



SERPPAS Circular

July/August/September 2026

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 [2026 SERPPAS Strategic Plan](#). If you have information to share in the next SERPPAS Circular, please email your input directly to SERPPAS: info@serppas.org.

FEATURED

► **SERPPAS Fall 2026 Steering Committee Meeting**

The Fall 2026 SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting was held August 19–20, 2026, in Atlanta, GA, continuing discussions from the April 2026 Principals Meeting. Members received updates on sustaining forest markets in the Southeast, research supporting wildlife corridors, the newly established SERPPAS Research Committee, and updates from each SERPPAS working group. See the agenda with resources here: https://serppas.org/media/k1cgdx4/fall-2026-serppas-steering-committee-meeting_agenda-with-presentations.pdf

► **Spotlight**

- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation awarded \$20 million in grants to restore, enhance, and protect longleaf pine forests across the southeastern United States. The funding will support 25 projects through the Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund (LLSF). The funded projects will mark 15 years of grantmaking through LLSF by supporting planting, prescribed fire implementation, and landowner assistance. These investments will support wildlife habitat, forest health, water resources, rural communities, and ongoing efforts to restore longleaf. For more information, visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/media-center/press-releases/nfwf-awards-20-million-grants-restore-longleaf-pine-habitat-across>
- Keeping Forests has created a Network Explorer interactive map for partners from their 2023 Social Network Analysis (SNA) data. Keeping Forests asked 80 of its partner organizations to describe how they collaborate, critical issues driving their work, and the most available and needed resources to create impact. The responses provided a densely connected network with roughly 14 relationships per partner. The Network Explorer interactive map provides a visual representation of collaboration on the South's working forest economy and multi-dimensional issues surrounding southern forest conservation. Explore the tool: <https://www.keepingforests.org/network-explorer>
- The U.S. Forest Service announced \$105.5 million in grants to support the wood industry, rural economies, and jobs. This investment supports 177 projects across the nation for active management of national forests and grasslands, promotes wood and energy infrastructure, increases manufacturing capacity, and improves operational efficiencies. To learn more, visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/newsroom/releases/us-forest-service-invests-1055-million-grants-support-wood-industry>

► **Funding**



- NFWF is now accepting pre-proposals for the 2027 Acres for America Program. Acres for America is a premier land conservation program providing private funding to permanently conserve large-scale habitats for fish, wildlife, and plants through voluntary land acquisitions and perpetual conservation easements. The Request for Proposals supports lands across the United States. **Pre-proposals are due by October 19, 2026, at 11:59 pm ET.** Invitations to applicants selected to submit full proposals will be issued in early November 2026, with full proposals due December 2nd. For more information, visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/acres-america-program/2027-acres-america-request-proposals>
- The NFWF Hurricane Response Marine Debris Removal Fund 2027 Request for Proposals has been released. NFWF and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) established this removal fund to support projects to assess, remove, and dispose of marine debris in and around coastal communities impacted by hurricanes and other natural storm events. Priority will be placed on debris removal efforts that reduce impacts on communities and industry as well as prevent further harm to habitats and fish and wildlife populations. **Full proposals are due October 21, 2026, at 11:59 pm ET.** For eligibility and more information, visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/hurricane-response-marine-debris-removal-fund/hurricane-response-marine-debris-removal>
- The National Park Service is inviting applications for the Readiness and Recreation Initiative (RARI), a grant program that funds projects supporting outdoor recreation, compatible land use near military areas, and disaster resilience. Projects must include a land acquisition component and be located within an active REPI Partnership Opportunity Area or a Sentinel Landscape. **Applications are accepted on a rolling basis through November 1, 2030, and reviewed as received.** Award notifications typically occur within 180 days of submission. To learn more, visit: <https://simpler.grants.gov/opportunity/e5632e9d-aec1-4184-abae-9ef950d31b6e>
- The National Park Service is inviting applications for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program, which provides matching grants to states for acquiring land and developing or improving outdoor recreation facilities in eligible areas. ORLP was established in 2014 and further codified by the 2025 EXPLORE Act. ORLP focuses on acquiring land and/or developing outdoor recreation facilities in urban and tribal areas to expand public access to parks and green space. Projects must be located within a Qualifying Area, defined as an urban area with a population of 25,000 or more (per the most recent census), two or more adjacent urban areas with a combined population of 25,000+, or an area administered by a federally recognized Tribe or Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian organization. **Applications are due November 1st annually through 2030,** with award announcements expected by May 1 of the following year. Applications submitted after the deadline are held for the next cycle. To check eligibility, visit: <https://simpler.grants.gov/opportunity/89d165d3-00db-4330-bc9a-8be4444f2633>
- 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 Sentinel Landscape Partnership has released its new Sentinel Landscapes Partnership Success Stories StoryMap, which highlights examples of collaborative conservation and land-management projects across Sentinel Landscapes. It showcases how federal, state, local, and private partners work with willing landowners to protect working lands and natural resources, strengthen military readiness, support agricultural and forestry economies, and improve landscape resilience. The stories demonstrate the on-the-ground outcomes of aligning resources and funding around shared conservation and military objectives. View the StoryMap here:
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/67ee1b9233f142059d03b1595226b140>
- The 2026 Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape Annual Partnership Meeting will be held on November 19-20, 2026, in Pensacola, FL. **Registration is due by close of business on November 6, 2026.** Contact Joy Brown (joy@legacyworksgroup.com) with any questions or for more information. Please register here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5ulGp1JTGSGi40kgXvcjJUuFGummRZOutS6MZfZ_KXOfolA/viewform
- The Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscapes Resilient Forest Economy Initiative has entered its second phase, supported by \$70,000 from the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program, focusing on the region's forest economy. Building on interviews with 20 forest stakeholders, the initiative is bringing together forestry leaders through a series of workshops to develop a shared vision for a forest economy that benefits both people and nature. For more information, contact David Wolfe (dwolfe-consultant@defenders.org).
- The Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape released its July and August Updates newsletters that provide news, resources, partner collaboration, and partnership progress:
 - July: <https://serppas.org/media/12poxfol/nwfl-sl-july-2026.pdf>
 - August: <https://serppas.org/media/mdmfngzf/nwfl-sl-august-2026.pdf>
- 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:
 - July 2026: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/July-Bulletin-Network-for-Landscape-Conservation.html?soid=1128366788872&aid=FZ3olBsLyK0>

► Natural Resources Management

- The new Endangered Species Act (ESA) Toolbox acts as a guide for the Department of War Natural Resources Managers. The ESA Toolbox illustrates strategies and concepts that can support both conservation and mission activities, drawn from real-world examples. It also contains examples of tools that can assist natural resources managers on installations and the operators they support. To explore this tool, visit:
https://share.articulate.com/mqJAay1QuLBSilxgCzPLG?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- The America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative released its 2025 Accomplishment Report! The report provides a comprehensive look at the progress, partnerships, and impact achieved over the past year in restoring and sustaining the longleaf pine ecosystem. In Fiscal Year 2025, partners established nearly 95,000 acres of new longleaf, implemented prescribed fire on 1.5 million acres, and protected over 80,000 acres of land. This year's report highlights strides in restoration, strong



collaboration, and measurable conservation benefiting multiple groups. To read more, visit:

<https://americaslongleaf.org/media/dywnjzn5/2025-accomplishment-report.pdf>

- Tall Timbers released its Annual Report summarizing the organization's 2025 conservation, research, land management, and education efforts, highlighting its expanding work across the Southeast focused on prescribed fire, biodiversity, wildlife management, land conservation, and fire ecology, as well as key accomplishments and priorities under its new 2026-2036 strategic plan. To read more, visit: https://talitimbers.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/AR2025_FinalOfficeUse.pdf
- The Texas A&M Forest Service launched the Wood Flow South interactive website. This interactive website provides information on the volume, value, and trends of forest products trade across the southern United States. The tool tracks imports and exports of forest products and allows users to explore trade data for Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, and South Carolina by commodity, country, year, and product category. It was developed in collaboration with state, university, and federal partners. To explore this interactive website, visit: <https://texasforestinfo.tamu.edu/woodflow/>
- The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) has updated its website and story map. This update provides refreshed content and streamlines the flow of information throughout the site. For more information on changes, visit: <https://secassoutheast.org/2026/07/16/Redesign-of-SECAS-website-and-story-map/>
- The Southern Group of State Foresters released an article on the six major forest health threats affecting the Southeast while emphasizing the importance of early detection, monitoring, research, and coordinated regional management to protect forest health, wildlife habitat, and resilient landscapes. To read more, visit: <https://southernforests.org/2026/08/05/6-forest-health-threats-to-watch-in-the-southeast/>
- The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) released its July, August, and September Newsletter, which combines all the blogs written on the SECAS website during the previous month:
 - July: <https://bit.ly/4yWSry9>
 - August: <https://bit.ly/4rsX54i>
 - September: <https://bit.ly/4hIOaZb>
- The Southern Regional Extension of Forestry has released its 213th through 218th issues of their News Digest, which shares relevant news and updates.
 - Issue 213: <https://serppas.org/media/nsqjozz1/sref-june-29-2026.pdf>
 - Issue 214: <https://serppas.org/media/t4vbynez/sref-july-13-2026.pdf>
 - Issue 215: <https://serppas.org/media/tkcb0rif/sref-july-27-2026.pdf>
 - Issue 216: <https://serppas.org/media/tdjlykfi/sref-august-10-2026.pdf>
 - Issue 217: <https://serppas.org/media/1ekbxfjk/sref-august-24-2026.pdf>
 - Issue 218: <https://serppas.org/media/m4jf4scj/sref-september-14-2026.pdf>

► Wildland Fire

- A newly released Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX) Guidebook, *Considerations for Planning a Prescribed Fire Training Exchange*, has been released by the Fire Learning Network! This guidebook serves as a practical planning resource for fire practitioners looking to organize their own Prescribed Fire Training Exchange events. A TREX offers exciting opportunities for education and knowledge exchange on the fire line. Since starting in 2008, TREX has trained over 5,400



participants and treated more than 225,000 acres. For more information on TREX, visit:

<https://firenetworks.org/resource/trex-guidebook-considerations-for-planning-a-prescribed-fire-training-exchange/>

- The Southern Fire Exchange (SFE) has released a new series on its "Friends of Fire" podcast. The podcast discusses a variety of fire science topics relevant to the southeastern United States. This new series, Ft. Stewart '25, follows SFE Outreach Specialist Christian Fernandez as he attends the Ft. Stewart Research Campaign, exploring collaboration and co-production for fire science and management through conversations with fire scientists, managers, and practitioners. Listen to the first three episodes: <https://open.spotify.com/show/2tZoEqZvMgFWeESupb4lxV> [H
- North Carolina State Extension Forestry recently released a new video introducing the [*Guidebook for Prescribed Burning in the Southern Region*](#), authored by Southern Regional Extension Forestry, North Carolina State Extension Forestry, and many others. The video provides an overview of each chapter of the Guidebook, including Getting Started, Planning the Burn, Conducting the Burn, Evaluating the Burn, Weather, Smoke Management, Fuel, and Fire Behavior. Viewers can easily access specific chapter(s) with the chapter breakdown option. Watch the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jabznJr1fTw>
- Oklahoma State University Extension published a new fact sheet, *Wildfire Effects on Unmanaged and Managed Cross Timbers Forests*, which highlights a stark contrast in how managed and unmanaged Cross Timbers forests respond to intense wildfire. Research showed that forest plots previously treated with prescribed fire and canopy reduction experienced significantly less tree mortality because dangerous ladder fuels, like invasive eastern redcedar, had already been removed. To read more, visit: <https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/wildfire-effects-on-unmanaged-and-managed-cross-timbers-forests#Conclusions>
- The Southern Fire Exchange released its bi-monthly newsletter Fire Lines, which contains news, updates, and events relevant to fire activities across the region.
 - July-August: <https://bit.ly/4y4NjYt>
- The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 117th – 119th editions of the Driptorch Digest, which contain prescribed fire news, events, articles, and more from across the region. Learn more here:
 - July: <https://bit.ly/4rnjn7q>
 - August: <https://bit.ly/4ySsf7G>
 - September: <https://bit.ly/46EYLhu>
- The Ember Alliance has released the July, August, and September versions of their newsletter, which features news stories and updates.
 - July: <https://bit.ly/4xABzfv>
 - August: <https://bit.ly/4ilZEgo>
 - September: <https://bit.ly/4yXnqdn>

► Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation

- The Pew Charitable Trusts released the Pacific Northwest Regional Blue Carbon Calculator developed by scientists, state agencies, and nonprofit partners to easily estimate how different land management decisions can increase emissions, avoid emissions, and strengthen habitats for coastal wetlands. The tool's outputs can be placed into reports, funding applications, and other resources showing weather-related risks and benefits in land-use planning decisions. Although this



tool is catered to the Pacific Northwest, it can serve as a model for other states to develop their own instruments using local data. For more information, visit: <https://www.pew.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2026/04/13/new-tool-helps-states-quantify-benefits-of-coastal-wetlands>

- A new study led by the U.S. Geological Survey examines how coastal wetlands across the contiguous United States are responding to rising sea levels. Researchers analyzed hundreds of wetland sites to understand where wetlands are keeping pace with sea-level rise and where they may be at greater risk of submergence and loss. The findings can help inform coastal conservation, restoration, and management efforts. To learn more, visit: <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2025EF006836>
- A new study from multiple universities assesses the main drivers of wetland loss in northeast Florida. To examine the drivers of wetland loss in northeast Florida, researchers performed a land-use change detection analysis using Sentinel-2 satellite imagery and examined the role of distance to shore, mangrove presence, and boat wake energy on marsh-to-water conversions. To learn more, visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12237-026-01757-8>
- The SE Climate Adaptation Science Center released its July, August, and September Newsletters, which include climate-related news, resources, publications, webinars, and more for the Southeast region:
 - July: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2026/07/14/july-2026-newsletter/>
 - August: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2026/08/20/august-2026-newsletter/>
 - September: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2026/09/15/september-2026-newsletter/>
- The South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative released its July, August, and September Newsletters, which include salt marsh-related news, updates on SASMI efforts, and relevant funding opportunities.
 - July: https://serppas.org/media/yjnhfmi5/sasmi-newsletter_202607.pdf
 - August: https://serppas.org/media/wm2p3mtp/sasmi-newsletter_202608.pdf
 - September: https://serppas.org/media/upapyyk4/sasmi-newsletter_202609.pdf

► Military Services News

- The Nature Conservancy released a YouTube video, *From Conflict to Collaboration: A Bulletproof Partnership*, which explores the relationship between the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) and Fort Bragg. As longleaf pine forests declined, the RCW found a new home within the longleaf pine ecosystem on the Fort Bragg landscape, where military training activities were taking place. At the time, the Army was not implementing the management practices necessary to support the species' recovery, and concerns about training impacts led to Fort Bragg receiving a federal jeopardy opinion from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which halted training activities to protect the RCW. The video highlights the importance of communication, trust, and understanding different perspectives when working toward shared goals. It demonstrates how collaborative approaches can help partners navigate challenges, identify common ground, and develop solutions that benefit all parties involved. This innovative effort led to the creation of the North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership, which later expanded nationally through the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program. Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/h4iuTra9J94?si=KB9HDDDeUGxtlr-l>



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ October 1-3, 2026: [The Hope Summit](#) (Charleston, SC)
- ▶ October 5-8, 2026: [2026 Natural Areas Conference](#) (Asheville, NC)
- ▶ October 6-9, 2026: [Society of American Foresters \(SAF\) National Convention](#) (Tacoma, WA)
- ▶ October 23, 2026: [Central Florida Prescribed Fire Council Meeting](#) (Kissimmee, FL)
- ▶ October 25-29, 2026: [13th U.S. Symposium on Harmful Algae](#) (Cedar Rapids, IA)
- ▶ October 26-30, 2026: [80th SEAFWA Annual Conference](#) (Nashville, TN)
- ▶ October 27-30, 2026: [16th Biennial Longleaf Conference](#) (Williamsburg, VA)
- ▶ November 16, 2026: [Gulf Resilience Community of Practice Annual Meeting](#) (Beaumont, TX)
- ▶ November 17-18, 2026: [North Carolina Coastal Conference](#) (Chapel Hill, NC)
- ▶ December 7-11, 2026: [Beneficial Fire Summit](#) (San Diego, CA)
- ▶ February 24 – 25, 2027: SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting (Atlanta, GA)
- ▶ June 7-10, 2027: [The Southern Group of State Foresters 2027 Annual Meeting](#) (Stone Mountain, GA)

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- ▶ Series: [Landscape Conservation Webinar Series](#) by the Network for Landscape Conservation
- ▶ Series: [Southeast Monthly Webinar Series](#) by NOAA
- ▶ Series: [NOAA Science Seminar 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
- ▶ Series: [2025 REPI Webinar Series](#) by REPI
- ▶ 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
- ▶ October 9, 2026: [Assessing the Effectiveness of Total Water Level Visualizations and Compound Flood Products](#) by Maryland Sea Grant's Focus Group
- ▶ October 12-14, 2026: [North Carolina Certified Burn Manager Course](#) (Virtual with In-Person Field Days)
- ▶ October 13-November 12, 2026: [Nature-Based Solutions \(NBS\) Short Course](#) by the Institute for Resilient Infrastructure Systems, UGA
- ▶ October 15, 2026: [Assessing modeled and measured habitat loss using local building records, regional development models, and national biodiversity data](#) by the Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS)
- ▶ November 17, 2026: [Air Quality and Health Impacts of Prescribed Burning in the Southeastern US](#) by Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium
- ▶ December 15, 2026: [Shortleaf Pine Management Challenges and Opportunities for an Unsung Species](#) by the University of Missouri, Southern Fire Exchange, Oak Woodlands and Forests Fire Consortium, and the University of Florida IFAS

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