



Gulf Coast
Ecosystem
Restoration
Council

Gulf-wide Foundational Investment

Gulf Coast Conservation Reserve Program
(MS_RESTORE_001_007_Cat1/Cat2)



Project Name: Gulf Coast Conservation Reserve Program

Costs: Category 1: \$900,000 | Category 2: \$5,100,000

Responsible Council Member: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Partnering Council Member: State of Mississippi

Project Details: The Gulf Coast Conservation Reserve Program (GCCRP) would be established through USDA in Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida for the purposes of protecting and restoring critical wildlife and improving water quality through the development of wildlife habitat, conservation, and forest management plans.

Activities: The proposed project includes activities in two FPL categories. The Category 1 activities would identify natural resource concerns on private property throughout the Gulf Coast Region. Wildlife habitat restoration and natural resource conservation opportunities would be prioritized on individual land units and plans would be written based on best available science to strategically target and prioritize conservation activities. Conservation planning and environmental due diligence efforts would be completed during this phase of the project. The Category 2 activity is proposed for potential future funding and would implement the planning activities.

If both Category 1 and Category 2 activities were implemented, conservation practices would be implemented to address wildlife habitat and water quality concern on about 9,000 acres. The land would be subject to the conservation and restoration practices outlined in the conservation, forest management, and wildlife habitat plans developed in the Category 1 phase of this program.

Environmental Benefits: If both Category 1 and Category 2 activities were implemented, this program would serve to assist willing private landowners with implementing conservation measures that improve water and wildlife habitat conditions. The project would result in incremental improvements to water quality with comprehensive conservation measures being implemented in the watershed. The conservation implementation, if funded, would be conducted with the landowner's conservation goals in mind, which would enable greater ownership in conservation and management activities that affect water quality and wildlife habitat conditions within the Gulf Coast Region. Future outcomes would include direct improvements in water quality, wetland and upland wildlife habitat, and forest health.

Duration: Category 1 planning activities are expected to be completed in five years. If funded in the future, Category 2 activities would be expected to take five years to complete.

More information on these activities can be found in Appendix K. Gulf-wide; Unique Identifier: MS_RESTORE_001_007_Cat1 and MS_RESTORE_001_007_Cat2.