



Alabama

GULFCORPS RESTORING PEOPLE AND NATURE

JOHN STANMEYER/TNC

GulfCorps in Alabama

In 2018 GulfCorps launched in Alabama with one Student Conservation Association (SCA) crew in Mobile, which grew to two SCA crews in Year 2. These crews partner with Federal and State agencies, as well as local non-profits, to conduct restoration and conservation projects throughout the Alabama coast. This work includes locating and removing invasive species; planting native marsh vegetation and restoring rare pitcher plant bogs; and conducting trail and boardwalk maintenance. The crews also spent time locating and removing invasive apple snails and apple snail egg masses along waterways. Since GulfCorps began, the crews have impacted over 2,000 acres of coastal habitats on 10 projects.

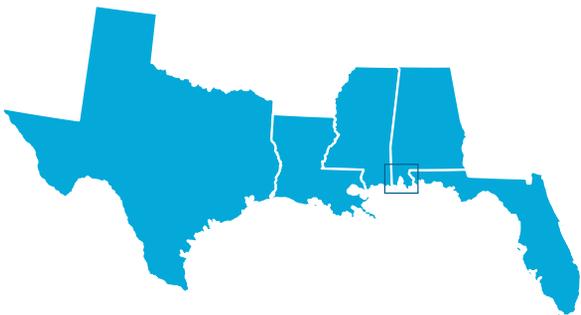
GulfCorps

Reaching across the Gulf of Mexico, GulfCorps is restoring communities and ecosystems impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The program, with the support of the RESTORE Council and NOAA, is a regional conservation corps that is putting young adults to work restoring and preserving some of the most important places along the Gulf. Working hand-in-hand with local governments, community leaders, and non-profit organizations, GulfCorps crews are committed to broad, positive impact in their communities and across the Gulf of Mexico.



ALABAMA

Points on map indicate project locations for all 3 years of GulfCorps



2,341

APPLE SNAILS REMOVED

23K+

GULFCORPS HOURS



10

ACTIVE
PROJECTS IN
FIRST 2 YEARS
OF GULFCORPS

927

ACRES OF WETLAND
ENHANCED



8K+
PLANTS
PLANTED

Alabama Project Highlights

1 Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR)

GulfCorps crews are working on a variety of projects to protect and restore habitat with the WBNERR. Since 2018 crews have created and maintained fire lanes, removed invasive plant species including popcorn trees and showy rattlebox, and planted native vegetation. Crew members have also helped to restore pitcher plant bogs and collected water quality samples for Alabama Water Watch.

2 Dauphin Island Parks and Beach Stewardship Project

At the Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuary, SCA GulfCorps crews worked to remove invasive popcorn trees, installed sand dune fencing and planted sea oats along the Gulf of Mexico shoreline. Other projects on Dauphin Island include prescribed fire preparation, beach debris and trash removal, and rebuilding a boardwalk to promote public access within the Bird Sanctuary.

**7 TRAILS/
BOARDWALKS**
CONSTRUCTED OR MAINTAINED

2,484

ACRES IMPACTED
THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 2019

5,839

APPLE SNAIL EGG
MASSES REMOVED



28

SHORT-TERM
JOBS CREATED IN
FIRST 2 YEARS OF
GULFCORPS

9
ACRES
OF WETLANDS
PLANTED



27
ACRES OF FOREST/UPLAND
CONSERVATION



MICHAEL DUMAS/TNC



Local Crews, Local Communities

At its heart, GulfCorps is about rebuilding the environment, and local communities. This means working with, and relying on, organizations that know and are deeply rooted in the local communities where GulfCorps crews serve.

In Alabama, GulfCorps is working with the **Student Conservation Association (SCA)**, which was founded in 1957 with a mission to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of the environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land. Nationwide, 7 out of 10 SCA alumni go on to obtain careers or studies that make the planet more sustainable, and in this year alone members across the nation have volunteered over 1.5 million hours of conservation service to public lands. SCA efforts in the Gulf of Mexico have included Everglades restoration projects after Hurricane Andrew in 1992, endangered sea turtle protection, and more recently helping the Gulf States recover from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in Alabama.



“Responsible and engaged. This team gave me great confidence for year three. I have high expectations and have objectives for year three that may be a little more challenging (and fun) than prior years.”

- Eric Brunden, Stewardship Coordinator, Weeks Bay Reserve



Elizabeth was a crew member for SCA, and after her term she went on to become an Oyster Gardening Technician for the University of South Alabama's coastal engineering program through the AL/MS Sea Grant.



DeUanna was a crew member for SCA in Year 2 and has now returned as a crew leader for their GulfCorps Crew in Year 3.

ALABAMA PROJECT PARTNERS

During the first two seasons of GulfCorps, crews worked on meaningful coastal restoration projects under the direction of a range of federal, state and community partners:

- Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**
- Weeks Bay Foundation**
- Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:**
 - Freshwater Fisheries Division**
 - State Lands Division**
 - Marine Resources Division**
 - Division of State Parks**
 - Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge**
 - Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board**
 - Mobile Bay National Estuary Program**

Potential New Partners in Year 3:

- The Nature Conservancy in Alabama
- City of Mobile, AL
- Dog River Clearwater Revival
- Beckwith Camp and Conference Center
- Mobile County Environmental Services
- City of Orange Beach, AL

"The work done by the GulfCorps crews would not have been possible otherwise. As a very small organization, we would have been unable to set aside the manpower or funds to make these projects happen. We are extremely happy about this partnership and everything it lets us achieve."

—Yael Girard, Executive Director,
Weeks Bay Foundation

Points on map indicate project locations for all 3 years of GulfCorps

TEXAS

LOUISIANA

GulfCorps by the Numbers

ESTIMATED OVER

\$190K

IN LEVERAGED FUNDING AND MATERIAL COSTS

5,728
ACRES IMPACTED

965
ACRES OF MARSH/BEACH ENHANCEMENT

2,333
ACRES OF UPLAND CONSERVATION



47

ACRES OF MARSH/WETLAND PLANTED

114K

PAID PROJECT AND TRAINING HOURS FOR YEARS 1 AND 2



369

ACRES BEING MONITORED

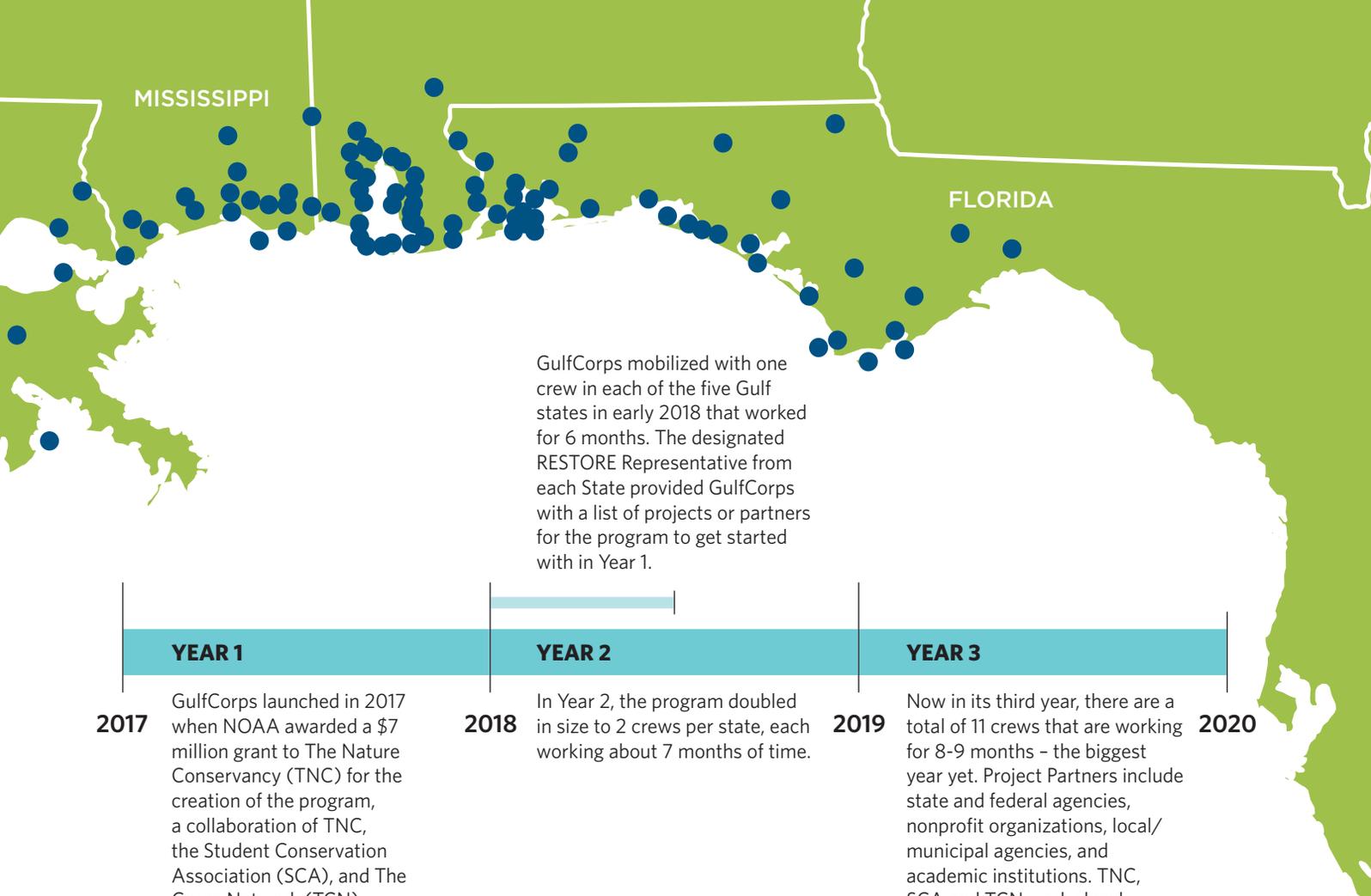
3K+

HOURS OF TIME SAVED BY PROJECT PARTNER STAFF IN YEAR 2

1,871 ACRES OF INVASIVE SPECIES TREATED



PHOTOS JOHN STANMEYER/NATGEO CREATIVE



MISSISSIPPI

FLORIDA

GulfCorps mobilized with one crew in each of the five Gulf states in early 2018 that worked for 6 months. The designated RESTORE Representative from each State provided GulfCorps with a list of projects or partners for the program to get started with in Year 1.

YEAR 1

2017

GulfCorps launched in 2017 when NOAA awarded a \$7 million grant to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for the creation of the program, a collaboration of TNC, the Student Conservation Association (SCA), and The Corps Network (TCN).

YEAR 2

2018

In Year 2, the program doubled in size to 2 crews per state, each working about 7 months of time.

YEAR 3

2019

Now in its third year, there are a total of 11 crews that are working for 8-9 months - the biggest year yet. Project Partners include state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, local/municipal agencies, and academic institutions. TNC, SCA and TCN work closely with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to plan and execute sound conservation and restoration projects and to create a restoration workforce that has high-quality training and proven work experience.

2020

The GulfCorps Crews for Year 3:

- Conservation Corps of the Forgotten Coast – Franklin County (FL)
- Conservation Corps of the Emerald Coast - Bay County (FL)
- Conservation Corps of the Emerald Coast – Escambia County (FL)
- Student Conservation Association – (AL)
- Climb CDC (MS)
- Limitless Vistas Inc. (LA)
- Louisiana Conservation Corps (LA)
- Texas Conservation Corps (TX)
- American Conservation Experience (TX)

“The crew took pride in what was accomplished, and it showed in the work completed.”

—Shelley Stiaes, Refuge Manager for Bayou Sauvage, Bayou Teche and Mandalay National Wildlife Refuges, US Fish and Wildlife Service

“Responsible and engaged, this team gave me great confidence for year three.”

—Eric Brunden, Stewardship Coordinator, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve



MICHAEL DUMAS/TNC

THE GULFCORPS PROJECT TEAM



NOAA FISHERIES

Fiscal sponsor, environmental compliance, project advisor, team partner Conservation Corps

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

GulfCorps Program Directors, conservation and project planning, monitoring and overall implementation

STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Plans and implements orientation for all GulfCorps crews

THE CORPS NETWORK

Professional development initiative to prepare members/leaders for pursuing, and helping the pursuit of careers in conservation and restoration

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