



GulfCorps in Florida

In 2018, GulfCorps launched in Florida with the Conservation Corps of the Forgotten Coast, operated by Franklin's Promise. Then, in Year 2 they added Conservation Corps of the Emerald Coast in Escambia County. In Year 3, they added another Emerald Coast Crew from Bay County, FL. The Florida crews partner with Federal and State agencies, as well as local non-profits, to conduct restoration and conservation projects throughout the Florida coast. This work includes locating and removing invasive species; planting native marsh vegetation and restoring pitcher plant bogs and conducting trail and boardwalk maintenance. The two crews in Florida have impacted over 1,300 acres of coastal habitats at 9 different projects during GulfCorps' first two years.

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.



Florida Project Highlights



1 St. Joe Bay State Buffer Preserve

The CCFC crew used chainsaws, brush cutters, and hand tools to clear 434 acres in preparation for prescribed burn and maintenance of fire lines within the Buffer Preserve. The crew also cleared debris from Hurricane Michael along fire lines and performed 84.5 acres of slash pine removal to reduce competition for Longleaf pines. In total, they assisted with the prescribed burning of over 1,000 acres of forest. Lastly, crew members completed 23.55 acres of trail/boardwalk maintenance on a Buffer parcel at Cape San Blas, reestablishing public access to the beach area.

2 Escambia County's Jones Swamp Wetland Preserve

The CCEC crew members at Jones Swamp Wetland Preserve enhanced their skills at trail maintenance and construction, invasive species management, fire-risk reduction, and native vegetation planting. Working closely with preserve staff, the crew removed invasive species from more than three acres at the preserve, planted more than 33,000 plants, and restored 706 feet of trail.



PHOTOS JOHN STANMEYER/TNC



FLORIDA

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



**6 TRAILS/
BOARDWALKS**
CONSTRUCTED OR MAINTAINED

24,363

GULFCORPS HOURS

1,367

ACRES IMPACTED
THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 2019



ACTIVE
PROJECTS IN
FIRST 2 YEARS
OF GULFCORPS

1,093
ACRES OF FOREST/UPLAND
CONSERVATION



SHORT-TERM
JOBS CREATED IN
FIRST 2 YEARS OF
GULFCORPS

1,052
ACRES
OF PRESCRIBED
FIRE

272 ACRES OF INVASIVE
SPECIES TREATED



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 GulfCorps is helping.

In Florida, GulfCorps is working with the **Conservation Corps of the Forgotten Coast (CCFC)** and the **Conservation Corps of the Emerald Coast (CCEC)**, both founded by Franklin's Promise Coalition. Franklin's Promise Coalition was originally founded in 2014 with a goal of empowering young people to positively impact their lives, their community, and the land that they live on. Young adults in these crews receive job training, leadership skills, academic programming, and other support to help them find careers in the conservation field after their GulfCorps term is completed. In year 3 of GulfCorps, Franklin's Promise added a third crew – the Conservation Corps of the Emerald Coast in Bay County.





Micheal was a CCFC crew member who, after his term, became a Disaster Recover Specialist with Career Source GulfCoast.



Mayson was a CCEC crew member who is returning in Year 3 to serve as a crew leader for the Escambia crew.

FLORIDA 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:

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
St. Joe Bay State Buffer Preserve
Tate's Hell State Forest
Apalachicola National Forest
The Nature Conservancy in Florida
Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
Escambia County
Franklin County
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Potential New Partners for Year 3:

Bay County
 Northwest Florida Water Management District
 Florida State Parks
 St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association
 City of Mexico Beach
 City of Panama City Beach

"1756.5 hours of work from Corps = \$38,028 in match. This also equates to alleviation of some duties allowing staff time to dedicate towards reporting, facility maintenance and monitoring."

—Beth Fugate, Manager, Northwest Florida Aquatic Preserves

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



1,871

ACRES OF INVASIVE
SPECIES TREATED



369

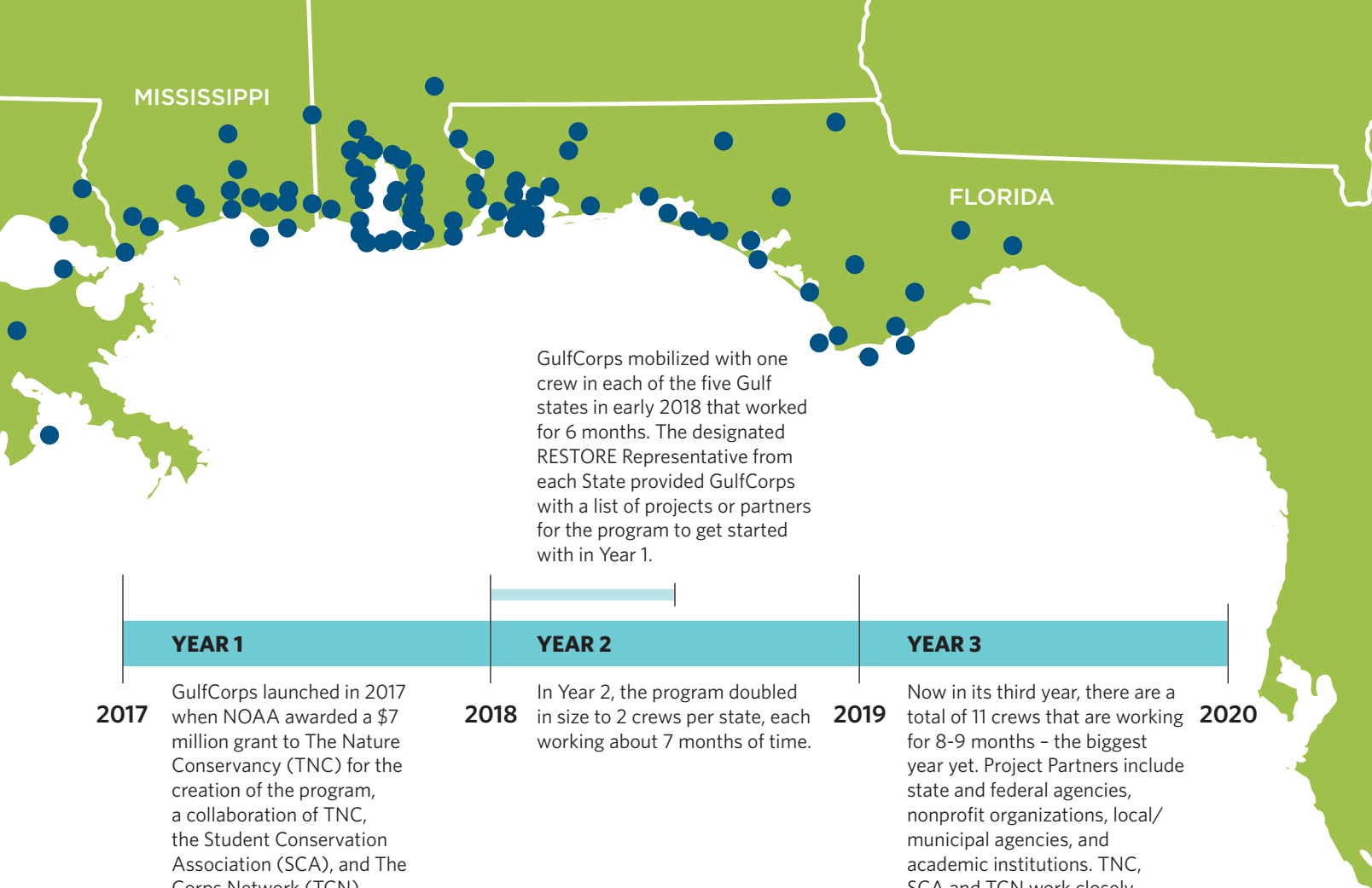
ACRES BEING
MONITORED

3K+

HOURS OF TIME SAVED BY
PROJECT PARTNER STAFF
IN YEAR 2



PHOTOS JOHN STANMEYER/NATGEO CREATIVE



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

THE CORPS NETWORK

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

STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Plans and implements orientation for all GulfCorps crews

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