GulfCorps Overview

Louisiana Spotlight

CPRA Board Meeting:
November 16, 2022

Mel Landry, NOAA Fisheries
Emily Thornton, The Corps Network

NOAA FISHERIES

Program Overview and Accomplishments (2017-2022)

- 365 crew members
- 337,317 project hours
- 1,937 acres of invasives removed
- 126 acres of wetland restoration
- 3,835 acres of wetland enhancement
- 7,033 acres of upland restoration
- 7,694 acres being monitored

2018 & 2019 Corps Network Members of the Year!

2019 Corps Network Project of the Year!

NOAA FISHERIES

GulfCorps

- Restore habitats damaged by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill
- Restore the economy of the Gulf States by paying and training local young people to do the work
  - Hands-on training
  - Workforce development skills
  - Focus on job placement

Partners and Locations

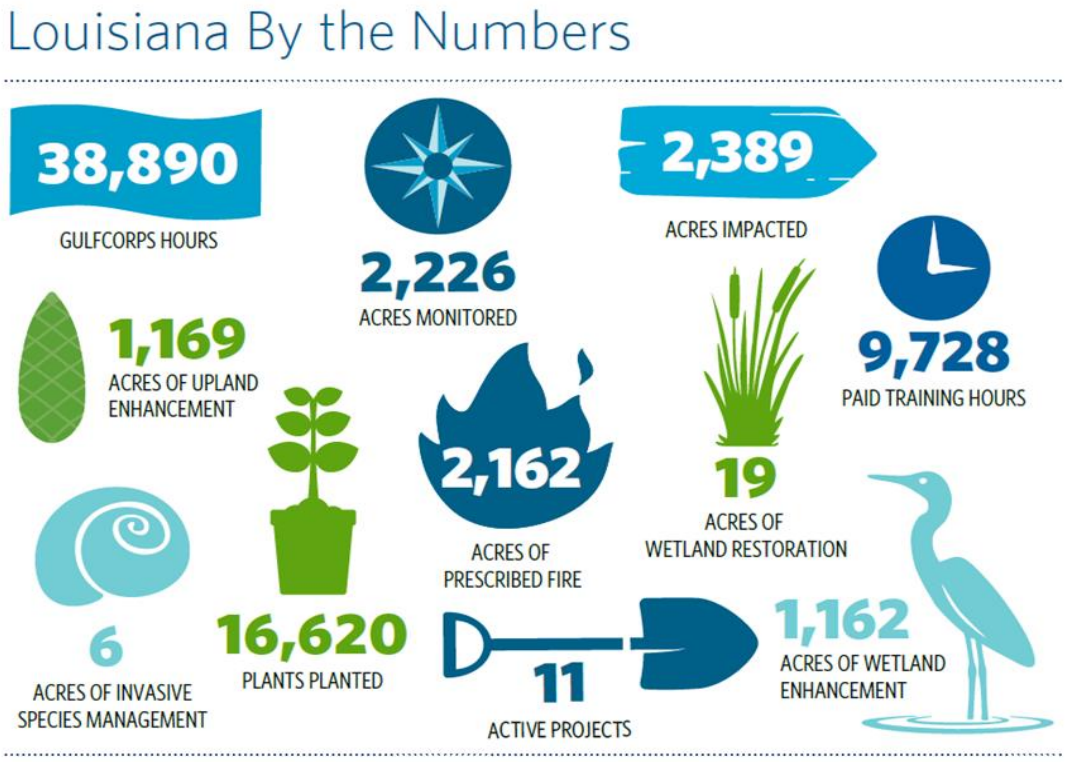
<u>Local Crews</u>:
American YouthWorks (TX and LA)
Student Conservation Association (TX and AL)
Limitless Vistas (LA)
CLIMB CDC (MS)
Franklin's Promise Coalition (FL)

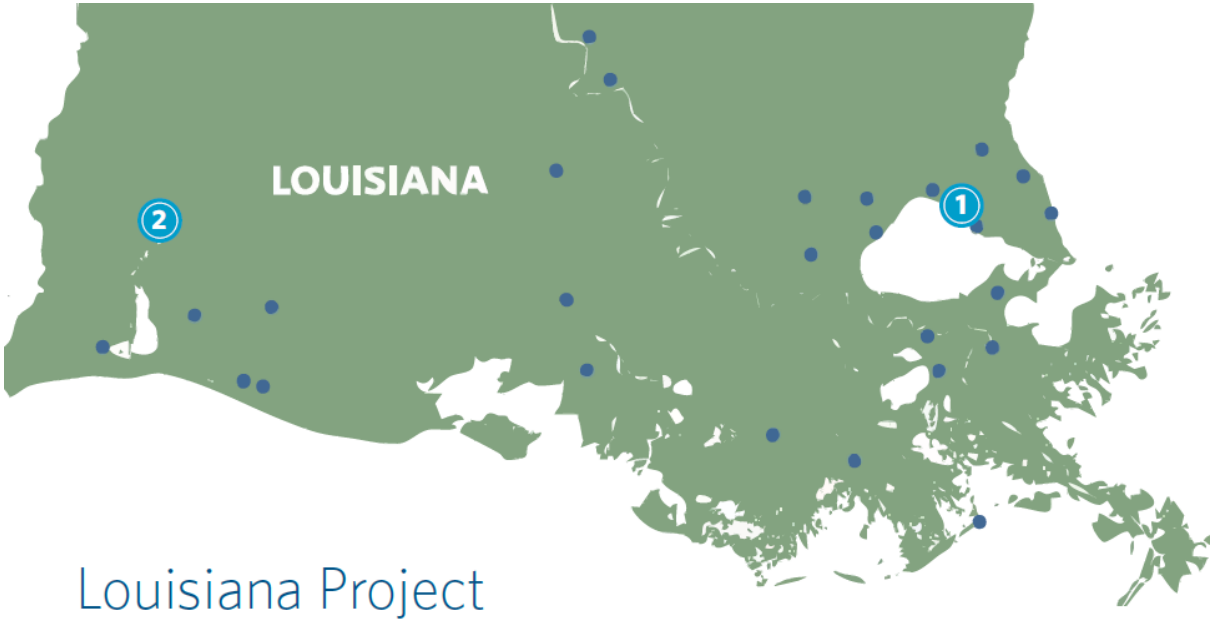
<u>Management Team:</u>
<u>The Nature Conservancy</u> Implementing partner
<u>The Corps Network</u> Workforce development
<u>Student Conservation Association</u> Orientation (and crews)
<u>The Ember Alliance</u> Fire/Chainsaw Training

Crew Activities/Capabilities

- Invasive species removal
- Native vegetation planting
- Living shoreline construction
- Endangered species conservation
- Vegetation/biological surveys
- Amenity installation/maintenance
- Trail/boardwalk maintenance/repair
- Prescribed fire and preparation
- Education/outreach
- Disaster relief/response
- Boundary marking
- And more!

Louisiana Metrics for GulfCorps 2017-2021





Louisiana Project Highlights

1. Big Branch Marsh Stewardship Project
2. Sam Houston Jones State Park

Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge

- 4 years
- One acre of pitcher plant bog restoration
- Six acres of trail/boardwalk maintenance
- 12,900 native plants installed
- Red-cockaded woodpecker nest protection
- Christmas tree collection, bundling, and placement in marsh for habitat

Photo by Libby Cornell

Sam Houston Jones State Park

- 2019 - debris removal and recreation amenity maintenance
- 2020 - Hurricane Laura
- 2021 - 3,500 longleaf pines planted to offset massive tree damage from hurricane

Photo by Limitless Vistas, Inc

Training

- S-212, Wildland Fire Chainsaws
- S-130/190, Firefighter and Wildland Fire Behavior Training
- L-180, Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service
- Pesticide applicator certification
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training
- GPS, GIS, monitoring techniques
- Native and invasive species identification
- Wilderness First Aid Certification w/CPR
- OSHA 10-Hour Certification
- Workforce Development Program

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Workforce Development Component

Minimum Requirements

- Industry Recognized Training
- Project Related Training
- Orientation
- **Career Plan
- Active Listening
- Assessments
- Workforce Development Sessions
- Professional Resume Completed
- Mock Interview
- **Capstone Project - Portfolio
- JEDI program
- End of Term Interview

Recommended Trainings

- Leadership Skills
- Critical Thinking
- Computer Skills and Basic Software
- Presentation Skills
- Professionalism
- Time Management
- Employment Process
- Financial Literacy

"All Star"

- 3 Industry Recognized Credentials
- 3 Project Trainings
- Minimum of 12 PD Trainings or Activities
- 2 Mock Interviews
- Prepare and present an Elevator Speech to TCN or TNC Staff
- Conduct 2 interviews with partners or potential employer
- Complete 1 leadership or software certification from our catalog of options
- Create and conduct a presentation

NOAA FISHERIES

Gulf Corps Job Placements

GulfCorps Overall 2018-2021: 203 positive placements out of 230 (88%)
Louisiana: 25 positive placements out of 31 (81%)

- Wildlife Technician I – Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
- Marine Wire Assistant – South Coast Electric
- Conservation Information Manager – The Nature Conservancy
- Youth Crew Coordinator – Texas Conservation Corps
- Mote Marine Laboratory Intern – Sarasota Dolphin Research
- Disaster Recovery Specialist – Career Source Gulf Coast
- Environmental Education Intern – Black Bayou Lake NWR
- Boise Wildland Firefighter – USDA National Forest Service
- Outreach/Educator Bat Caves - Lewis Clark Caverns State Park
- Biologist I – Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality
- Nesting Technician – University of North Dakota
- Restoration Technician – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Photos by Mike Dumas

Examples of Success

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 returned for her second term with LVI.

"My life has been influenced by my Corps experience by making me a better leader. It has made me more responsible, knowledgeable, and more aware of my surroundings. It has given me knowledge about how we have a major effect on our community. Meeting and networking with people from all over the country who have the same goal of making the Earth a better place to live has been exciting."

© Mike Dumas

Louisiana Project Locations

- Louisiana Iris Species Preservation
- Grand Isle State Park
- Sam Houston Jones State Park
- Hollister Preserve
- National Forests
- National Wildlife Refuges
- The Nature Conservancy in Louisiana
- Armand Bayou Nature Center
- Lake Fausse Pointe State Park
- Jean Lafitte National Park/Barataria Preserve
- Fontainebleau State Park
- Fairview Riverside State Park
- St. Bernard State Park
- Tickfaw State Park
- Bayou Segnette State Park
- Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge
- Pointe-aux-Chênes WMA

Photo by Alan Teller

- Pearl River WMA
- Tunica Hills WMA
- Manchac WMA
- Joyce WMA
- Maurepas Swamp WMA
- St. Tammany Parish (The Nature Conservancy)

Additional Slides for Background Information Only

GulfCorps

- Funded by RESTORE Council
  - 2016 - $7.5M (3 years)
  - 2020 - $1.7M (1 year)
  - 2021 - $12M (4 years)
- Administered by NOAA
- Led by The Nature Conservancy in partnership with:
  - The Student Conservation Association
  - The Corps Network
- Implemented on the ground by Conservation Corps Organizations who hire and train over 100 Members each year
  - Eleven crews in all five Gulf states
- Target young, “opportunity” or “at-promise” individuals from GOM/local communities

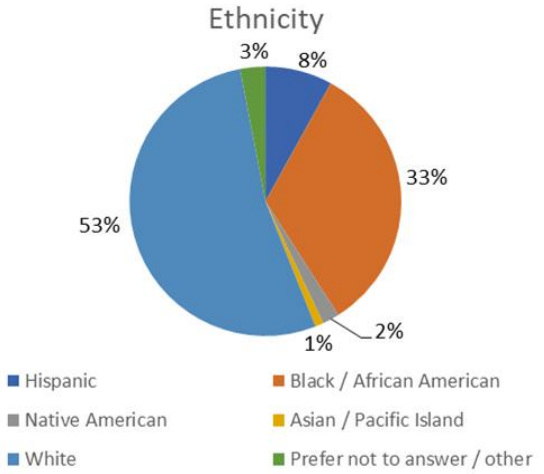
GulfCorps: Why is the model successful?

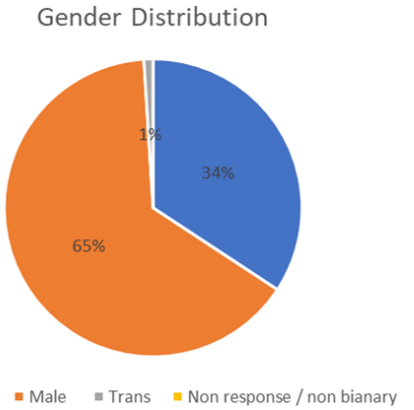
- PARTNERS
- Training
- Workforce development
- Personal development
- Industry certification
- Technical and **LIFE** skills

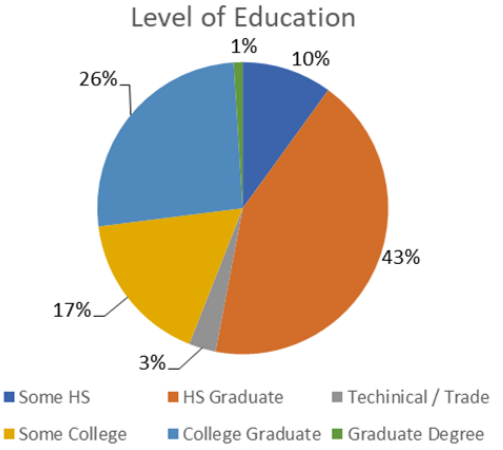
GulfCorps Dashboard

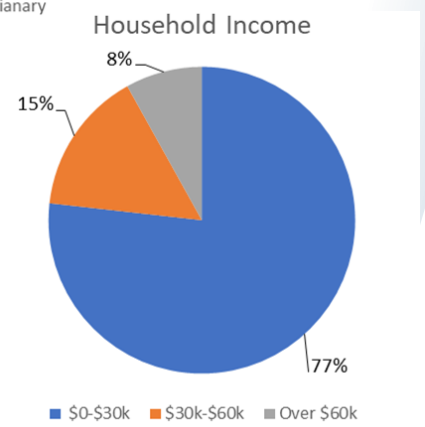
GC Dashboard

Demographics

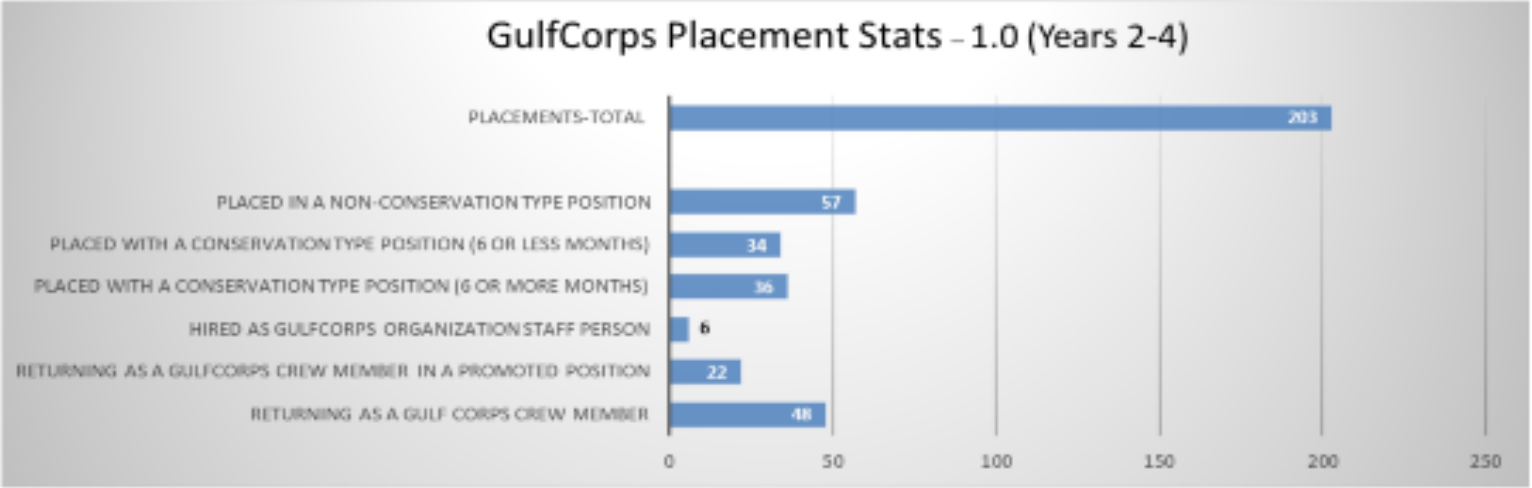








GulfCorps Placement Stats – 1.0



203 placements out of 230 "Graduates"

25 placements out of 31 "Graduates" in LA

Examples of Success

"**GulfCorps has impacted my life more than I had ever imagined**. I started GulfCorps just trying to get back into the conservation field. What I didn't expect is that this opportunity opened many new paths I didn't know existed…GulfCorps put me into a situation where, after learning and training about fire, **I could actually go into a conservation and fire career**. I could never be more grateful than I am for what GulfCorps has done for my future."

- Courtney Gullo