



SERPPAS Circular

January/February/March 2025

The SERPPAS Circular is a quarterly 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 2024 SERPPAS Strategic Plan. If you have information to share in the next SERPPAS Circular, please email your input directly to SERPPAS: info@serppas.org.

FEATURED

► **Spring 2025 SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting:**

- The Spring 2025 SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting was held on February 19-20, 2025, in Atlanta, GA. The SERPPAS Steering Committee continues to support the work group actions in advancing the 2024 SERPPAS Strategic Plan, connect the SERPPAS Steering Committee in person, and prepare for the 2025 SERPPAS Principals Meeting. See the agenda with resources here: https://serppas.org/media/gk1ju3bl/serppas-spring-2025-steering-committee-meeting_agenda_with-presentations.pdf (Please note some draft resources linked in this document may be outdated.)

► **2025 SERPPAS Principals Meeting Postponed:**

- After a vote by the SERPPAS Steering Committee members, the 2025 SERPPAS Principals Meeting will be postponed until October 28-30, 2025, in the same location of Raleigh, NC. Further details will be released closer to the meeting date.

IN THE NEWS

► **Spotlight**

- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, in collaboration with NOAA, DOD, Occidental, and Shell, is now accepting pre-proposals for the 2025 National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF). The NCRF prioritizes nature-based solutions, community risk reduction, fish and wildlife benefits, and sustainability. The program invests in four categories: Community Capacity Building Planning, Site Assessment and Preliminary Design, Final Design and Permitting, and Restoration Implementation. Pre-proposals are due by **11:59 PM ET on May 6, 2025**. An informational webinar will be available after April 1, 2025. For more information, please visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund/national-coastal-resilience-fund-2025-request-proposals>
- The Network for Landscape Conservation announced the 2025 Request for Proposals for the Catalyst Fund. The Catalyst Fund strives to accelerate the pace and practice of collaborative landscape conservation and stewardship across the United States by investing in Landscape Partnerships. The Fund couples financial support (through a competitive grant program) with capacity building support (through in-depth Peer Learning) to catalyze Partnership efforts to achieve long-term conservation and stewardship goals. Proposals are due on **Friday, May 16, 2025**. For more information, please visit: https://landscapeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Catalyst-Fund_RFP_2025-.pdf



- FEMA announced two major Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs to help communities adapt to the growing challenges of extreme weather and natural hazards. For FY 2024, the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program will allocate \$750 million for projects that protect people and infrastructure from natural hazards, while the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program will provide \$600 million to reduce flood risks to homes and communities. These programs aim to improve disaster risk understanding, support community-driven resilience planning, and fund transformation projects. Additionally, the REPI Program helps meet the BRIC program's non-federal cost-sharing requirement, with the BRIC application deadline set for **April 18, 2025, at 3:00 PM ET**. FEMA will also host webinars to educate governments on programmatic changes. For more information, please visit:
<https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/learn/notice-funding-opportunities/bric-fma>
- The WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program provides cost-shared funding to states, Tribes, and other entities as they study, design, and construct large-scale aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that are collaboratively developed, have widespread regional benefits, and result in the improvement of the health of fisheries, wildlife, and aquatic habitat. The first round of applications is due by **April 15, 2025**. For more information, please visit:
<https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/357615>
- The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Invasive Plant Management Section is the lead agency in Florida responsible for coordinating and funding two statewide programs that control invasive aquatic and upland public conservation lands and waterways across the state. The section has opened the application process for proposing upland invasive plant control projects on public lands. While the funding level for FY 25-26 is currently unknown, last year's budget allocated \$14.5 million statewide. Applications are due by **May 16, 2025**. For more information, please email:
diane.alix@TNC.ORG
- The new NOAA Sea Level Calculator tool allows users to explore how sea levels and coastal flooding have changed in frequency and magnitude for a chosen location. The Sea Level Calculator uses Quick Views to present curated sets of data and interactive visualizations that focus on different dimensions of coastal inundation and sea level rise. These Quick Views can be used to convey important elements of the Sea Level Rise story, including Future Sea Levels, Changes in Flood Frequency, Extreme Water Levels, Observed Sea Level Trends, and Seasonal Variation. To view the tool, please visit: <https://coast.noaa.gov/sealevelcalculator/>
- The National Wildlife Federation's Nature-based Solutions Funding Database includes 86 federal grant programs for communities interested in pursuing federal funding and/or technical assistance for nature-based solutions. To visit the database, please click here:
<https://fundingnaturebasedsolutions.nwf.org/>
- More funding opportunities can be found on the SERPPAS website:
<https://serppas.org/resources/funding-opportunities/>

► Sentinel Landscapes

- The Sentinel Landscape Partnership is excited to announce that the 2026 Sentinel Landscape Designation Cycle is officially accepting expressions of interest! To be considered for designation, all interested parties must submit a completed expression of interest by **11:59 PM in your local time zone on April 9, 2025**. For any questions regarding the designation cycle, please reach out to



FCC@sentinellandscapes.org. For more information, please visit:

<https://sentinellandscapes.org/apply-now/>

- The Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape released their January, February, and March Updates newsletters that provides news, resources, partner collaboration, and partnership progress:
 - January: <https://serppas.org/media/5igleyiw/nwfl-sl-jan-2025.pdf>
 - February: <https://serppas.org/media/aqrpyckg/nwfl-sl-feb-2025.pdf>
 - March: <https://serppas.org/media/wihnpkyc/nwfl-sl-march-2025.pdf>
- The REPI Newsletter for January is now available, providing exciting news and announcements related to the REPI community.
 - January: <https://bit.ly/3E9V9cA>
- The Network for Landscape Conservation released its bi-monthly newsletter, The Landscape Conservation Bulletin, sharing timely news, information, topics, and upcoming conferences and opportunities within the field of landscape conservation:
 - January: <https://bit.ly/4iLZL7P>
 - March: <http://bit.ly/4jbtN4G>

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

- Resource Management Service (RMS) has reintroduced the federally listed Reticulated Flatwood Salamander (*Ambystoma bishopi*) to Florida's Santa Rosa County, in collaboration with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other partners. This first-ever reintroduction, under the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, avoids regulatory risks for landowners. The effort aims to restore the salamander's population in longleaf pine ecosystems, with the first release occurring in January 2025. This project highlights the effectiveness of voluntary conservation on private lands. For more information visit: <https://bit.ly/41SrFcs>
- America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative launched a newly redesigned website earlier this year. To view and explore, please visit: <https://americaslongleaf.org/> <https://americaslongleaf.org/>
- The Jones Center at Ichauway has released the Spring 2025 edition of their newsletter that provides updates on research and other activities at the center.
 - Spring 2025: <https://serppas.org/media/5mhbbewo/jones-center-spring-2025.pdf>
- The January, February, and March editions of Tall Timbers eNews are now available. The monthly newsletter provides the latest news and stories from Tall Timbers on prescribed fire, wildlife management, and land conservation:
 - January: <https://serppas.org/media/0n4hwa0m/tall-timber-jan-20205.pdf>
 - February: <https://serppas.org/media/bk5nhgoo/tall-timbers-feb-2025.pdf>
 - March: <https://serppas.org/media/gqjbqozx/tall-timbers-march-2025.pdf>
- The Southern Regional Extension of Forestry has released its 185th through the 188th issues of their News Digest which shares relevant news and updates.
 - Issue 185: <https://sref.info/resources/newsletters/185>
 - Issue 186: <https://sref.info/resources/newsletters/186>
 - Issue 187: <https://serppas.org/media/vchho1jc/southern-fire-exchange-187.pdf>
 - Issue 188: <https://serppas.org/media/fyedvuic/southern-fire-exchange-188.pdf>



► Southeast Prescribed Fire Initiative

- The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group released *Passing the Torch: An Overview of Student Burn Crew Programs*. The publication highlights multiple college and university student burn crews as an effort to expand the prescribed fire workforce and provide students with the many skills needed to lead prescribed burn operations. To read the report, click here: <https://serppas.org/media/qt1mex5d/passing-the-torch-an-overview-of-student-burn-crew-programs-spring-2025.pdf>
- A new website has been launched for the Collaborative Burning for Birds project, which aims to promote the use of prescribed fire as a vital management tool for enhancing bird habitats in the Southeast U.S. By building partnerships, this project seeks to increase the implementation of controlled burns to improve ecosystems and support bird populations by highlighting the importance of prescribed fire not only for ecological health but also for community engagement and collaboration in conservation efforts. For more details, please visit: <https://talltimbers.org/articles/collaborative-burning-for-birds-project-launches-website/>
- In western North Carolina, private landowners are proactively using prescribed fire to mitigate wildfire risks and promote forest health. Collaborating through prescribed burn associations, these landowners conduct controlled burns to reduce accumulated fuels and enhance ecosystems. To learn more, click here: <https://www.whqr.org/2025-02-03/private-landowners-in-western-north-carolina-fight-wildfire-with-prescribed-fire>
- A recent Sustainable Forestry & Land Retention Project article features Work Group Lead Jenn Fawcett discussing that while wildfires can be devastating, fire itself is a natural and necessary part of many ecosystems. In the article, Jenn highlights the value of controlled burns as a vital tool for maintaining healthy ecosystems and reducing wildfire risks. To read more, click here: <https://www.roanokecooperative.com/2025/02/prescribed-burning-is-a-vital-forest-management-tool/>
- The Southern Fire Exchange released its bi-monthly newsletter Fire Lines, which contains news, updates, and events relevant to fire activities across the region.
 - February: <https://mailchi.mp/southernfireexchange/fire-lines-volume-14-issue-9436043?e=2a08a9178e>
- The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 97th through the 101st editions of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here:
 - November: <https://bit.ly/4iev9ep>
 - December: <https://bit.ly/3XDjCOB>
 - January: <https://bit.ly/4iMsjxX>
 - February: <https://bit.ly/3G2Ljd2>
 - March: <https://bit.ly/4c8oIb2>
- The Ember Alliance have released the January, February, and March versions of their newsletter which features news stories and updates.
 - January: <https://bit.ly/4j9WH5h>
 - February: <https://bit.ly/41QSPY>
 - March: <https://bit.ly/4j4vMrq>



► Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation

- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced \$139 million in new grants through the National Coastal Resilience Fund to support nature-based solutions for coastal resilience in 31 coastal states and U.S. territories. A total of 94 grants will promote capacity development, design, and implementation of nature-based solutions to both enhance the resilience of coastal communities and improve fish and wildlife habitat. The grants will generate more than \$140 million in matching contributions for a total conservation impact of \$280 million. For more details and a full list of awardees, please visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/media-center/press-releases/national-fish-and-wildlife-foundation-and-noaa-announce-139-million-new>
- A community-driven effort in Cedar Key, FL, resulted in the construction of three living shoreline retrofits intended to bolster failing coastal infrastructure and restore habitat functions in Daughtry Bayou. A multi-year monitoring program tracked changes in elevation and vegetation communities across the entire shoreline profile from lower-intertidal to upland/transitional zones and measured wave attenuation during typical and extreme (hurricane) conditions. For more details and to view the results, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12237-024-01440-w>
- The SE Climate Adaptation Science Center released its January, February, and March Newsletters, which include climate-related news, resources, publications, webinars, and more for the Southeast region:
 - January: <https://bit.ly/42IPPfz>
 - February: <https://bit.ly/4hZfj7h>
 - March: <https://bit.ly/42d4CYU>
- The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy released its January, February, and March Newsletters, which combine all the blogs written on the SECAS website during the previous month:
 - January: <https://bit.ly/3QUuPGr>
 - February: <https://bit.ly/3FKvCXW>
 - March: <https://bit.ly/426dQpG>
- The South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative released its January and February Newsletters, which include salt marsh-related news, updates on SASMI efforts, and relevant funding opportunities.
 - January: <https://serppas.org/media/si3pakz0/sasmi-jan-2025.pdf>
 - February: <https://serppas.org/media/zexijz3s/sasmi-feb-2025.pdf>

► Energy Development and Siting

- The Energy and Wildlife Policy Committee's (EWPC) Solar Wildlife Working Group has developed the Solar Beneficial Management Practices Database which compiles existing State Fish and Wildlife Agency solar-wildlife guidance documents into a standardized, searchable resource. This centralized tool serves as a "one-stop-shop" to access existing state solar-wildlife management practices and explore via keyword search or categorization. In addition to State Agencies using this database to update and/or develop new, state-specific guidelines, stakeholders, including solar project proponents, researchers, and the public, can use the database to facilitate wildlife-friendly solar siting and operations. To view the database, please visit: <https://www.fishwildlife.org/solar-beneficial-management-practice-database#home/>



- The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office released its January, February, and March editions of the Southern Review of Legislative & Regulatory Actions for Federal Region 4. 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.
 - January: <https://serppas.org/media/memewahl/eastern-review-01-2025.pdf>
 - February: <https://serppas.org/media/gawlbab5/eastern-review-02-2025.pdf>
 - March: <https://serppas.org/media/uqkhpkr/eastern-review-03-2025.pdf>
- ▶ **Military Services News**
 - Fort Stewart’s Directorate of Public Works manages nearly 280,000 acres of land, much dedicated to training the combat readiness of the 3rd Infantry Division. This department is dedicated to managing the land to meet the needs of combat training and preserving the natural spaces. To read more about the conservation work going on at Fort Stewart, please visit:
https://www.army.mil/article/280226/fort_stewart_hails_several_conservation_milestones

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ April 5, 2025: [Party for the Pine 2025](#) (Southern Pines, NC)
- ▶ April 24, 2025: [SERPPAS Virtual Steering Committee Meeting](#) (Virtual)
- ▶ April 29-30, 2025: [Groundcover 201: Groundcover Restoration Academy](#) (Moultrie, GA)
- ▶ May 5-8, 2025: [Alliance All Hands Meeting 2025 – Gulf of America Alliance](#) (Biloxi, MS)
- ▶ June 2-5, 2025: [Southern Group of State Foresters 2025 Annual Meeting](#) (Biloxi, MS)
- ▶ July 15-18, 2025: [9th American Forest Congress – Healthy Forests, Thriving Communities](#) (Washington, DC)
- ▶ September 9-11, 2025: [Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Symposium](#) (Asheville, NC)
- ▶ October 26-29, 2025: [79th Annual SEAFWA Conference](#) (Biloxi, MS)

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- ▶ Series: [Landscape Conservation Webinar Series](#) by the Network for Landscape Conservation
- ▶ Series: [Southeast Monthly Webinar Series](#) by NOAA
- ▶ Series: [NOAA Science Seminar Series](#) by NOAA
- ▶ Series: [SE CASC Science Seminar Series](#) by the SECASC
- ▶ Series: [Climate and Societal Interactions Division Nature-Based Solutions Webinar Series](#) by NOAA
- ▶ Series: [2025 REPI Webinar Series](#) by REPI
- ▶ Archived: All Southern Fire Exchange webinars are recorded and housed on the [SFE YouTube channel](#).
- ▶ Archived: [Science Seminar: Partnering with Fire – Learning from Tribal Nations and Indigenous Practices](#) by SECASC
- ▶ Archived: [Fire Weather Portal for the Southeast](#) by SECAS
- ▶ April 2, 2025: [Leveraging Geospatial Tools for Effective Environmental Planning: A Hurricane Helene Case Study](#) by SECASC
- ▶ April 16, 2025: [Detection and Forecasting of Harmful Algal Blooms](#) by EPA
- ▶ April 17, 2025: [Increasing the Educational Impacts Through Citizen Science](#) by NOAA



- ▶ April 17, 2025: [Understanding Changing Estuaries, Shrimp, and their Fishery in the Lowcountry](#) by NOAA
- ▶ April 16, 2025: [REPI Report to Congress](#) by REPI
- ▶ April 18, 2025: [AI Applications in Earth System and Climate Science: Wildfires](#) by NOAA
- ▶ April 23, 2025: [Filling Gaps on Maps with High Resolution Modeled Water Levels and Waves through NOAA's Coastal Ocean Reanalysis \(CORA\)](#) by NOAA
- ▶ May 7, 2025: [REPI Challenge Help Session](#) by REPI
- ▶ September 24, 2024: [Connecting Defense Communities and Military Installations](#) by REPI
- ▶ October 15, 2025: [Conservation Finance Opportunities in Sentinel Landscapes: FEMA 101](#) by REPI

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