

SERPPAS Circular

October/November 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 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. You may also contact her at 919-515-3931.

Happy Thanksgiving from SERPPAS!

[Here are some wild facts from USFWS about that Thanksgiving Bird!](#)

FEATURE: SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Workshop October 26-27, 2017 in Southern Pines, NC

An identified focus area of SERPPAS (Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability) is increasing the use of prescribed fire as a management tool across the Southeastern Landscape. The use of prescribed fire not only helps to restore the predominant native ecosystem in the Southeast of Longleaf Pine, but also reduces the risk of frequent and intense wildfires. Wildfire risk reduction around DoD Installations, as well as the prevention of listing critical Longleaf Pine ecosystem species are both important encroachment concerns to DoD. SERPPAS developed a comprehensive strategy based on extensive research in 2012 that spells out how to increase prescribed fire on the ground with 8 goals and 60+ activities on topics ranging from communication and education, to research, funding and smoke impacts. Many of the goals and activities are out of date, are happening disjointedly or need an agency lead to step up in order to accomplish. For this purpose, SERPPAS convened 50+ fire experts from Federal, State, NGO, private and landowner groups to revise this Strategy and chart a course forward for implementing the activities in the strategy on a regional scale. The workshop was held in conjunction with the [Longleaf Partnership Council](#) to increase the collaboration between America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative and the SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Strategy. The results of this workshop are a better understanding of the important activities that need immediate attention in the next 3 years, some champions across the region to spearhead prescribed fire efforts and a newly revised region wide SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Strategy to be released in May 2018.

IN THE NEWS

- **Spotlight**

- ▶ (REPI) The 2018 REPI Challenge Request for Pre-Proposals and the downloadable PDF pre-proposal form are now available through the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities website. The 2018 REPI Challenge seeks to leverage public and private funds for (1) land conservation or management activities that leverage species crediting approaches to relieve current or anticipated environmental restrictions on military testing, training or operations, (2) targeted land conservation within watersheds important to the safe and adequate supply of water to DoD installations and ranges, OR (3) the acquisition of water rights that directly sustains or enhances military mission activities as a key element of a land protection project that limits incompatible development or preserves habitat in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 2684a. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.usendowment.org/rfps/repichallenge.html>

- ▶ (SERDP) The FY 2019 Solicitation Statements of Need (SON) have been released from the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program. The topic area of Resource Conservation and Resiliency has two SONs related to wildland fire research to improve military land use efficiency and conservation tools to support DoD training land use. The pre-proposals are due by January 4, 2018 at 2pm E.T. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.serdp-estcp.org/Funding-Opportunities/SERDP-Solicitations>
- ▶ (NFWF) (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and International Paper (NYSE: IP) announced \$2.9 million in grants to support forestland restoration and working forests throughout the Southeast. Grantee organizations have committed more than \$4.7 million in match, generating a total conservation impact of more than \$7.6 million. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.nfwf.org/howeare/mediacenter/pr/Pages/nfwf-international-paper-announce-grants-to-further-restore-improve-southern-forestland-2017-1117.aspx>
- **Sentinel Landscapes**
 - ▶ (ESA) The Ecological Society of America released an article on Network Governance in the Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment Journal. The article ‘Connecting people and places: the emerging role of network governance in large landscape conservation’ emphasizes the need of natural resource management individuals and organizations to work across agencies, jurisdictions and land ownerships. To learn more, please visit: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/fee.1247/full>
 - ▶ (OEA) Good neighbors: Joint Land Use Study between Huntsville and Redstone Arsenal encourages public input. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.oea.gov/good-neighbors-joint-land-use-study-between-huntsville-and-redstone-arsenal-encourages-public-input>
 - ▶ (USDA NRCS) The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) plans to invest in 48 new, multi-year projects that aim to build vital infrastructure while conserving natural resources in 20 states or territories through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program. USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works with local groups to help prevent floods, protect watersheds, improve agricultural water management and enhance wildlife habitat through this program. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1356245>
 - ▶ (USDA NRCS) The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) encourages people and groups wanting to protect critical wetlands, agricultural lands and grasslands to consider enrolling their property into conservation easements. This year, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) plans to invest \$250 million in technical and financial assistance to help private landowners, tribes, land trusts and other groups protect these valuable lands. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1365223>
 - ▶ (FLDEP) Governor Rick Scott’s Securing Florida’s Future budget recommends more than \$1.7 billion to protect and enhance Florida’s environment - a more than \$220 million increase over the current year. The Securing Florida’s budget builds on the key investments made by Governor Scott in Florida’s environment over the past seven years, including Everglades restoration, springs protection, beach and shoreline restoration and re-nourishment, and the management and

enhancement of some of Florida's most prized natural treasures, including Florida State Parks. To learn more, please visit: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/1c4ac69>

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

- ▶ (TAMU NRI) Gopher Tortoise Translocation — Drs. Wade Ryberg and Toby Hibbitts are beginning a translocation project of rescued gopher tortoises (candidate species of interest) at Eglin Air Force Base. Habitat for these tortoises are schedule to be developed, and, as a result, animals are being captured and brought to an enclosure on base to increase population numbers and improve mission flexibility. Project objectives is to evaluate population response to the translocations (i.e., survival, predation). See some pictures here: https://twitter.com/TAMU_NRI/status/926204008833998851
- ▶ (USFWS) The National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) reported on findings from the At-Risk Species Assessment on Southern National Forests, Refuges, and Other Protected Areas. The project revealed that southern National Forests and National Wildlife Refuges are home to the most at risk species in the nation. The project was a partnership between the National Forest Service southern region (Forest Service), the Southeast Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and NWRA. <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/pdf/report/nwra-at-risk-report-2017.pdf>
- ▶ (USFWS) To help ensure that its policies are consistent, effective and transparent, and provide a level of certainty to all involved parties, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is soliciting public review of and comment on its Service-wide Mitigation Policy and its Endangered Species Act - Compensatory Mitigation Policy (ESA-CMP). These policies provide direction to Service employees on how to develop mitigation recommendations to offset the impacts of development activities on species or their habitats. To learn more, please visit: https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=u.s.-fish-and-wildlife-service-solicits-public-input-on-mitigation-&_ID=36187
- ▶ (USFWS) On October 16, the GA Department of Natural Resources held a ribbon cutting ceremony to announce the acquisition of the final phase of more than 19,000 acres purchased for the Sansavilla Wildlife Management Area. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2017/10/october-16-ribbon-cutting-ceremony-to-be-held-at-sansavilla-wildlife-management-area/>
- ▶ (GADNR) Red-cockaded woodpeckers have returned to River Creek. Georgia Department of Natural Resources biologists teamed with partner organizations Oct. 19-20 to capture and move eight of these small, endangered woodpeckers from Apalachicola National Forest in Florida to River Creek, the Rolf and Alexandra Kauka Wildlife Management Area in southwest Georgia. To learn more, please visit: <http://georgiawildlife.com/rare-woodpeckers-reintroduced-south-georgia-wma>
- ▶ (SCDNR) The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for the establishment and operation of the South Carolina Bobwhite Funding Partnership (SCBFP). The SCBFP provides a vehicle for SCDNR, Tall Timbers, and others to work collaboratively to help fund, expedite and expand South Carolina bobwhite restoration and management through the SC Bobwhite Initiative (SCBI) and the Tall Timbers Carolina Regional Quail Project (CRQP). To learn more, please visit: http://www.dnr.sc.gov/news/2017/oct/oct10_bobwhite.html

- ▶ (SCDNR) The S.C. Department of Natural Resources, along with the University of Georgia Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, The Longleaf Alliance, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Riverbanks Zoo & Garden, released 30 gopher tortoises at the Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve as part of joint efforts to establish a viable population of gopher tortoises.
http://www.dnr.sc.gov/news/2017/sept/sept29_tortoise.html
- ▶ (GOMA) A new report is available that identifies restoration actions that could impact multiple threatened or endangered species in multiple states. The document, *Recovery Plan Review for Downlisting/Delisting*, presents 80 conservation actions to downlist or delist 27 species along the Gulf of Mexico. The actions are taken directly from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, or State Recovery Plans and 5-year review documents. The project was conducted with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (Alliance) Wildlife and Fisheries Team (WFT) through a 2016 Gulf Star award. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/2017/10/new-report-recovery-plans-review-endangered-threatened-species/>
- **Southeast Wildland Fire Initiative**
 - ▶ (SFE) The Southern Fire Exchange released its September – October Fire Lines Newsletter in conjunction with the Southeastern Section of the Association of Fire Ecology, which briefly summarizes recent fire-related publications, projects, activities and news. The Fire Lines Newsletter can be viewed here: <http://southernfireexchange.org/newsletters/v7-5.pdf>
 - ▶ (SERPPAS) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 13th 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-October-Issue-Now-Available.html?soid=1117561491017&aid=bsD_b3ulOCE
 - ▶ (SERPPAS) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 14th 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-November-2017-Issue-Now-Available.html?soid=1117561491017&aid=qksSnTucNho>
- **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**
 - ▶ (US GCRP) As a key part of the Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4), the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) oversaw the production of this stand-alone report of the state of science relating to climate change and its physical impacts. The Climate Science Special Report (CSSR) is designed to be an authoritative assessment of the science of climate change, with a focus on the United States, to serve as the foundation for efforts to assess climate-related risks and inform decision-making about responses. To read the full report, please visit: <https://science2017.globalchange.gov/chapter/front-matter-about/>
 - ▶ (DCERP) Marine Base Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC was selected as the host installation for a 10 year integrated research and monitoring program called the Defense Coastal/Estuarine Research Program. The results of the monitoring and research efforts are being used to identify ecosystem indicators and develop associated threshold value, tools, or models to inform DoD Installation management needs. To learn more, please visit: <https://dcerp.rti.org/#/>
 - ▶ (OPI) The Open Space Institute is currently accepting proposals for two companion Funds, including the Southeast Resilient Landscapes Fund. These Funds provide capital grants to safeguard places that will help wildlife mitigate the effects of a changing climate. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.openspaceinstitute.org/southeast-resilient-landscapes-fund>

- ▶ (Science Direct) A team of scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service collaborated to synthesize existing information on ecological thresholds related to environmental changes, including sea-level rise and coastal storms, for 45 species of coastal fish, wildlife, and plants selected because of their ecological, economic and cultural importance. To learn more, please visit:
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0964569117306038>
 - ▶ (NRCS RCPP) The Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded \$3,000,000 through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) for Climate Resiliency in Florida, Alabama and Georgia. 32 partners and counting will work together to develop and implement practical solutions for climate change adaptation in the ACF and Ochlocknee River Basins. The primary objective of the project is to strengthen land and farm resiliency to climate change impacts across a diverse spectrum of land uses and habitat types. Leveraging significant resources from partners, the tristate RCPP will utilize USDA-NRCS programs to target conservation concerns by region and maximize impact, sustaining valuable resources for future generations. For more information, please contact: Casey Cox, 229.351.4728, casey@flintriverswcd.org
 - ▶ (SA LCC) The South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative published their October 2017 and November 2017 Newsletters which can be viewed here:
 - <http://mailchi.mp/60f4d9dce324/pmx0j3o71h-2775457?e=63774bd623>
 - <http://mailchi.mp/c5ffb128eaaa/pmx0j3o71h-2783957?e=63774bd623>
 - ▶ (USGS SECSC) The Southeast Climate Science Center released its October 2017 Newsletter which can be viewed here: <https://globalchange.ncsu.edu/october-2017-newsletter/>
 - ▶ (FLDEP) The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has provided more than \$90 million toward the recent completion of seven water quality improvement projects in Central and South Florida. The funding was awarded through DEP's Division of Water Restoration Assistance's various funding resources and programs. To learn more, please visit: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/1bb039d>
 - ▶ (NCDEQ) At the 2017 Albemarle- Pamlico Ecosystem Symposium, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Secretary Michael Regan provided the final signature for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) facilitated by APNEP between NC DEQ, North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), and Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources. The MOU will foster interstate collaboration throughout the Albemarle-Pamlico region to manage for healthy ecosystems and communities. To learn more, please visit: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/apnep/2017-11-15>
- **Southeast Conservation Finance Initiative**
 - ▶ (CFN) The Conservation Finance Network interviews Ricardo Bayon and Alex Eidson, a partner and an analyst at Encourage Capital, about their new report, "NRCS and Investment Capital: Investing in America Together". To read the article and the report, please visit: <https://www.conservationfinancenetwork.org/2017/09/26/investment-capital-can-join-forces-with-nrcs-part-1>
 - ▶ (CFN) The Conservation Finance Network's recent report, "Private Capital and Working Lands Conservation: A Market Development Framework." Translates practitioner insight into a framework and common language in the hope of speeding solutions to market development. The report attempts to describe how stakeholders could better delineate their roles and focus their

money and authority. It is meant to help stakeholders set realistic goals, expectations and timeframes to see more capital deployed faster. To read the report, please visit:

http://cbey.yale.edu/sites/default/files/Private_Capital_for_Working_Lands_Conservation.pdf

- ▶ (USFS) The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service is taking grant applications for projects that expand wood products and wood energy markets, especially in areas with high wildfire risk. Applications may be submitted through Jan. 22, 2018. Grants provided through the agency's Wood Innovations program not only help reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health, but also create jobs to promote economic vitality in our communities. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.fs.fed.us/news/releases/us-forest-service-award-7-million-grant-applications-projects-expand-wood-products-and>

- **Military Services News**

- ▶ (USFF) - U.S. Fleet Forces (USFF) Installations and Environment department has developed an Afloat Environmental Compliance website to improve Sailors' access to environmental compliance resources. The new website is designed to help Sailors locate, review, and adhere to the Navy's environmental policies. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/252839/usff-introduces-new-tool-afloat-environmental-compliance>
- ▶ (AFCEC) One tool available to installations seeking mission assurance through energy assurance is the energy resilience and conservation investment program (ERCIP). The program is a subset of the defense-wide military construction program that funds projects to increase resilience, save energy or water, produce energy or reduce the cost of energy for the Department of Defense. It supports construction of new, high-efficiency energy systems and modernization of existing ones. Projects in this program aim to improve energy resilience in a cleaner, cost-competitive manner. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.afcec.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1334981/ercip-a-tool-in-the-energy-assurance-toolbox/>
- ▶ (AFCEC) The Air Force has agreed to cover the cost to purchase drinking water for the City of Airway Heights under an agreement effective Nov. 1. The purpose of this agreement is to mitigate a water shortfall caused by the closure of city wells due to Perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) contamination. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.afcec.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1367923/air-force-airway-heights-strike-water-agreement/>
- ▶ (AEC) U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz Commander Col. Keith E. Igyarto showed just how committed he is to Green Boot certification by challenging his own experts in head-to-head competition. Garrison command functions in Rhine Ordnance Barracks Bldg. 162 will challenge their own Department of Public Works in ROB Bldg. 164. The Army's Green Boot Program inspires organizations to conserve energy and natural resources by focusing on energy conservation, waste management, transportation and water efficiency and quality. Following an evaluation of efforts, a Green Boot certification is awarded. TO learn more, please visit: https://www.army.mil/article/194694/garrison_commander_kicks_green_boot_into_action_with_dpw_throw_down_challenge

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- ▶ Archived: [SERDP Funding Opportunities Webinar FY 18](#) by SERDP & ESTCP
- ▶ Archived: [Habitat Mapping for Aquatic Species At-Risk on Military Installations using GPS-based Underwater Video](#) by DoD Natural Resources Program
- ▶ Archived: [Tracking prescribed fire and monitoring fire effects](#) by SA LCC
- ▶ November 16: [Intersections between coastal protection and fisheries](#) by SA LCC
- ▶ November 29, 2017: [Protecting open space and tidal wetland migration corridors to increase coastal resilience in the Gulf of Mexico](#) by GCPO LCC
- ▶ December 11, 2017: [Climate, Megafires and Conservation Financing](#) by USDA Office of Sustainability and Climate Change
- ▶ December 13, 2017: [REPI and Water](#) by REPI
- ▶ December 13, 2017: [Current and future water availability and streamflow characteristics in GCPO watersheds](#) by GCPO LCC
- ▶ December 13, 2017: [Prescribed Fire 101 for Air Quality Specialists](#) by SFE
- ▶ December 13, 2017: [Connecting Fire Behavior, regime, and effects](#) by North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ November 28 – 30, 2017: [SERDP ESTCP Symposium: Enhancing DoD's Mission Effectiveness](#) (Washington, DC)
- ▶ November 28 – Dec 1, 2017: [Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively Advanced Training](#) (Briarcliff Manor, NY)
- ▶ November 28 – Dec 2, 2017: [7th International Fore Ecology and Management Congress](#) (Orlando, FL)
- ▶ January 23 – 25, 2018: [Longleaf Academy: Longleaf 101](#) (Aiken, SC)
- ▶ February 22 – 25, 2018: [2018 Annual Southeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation](#) (Helen, GA)
- ▶ **March 6-7, 2018: Spring SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting (Atlanta, GA)**
- ▶ March 14 – 16, 2018: [Joint CESU Rally](#) (Raleigh, NC)

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