

## US Department of Commerce

### **Gulf of Mexico Habitat Restoration via Conservation Corps Partnerships**

NOAA, working with State and Federal partners, will establish a program to implement priority coastal habitat projects across the Gulf Coast through utilization of a Gulf Coast Conservation Corps Program (GCCC Program). The GCCC Program will initially restore approximately 2,000 acres of coastal habitat, at the same time train members (particularly youth, veterans, and displaced workers) in a variety of skills and mobilize paid crews to implement an initial set of seven (7) priority restoration projects located within the five National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRs) and two National Wildlife Refuges within Louisiana. A variety of coastal habitat will be restored, including: oyster reef, marsh, seagrass, shorelines, long leaf pine forest/savanna, and coastal prairie. These sites will serve as initial locations from which trained crew members could mobilize anywhere within the Gulf, including other federal and state refuges, state parks, reserves, or other conserved lands.

Jobs vary depending upon the scope of the project, but can include operators, machinists, welders, surveyors, and a variety of laborers, scientists, and managers. The primary result of this program and its projects is meaningful habitat restoration, with a secondary result being economic restoration. The program will provide a well-trained, local, and quickly mobilized workforce to implement some of the current and growing volume of restoration projects across the region, as well as provide educational experiences critical for grooming the Gulf's future natural resource stewards. Requested funding amount: \$20,410,000.