

SERPPAS Circular

October/November 2015

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 khoury_christopher@bah.com.

In the News

• Sentinel Landscapes

- (DoD) The US Department of Defense is accepting pre-proposals for the 2016 Readiness and Environmental Protection (REPI) Program Challenge, which seeks to leverage public and private funds for land conservation projects that limit incompatible development or that relieve current or anticipated environmental restrictions on military testing, training, or operations. Access the request for pre-proposals and pre-proposal form here: <http://usendowment.org/repichallenge2016.html>
- (NC DENR) State, Federal, and private funds will be used to buy lands in Scotland County, NC that will aid the military, protect wetlands, and enhance efforts to restore longleaf pine to the area. For more information, visit: http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/journal/view_article_content?groupId=4711509&articleId=26078322
- (Fayetteville Observer) The North Carolina state budget includes \$2 million specifically allocated for military buffers at unspecified installations. For more information, see the following *Fayetteville Observer* article: http://www.fayobserver.com/news/local/north-carolina-budget-brings-some-money-to-fayetteville/article_a81b409c-73e0-54fd-9161-5bf6ffa490f5.html
- (Savannah Morning News) Intense management of the 26,000 acres of longleaf pine forest at Fort Stewart, GA has helped to maximize the amount of space available for training while eliminating the number of training days lost due to wildfires. For more information, see this story in the Savannah Morning News: http://savannahnow.com/news/2015-10-04/army-civilians-work-maintain-coastal-georgia-forests?utm_source=dc360&utm_campaign=f193b93ba7-RSS_dc360_daily_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_04f8ff45e8-f193b93ba7-55787077&ct=t%28RSS_dc360_daily_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN%29

• Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species

- (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed adding the White Fringeless Orchid to the Threatened and Endangered Species List. For more information, see: <http://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ID=CCBFB753-E9C6-805A-AF96881806920ADD>
- (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced the availability of the final recovery plan for the Dusky Gopher Frog, which is primarily found in the longleaf pine forests of Mississippi and Federally listed as Endangered. To see a copy of the plan, visit: http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/2015_07_16_Final%20RP_R_sevosa_08212015%20%281%29.pdf
- (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced the findings for 25 Endangered Species Act Petitions. For more information, visit: <http://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=u.s.-fish-and-wildlife-service-announces-findings-for--25-endangered-& ID=35231>

- (GA DNR) Loggerhead Sea Turtles have set another nesting record in Georgia this summer, signaling a continued recovery for the species, though still falling short of Federal recovery benchmarks. For more information, visit: <http://georgiawildlife.com/node/4020>
- (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released its annual Military Conservation Partner Award call for nominations (for the announcement, click here: [http://www.dodnaturalresources.net/Call_for_Nominations_Military_Conservation Partner Award 2016.pdf](http://www.dodnaturalresources.net/Call_for_Nominations_Military_Conservation_Partner_Award_2016.pdf)). The award is designed to recognize military installations that have accomplished outstanding work in cooperation with the Service to promote conservation on military lands. For more information on the winner of the 2015 award, Vandenberg Air Force Base, visit: <http://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ID=20FEAB73-059E-55A3-F9D6AFEF5BDB169E&Source=iframe>.
- **Southeast Wildland Fire Initiative**
 - (USFS) A new U.S. Forest Service report shows the continued expansion of housing development near forests, an area referred to as the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), with direct implications for the cost of wildfire fighting. To access a copy of the report, visit: <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/48642>
 - (GA DNR) The Georgia Prescribed Fire Council will meet on September 29 to discuss how to promote the vital role of prescribed burning for generations to come. Their website can be found here: <http://www.garxfire.com/>; and their September meeting announcement can be found here: <http://georgiawildlife.com/node/4019>
 - (DoD) DoD's Natural Resources Program's Summer 2015 edition of *Natural Selections* is focused on fire, and includes articles on Prescribed Fire as well as the Air Force Wildland Fire Center. A PDF copy of the newsletter can be found here: [https://www.dodlegacy.org/Legacy/Documents/635766978251967313NaturalSelections_Summer 2015_v8hr.pdf](https://www.dodlegacy.org/Legacy/Documents/635766978251967313NaturalSelections_Summer2015_v8hr.pdf)
 - (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has released a list of 2015 Gulf Coast Conservation Grants Programs, which includes a Veterans Prescribed Fire Crew. The Crew will conduct prescribed burns and other management activities in coastal Mississippi and Alabama. For more information, visit: <http://www.nfwf.org/gulfconservation/Pages/2015-project-list.aspx#.VgWpY5fvEnJ>
- **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**
 - (OEA) A groundbreaking ceremony for a 258-acre, 136,000 cell solar facility at SUBASE Kings Bay was held on September 10th in Kings Bay, GA. Additional information can be found here: <http://www.oea.gov/groundbreaking-ceremony-for-solar-facility-held-at-subase-kings-bay>
 - (EPA) EPA has awarded a Green Infrastructure Grant to Mississippi State University to help study how green infrastructure can enhance resiliency for communities and landscapes faced with water pollution and climate change impacts. For more information, visit: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/2ac652c59703a4738525735900400c2c/1aca4e49a329682b85257ebc00547075!OpenDocument>
 - (SGA) North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory, in partnership with the Walmart Foundation, has formed a Public-Private Partnership designed to help transitioning veterans and their families re-enter civilian life. For more information, visit: <http://www.southerngovernors.org/articleview.aspx?articleid=13343>

- (SGA) Regulators have approved Alabama Power's request to build or purchase up to 500 MW of renewable energy over the next six years. For more information, visit: <http://www.southerngovernors.org/articleview.aspx?articleid=13340>
- (SAA) Two ad-hoc working groups of the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance have released their recommendations on strategies to address significant regional issues related to resilience. For more information, visit: <http://southatlanticalliance.org/?p=1441>
- (USGS) USGS scientists met on October 5-8 to discuss climate, drought, and resource management at the Colorado Plateau Conference. For more information and a list of topics presented on, please visit: http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=4350&from=rss&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+USGSNewsroomPartial+%28Newsroom+Partial+Descriptions%29#.VhWJOSvEnI
- (NOAA) NOAA has updated nowCOAST, a GIS-based online map that offers improved coastal observations and forecasts. To access the tool, visit: <https://nowcoast.noaa.gov/>
- **Southeast Conservation Finance Initiative**
 - (Florida DEP) The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Florida Coastal Management Program is accepting applications for the Coastal Partnership Initiative (CPI) grant program. The CPI grant program promotes the protection and effective management of Florida's coastal resources as the local level. For more information, see this press release: <http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/116b1ea> ; for additional information on the CPI, visit its website: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/cmp/grants/fcpmgrants.htm>
 - (GCERC) The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council has released the draft Initial Funded Priorities List (FPL). To access the list, visit: https://restorethegulf.gov/sites/default/files/Draft_Initial_FPL_0.pdf#overlay-context=our-work/draft-initial-funded-priorities-list-draft-fpl
 - (USEFC) The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities has released their comprehensive Report on USDA Forest Service Partnership, which has led to over \$105 million towards forests in less than a decade. To view the report, visit: http://www.usendowment.org/images/Mosquito_Press_Release_9.4.15.pdf
 - (GOMA) The Gulf of Mexico Alliance has updated their Deepwater Horizon Project Tracker, which now contains 57 fully-funded programs. For more information, visit the Project Tracker's website: <http://www.dwhprojecttracker.org/>
- **Other**
 - (DoD REPI Program) The REPI Program has published their FY 14 State Fact Sheets, which provides overviews of REPI activities, installation case studies, and DoD economic impacts within states with REPI projects. To access the fact sheets, visit: <http://www.repi.mil/Resources/StateFactSheets.aspx>
 - (OEA) The OEA has released their report on FY 2014 Defense Spending by State, which can be found here: http://www.oea.gov/library/directory/defense-spending-by-state-fy14?utm_source=dc360&utm_campaign=f193b93ba7-RSS_dc360_daily_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_04f8ff45e8-f193b93ba7-55787077&ct=t%28RSS_dc360_daily_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN%29

Upcoming Events

- October 5: Association of Defense Communities (ADC) Southeast Regional Forum (Fayetteville, NC)
- October 7-8: America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI) Federal Coordinating Committee Meeting (Atlanta, GA)
- **October 15 (1:00 PM ET): SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group Meeting (Conference Call)**
- October 17: Fire in The Pines Festival (Wilmington, NC)
- October 21-22: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Forestland Stewards Stakeholder Forum (Charleston, SC)
- October 22-24: National Association of State Foresters/CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Joint Meeting (Olympic Valley, CA)
- November 1-5: Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) Annual Meeting (Asheville, NC)
- November 2-3: Longleaf Partnership Council Fall Meeting (Baton Rouge, LA)
- November 3-7: Society of American Forester's Annual Convention (Baton Rouge, LA)
- November 4-9: PFTC Agency Administrator's Workshop (Florida)
- November 16-20: 6th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress (San Antonio, TX)
- **November 17-18: SERPPAS Principals Meeting (Jekyll Island, Georgia)**
- December 2-3: DoD Regional Environmental Coordinators Annual Meeting (Washington, DC)
- December 5-6: Federal Conservation Finance Boot Camp (Washington, DC)

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