



SERPPAS Circular

July/August/September 2021

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 [2021+ 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@aq.tamu.edu.

FEATURED

- ▶ **SERPPAS September 2021 Steering Committee Virtual Meeting:** The Fall 2021 SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting was held virtually on September 21, 2021. The purpose of this meeting was to convene the SERPPAS Steering Committee Members in order to continue partnership engagement and advance the implementation of the new 2021+ SERPPAS Strategic Plan. Attendees heard updates on SERPPAS leadership, including introducing Florida as the new state co-chair, learned of the priority actions of all five Work Groups for the next 12-18 months based on the new 2021+ SERPPAS Strategic Plan, and brainstormed ideas for the May 2022 SERPPAS Principals Meeting.
 - *The summary of this meeting is still in development.*
 - [Meeting Recording](#)
- ▶ **New Coastal Resilience DoD Liaison:** SERPPAS and Sea Grant officially welcomed Michelle Covi as the Coastal Resilience DoD Liaison. In her position, Michelle will help to facilitate the transfer of information between NOAA and military installations in and adjacent to U.S. coastal areas; leverage Sea Grant's significant stakeholder engagement and coastal community resilience expertise with compatible land use planning, conservation, and coastal resiliency efforts occurring on and around military installations; and encourage greater collaborative coastal resilience efforts between DoD facilities and coastal communities. An Advisory Committee will be set up to oversee Michelle's efforts that will include a mix of SERPPAS and Sea Grant representatives. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer or provide a suggestion for a committee member.

IN THE NEWS

- ▶ **Spotlight**
 - (REPI) The 2022 REPI Challenge Request for Proposals is now open. The primary focus of this year's REPI Challenge will be projects that will help make key mission capabilities of strategic importance to DoD more resilient to climate change and severe weather events (e.g., coastal and inland flooding, sea level rise, drought, increased wildfires, thawing permafrost). Of the total \$40 million available, up to \$25 million may be allocated toward these climate resilient projects. The remaining \$15 million may be allocated toward projects that promote land conservation or management activities limiting incompatible development or relieving current or anticipated environmental restrictions. **Pre-proposals are due no later than Monday, November 22, 2021, at 8pm ET.** For more information, please visit: https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/REPI_Challenge/2022_REPI%20Challenge%20RFP_FINAL_20210910.pdf



- (FEMA) FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program released the FY 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity. For FY 2021, the BRIC program will distribute up to \$1 billion for mitigation projects that enhance climate resilience and adaptation; incorporate nature-based solutions; and incentivize natural hazard risk reduction to mitigate risk to public infrastructure. **Applications are due by January 28, 2022, at 3pm ET.** For more information, please visit: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/fy2021-nofo>

► Sentinel Landscapes

- (REPI) The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program announced the 2021 REPI Challenge funding recipients, including two projects in the SERPPAS region: a project supporting protection of the longleaf pine ecosystem in North Carolina and a living shoreline construction and coastal restoration project at Tyndall AFB. The focus for the 2021 REPI Challenge was on projects that promote land conservation or management activities that limit incompatible development, enhance military installation resilience to climate change and extreme weather events, or relieve current or anticipated environmental restrictions at locations hosting key capabilities of strategic importance to the Department of Defense. To read more, please visit: <https://www.repi.mil/Buffer-Projects/REPI-Challenge/>
- (NLC) The Network for Landscape Conservation released its bimonthly newsletter, The Landscape Conservation Bulletin, sharing timely news, information, topics, and upcoming conferences and opportunities within the field of landscape conservation:
 - July: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/July-Bulletin-Network-for-Landscape-Conservation.html?soid=1128366788872&aid=Alauwr5mm4k>
- (REPI) The July and September REPI Newsletters are now available, providing exciting news and announcements related to the REPI community.
 - July: <https://bit.ly/2ZNabAE>
 - October: <https://bit.ly/3kUF8Le>

► Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species

- (NG) Florida Governor DeSantis signed the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act into law, providing \$400 million in funding to create a corridor that connects diverse habitats for Florida’s wildlife. The purpose of the act, and of the Corridor itself, is “to create incentives for conservation and sustainable development while sustaining and conserving the green infrastructure that is the foundation of Florida’s economy and quality of life.” To learn more, please visit: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/04/us/florida-wildlife-corridor-law-passed-trnd/index.html>
- (ALRI) America’s Longleaf Restoration Initiative released its 2020 Range-wide Accomplishment Report celebrating a decade’s worth of accomplishments and significant progress towards restoring longleaf pine. Despite a turbulent 2020, ALRI’s dedicated partners recorded over 1.9 million acres of accomplishments ranging from new longleaf establishment, prescribed burning, land protection, and maintenance activities. To read more, please visit: <http://www.americaslongleaf.org/news/2021/alri-celebrates-landmark-year-with-2020-range-wide-accomplishment-report/>
- (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund announced 21 grant recipients and \$12.2 million in partner funding and matching contributions to restore, enhance, and protect longleaf pine in all nine states of the historic longleaf range. Through new longleaf pine establishment, prescribed burning, invasive species removal, and



landowner trainings, over 415,000 acres of habitat will benefit from these grant projects. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/media-center/press-releases/nfwf-announces-53-million-grants-restore-and-improve-longleaf-pine-habitat-and-wildlife-marking>

- (ALRI) The Longleaf Partnership Council is pleased to announce a new communications fact sheet, *Longleaf Pine: A Tall Drink of Water*. This informational product showcases how protecting and restoring longleaf pine forests can help keep drinking water safe, reliable, and affordable. The fact sheet also highlights how good stewardship can contribute to drinking water and the benefits for water utilities of investing in longleaf restoration. To read more, click here: <https://americaslongleaf.org/news/2021/new-fact-sheet-from-lpc-features-longleaf-pine-s-importance-to-drinking-water/>
- (NRI) Researchers at the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute are studying habitat restoration and assessment and partnering on early-stage reintroduction efforts for two longleaf-dependent snake species - Louisiana pinesnakes and Eastern indigo snakes. To read more, please visit: <https://today.tamu.edu/2021/07/15/helping-texas-unique-snakes-through-research/>
- (WUNC) Longleaf pine's resilience to natural events, fire, and insects and pests is one of its most defining qualities and is key to its longevity. Now, growing research offers another potential incentive: Longleaf pine is especially resilient to climate change. To read more, please visit: <https://www.wunc.org/environment/2021-09-28/longleaf-pine-resiliency-restoration-climate-change-southern-north-carolina>
- (KF) The Keeping Forests coalition released episodes 9 & 10 of their podcast series, *How the River Flows*. To listen to the both the old and new episodes, please visit: <https://www.keepingforests.org/podcast>
- (TT) The latest edition of Tall Timbers eNews is now available. The quarterly newsletter provides the latest news and stories from Tall Timbers on prescribed fire, wildlife management, and land conservation: <https://talltimbers.org/category/summer-fall-2021-vol-14-no-2/>
- (SPFFW) The Southeastern Partnership for Forests & Water released its Summer 2021 newsletter containing news surrounding the pursuit of healthy Southeastern forested watersheds: <https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=f89d0d72b5ef08c415a5c6969&id=cbf54056b1>

► Southeast Prescribed Fire Initiative

- (NPR) NPR's Short Wave podcast recently included an episode featuring the Southeast's success in wildfire prevention through prescribed burning. To listen to the episode, click here: <https://www.npr.org/2021/09/08/1035147670/for-successful-wildfire-prevention-look-to-the-southeast>
- (SFE) A new playlist composed of videos and webinars for those who are new to prescribed fire, or would like to refresh themselves on the basics, has been added to the Southern Fire Exchange YouTube channel. This series is great for sharing with partners, landowners, or friends who are interested in prescribed fire, but not yet sure what it's all about. To view, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLg38mXDqkgvNdDjkrIxQp1Qgxwfa2o9GI>
- (NPR) As Western states contend with increasingly catastrophic wildfires, some are looking to the Southeastern U.S., where prescribed fire is widespread thanks to policies put in place decades ago. Several Western states are moving to adopt the fire policies pioneered by Florida and other Southern states as a hedge against the future. To read more, click here:



<https://www.npr.org/2021/08/31/1029821831/to-stop-extreme-wildfires-california-is-learning-from-florida>

- (EPA) The EPA has developed a new environmental justice (EJ) mapping and screening tool called EJSCREEN. It is based on nationally consistent data and an approach that combines environmental and demographic indicators in maps and reports. To learn more, click here: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>
- (SERPPAS) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 58th, 59th, and 60th editions of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here:
 - July: <https://bit.ly/3miZyNn>
 - August: <https://bit.ly/3FdXBL8>
 - September: <https://bit.ly/3uwpDwg>
- (SFE) The Southern Fire Exchange released its bimonthly newsletter, Fire Lines, sharing research, resources, news and upcoming events from around the Southeast and nationwide: <https://mailchi.mp/southernfireexchange/fire-lines-newsletter-volume-11-issue-4>. This issue contains a new fact sheet: “[Prescribed Fire in Georgia: Frequently Asked Questions](#)”.

► Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation

- (Pew) As part of their support of the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative, the Pew Charitable Trusts published a new article, “11 Ways You Can Enjoy Salt Marshes Also Show Why They Need Protection.” To read more, please visit: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2021/08/20/11-ways-you-can-enjoy-salt-marshes-also-show-why-they-need-protection>
- (EWN) On August 24-25, 2021, the Engineering With Nature Initiative hosted a virtual workshop to educate and ideate around expanding natural and nature-based features across Department of Defense installations. Over 40 attendees from across DoD, including representatives from across all of the services, private industry, academia, and non-governmental organizations participated. To read more about the workshop, please visit: <https://ewn.erdcdren.mil/?p=5442>
- (EOS) Climate change is affecting American military operations and infrastructure – and could have security implications across the globe. For the American military, perhaps the most immediate threats are infrastructure damage and training restrictions. Hurricanes, inland storm systems, and wildfires have caused extensive damage in the past few years. To read more, please visit: <https://eos.org/articles/heating-up-the-hot-spots>
- (EWN) USACE and partners released new International Guidelines on Natural and Nature-Based Features for Flood Risk Management. The international NNBF Guidelines provide practitioners with the best available information concerning the conceptualization, planning, design, engineering, construction, and maintenance of NNBF to support resilience and flood risk reduction for coastlines, bays, and estuaries, as well as river and freshwater systems. To learn more, please visit: https://ewn.erdcdren.mil/?page_id=4351
- (SACB) The South Atlantic Blueprint 2021 is now available. Blueprint 2021, released in August 2021, is a totally data-driven plan based on terrestrial, freshwater, marine, and cross-ecosystem indicators. It uses the current condition of those indicators to prioritize the most important areas for natural and cultural resources across the South Atlantic geography. The Blueprint reflects extensive feedback from the broader cooperative community, with more than 700



people from over 200 different organizations actively participating in its development so far. To learn more and view the blueprint, please visit:

<https://www.southatlanticcc.org/2021/08/16/south-atlantic-blueprint-2021-is-now-available/>

- (US CRT) The U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit has released a Southeast region section organized into urban impacts, rural impacts, coastal impacts, ecosystems impacts, and building resilience in the southeast. This resource includes regional case studies, tools, reports, and training opportunities. To learn more, please visit: <https://toolkit.climate.gov/regions/southeast>
- (SACB) The South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint released its July, August, and September Newsletters, listed below. To learn more, please visit:
 - July: <https://mailchi.mp/0f1bdc3f3cf8/pmx0j3o71h-5562764?e=e86655520f>
 - August: <https://mailchi.mp/eec0a672b249/pmx0j3o71h-5649397?e=e86655520f>
 - September: <https://mailchi.mp/eec0a672b249/pmx0j3o71h-5649397?e=e86655520f>
- (SECASC) The SE Climate Adaptation Science Center released its Summer and September 2021 Newsletters, which includes climate related news, resources, publications, webinars and more for the Southeast region:
 - Summer: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2021/08/25/summer-2021-newsletter/>
 - September: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2021/09/21/september-2021-newsletter/>
- (SECAS) The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy released its July, August, and September Newsletters, which combines all the blogs written on the SECAS website during the previous month:
 - July: <https://us2.campaign-archive.com/?u=59d57e49ab5b1afb3a66167ee&id=7eba038e63>
 - August: <https://us2.campaign-archive.com/?u=59d57e49ab5b1afb3a66167ee&id=cc1d74586f>
 - September: <https://us2.campaign-archive.com/?u=59d57e49ab5b1afb3a66167ee&id=96d81df3da>

► Energy Development and Siting

- (REEO) The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office released its July, August, and September 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.
 - July: <https://serppas.org/media/3282/southern-review-07-2021.pdf>
 - August: <https://serppas.org/media/3283/southern-review-08-2021.pdf>
 - September: <https://serppas.org/media/3284/southern-review-09-2021.pdf>
- (REEO) The U.S. Army Regional Environmental and Energy Office released the Eastern Energy Monitor, a monthly publication of energy-related developments for Army leaders and installation staff. The Eastern Energy Monitor provides early notice of state dockets and legislative and regulatory activities relevant to military energy interests for Regions 1-5.
 - July: <https://serppas.org/media/3285/eastern-energy-monitor-07-2021.pdf>
 - August/September: <https://serppas.org/media/3286/eastern-energy-monitor-08-09-2021.pdf>
 - October: <https://serppas.org/media/3287/eastern-energy-monitor-10-2021.pdf>



► Military Services News

- (MS) Mississippi Governor Reeves announced the creation of the Governor's Office of Military Affairs within the Mississippi Development Authority and appointed PJ Waldrop as director. This office will work to improve Mississippi's military and national security efforts by strengthening relationships within the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, military services, defense industry, and other critical partners. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.wlbt.com/2021/06/30/reeves-creates-military-affairs-office-improve-national-security-appoints-pj-waldrop-director/> and <https://mississippi.org/community-resources/office-military-affairs/>
- (Camp Blanding) The North Florida Land Trust acquired a 119-acre conservation easement in Bradford County, FL, that will ensure the land remains in agriculture production forever. The property, a working cattle ranch, is approximately 1.5 miles west of Camp Blanding. NFLT worked with the landowners to facilitate the purchase of the conservation easement which is within the priority area for conservation for Camp Blanding and the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program designed to secure buffers around military installations. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.floridadaily.com/north-florida-land-trust-adds-119-acres-in-bradford-county-to-protect-environment-camp-blanding/>
- (NAS Whiting Field) The Trust for Public Land announced recently that, along with the U.S. Navy, the Florida Forest Service, the Santa Rosa County Commission, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, it has acquired almost 3,500 acres of land in Santa Rosa County to add to the Blackwater River State Forest. The \$9.2 million land acquisition will help protect the critical longleaf pine habitat, as well as prevent land development that could interfere with the military mission at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, which is located adjacent to the forest. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2021/08/09/blackwater-river-state-forest-adds-nearly-3-500-acres-land/5498923001/>
- (NSB Kings Bay) Thanks to the efforts of multiple partners, more than 27,000 acres along the southeast Georgia coast has been acquired by the State of Georgia for public use and enjoyment. This land serves as an essential coastal buffer to Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay as well as other as inland communities and critical infrastructure. The property includes longleaf pine uplands, maritime forest, freshwater wetlands, and tidal salt marsh wetlands. Protecting it allows for the expansion of a fire-managed longleaf pine ecosystem beneficial to the gopher tortoise and other imperiled species, and more lands for public recreation. To learn more, please visit: <https://georgiawildlife.com/multiple-partner-make-possible-valuable-land-purchase-camden-county> and <https://www.openspaceinstitute.org/news/osi-and-partners-transfer-ceylon-and-cabin-bluff-to-state-of-georgia>



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ October 9-10, 2021: [Fire in the Pines Festival](#) (Wilmington, NC)
- ▶ October 9, 2021: [Savannah River Fire Festival](#) (Guyton, GA)
- ▶ October 17-20, 2021: [SEAFWA Conference](#) (Roanoke, VA)
- ▶ October 19, 2021: [2021 Natural Areas Conference: A One-Day Virtual Event](#) (Virtual)
- ▶ October 25-November 5, 2021: [Southern Blue Ridge TREX](#)
- ▶ October 29, 2021: Tall Timbers [2021 Fall Field Day](#) (Albany, GA)
- ▶ November 3-6, 2021: 2021 [Society of American Foresters National Convention](#) (Virtual)
- ▶ November 16-18, 2021: [Fire & Longleaf 201 Academy](#) (Waycross, GA)
- ▶ November 30 -December 4: [9th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress](#) (Destin, FL)
- ▶ March 14-18, 2022: [National Military Fish & Wildlife Association Annual Meeting and Training Workshop](#) (Spokane, WA)
- ▶ March 14-18, 2022: [87th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference](#) (Spokane, WA)
- ▶ March 29-31, 2022: [2022 SE CASC Science Symposium](#) (Gulf Shores, AL)
- ▶ April 23, 2022: [Party for the Pine](#) (Southern Pines, NC)
- ▶ **May 2-4, 2022: 2022 SERPPAS Principals Meeting (Beaufort, NC)**
- ▶ May 23-27, 2022: [IAWF Fire & Climate Conference](#) (Pasadena, CA)
- ▶ June 6-9, 2022: [Southern Group of State Foresters 2022 Annual Meeting](#) (Greenville, SC)
- ▶ September 6-8, 2022: [Natural Areas Conference](#) (Duluth, MN)
- ▶ October 25-28, 2022: [Biennial Longleaf Conference](#) (Wilmington, NC)

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- ▶ Archived: [Using Fire Regimes as Ecosystem Indicators: SE FireMap, Southeast Conservation Blueprint, and Other Applications](#) by SACB
- ▶ Archived: [Case Studies of Ecosystem Services Mapping in the Southeast](#) by SE CASC
- ▶ Archived: [2021 REPI Challenge Funding Recipient Spotlight](#) by REPI
- ▶ Archived: [SFE Webinar: Restoring the Pine Barrens: Attitudes Towards the Restoration of a Threatened Ecosystem in the US South](#) by Southern Fire Exchange
- ▶ Archived: [Mission Sustainment](#) by REPI
- ▶ Archived: [SFE Webinar: Potential Impacts of Prescribed Fire on Air Quality and Public Health in the Southeast](#) by Southern Fire Exchange
- ▶ Archived: [Moving to Hybrid Programs: A Discussion with Natural Resource Professionals](#) by NC Extension Forestry
- ▶ Ongoing: [Sustainable Infrastructure: Putting Principle into Practice](#) by Duke University Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions
- ▶ October 13, 2021: [Federal Agency Roundtable and Partnerships](#) by FEMA
- ▶ October 13, 2021: [Top 3 Misconceptions of Longleaf Webinar](#) by Land & Ladies
- ▶ October 27, 2021: [Techniques and Concepts for Improving Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency to Benefit Both People and Wildlife](#) by USDA NRCS
- ▶ November 10, 2021: [Ladies & Longleaf 201](#) by Land & Ladies
- ▶ November 16, 2021: [Resilience of Ecosystems in a Changing World](#) by EPA
- ▶ December 8, 2021: [Sentinel Landscapes Spotlight](#) by REPI

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