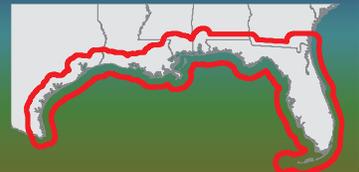




Gulf Coast
Ecosystem
Restoration
Council

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 would establish a regional workforce-training program to benefit local communities and support long-term Gulf Coast restoration project implementation. Individuals trained under the program would help to carry out priority restoration projects selected for funding and implementation under Deepwater Horizon-related recovery programs, including other activities that could be funded in the FPL.

The GCCC Program would 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 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 Program would have two primary activities - the first administered by the Department of Commerce (DOC) and NOAA and tailored to the unique needs and communities of each State. The second would be administered by the Department of the Interior (DOI) and its Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and would focus on tribal youth. DOI and BIA would work with the Federally Recognized Tribes within the Gulf Region to engage tribal youth in support of environmental restoration and implementation of projects selected by the RESTORE Council.

The GCCC would 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 would 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 States, would invest \$8 million to help execute compliant priority coastal habitat restoration projects across the Gulf through a GCCC Program.



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The GCCC Program would have two primary activities - the first administered by DOC and NOAA and tailored to the unique needs and communities of each State, and the second administered by DOI and BIA focused on tribal youth engagement. DOC and its partners would work with these groups to recruit and train members in a variety of skills, and mobilize paid crews that would receive on-the-ground training through working on portions of other compliant projects.

Environmental Benefits: The GCCC would support restoration activities involving an estimated 500 acres of coastal habitat, contingent upon the identification of compliant projects by the RESTORE Council. Team members could be trained in a variety of hands-on techniques and thereby gain new and valuable skills. Where feasible, crewmembers would be trained in monitoring techniques to assist in accurate data collection and to provide an additional technical skill set.

Duration: Implementation would 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.