

SERPPAS Circular

February/March 2016

The SERPPAS Circular is a bimonthly collection of media coverage and upcoming events from SERPPAS Partners across the Southeast. Updates are collected from websites, press releases, and newsletters, and organized according to the objectives outlined in the SERPPAS Strategic Plan. If you have information to share in the next SERPPAS Circular, please email your input directly to khoury_christopher@bah.com by April 15.

In the News

- **Featured**

- (SERPPAS) SERPPAS has announced the creation of a Coordinator position to provide technical and administrative support for the planning and operation of SERPPAS projects and initiatives. For more information and to access the application, visit:
<https://greatjobs.tamu.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/frameset.jsp?time=1455913195387>

- **Sentinel Landscapes**

- (U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities) The Enviva Forest Conservation Fund, administered by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, will award matching-fund grants to nonprofit organizations to permanently protect ecologically sensitive areas and conserve working forests, primarily in Virginia and North Carolina. The deadline for applications is March 14, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. EST. For more information, visit:
http://usendowment.org/images/Press_Release_Forest_Conservation_Fund_12.10.15.pdf
- (Raleigh News & Observer) The Clean Water management Trust Fund, administered under the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, recently approved a new round of grants totaling over \$19 million, which will help preserve cultural heritage sites and buffer zones around military bases in 30 counties. For more information, visit:
<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article52746655.html>
- (Georgia Coastal Courier) U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsak announced the launch of the 2016 Regional Conservation Partnership Program, which will invest a total of \$720 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and local partners in 84 conservation projects across the country. For more information, visit: <http://coastalcourier.com/section/35/article/79317/>
- (USDA) The USDA NRCS has selected the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Conservation project for a \$5.9 million grant under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. For more information, visit:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/farbill/rcpp/?cid=nrcseprd598407#az>
- The Open Space Institute (OSI) seeks proposals for two complimentary land conservation grant funds in the southeast: the Southern Cumberland Land Protection Fund and the Southeast Resilient Landscapes Fund. OSI will accept grant applications through April 11, 2016. For more information, visit
http://www.osiny.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Issues_Habitat_SE_Resilient_Grants and
http://www.osiny.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Program_CFP_South_Cumberland
- (USDA) USDA has announced a federal investment of over \$40 million for restoration of forests near growing communities to reduce wildfire threats, protect water supplies, improve wildlife

habitat, and support rural economies. For more information, visit:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/?navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&ss=16&cid=NRCSEPRD644206&navid=220130000000000&pnavid=220000000000000&position=News&ttype=detail>

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

- (GA Department of Natural Resources) The Georgia USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services and the GA Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division announced the availability of funding and technical assistance for landowners to enhance habitat for bobwhite quail and other priority wildlife species. For more information, visit: <http://georgiawildlife.com/node/4069>
- (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a final ruling regarding human interactions with the northern long-eared bat. Effective February 16, logging is now banned within 0.25 miles of known bat hibernacula and tree damage is banned within a 150-foot radius of known breeding habitats. For more information, visit <http://wildlife.org/usfws-regulates-human-interactions-with-listed-bat-species/>
- (Ecological Society of America) The Ecological Society of America (ESA) has published report number 20 in their “Issues in Ecology” series, which focuses on Species Recovery in the United States. For more information, access the report here: <http://www.esa.org/esa/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Issue20.pdf>
- (DoD) The DoD Legacy Resource Management Program has released its Request for Pre-proposals (RFP) for FY 2017. Pre-proposals must be submitted to DoD via the DoD Legacy Tracker no later than April 4, 2016. For more information, visit: <https://www.denix.osd.mil/nr/upload/FY17-Request-for-Pre-Proposals-Released.pdf>
- (USGS) USGS researches have found clear evidence that biological communities rich in species are substantially healthier and more productive than those depleted of species. For more information, visit: http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=4437&from=rss&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+usgs%2FnewsEverything+%28Newsroom+-+Everything%29#.VtCPAPkrKM9
- (USFWS) The USFWS has announced finalized protections for the Northern Long-Eared Bat, which was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in April 2015. For more information, visit: <http://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=protections-finalized-for-threatened-northern-long-eared-bats-&ID=35436>
- (NOAA) NOAA Fisheries has released five-year action plans for eight marine species identified as among the most at risk of extinction through NOAA’s Species in the Spotlight initiative. These eight species include the Atlantic salmon, leatherback sea turtles, and others present on military installations. For more information, visit: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2016/021016_new-action-plans-outline-recovery-efforts-for-eight-species-in-the-spotlight.html
- (NOAA) NOAA Fisheries is expanding critical habitat for endangered North Atlantic right whales to cover its northeast feeding areas in the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank region and its southeast calving grounds from North Carolina to Florida. For more information, visit: http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/mediacenter/2016/january/25_noaa_expands_critical_habitat_for_endangered_north_atlantic_right_whales.html

- (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has completed initial reviews for 17 petitions to list or delist species under the Endangered Species Act. For more information, visit: http://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=u.s.-fish-and-wildlife-service-announces-findings-for--17-endangered-&_ID=35431
- (USFWS) The USFWS is designating critical habitat for two endangered cacti- the Florida semaphore cactus and the aboriginal prickly-apple- under the Endangered Species Act, totaling 7,855 acres in several Florida counties. For more information, visit: http://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=u.s.-fish-and-wildlife-service-designates-critical-habitat-for-two-south-&_ID=35447
- **Southeast Wildland Fire Initiative**
 - (North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission) The NC Wildlife Resources Commission has published a blog post explaining the benefits of prescribed fire in restoring and maintaining critical wildlife habitat. To read the blog post, visit: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/News/Blogs/NCWRCBlog/tabid/715/EntryId/163/Prescribed-Burns-Benefit-Wildlife-and-their-Habitats.aspx>
 - (SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the first edition of Driptorch Digest, a monthly newsletter for the southeastern prescribed fire community. To access the newsletter, visit: https://research.cnr.ncsu.edu/blogs/southeast-fire-update/files/2016/01/Driptorch-Digest-Vol-1_Jan-2016.pdf
 - (NC Wildlife Resources Commission) The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission continues to use prescribed burning as an efficient and effective method of managing wildlife habitat in the state. For more information, visit: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/News/NewsArticle/tabid/416/IndexID/10316/Default.aspx>
- **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**
 - (USGS) The USGS, in cooperation with the USFWS, have released a study examining how to incorporate future climate change and sea level rise into current conservation planning; focusing mainly on wetlands along the U.S. Gulf of Mexico coast. To access the study, visit: <http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ds969>
 - (DoD) The DoD has released directive 4715.21, which establishes policy and assigns responsibilities to provide the DoD with the resources necessary to assess and manage risks associated with the impacts of climate change. To access the directive, visit: <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/471521p.pdf>
 - (GA DNR) The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has been awarded funding from the NOAA Regional Coastal Resilience Grant program to develop a Joint Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment Plan for the City of Brunswick and Glynn County. For more information, visit: <http://www.coastalgadnr.org/node/100743>
 - (Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality) Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant announced several projects for the State of Mississippi designed to help restore and protect the environment and economy of the state following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. For more information, visit: https://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/page/Main_Gov.BryantAnnouncesRESTOREProjectsforMississippi?OpenDocument

- (Gulf of Mexico Alliance) The Deepwater Horizon oil spill Natural Resource damage Assessment Trustees have released a final version of the Comprehensive Restoration Plan for the Gulf of Mexico. For more information, visit:
<http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2016/02/update-on-the-comprehensive-restoration-plan-for-the-gulf-of-mexico/>
- **Southeast Conservation Finance Initiative**
 - (NOAA) As part of its efforts to promote healthy ecosystems and resilient coastal communities, NOAA has announced the availability of \$9 million in Community-based Restoration Program funding for coastal and marine habitat restoration in 2016. For more information, visit:
<http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories2016/020516-noaa-seeks-applications-for-9-million-in-community-based-habitat-restoration.html>
 - (USDA) USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service has established the Wetland Mitigation Banking Program, which will provide \$9 million to help states, local governments, or other qualified partners develop wetland mitigation banks that restore, create, or enhance wetland ecosystems. For more information, visit:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/?navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&ss=16&cid=NRCSEPRD486206&navid=220130000000000&pnavid=220000000000000&position=News&ttype=detail>
 - (USDA) USDA has announced an investment of \$25 million to help agriculture producers improve water quality in high-priority streams and rivers across the country, including in the southeast. For more information, visit:
<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAO/bulletins/138da3e>

Upcoming Events

- February 11-12: National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) Convention (Nashville, TN)
- February 29-March 2: Association of Defense Communities (ADC) Installation Innovation Forum (Charleston, SC)
- March 7-9: Sustainable Trails Conference (Knoxville, TN)
- March 6-10: Association of Partners for Public Lands Convention (Spokane, WA)
- March 12: Sewee Fire Fest (Awendew, SC)
- March 14-18: North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference (Pittsburg, PA)
- March 23: Longleaf Federal Coordinating Committee Meeting (Atlanta, GA)
- **March 24: SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting (Atlanta, GA)**
- March 31-April 3: Association of Southeastern Biologists 2016 Annual Meeting (Concord, NC)
- April 11-12: Spring 2016 Longleaf Partnership Council Meeting (Saint Simons Island, GA)
- April 12-13: South Atlantic Living Shorelines Summit (Jacksonville, FL)
- **May 10-11: SERPPAS Principals Meeting (Fort Benning, GA)**
- October 31-November 1: Fall 2016 Longleaf Partnership Council Meeting (Savannah, GA)

For more information about SERPPAS, visit www.serppas.org.