

Great Lakes: Responsibility and Awareness about a Vital Resource A State by State Summary of Attitudes

Research Conducted by Belden, Russonello & Stewart for the Biodiversity Project
Summary Created by the Biodiversity Project
Project Funded by the Joyce Foundation
Released: January 2003

How Residents of Different States View the Great Lakes

Michigan

More likely to....

Worry about water shortages

See Great Lakes as vast, beautiful, vulnerable, relaxing, places for recreation

Express personal responsibility for the condition of the Lakes

See that Lakes are hurt a great deal by low water levels and invasive species

Value Lakes as “world’s largest bodies of fresh water,” as “interconnected ecosystem” and “unique places to fish, boat and swim.”

Wisconsin

More likely to....

Think tap water is excellent

Say Great Lakes are “one of the reasons I live here,” and “vital to the economy of the region.”

See that Lakes are hurt a great deal by low water levels and invasive species

Disagree that water is a commodity or that it should be sold for jobs

Value Lakes as “world’s largest bodies of fresh water” and “unique places to fish, boat and swim.”

Minnesota

More likely to....

Think the Great Lakes are in good condition

See the Lakes as beautiful

Oppose selling water for jobs

Value the Lakes as one of the world's largest bodies of fresh water

Illinois

More likely to....

Think tap water quality is poor

Be concerned about water shortages in the future

Believe in the effectiveness of policies

To reduce the rate of paving over farmland and natural areas

To increase coordination among states on water issues

To offer tax incentives to consumers to use less water

Ohio and Indiana

More likely to....

Be conflicted over whether to sell Great Lakes water if it means more job

Value the Lakes for fishing, boating and swimming

New York and Pennsylvania

More likely to....

Believe tap water quality is poor

Be concerned about future water shortages

View as effective policy of tax incentives for consumers to use less water