



SERPPAS Circular

October/November/December 2023

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 [2021+ 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

- ▶ **SERPPAS Awarded 2023 Climate Adaptation Leadership Award for Natural Resources:** We are very excited to share that on September 25, 2023, SERPPAS received the 2023 Climate Adaptation Leadership Award for Natural Resources at the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting in Calgary, Alberta. SERPPAS was recognized in the Broad Partnerships category for exemplary leadership in reducing climate-related threats and promoting adaptation of the nation's natural resources. To learn more about why SERPPAS was nominated, check out the nomination video here: <https://serppas.org/strategic-plan-and-focus-areas/coastal-resilience-and-regional-adaptation/>
- ▶ **SAVE THE DATE:**
 - **Spring 2024 SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting:** The Spring 2023 SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting will be held on March 7-8, in Atlanta, GA. Visit the meeting page on the SERPPAS website for more information: <https://serppas.org/resources/serppas-meetings/2024/march/spring-2024-steering-committee-meeting/>
 - **2024 SERPPAS Principals Meeting:** The 2024 SERPPAS Principals Meeting will be held on May 8-9, in Gulfport, MS. More information will be on the SERPPAS website as it becomes available.

IN THE NEWS

- ▶ **Spotlight**
 - We are excited to pass along the announcement of over \$141 million in grants through the new America the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC). The 74 new grants will support projects that conserve, restore, and connect habitats for wildlife while improving community and installation resilience across 46 states and three U.S. territories. In particular, we'd like to congratulate all of the partners of the "Building Resiliency of Longleaf Pine Ecosystems in Southeastern Sentinel Landscapes" proposal that was awarded \$2.5 million (Department of Interior - \$1.7M, and Department of Defense - \$814K). This proposal was led by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, current SERPPAS Steering Committee State Co-Chair, in coordination with the other State Wildlife Agencies, and was supported by SERPPAS, SEAFWA, SECAS, each of the local Sentinel Landscapes and many more. This project supports goals and objectives in three of the SERPPAS focus areas, At-Risk, Threatened and Endangered Species, Prescribed Fire and Sentinel Landscapes, and will continue to advance important work across the SERPPAS geography. To view all project awards, please visit: https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/NFWF-ATBC-20231113-GS_0.pdf



- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced the recipients of the 2023 National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF). Through this year's NCRF, NFWF will provide \$144 million to 109 projects across 31 coastal states and United States territories, with more than \$97 million in matching contributions for a total conservation impact of \$242 million. The NCRF aims to reduce risks for coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural coastal hazards and improve habitats for fish and wildlife. Specifically, we would like to spotlight the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative which received \$1.4 million in REPI Funds to build capacity to conserve salt marsh habitat within coastal communities. For more details, please visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/media-center/press-releases/nfwf-and-noaa-announce-144-million-grants-support-coastal-resilience-projects>
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation released the 2024 Request for Proposals for the Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund. This RFP expects to award approximately \$30 million in federal and private sector funding in support of on-the-ground projects that help accelerate longleaf pine restoration on private and public lands to support wildlife, sequester carbon, safeguard water quality, and increase forest resilience. Limited funding also is available to support bottomland hardwood restoration and enhancement activities as outlined within the RFP. **Full proposals are due February 15, 2024.** For more details and the RFP, please visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/forestland-stewards/longleaf-landscape-stewardship-fund/longleaf-landscape-stewardship-fund-2024-request-proposals>
- The SERDP Core FY 2025 Solicitation has been released. **Pre-proposals are due January 9, 2024.** To view all of the funding opportunities available, please visit: <https://serdp-estcp.org/workingwithus/solicitation?id=078a8263-a3e4-4cb5-a195-d91cc074c065>
- (NWF) 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/>
- Many of these funding opportunities can be found on the SERPPAS website: <https://serppas.org/resources/funding-opportunities/>

► Sentinel Landscapes

- The Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape, in partnership with Conservation Florida, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service are in the process of acquiring a \$3.2 million conservation easement for the 1,250-acre Arbuckle Creek Ranch, a critical segment of Florida's iconic wildlife corridor. The ranch is within the boundaries of the Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape and with this protection, will reduce residential development that interferes with military operations. To read the full article, please visit: <https://conservationfla.org/cflnews/acre-arbuckle-creek-ranch>
- The Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape released the October, November, and December 2023 Updates newsletters that provides news, resources, partner collaboration, and partnership progress:
 - October: <https://serppas.org/media/i3vphtik/northwest-florida-sentinel-landscape-update-october-2023.pdf>
 - November/December: <https://serppas.org/media/vppdt2yg/northwest-florida-sentinel-landscape-update-november-december-2023.pdf>



- 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:
 - November: <https://bit.ly/48IB902>
- The REPI Newsletter for November is now available, providing exciting news and announcements related to the REPI community.
 - November: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USGOVREPI/bulletins/378b055>
- The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership Newsletter Winter 2023 Edition is now available.
 - Winter 2023: <https://bit.ly/47ZiMya>

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

- America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative announced the release of the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine (2025-2040). This second iteration of the Conservation Plan guides the continued efforts to reach the goal of eight million acres of longleaf pine forest in the Southeast. While the strategies and objectives are updated for the next 15 years, the vision of America's Longleaf remains unchanged – to have functional, viable longleaf pine ecosystems with the full spectrum of ecological, economic, and social values inspired through a voluntary partnership of concerned, motivated organizations and individuals. To read more and to view the Conservation Plan, please visit: <https://americaslongleaf.org/news/2023/america-s-longleaf-releases-updated-conservation-plan-for-2025-2040/>
- America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative celebrated its initial fifteen years of conservation success this November and announced the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding to renew partnership efforts to restore longleaf pine forests across the South for another fifteen years. To read more about the celebration and the new MOU, please visit: <https://americaslongleaf.org/news/2023/celebrating-the-nation-s-leading-forest-restoration-effort-and-recommitting-for-another-15-years-for-longleaf-pine-restoration/>
- A news piece from the U.S. Forest Service shows how landowners, land managers and partners are taking proactive actions to save the gopher tortoise from being added to the list of federally endangered, threatened or sensitive species in its eastern range. To read more, click here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/features/one-burrow-time-saving-gopher-tortoise>
- In November, a group of international natural resource leaders visited the Willie Hodges Estate Family Farm, a Longleaf for All demonstration project, as part of a two-week U.S. Forest Service-led tour of Georgia. Tour participants learned about longleaf pine's many benefits and other forestland management topics as well as saw a gopher tortoise burrow scoping. To read more, please visit: <https://blog.nwf.org/2023/11/longleaf-for-all/>
- The October and November 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/lg3e3gm1/tall-timbers-october-23.pdf>
 - November: <https://serppas.org/media/ha0n10zi/tall-timbers-november-23.pdf>

► **Southeast Prescribed Fire Initiative**

- A U.S. pine species thrives when burnt and Southerners are rekindling a “fire culture” to boost its range. Using new tools to revive an old communal tradition, they set fire to wiregrasses and forest



debris with a drip torch, corralling embers with leaf blowers. To read the rest of the article, please visit: <https://apnews.com/article/forest-prescribed-burn-association-longleaf-permit-liability-76686e2d86129dbeab9a9b6268d6de26>

- Audubon’s Fall 2023 Magazine features an article on the team working to restore longleaf pine forests through prescribed fire. To read the full article, please visit: <https://www.audubon.org/news/meet-fire-starters-restoring-one-north-americas-greatest-forests>
- The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 84th, 85th, and 86th editions of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here:
 - October: <https://bit.ly/3uFMN7L>
 - November: <https://bit.ly/3R61c4A>
 - December: <https://bit.ly/41nCWiS>
- The Southern Fire Exchange released its bimonthly newsletter, Fire Lines, sharing research, resources, news and upcoming events from around the Southeast and nationwide.
 - December: <https://bit.ly/472bd8E>

► **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**

- The National Ocean Protection Coalition developed a report that centers the Tribal, Indigenous, and community-led efforts across the United States in proposing actions to protect nature, honor culture, and advance local solutions. The Greening Gullah/Geechee Nation and the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative are featured. To view the report, please visit: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uew022tE1Hiy1GvuBdDRuJ11thDQn3BD/view>
- To address climate change challenges, NOAA’s National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and USDA Climate Hubs released a report, *Drought Assessment in a Changing Climate: Priority Actions and Research Needs*, with additional support provided by the University of Colorado Boulder’s Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES). The report captures the ideas and feedback of more than 100 subject matter experts from over 44 institutions across the drought research and practitioner communities. This report includes a state of the science overview on drought in a changing climate and identifies some of the most pressing and strategic areas of research and action to advance the knowledge and understanding of drought assessment. To learn more and to view the report, please visit: <https://www.drought.gov/news/new-report-drought-assessment-changing-climate-2023-11-29>
- The Department of the Interior announced new steps to utilize nature-based solutions in its efforts to tackle the climate crisis, including the launch of a new tool to make those strategies more accessible to the public. The announcement comes as Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Shannon Estenoz wraps up her trip to the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) in Dubai, where she highlighted nature-based solutions as key to improving the resilience of our lands, waters, wildlife and communities in the face of climate change. To read the full article, please visit: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-announces-new-actions-support-nature-based-solutions>
 - To view the Nature-based Solutions Roadmap, please visit: <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/doi-nbs-roadmap.pdf> or <https://serppas.org/media/2kndjnda/doi-nature-based-solutions-roadmap.pdf>



- 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/3TmnQIF>
 - November: <https://bit.ly/3Tszyl0>
 - December: <https://bit.ly/3RmxoR6>
- The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy released its October and November Newsletters, which combines all the blogs written on the SECAS website during the previous month:
 - October: <https://bit.ly/3N6F2ht>
 - November: <https://bit.ly/3N97uzf>
- 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/guudiwig/sasmi-newsletter-october-2023.pdf>
 - November: <https://serppas.org/media/v33nj5kg/sasmi-newsletter-november-2023.pdf>
 - December: <https://serppas.org/media/4nejawtg/sasmi-newsletter-december-2023.pdf>
- ▶ **Energy Development and Siting**
 - The U.S. Department of Energy launched a new initiative to support states and local communities as they plan for and evaluate proposed development of large renewable energy facilities. The Renewable Energy Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP) program will support the creation of new, or the expansion of existing, state-based programs or initiatives that improve renewable energy planning and siting processes for local communities. To read more, please visit: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/us-department-energy-launches-program-expand-state-and-local-capacity-renewable>
 - (REEO) 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/ejgiesmq/southern-review-10-2023.pdf>
 - November: <https://serppas.org/media/xvknflim/southern-review-11-2023.pdf>
 - December: <https://serppas.org/media/0nrjvsj5/southern-review-12-2023.pdf>
- ▶ **Military Services News**
 - The REPI Program conducted installation resilience case studies on three installations by interviewing installations with innovative ideas for protecting infrastructure, missions, and other assets from climate conditions and landscape changes outside the installation. The three installations showcased in this series are executing multiple authorities and working closely with communities and organizations to advance shared goals and implement projects that protect military missions. The read the case studies:
 - Camp Williams, Utah: <https://bit.ly/480ZyIM>
 - Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico: <https://bit.ly/3RrEUu3>
 - Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina: <https://bit.ly/41sTXZa>



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ January 10, 2024: [Herbicides & Longleaf 201](#) (Georgetown, SC)
- ▶ February 3, 2024: [Red Hills Fire Festival](#) (Tallahassee, FL)
- ▶ **March 7-8, 2024: [SERPPAS Spring Steering Committee Meeting](#) (Atlanta, GA)**
- ▶ March 25-29, 2024: National Military Fish and Wildlife Association Annual Meeting (Grand Rapids, MI)
- ▶ **May 8-9, 2024: 2024 SERPPAS Principals Meeting** (Gulfport, MS)
- ▶ June 3-6, 2024: [Southern Group of State Foresters 2024 Annual Meeting](#) (Wilmington, NC)
- ▶ June 22-25, 2024: [2024 Association of Consulting Foresters National Conference](#) (Ponte Vedra Beach, FL)
- ▶ October 12-16, 2024: [78th Annual SEAFWA Conference](#) (Augusta, GA)

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- ▶ Series: [Third Thursday Forum](#) by SECASC
- ▶ Series: [Landscape Conservation Webinar Series](#) by the Network for Landscape Conservation
- ▶ Series: [Southeast Monthly Webinar Series](#) by NOAA
- ▶ Archived: All Southern Fire Exchange webinars are recorded and housed on the [SFE YouTube channel](#).
- ▶ Archived: [2023 REPI Webinars](#) by REPI
- ▶ Archived: [Global Change Seminar – Translation of Science: From Research to Application and Adaptation](#) by SECASC
- ▶ Archived: [Global Change Seminar – Exploring the Significance of Environmental Justice in Science](#) by SECASC
- ▶ Archived: [Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund 2024 Webinar](#) by NFWF
- ▶ January 3, 2024: [Fire in Southern Pine Systems](#) by Wisconsin Forestry Center
- ▶ January 18, 2024: [Phenology of Fire: Listening to the Plants and Animals](#) by Fueling Collaboration Panel Discussion Series
- ▶ January 18, 2024: [Successfully Bridging the Gap: Eastern US Models of Fire Science and Management Collaboration](#) by Fueling Collaboration Panel Discussion Series
- ▶ February 7, 2024: [Prescribed Fire as a Restoration Tool for Savanna Communities](#) by Wisconsin Forestry Center
- ▶ May 1, 2024: [Fire and Game Species](#) by Wisconsin Forestry Center
- ▶ July 10, 2024: [Fire and Climate Change](#) by Wisconsin Forestry Center

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