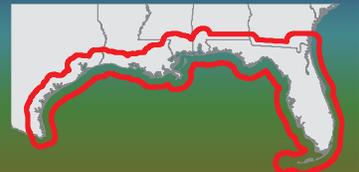




Gulf Coast
Ecosystem
Restoration
Council

Gulf-wide Foundational Investment

Gulf of Mexico Conservation Enhancement Grant Program
(MS_RESTORE_001_005_Cat1/Cat2)



Project Name: Gulf of Mexico Conservation Enhancement Grant Program

Costs: Category 1: \$375,000 | Category 2: \$2,125,000

Responsible Council Member: Environmental Protection Agency

Partnering Council Members: All

Project Details: The proposed project includes activities in two FPL categories. The Category 1 activity would allow EPA to develop and implement the Gulf of Mexico Conservation Enhancement Grant Program (GMCEGP), a funding assistance opportunity to enhance private/public partnerships that support land protection and conservation across the Gulf Coast region. This program would be available to land conservation organizations such as land trusts, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and state land preservation agencies across the Gulf of Mexico region through a competitive grant selection process.

The Category 2 activity is proposed for potential future funding and would allow for the implementation of the planning project.

Activities: The GMCEGP Category 1 planning activity includes developing and conducting the funding assistance opportunity competition; evaluating and ranking the proposals received; documenting all necessary environmental and regulatory compliance and clearance that would be required for tentative awardee(s); and documenting commitments of proposed 1:1 match requirements by tentative awardee(s).

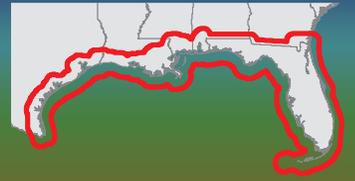
If the Category 2 activity were implemented, the proposed conservation enhancement grant program would be implemented. As part of the proposed Category 2 implementation activities, awardee(s) would be responsible for ensuring timely initiation and completion of the scope of work for which funds were awarded, as well as ensuring compliance with all necessary environmental and regulatory compliance and clearances. Awardee(s) would also be responsible for documenting the required 1:1 match and ensuring project reporting required by the GMCEGP program agreement.

Environmental Benefits: If the Category 2 activity were implemented, ecological benefits and outcomes derived from projects and programs funded by the GMCEGP would focus on enhancing land protection and conservation in priority landscapes; improving habitats and water quality on conserved lands; enhancing the understandings of the benefit of land protection to communities through focused outreach and education supporting conservation and stewardship; developing and implementing conservation management plans; restoring and managing critical aquatic shoreline and upland habitat utilizing hydrologic, landscape, vegetation and wildlife management actions; and implementing other water quality and habitat restoration techniques.



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Duration: The estimated time to complete the Category 1 GMCEGP planning activity would be one year from funds award date. If implemented in the future, Category 2 activities are expected to be completed in one to three years from the award of funds.

More information on this activity can be found in Appendix K. Gulf-wide; Unique Identifier: MS_RESTORE_001_005_Cat1 and MS_RESTORE_001_005_Cat2.