



Louisiana

GULFCORPS RESTORING PEOPLE AND NATURE

HAKIM-MICAH LEWIS/TNC



GulfCorps in Louisiana

GulfCorps launched in Louisiana in 2018 with a crew from Limitless Vistas, Inc. (LVI) based in New Orleans, followed by an additional crew from the Louisiana Conservation Corps (LACC) who works in southwest Louisiana the second year. These crews partner with federal agencies, state agencies and non-profits to conduct restoration and conservation projects across the State. This work includes mapping and removing invasive species, planting wetland and marsh plants, and conducting trail and boardwalk maintenance. The two crews have impacted over 100 acres of wetland and upland habitat through 7 active projects during GulfCorps' first two years.

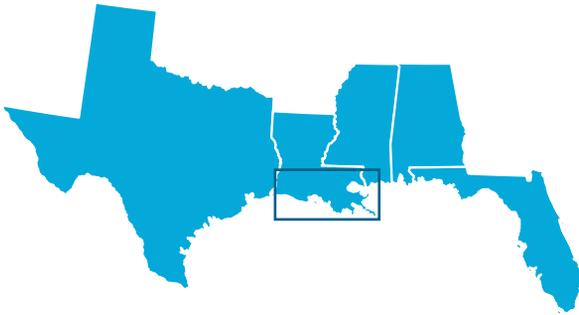
GulfCorps

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.



LOUISIANA

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



**11 TRAILS/
BOARDWALKS**
CONSTRUCTED OR MAINTAINED

32
ACRES OF
INVASIVE
SPECIES TREATED



SHORT-TERM
JOBS CREATED IN
FIRST 2 YEARS OF
GULFCORPS



27
ACRES
OF WETLAND
RESTORED/
ENHANCED



7
PROJECTS
WORKED IN
FIRST 2 YEARS OF
GULFCORPS

22,669
GULFCORPS HOURS

107
ACRES IMPACTED
THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 2019



1K
PLANTS
PLANTED



Louisiana Project Highlights

1 Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge

At the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge near New Orleans, Limitless Vista Inc.'s Crew is working to maintain the refuge as a place for the public to enjoy, and to protect and restore important species that call the refuge home. In 2019 the GulfCorps crew planted 1,000 native Louisiana irises as part of the Louisiana Iris Species Preservation Project along the elevated Ridge Trail Bayou Sauvage Overlook. The crew also revitalized damaged boardwalks along the Bayou Overlook section of the ridge trail to help ensure the preserve was open and safe for the public. The crew also worked on airboats to assist in the annual Christmas Tree Drop, where Black Hawk Helicopters are used to drop large bundles of recycled Christmas Trees along shorelines to help reduce erosion and restore marshes.

2 Sabine National Wildlife Refuge

GulfCorps' LACC crew members completed the maintenance and re-construction of several boardwalks and observation decks, including the Blue Goose Trail observation deck and the Wetland Walkway observation deck. They also removed Roseau cane from several viewing areas to increase visibility of wildlife for refuge visitors. The crew harvested cordgrass from Blue Goose Trail for the purpose of restoring duck blinds at Cameron Prairie NWR. They also joined the refuge staff to maintain and install new navigational markers for recreational fishing visitors.





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 GulfCorps is helping.

In Louisiana, GulfCorps is working with **Limitless Vistas, Inc. (LVI)**, a program established in 2006 with a mission to help young adults obtain the skills and knowledge to become gainfully employed in the environmental or conservation industries, build a hopeful future, develop civic pride, and establish life-long conservation skills and attitudes. To date, LVI has trained over 500 young adults state-wide with the skills needed to obtain a career in conservation.



GulfCorps is also working with the **American YouthWorks**, the parent company of the **Louisiana Conservation Corps**, founded in 1975 with a mission to provide young people with opportunities to build careers, strengthen communities, and improve the environment through education, on-the-job training, and service to others. The Louisiana Conservation Corps branch of American YouthWorks was established in Baton Rouge in 2018, and focuses on state/national natural disaster response, public land improvements, and habitat restoration.





CHRISTINA WAYNE/TNC



MICHAEL DUMAS/TNC

Courtney was an LACC crew member who, after her first term, interned with The Nature Conservancy to work with prescribed fire in Abita Springs, LA. She has returned for Year 3 as a leader of the LACC Gulf-Corps crew.



MICHAEL DUMAS/TNC

Jasmine was a crew member on the LVI crew and was named 2019 Corps Member of the Year by the Corps Network. After completing a summer internship at Senator Bill Cassidy's office in Washington, D.C., she is returning for her second term in Year 3.

LOUISIANA 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:

Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge
Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge
Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge
Sabine National Wildlife Refuge Stewardship
Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge
Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge

Potential New Partners in Year 3:

Louisiana State Parks
 Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
 The Nature Conservancy in Louisiana

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

—Shelley Stias, Refuge Manager, US Fish and Wildlife Service

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

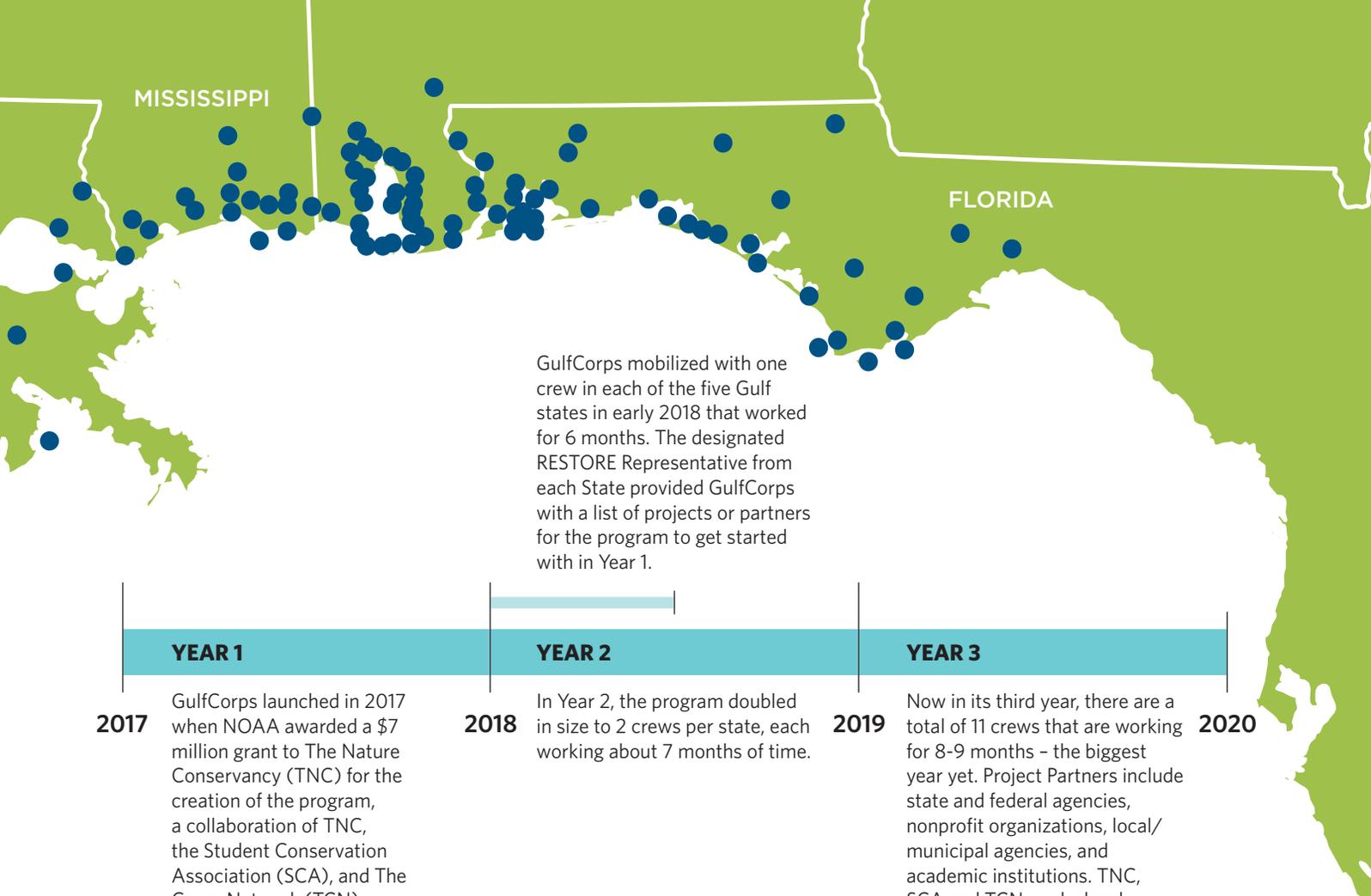
3K+

HOURS OF TIME SAVED BY PROJECT PARTNER STAFF IN YEAR 2

1,871 ACRES OF INVASIVE SPECIES TREATED



PHOTOS JOHN STANMEYER/NATGEO CREATIVE



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.



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).

2018 In Year 2, the program doubled in size to 2 crews per state, each working about 7 months of time.

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.

- 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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This project is made possible through funding received from the RESTORE Council and NOAA.