

SERPPAS Circular

August/September 2017

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 the SERPPAS Coordinator, Addie Thornton, at Addie.Thornton@ag.tamu.edu. You may also contact her at 919-515-3931.

IN THE NEWS

- **Spotlight**

- ▶ (SERPPAS) The SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting that was previously scheduled for September has been re-scheduled for November 7-8, 2017 in Atlanta, GA. The SERPPAS Steering Committee will be sent logistical and agenda information. You can also view this information and register online: <https://serppas.org/meetings/fall-2017-serppas-steering-committee-meeting/>
- ▶ (REPI) The DoD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program released its Summer 2017 newsletter, highlighting Sentinel Landscapes and landowner engagement—particularly in the Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape—as well as DoD’s new leadership, and NFWF’s 2017 Longleaf Stewardship Fund awards. The newsletter can be viewed here: <http://createsend.com/t/d-0C6F4B63B1BCA171>
- ▶ (NCSU) The Graduate Certificate in Military Land Sustainability, a distance-education based graduate program administered through the College of Natural Resources and the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources at NC State University, will begin its official enrollment for the Fall 2018 semester. The certificate program aims to develop professionals who can wisely manage natural resources on and around military bases to preserve natural resources and to maintain military readiness. To learn more, please visit: <https://militarysustainability.cnr.ncsu.edu/>

- **Sentinel Landscapes**

- ▶ (SL FCC) On June 14-16, 2017, representatives of the Sentinel Landscapes Federal Coordinating Committee (FCC) along with six Nationally designated Sentinel Landscapes and Military Services headquarters met in New Orleans for the first National Sentinel Landscapes Workshop. This meeting gave the landscapes an opportunity to share accomplishments and challenges and learn from each other. The challenged the landscapes to think outside the box on how they can effectively reach landowners to help conserve working lands, natural resources in support of the military mission. It also allowed the landscapes to give feedback to the FCC on how they can best support these landscapes at a local level. Please see the Executive Summary here: https://serppas.org/media/2406/2017-sentinel-landscapes-workshop_executive-summary.pdf
- ▶ (FL DEP) The Florida Department of Environmental Protection recently finalized the purchase of 8.4-acres for base buffering of the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Panama City for \$1.67 million dollars. The subject parcel is designated as a Tier 1 priority parcel in the Department of

Economic Opportunity/Florida Defense Support Task Force's Military Base Protection Program. Learn more here: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/1b2d0a4>

- ▶ (FL DEP) Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Cabinet members approved the purchase of 1,992 acres within the Triple Diamond Florida Forever Project in Okeechobee County for \$4.2 million. This acquisition will help protect wildlife habitat and water-quality, while providing opportunities for recreation. This project represents a successful public/non-profit partnership and a multi-agency effort to protect property within the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge. Learn more here:
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/1b140ff>
 - ▶ (FL DACS) Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam delivered remarks at the Florida Chamber Foundation's 2017 Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit. Learn more here: : <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/News-Events/Press-Releases/2017-Press-Releases/Excerpts-from-Commissioner-Adam-H.-Putnam-s-Remarks-at-Florida-Chamber-Foundation-s-Military-Defense-and-Veterans-Opportunities-Summit>
 - ▶ (NC DACS) The N.C. Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund recently awarded more than \$3.28 million to help communities across the state protect farmland and promote agricultural enterprises. More than \$2.8 million went towards obtaining conservation easements on 1,432 acres of land across the state. Learn more here:
<http://www.ncagr.gov/paffairs/release/2017/9-18-17-farmland-preservation-grants.htm>
 - ▶ (NC DACS) NC Land Advantage is an online tool that was developed in partnership with the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to assist with conservation of natural and cultural resources, working lands, and areas that buffer military installations from incompatible use. This tool can be used to identify natural and cultural resource characteristics for a given parcel as well identify specific funding sources that may be appropriate for protecting that parcel. Learn more here:
<https://www.ncmhtd.com/non-authenticated/ncla/landadvantage.aspx>
- **Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species**
 - ▶ (USFWS) U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt announced more than \$52 million in funding to Native American tribes and state wildlife agencies through the Tribal Wildlife Grant (TWG) program and the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program. The funds, which are provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, give critical support to a diverse array of species and habitats across the country. Learn more here:
[https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=deputy-secretary-bernhardt-announces-more-than-\\$52-million-in-federal-&_ID=36119](https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=deputy-secretary-bernhardt-announces-more-than-$52-million-in-federal-&_ID=36119)
 - ▶ (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed surveys of areas known to provide fresh water to wildlife in the National Key Deer Refuge (No Name and Big Pine Keys west to Sugarloaf Key) following Hurricane Irma. Due to the storm surge from Hurricane Irma, salinity levels in fresh water wetlands are on average higher than acceptable levels for most wildlife species. The general public is welcome to help by providing fresh water for wildlife on their property until conditions improve over time as they have in previous hurricanes. Learn more here: <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2017/09/community-assistance-opportunity-to-help-florida-keys-wildlife/>
 - ▶ (USFWS) Read more about The Service response efforts to Hurricane Irma across the Southeast: <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/>

- ▶ (USFWS) It has been more than 40 years since the pearl darter – a small, snub-nosed fish – lived in the Pearl River system in Louisiana and Mississippi. Today, it is only found in the Pascagoula River system in Mississippi and poor water quality is taking a toll on the tiny fish. To safeguard this species, the Service has added the pearl darter to the list of protected wildlife under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Learn more here:
<https://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2017/09/us-fish-and-wildlife-service-extends-endangered-species-act-protection-to-rare-fish/>
- ▶ (NOAA) NOAA announces the award of \$5.8 million in species recovery grants to states and tribes to promote the recovery of endangered and threatened marine species, ranging from large white whales to tiny shellfish. This year's awards include almost \$1.1 million for six new grants to four states and one federally recognized tribe. The remaining \$4.7 will support 22 continuing projects for 20 states and two tribes. Learn more here: <http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-awards-58-million-in-grants-to-support-endangered-threatened-species-recovery>
- ▶ (USDA NRCS) The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a new five-year conservation strategy to support private landowners managing for healthier forests in the Appalachian Mountains, part of an ongoing effort to help the golden-winged warbler rebound, and avoid the need for regulation of the species. This strategy serves as a game plan for how USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and its conservation partners can best meet their goal of helping landowners adopt bird-friendly practices on more than 15,000 acres of young forests and shrublands over the next five years. Learn more here:
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1342820>
- ▶ (SC DNR) On July 26, 2017, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Tall Timbers Research and Land Conservancy, and Quail Forever signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the National Bobwhite Technical Committee Business meeting in Knoxville, TN. Learn more here: http://www.dnr.sc.gov/news/2017/aug/aug1_quail.html
- ▶ (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Region recently published an interview with two tree farmers who are champions for the longleaf pine ecosystem. Landowners Reese Thompson and Salem Saloom, express their passion for longleaf, land stewardship, and personal legacy. To read more about their inspiring stories visit:
<https://www.fws.gov/southeast/articles/growing-trees-saving-species/>
- ▶ (USFWS) The state of Georgia is spearheading a \$150 million effort to keep the gopher tortoise from being listed. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which ultimately will decide the reptile's statutory fate, is a keen and active player in keeping the tortoise alive and well. Federal, state and private partners are raising \$50 million each – a huge sum dedicated to the protection of one species. Rarely before has the private sector committed as much money to keep a so-called candidate species off the federal list of protected fish and wildlife. Learn more here:
<https://www.fws.gov/southeast/articles/boosting-the-gopher-tortoise/>
- **Southeast Wildland Fire Initiative**
 - ▶ (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced \$5.5 million in grants to support the restoration of the longleaf ecosystem in nine states. Awarded through the Longleaf Stewardship Fund, the grants are expected to generate more than \$7 million in matching contributions for a total conservation impact of \$12.5 million. Learn more here:

<http://www.nfwf.org/whoweare/mediacenter/pr/Pages/nfwf-announces-grants-for-longleaf-pine-forest-2017-0815.aspx>

- ▶ (SERPPAS) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 11th edition of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here: <http://myemail.constantcontact.com/New-Driptorch-Digest-August-Issue-Now-Available.html?soid=1117561491017&aid=xpTvJIT7Sp8>
- ▶ (SERPPAS) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 12th edition of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here: http://myemail.constantcontact.com/New-Driptorch-Digest-September-Issue-Now-Available.html?soid=1117561491017&aid=XCc-EsAir_Q
- ▶ (NCWFMS) The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy published an article highlighting the aggressive prescribed fire program reducing wildfire severity and acres burned at Eglin Air Force Base. Read the article here: http://www.southernwildfire.net/success-stories/eglin-air-force-base-aggressive-prescribed-fire-program-reduces-wildfire-severity-acres-burned?utm_source=Copy+of+DD_edition%2312_September_2017&utm_campaign=Driptorch+Digest+12&utm_medium=email
- ▶ (USGS) A growing number of wildfire-burned areas throughout the western United States are expected to increase soil erosion rates within watersheds, causing more sediment to be present in downstream rivers and reservoirs, according to a new study by the U.S. Geological Survey. Learn more here: <https://nccwsc.usgs.gov/content/increases-wildfire-caused-erosion-could-impact-water-supply-and-quality-west>

• Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation

- ▶ (EPA) The EPA awards a multimillion dollar grant to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to assist in preventing water pollution. Read the press release here: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-assists-north-carolina-preventing-water-pollution>
- ▶ (FL DEP) The Department of Environmental Protection's Florida Coastal Management Program is accepting applications for the Coastal Partnership Initiative (CPI) grant program. DEP administers this competitive grant program, which provides funding from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration to eligible local governments. Learn more here: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/1b30ee7>
- ▶ (FL DEP) Governor Rick Scott announced the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Florida Water Management Districts have identified 40 springs projects that will receive \$50 million as part of the 2017-2018 Fighting for Florida's Future budget. These projects will help improve water quality, recharge water flow and protect habitat in Florida's iconic spring systems. Learn more here: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/1af65c7>
- ▶ (GA DNR) The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division (CRD), under authority granted pursuant to the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act (CMPA) and the Shore Protection Act (SPA), finds that an emergency exists within all the coastal counties due to Hurricane Irma. Learn more here: <http://coastalgadnr.org/HurricaneIrma>
- ▶ (GA DNR) The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has announced the availability of Cycle 21 Coastal Incentive Grant funds through the Coastal Resources Division/Georgia Coastal Management Program. Learn more here: <http://coastalgadnr.org/coastal-incentive-grant-request-proposals-announced>

- ▶ (FEMA) Three engineering projects being conducted by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission received a boost on July 31 when the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and State Emergency Management agreed to obligate more than \$7.1 million in project funding. The projects, which were all affected by Hurricane Matthew in 2016, include Rhodes Pond Dam and Jessup's Mill Pond Dam in Cumberland County and the White Oak Impoundment in Onslow County. Learn more here: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/News-Archives/wildlife-commission-uses-fema-funds-to-rebuild-hurricane-affected-water-control-barriers-and-spillways>
 - ▶ (NC MNS) The NC Museum of Natural Sciences hosted a town hall style seminar called "Emerging Global Threats: Effects of Climate Change on US Military Operations Home and Abroad". North Carolina is home to many combat units which are often the first to deploy in crisis and conflict. Thus, military families and communities will be some of the first to feel the effects of climate change as US troops are deployed in response to disasters and conflicts exacerbated by climate change. Click here to watch the full program: <https://livestream.com/accounts/7720979/events/7648579>
 - ▶ (SA LCC) The South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative published their August 2017 and September 2017 Newsletters which can be viewed here:
 - <http://mailchi.mp/bb6cd4e956d8/pmx0j3o71h-2753981?e=e86655520f>
 - <http://mailchi.mp/e8d8a974d660/pmx0j3o71h-2765897?e=e86655520f>
 - ▶ (USGS SECSC) The Southeast Climate Science Center released its September 2017 Newsletter which can be viewed here: <https://globalchange.ncsu.edu/september-2017-newsletter/>
- **Southeast Conservation Finance Initiative**
 - ▶ (USFWS) U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced a proposal to open or expand opportunities at 10 national wildlife refuges. If finalized, this would bring the number of refuges where the public may hunt up to 373, and up to 312 where fishing would be permitted. Hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities contributed more than \$144.7 billion in economic activity across the United States according to the USFWS National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, published every five years. Learn more here: https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=secretary-zinke-expands-hunting-and-fishing-opportunities-at-10-national-&_ID=36114
 - ▶ (USFWS) The U.S. Department of the Interior announced a new report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that shows that 101.6 million Americans—40 percent of the U.S. population 16 years old and older—participated in wildlife-related activities in 2016, such as hunting, fishing and wildlife-watching. The survey illustrates gains in wildlife watching—particularly around the home—and fishing, with moderate declines in the number of hunters nationally. The findings reflect a continued interest in engaging in the outdoors. These activities are drivers behind an economic powerhouse, where participants spent \$156 billion—the most in the last 25 years, adjusted for inflation. Learn more here: https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=new%20A05-year-report-shows-101.6-million-americans-participated-in-hunting-&_ID=36136
 - ▶ (AFC) The Alabama Invasive Plant Council of the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) is soliciting grant proposals for non-native invasive plant projects in the state of Alabama. The intent of this grant is to provide funding to organizations or individuals who wish to educate the public about non-native invasive plants and their effects on the environment and/or to conduct

small-scale activities for controlling noxious weeds. Proposals will be accepted from individuals, public or private nonprofit organizations and academic institutions. Learn more here: <http://www.forestry.alabama.gov/pr.aspx?ID=12455>

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- ▶ September 25, 2017: [SERDP Funding Opportunities Webinar FY 18](#) by SERDP & ESTCP
- ▶ September 26, 2017: [LANDFIRE – All Lands Data from Vegetation to Fuels: Planning, Engagement and Feedback](#) by Utah State and The Nature Conservancy
- ▶ September 28, 2017: [Green Value, A tool for simplified financial analysis of forest-based initiatives](#) by Southern Regional Extension Forestry
- ▶ October 31, 2017: [Restoring Native Plant Communities: Soil and Hydrology Suited Planning](#) by Southern Regional Extension Forestry
- ▶ November 1, 2017: [Hardwood forest management for health and productivity](#) by Southern Regional Extension Forestry
- ▶ November 2, 2017: [Platforms for Underwater and Near-Shore Munitions Survey](#) by SERDP & ESTCP
- ▶ November 8, 2017: [Stakeholder Engagement 101: Building and Expanding Your REPI Partnership](#) by REPI
- ▶ December 13, 2017: [REPI and Water](#) by REPI

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ September 27-29, 2017: Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation Annual Meeting (Pensacola, FL)
- ▶ October 3-5, 2017: 4th Biennial Shortleaf Pine Conference (Galloway, NJ)
- ▶ October 12-13, 2017: Defense Coastal/Estuarine Research Program Symposium (Raleigh, NC)
- ▶ October 24-26, 2017: Oak Symposium: Sustaining Oak Forests in the 21st Century through Science Based Management (Knoxville, TN)
- ▶ October 23-25, 2017: Longleaf Partnership Council Meeting (Southern Pines, NC)
- ▶ October 26 – 28, 2017: Rally 2017: The National Land Conservation Conference (Denver, CO)
- ▶ October 29 – Nov 1, 2017: 71st Annual Conference Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Louisville, KY) – will include SECAS Symposium
- ▶ November 6, 2017: SERPPAS Energy Work Group Meeting (Atlanta, GA)
- ▶ **November 7 – 8, 2017: SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting (Atlanta, GA)**
- ▶ November 13 – 19, 2017: Society of American Foresters National Convention (Albuquerque, NM)
- ▶ November 28 – Dec 1, 2017: Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively Advanced Training (Briarcliff Manor, NY)
- ▶ November 28 – Dec 2, 2017: 2017 AFE International Fire Congress (Orlando, FL)

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