

SERPPAS Circular

June/July 2016

The SERPPAS Circular is a bimonthly collection of media coverage and upcoming events from SERPPAS Partners across the Southeast. Updates are collected from websites, press releases, and newsletters, and organized according to the objectives outlined in the 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@ag.tamu.edu. You may also contact her at 919-515-3931.

In the News

- **Featured**

- (DoD REPI Program) On July 12, the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership designated Avon Park Air Force Range (AFR), Fla., Camp Ripley, Minn., and Eastern North Carolina as the newest Sentinel Landscapes. These designations officially recognize the role that working lands and natural resources play in sustaining the military missions of installations and the long-term health of communities. **Avon Park AFR and Eastern North Carolina represent the first two Sentinel Landscapes in the SERPPAS region.**

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is a collaboration between the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Defense, and the Interior at the Federal level and stakeholders around an anchor or group of anchor installations at the local level. The goal of the partnerships is to lower barriers for accessing funding and technical assistance for land conservation, restoration, and management through transparent communication and coordination with partnership stakeholders in locations where agriculture and wildlife habitat support military testing, training, and operational activities. The designation of Avon Park AFR, Camp Ripley, and Eastern North Carolina comes as these locally-led partnerships have already achieved impressive advances towards protecting historic working lands and important natural resources while buffering their installations from encroachment. Now, each Sentinel Landscape will work to achieve the desired end states outlined by each local implementation team in a more coordinated, streamlined manner that leverages each partner's expertise and resources.

These designations follow the 2013 pilot designation of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., in 2013 and Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and NAS Patuxent River-Atlantic Test Ranges, Md., in 2015. The Avon Park AFR, Camp Ripley, and Eastern North Carolina partnerships broaden the diversity of issues being addressed and innovative solutions being championed on the ground to strengthen the network of military, natural, and agricultural infrastructure that supports these communities.

As each location continues to work towards their landscape goals, their achievements can be followed at www.sentinellandscapes.org. For more information, visit:

- DoD press release: <http://www.defense.gov/News-Article-View/Article/835331/more-military-bases-join-sentinel-landscapes-for-readiness-enhancement>
- Sentinel Landscapes website: <http://sentinellandscapes.org/>
- REPI website: <http://www.repi.mil/>
- USDA press release: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2016/07/0163.xml&contentidonly=true>

- DOI press release: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-agriculture-defense-team- conserve-landscapes-and-wildlife-bolster-rural>



NCD Commissioner Troxler announcing the designation of the newest Sentinel Landscapes

- **Sentinel Landscapes**

- (DoD REPI Program) The REPI Program has selected Townsend Bombing Range, in Georgia, as the fourth awardee of 2016 REPI Challenge funding. The award, totaling \$2 million, will be leveraged with \$9.5 million in other DoD funding and \$23.5 million in partner funding to protect 19,577 acres under low-altitude airspace in the lower Altamaha River Corridor. For more information, visit: <http://createsend.com/t/d-A2072EBCB78708CB>
- (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced that 21 projects across the historical longleaf pine range will receive \$4.3 million in grants, while leveraging \$5.3 million in additional partner funding, to support the restoration of the longleaf ecosystem, ultimately restoring more than 14,800 acres of longleaf pine habitat. For more information, visit: http://www.nfwf.org/whoweare/mediacenter/pr/Pages/lsf_16-0706.aspx
- (Southern Group of State Foresters) The Southern Group of State Foresters, a partnership of conservationists, scientists, private landowners, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies, has published the Shortleaf Pine Restoration Plan. The result of two years of effort by the Shortleaf Pine Initiative, the plan is the first strategy aimed at improving the shortleaf pine ecosystem across its entire range. For more information, visit: http://www.dnr.sc.gov/news/2016/jul/jul6_shortleafpine.html

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

- (DoD) The Summer 2016 issue of *Natural Selections*, the DoD Natural Resources program quarterly newsletter, focuses on issues related to threatened, endangered, and at-risk species, and includes articles focusing on conservation partnerships on DoD lands. To view the entire newsletter, visit: https://www.dodlegacy.org/Legacy/Documents/636021146506586541NaturalSelections_Summer2016.pdf
- (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has announced over \$5.5 million in grants to help protect at-risk species, including the monarch butterfly and eastern hellbender, in 11 states. For more information, visit: [https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=service-announces-more-than-\\$5.5-million-in-grants-to-help-protect-& ID=35672](https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=service-announces-more-than-$5.5-million-in-grants-to-help-protect-& ID=35672)

- (USFWS) The USFWS has announced findings on two Endangered Species Act (ESA) petitions: ESA protections for the golden-cheeked warbler will not be removed, and one that recommends adding the U.S. population of the northwestern subspecies of moose to the list of threatened and endangered species under ESA, after an additional review. For more information, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=service-announces-findings-on-two-endangered-species-act-petitions-&ID=35688>
- (USFWS) The USFWS has listed the Elfin-Woods Warbler, which is found only in Puerto Rico, as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, effective July 22, 2016. USFWS is also reviewing a proposal to designate critical habitat for the warbler, with a final decision expected next year. For more information, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=u.s.-fish-and-wildlife-service-lists-the-elfin-woods-warbler-as-a-&ID=35714>
- (USFWS) USFWS has found that the Ichetucknee Snail, a small species of snail found exclusively in a single Florida spring in Ichetucknee River State Park, does not warrant listing under the Endangered Species Act. For more information, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ID=BC1A70E6-A28B-774F-9CCD1CCE4C68C30C>
- (NC Wildlife Resources Commission) The USFWS approved the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission's 10-year update of the North Carolina Wildlife Action Plan, which identifies conservation priorities for fish and wildlife species of greatest need and their habitats over the next decade. For more information, visit: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/NewsArchives/TabId/2319/ArtMID/6635/ArticleID/1421/State-Wildlife-Action-Plan-Receives-Federal-Go-Ahead.aspx>
- **Southeast Wildland Fire Initiative**
 - (SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the fourth edition of Driptorch Digest, a monthly newsletter for the southeastern prescribed fire community. To access the newsletter, visit: https://research.cnr.ncsu.edu/blogs/southeast-fire-update/files/2016/05/Driptorch-Digest-Vol_4_May-2016.pdf
 - (SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the fifth edition of Driptorch Digest, a monthly newsletter for the southeastern prescribed fire community. To access the newsletter, visit: https://research.cnr.ncsu.edu/blogs/southeast-fire-update/files/2016/05/Driptorch-Digest-Vol_5_June-2016.pdf
 - (USGS) A new study released by the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Park Service shows that thinning forests with prescribed fire can reduce the effects of drought. For more information, and to access a copy of the study, visit: <https://www.usgs.gov/news/prescribed-fires-reduce-tree-death-drought>
 - (USFS) Shawna Legarza, who has earned more than 25 years of wildland fire management experience, has been chosen to serve as the National Director of Fire and Aviation Management for the U.S. Forest Service. For more information, visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/releases/us-forest-service-names-new-director-oversee-national-fire-and-aviation-management>
 - (USFS and NRCS) The U.S. Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service announced a new partnership with the American Forest Foundation, in addition with a combined \$5 million initial investment, to address catastrophic wildfire risk across 3.5 million acres of private land in order to protect water supplies for Western communities. For more information,

visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/releases/new-public-private-partnership-help-reduce-wildfire-threat-family-owned-lands-protect>

- (OEA) Camp Pendleton hosted the Wild Land Fire Fighting Exercise 2016 at Las Pulgas Lake, CA, on May 5. The exercise combined elements of aviation and ground units from Camp Pendleton, the 3rd Marine Air Wing, Navy Region Southwest, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the San Diego Sheriff's Department. For more information on the exercise, visit: <https://www.oea.gov/agencies-work-together-wild-land-fire-fighting-exercise>

- **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**

- (NOAA) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has made significant upgrades to the U.S. Global Forecast System, NOAA's primary model for weather prediction. The upgrades result in higher resolution model output and more precise weather forecasts and warnings. For more information, visit: <http://www.noaa.gov/noaa%E2%80%99s-premier-forecast-model-goes-four-dimensional>
- (NOAA) NOAA has announced that the second round of funds from the NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program, totaling nearly \$17 million, is now available to support proposals focused on living coastal and marine resources and their habitats in the Gulf of Mexico. For more information, visit: <http://www.noaa.gov/noaa-restore-act-science-program-issues-request-gulf-projects>
- (NOAA) NOAA Fisheries is proposing to protect critical river habitat for the threatened Gulf of Maine, New York Bight, Chesapeake Bay, Carolina, and South Atlantic population segments of the Atlantic Sturgeon, which was listed under the Endangered Species Act in 2012. For more information, visit: <http://www.noaa.gov/noaa-issues-proposed-rules-designating-atlantic-sturgeon-critical-habitat>
- (NOAA) As part of its national effort to build resilient coastal ecosystems, communities, and economies, NOAA announced on June 15 the availability of up to \$8.5 million in funding for coastal and marine habitat restoration in 2016. For more information, visit: <http://www.noaa.gov/call-coastal-ecosystem-resiliency-grant-proposals>
- (OEA) Political, military, and energy officials met on June 1 to officially open the 220-acre solar farm in Fort Benning, GA; which includes nearly 135,000 solar panels, will supply about 30 megawatts, and represents the first and largest renewable energy project in the state of Georgia. For more information, visit: <https://www.oea.gov/fort-benning-houses-largest-renewable-solar-energy-project-state>
- (GOMA) The Gulf of Mexico Alliance has released its Ten Year Summary Report, showcasing the successes of the Alliance's six Priority Issue Teams between 2004 and 2014. For more information, visit: <http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/2016/06/alliance-releases-ten-year-summary-report/>
- (GOMA) The Gulf of Mexico Alliance has released the Governor' Action Plan III For Healthy and Resilient Coasts, which will address 16 major goals, utilizing partnerships within 6 priority issue teams, over the next five years. For more information, and to view a copy of the plan, visit: <http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/2016/06/gulf-mexico-alliance-releases-governors-action-plan-iii-healthy-resilient-coasts/>
- (NOAA) NOAA has released two products to help coastal communities address the challenge of climate change in coastal environments: a new Guide for Considering Climate Change in Coastal

Conservation, and a self-guided online resource on How to Consider Climate Change in Coastal Conservation. To access these resources, visit:

- Guide for Considering Climate Change in Coastal Conservation:
<https://coast.noaa.gov/data/digitalcoast/pdf/considering-climate-change.pdf>
- How to Consider Climate Change in Coastal Conservation:
<https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/coastal-conservation.html>
- (South Atlantic LCC) The South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative has released their June and July newsletters. The newsletters include updates on current South Atlantic LCC projects, information on current funding opportunities, and information on updates to the South Atlantic LCC's major mapping effort, Blueprint 2.1. The newsletters can be accessed through the following links:
 - June 2016 South Atlantic LCC newsletter: <http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=59d57e49ab5b1afb3a66167ee&id=a3af5882c2&e=e86655520f>
 - July 2016 South Atlantic LCC newsletter: <http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=59d57e49ab5b1afb3a66167ee&id=c354d7486e&e=e86655520f>
- **Southeast Conservation Finance Initiative**
 - (USDA) USDA is awarding \$44.6 million through its Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership to support 10 wetland enhancement projects on private and tribal lands in 12 states, including Louisiana, Tennessee, and Mississippi. For more information, visit: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD192217>
 - (FL DEP) The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has awarded more than \$4 million in low-interest loans to six Florida communities for planning and design phases of clean water projects. For more information, visit: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/1447b5f>
 - (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced the sixth round of grant awards from its Fisheries Innovation Fund, a program launched in 2010 to foster innovations that support sustainable fisheries in the United States. For more information, visit: http://www.nfwf.org/whoweare/mediacenter/pr/Pages/fif_16-0712.aspx

Upcoming Webinars

- July 20: [Guiding Regional Conservation Under Climate Change](#) by GCPO LCC
- August 10: [Off-Installation Solutions to Environmental Regulatory Issues](#) by REPI
- September 21: [State Policies and Encroachment Protection Efforts](#) by REPI
- December 7: [Environmental Law Institute Brief – Sentinel Landscape Partnership Authorities and Opportunities](#) by REPI
- Archived: [Introducing the Shortleaf Pine Restoration Plan](#) by Shortleaf Pine Restoration Initiative

Upcoming Events

- July 14-17: National Governors Association Summer Meeting (Des Moines, IA)
- July 15-18: National Association of Conservation Districts Summer Board Meeting (Minneapolis, MN)

- July 18-22: Association of Climate Change Officers 2016 Climate Strategies Forum, East Coast (Arlington, VA)
- July 17-22: Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture Annual Meeting (Lake Tahoe, NV)
- July 21-22: Western Regional Partnership Steering Committee Meeting (Denver, CO)
- July 21-27: Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Summer Meeting (Cody, WY)
- July 22-25: National Association of Counties 2016 Annual Conference and Exposition (Long Beach, CA)
- July 27-29: 43rd American Legislative Exchange Council Annual Meeting (Indianapolis, IN)
- July 31-August 2: National Association of Conservation Districts Southeast Region Meeting (Cherokee, NC)
- August 8-11: National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Summit (Chicago, IL)
- August 9-11: National Association of Conservation Districts South Central Region Meeting (Little Rock, AR)
- August 17-19: Western Regional Partnership Principals Meeting (Salt Lake City, UT)
- September 15: America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative's Invasive Exotic Species Workshop (Eastpoint, FL)
- September 11-15: 106th Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting (Philadelphia, PA)
- September 19-22: National Association of State Foresters Annual Meeting (Savannah, GA)
- September 21-22: South Carolina Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting (Edgefield, SC)
- September 21-24: National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Annual Meeting (Lincoln, NE)
- September 25-27: Environmental Council of the States Fall Meeting (Wheeling, WV)
- October 15-20: The Wildlife Society 23rd Annual Conference (Raleigh, NC)
- October 16-19: Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 70th Annual Conference (Baton Rouge, LA) – to include SECAS Leadership Summit on October 17
- October 25-28: Prescribed Fire for Wildlife Training Session (Tallahassee, FL)
- October 28-30: Rally 2016: The National Land Conservation Conference (Minneapolis, MN)
- October 31-November 1: Longleaf Partnership Council Fall Meeting (Savannah, GA)
- November 1-4: 11th Biennial Longleaf Alliance Conference (Savannah, GA)

For more information about SERPPAS, visit www.serppas.org.