



# SERPPAS Circular

February/March 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 [2018 – 2020 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](mailto:Addie.Thornton@aq.tamu.edu).*

## FEATURED

- ▶ **SERPPAS/DoD Liaison: Public Service Assistant/Associate Position Announcement:** The University of Georgia Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant program (<http://gacoast.uga.edu>) seeks an individual to serve as a liaison between the National Sea Grant program and Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) (<https://serppas.org>) and to work with military bases and their surrounding communities on implementing coastal resilience measures. The liaison is expected to develop a comprehensive research and outreach program that facilitates the transfer of information, tools, and resources between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Sea Grant program, and military installations in and adjacent to U.S. coastal areas. To share, learn more, and apply please visit: <https://serppas.org/media/3192/liaison-short.pdf>
- ▶ **SERPPAS February 2021 Steering Committee Virtual Meeting:** The purpose of this meeting was to convene the SERPPAS Steering Committee Members virtually in order to give general SERPPAS updates and discuss significant advancements of the SERPPAS Coastal Resilience & Regional Adaptation Work Group.
  - [Meeting Summary](#)
  - [Meeting Recording](#)
- ▶ **SERPPAS March 2021 Steering Committee Virtual Meeting:** The purpose of this meeting was to convene the SERPPAS Steering Committee Members virtually in order to prepare for the upcoming SERPPAS Principals Meeting, with a significant focus on the revision of the SERPPAS Strategic Implementation Plan. Attendees heard and provided feedback to the revisions of the Strategic Plan objectives and priority actions from all five Work Groups, including progress on major initiatives, as well as discussed possible agenda topics for inclusion on the Principals Meeting agenda.
  - *The summary of this meeting is still in development.*
  - [Meeting Recording](#)
- ▶ **SERPPAS Principals Virtual Meeting:** The 2021 SERPPAS Principals Virtual Meeting will be held on **May 4, 2021, from 2-5pm ET**. The purpose of this meeting is to convene the SERPPAS Principals virtually to discuss partnership progress highlights, endorse priorities to advance the partnership, and stay connected to each other and the SERPPAS overall objectives and actions. *\*\*Please note that only Principals and Steering Committee members will be able to attend this meeting due to the virtual environment. A recording and summary of the meeting will be shared with the SERPPAS network.*



## IN THE NEWS

---

- **Spotlight**

- ▶ (SERPPAS) We are excited to share with you the publication of "[Promoting Coastal Resilience Through Partnerships and Planning: Communities, Sea Grant Programs, SERPPAS and Military Installations](#)" written by Amelia Stevens and Shana Jones in the Sea Grant Law & Policy Journal. This article presents the results of the meeting SERPPAS & Georgia Sea Grant hosted in August 2019, as well as delves deeper into how communities, installations, and agencies can collaborate on coastal resilience in the Southeast. We are grateful to Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute for their work in creating a more shareable document and the accompanying NRI [blog post](#).
- ▶ (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's National Coastal Resilience Fund is open for pre-proposals. NFWF will award approximately \$34 million in grants to create and restore natural systems in order to increase protection for communities from coastal storms, sea- and lake-level changes, inundation, and coastal erosion, while improving habitats for fish and wildlife species. NFWF will invest in projects in four priority areas: 1) Community Capacity Building and Planning; 2) Site Assessment and Preliminary Design; 3) Final Design and Permitting; and 4) Restoration and Monitoring. **Pre-proposals are due by April 7, 2021.** To learn more, please visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund/national-coastal-resilience-fund-2021-request-proposals>
- ▶ (NLC) The Network for Landscape Conservation released a Request for Proposals for the 2021 Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund. The Catalyst Fund strives to accelerate the pace and practice of collaborative landscape conservation across the United States by investing in Landscape Conservation Partnerships. **Proposals are due on Friday, April 23, 2021**, with grant awards to be announced in July 2021. To learn more, please visit: <https://landscapeconservation.org/catalyst-fund/> and [https://landscapeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Catalyst-Fund\\_RFP\\_2021\\_FINAL.pdf](https://landscapeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Catalyst-Fund_RFP_2021_FINAL.pdf)
- ▶ (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is now accepting pre-proposals for the 2021 Acres for America program, which funds projects that conserve important large-scale habitats for fish, wildlife, and plants through land acquisitions and perpetual conservation easements. Approximately \$3.5 million in funding is available in 2021, and in the past, several grants have been awarded to longleaf projects! **Pre-proposals are due April 15, 2021.** To learn more, please visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/acres-america/acres-america-2021-request-proposals>

- **Sentinel Landscapes**

- ▶ (LLA) The Longleaf Alliance announced a three-year prescribed fire pilot project in partnership with the Georgia Sentinel Landscape. The goals for the pilot project are to increase communication and collaboration between agencies and private landowners and increase prescribed burning across the landscape by 35,000 acres over the next three years by providing additional technical and financial resources to private landowners. To learn more, please visit: <https://longleafalliance.org/georgia-sentinel-landscape-prescribed-fire/>
- ▶ (APAFR) A recent article and video highlights the partnerships between the Air Force and the USFWS at Avon Park AFR. The Air Force partners with the USFWS stations botanists and biologists of different specialties directly on the ranges to ensure preservation of the mostly



untouched natural habitat and to work to expand species beyond the borders of the ranges. To read more and watch the video, click here: <https://airman.dodlive.mil/2021/02/01/a-natural-partnership/>

- ▶ (REPI) The REPI Report to Congress 2021 is now available. The Report summarizes and reviews the achievements of the Program through fiscal year 2020. These reports provide information on the REPI Program and other DoD efforts to conserve land and address threats to military readiness from incompatible development and environmental constraints. In its 18-year lifespan, the REPI Program has protected over 757,000 acres at 115 locations in 35 states and territories. To read the full report, click here: [https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Reports to Congress/REPI2021RTC.pdf](https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Reports%20to%20Congress/REPI2021RTC.pdf)
- ▶ (RTI) A new study by RTI International, a nonprofit research institute, makes the case for increasing public land and water conservation funding in North Carolina. [“The Time is Now: An Assessment of Conservation Funding Needs in North Carolina.”](https://www.rti.org/announcements/study-points-urgency-land-and-water-conservation-funding) says that projected growth will lead to the loss of 2 million acres of undeveloped land in the next three decades. The research highlights the role undeveloped lands play in flood protection, buffering of mission-critical military bases, and providing places for people to recreate. The REPI Program and the Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape are featured in the report. To read more, please visit: <https://www.rti.org/announcements/study-points-urgency-land-and-water-conservation-funding>
- ▶ (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:
  - January: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/January-Bulletin-Network-for-Landscape-Conservation.html?soid=1128366788872&aid=hBOZIDVfC38>
  - March: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/March-Bulletin-Network-for-Landscape-Conservation.html?soid=1128366788872&aid=7EX45wa9QkQ>
- **Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species**
  - ▶ (TCF) The Ingka Group, the parent company of most IKEA stores, acquired over 10,000 acres of forestland property in southeast Georgia near the Altamaha River Basin from The Conservation Fund in January. The investment will protect the land from development, restore the longleaf pine forest, and safeguard the habitat of the gopher tortoise. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.conservationfund.org/impact/press-releases/2391-ingka-investments-acquires-forestland-from-the-fund>
  - ▶ (WP) A new Washington Post article highlights the longleaf pine straw market, including its economic and conservation value. The article interviews a private landowner in North Carolina and Jeff Marcus from The Nature Conservancy of North Carolina, coordinator of the North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership, one America’s Longleaf Restoration Initiative’s local implementation teams. To read more, please visit: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/03/31/pine-needle-mulch-north-carolina/>
  - ▶ (FSG) The Forest Stewards Guild has released a new video and webpage on managing montane longleaf forests. Click here to visit the webpage: <http://foreststewardsguild.org/montane-longleaf-forests/>, and to watch the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1HVG09hdkkk>



- ▶ (KF) The Keeping Forests coalition has a new podcast series, *How the River Flows*, where you'll hear from entrepreneurs and experts who will share their best ideas about conserving local forests while ensuring a lasting, clean supply of drinking water downstream. The first two episodes, *What We've Learned About Long-Term Investments in Water: A conversation with Margaret Walls* and *Keeping Forests: Audacious Goals Require Different Thinking* are now available. To listen, please visit: <https://www.keepingforests.org/podcast>
- ▶ (GT CCA) The 12<sup>th</sup> annual report for the Gopher Tortoise Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) was recently released. The report includes data and information from the signatory agencies and organizations to the agreement. The goal of the CCA is to organize a cooperative range-wide approach to gopher tortoise management and conservation in its eastern range. The CCA allows the signing parties to leverage knowledge and funding within a common conservation approach and framework. To read the full report, click here: <https://serppas.org/media/3187/fy-2020-gt-cca-report.pdf>
- ▶ (LLA) The Longleaf Alliance invites landowners and partners to apply for funds to plant longleaf pine seedlings. Submitting a request does not guarantee that funds will be available but does allow The Longleaf Alliance to more efficiently track those landowners or partners that are in need of assistance. To learn more, please visit: <https://longleafalliance.org/longleaf-planting-funds/>
- ▶ (TT) The latest edition of Tall Timbers eNews is now available. The quarterly newsletter provides updates on the research and conservation work going on at the research facility in areas such as quail research and fire ecology: <https://talltimbers.org/category/spring-2021-vol-14-no-1/>
- **Southeast Prescribed Fire Initiative**
  - ▶ (NRCS) USDA NRCS unveiled the new SE FireMap, a fire mapping tool that enables resource managers to improve their regional or local approaches to managing wildfire risk and fire management needs through targeted prescribed burns and training. The SE FireMap is a decision support tool developed in 2020-21 that will map all detectable fires, including managed prescribed burns and wildfires across the Southeast. It is funded by the USDA NRCS's Working Lands for Wildlife program under an agreement with the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities. Several SERPPAS partners served on the Technical Oversight Team and will continue to advise throughout future phases of development. An [introductory webinar](#) hosted by the Southern Fire Exchange will take place on April 16<sup>th</sup>. To learn more, please visit: <https://landscapepartnership.org/key-issues/wildland-fire/fire-mapping/regional-fire-mapping/se-firemap/>
  - ▶ (SFE) *Friends of Fire* is a podcast produced by the Southern Fire Exchange that reviews a variety of fire science topics relevant to southeastern US ecosystems. Each episode features an interview with both a researcher and practitioner to discuss the science surrounding each topic, the practicality of implementing the science, and resulting best management practices. To listen to the podcasts, please visit: <https://southernfireexchange.org/sfe-podcast/>
  - ▶ (USGS) The U.S. Geological Survey released the first [U.S. Geological Survey Wildland Fire Science Strategic Plan, 2021-26](#). The five-year strategy defines critical science needs and directions for wildland fire research. The strategy emphasizes priorities including working with stakeholders and prioritizing production of actionable fire science. It also establishes an



organizational structure to help ensure that strategy outcomes are met. To learn more, click here: <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/cir1471> or <https://www.usgs.gov/special-topic/fire>

- ▶ (SERPPAS) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 53<sup>rd</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> editions of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here:
  - February: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/The-February--Driptorch-Digest-is-Now-Available-.html?soid=1117561491017&aid=EBsk-qZONEo>
  - March: [https://myemail.constantcontact.com/The-March-Driptorch-Digest-is-Now-Available-.html?soid=1117561491017&aid=UD0Y0mY7\\_U](https://myemail.constantcontact.com/The-March-Driptorch-Digest-is-Now-Available-.html?soid=1117561491017&aid=UD0Y0mY7_U)
- ▶ (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-1>.
- **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**
  - ▶ (Pew) Pew Charitable Trusts, as part of the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative, is developing blogs and other public materials to educate stakeholders on this vital tidal habitat. The first of these pieces can be found here: "[11 Facts About Salt Marshes—and Why We Need to Protect Them](#)" and "[6 Types of Wildlife and Plants That Thrive in Salt Marshes](#)".
  - ▶ (EWN) The USACE Engineering With Nature Program will hold a virtual international Book Launch Event April 7, 2021, from 10-11 a.m. CDT, for the release of the Engineering With Nature Atlas, Volume 2. The Engineering With Nature: An Atlas, Volume 2 showcases 62 projects from around the world that illustrate the principles and practices of Engineering With Nature. The Atlas was developed to communicate the diversity of projects, contexts, and organizations that are advancing worldwide progress in the field. To read more and RSVP for the virtual event, click here: <https://ewn.el.erdc.dren.mil/atlasv2.html>
  - ▶ (Pew/NCCF) The North Carolina Coastal Habitat Coalition, a partnership between Pew Charitable Trusts and the North Carolina Coastal Federation, has a new digital home. This partnership aims to protect and restore coastal habitats, and this year focuses on new conservation measures for seagrass/SAV, coastal wetlands, and oysters in the NC Coastal Habitat Protection Plan and the NC Oyster Blueprint. To view the new website, click here: <https://www.nccoastalcoalition.org/>
  - ▶ (NCCF) The North Carolina Coastal Federation released its "[Action Plan for Nature-Based Stormwater Strategies](#)," developed with the support of The Pew Charitable Trusts, to address more frequent and intense rain events that cause communities to flood, and pollute waterways across the state. The plan includes recommendations on how to use nature-based stormwater strategies such as permeable pavement, cisterns and rain gardens to promote infiltration and rainwater reuse, and help reduce stormwater runoff as well as steps government, communities, businesses and nonprofit organizations can take to improve resiliency and water quality. To read more, please visit: <https://www.nccoast.org/2021/03/north-carolina-coastal-federation-unveils-statewide-roadmap-to-curb-flooding-and-water-pollution/>
  - ▶ (NWF) The Commander's Guide to Climate Adaptation for DoD Natural Resource Managers is designed to help military leadership understand how climate impacts to DoD natural resources can pose risks to training and testing capabilities. Based on the more detailed publication [Climate Adaptation for DoD Natural Resource Managers](#), the guide includes a set of



key questions for commanders to help them ensure that climate concerns are addressed in natural resource planning and management as means of enhancing installation resilience and maintaining military readiness. To read the guide, click here: <https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/NWF-Reports/2020/DoD-Commanders-Guide-to-Climate-Adaptation-full-spreads>

- ▶ (DOI) The U.S. Department of the Interior announced nearly \$249 million in Fiscal Year 2020 energy revenues to the four offshore Gulf oil and gas producing states – Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, and their coastal political subdivisions (CPS). These funds, disbursed annually based on oil and gas production revenue, are used to support coastal conservation and restoration projects, hurricane protection programs, and activities to implement marine and coastal resilience management plans. To read more, click here: <https://www.doi.gov/news/interior-disburses-nearly-249-million-gulf-states-coastal-conservation-restoration-and>
- ▶ (SACB) The South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint released its February and March Newsletters, listed below. To learn more, please visit:
  - February: <https://mailchi.mp/c7fdf1634da2/pmx0j3o71h-3606926?e=e86655520f>
  - March: <https://mailchi.mp/5d9ad86cbecf/pmx0j3o71h-3773624?e=e86655520f>
- ▶ (SECASC) The SE Climate Adaptation Science Center released its February and March Newsletters, which includes climate related news, resources, publications, webinars and more for the Southeast region:
  - February: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2021/02/15/february-2021-newsletter/>
  - March: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2021/03/15/march-2021-newsletter/>
- ▶ (SECAS) The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy released its February and March Newsletters, which combines all the blogs written on the SECAS website during the previous month:
  - February: <https://mailchi.mp/5c5eb06b4b42/secas-july-newsletter-stakeholder-analysis-from-the-secas-futures-project-3754032?e=e86655520f>
  - March: <https://mailchi.mp/f3695f97b829/secas-july-newsletter-stakeholder-analysis-from-the-secas-futures-project-3779260?e=e86655520f>
- **Energy Development and Siting**
  - ▶ (SC) Co-hosted by Southern Company, the Research Roundtable webinar series will highlight current research about pollinators and habitat on energy and transportation lands. The series will feature four topic areas: habitat establishment and first-year management; rights-of-way and pollinators; monarchs and milkweed; and solar power and pollinators. Each webinar will include lightning presentations on current research and industry updates, followed by roundtable discussions in virtual breakout rooms. To learn more, please visit: [https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/cu/bqdG9xs?source\\_id=5dfc853c-1f4f-45e8-a36e](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/cu/bqdG9xs?source_id=5dfc853c-1f4f-45e8-a36e)
  - ▶ (REEO) The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office released its February and March editions of the Southern Review of Legislative & Regulatory Actions. 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.
    - February: <https://serppas.org/media/3188/southern-review-02-2021.pdf>
    - March 2021: <https://serppas.org/media/3189/southern-review-03-2021.pdf>



- ▶ (REEO) The U.S. Army Regional Environmental and Energy Office released its bi-monthly publication, the Eastern Energy Monitor. The Monitor contains current legislative and regulatory activity and state public services commission dockets pertinent to military interests for Regions 1-5.
  - March 2021: <https://serppas.org/media/3190/eastern-energy-monitor-mar-2021.pdf>
- **Military Services News**
  - ▶ (NPR) A recent NPR Weekend Edition included a feature on red-cockaded woodpeckers and the relationship with military conservation partnerships including with Camp Lejeune. To listen to the podcast and read a transcript, click here: <https://www.npr.org/2021/02/20/969703397/how-the-military-helped-bring-back-the-red-cockaded-woodpecker>
  - ▶ (Fort Stewart) Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield received the 2020 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for Natural Resources Conservation for a Large Installation. The installation's accomplishments include protecting 17,003 additional acres under the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program and restoring the native longleaf pine/wiregrass ecosystem through planting, timber thinning, and prescribed burning, helping to improve habitat for the eastern indigo snake, gopher tortoise, and red-cockaded woodpecker. To read more, click here: [https://www.army.mil/article/244269/natural\\_resources\\_conservation\\_efforts\\_at\\_fort\\_stewart\\_receive\\_recognition](https://www.army.mil/article/244269/natural_resources_conservation_efforts_at_fort_stewart_receive_recognition)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

---

- ▶ April 8-9, 2021: [Thirteenth International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts & Response](#) (Vancouver, Canada/Virtual)
- ▶ April 28-May 14, 2021: [2021 Southeast Land Conservation Conference](#) (Virtual)
- ▶ **May 4-5, 2021: 2021 SERPPAS Principals Meeting (2-5pm ET Virtual)**
- ▶ May 23-26, 2021: [Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals \(ANREP\) 2020 Conference](#) (Virtual)
- ▶ May 24-27, 2021: [IAWF 16th Wildland Fire Safety Summit and the 6th Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference](#) (Virtual)
- ▶ June 16-18, 2021: [2021 National Conference of Private Forest Landowners](#) (Williamsburg, VA)
- ▶ August 12-13, 2021: [Georgia Climate Conference 2021](#) (Jekyll Island, GA)
- ▶ August 23-25, 2021: [1st National Stream Restoration Conference: Stream Restoration 2020 Sharing Visions for the Future](#) (Baltimore, MD)
- ▶ October 4-8, 2021: [4th Annual National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop](#) (Asheville, NC)
- ▶ October 5-7, 2021: [Land Trust Alliance Rally](#) (Cleveland, OH/Virtual)
- ▶ October 17-20, 2021: [SEAFWA Conference](#) (Roanoke, VA)
- ▶ October 25-November 5, 2021: [Southern Blue Ridge TRES](#)
- ▶ November 30 -December 4: [9th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress](#) (Destin, FL)
- ▶ **May 2-4, 2022: 2022 SERPPAS Principals Meeting (Beaufort, NC)**
- ▶ October 25-28, 2022: [Biennial Longleaf Conference](#) (Wilmington, NC)



## UPCOMING WEBINARS

---

- ▶ Archived: [Fire x Fauna Webinar Series](#) by U.S Forest Service Research Stations
- ▶ Archived: [Sentinel Landscape Application Help Session](#) by Sentinel Landscapes Partnership
- ▶ Archived: [Virtual Conference on Heirs' Property & Sustainable Forest Management](#) by UGA
- ▶ Archived: [SFE Webinar: COVID-19 Impacts on Southeast Prescribed Fire & Strategies for Keeping Fire on the Ground](#) by Southern Fire Exchange
- ▶ Archived: [SE CASC Science Seminar: Structured Decision Making: A Strategy for Collaboration and Conservation of Imperiled Herpetofauna](#) by SE CASC
- ▶ Archived: [Endangered Species Crediting Strategies](#) by REPI
- ▶ Archived: [SE CASC Science Seminar: Using Information From Global Climate Models to Inform Management Decisions](#) by SE CASC
- ▶ Archived: [How to Talk About Southern Forests With The Public](#) by Keeping Forests
- ▶ April 7, 2021: [2021 REPI Report to Congress](#) by REPI
- ▶ April 16, 2021: [SFE Webinar: Introduction to the Southeast FireMap](#) by Southern Fire Exchange
- ▶ April 22, 2021: [Innovative Approaches to Monitor and Survey At-Risk Species on DoD Lands](#) by SERDP-ESTCP
- ▶ May 4, 2021: [Lunch and Learn with South Carolina's Bobwhite Quail Experts](#) by Sewee Longleaf Conservation Cooperative
- ▶ May 5, 2021: [Varying Levels of Protection](#) by REPI
- ▶ May 26, 2021: [Land Trusts and Longleaf Management Panel](#) by The Longleaf Alliance
- ▶ June 2, 2021: [Sentinel Landscapes Webinar: Land Management Innovations](#) by REPI

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