



SERPPAS Circular

October/November/December 2024

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.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season and New Year!

FEATURED

► **SAVE THE DATE:**

- **Spring 2025 SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting:** The Spring 2025 SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting will be held on February 19-20, 2025, in Atlanta, GA. Visit the meeting page on the SERPPAS website for all of the logistics, lodging, and registration information: <https://serppas.org/resources/serppas-meetings/2025/february/spring-2025-steering-committee-meeting/>. Please take note of the **room rate deadline of January 28th** and the **registration deadline of February 12th**.
- **2025 SERPPAS Principals Meeting:** The 2024 SERPPAS Principals Meeting will be held in April, in Raleigh, NC. More information will be on the SERPPAS website as it becomes available.

- **2024 SERPPAS Southern Regional Wildland Fire Smoke Workshop:** The Prescribed Fire Work Group's smoke sub-work group held the 2024 SERPPAS Southern Regional Wildland Fire Smoke Workshop on November 13-14th in Raleigh, NC. A group of fire practitioners, air quality personnel, public health officials, and other interested partners gathered to discuss prescribed fire smoke impacts related to the EPA PM2.5 air quality standards and to share experiences and identify efficiencies for developing successful prescribed burn Exceptional Events (EE) demonstrations across the Southeast.

IN THE NEWS

► **Spotlight**

- The Department of the Interior announced that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is downlisting the red-cockaded woodpecker from endangered to threatened status under the Endangered Species Act. This milestone is the result of five decades of collaborative conservation efforts between DOI, Federal and state partners, Tribes, the private sector, and private landowners that have resulted in increasing populations of these remarkable birds throughout their range. For full details, please visit: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-announces-downlisting-red-cockaded-woodpecker-endangered>
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation released the 2025 Request for Proposals for the Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund (LLSF). The LLSF seeks proposals that support wildlife, sequester carbon, safeguard water quality, and increase forest resilience and to work with landowners to voluntarily restore, enhance, and conserve longleaf pine and bottomland hardwood forests within the historical longleaf pine range. Proposals are due **February 5, 2025**. For full details, please visit:



<https://www.nfwf.org/programs/longleaf-landscape-stewardship-fund/longleaf-landscape-stewardship-fund-2025-request>

- The Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center, the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center, and the Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy were recognized in the Broad Partnerships category for the AWFA 2024 Climate Adaptation Leadership Awards in Natural Resources. This award from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes the joint work in partnering with state and territory fish and wildlife agencies to address their need for guidance on incorporating climate adaptation into their state wildlife action plans. For full details, please visit: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2024/10/24/broad-partnerships-award/>
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and NOAA 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. In particular, we would like to congratulate the 5 awardees within the SERPPAS footprint. 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>
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced \$122.5 million in grants through the America's Ecosystem Restoration Initiative: America the Beautiful Challenge. The 61 new grants announced today will support landscape-scale conservation projects across 42 states, three U.S. territories and 19 Tribal and Native Nations. The grants will generate at least \$8.7 million in matching contributions for a total conservation impact of \$131.2 million. For more details and a full list of recipients, please visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/media-center/press-releases/national-fish-and-wildlife-foundation-announces-122-5-million>
- The Department of Defense announced the launch of the Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program (Legacy Program) Story Map. This interactive resource offers an immersive journey through the Legacy Program's impactful contributions to the stewardship of DOD's natural and cultural resources over the past 34 years, detailing how it has provided strategic, competitive funding for over 3,400 projects across more than 300 installations globally totaling an impressive \$405 million investment in conservation. To view the story map, please visit: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1480d7d2b02c4adda7cbe6ad92f7c09b>
- The Department of the Interior released its first-ever Department-wide guidance on implementing landscape-level approaches to managing our natural and cultural resources. This guide explains key provisions and provides recommendations for DOI staff on effectively implementing that policy, offers insights on how Department bureaus and offices can apply landscape-level approaches directly through planning, mitigation, and management actions, and best practices for DOI staff to participate in landscape-level collaboratives that include non-government partners. To view the document, please visit: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/Reference/Profile/174997>
- 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 2026 Sentinel Landscape Designation Cycle will begin in January 2025 with the release of an Expression of Interest (EOI). On the EOI release date, guidance on the proposal process and criteria will be posted on the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership website and distributed via the partnership listserv. This year marks the 11th anniversary of the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership, which currently features 18 designated sentinel landscapes. For more details and a link to the informational webinar, please visit:
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USGOVREPI/bulletins/3bd73d8>
- The Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape released their October, November, and December Updates newsletters that provides news, resources, partner collaboration, and partnership progress:
 - October: <https://serppas.org/media/4w4nl3ve/nwfl-october.pdf>
 - November & December: <https://serppas.org/media/dxgkpgjh/nwfl-nov-dec.pdf>
- The REPI Newsletter for November is now available, providing exciting news and announcements related to the REPI community.
 - November: <https://bit.ly/4gEaKyE>
- 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:
 - November: <https://conta.cc/4gra2VT>

► At-Risk, Threatened, and Endangered Species

- The Forest Legacy Program, administered by the U.S. Forest Service and funded through the Inflation Reduction Act and Land and Water Conservation Fund, announced approval of a \$50 million grant to permanently protect the “Pee Dee Basin” properties in South Carolina. Comprising more than 62,000 acres of forested land across Marion, Williamsburg, and Georgetown Counties, along three coastal rivers--the Santee, Black, and Pee Dee—this transformational project will ensure climate resilience, recreation, and sustainable forest management. The project is the largest conservation easement project in South Carolina history. For more details, please visit:
<https://www.openspaceinstitute.org/news/largest-conservation-easement-project-in-south-carolina-history>
- The DoD’s conservation newsletter Natural Selections is now available. The newsletter provides news and updates from the DoD Natural Resources Program.
 - Fall 2024: https://www.denix.osd.mil/nr/denix-files/sites/38/2024/11/NaturalSelections_Fall2024_508.pdf
- The October, November, and December 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:
 - October: <https://serppas.org/media/1hfn0ull/tall-timbers-october.pdf>
 - November: <https://serppas.org/media/deknw430/tall-timbers-november.pdf>



- December: <https://serppas.org/media/za5n054w/tall-timbers-december.pdf>
- The Jones Center at Ichauway has released the Fall 2024 edition of their newsletter that provides updates on research and other activities at the center.
 - Fall 2024: <https://serppas.org/media/igsdy1i5/jones-center-fall-2024.pdf>
- The Southern Regional Extension of Forestry has released its 180th, 182nd, and 184th issues of their News Digest which shares relevant news and updates.
 - Issue 180: https://serppas.org/media/onqevzr4/southern-regional-forestry-news_180.pdf
 - Issue 182: https://serppas.org/media/eioje0qb/souther-regional-forestry-news_182.pdf
 - Issue 184: https://serppas.org/media/nfolmxd5/souther-regional-forestry-news_184.pdf

► Southeast Prescribed Fire Initiative

- 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/>
- The Southern Fire Exchange released its bi-monthly newsletter Fire Lines, which contains news, updates, and events relevant to fire activities across the region.
 - October: <https://mailchi.mp/southernfireexchange/fire-lines-volume-14-issue-1230036?e=c849c85f26>
 - December: <https://mailchi.mp/southernfireexchange/fire-lines-volume-14-issue-9435925?e=c849c85f26>
- The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 96th edition of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here:
 - October: <https://bit.ly/4gKAIAE>
- The Ember Alliance have released the October, November, and December versions of their newsletter which features news stories and updates.
 - October: <https://bit.ly/3VLa3M9>
 - November: <https://bit.ly/4gDuo8>
 - December: <https://bit.ly/3P67mRI>

► Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation

- 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 detail sand 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 October, November, and December Newsletters, which includes climate related news, resources, publications, webinars and more for the Southeast region:



- October: <https://bit.ly/4iO61N2>
- November: <https://bit.ly/3P4STFt>
- December: <https://bit.ly/4fAgBV6>
- The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy released its October, November, and December Newsletters, which combines all the blogs written on the SECAS website during the previous month:
 - October: <https://bit.ly/3BMn8hh>
 - November: <https://bit.ly/3DpiJ4w>
 - December: <https://bit.ly/3ZJETWA>
- The South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative released its October, November, and December Newsletters, which includes salt marsh related news, updates on SASMI efforts, and relevant funding opportunities.
 - October: <https://serppas.org/media/gkroy52c/sasmi-october.pdf>
 - November: <https://serppas.org/media/1mjcf2bu/sasmi-november.pdf>
 - December: <https://serppas.org/media/1rabwyls/sasmi-december.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.
- The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office released its October, November, and December 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.
 - October: <https://serppas.org/media/v4tpuc3c/southern-review-10-2024.pdf>
 - November: <https://serppas.org/media/3j4gomzh/southern-review-11-2024.pdf>
 - December: <https://serppas.org/media/zu3lzthg/southern-review-12-2024.pdf>

► Military Services News

- Fort Stewart has nearly 280,000 acres of land, much dedicated to training the combat readiness of the 3rd Infantry Division, the armored component forces of America's contingency corps. However, the largest military installation east of the Mississippi River is also devoted to environmental conservation and restoration. The installation's Directorate of Public Works has a department 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

- ▶ January 7-9, 2025: [Drought and Aquatic Ecosystems in the Southeast Workshop](#) (Raleigh, NC)
- ▶ January 27-30, 2025: [Coastal GeoTools Conference](#) (Wilmington, NC)
- ▶ February 5-6, 2025: [2025 Southern Region Extension Forestry & Natural Resources Meeting](#) (Starkville, MS)
- ▶ **February 19-20, 2025: [SERPPAS Spring Steering Committee Meeting](#) (Atlanta, GA)**
- ▶ March 9-14, 2025: [42nd Annual National Military Fish & Wildlife Association Meeting/90th Annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference](#) (Louisville, KY)
- ▶ March 18-20, 2025: [23rd Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference](#) (Greenville, SC)
- ▶ March 26-28, 2025: [2025 Southeast Land Conservation Conference](#) (Asheville, NC)
- ▶ **April 23-25, 2025: 2025 SERPPAS Principals Meeting (Raleigh, NC)**
- ▶ June 2-5, 2025: [Southern Group of State Foresters 2025 Annual Meeting](#) (Biloxi, MS)

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- ▶ Series: [Landscape Conservation Webinar Series](#) by the Network for Landscape Conservation
- ▶ Series: [Southeast Monthly Webinar 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
- ▶ 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
- ▶ January 7, 2025: [Flames and Feathers: The Role of Fire in Shaping Northern Bobwhite Ecology](#) by The Southern Fire Exchange
- ▶ January 23, 2025: [Challenges and Opportunities of Scaling Nature-based Solutions for Climate Adaptation](#) by NOAA
- ▶ February 12, 2025: [Prescribed Fire Effects on Southern Pine Tree Growth and Forest Structure](#) by Southern Regional Extension Forestry
- ▶ February 20, 2025: [Social Acceptance and Communication Strategies for Wildland Fire Management](#) by Southern Fire Exchange
- ▶ March 19, 2025: [Native Forest Insect Pests of the Southern US: Biology, Management, and Impact](#) by Southern Regional Extension Forestry

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