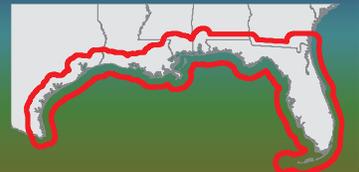




Gulf Coast
Ecosystem
Restoration
Council

Gulf-wide Foundational Investment

Gulf of Mexico Habitat Restoration via Conservation
Corps Partnership
(DOC_RESTORE_003_007_Cat1)



Project Name: Gulf of Mexico Habitat Restoration via Conservation Corps Partnership - Implementation

Cost: Category 1: \$8,000,000

Responsible Council Member: Department of Commerce/National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Economic Development Administration, and Minority Business Development Agency

Partnering Council Members: Department of the Interior, States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas

Project Details: The Gulf Coast Conservation Corps (GCCC) Program will establish a regional workforce-training program to benefit local communities and support long-term Gulf Coast restoration project implementation. Individuals trained under the program will help to carry out fully compliant priority ecosystem restoration projects identified by Members on the RESTORE Council.

The GCCC Program will include recruiting and training local workers in a variety of habitat restoration techniques and providing paid, hands-on work experience in on-the-ground restoration projects. These jobs will vary depending upon the scope of the project, but can include operators, machinists, welders, surveyors, and a variety of laborers, scientists, and managers.

The GCCC will leverage existing partnerships among Federal, state, academic, and non-profit organizations and provide opportunities for local citizens to gain part of the knowledge, skills and training necessary for implementation and management of restoration projects. GCCC workers will work only on projects or activities that are in compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations ("compliant").

Activities: NOAA, in partnership with the Economic Development Agency, Minority Business Development Agency, Department of the Interior and the Gulf States, will invest \$8 million to help execute compliant priority coastal habitat restoration projects across the Gulf through a GCCC Program. The GCCC Program will have two primary activities. The first, overseen by the Department of Commerce (DOC) and NOAA, will be tailored to the unique needs and communities of each State. The second will be overseen by the Department of the Interior (DOI) and its Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to engage tribal youth in support of environmental restoration and implementation of projects selected by Members of the RESTORE Council. The Department of Commerce and its partners will work with these groups to recruit and train members in a variety of skills, and mobilize paid crews that will receive on-the-ground training through working on portions of other compliant projects.



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Environmental Benefits: The GCCC will support restoration of appropriate habitat elements of other ecosystem restoration projects identified by Members of the RESTORE Council. Where feasible, crewmembers will be trained in monitoring techniques to assist in accurate data collection and to provide an additional technical skill set.

Duration: Implementation will take at least three years.

More information on this activity can be found in Appendix K. Gulf-wide; Unique Identifier: DOC_RESTORE_003_007_Cat1.