

# SERPPAS Circular

April/May 2018

*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 2015 – 2017 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](mailto:Addie.Thornton@ag.tamu.edu). You may also contact her at 919-515-3931.*

## FEATURE

- ▶ **2018 SERPPAS Principals Meeting** The mission of SERPPAS is to sustain the collective missions of the partners to protect military readiness and natural resources, to optimize the health and safety of the environment and communities and to promote sustainable rural economies. Because this issue of long-term sustainability crosses geographic and organizational boundaries, the SERPPAS partners work collaboratively to accomplish this mission through identifying opportunities for mutual benefit. This year, the SERPPAS Principals gathered in Fort Walton Beach Florida, hosted by [Eglin Air Force Base](#) (AFB), for the 2018 Principals Meeting that marked 13 years of the partnership’s efforts to accomplish long-term sustainability in the region. In those 13 years, SERPPAS has made many great strides and continues to identify and mitigate current and future risks to the overall mission. This meeting highlighted the revised 2018 - 2020 SERPPAS Strategic Plan, identified priority initiatives and actions to implement from the plan, and enabled the SERPPAS Principals to continue to work collaboratively to ensure a sustainable and resilient Southeast Region. A big thank you to Eglin AFB for hosting the meeting and giving SERPPAS a fantastic tour of their mission sustainment, community engagement and natural resource issues and solutions! Eglin AFB is a prime example of how effective partnership can result in enhanced military readiness, community engagement and natural resource conservation. To see more pictures from the tour and meeting, visit the SERPPAS website to see the photo gallery: <https://serppas.org/photo-gallery/>



## IN THE NEWS

- **Spotlight**
  - ▶ (ALRI) America’s Longleaf Restoration Initiative released the 2017 Range-wide Accomplishment’s Report that highlights many successes in the region over the last year. Over 1.7 million acres of longleaf restoration activities occurred on public and private lands in FY 2017. SERPPAS has been involved and supportive of the longleaf effort since its inception, and continues to look for opportunities to support the goal of restoring 8 million acres by 2025. To read the full report, please visit: <http://www.americaslongleaf.org/media/26741/2017-accomplishment-report.pdf>

- ▶ **(USFWS)** Under a new, unique and far-reaching state-federal partnership, the [Red Cockaded] woodpeckers' health and well-being is inextricably tied to the U.S. Marine Corps mission at Camp Lejeune. An agreement between the military, the Service, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the state of North Carolina allows Lejeune to expand training through prime woodpecker territory. In return, the Recovery and Sustainment Program, or RASP, should boost the woodpecker population across eastern North Carolina. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/articles/marines-and-woodpeckers-share-the-high-ground/>
- ▶ **(Sustaining Military Readiness Conference)** The REPI Program is pleased to announce that the Office of the Secretary of Defense will host the 2018 Sustaining Military Readiness (SMR) Conference August 13 -16, 2018 in St. Louis, MO at the [St. Louis Union Station Hotel](#). All members of the REPI community are encouraged to attend this event, which will provide a forum to share lessons learned and best practices for enhancing military readiness. Starting this week, the REPI team has begun accepting applications for exhibitors at the SMR Conference. If you, or your organization, are interested in participating please contact Government Business Solutions at: [SMRConference@govbizsolutions.com](mailto:SMRConference@govbizsolutions.com). To learn more about the SMR, and receive updates on the conference's guest speakers, events, and schedule please visit: <http://www.smrconference.org/>.
- **Sentinel Landscapes**
  - ▶ (REPI) The DoD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program released its Winter 2018 Newsletter, with a spotlight on the newly designated Georgia Sentinel Landscape. Learn more about the Georgia Landscape, and other REPI happenings, by reading the full newsletter here: <http://createsend.com/t/d-68ED7B373AFC935C2540EF23F30FEDED>
  - ▶ (REPI) The REPI Interactive map has been updated with the latest REPI Installations, Sentinel Landscapes boundaries and Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) boundaries. To check it out, please visit: <https://repimap.org/>
  - ▶ (NLC) The Network for Landscape Conservation has released a summary report of its 2017 survey of landscape conservation initiatives throughout North America. The survey was designed to collect detailed information on the state of practice of landscape conservation, providing key insights and important trends. Read the report here: [http://landscapeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/NLC-2017-Survey-Report\\_Final-Report.pdf](http://landscapeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/NLC-2017-Survey-Report_Final-Report.pdf)
  - ▶ (Georgia Wildlife Federation) Governor Nathan Deal signed the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act (HB 332) into law in a ceremony at the State Capitol on Monday, May 7. As a result, voters will have the opportunity on the November General Election ballot to dedicate a portion of the existing sales tax on outdoor recreation equipment to the conservation of waters, lands and wildlife. If passed by voters in November, the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act would provide for the dedication of up to 80% of the existing sales and use tax on outdoor sporting goods as classified by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), with an initial dedicated amount of approximately \$20 million annually. Buffering around military installations is listed as a one of several purposes of the Act. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.gwf.org/conservation-legislation-signed-law/>
- **Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species**
  - ▶ (Partners for Conservation) Partners for Conservation released "Perspectives on Collaborative Conservation" a report that evaluates lessons learned from the Greater Sage-Grouse

collaboration. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.partnersforconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Perspectives-on-Collaborative-Conservation-Lessons-Learned-from-the-Greater-Sage-Grouse-Collaboration.pdf>

- ▶ (NWF) The National Wildlife Foundation, along with American Fisheries Society and the Wildlife Society celebrates the extraordinary diversity of US wildlife while calling attention to the severe declines affecting many of the nation's species in a report, "Reversing America's Wildlife Crisis". The report highlights the conservation successes made possible by State Wildlife Action Plans and calls for a dramatic increase in wildlife funding, particularly through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, to reverse this crisis and secure the future of our fish and wildlife heritage. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.nwf.org/reversingwildlifecrisis>
- ▶ (Gulf Power) Gulf Power helps Eglin Air Force Base save thousands of threatened gopher tortoises through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Longleaf Stewardship Fund grant. The grant was awarded to The Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership (GCPEP), a group of 15 landowners in Northwest Florida, including Gulf Power and Eglin, who are collaborating to conserve and restore the dwindling longleaf pine ecosystems that once dominated the Southeast. While saving these docile creatures, the goal of Eglin Natural Resource team is to save the Air Force time and money it would take to navigate stricter rules for base operations that would be imposed under the Endangered Species Act. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.gulfpowernews.com/gulf-power-helps-eglin-air-force-base-save-thousands-of-doomed-gopher-tortoises/>
- ▶ (USFWS) Camp Lejeune, DoD, NFWF, and the State of North Carolina developed a state-federal partnership called the Recovery and Sustainment Program. The purpose of the program is to boost the woodpecker population across eastern North Carolina, while also expanding Marine Corps training through prime woodpecker territory. To learn more, please visit:
  - <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/articles/marines-and-woodpeckers-share-the-high-ground/>
  - <http://www.ncwildlife.org/News-Archives/new-partnership-will-protect-endangered-woodpecker>
- ▶ (NRCS) U.S. Department of Agriculture is adding several new target species to its premier wildlife conservation effort that helps producers make voluntary wildlife friendly improvements on working lands. NRCS is adding five new projects to Working Lands for Wildlife, the agency's targeted, science-based effort to help producers restore and protect habitat for declining species on farms, ranches, and working forests. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1390281>
- ▶ (USFWS) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service named Camp Blanding as the recipient of the 2018 Military Conservation Award for its wide-ranging conservation and community actions. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2018/05/base-recognized-for-conservation-work/>
- ▶ (USFWS) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognized several 'Recovery Champions' in the Southeast region. Recovery champions are USFWS staff and their partners whose work is advancing the recovery of threatened and endangered species. To learn about the Southeast Champions, please visit: <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2018/05/congratulations-to-the-2017-recovery-champions-for-the-southeast-region/>
- ▶ (USFWS) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will conduct a five-year status review of 35 endangered or threatened fish, wildlife, and plants in the Southeast region, as mandated by the Endangered

Species Act. The public is invited to provide information and comments concerning these species on or before July 6, 2018. To learn more, please visit:

<https://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2018/05/us-fish-and-wildlife-service-conducts-five-year-status-reviews-of-35-southeastern-species/>

- ▶ (TAMU NRI) Mike Brennan, director of the Wildlife Conservation and Mitigation Program at Texas A&M provided insights on the Endangered Species Act and candidate species policy. To read his full article, please visit: <https://nri.tamu.edu/news/2018/april/what-can-the-gopher-tortoise-teach-us-about-endangered-species-conservation/>

- **Southeast Wildland Fire Initiative**

- ▶ (JFSP) The Joint Fire Science Program funded Fire Science Exchange Network (FSEN) was highlighted in this recent FY17 accomplishments summary from the JFSP. The Southern Fire Exchange (SFE) is the southeastern regional member of the FESN. To learn more, please visit: <https://gallery.mailchimp.com/18313cd6d252b7c69af8d769e/files/888336ff-a0d0-4e52-aa06-a0a181272e26/2017FSENAccomplishments.pdf>
- ▶ (SERPPAS) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> editions of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here:
  - <http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1117561491017&ca=fc604f88-fc46-4ae2-81fe-d258b1e52675>
  - <http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1117561491017&ca=7aa75a4b-d6f3-4f85-bf98-3d3fb3fd8120>
  - <http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1117561491017&ca=c26f3df0-f72f-44e1-a78f-15ef58600499>
- ▶ (USDA) U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue expressed his appreciation for the work of Congress to find a bipartisan fix for the way the U.S. Forest Service is funded for fighting wildfires. Secretary Perdue had advocated for the change since taking office in April 2017. Congress included the solution in the FY 2018 Omnibus Spending Package, which has been signed into law by President Donald J. Trump. “Improving the way we fund wildfire suppression will help us better manage our forests. If we ensure that we have adequate resources for forest management, we can mitigate the frequency of wildfires and severity of future fire seasons.” To learn more, please visit: [https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2018/03/23/secretary-perdue-applauds-fire-funding-fix-omnibus?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=grasstops](https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2018/03/23/secretary-perdue-applauds-fire-funding-fix-omnibus?utm_source=email&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=grasstops)
- ▶ (SFE) The Southern Fire Exchange released its bimonthly newsletter sharing research, resources, news and upcoming events from around the Southeast and nationwide: <http://southernfireexchange.org/newsletters/v8-2.pdf>
- ▶ (CPFD) Camp Pendleton Fire Department hosted its bi-annual Wild Land Fire Table Top Exercise on Camp Pendleton. The purpose of the exercise is to provide area commanders with an understanding of the installations concept of preparedness, response, and effort in the event of a wildfire: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/271153/cpen-leaders-gather-wild-land-fire-table-top-exercise-2018>
- ▶ (FL DACS) Florida Commissioner of Agriculture, Adam H. Putnam hosted Wildfire Awareness Week, in commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Florida’s devastating 1998 wildfire season. The purpose of Wildfire Awareness Week is to educate citizens on how to build a personal

wildfire action plan, and to learn more about the causes and remedies to wildfire. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.freshfromflorida.com/News-Events/Press-Releases/2018-Press-Releases/Commissioner-Adam-Putnam-Highlights-Wildfire-Awareness-Week-on-20th-Anniversary-of-Historic-1998-Wildfire-Season>

- ▶ (AAAS) The American Association for the Advancement of Science published an article ‘*Scientists aim to smoke out wildfire impacts*’ which discusses a U.S. campaign to study how plumes affect human health and environment. To read the full article, please visit: <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/360/6392/948.full>

- **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**

- ▶ (USDA NRCS) State Conservationist Terrance O. Rudolph of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and Marty McLendon, chairman of the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) announced that a sign up for the *Climate Resiliency in Georgia, Florida and Alabama* project is under way. This multi-state project covering Alabama, Florida and Georgia is one of 88 projects across the country that was selected for funding through last fiscal year’s Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The projects are looking to improve on-farm climate change resiliency through water use efficiency, energy efficiency, and soil health on cropland; mitigate wildfire risk, increase carbon sequestration, and enhance wildlife habitat on forestland; and enhance soil health, manage nutrients and improve water quality on grazing land as well as animal feeding operations. To learn more, please visit: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDANRCS/bulletins/1e5de5e>
- ▶ (SA LCC) The South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative released its April and May Newsletters, listed below. The SA LCC has also made military training route data available on the conservation blueprint tool. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.southatlanticlcc.org/2018/05/08/military-training-route-data-now-available/>
  - <https://mailchi.mp/88acb8397adb/pmx0j3o71h-2862433?e=319c297f7c>
  - <https://mailchi.mp/f7e4aad6b457/pmx0j3o71h-2871709?e=319c297f7c>
- ▶ The SE Climate Adaptation Science Center released its April 2018 Newsletter, which includes climate related news, resources, publications, webinars and more for the Southeast region: <https://globalchange.ncsu.edu/april-2018-newsletter/>
- ▶ (SDRP) The Southeast Disaster Recovery Partnership is holding their annual partnership meeting on June 19-20 in St. Petersburg, Florida. The SDRP’s mission is to bring together partners to strengthen the ability of the Southeast’s coastal economy and environment to recover from the next coastal storm. SERPPAS will be represented on the panel discussing ‘Effective Regional Partnerships’ and will use this opportunity to explore how these partnerships can work together to increase resiliency in the Southeast. To learn more, please visit: <http://secoora.org/sdrp/annual-meeting-2018/>
- ▶ (DCERP) The Defense Coastal/Estuarine Research Program, a 10-year integrated research and monitoring program funded by DoD at Camp Lejeune, is focused on demonstrating the science behind ecosystem-based management at a coastal installation. This month marks the official end of the 10-year study, and access to the DCERP data, synthesized results, final reports, and outreach materials produced during the program is now being maintained by the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP). To learn more, please visit: <https://dcerp.serdp-estcp.org/>

- ▶ (NOAA) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is touring five U.S Gulf Coast cities from May 7-11 to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for the upcoming hurricane season. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-air-force-reserve-hurricane-hunters-to-visit-gulf-coast-on-preparedness-tour>
- ▶ (EPA) The Environmental Protection Agency announced \$26 million under the RESTORE Act for Gulf Coast restoration activities in the Mississippi. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/administrator-pruitt-approves-26m-to-state-of-mississippi-for-gulf-coast-ecosystem-restoration-activities/>
- ▶ (GOMA) Duke University, Texas A&M and The Nature Conservancy have launched GEMS, a new project that will standardize measures of restoration in the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. To learn more about the project, please visit: <https://gulfofmexicoalliance.org/2018/05/impact-of-gulf-restoration/>
- ▶ (GOMA) The Gulf of Mexico alliance has launched a new community of practice to communicate major modeling activities in the Gulf Region. The purpose of the community of practice is to enhance collaboration and avoid duplications or excessive overlap. To get involved, please visit: <https://gulfofmexicoalliance.org/2018/04/participants-sought-for-new-modeling-community-of-practice/>
- **Energy Development and Siting**
  - ▶ (TAMU NRI) The Texas A&M Natural Resource Institute researchers' recently published a study which presents a novel approach for evaluating land use changes caused by energy development and other anthropogenic activities in Texas. Additionally, this technique can facilitate effective management of a variety of biotic resources in other rapidly developing environments globally by identifying what anthropogenic activities are most important and where land-change is most intense so that on-the-ground conservation strategies can be implemented where they are needed most. To learn more, please visit: [https://nri.tamu.edu/publications/peer-reviewed-publications/2018/an-approach-for-evaluating-changes-in-land-use-from-energy-sprawl-and-other-anthropogenic-activities-with-implications-for-biotic-resource-management/?utm\\_source=NRI+Employees&utm\\_campaign=d855c0cb8f-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_04\\_02&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_641962f562-d855c0cb8f-147670813](https://nri.tamu.edu/publications/peer-reviewed-publications/2018/an-approach-for-evaluating-changes-in-land-use-from-energy-sprawl-and-other-anthropogenic-activities-with-implications-for-biotic-resource-management/?utm_source=NRI+Employees&utm_campaign=d855c0cb8f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_04_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_641962f562-d855c0cb8f-147670813)
- **Military Services News**
  - ▶ (U.S. Army) Each year the army accepts nominations in nine categories and selects those installations and organizations who have excelled in program management, technical merit, supporting the military mission, transferring lessons learned and involving installation personnel, residents and local community in their environmental programs. To see the winners for FY 2016 – 2017, please visit: [https://www.army.mil/article/201545/army\\_recognizes\\_environmental\\_successes](https://www.army.mil/article/201545/army_recognizes_environmental_successes)
  - ▶ (DoD) The DoD honored nine winners with the 2018 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards for exceptional environmental achievements and innovative, cost-effective environmental practices. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.oea.gov/pentagon-honors-secretary-defense-environmental-award-recipients>

## UPCOMING WEBINARS

---

- ▶ Archived: [Wildland Fire: Health Effects and Public Health Outreach](#) by U.S. EPA
- ▶ Archived: [Sentinel Landscapes and States: Case Studies of State Involvement in the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership by REPI](#)
- ▶ Archived: [Migratory Connectivity of At-Risk Grassland Birds](#) by DoD NR Program
- ▶ June 13, 2018: [Conservation Finance Tools and Strategies](#) by REPI
- ▶ June 14, 2018: [Approaches to Managing Threatened, Endangered and At-Risk Bird Species](#) by SERDP-ESTCP
- ▶ July 12, 2018: [Lessons Learned from Hosting Learn-n-Burn Events](#) by Jennifer Fawcett, NCSU and SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Coordinator
- ▶ July 19, 2018: [The role of Fire in Southeastern Isolated Wetlands](#) by SFE
- ▶ August 16, 2018: [Informing Restoration Programs for Threatened and Endangered Plant Species](#) by SERDP-ESTCP
- ▶ August 23, 2018: [Prescribed Fire and Air Quality Tracking with SIPFIS](#) by SFE
- ▶ September 12, 2018: [Proactive Planning: Incorporating Mitigation Strategies into Your REPI Partnership](#) by REPI

## UPCOMING EVENTS

---

- ▶ June 6-7, 2018: [Adaptation Planning for Coastal Communities](#) (St. Joe, FL)
- ▶ June 12-14, 2018: [Longleaf Academy: Fire and Longleaf F201](#) (Southern Pines, NC)
- ▶ June 11 - 15, 2018: [Gulf of Mexico Alliance 2018 All Hands Meeting](#) (St. Petersburg, FL)
- ▶ June 18 – 22, 2018: [Conservation Finance Network Boot Camp Training Course](#) (Fort Collins, CO)
- ▶ June 19 – 20, 2018: [Southeast Disaster Recovery Partnership Annual Meeting](#) (St. Petersburg, FL)
- ▶ July 17-18, 2018: TELE Fire Workshop (Helena, GA)
- ▶ July 17-19, 2018: [Longleaf Academy: Fire and Longleaf F201](#) (Aiken, SC)
- ▶ August 14 – 18, 2018: [Sustaining Military Readiness](#) (St. Louis, MO)
- ▶ August 26 - 30, 2018: [National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration](#) (New Orleans, LA)
- ▶ **September TBD 2018: SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting (Atlanta, GA)**
- ▶ September 12 -14, 2018: [Global Climate Action Summit](#) (San Francisco, CA)
- ▶ October 21 – 24, 2018: [72<sup>nd</sup> Annual SEAFWA Conference](#) (Mobile, AL)
- ▶ October 23 – 26, 2018: [12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Longleaf Conference](#) (Alexandria, LA)

For more information about SERPPAS, visit [www.serppas.org](http://www.serppas.org), or email [info@serppas.org](mailto:info@serppas.org).