



GulfCorps in Mississippi

GulfCorps launched in Mississippi in 2018 with a 10-person crew from Climb CDC, based in Gulfport. In the second season, Climb added a second crew (another ~10 people), and together these crews are working with Federal and State agencies, as well as local non-profits, to conduct restoration and conservation projects throughout the Mississippi coast. This work includes locating and removing invasive species; planting native marsh vegetation and 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 the Pascagoula River. To date, Climb's GulfCorps crews have impacted over 1,000 acres of wetland and upland habitat through 10 distinct projects.

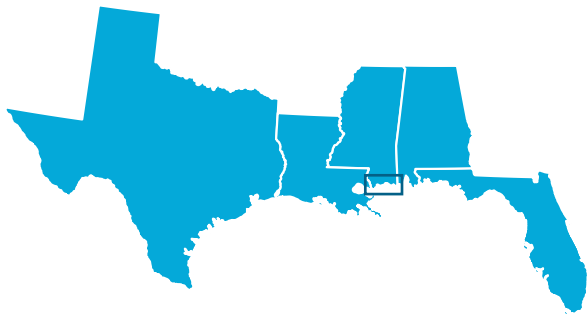
GulfCorps

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.



MISSISSIPPI

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



25 ACRES OF INVASIVE SPECIES TREATED



178 ACRES OF WETLAND ENHANCEMENT



10 ACTIVE PROJECTS IN FIRST 2 YEARS OF GULFCORPS



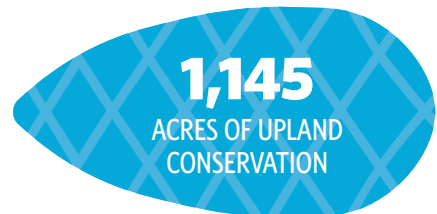
46K PLANTS PLANTED

19,931 GULFCORPS HOURS

1,366 ACRES IMPACTED THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2019



8,710 APPLE SNAIL EGG MASSES REMOVED



1,145 ACRES OF UPLAND CONSERVATION



29 SHORT-TERM JOBS CREATED IN FIRST 2 YEARS OF GULFCORPS

Mississippi Project Highlights

1 De Soto National Forest Stewardship Project

Under the direction of De Soto staff, rangers, and specialists, GulfCorps crews are restoring pitcher plant bogs in the National Forest. The work with De Soto staff to thin-out the Slash pines to make room for the native Longleaf pine trees with a distribution of about 40-60 trees per acre, which allows the perfect amount of sunlight to reach these carnivorous pitcher plants. Not only have the Climb crews helped restore over 20 acres of bog habitat in De Soto, but the area is also used by all the GulfCorps crews for chainsaw training, which has added several acres to that restoration total.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI PROJECTS:

2 Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Coastal Preserves Program's Apple Snail capture on the Pascagoula River

The crew worked from canoes and kayaks in Robinson Bayou, a feeder of the Pascagoula River, to capture highly invasive Apple Snails and their egg masses. The crew has worked over 1,200 hours and captured 350 snails and destroyed 8,710 egg masses, over the course of 18 months along the same 4-miles stretch of bayou-shoreline.

3 Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's Round Island Marsh Restoration Project

The crew helped to restore "New" Round Island, off the coast of Pascagoula, MS in 2018 by working more than 1,600 hours to plant over 46,000 native plants across nearly 18 acres of sand dunes and saltmarsh. The crews used dibbles to poke holes in the sand spaced about 1-foot apart and planted sea oats, smooth cordgrass, black needle-rush and other native species depending on the elevation and location of planting areas.





JOHN STANMEYER/NATGEO CREATIVE

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 Mississippi, GulfCorps is working with **Climb CDC**, a Mississippi-based non-profit community development group that provides workforce training, housing and financial counseling, housing development, and disaster recovery services in the Gulf South Region. In 2017 alone, young adults in Climb CDC completed 5,500 community service hours and awarded 163 workforce training certifications.





MISSISSIPPI 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:

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
De Soto National Forest
Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge
Mississippi DMR Coastal Preserves
The Nature Conservancy in Mississippi
Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain
Anchor QEA (Mississippi DEQ)



Cameron M. began as a crew member in Year 1 of GulfCorps and returned as a crew leader in Year 2. He spent the summer at a Fire Academy in Oregon with Inbound, LLC and now works for Cambium Tree Care & Preservation in Ocean Springs, MS.



Lauren K. started as a crew leader in Year 1, and was promoted to working as Conservation Staff for Climb CDC in Year 2 and 3.

"The crew completed difficult and exhausting work without complaints and with a great attitude."

— Sarah Ballard, Scientist, Anchor QEA

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

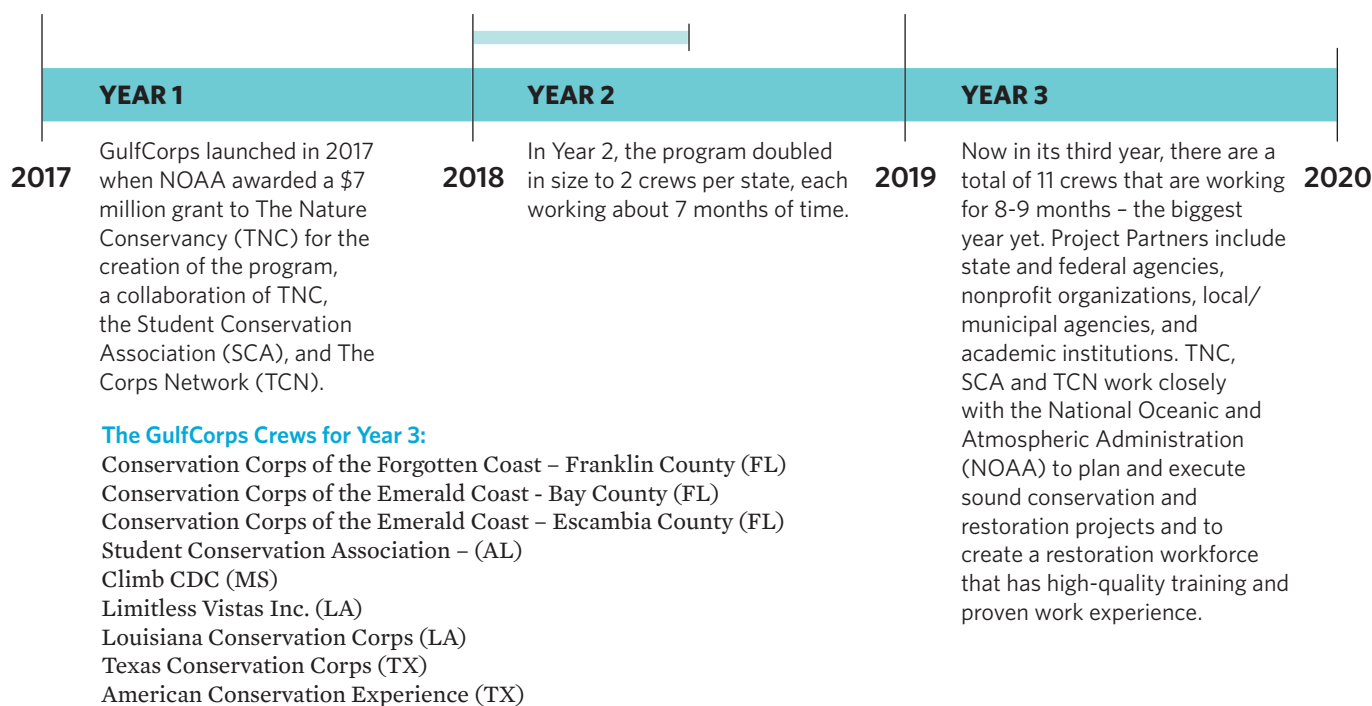
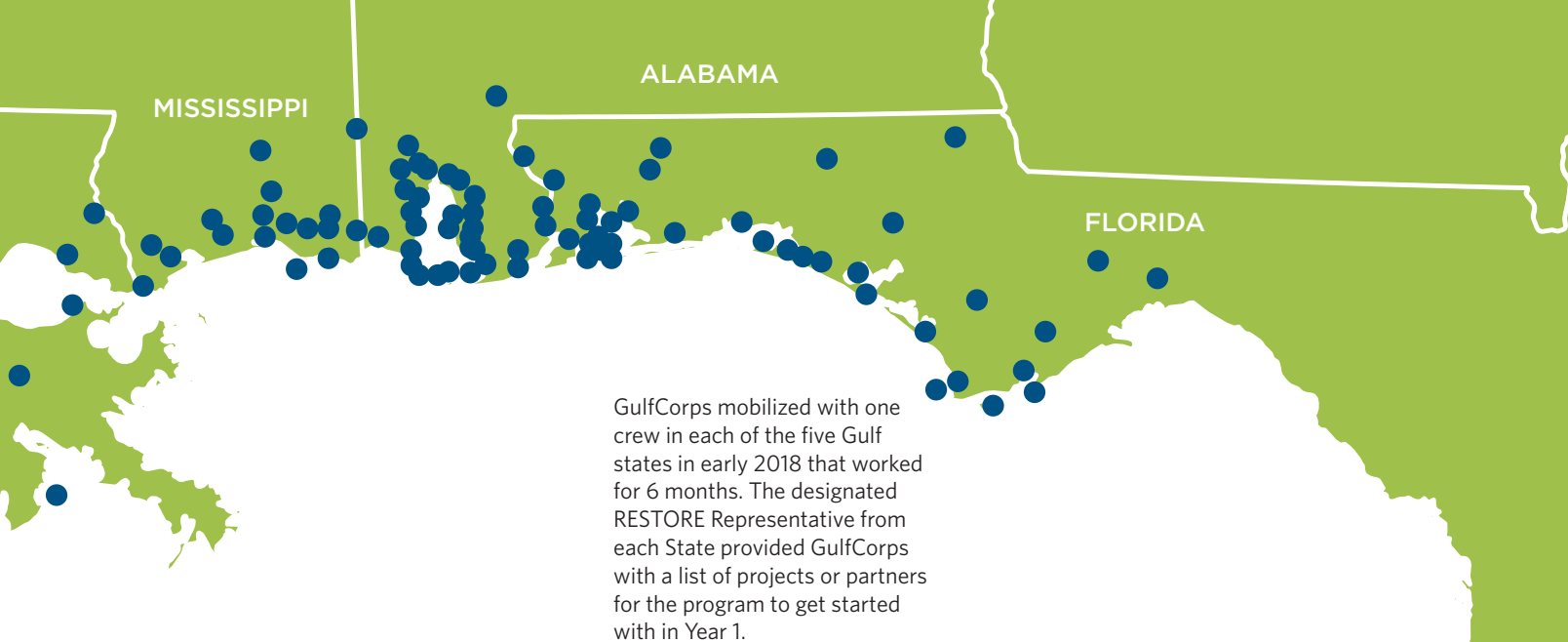
ACRES BEING
MONITORED

3K+

HOURS OF TIME SAVED BY
PROJECT PARTNER STAFF
IN YEAR 2



PHOTOS JOHN STANMEYER/NATGEO CREATIVE



“The 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

CONTACT Jeff DeQuattro, GulfCorps Program Director | jdequattro@tnc.org

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