



FUNDED PRIORITIES LIST 3B

Gulf of Mexico Conservation Corps Program

Funded Priorities List (FPL) 3b is part of a two-phase approach used by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) to respond to ecosystem needs and take advantage of important partnership opportunities to advance large-scale ecosystem restoration.

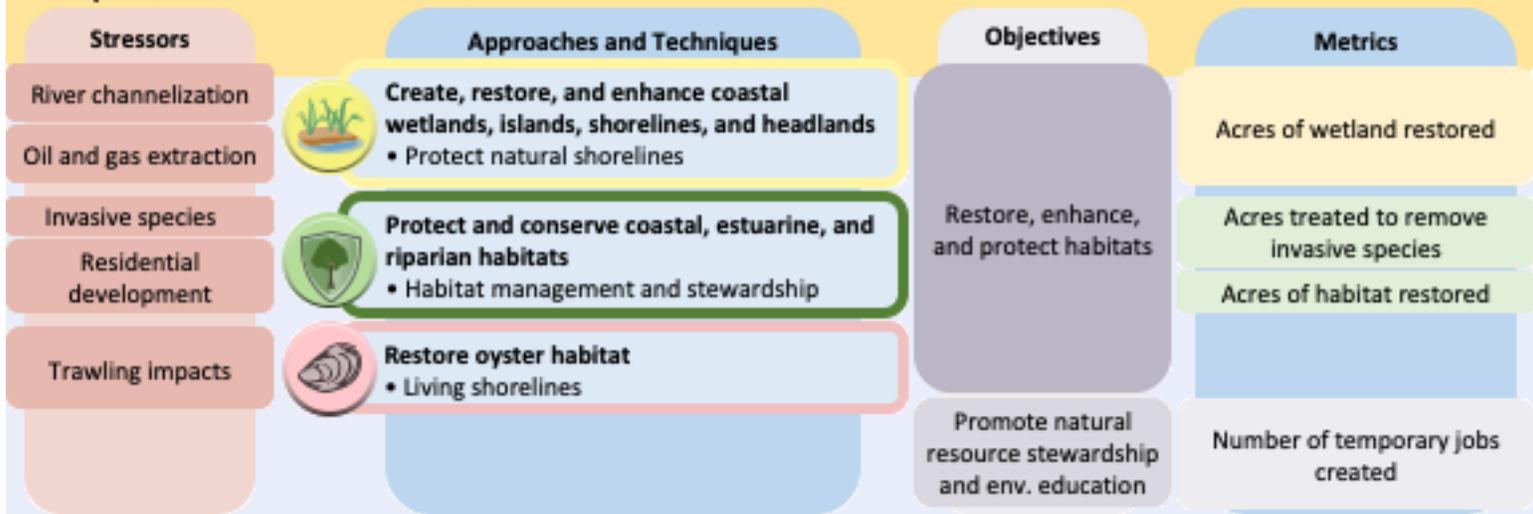
The Council is considering approval of \$11,971,250 in implementation funds as FPL Category 1 for the *Gulf of Mexico Coast Conservation Corps (GulfCorps) Program*. The *GulfCorps* program would utilize the Planning Framework techniques and approaches outlined in the figure below to address environmental stressors Gulfwide. The U.S. Department of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is the sponsor of this proposed program.

Building off work initially funded under the Council's 2015 Initial FPL, *GulfCorps* organizations in each Gulf state would recruit, train, employ and help to inspire hundreds of young adults to produce tangible habitat restoration benefits and to become the Gulf of Mexico's future restoration workforce. *GulfCorps* would continue to collaborate with State, Federal and local agencies, and non-profit organizations to manage natural resources and implement restoration, conservation and resilience projects. Based on project input from RESTORE Council Members and local experts, the *GulfCorps* will implement habitat restoration, conservation and monitoring activities in a wide range of Gulf of Mexico habitats including marshes, prairies, forests, oyster reefs and shorelines. The *GulfCorps* crews will also facilitate public access to Gulf habitats by building and maintaining boardwalks and trails. Program activities will contribute to the restoration of coastal habitat, provide employment opportunities for young people across the Gulf of Mexico, and provide labor for priority conservation projects in all five Gulf States.

Program at a Glance

The *GulfCorps Program* applies Planning Framework approaches and techniques to support Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. To support the primary objective to *Restore, enhance, and protect habitats*, stressors such as river channelization and oil and gas extraction will be addressed using the *Protect natural shorelines* technique; invasive species and residential development will be addressed using *Habitat management and stewardship*; and trawling impacts will be addressed using *Living Shorelines*. Success using shoreline protection and habitat management and stewardship to support the primary objective may be tracked using acres of wetland or other habitat restored and acres treated to remove invasive species. Success using these techniques support the secondary objective, *Promote natural resource stewardship and environmental education*, may be tracked using the number of temporary jobs created. Additional metrics of project success may include: number of improvements to recreational infrastructure, percent costs contracted to local organizations, and acres monitored (not shown).

Comprehensive Plan Goal: Restore and conserve habitat



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