



SERPPAS Circular

July/August/September 2025

The SERPPAS Circular is a quarterly collection of media coverage, funding opportunities, and upcoming events/webinars from SERPPAS Partners across the Southeast. Updates are collected from websites, press releases, and newsletters, and organized according to the focus areas outlined in the 2025 SERPPAS Strategic Plan. If you have information to share in the next SERPPAS Circular, please email your input directly to SERPPAS: info@serppas.org.

FEATURED

► **Fall 2025 SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting:**

- The Fall 2025 SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting was held on August 27-28, 2025, in Atlanta, GA. The SERPPAS Steering Committee continues to support the work group actions in advancing the SERPPAS Strategic Plan, connect the SERPPAS Steering Committee in person, and prepare for the 2025 SERPPAS Principals Meeting. See the agenda with resources here: https://serppas.org/media/vmknwma5/fall-2025-serppas-steering-committee-meeting_agenda_post-meeting.pdf (Please note some draft resources linked in this document may be outdated.)

► **SAVE THE DATE: SERPPAS 2025 Principals Meeting**

- The 2025 SERPPAS Principals Meeting will take place on November 18-19, 2025, in Pinehurst/Southern Pines, NC. The meeting will honor and reflect on the 20th anniversary of the partnership and consider ways SERPPAS can continue to address the important challenges and opportunities affecting national defense, natural resources, working lands, and installation resilience in the Southeast. For more details and registration information, please visit: <https://serppas.org/resources/serppas-meetings/2025/november/2025-serppas-principals-meeting/>

IN THE NEWS

► **Spotlight**

- SASMI released a new film series on marsh migration, produced in collaboration with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Guided by SASMI Coalition input, the three short films address marsh migration as a priority communication and outreach topic, explaining what it is and highlighting its impacts at both regional and local levels. The films are available on the SASMI website and YouTube:
 - *Marsh Migration Primer*: <https://youtu.be/XzmyNQYrjdo>
 - *Adaptation in Local Communities*: https://youtu.be/xO_A7NoNrWg?si=nzUcFlt-HBPeZodM
 - *Restoring Habitat Connectivity*: https://youtu.be/3yPsXQ8B8E4?si=pt_yemTUisX9puD
- This summer, the Trust for Public Land announced an exciting new program that seeks to leverage outdoor recreation as a catalyst for economic revitalization, health equity, and climate resilience. The Appalachia United Outdoors: Connecting Communities and Outdoor Recreation Economies initiative is a multi-state effort funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission to help communities throughout Appalachia strengthen their local economies through stewarding their natural assets and developing sustainable outdoor recreation infrastructure. Through this initiative,



TPL will convene a coalition of more than 40 partners to support local communities in realizing new trails, community forests, and outdoor destinations, while providing training and capacity-building support to communities to ensure that they are positioned to thoughtfully develop their outdoor recreation economies. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.tpl.org/our-work/appalachia-united-outdoors-program>

- The Nature Conservancy's Living Shorelines Community Assistance Program is now accepting applications from coastal South Carolina residents. The program provides fully permitted, professionally designed living shorelines to help prevent erosion and restore salt marsh on private and community properties. Priority will be given to waterfront landowners experiencing erosion, under-resourced communities with public shoreline spaces, small businesses and organizations on the coast, and culturally significant sites at risk. **Applications are open for 2025**, and successful applicants will have projects installed beginning in 2027. For details, visit: <https://scor.sc.gov/TNC-CAP>
- The Economic Development Administration (EDA) FY 2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program makes approximately \$1.45 billion in disaster recovery funding available to American communities that received major disaster declarations due to hurricanes, wildfires, severe storms and flooding, tornadoes, and other natural disasters occurring in calendar years 2023 and 2024. Readiness and Implementation grant applications will be accepted and reviewed on an ongoing (rolling) basis until funds are exhausted, or the Notice of Funding Opportunity is canceled. Industry Transformation grant applications are due on **Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 5 p.m. Eastern Time**. For more information, please visit: https://www.eda.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/FY2025_Disaster_Supplemental_Fact_Sheet.pdf
- USDA announced eligible livestock producers will receive disaster recovery assistance through the Emergency Livestock Relief Program for 2023 and 2024 Flood and Wildfire (ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW) to help offset increased supplemental feed costs due to a qualifying flood or qualifying wildfire in calendar years 2023 and 2024. The program is expected to provide approximately \$1 billion in recovery benefits. Livestock producers have until **October 31, 2025**, to apply for assistance. For more information, please visit: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/20232024-supplemental-disaster-assistance?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- The National Wildlife Federation's Nature-based Solutions Funding Database includes 86 federal grant programs for communities interested in pursuing federal funding and/or technical assistance for nature-based solutions. To visit the database, please click here: <https://fundingnaturebasedsolutions.nwf.org/>
- More funding opportunities can be found on the SERPPAS website: <https://serppas.org/resources/funding-opportunities/>

► Sentinel Landscapes

- The 2024 Sentinel Landscapes Accomplishments Report highlights a federal, state, and local partnership that has conserved over 751,000 acres and enrolled 2.5 million acres in voluntary programs. In the Southeast, where military installations and fire-adapted ecosystems overlap, integrating prescribed fire within Sentinel Landscapes supports both conservation and training readiness. These efforts provide critical pathways for expanding prescribed fire through funding, collaboration, and technical assistance across public and private lands. To read the full report,



please visit: <https://sentinellandscapes.org/media/ctzghaoo/2024-sentinel-landscapes-accomplishments-report.pdf>

- The Network for Landscape Conservation is pleased to announce 18 Catalyst Fund grant awards for Partnerships working to implement place-based, community-grounded conservation at the necessary landscape scale. Catalyst Fund grants are intended to allow for strategic investments in strengthening a Partnership's collaborative capacity in ways that create enduring forward momentum within the Partnership and accelerate conservation progress into the future. Particular congratulations goes to the Ocmulgee Partnership in Middle Georgia. For more details on this partnership and the other 2025 grant winners, please visit: <https://landscapeconservation.org/catalyst-fund/2025-catalyst-fund-grant-awards/>
- Working Lands Trust has completed the McCotter Promised Land Opportunity Zone Farm Easement in Pamlico County, permanently conserving 2,768 acres of farmland and forest. This is the largest agricultural easement funded under a single landowner in North Carolina and the second-largest in state history. Supported by the NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund and the Department of Defense's REPI program, the project protects productive farmland, strengthens rural economies, and prevents land-use conflicts while advancing long-term conservation goals. To read more: <https://www.workinglandstrust.org/working-lands-trust-secures-second-largest-agricultural-easement-in-north-carolina-history/>
- Conservation Florida has permanently protected 2,317 acres of Eagle Haven Ranch, a critical ecological area along Lake Kissimmee's shoreline in the Northern Everglades. Once threatened by luxury resort development, the land is now safeguarded through a conservation easement supported by partners including philanthropists Arnie and Lauren Bellini, the U.S. Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program, and the USDA's Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) Program. To learn more, visit: <https://conservationfla.org/cflnews/eagle-haven>
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced the award of \$150 million through the Resilient Florida Program, including two projects in Northwest Florida. The program provides grants to local communities to strengthen our coastal and inland communities against the impacts of flooding. The City of Milton was awarded \$16,900,640 for the North Santa Rosa Water Reclamation Facility – Resilient Wastewater Treatment Plant. The City of Pensacola was awarded \$1,533,187 for the Pensacola Airport Resiliency and Shoreline Adaptation project. Since its inception, the Resilient Florida Program has invested more than \$1.8 billion to enhance Florida's coastal and inland resilience. For Fiscal Year 2025-26, Florida has committed more than \$200 million toward statewide resilience. To view the complete list of funded projects, please visit: <https://protectingfloridatogether.gov/sites/default/files/documents/FY%202025-26%20Statewide%20Resilience%20Plan%20Project%20List.pdf>
- The Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape released their April, May, and June Updates newsletters that provides news, resources, partner collaboration, and partnership progress:
 - July: https://serppas.org/media/clrkjldl/2025_07-northwest-florida-sentinel-landscape-update-july-2025.pdf
 - August: https://serppas.org/media/3mddnkkn/2025_08-northwest-florida-sentinel-landscape-update-august-2025.pdf
 - September: https://serppas.org/media/xrsmchdy/2025_08-northwest-florida-sentinel-landscape-update-september-2025.pdf



- The Network for Landscape Conservation released its bi-monthly newsletter, The Landscape Conservation Bulletin, sharing timely news, information, topics, and upcoming conferences and opportunities within the field of landscape conservation:
 - July: <https://serppas.org/media/axleudmh/nflc-july.pdf>
 - September: https://serppas.org/media/xrsmchdy/2025_08-northwest-florida-sentinel-landscape-update-september-2025.pdf

► **At-Risk, Threatened, and Endangered Species**

- The Longleaf Alliance is seeking potential sites to harvest pinecones in the fall, due to the anticipated seed shortage that comes with a low estimate of seed-producing cones for the third year in a row. According to the Longleaf Pinecone Prospects for 2025 Report released in June, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) estimates that the cone crop for longleaf pines in the Southeast will be poor this year. Landowners with mature stands yielding fair or better cone crops are encouraged to report observations via an online survey to connect with harvest crews.
 - USFS study here: <https://coastalreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/2025-REPORT-on-Longleaf-Pine-Cone-Production.pdf>
 - Longleaf Alliance article: <https://coastalreview.org/2025/07/longleaf-alliance-seeks-areas-to-harvest-pine-cone-crops/>
- North Carolina State University's (NCSU) Extension Forestry Program recently released a fact sheet on research related to "FloodWise" management. FloodWise research focuses on enhancing disaster resilience for communities, organizations, and states to adapt to and recover from the hazards, shocks, or stress from various natural disasters while not impacting future development. This research can inform farm and forest landowners in the best ways to improve their land for water retention and storage in order to reduce flood-related health and safety concerns. This fact sheet is a "step-by-step management roadmap" which provides guidance for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of each of the 10 nature-based solutions identified from the research. To find out more about the research and its application and budget tools for implementation, please see the fact sheet here: <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/floodwise-nature-based-solutions-management-roadmap>
- the U.S. Forest Service announced a \$2.1 million investment in four new projects to restore state and private forestlands across nine Southern states. These projects aim to reduce wildfire risk, boost timber production, support rural economies, and assist landowners in maintaining healthy forests. Funding comes through the Landscape Scale Restoration program, which awarded over \$7 million nationally. The funded Southern Region projects include Longleaf Pine Restoration in Louisiana, Florida, and North Carolina. Forestry Workforce Training in Tennessee, Kentucky, and North Carolina will develop a skilled forestry workforce and is expected to produce 550,000 board feet of timber. Upland Oak Restoration in Tennessee, Arkansas, and Kentucky will focus on oak ecosystem restoration, invasive species removal, and disease management. Forests and Water Partnerships in South Carolina, Georgia, and Texas will support watershed-level forest management with 2,100 acres under new forest plans and 50 acres of tree planting. These efforts support broader goals of forest health and sustainability across the region. Since 2018, USFS has awarded 359 grants totaling \$91.2 million nationwide. To learn more, please visit:



<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r08/newsroom/releases/usda-forest-service-invests-four-projects-restore-state-and-private-forests>

- The Wildlife Management Institute highlights growing nationwide efforts to protect pollinators. Species such as the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, Monarch Butterfly, and ‘I‘iwi bird are experiencing declines due to habitat loss, pesticide use, invasive plants, and changing weather patterns. Initiatives like the *Conservation Without Conflict* coalition and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program encourage landowners to voluntarily adopt practices such as planting native vegetation and minimizing pesticide use, which promote pollinator recovery while sustaining productive working lands. For more information visit:
<https://wildlifemanagement.institute/outdoor-news-bulletin/september-2025/nationwide-effort-protect-pollinators-gains-momentum>
- The Jones Center at Ichauway released the Spring 2025 edition of their newsletter that provides updates on research and other activities at the center.
 - Summer 2025: <https://serppas.org/media/vdqjzqip/jones-center-summer-2025.pdf>
- The July, August, and September editions of Tall Timbers eNews are now available. The monthly newsletter provides the latest news and stories from Tall Timbers on prescribed fire, wildlife management, and land conservation:
 - July: <https://serppas.org/media/hfmo4ps2/tall-timbers-july.pdf>
 - August: https://serppas.org/media/mmipmfwu/tall-timbers-august_september.pdf
 - September: <https://serppas.org/media/b3yhbtzr/tall-timbers-september.pdf>
- The Southern Regional Extension of Forestry has released its 194th through 198th issues of their News Digest which shares relevant news and updates.
 - Issue 194: <http://bit.ly/4nlCFXY>
 - Issue 195: <http://bit.ly/46B12v1>
 - Issue 196: <http://bit.ly/4pLJROY>
 - Issue 197: <http://bit.ly/4nwzSLJ>
 - Issue 198: <http://bit.ly/46n6Rfn>

► Southeast Prescribed Fire Initiative

- The Ember Alliance released its 2024 Year in Review highlighting significant accomplishments in wildfire resilience and community engagement. In 2024, the organization conducted prescribed burns on more than 12,000 acres, completed three Community Wildfire Protection Plans in collaboration with Colorado communities, and provided training and outreach to over 800 students, landowners, fire practitioners, and community planners through a range of programs. These efforts reflect The Ember Alliance’s commitment to advancing fire-adapted landscapes, strengthening community preparedness, and supporting long-term ecosystem health. To learn more, visit: <https://emberalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2024-Accomplishment-Report-Final-BOD.pdf>
- Over the summer, lawmakers introduced a bipartisan bill, the National Prescribed Fire Act of 2025, which aims to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires by investing in hazardous fuels management. The legislation would accelerate and expand the use of prescribed burns during cooler, wetter months. It also seeks to develop a technically skilled prescribed fire workforce, introduce advanced tools for improved smoke management, and streamline permitting for winter burns—ultimately



helping to prevent destructive fires and heavy smoke during the summer. To read more about the bill, please visit: <https://www.carolinajournal.com/budd-introduces-national-prescribed-fire-act-of-2025/>

- The Southern Fire Exchange supported North Carolina State University’s recent Fire Week by facilitating agency collaboration, sharing fire science resources, and promoting applied learning. Team members Dr. Joseph Roise, Dr. Jennifer Fawcett, Dr. Rae Crandall, and Sarah Cain served as event staff, with Jenn and Sarah leading student squads. Dr. Crandall led an activity where students used matchstick forest experiments to explore how weather, topography, and fuels influence fire behavior. Students also received SFE materials and learned how to stay updated on fire science and tools. To learn more, please visit: <https://forestry.ces.ncsu.edu/2025/07/fueling-the-next-generation-of-fire/>
- The Southern Fire Exchange released its bi-monthly newsletter Fire Lines, which contains news, updates, and events relevant to fire activities across the region.
 - July: <https://bit.ly/4mqSf3g>
 - September: <http://bit.ly/3W9YRZ6>
- The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 105th – 107th editions of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here:
 - July: <https://bit.ly/4n9UuZU>
 - August: <https://bit.ly/4gAcb2s>
 - September: <https://bit.ly/46vp8WP>
- The Ember Alliance has released the July, August, and September versions of their newsletter, which features news stories and updates.
 - July: <https://bit.ly/3Vsj0cJ>
 - August: <https://bit.ly/46tvcz4>
 - September: <https://bit.ly/4nJLDOJ>

► Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation

- Scientists with Texas A&M AgriLife Research are leading a NASA-backed effort to develop a predictive tool that could transform how the U.S. approaches wetland conservation. Together with collaborators from Pennsylvania State University, the researchers are analyzing “big data” sets, including satellite imagery and 25 years of weather data, to detect early warning signs of decline in tidal wetlands across the country. They aim to produce a new tool that identifies and predicts tipping points to help decision-makers invest restoration and remediation funding where it can help the most. To learn more, please visit: <https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2025/06/03/study-to-forecast-ecological-tipping-points-for-u-s-wetlands/>
- In response to recurring impacts of drought in the region, NOAA’s National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) has launched a Mississippi River Basin Drought and Water Dashboard with partners from NOAA’s National Centers for Environmental Information and National Weather Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Geological Survey, and states and localities. To explore the dashboard, please visit: <https://www.drought.gov/watersheds/mississippi-river-dashboard>



- The Spring 2025 update to North Carolina’s Flood Resiliency Blueprint, North Carolina’s science-based and stakeholder-driven initiative, is designed to support the planning, evaluation, and implementation of flood resilience strategies. To learn more, click here: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/mitigation-services/ncdeq-flood-resiliency-blueprint-spring-2025-report/open>
- SECASC is excited to introduce the Project Explorer, a new interactive map that makes it easy to see where and how SE CASC science is being useful and used. The map brings together over 90 projects across the Southeast and Caribbean, each designed to support the people, places, and ecosystems that depend on climate adaptation science. To learn more about the Explorer and to view the tool, please visit: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2025/09/05/project-explorer/>
- Newly developed Surface Elevation Table (SET) Map Infographics are now available from the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA). These maps illustrate surface elevation trends across SASMI states and the region, showing monitoring station locations and whether sites are keeping pace with sea level rise. The goal is to support clear, accessible communication on coastal elevation change. To explore these map infographics: <https://secoora.org/set-community-of-practice-resource-hub/#:~:text=Infographics%20%E2%80%93,Elevation,-Results>
- The SE Climate Adaptation Science Center released its July, August, and September Newsletters, which include climate-related news, resources, publications, webinars, and more for the Southeast region:
 - July: <https://bit.ly/46clSzy>
 - August: <http://bit.ly/4nSYONm>
 - September: <http://bit.ly/3KkpNmq>
- The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy released its July, August, and September Newsletters, which combine all the blogs written on the SECAS website during the previous month:
 - July: <http://bit.ly/42Q1MKd>
 - August: <http://bit.ly/46TXBiV>
 - September: <http://bit.ly/4nV6hvb>
- The South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative released its April, May, and June Newsletters, which include salt marsh-related news, updates on SASMI efforts, and relevant funding opportunities.
 - July: <https://serppas.org/media/b0zg0sbi/sasmi-july.pdf>
 - August: <https://serppas.org/media/pmwec2u3/sasmi-august.pdf>
 - September: <https://serppas.org/media/vvlp2dp2/sasmi-september.pdf>



► Energy Development and Siting

- The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office is in the process of transitioning the operational execution of the Army Regional Environmental Coordinator (REC) mission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health (DASA(ESOH)) at the end of Fiscal Year 2025. This transition is part of the ongoing process to reduce and realign the program in accordance with a decision made by senior Army principles in July 2024. As a result of this realignment, production of the REC regional monthly Review publication ceased after the June 2025 issue. All inquiries about this transition should be directed to Ms. Anisha Downs at DASA(ESOH) at: anisha.j.downs.civ@mail.mil

► Military Services News

- The Department of the Air Force entered and won seven of nine categories in the 2025 Department of Defense Environmental Awards. Air Force Base Eglin in Florida claimed the Sustainability, Non-Industrial Installation award, and Moody Air Force Base in Georgia won the Sustainability Team Award. The awards recognize installations, teams, and individuals for their exceptional achievements in effective environmental management strategies that enhance installation resilience and mission readiness. For 63 years, the DoD Environmental Awards have recognized Department of Defense military members and civilians who make significant contributions to protect natural and cultural resources, human health, and the environment. A panel of judges from federal and state agencies, academia, and the private sector evaluated nominations from DoD Components to determine the 2025 winners. For more information, please visit: <https://www.eglin.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/4262800/eglin-claims-a-2025-dod-environmental-award/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 4, 2025: [2025 Fire in the Pines Festival](#) (Wilmington, NC)
- October 6-12, 2025: [Florida Climate Week](#) (Various Locations, FL and Virtual)
- October 15-17, 2025: [National Habitat Conservation Plan Coalition 2025 Annual Meeting](#) (Washington, D.C.)
- October 22-23, 2025: [Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscapes Partnership's 3rd Annual Meeting](#) (Milton, FL)
- October 22-25, 2025: [2025 Society of American Foresters National Convention](#) (Hartford, CT)
- October 26-29, 2025: [SEAFWA 2025 79th Annual Conference | Mississippi](#) (Biloxi, MS)
- October 29-30, 2025: [Fall Longleaf Partnership Council Meeting](#) (Biloxi, MS)
- November 17-19, 2025: [2025 SERPPAS Principals Meeting](#) (Pinehurst, NC)
- December 2-5, 2025: [2025 DoD Applied Innovation Workshop](#) (Washington, DC)
- December 2-6, 2025: [Association for Fire Ecology: 11th International Fire Ecology and Management Conference](#) (New Orleans, LA)

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- Series: [Landscape Conservation Webinar Series](#) by the Network for Landscape Conservation
- Series: [Southeast Monthly Webinar Series](#) by NOAA
- Series: [NOAA Science Seminar Series](#) by NOAA



- ▶ Series: [SE CASC Science Seminar Series](#) by the SECASC
- ▶ Series: [Climate and Societal Interactions Division Nature-Based Solutions Webinar Series](#) by NOAA
- ▶ Series: [2025 REPI Webinar Series](#) by REPI
- ▶ Archived: All Southern Fire Exchange webinars are recorded and housed on the [SFE YouTube channel](#).
- ▶ Archived: [Science Seminar: Partnering with Fire – Learning from Tribal Nations and Indigenous Practices](#) by SECASC
- ▶ Archived: [Fire Weather Portal for the Southeast](#) by SECASC
- ▶ October 7, 2025: [Changing Large Wildfire Regime Dynamics in the Eastern United States](#) by the Oak Woodlands and Forests Fire Consortium
- ▶ October 15, 2025: [Conservation Finance Opportunities in Sentinel Landscapes: FEMA 101](#) by REPI
- ▶ October 15, 2025: [Science Seminar: Collaboratively Assessing the Status and Vulnerability of Bees in the Southeast and US Caribbean for Effective Management Action](#) by SEACASC
- ▶ October 21, 2025: [Seasonality of Fire Effects on Deer, Turkey, and Oak Regeneration](#) by the Oak Woodlands and Forests Fire Consortium
- ▶ October 29, 2025: [LANDFIRE Office Hours: Coordinating Smoke Management: Insights from Albany, Georgia’s Pilot Project](#) by LANDFIRE
- ▶ November 10, 2025: [Beyond Carbon: Maximizing a Forest’s Full Benefits](#) by the Southern Regional Extension of Forestry
- ▶ December 3, 2025: [LANDFIRE Office Hours: LANDFIRE Fuels Process](#) by LANDFIRE

For more information about SERPPAS, visit www.serppas.org, or email info@serppas.org