

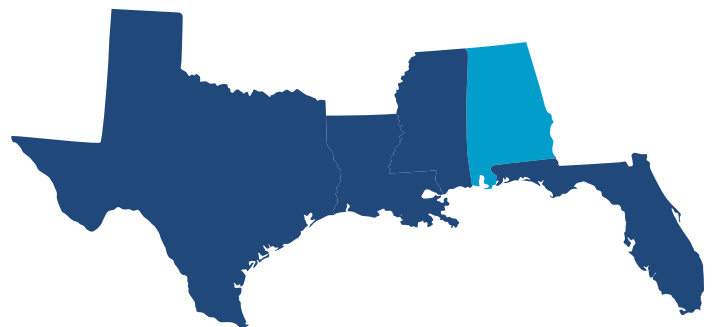
ALABAMA

Restoring People and Nature



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In 2018, GulfCorps launched one crew in Mobile with Student Conservation Association (SCA). In Years 2 and 3, SCA managed two crews per season and down-sized to one crew again in Year 4 during the COVID-19 pandemic surge. The RESTORE Council approved a new award in April 2021 and GulfCorps 2.0 launched in the fall of 2021. The Mobile and Baldwin County crews partner with federal, state, county and municipal agencies as well as local nonprofits to implement restoration and conservation projects throughout the Alabama Gulf Coast. This work includes mapping and treating invasive plant species; planting native marsh vegetation; restoring pitcher plant bogs; participating in prescribed burns; and building and maintaining trails and boardwalks. Crews also locate and remove invasive apple snails and apple snail egg masses along waterways. Since the GulfCorps Program started, SCA crews have impacted over 5,200 acres of coastal habitats on 25 project sites.



LOCATION Alabama

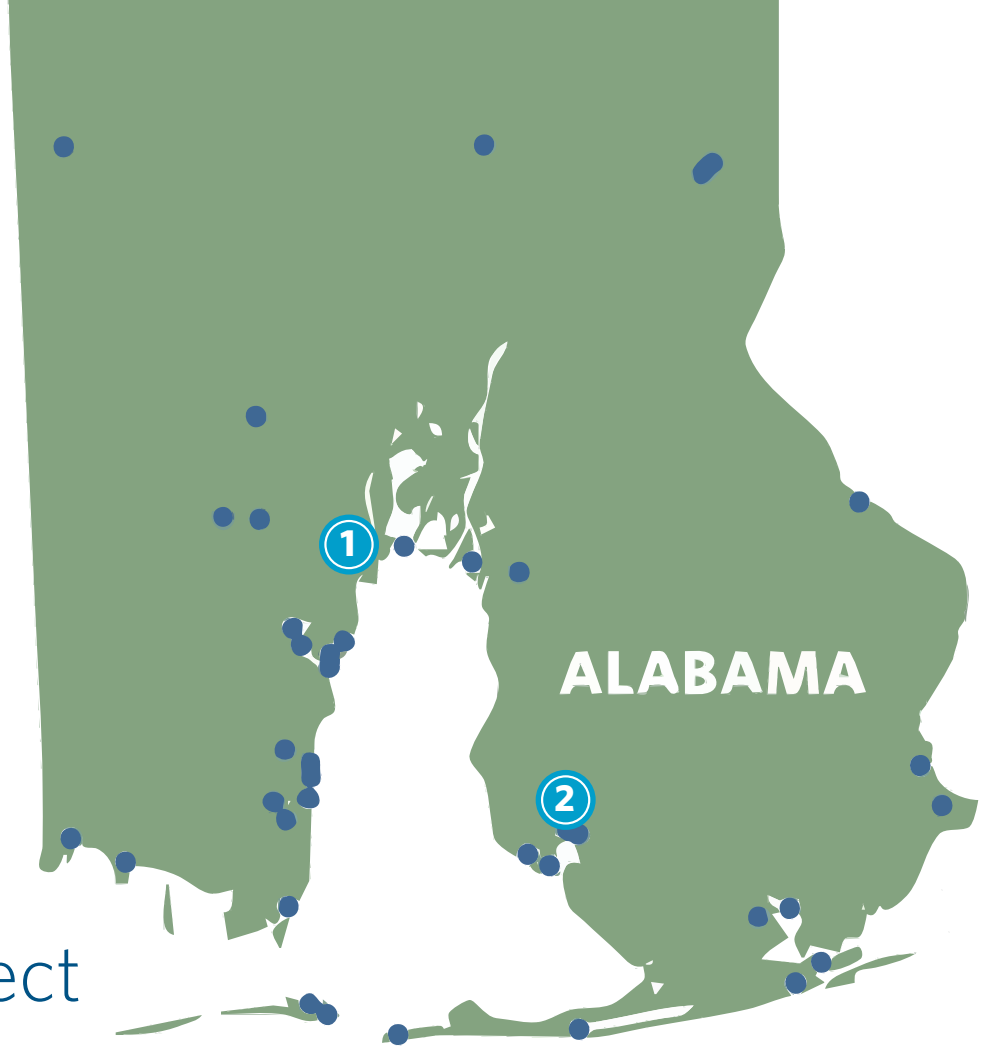
INVESTMENT \$2.274 million over 8 years

PROGRAM PARTNERS The Nature Conservancy, The Corps Network, Student Conservation Association, The Ember Alliance

FUNDING AGENCIES Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (sponsor)

PROJECT DATES 2017 - 2025

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Alabama Project Highlights

① SCA AL - AL1-3a: Three Mile Creek Apple Snail Removal

Beginning in January 2018, the SCA crews worked with the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division to eliminate invasive apple snails from the Three Mile Creek Watershed. The crews treated 58 acres of non-native plant species along the banks of Langan Lake to remove grass stalks the snails lay their egg sacks on. The crews removed 6,504 snails and 25,393 egg sacks across 168 acres of the watershed. While removing snails, the crews also removed litter and other debris from over 700 acres of the watershed. Removal efforts have successfully eliminated apple snails from the upper portion (roughly 35 acres) of Langan Lake.



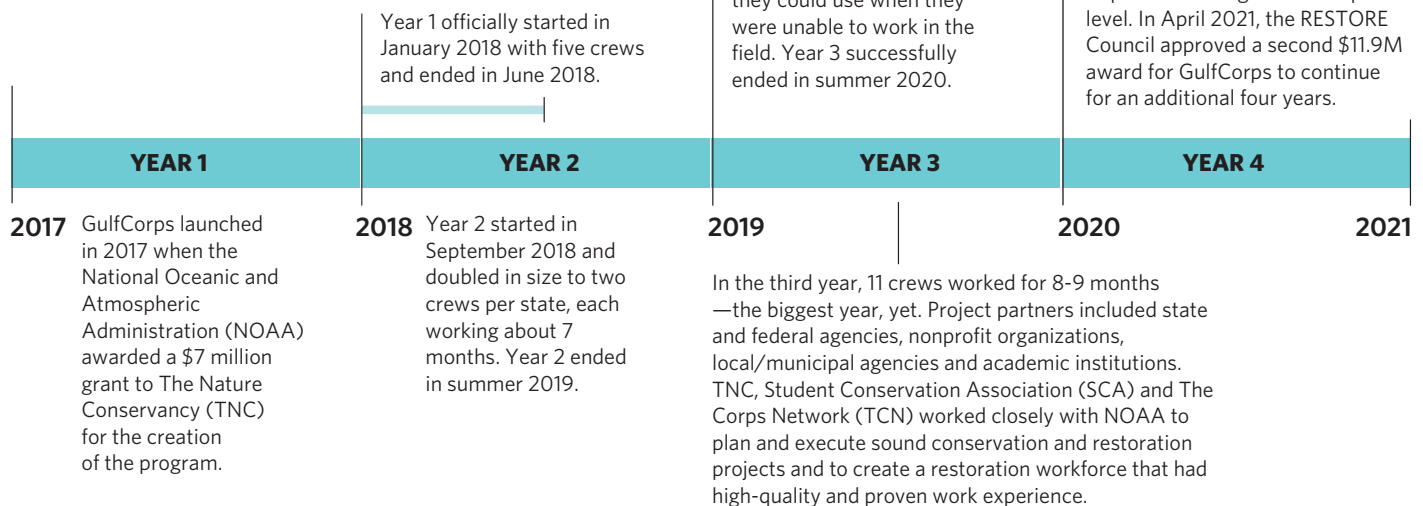
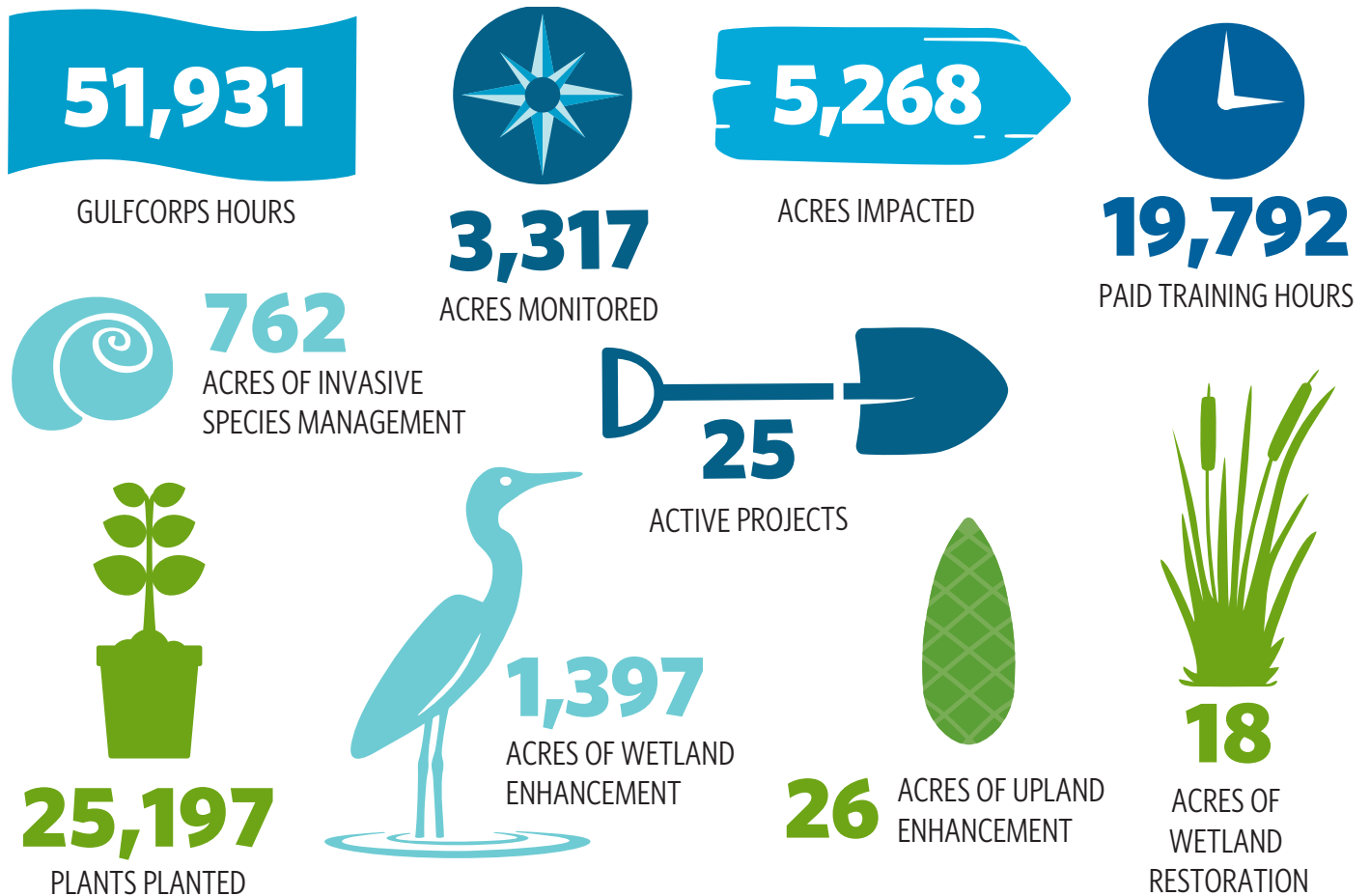
② SCA AL - AL1-2: South Alabama Land Trust (SALT)

In January 2018, the SCA crews began working with the Weeks Bay Foundation, now known as the South Alabama Land Trust. Over the last four years, the crews helped to restore and maintain eight of the Land Trust's properties. The crews treated 186 acres of invasive species, created nearly 2.5 miles of trails, and removed 43 acres of debris. The crews maintained fire breaks and assisted on prescribed burns totaling 25 acres. Through burning, felling trees, and thinning vegetation, the crew also helped restore 18 acres of pitcher plant bogs.



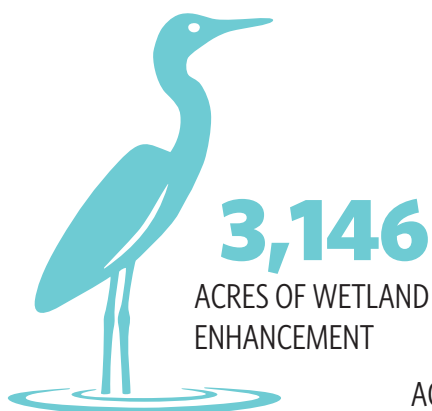
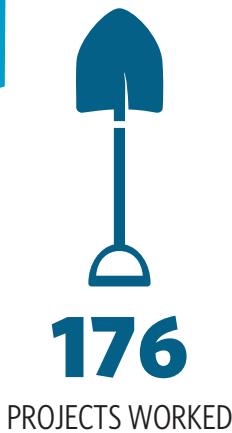
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Alabama By the Numbers





GC 1.0 By The Numbers





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Alabama Project Partners

During Years 1 - 4, SCA AL crews worked on meaningful coastal restoration projects under the direction of a range of federal, state, and community partners:

- Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- South Alabama Land Trust (formerly Weeks Bay Foundation)
- Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Forever Wild
- Alabama State Parks
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Dog River Clearwater Revival
- City of Mobile
- Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
- Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuary
- City of Orange Beach
- The Nature Conservancy in Alabama and Florida
- Beckwith Camp and Conference Center

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 Alabama, GulfCorps partners with Student Conservation Association (SCA), which was founded in 1957 with a mission to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of the environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land. Nationwide, 7 out of 10 SCA alumni go on to careers or studies that make the planet more sustainable. SCA efforts in the Gulf of Mexico have included everglades restoration after Hurricane Andrew in 1992, sea turtle protection, and, more recently, helping the Gulf states recover from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in Alabama.

Member Highlights



© Mike Dumas

Amber Rooney

Amber started as a GulfCorps crew member with SCA-AL in Year 3. After completing her GulfCorps term, she joined SCA's United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Geographic Information Systems (GIS) team as a crew member and was later promoted to crew leader. After completing her two-year term with the USACE GIS team, she returned to SCA-AL in a staff position as a Program Coordinator for the new GulfCorps 2.0 award. Amber now helps manage SCA-AL crews and assists in planning the annual program orientation.



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Eric Lucas

Eric Lucas was a crew member on the GulfCorps pilot program with the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program. He then served two seasons as a full time GulfCorps member and one season as an assistant crew leader. After Year 3, Eric joined an SCA burn crew. After this seasonal position ended, he accepted a position as a Public Works staff member with the City of Daphne, Alabama. Eric credits much of his successes to the networking skills he developed by working with multiple project partners during his GulfCorps terms.



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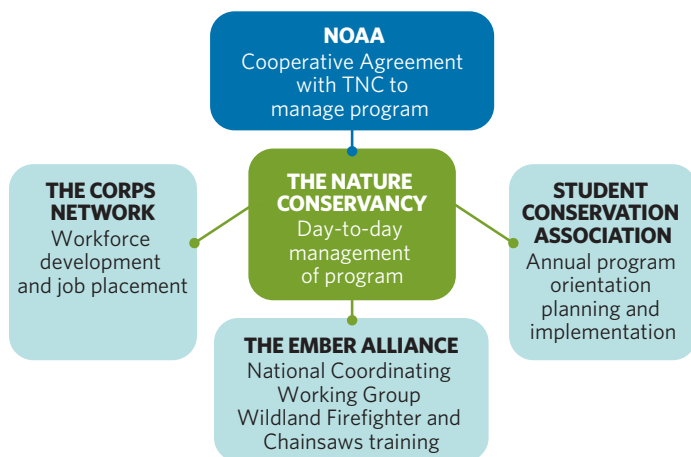
The GulfCorps Program Team

- NOAA Fisheries – Fiscal sponsor, environmental compliance, program advisor
- The Nature Conservancy – Program day-to-day operations, conservation and project planning, monitoring, implementation
- The Corps Network – Professional / Workforce development, member preparation to pursue careers in conservation and restoration, job placement, post-program tracking
- Student Conservation Association – Orientation planning and implementation

Through this project, NOAA, TNC and partners are

- Providing support to local conservation corps that recruit young adults from their communities. These young adults want to better their communities through restoration and conservation work. GulfCorps aims to recruit 75% of each crew from Gulf Coast communities.
- Providing young adults with the highest quality training, including project-related training, industry-recognized certifications, and workforce development opportunities. This combination of training, work experience and professional development fuels placements in environmental jobs, internships, externships and post-secondary educational opportunities.
- Working with stakeholders to select restoration projects that address ecological impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and that are consistent with the RESTORE Act's Comprehensive Plan.
- Monitoring progress over the course of the entire program to make certain the work is producing the desired environmental results.

Partner Roles



Sample Project Partners

US Fish and Wildlife Service (FL, AL, LA, TX) US Forest Service (MS), National Park Service (FL, MS, LA, TX), National Estuarine Research Reserves (FL, AL, TX)

Florida – St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve, St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association, Northwest Florida Water Management District, Florida Forest Service

Alabama – South Alabama Land Trust, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Dog River Clearwater Revival, Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuary

Mississippi – Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain

Louisiana – Louisiana Office of State Parks, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, North Lake Nature Center

Texas – Armand Bayou Nature Center, Artist Boat, City of Port Aransas, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Galveston Bay Foundation