with this tool could then be utilized by the Ecologically Sustainable Water Management (ESWM) analysis tool. The results of this team's work will allow for better decision-making through greater understanding of the effects of flow alterations.