

SERPPAS Circular

October/November/December 2021

The SERPPAS Circular is a bimonthly 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 2021+ SERPPAS Strategic Plan. If you have information to share in the next SERPPAS Circular, please email your input directly to the SERPPAS Coordinator, Addie Thornton, at Addie.Thornton@aq.tamu.edu.

FEATURED

- Federal Agency Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plans: As directed by Executive Order 14008, major Federal agencies are required to develop an adaptation and resilience plan to address their most significant climate risks and vulnerabilities. In October, the White House announced the release of more than 20 Federal Agency Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plans. As part of these efforts, agencies will embed adaptation and resilience planning and implementation throughout their operations and programs and will continually update their adaptation plans. To learn more, click here: https://www.sustainability.gov/adaptation/ and <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/10/07/fact-sheet-biden-administration-releases-agency-climate-adaptation-and-resilience-plans-from-across-federal-government/
 - Department of Defense:
 - The <u>Department of Defense Climate Adaptation Plan</u> (CAP) articulates DoD's bold vision for climate adaptation and aligns adaptation and resilience efforts with the DoD's warfighting mission. The DoD Climate Adaptation Plan lays out how operations, planning activities, business processes, and resource allocation decisions will include climate change considerations. To read more, please visit: https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2787056/dod-announces-plan-to-tackle-climate-crisis/
 - DoD also released a companion document summarizing how DoD has been working to address climate change over the past decade. The <u>Companion Document to the CAP</u> showcases a selection of the projects undertaken to address climate changes, summarizes current projects (some of which are part of the REPI program and Sentinel Landscapes), and outlines the five Line of Efforts the DoD is taking towards climate change adaptation and resilience. To read more, please visit: https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2832914/dod-efforts-showcased-in-climate-adaptation-companion-document/
 - To read the Secretary of Defense's statement on the Climate Adaptation Plan, click here: https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/2803761/statement-by-secretary-of-defense-lloyd-j-austin-iii-on-the-department-of-defen/
 - Department of the Interior: The <u>Department of the Interior Climate Action Plan</u> outlines how DOI will use science as the foundation for planning and decision-making related to climate change risks, impacts and vulnerabilities. To read more, please visit:



 $\underline{https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-releases-climate-adaptation-and-resilience-plan}$

- <u>Department of Agriculture</u>: The USDA's <u>Action Plan for Climate Adaptation and Resilience</u> describes how USDA will prepare for current and future impacts of climate change. The Adaptation Plan is aligned with a renewed and broad effort across USDA to prioritize climate action and increase resilience to climate impacts among American producers, landowners, and communities. To read more, please visit: https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/10/07/usda-announces-plan-integrate-climate-adaptation-its-missions-and
- ▶ REPI Resilience Primer: The new REPI resilience primer, Building Resilience to Climate Change Through Off-Base Natural Infrastructure Solutions, is now available. This REPI resilience primer guides installations and partners through the steps of developing REPI resilience projects and outlines how to pursue REPI funding for natural infrastructure solutions and climate adaptation. The interactive REPI resilience primer website is also available and contains the Climate Resilience Resources Library which allows users to peruse hundreds of resilience reports, fact sheets, webinars, and programs all in one place: https://repiprimers.org/resilience/

IN THE NEWS

Spotlight

- (NFWF/NOAA) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, in coordination with NOAA, is accepting proposals for the 2021 Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund (ECRF) to support projects that increase the resilience of coastal communities impacted by hurricanes and wildfires in 2020 or 2021. NFWF will award approximately \$24 million in grants to create and restore natural systems to help protect coastal communities from the impacts of coastal storms, floods, sea-level rise, inundation, coastal erosion, wildfires and associated landslides/debris flows, and enable communities to recover more quickly from these events, all while improving habitats for fish and wildlife species. Applications are due by February 3, 2022. For more information, please visit: https://www.nfwf.org/programs/emergency-coastal-resilience-fund/emergency-coastal-resilience-fund-2021-request-proposals
- (SERDP) The DoD Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) is seeking environmental research and development proposals under Core Solicitations for funding beginning in FY2023. SERDP is requesting proposals that respond to the following focused Statements of Need (SONs) in Resource Conservation and Resiliency: (1) Advanced Understanding and Methods of Invasive Species Control and (2) Innovative Approaches to Resolving Sea-Level Related Data and Datum Gaps Worldwide. Pre-proposals are due January 6, 2022, by 2:00pm ET. To learn more, please visit: https://www.serdp-estcp.org/Funding-Opportunities/SERDP-Solicitations
- (Enviva) The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities is accepting new Request for Proposals for the Enviva Forest Conservation Fund. \$500,000 funding will be awarded to protect bottomland hardwood and other wetland forests in eastern North Carolina and southeast Virginia. Not-for-profit organizations, government agencies, and tribes are eligible to apply for grants. Applications are due by January 28, 2022. For more information, please visit: https://www.usendowment.org/2022-enviva-forest-conservation-fund-request-for-proposals/





- (FEMA) FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program released the
 FY 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity. For FY 2021, the BRIC program will distribute up to \$1
 billion for mitigation projects that enhance climate resilience and adaptation; incorporate
 nature-based solutions; and incentivize natural hazard risk reduction to mitigate risk to public
 infrastructure. Applications are due by January 28, 2022, at 3pm ET. For more information,
 please visit: https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/fy2021-nofo
- (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has announced the release of the 2022 request for proposals under the Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund. NFWF is soliciting proposals within the Cumberland Plateau region that will help accelerate the restoration and enhancement of critical forest and freshwater habitats and associated wildlife species in the region, including parts of Alabama and Georgia. Applications are due by February 10, 2022. For more information, please visit: https://www.nfwf.org/programs/cumberland-plateau-stewardship-fund-2022-request-proposals
- (DOI/USDA) The U.S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture have created the "Tribal Homelands Initiative" through a Joint Secretarial Order on Fulfilling the Trust Responsibility to Indian Tribes in the Stewardship of Federal Lands and Waters. This collaborative effort will improve federal stewardship of public lands, waters, and wildlife by strengthening the role of Tribal communities in federal land management. To learn more, please visit:
 - https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-and-agriculture-departments-take-actionstrengthen-tribal-co-stewardship
 - https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/elips/documents/so-3403-joint-secretarialorder-on-fulfilling-the-trust-responsibility-to-indian-tribes-in-the-stewardship-offederal-lands-and-waters.pdf
 - https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/11/15/fact-sheet-building-a-new-era-of-nation-to-nation-engagement/
 - https://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/news-updates/2021/11/15/white-house-commits-to-elevating-indigenous-knowledge-in-federal-policy-decisions/

▶ Sentinel Landscapes

- (OLDCC) The DoD's Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation released the <u>Defense</u>
 <u>Spending by State Fiscal Year 2020</u>, the results of a state-by-state analysis of DoD personnel
 and contractual spending during FY 2020. State and local officials may use this information to
 assess a region's dependence on defense spending and to target assistance to support more
 resilient communities and companies. For more information, click here: https://oldcc.gov/dod-releases-report-defense-spending-state-fiscal-year-2020
- (TNC) The Nature Conservancy and partners have completed the protection of the essential and diverse landscape of Ravensworth Farms, a 1,069-acre working cattle ranch in Highlands County, Florida. The conservation easement placed on the ranch permanently prohibits development on the property while allowing cattle ranching operations to continue uninterrupted. The protection of Ravensworth Farms supports the collaborative conservation effort designated by the Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape in which the property is located. To learn more, click here: https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/florida-ravensworth-farms-conservation-easement/ and https://youtu.be/lbig0j4Hx9A





- (NLC) The Network for Landscape Conservation released its bimonthly newsletter, The Landscape Conservation Bulletin, sharing timely news, information, topics, and upcoming conferences and opportunities within the field of landscape conservation:
 - September: https://myemail.constantcontact.com/September-Bulletin-Network-for-Landscape-Conservation.html?soid=1128366788872&aid= LRf-dab jY
 - November: https://myemail.constantcontact.com/November-Bulletin-Network-for-Landscape-Conservation.html?soid=1128366788872&aid=aygzNsY19tl
- (REPI) The October and December REPI Newsletters are now available, providing exciting news and announcements related to the REPI community.

October: https://bit.ly/3qfumRfDecember: https://bit.ly/3pgHzKp

Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species

- (FL) Florida lawmakers approved the purchase of six parcels of land totally nearly 20,000 acres
 to be preserved as key links in the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Two of the six parcels are part of
 projects to restore longleaf pine habitat. To learn more, please visit:
 https://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/environment/2021-09-22/lawmakers-purchase-land-in-first-steps-toward-implementing-florida-wildlife-corridor-act
- (ALRI) A new report highlights how America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative formed and the
 elements that have made it successful over the last decade as a model for the U.S. Forest
 Service concept of Shared Stewardship. To read more, click here:
 https://americaslongleaf.org/media/qm2pztj0/alri_sharedstewpilotreport_tncfinal.pdf
- (LLA) A new story map from The Longleaf Alliance and Enviva tells the story of two North
 Carolina landowners in their quest to manage and restore longleaf pine on their properties. To
 learn more, please visit:
 https://spark.adobe.com/page/xu3bvfgclinfW/?fbclid=lwAR39y5vWZMEVrzFyXJQ-c84G1FU5uQMT0gbMqUp32hiOw43Q-p1 C29LHq4
- (WUNC) Growing research has shown that longleaf pine is especially resilient to climate change.
 To read more, please visit: https://www.wunc.org/environment/2021-09-28/longleaf-pine-resiliency-restoration-climate-change-southern-north-carolina
- (FL FWC) The Florida Springs Watershed Dashboard and Prioritization Tool provides a means to explore characteristics of and threats to springs watersheds (HUC12), and to prioritize springs watersheds for addressing specific conservation and/or management questions. To learn more, please visit: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/0e8a7816a50e48d390dd2cdf86e6b079
- (TT) The latest edition of Tall Timbers eNews is now available. The quarterly newsletter provides the latest news and stories from Tall Timbers on prescribed fire, wildlife management, and land conservation: https://talltimbers.org/category/fall-winter-2021-vol-14-no-3/
- (SPFFW) The Southeastern Partnership for Forests & Water released their Fall 2021 newsletter containing news surrounding the pursuit of healthy Southeastern forested watersheds: https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=f89d0d72b5ef08c415a5c6969&id=8f6a688682

Southeast Prescribed Fire Initiative

(NWCG) The Southeast Prescribed Fire Training Needs Survey was conducted online in January
 2021 to assess the state of both National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) and non-NWCG





prescribed fire training in the Southeast region. Based on survey results, a set of recommendations were developed to meet prescribed fire training needs in the Southeast region. The final report and a one-page briefing paper are now available. The Southeast Regional Strategy Committee Prescribed Fire Coordinating Group will now work with agencies, partners, and stakeholders to initiate discussion to prioritize recommendations to work for implementing or resolving the identified issues from the survey.

- Final Report: https://serppas.org/media/3304/serxfire-trainingneeds-finalreport-lr.pdf
- One-page Briefing Paper: https://southernfireexchange.org/wp-content/uploads/SERxFire-Training-Summary1Pg-LR.pdf
- (TT) Tall Timbers has developed the Southeast Prescribed Burn Permit Geodatabase to map and analyze the frequency of prescribed burns by interactively displaying the date, acreage, burn type, and location of fire events throughout the southeastern U.S. The project will assist both land managers and scientists interested in state- and regional-level data on temporal and spatial patterns in prescribed fire application. To learn more, please visit: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e7874f748835451293e60db384a0482f
- (CFLCP) A new landowner field trip program launched in Georgia that allows landowners to attend a planned burn on another private landowner's property or a local partner-led burn. To read more, click here: https://research.cnr.ncsu.edu/blogs/southeast-fire-update/2021/11/10/landowner-field-trip-lft-program-launches-in-georgia/
- (SERPPAS) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 61st, 62nd, and 63rd editions of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here:

October: https://bit.ly/3mnM7NhNovember: https://bit.ly/3H1WSMV

December: https://bit.ly/3yP9TXa

• (SFE) The Southern Fire Exchange released its bimonthly newsletter, Fire Lines, sharing research, resources, news and upcoming events from around the Southeast and nationwide: https://mailchi.mp/southernfireexchange/fire-lines-newsletter-volume-11-issue-5.

Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation

- (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and NOAA announced \$39.5 million in new grants from the National Coastal Resilience Fund that will support coastal resilience projects in 28 states and U.S. territories, including several projects in the SERPPAS region. To read more, click here: https://www.nfwf.org/media-center/press-releases/nfwf-and-noaa-announce-395-million-conservation-grants-fund-coastal-resilience-projects-across
- (SASMI) A series of comprehensive articles on the importance of salt marsh and the threats to
 its future existence recently published in newspapers throughout the southeast. Rising Tides,
 Sinking Future includes nine separate, but related, articles that cover everything from living
 shorelines to beneficial use of dredge to blue carbon featuring cool maps, audio clips and
 graphics. This series does a great job of explaining why the SERPPAS-led South Atlantic Salt
 Marsh Initiative (SASMI) is so important. To view the nine articles, click Expand All:
 https://www.thestate.com/news/weather-news/article254872767.html
- (PNS) Military facilities in North Carolina are partnering with local coastal communities on natural infrastructure projects to buffer coastlines from extreme weather damage, including



partnership efforts like the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative. To read more, please visit: https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2021-12-15/climate-change-air-quality/nc-military-bases-use-living-shorelines-to-boost-climate-resiliency/a76984-1

- (NPR) NPR's Morning Edition recently spoke with members of the South Atlantic Salt Marsh
 Initiative about the impacts of climate change on South Carolina's Low Country, including salt
 marshes. To listen, please visit: https://www.npr.org/2021/11/01/1051036131/climate-change-is-having-an-adverse-effect-on-south-carolinas-low-country
- (OLDCC) DoD's Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) announced 13 grants totaling \$60 million under their Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program and five grants totaling \$25 million under their Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program. Projects in North Carolina and Florida were among the grantees in the OLDCC Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program. To read more, please visit:
 https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/2785070/dod-approves-60-million-in-grants-under-defense-manufacturing-community-support/
- (DoD) The DoD released the <u>Department of Defense Climate Risk Analysis</u> that serves as a critical first step for incorporating climate change security implications across relevant DoD strategy, planning, and programming documents and processes. With a focus on how climate change may contribute to demand for DoD, the DCRA complements the recently released Climate Adaptation Plan, which is focused on ensuring that DoD can operate under changing climate conditions. Both of these documents highlight how DoD will consider the effects of climate change across every level of what the Department does. To learn more, please visit: https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2818343/dod-analysis-highlights-geostrategic-risks-of-climate-change/
- (Pew) The latest articles from Pew Charitable Trusts on conserving marine life in the U.S.:
 - North Carolina's Latest 'Oyster Blueprint' Is a Model Within—and Outside—the State
 - How Habitat Protection Can Help North Carolina's Coastal Communities, Fish, and <u>Ecosystems</u>
 - <u>Seafood, Seagrass, and Storms: North Carolina Plan Would Protect Coast—and</u> Livelihoods
 - North Carolina Approves Updated Coastal Habitat Plan—A Win for Nature, Communities
- (SACS) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released the latest update on the South Atlantic
 Coastal Study via the July/August/September/October newsletter:
 https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/Portals/60/siteimages/SACS/SACS Newsletter 04 2021.pdf?
 ver=5gPlep076tw-lpVunFYnmA%3d%3d
- (SACB) The South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint released its October, November, and December Newsletters, listed below. To learn more, please visit:
 - October: https://mailchi.mp/f611bcc5f06c/pmx0j3o71h-5666865?e=e86655520f
 - November: https://mailchi.mp/974b93ca6999/pmx0j3o71h-5680281?e=e86655520f
 - December: https://mailchi.mp/e7d1b6e3c55d/pmx0j3o71h-5686321?e=e86655520f
- (SECASC) The SE Climate Adaptation Science Center released its October, November, and
 December Newsletters, which includes climate related news, resources, publications, webinars
 and more for the Southeast region:





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- October: https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2021/10/20/october-2021-newsletter/
- November: https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2021/11/16/november-2021-newsletter/
- December: https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2021/12/17/december-2021-newsletter/
- (SECAS) The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy released its October and November Newsletters, which combines all the blogs written on the SECAS website during the previous month:
 - October: https://mailchi.mp/3336a556cd24/secas-july-newsletter-stakeholder-analysis-from-the-secas-futures-project-5669777?e=e86655520f
 - November: https://mailchi.mp/91b691dc9143/secas-july-newsletter-stakeholder-analysis-from-the-secas-futures-project-5683709?e=e86655520f

Energy Development and Siting

- (Duke) Duke University has received a \$7.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to assess the risks offshore wind energy development along the East Coast may pose to birds, bats, and marine mammals. This research will inform decisions about the locations of future wind farms and help identify steps that can be taken to reduce harmful impacts on wildlife as offshore wind deployment increases. To learn more, please visit:
 https://nicholas.duke.edu/news/75m-grant-will-fund-study-offshore-wind-energys-impacts-sea-life
- (REEO) The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office released its October, November, and December editions of the Southern Review of Legislative & Regulatory Actions for Federal Region 4. This newsletter includes environmental and energy related developments for DoD/Army leaders and installation staff, giving early notice of legislative and regulatory activities relevant to DOD interests.
 - October: https://serppas.org/media/101566/southern-review-10-2021.pdf
 - November: https://serppas.org/media/101567/southern-review-11-2021.pdf
 - December: https://serppas.org/media/101568/southern-review-12-2021.pdf
- (REEO) The U.S. Army Regional Environmental and Energy Office released the Eastern Energy Monitor, a monthly publication of energy-related developments for Army leaders and installation staff. The Eastern Energy Monitor provides early notice of state dockets and legislative and regulatory activities relevant to military energy interests for Regions 1-5.
 - October: https://serppas.org/media/101563/eastern-energy-monitor-10-2021.pdf
 - November: https://serppas.org/media/101564/eastern-energy-monitor-11-2021.pdf
 - December: https://serppas.org/media/101565/eastern-energy-monitor-12-2021.pdf

Military Services News

(Eglin AFB) Eglin AFB's wildlife population rose dramatically recently due to a record number of gopher tortoises released across the installation. Gopher tortoises of various size were welcomed into their newly dug starter burrows and enclosed within habitats optimal for resettlement. Eglin's gopher tortoise population has grown to more than 4,300 after receiving 831 in October and another 30 Nov. 9. To learn more, please visit:
 https://www.eglin.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2842624/recent-gopher-tortoise-relocations-grows-eglin-population/



 (Camp Shelby) The Mississippi National Guard's Environmental Team has been recognized for excellence and exceptional leadership in natural resource conservation. USFWS recently announced the selection of the National Guard's Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center as the 2021 recipient of the Military Conservation Partner Award. To read more, click here: https://www.wdam.com/2021/11/10/camp-shelby-receives-2021-national-conservation-award/

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ► March 14-18, 2022: National Military Fish & Wildlife Association Annual Meeting and Training Workshop (Spokane, WA)
- ► March 14-18, 2022: 87th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference (Spokane, WA)
- ► March 24-25, 2022: Spring SERPPAS Steering Committee (Atlanta, GA)
- ► March 29-31, 2022: 2022 SE CASC Science Symposium (Gulf Shores, AL)
- ► April 23, 2022: Party for the Pine (Southern Pines, NC)
- ► April 25-28, 2022: Gulf of Mexico Conference (Baton Rouge, LA)
- ► May 2-4, 2022: 2022 SERPPAS Principals Meeting (Beaufort, NC)
- ► May 23-27, 2022: IAWF Fire & Climate Conference (Pasadena, CA)
- ▶ June 6-9, 2022: Southern Group of State Foresters 2022 Annual Meeting (Greenville, SC)
- ► September 6-8, 2022: Natural Areas Conference (Duluth, MN)
- October 23-26, 2022: <u>SEAFWA Annual Conference</u> (Charleston, West Virginia)
- October 25-28, 2022: <u>Biennial Longleaf Conference</u> (Wilmington, NC)

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- ► Archived: <u>SFE Webinar: Potential Impacts of Prescribed Fire on Air Quality and Public Health in the</u> Southeast by Southern Fire Exchange
- Archived: <u>Moving to Hybrid Programs: A Discussion with Natural Resource Professionals</u> by NC Extension Forestry
- Archived: Federal Agency Roundtable and Partnerships by FEMA
- ► Archived: <u>Techniques and Concepts for Improving Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency to Benefit Both People and Wildlife</u> by USDA NRCS
- Archived: Resilience of Ecosystems in a Changing World by EPA
- ► Archived: REPI and the DoD Climate Adaptation Plan by REPI
- ► Archived: Legal Protections for Large Landscape Conservation by Network for Landscape Conservation
- Archived: Prescribed Fire Part 1: The History of Fire in North Carolina by ForestHer NC
- ► Archived: Prescribed Burning Part 2: Conducting a Burn on Your Property by ForestHer NC
- ► Archived: <u>Building Resilience and Preserving Missions Through the DoD REPI Program</u> by NACo
- ► Archived: Marsh Forward: Manage Climate Risks While Protecting Multiple Missions by REPI/Sentinel Landscapes
- Archived: Keeping Forests Year in Review by Keeping Forests
- ► Ongoing: <u>Sustainable Infrastructure</u>: <u>Putting Principle into Practice</u> by Duke University Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions
- ▶ January 21, 2022: Overview of the US National Fire Danger Rating System Version 4.0 (2016): Lessons learned from the Southeast US implementation by Southern Fire Exchange
- January 25, 2022: <u>Evaluating Air Quality Resource</u> Concerns by USDA NRCS



Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS)



- ► January 27, 2022: <u>SFE Webinar: Herbert Stoddard and the Origins of Ecosystem Management</u> by Southern Fire Exchange
- ► February 22, 2022: C2 Webinar: Using Environmental Justice Data to Help Prioritize Projects by NPS
- ► March 10, 2022: <u>Fuel Characterization and Modeling for Understanding Fire Behavior on Military Lands</u> by SERDP-ESTCP
- ► May 19, 2022: <u>DoD Natural Resource Management Through Unmanned Aircraft System Technology</u> by SERDP-ESTCP

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