



## MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

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# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***GCRP Seeks Proposals for its 12th Round of Citizen-driven Habitat Restoration Projects***

BILOXI, Miss. – The Gulf of Mexico Community-based Restoration Partnership (GCRP) invites proposals for its 12th round of citizen-driven habitat restoration projects. The partnership is seeking to fund on-the-ground projects to restore marine, estuarine and riparian habitats to benefit living marine resources and to provide educational and social benefits by significantly involving the community.

Funding for the 2012 cycle of the Gulf of Mexico Foundation's Community-based Restoration Partnership (CRP) <http://www.gulfmex.org/conservation-restoration/gulf-conservation-restoration-and-preservation/> is now available. Download Guidelines (PDF) at [http://www.gulfmex.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/2012\\_gcrp\\_rfp.pdf](http://www.gulfmex.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/2012_gcrp_rfp.pdf).

Submittal due date is August 30, 2012, 5 p.m. CDT. For more information, contact Meg Goecker at 251-861-2141 (Ext. 7509), [Meg.Goecker@noaa.gov](mailto:Meg.Goecker@noaa.gov).

The CRP has reached a milestone by providing grants for now more than 75 different projects in coastal areas throughout the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. Restoring a total of about 15,000 acres over the past decade, these CRP projects have improved a wide variety of habitat types, including coastal dunes, coral reefs, oyster reefs, marshes, seagrass beds, mangrove forests and artificial reefs. Funding from NOAA <http://www.noaa.gov/> and the EPA <http://www.epa.gov> make it possible for the GMF to provided more than \$3 million to project leaders. Other partners have contributed an additional \$5.5 million in funding, as well as 50,000 volunteer hours.

The GCRP is a multi-year, regional partnership between the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, Inc. (GMF), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Community-based Restoration Program (CRP), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Gulf of Mexico Program (GoMP), and the Gulf States and Caribbean Territories. The purpose of this partnership is to strengthen the conservation efforts of the NOAA CRP and EPA GoMP by supporting on-the-ground restoration activities and fostering local stewardship of ecologically significant areas.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at [www.dmr.ms.gov](http://www.dmr.ms.gov).

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