

## Draft Funded Priorities List 3b

### Proposal Abstract

**Sponsor:** U.S. Department of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**Proposal:** Gulf of Mexico Coast Conservation Corps (GulfCorps) Program

The U.S. Department of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is requesting \$15M in Council-Selected Restoration Component funding to implement the Gulf of Mexico Coast Conservation Corps (GulfCorps) Program for an additional 4 years. This would include implementation funds as FPL Category 1. Initially funded under the Council's 2015 Initial FPL, the GulfCorps program supports the primary RESTORE Comprehensive Plan goal of restoring and conserving habitat. GulfCorps organizations in each Gulf state will recruit, train, employ and help to inspire hundreds of young adults to produce habitat restoration benefits and become the Gulf of Mexico's future restoration workforce. GulfCorps will 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 range of Gulf of Mexico habitats including marshes, prairies, forests, oyster reefs and shorelines. GulfCorps crews will also facilitate public access to Gulf habitats by building and maintaining boardwalks and trails.

GulfCorps program activities will contribute to the restoration of 8,000 acres of coastal habitat, providing employment opportunities for 300 young people across the Gulf region. The program will also provide 640,000 hours of labor for priority conservation projects in all five Gulf States. The GulfCorps Program duration is 4 years.