

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Mississippi

For Immediate Release

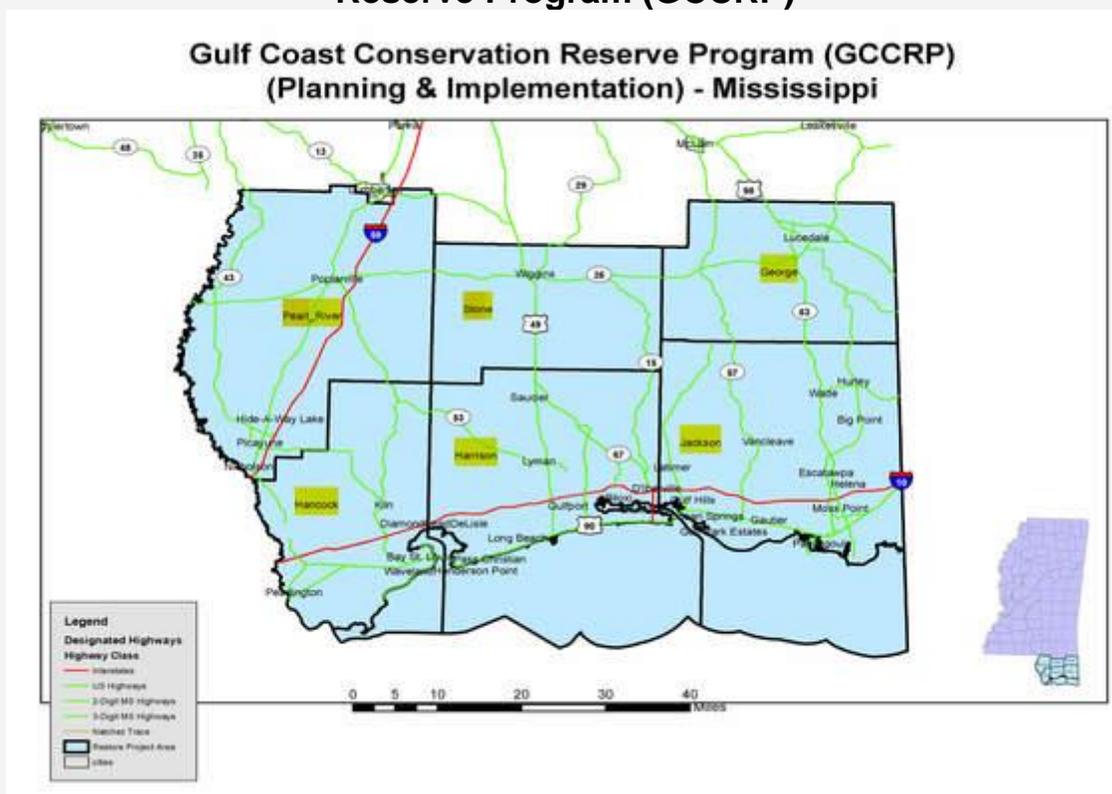
March 9, 2018

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USDA-NRCS Accepting Applications for Gulf Coast Conservation Reserve Program (GCCRP)



Jackson, Miss. –The United States Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is soliciting landowners that are interested in habitat restoration through the Gulf Coast Conservation Reserve Program (GCCRP).

GCCRP is a Category 1 project on the RESTORE Act funded Priorities List and will be established on approximately 9,000 acres across the Southeast for the purpose of protecting and restoring critical wildlife habitat. In Mississippi, 2,000 acres of restoration will take place in **George, Jackson, Hancock, Harrison, Pearl River, and Stone** counties.

The primary objective of GCCRP is to improve habitat conditions through the development and implementation of conservation plans and practices. The practices will contribute to the restoration and protection of the natural resources and wildlife habitats of Gulf Coast ecosystems. These ecosystems provide habitat for numerous threatened and endangered plant and animal species.

To qualify for this program, an applicant must have legal possession of the land. NRCS will be contracting vendors with technical expertise to execute conservation projects.

Applications for all NRCS assistance programs are accepted on a continuous basis with specific sign-up deadlines being established to rank, contract and fund qualified tracts of land. NRCS reserves the right to setup a GCCRP application ranking deadline, if needed. Applicants can sign up for GCCRP at their local NRCS office.

NRCS will be hosting outreach meetings to discuss GCCRP. The locations and dates are listed below:

Harrison County

April 11

Lyman Community Center
13472 Highway 49
Gulfport, MS 39503
5:00 p.m.

Stone County

April 11

The Lightered Knot
Mississippi Coastal Plains RC&D Council, Inc.,
401 E. Pine Ave.
Wiggins, MS 39577
2:00 p.m.

Pearl River County

April 16

United Methodist Church (Fellowship Hall)
202 West Church Street
Poplarville, MS 39470
9:00 a.m.

Hancock County

April 16

Community Center (near MS-603 and MS-53 intersection)
30360 Hwy 603
Perkinston, MS 39573
2:00 p.m.

George County

April 24

Agricola Community Center
3161 Cooks Corner Road
Lucedale, MS 39452
10:00 a.m.

Jackson County

April 24

East Central Community Center

4300 Highway 614

Moss Point, MS 39562

2:00 p.m.

For more information, visit the NRCS website:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ms/home/>.

To locate the nearest NRCS office, visit <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

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