

REQUEST FOR PRESENTATIONS and FIELD TRIPS

13th Annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference

hosted by the

Healing Our Waters® - Great Lakes Coalition

October 17-19, 2017

Hyatt Regency Buffalo, Buffalo, New York

Call for Presentations and Field Trips at the 13th Annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference

The Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition (HOW) is issuing a request for presentations and a request for field trips from interested applicants who would like to lead a workshop session or organize a field trip at HOW's 13th Annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference.

Deadline for submissions: May 26, 2017

*A link to download applications is included at the end of each instruction section.
Please be sure to read these instructions carefully before applying.*

Each year HOW's Great Lakes Restoration Conference brings together a comprehensive and diverse group of more than 350 people from throughout the Great Lakes region. The conference provides a 3-day forum for participants to learn about the most important and up-to-date Great Lakes restoration issues; network at the largest annual gathering of Great Lakes supporters and activists; develop strategies to advance federal, regional and local restoration goals; and learn from restoration successes.

This unique gathering offers a tremendous opportunity to gain broad exposure for a wide range of issues facing the Lakes. **Any person or organization** with

experience in Great Lakes restoration or Great Lakes issues is invited to submit an application to conduct a **workshop** or **field trip** at the Great Lakes Restoration Conference.

The Conference is typically attended by Great Lakes advocates, including policy experts, project implementation staff, communications staff, and executive directors of local, state, regional, and national environmental non-profits. Additionally, the conference draws representatives of state and federal agencies, community groups, business, agriculture and industry. Attendees have a range of knowledge about the Great Lakes and are looking for compelling stories that explore policy, successful restoration projects, grassroots strategies, and emerging issues.

The HOW Coalition is looking for applications from local, regional, and national organizations or people working on issues of relevance to Great Lakes restoration. **Groups or people participating in projects in economically distressed communities, including environmental justice projects as well as groups and individuals representing cultural and racial diversity are especially encouraged to apply and will receive higher priority. Preferred applications will include diverse voices, particularly speakers from underserved communities, communities of color, environmental justice groups, business groups, agricultural producers, anglers/hunters, and Tribes/First Nations.** The Coalition is dedicated to using the conference platform to highlight all voices of the Great Lakes region and strives to be inclusive of the entire Great Lakes community. We encourage you to contact Celia Haven at havenc@nwf.org if you have questions.

Please closely follow the instructions in this document. **Field Trip applications must adhere to the instructions in Section I and will be evaluated based on the description, instructions, and evaluation criteria of Section I of this document. Workshop applications must adhere to the instructions in Section II, and will be evaluated based on the description, instructions, and evaluation criteria in Section II of this document.**

I. **Field Trips: Eastern Lake Erie & Western New York**

The most effective way to experience the progress being made to restore the Great Lakes and the surrounding communities is by visiting the sites where restoration work is taking place and by interacting with the people who experience the connection to the lakes firsthand. The 13th annual conference brings us to Buffalo, New York, and the eastern end of Lake Erie, a region that has seen a significant investment in restoration funds and can tell an exciting story of environmental revival. Restoration successes have been seen around the region, but new threats continue to remind us that there is more work to do. Field trips that show the current successes and emerging threats are an important way for attendees to gain a first-hand understanding of the work that's on-going in western New York. Help conference attendees understand the dynamic connections between the ecological and economic benefits of restoration by showcasing the communities, businesses, and landscapes that are benefiting from investment in the Great Lakes.

Due to the logistical complexities of crossing the border, field trips to Canada will not be considered.

The Great Lakes Restoration Conference will address many of the critical issues and challenges facing the Great Lakes. **The HOW Coalition typically schedules field trips for conference participants that:**

- **Compliment conference issues**
- **Allow participants to see first-hand the important work being done by Coalition members and partners**
- **Allow participants to experience the culture and unique flavor of the conference host city and surrounding areas.**

The HOW Coalition is seeking creative proposals for field trips that match the following parameters:

A) Description

- **Proposals in this category are limited to on-site visits to restoration sites, businesses or communities benefiting from restoration investment, or cultural landmarks or areas that provide context for attendees on the local, social, cultural, and ecological landscape.**
- Proposals will outline a maximum 3 hour field trip (including travel time), complete with proposed stops, descriptions, highlighted speakers, and overarching field trip theme. Travel time should not exceed 45 minutes in either direction, or more than half of the total field trip time.
- Proposals with experts able to talk about sites and provide context as well as proposals that highlight work in economically disadvantaged areas are preferred.

B) Field Trip Submission Information and General Instructions

1. Submissions must be received no later than **May 26, 2017**
2. All field trip applications must be submitted using the application form provided by HOW and must be sent to Celia Haven at havenc@nwf.org. Paper submissions will not be accepted.
3. Conference field trips cannot be used to market products or services.
4. HOW will provide one (1) bus for transportation, to and from field trip location(s), if necessary. Any alternative transportation or other needs must be included in the application and coordinated between field trip organizers and HOW Coalition staff.
5. Field trips are 3 hours maximum in length, including travel time. Travel time must not exceed 45 minutes each way, or over half the total field trip time. Field trips will be held in the **afternoon of either Tuesday, October 17th or Wednesday October 18th, 2017**
6. Applicants will be notified of receipt of submission by e-mail. Notification of acceptance for conference field trip will be emailed by June 30, 2017

Completed applications must be emailed to Celia Haven at havenc@nwf.org.

C) Application Evaluation

Your application will be reviewed by a team of HOW Coalition leaders.

Applications will be judged based on the following considerations:

1. All field trip applications must meet the requirements stated in Section I of this document. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
2. Preferred applications will closely match the field trip description in Section I.
3. Preferred applications will include leaders or presenters with demonstrated expertise in their field and/or the field trip site
4. Preferred applications will highlight work in economically disadvantaged communities and address issues of diversity, equity and inclusion.
5. Preferred applications will examine Great Lakes issues in a creative, compelling and fun way that underscores the connection of the lakes to people, the urgency needed to solve the problem, and manageable solutions.

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE 2017 GREAT LAKES RESTORATION CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP APPLICATION](#)

Please direct all inquiries about your application to Celia Haven at havenc@nwf.org

II. Presentations: Great Lakes Restoration Workshop Categories

The Great Lakes Restoration Conference will address many of the critical issues and challenges facing the Great Lakes. Presentations at the conference will provide valuable insights, unique stories, or practical hands-on training relevant to Great Lakes advocacy and restoration. The 13th annual conference in Buffalo, New York will feature restoration topics from across the Great Lakes region and

will highlight local issues from the Buffalo area, including Lake Erie to the shores of Lake Ontario. The HOW Coalition is seeking innovative and creative proposals for presentations on issues that intersect with the following broad categories:

A) Categories

1. National/Regional/State/Local Great Lakes Policy Issues

What are you doing to advance Great Lakes policy in your community? In your state? If you or your organization engage in advancing critical policy issues that impact the lakes, this is an opportunity to interact and strategize with a broad array of Great Lakes stakeholders on these important efforts. There are many critical policy issues that impact the lakes at all levels; presentations under this category may include, but **are not limited to**, the following topics:

- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)
- Harmful algal blooms
- Invasive species, including Asian carp
- Environmental Justice
- Water Infrastructure
- Restoration in economically distressed communities, including issues such as natural infrastructure, food and water accessibility and affordability, labor issues, and health
- Agriculture and nutrient runoff
- Energy development impacts on water quality issues
- Climate Change
- Habitat protection
- Business and tourism
- Provisions of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
- Great Lakes water diversions & Great Lakes Compact implementation
- The future of Great Lakes restoration

2. Innovative & Compelling Great Lakes Restoration Success Stories

The Great Lakes community is thriving with organizations and people that achieve inspiring outcomes thanks to projects that are producing results in communities large and small. Sessions in this issue area will delve into unique and successful restoration projects from which others can learn innovative and creative strategies for accomplishing restoration goals.

Case studies of restoration projects might touch on the following themes:

- Projects funded by the GLRI or other funding sources, including (but not limited to) the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, state revolving funds, or public-private partnerships.
- Drinking water and sewage infrastructure projects and successes
- Addressing major threats to the Great Lakes or advancing restoration goals in an innovative way
- Restoration and environmental justice in disadvantaged communities, including both urban and rural settings
- Illustrating the benefits of restoration to the economy
- Potential for private funding, financing, and investment in restoration work in the Great Lakes
- Climate-smart restoration projects
- Creating new or unique partnerships and/or working successfully with multiple or non-traditional partners
- Showcasing how small start-up grants can leverage large amounts of funding for restoration work
- Lessons learned from projects with unexpected outcomes or challenges
- Connecting restoration projects to the community
- Innovative public engagement

3. Addressing Environmental Injustices

Environmental injustices disproportionately affect frontline communities and the Great Lakes region is no exception. The HOW Coalition is committed to

ensuring that Great Lakes Restoration Initiative investments are benefiting all people in the region, and that all people have access to clean and affordable drinking water. We're committed to making sure the stories and issues of these communities are heard: presentations in this category can highlight stories, issues, challenges, and threats to communities facing environmental injustices or stories of successful environmental justice campaigns. Topics may include:

- Public health
- Pollution
- Environmental justice in both urban and rural areas
- Racial and economic environmental disparities
- Issues faced by tribal groups
- Drinking water accessibility and affordability
- Climate change
- Environmental justice success stories

4. Grassroots Action that makes a Difference

Many HOW Coalition members and partners are engaged in a variety of local, regional, and national campaign activities to help protect and restore the Great Lakes and surrounding communities. In many cases, these efforts include innovative strategies and tactics that have reaped tremendous gains in protecting the Great Lakes ecosystem. Presentations under this category should include stories of successful campaigns that utilized creative approaches to achieve definable victories in protecting the Great Lakes and local communities, such as the following:

- Grassroots action that has a strong impact on local watersheds
- Community empowerment through watershed protection and revitalization
- Environmental justice and grassroots action in economically distressed communities, both urban and rural.
- Grassroots action and/or restoration work in tribal communities

- Grassroots action and/or restoration work with the recreational business community
- Grassroots action and/or restoration work with agricultural producers
- Lessons learned from grassroots projects

5. Emerging Issues in the Great Lakes

We want to know what new problems are emerging in the Great Lakes and what can be done to solve them. Presentations in this category might examine new invasive species or forms of pollution, but could also delve into policy, community issues, financing structures, or emerging science. Presentations might address, **but are not limited to**, the following topics:

- Innovative approaches to reducing excess nutrients
- Emerging Great Lakes science
- Emerging issues related to drinking water and sewage infrastructure
- New threats to economically distressed communities, both urban and rural
- New connections between restoration and economic vitality
- Fresh climate science, including predictions and implications for climate adaptation
- Political issues that impact Great Lakes restoration efforts
- Addressing new invasive species and their impacts to the Great Lakes

6. Skills, Training, and Organizational Development

This year the HOW Conference hopes to provide opportunities for Great Lakes advocates to improve skills needed for advancing restoration work. Workshops in this area should provide hands on training on a specific topic that will build capacity or provide technical assistance to participants. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Community engagement & best practices for community meetings

- Communications
- Grant writing
- Cultural competency
- Social media
- Project implementation
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Personal & professional development

B) Presentation Submission Information and General Instructions

1. Workshop/presentation Sessions formats are flexible but must fit within the following constraints:
 - a. **60-minute (one hour) session**
 - b. May have **up to** three speakers and one moderator (moderator optional)
 - c. Should leave at least 15-20 minutes for discussion and/or questions during the 60 minute period.
2. Submissions must be received no later than **May 26, 2017**
3. All presentation applications must be submitted using the application form provided by HOW and must be sent to Celia Haven at havenc@nwf.org. Paper submissions will not be accepted.
4. Conference presentations cannot be used to market or sell products or services.
5. Presenters will have access to the standard audio/visual equipment provided by HOW, which includes projectors, screens and lectern microphones. Lectern computers will have internet access. Any additional audio/visual needs must be provided by the presenter, working with HOW Coalition staff and within the limitations of the conference facility.
6. Applicants will be notified of receipt of submission by e-mail. Notification of acceptance for conference presentation will be emailed by June 30, 2017

Completed applications must be emailed to Celia Haven at havenc@nwf.org.

C) Application Evaluation

Your application will be reviewed by a team of HOW Coalition leaders.

Applications will be judged based on the following considerations:

1. All applications must meet the requirements stated in Section II. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
2. Preferred applications will closely match the Workshop Issue Areas described in section II-A.
3. To the extent possible, preferred applications will include a **creative interactive component that effectively engages audience participants**.
4. Preferred applications will include speakers with demonstrated expertise in their field.
5. Preferred applications will address diversity, equity, and inclusion, and/or include diverse voices, particularly speakers from underserved communities, communities of color, environmental justice groups, business groups, agricultural producers, anglers/hunters, and Tribes/First Nations.
6. Preferred applications will include creative visual presentations (exhibits, before & after photos, models, charts, handouts, etc).
7. Preferred applications will examine Great Lakes issues in a compelling way that underscore the connection of the lakes to people, the urgency needed to solve the problem, and manageable solutions.

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE 2017 GREAT LAKES RESTORATION CONFERENCE PRESENTATION APPLICATION](#)

Please direct all inquiries about your application to Celia Haven at havenc@nwf.org

The Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition consists of 145 environmental groups, conservation associations, outdoor recreation organizations, zoos, aquariums and museums representing millions of people whose common goal is to restore and protect the Great Lakes.