



SERPPAS Circular

October/November 2020

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 [2018 – 2020 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

- **2020 REPI Challenge Awards:**

- ▶ The REPI Program announced the recipients of the [2020 REPI Challenge](#), awarding \$17.1 in program funds with more than \$142 million in partner contributions to implement [seven projects](#) across 11 installations and surrounding communities. The REPI Challenge focused on innovative projects that limit incompatible development, enhance military installation resilience, and/or relieve current or anticipated environmental restrictions on military testing, training, or operations at locations hosting key capabilities outlined in the National Defense Strategy. Two projects in the SERPPAS region received funding:
 - **MCAS Cherry Point in North Carolina:** awarded \$1 million in REPI funds (total of \$9.4 million) to enhance installation resilience by creating 2,100 linear feet of living shoreline along the rapidly eroding Neuse River shoreline, with the goal to extend that living shoreline an additional 5,600 linear feet to curtail erosion, promote ecosystem health, provide water quality benefits to the surrounding communities, and protect the installation from sea-level rise.
 - **NSB Kings Bay in Georgia:** awarded \$5 million in REPI funds (total of over \$41 million) to acquire a restrictive use easement on over 16,000 acres of land adjacent to NSB Kings Bay to protect land and carry out wildfire management and restoration activities, thereby protecting the installation from incompatible development, improving its resilience to dangerous wildfires, and conserving and restoring habitat for threatened, endangered, and at-risk species, such as the gopher tortoise, eastern indigo snake, and woodstork.
- ▶ SERPPAS is excited to see projects awarded in the Southeast region, as well as the focus on resilience. As part of the SERPPAS Coastal Resilience & Regional Adaptation work group, SERPPAS has partnered with Pew Charitable Trusts to identify and foster coastal resilience projects with living shoreline and oyster elements to enhance both military readiness and these important ecosystems. It is exciting to see this work come to fruition through the project at MCAS Cherry Point with many great partners including Pew, North Carolina Coastal Federation, U.S. Marine Corps, Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Partnership, along with other state and local organizations.

- **REPI Resilience Webinar Series:**

- ▶ Throughout this fall, DoD REPI, SERPPAS, and the Western Regional Partnership (WRP) collaborated on a series of webinars to understand climate related risks and discuss innovative



strategies to advance military installation resilience in ways that benefit military readiness, local communities, and natural ecosystems. All of the recordings and additional resilience resources can be found on the new REPI resilience webpage: <https://www.repi.mil/Resilience/>

IN THE NEWS

- **Spotlight – Funding Opportunities**

- ▶ (NFWF) The NFWF Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund 2021 Request for Proposals, a public-private partnership dedicated to expanding, enhancing, and accelerating longleaf pine ecosystem restoration. Approximately \$4.3 million in grant funding is available to projects seeking to restore longleaf on public and private lands to improve wildlife habitat and water quality, with some funding also available for bottomland hardwood restoration. This year, projects that help improve the understanding and quantification of the carbon and water benefits of longleaf pine and bottomland hardwood restoration and enhancement are of particular interest. Proposals are due on Thursday, **February 4, 2021, by 11:59pm ET**. An informational webinar will be held on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at 3:00pm Eastern to answer applicant questions, registration required: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2017117163717794061>. To view the full RFP, please visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/longleaf-landscape-stewardship-fund/longleaf-landscape-stewardship-fund-2021-request-proposals>
- ▶ (REPI) The REPI Program has launched the 2021 REPI Challenge process, which awards funds on an annual basis to one or more projects that provide innovative approaches to protecting the military mission. This year's focus will again be on projects that support key capabilities in the National Defense Strategy. Pre-proposals were due on **Monday, November 23, 2020**, all pre-proposal applicants will be notified of their status on **December 21, 2020**, and for those selected, full proposals will be due on **March 22, 2021**. REPI Challenge award recipients will be announced in **May-June 2021**. The Request for Proposal can be found here: https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/REPI_Challenge/2021_REPIChallenge_RFP.pdf
- ▶ (NOAA) NOAA's Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) program supports the development of knowledge, expertise, and abilities of decision makers to plan and prepare for climate variability and change. The RISA program currently has a funding competition open in the Southeast for one-year awards to conduct multi-stakeholder workshops or other innovative planning activities to identify and examine issues of regional importance within the Southeast and the U.S. Caribbean related to social and economic dimensions of climate variability and change. Letters of Intent are due **December 9, 2020**, and full applications are due by **February 8, 2021**. To learn more, click here: <https://cpo.noaa.gov/Funding-Opportunities/FY-2021-RISA-Notice-of-Funding-Opportunity>
- ▶ (SERDP) The DoD Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program is seeking environmental research and development proposals under Core Solicitations for funding beginning in FY2022. All submissions must be in response to a Statement of Need (SON) associated with the solicitation, one of which includes Threatened, Endangered, and At Risk Terrestrial Species' Response to Multiple Stressors under the Resource Conservation and Resilience SON. Pre-proposals are due **January 7, 2021, by 2:00pm ET**. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.serdp-estcp.org/Funding-Opportunities/SERDP-Solicitations>



- ▶ (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced the 2021 request for proposals under the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund, expecting to award approximately \$1.6 million in federal and private sector funding in support of projects that restore, enhance, and maintain bottomland hardwood forests and wetlands and promote aquatic connectivity on private and public lands to improve wildlife habitat and water quality. Full proposals are due by **January 14, 2021**. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/lower-mississippi-alluvial-valley-restoration-fund/lower-mississippi-alluvial-valley-restoration-fund-2021-request-proposals>
- ▶ (FEMA) The application periods are currently open for two FEMA grant programs, the [Flood Mitigation Assistance grant](#), and the [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant](#) (BRIC). With \$660 million available in funding, the two hazard mitigation grant programs will provide funds to states, tribes, territories and local communities for eligible mitigation activities. These programs allow for funding to be used on projects that will reduce future disaster losses and will strengthen our nation's ability to build a culture of preparedness. The application period remains open until **January 29, 2021**.
- **Sentinel Landscapes**
 - ▶ (REPI) The [2020 Report on REPI Program Outcomes and Benefits to Military Mission Capabilities](#) is now available. This report summarizes over 15 years of planning and execution data submitted by the Military Services to quantify the extent of known or potential land use conflicts, solutions to address these conflicts, and overall investments in and benefits to military capabilities.
 - ▶ (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=BDG7QnVuhWw>
 - ▶ (REPI) The [September 2020](#) REPI Newsletter is now available, providing exciting news and announcements related to the REPI community.
- **Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species**
 - ▶ (UGA) A rare study shows how St. Catherines Island in Georgia provides a safe haven for gopher tortoises and gives researchers at the University of Georgia evidence to prove species relocation is an effective conservation tool. The [study](#) is the first long-term data captured on immature tortoises in a translocated or relocated population. The results revealed a survival rate of close to 40% for hatchlings, 70% for juveniles and 80% for subadults. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.newswise.com/articles/first-long-term-study-conducted-on-relocated-young-tortoises>
 - ▶ (NFWF/IP) NFWF and International Paper hold an annual Forestland Stewards Stakeholder Forum that brings together grantees, funding partners, and other stakeholders to share best practices, improve project outcomes, and build community. In lieu of an in-person event this year, they asked grantees to share some of the great conservation work that is taking place under the Forestland Stewards banner and compiled those stories in an inspiring video. Longleaf pine restoration projects have benefited greatly from the grant funds from this



program for many years. To watch the video, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r117sXiq9iA&feature=youtu.be>

- ▶ (TNC GA) LuAnn Craighton of TNC, coordinator of the Chattahoochee Fall Line Conservation Partnership, and RT Lumpkin, Prescribed Fire Center Coordinator and Lead for the Chattahoochee Fall Line Prescribed Fire Cooperative, are featured in a video that explains how the Chattahoochee Fall Line Co-Op was formed and the opportunities for Private landowners in Georgia. You can even catch a glimpse of the burn trailer SERPPAS helped to fund at the 3:42 mark! To watch the video, click here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xayntRBEHlo&feature=youtu.be&sf129851274=1>
- ▶ (Georgia) The Georgia Board of Natural Resources voted to acquire nearly 8,000 acres of the historic Cabin Bluff property in Camden County for designation as a state wildlife management area. Cabin Bluff includes a diverse landscape of salt marshes, tidal creeks, and longleaf pine woodlands and serves as habitat for threatened and endangered species including the gopher tortoise, wood stork and eastern indigo snake. To learn more, please visit:
<https://www.onlineathens.com/news/20201027/new-state-wildlife-management-area-to-open-on-georgia-coast>
- ▶ (Jones Ctr.) The Jones Center at Ichauway has a new e-newsletter that shares highlights of the Center's work:
 - Summer 2020: <http://www.jonesctr.org/products/newsletter/2020summer>

- **Southeast Prescribed Fire Initiative**

- ▶ (SE FireMap) Since March 2020, Tall Timbers Research Station has been hard at work leading the project scoping phase, working with the SE FireMap Technical Oversight Team and other experts in the field to ensure product design integrates top science and bolsters current fire mapping efforts. Details on specific project objectives can be found on the most recent [fact sheet](#) and on the [Landscape Partnership Portal website](#). As part of the SE FireMap scoping phase, the project team is working to engage a diverse group of stakeholders by encouraging feedback via the [SE FireMap Scoping Survey](#) and/or sharing with appropriate contacts within your networks. This outreach is intended to help align project outcomes with current efforts and partner objectives.
- ▶ (WFLC) The Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) member agencies and organizations, with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, released the Joint Vision and Key Messages on Relative Benefits of Prescribed Fire to Wildfire document. This compilation has been built over the past several months by a joint communications team with representatives from WFLC, USFS, DOI, CDC, EPA, and the Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils. To learn more, click here: https://serppas.org/media/3127/wflc-epa-cdc-joint-vision-statement_final-09-30-20.pdf
- ▶ (IUFRO) A recent blog from the International Union of Forest Research Organizations examines the economic drivers of wildfire. The IUFRO's Fire\$: Economic Drivers of Global Wildland Fire Activity Task Force is looking into the nexus between the economic level of local populations, fire activity and effects on the provision of ecosystem services and the global appetite for international commodities (e.g. oil palm in Indonesia or beef from Brazil). To read more, please visit: <https://blog.iufro.org/2020/10/05/examining-the-economic-drivers-of-wildfire-where-theres-smoke-theres-finance/>



- ▶ (SFE) A new regional fire science publication database is now available on the Southern Fire Exchange website. The new [Regional Fire Science Publication Database](#) (RFSPD) contains every publication that has been featured in Fire Lines and many other publications relevant to the Southern fire community. You can search for publications by keyword, publication year, and category.
- ▶ (NYT) An article in the New York Times discusses the creation of “ghost forests” due to sea level rise. The last third of the article highlights the North Carolina coast and fire and marsh mitigation interaction. To read more, please visit: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/10/08/climate/ghost-forests.html>
- ▶ (SERPPAS) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 49th and 50th editions of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here:
 - October: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/October-Driptorch-Digest-Now-Available-.html?soid=1117561491017&aid=oeiQ2KnTbTO>
 - November: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/November-Driptorch-Digest-Now-Available-.html?soid=1117561491017&aid=llbiheQMVwQ>
- ▶ (SFE) The Southern Fire Exchange released its bimonthly newsletter, Fire Lines, sharing research, resources, news and upcoming events from around the Southeast and nationwide:
 - September/October, Volume 10, Issue 5: <https://mailchi.mp/southernfireexchange/fire-lines-newsletter-volume-10-issue-5>
- **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**
 - ▶ (NFWF) NFWF and NOAA announced more than \$37 million in 46 new grants from the [National Coastal Resilience Fund](#) that will support coastal resilience projects in 25 states and U.S. territories, with \$55 million in matching contributions for a total conservation impact of \$92 million. SERPPAS supported the project in Camden County, Georgia, that will create a resiliency implementation workplan and will prioritize nature-based solutions by identifying and developing opportunities for nature-based, green-grey infrastructure projects to mitigate flooding, storm surge, sea-level rise risks, and other threats to local infrastructure and facilities. Additionally, REPI Program Director Kristin Thomasgard is quoted in the announcement regarding the coastal installations awarded funds – MCAS Cherry Point in North Carolina and NWS Yorktown in Virginia. To read more, please visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/media-center/press-releases/nfwf-and-noaa-announce-more-37-million-grants-support-coastal-resilience-efforts-across-nation>
 - ▶ (TNC/Pew) The Nature Conservancy and the Pew Charitable Trusts announced an initiative, Supporting Oyster Aquaculture and Restoration (SOAR), to buy \$2 million worth of oysters from oyster farms along the East Coast. With COVID-19 drastically cutting oyster sales to restaurants, purchasing the oysters will not only put money in farmers' pockets, but SOAR intends to spread the oysters on “restoration reefs” up and down the coast in an effort to restore the naturally occurring reefs that have been destroyed over the past several decades. To read more, click here: <https://www.today.com/food/tnc-supporting-oyster-farmers-affected-covid-19-today-t195668?sf131167047=1&fbclid=IwAR3Z-LS0SALPY2ON-LObr1uXqcLd-dDm9L0u1QEqUqO-gHhlat1s44zJGak>



- ▶ (NCLWF) Several projects to protect land and water in North Carolina have been awarded grants totaling \$14.6 million through the Clean Water Management Trust Fund. The North Carolina Land and Water Fund, formerly known as the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, awarded funds that will help protect 6,710 acres, including more than 6,155 acres for the public to hike, hunt, boat, bird and other recreational uses. Additionally, the grants will protect 102 types of rare plants, animals, and natural communities, including 12 plants and animals that are threatened or endangered, according to the state. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.coastalreview.org/2020/09/nc-water-land-projects-awarded-14-6m/>
- ▶ (DoD NR) The DoD Climate Assessment Tool was recently presented during a DoD Natural Resources Program webinar. The updated DCAT provides a screening-level exposure assessment of DoD installations for eight different climate-related hazards (including installation exposure to coastal and riverine flooding, drought, desertification, wildfire, and permafrost thaw). To listen to the DCAT presentation, click [here](#), and to view the presentation slides, click [here](#).
- ▶ (Pew) The Pew Charitable Trusts partnered with two coastal military installations, leading academic institutions, and coastal restoration experts to support two of the 2020 REPI Challenge Grant awardees to protect military bases in North Carolina and Virginia. These projects will work with the military and conservation partnerships to safeguard base readiness, eroding shorelines, and coastal habitat. To read more from Pew, click here: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2020/11/18/pew-joins-projects-to-boost-us-military-base-resiliency-through-conservation>
- ▶ (NC DEQ) The North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resilience recently established the N.C. Resilient Communities Program to help local governments build capacity for resiliency, provide technical assistance and fund planning and implementation of strategic resilience projects. The new initiative will help the state prepare for the affects of climate change while reducing damages from future disasters such as hurricanes, flooding and wildfires. To read more, click here: <https://www.coastalreview.org/2020/10/nc-begins-resilient-communities-program/>
- ▶ (Army) A [new directive](#) issued by the U.S. Army in September will require planners and managers to establish resilience measures to safeguard valuable assets and minimize readiness impacts in order to prepare against natural disasters resulting from climate change. The new directive will provide Army installations with uniform instruction to help them build resilience to natural hazards, including flooding, drought, desertification, rising sea levels, extreme heat, and thawing permafrost. To read more, click here: https://www.army.mil/article/238014/new_directive_to_prepare_army_posts_against_extreme_weather_climate_change
- ▶ (SACB) The South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint released its October and November Newsletters, listed below. To read more, please visit:
 - October: <https://mailchi.mp/c9470c2b41d0/pmx0j3o71h-3548570?e=e86655520f>
 - November: [https://mailchi.mp/14acb30423c0/pmx0j3o71h-3571522?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/14acb30423c0/pmx0j3o71h-3571522?e=[UNIQID])
- ▶ (SECASC) The SE Climate Adaptation Science Center released its October and November Newsletters, which includes climate related news, resources, publications, webinars and more for the Southeast region:
 - October: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2020/10/19/october-2020-newsletter/>
 - November: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2020/11/17/november-2020-newsletter/>



- ▶ (SECAS) The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy released its [September](#) and [October](#) Newsletters, which combines all the blogs written on the SECAS website during the previous month.
- **Energy Development and Siting**
 - ▶ (REEO) The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office released its October and November 2020 editions of the Southern Review of Legislative & Regulatory Actions. 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 2020: <https://serppas.org/media/3128/southern-review-10-2020.pdf>
 - November 2020: <https://serppas.org/media/3129/southern-review-11-2020.pdf>
 - ▶ (REEO) The U.S. Army Regional Environmental and Energy Office released its bi-monthly publication, Southeast Energy Monitor. The Monitor contains current legislative and regulatory activity and state public services commission dockets pertinent to military interests for Region 4.
 - October 2020: <https://serppas.org/media/3130/southeast-energy-monitor-oct-2020.pdf>
- **Military Services News**
 - ▶ (Army) In Fort Benning, fires set in woods, controlled by experts, aid combat training and the health of plants and wildlife. To read more, please visit: https://www.army.mil/article/240897/fires_set_in_woods_controlled_by_experts_aid_combat_training_health_of_plants_wildlife
 - ▶ (Army) Wildlife biologists at Fort Benning are installing ready-made homes to help red-cockaded woodpeckers thrive. To read more, please visit: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/381444/climbing-pines-wildlife-biologists-put-ready-made-homes-help-woodpeckers-thrive>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ November 30-December 4, 2020: [SERDP-ESTCP Symposium](#) (Virtual)
- ▶ December 1-3, 2020: [2020 Bays and Bayous Symposium](#) (Virtual)
- ▶ **January and March TBD, 2021: SERPPAS Steering Committee Meetings (Virtual)**
- ▶ March 16-18, 2021: [21st Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference](#) (Virtual)
- ▶ April 8-9, 2021: [Thirteenth International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts & Response](#) (Vancouver, Canada/Virtual)
- ▶ August 23-25, 2021: [1st National Stream Restoration Conference: Stream Restoration 2020 Sharing Visions for the Future](#) (Baltimore, MD)
- ▶ **May 3-5, 2021: 2021 SERPPAS Principals Meeting (Beaufort, NC)**
- ▶ May 23-26, 2021: [Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals \(ANREP\) 2020 Conference](#) (Virtual)
- ▶ October 4-8, 2021: [4th Annual National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop](#) (Asheville, NC)



UPCOMING WEBINARS

- ▶ **Archived: [SERRPAS Coastal Resilience Virtual Session](#) by SERPPAS**
- ▶ Archived: [REPI Resilience Virtual Panel at Land Trust Alliance Rally](#) by REPI
- ▶ Archived: [Energy Master Planning for Resilient Public Communities](#) by National Academies' Federal Facilities Council
- ▶ Archived: [Woods for Wildlife: Forest Management in Wetlands and Conservation Status Focusing on Rare and Endangered Species](#) by NC State Extension Forestry
- ▶ Archived: [Woods for Wildlife Webinar: Native Plants of the Longleaf Pine Forest and Active Management of Early Successional Plant Communities](#) by NC State Extension Forestry
- ▶ Archived: [4th National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Virtual Workshop](#) by International Association of Wildland Fire
- ▶ Archived: [SFE Webinar: Fire Ties that Bind - The Natural and Cultural Heritage of Controlled Burning](#) by Southern Fire Exchange
- ▶ **Archived: [REPI & SERPPAS – Engaging at the State and Local Level on Resilience](#) by REPI/SERPPAS**
- ▶ Archived: [Resiliency & Readiness Virtual Workshop - A National Look at Military Installation Resilience](#) by REPI
- ▶ December 2, 2020: [Longleaf Establishment and Management on Private Lands](#) by Alabama Cooperative Extension System
- ▶ December 2, 2020: [SFE Webinar: Overview of Fire Weather Products for Controlled Burners](#) by Southern Fire Exchange
- ▶ December 7, 2020: [Intermediate Stand Management Options for Pines & Hardwoods](#) by UGA
- ▶ December 8, 2020: [Managing Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Ecological Integrity Alongside Traditional Forestry](#) by UGA
- ▶ December 9, 2020: [2020 REPI Challenge Winners](#) by REPI
- ▶ December 9, 2020: [Invasive Species in Southern Forests: Problems and Solutions](#) by UGA
- ▶ December 10, 2020: [Building Sustainably with Mass Timber Workshop](#) by Keeping Forests
- ▶ December 10, 2020: [Beneficial and Pest Insects in Our Forests: Management Recommendations](#) by UGA
- ▶ December 11, 2020: [Water Quality Best Management Practices & Watershed Management](#) by UGA
- ▶ December 15, 2020: [How does a cross-sector partnership collaborate to retain forestland in the South?](#) by Keeping Forests
- ▶ December 16, 2020: [Drone Applications in Forestry](#) by Alabama Cooperative Extension System
- ▶ December 17, 2020: [Using Fire Seasonality to Open the Burn Window](#)
- ▶ January 21, 2021: [Fire and a Changing Climate](#) by
- ▶ February 18, 2021: [Timber Management and Prescribed Fire](#)

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