

SERPPAS Circular

June/July/August 2018

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@ag.tamu.edu. You may also contact her at 919-515-3931.

FEATURE

- ▶ **2018 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference** The Sustaining Military Readiness Conference that took place on August 13 – 16, 2018 in St. Louis, MO, was the first time in seven years that the Department of Defense and its partners were able to spend four days dedicated to insightful discussion, stimulating workshops, and beneficial connections to help shape the future of military readiness. The conference was well attended by 900+ participants from Federal and State agencies as well as NGOs and other partner groups. SERPPAS had a booth along with many other organizations, which allowed for a lot of great conversation and awareness with stakeholders in and outside of the Southeast. If you were not able to attend the Conference, please do check out the website where a lot of the presentations are posted online: www.smrconference.org



IN THE NEWS

- **Spotlight**
 - ▶ **(LSF)** The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced 28 conservation grants totaling a record \$6.5 million to restore, enhance and protect the longleaf pine forest in eight Southeast states, benefitting species like the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and at-risk gopher tortoise. The grants will generate \$7.9 million in matching contributions for a total conservation impact of \$14.4 million. The 28 grants announced will support conservation work in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.nfwf.org/whoware/mediacenter/pr/Pages/nfwf-announces-record-grants-to-benefit-longleaf-pine-forest-and-wildlife-across-the-southeast-2018-0824.aspx>
 - ▶ **(DoD/DOI)** The Department of Defense and the Department of Interior signed an MOU to Establish a Recovery and Sustainment Partnership Initiative. The purpose of this MOU is to establish a mutually beneficial partnership among the Parties to develop and promote effective ecosystem and species conservation and recovery initiatives that will reduce or eliminate the need for Federal protection and regulation under the ESA and provide for increased flexibility for military mission activities. To read the MOU, please visit: <https://serppas.org/media/2669/signed-esa-mou-25-june-2018-1.pdf>

- ▶ (LLA) Please join the Longleaf Alliance at the 12th Biennial Longleaf Conference “Longleaf Reflections: Looking Back, Taking Stock, Making Progress” in Alexandria, Louisiana on October 23-26, 2018. To learn more about the conference and to register, please visit:

<https://projects.ncsu.edu/mckimmon/cpe/opd/lac/index.html>

- ▶ (SERPPAS) SERPPAS has released multiple documents that help partners and stakeholders better understand the structure, mission and priorities of SERPPAS. If you have not already done so, please look over some of the recently published fact sheets as well as the recently approved 2018 – 2020 SERPPAS Strategic Plan:

- The 2018 – 2020 SERPPAS Strategic Plan:
https://serppas.org/media/2658/2018-20_serppas_strategic-plan_062718_85x11_final.pdf
- The Commander’s Guide to SERPPAS:
https://serppas.org/media/2662/serppas_commanders-guide_final.pdf
- SERPPAS Sentinel Landscapes in the Southeast Fact Sheet:
https://serppas.org/media/2663/fact-sheet_sentinel_060618_final.pdf
- SERPPAS Threatened, Endangered and At-Risk Species Fact Sheet:
https://serppas.org/media/2665/fact-sheet_at-risk_27june18_final.pdf
- SERPPAS Southeast Prescribed Fire Initiative Fact Sheet:
https://serppas.org/media/2664/fact-sheet_fire_062018_final.pdf

- **Sentinel Landscapes**

- ▶ (REPI) The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program released its Spring Edition of the Quarterly Newsletter. To read the full newsletter, please visit:
<https://repiprogram.createsend1.com/t/ViewEmail/d/82E7D62DBAE9A99A2540EF23F30FEDED>
- ▶ (Georgia SL) The Georgia Sentinel Landscape was awarded the ‘Department of Defense Team Achievement Award’ by the Regional Longleaf Awards Committee, The Longleaf Alliance and its Board of Directors. The purpose of the Regional Longleaf Awards is to recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to longleaf restoration across the Southeastern US region. The DoD Team Achievement Award recognizes a DoD team that has gone above and beyond the call of duty in managing and restoring the longleaf ecosystem on Military Installations. The award will be presented at the Biennial Longleaf Conference in October 2018. Congrats to the Georgia Sentinel Landscape!
- ▶ (AFWA) The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies released a white paper titled ‘Landscape Conservation Collaboration’ in an effort to understand the future of landscape conservation, and the role of states and the USFWS. This white paper reviews large landscape fish and wildlife partnerships to help identify drivers, challenges and successes. To read the full white paper, please visit:
https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/8915/2185/5488/AFWA_Landscape_Conservation_White_Paper-FINAL.pdf



**12th Biennial
Longleaf Conference**

LONGLEAF REFLECTIONS
FOUNDED BY REFLECTIONS

Looking Back Taking Stock Making Progress
Alexandria, Louisiana October 23-26, 2018

Visit the Conference Website for Details
<https://projects.ncsu.edu/mckimmon/cpe/opd/lac/>

- ▶ (KFAF) The Keeping Forests as Forests partnership envisions a world where southern forests are valued as critical infrastructure that support the health, prosperity, security, and well-being of the American people. To achieve this vision, the goal of KFAF is to shift the paradigm of forest conservation in the South from one focused on piecemeal protection to one focused on the stewardship of the inherent social, economic and ecological values of functional forest ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. To read their 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan, please visit: <http://keepingforests.org/pdf/keeping-forests-as-forests-strategic-plan-2018.pdf>
- ▶ (Ft. Bragg) For the nation's largest military installation, bad neighbors can be anything or anyone that threatens the ability of local soldiers to train by encroaching too closely to weapons ranges, flight paths or drop zones. But officials are one step closer to finalizing a massive study spanning multiple counties that is the latest attempt at helping to better protect Fort Bragg from unwanted growth along its boundaries. Officials with the Regional Land Use Advisory Commission heard draft recommendations from the latest Joint Land Use Study. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2018/05/18/officials-near-end-study-protect-fort-bragg-bad-neighbors.html>
- ▶ (NFLC) The Network for Landscape Conservation recently released *Pathways Forward: Progress and Priorities in Landscape Conservation*, a report that builds upon the stories and strategies shared at the 2017 National Forum on Landscape Conservation and weaves in additional information from the field. The report's purpose is two-fold: to capture the current state of landscape conservation practice; and to suggest what we can do together and in our own landscapes to shape this practice moving forward. To read the report, please visit: <http://landscapeconservation.org/our-work/2017-national-forum/>
- ▶ (Avon Park) The over 4,400 acres of the Goolsby Ranch in Florida was purchased through the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program. The purchase of the ranch, which is within the Avon Park Air Force Range, is crucial for protecting military training missions. It is also located within the Bombing Range Ridge Florida Forever Project and connects neighboring conservation easements, preserving the buffer lands surrounding the base. Please visit: <https://www.freshfromflorida.com/News-Events/Press-Releases/2018-Press-Releases/Governor-and-Cabinet-Surpass-50-000-Acres-Preserved-Through-Rural-and-Family-Lands-Protection-Program>
- **Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species**
 - ▶ (TAMU NRI) The Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute released an article titled 'The Intersection of Gopher Tortoise Policy and Conservation in their June Edition of 'The Fence Post' sharing insights into the innovative policy approaches to help keep the Gopher Tortoise off the Federally Endangered List in its eastern range in the Southeast US. To read the article, please visit: https://nri.tamu.edu/blog/2018/june/the-intersection-of-gopher-tortoise-policy-and-conservation/?utm_source=NRI+Employees&utm_campaign=c1868e009c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_06_07_03_43&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_641962f562-c1868e009c-147670813
 - ▶ (LLA) The Longleaf Alliance and America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative introduced an interactive new tool in longleaf pine conservation and awareness - a "story map" showcasing the efforts of the 17 Local Implementation Teams (LITs) to accomplish shared goals and restoration priorities across the historic range of longleaf pine. To learn more about the past, present, and future of longleaf, please visit: <https://storymap.longleafalliance.org/roadmap-to-restore-longleaf-pine/#map>

- ▶ (USACE) The US Army Corps of Engineers released their June 2018 Stewardship Newsletter which featured a project spotlight ‘Building the Foundation for Restoration on J. Strom Thurmond’. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation established a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to support the protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat. Under this MOU, J. Strom Thurmond has been working with the Longleaf Alliance to establish projects geared towards enhancing current stands of long-leaf pine and restoring sites capable of growing longleaf. To learn more, please visit: <https://serppas.org/media/2674/stewardshipnewsvolume1issue2.pdf>
- ▶ (USFWS) The red-cockaded woodpecker is one of 42 endangered or threatened fish, wildlife and plants that will get updated five-year status reviews conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the months ahead. These five-year reviews, required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will ensure listing classifications under the ESA are accurate and recommend changes in status where appropriate based on the latest science and analysis. In addition to reviewing the classification of these species, a five-year review presents an opportunity to track the species’ recovery progress. It may benefit species by providing valuable information to guide future conservation efforts. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2018/08/us-fish-and-wildlife-service-conducts-five-year-status-reviews-of-42-southeastern-species/>
- **Southeast Wildland Fire Initiative**
 - ▶ (SERPPAS) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 22nd and 23rd editions of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here:
 - <http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1117561491017&ca=930c19f1-d260-4b3e-ae2f-49631aeaa0d8>
 - <http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1117561491017&ca=e984e223-845c-4ccc-9b08-4e4fa6f04345>
 - ▶ (SFE) The Southern Fire Exchange released its bimonthly newsletter sharing research, resources, news and upcoming events from around the Southeast and nationwide: <http://www.southernfireexchange.org/newsletters/v8-3.pdf> This edition highlights a new publication titled ‘Relationships Among Wildfire, Prescribed Fire and Drought at Fort Benning, GA’ and can be found here: http://southernfireexchange.org/SFE_Publications/factsheets/2018-1.pdf
 - ▶ (NCWFMS) The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy released an article titled ‘Veteran Fire Corps Provides Job Skills to Veterans in Forest and Wildland Fire Management’. The three-month program trains veterans in prescribed burning, fighting wildfires, and forest management. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.southernwildfire.net/success-stories/veteran-fire-corps-provides-job-skills-to-veterans-in-forest-and-wildland-fire-management/>
 - ▶ (NCSU) NC State University has developed a website that compiles resources, information and examples of how to put on ‘Learn and Burn’ events. To learn more, please visit: <https://research.cnr.ncsu.edu/blogs/southeast-fire-update/learn-burn-workshops/>
 - ▶ (USDA FS) The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (USFS) announced today a new strategy for managing catastrophic wildfires and the impacts of invasive species, drought, and insect and disease epidemics. Specifically, a new report titled *Toward Shared*

Stewardship across Landscapes: An Outcome-based investment Strategy outlines the USFS's plans to work more closely with states to identify landscape-scale priorities for targeted treatments in areas with the highest payoffs. To learn more, please visit:

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2018/08/16/usda-forest-service-announces-new-strategy-improving-forest>

- **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**

- ▶ (SA LCC) The South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative released its June, July and August Newsletters, listed below. The August newsletter dives deeper into the State of Southeastern Ecosystems, using existing assessments to create a yearly assessment of ecosystem condition and trends. This is helping inform the Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy in attempting to develop explicit and near terms goals for conservation. To learn more, please visit:
 - June: <https://mailchi.mp/207d64edf9ad/pmx0j3o71h-2885781?e=e86655520f>
 - July: <https://mailchi.mp/989482382e9d/pmx0j3o71h-2892413?e=e86655520f>
 - August: <https://mailchi.mp/2494cf4b34c2/pmx0j3o71h-2899541?e=0acdc197d5>
- ▶ (SECASC) The SE Climate Adaptation Science Center released its August 2018 Newsletter, which includes climate related news, resources, publications, webinars and more for the Southeast region: <https://globalchange.ncsu.edu/august-2018-newsletter/>
- ▶ (CSAG) The Climate and Security Advisory Group is a voluntary, non-partisan group of 54 U.S.-based military, national security, homeland security, intelligence and foreign policy experts from a broad range of institutions, is chaired by the Center for Climate and Security in partnership with the George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. On February 2018, the group released a new roadmap and recommendations report calling on the U.S. government to follow the advice of Defense Secretary James Mattis, who argued for a "whole-of-government response" to climate change during his confirmation process. To read the full report, please visit: <https://climateandsecurity.files.wordpress.com/2018/02/climate-and-security-advisory-group-a-responsibility-to-prepare-2018-02.pdf>
- ▶ (The White House) The Office of the Press Secretary released an Executive Order "Ocean Policy to Advance the Economic, Security, and Environmental Interests of the United States". To read the executive order, please visit: <https://serppas.org/media/2675/executive-order-regarding-the-ocean-policy-to-advance-the-economic-security-and-environmental-interests-of-the-united-states.pdf>
- ▶ (PLOS) PLOS ONE published a research paper titled 'Comparing the cost effectiveness of nature-based and coastal adaptation: A case study from the Gulf Coast of the US'. This study demonstrates that the cost effectiveness of nature-based, grey and policy measures can be compared quantitatively with one another, and that the cost effectiveness of adaptation becomes more attractive as climate change and coastal development intensifies in the future. To read the full paper, please visit: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0192132>
- ▶ (TAMU NRI) Over the past 50 years, Texas A&M University and Natural Resources Institute researchers have studied two unique species in the Lower Florida Keys, the endangered Florida Key Deer and the Lower Keys Marsh Rabbit. Check out this article titled 'Sink, Swim or Take Higher Ground: Challenges Facing Rare Species Management in the Florida Keys' to learn more! <https://nri.tamu.edu/blog/2018/august/sink-swim-or-take-the-higher-ground-challenges-facing-rare-species-management-in-the-florida->

[keys/?utm_source=NRI+Employees&utm_campaign=105525d0bd-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_08_22_08_33&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_641962f562-105525d0bd-147670813](https://www.nfwf.org/whoweare/mediacenter/pr/Pages/national-fish-and-wildlife-foundation-and-noaa-announce-new-coastal-resilience-funding-2018-0629.aspx)

- ▶ (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced the National Coastal Resilience Fund, a partnership that will restore, increase and strengthen natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities, while also enhancing habitats for fish and wildlife. The new partnership will invest up to \$30 million in the restoration or expansion of natural features such as coastal marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, mangroves, forests, coastal rivers, and barrier islands that help minimize the impacts of storms, rising sea levels and other extreme events on nearby communities and infrastructure. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.nfwf.org/whoweare/mediacenter/pr/Pages/national-fish-and-wildlife-foundation-and-noaa-announce-new-coastal-resilience-funding-2018-0629.aspx>
- ▶ (SC DNR) The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources has launched a new fundraising project to protect threatened coastal birds. The South Carolina Coastal Bird Conservation Program, in collaboration with public and private partners, will start with a \$2 million to restore Crab Bank, a Charleston hot spot for nesting and migratory birds. For more information, please visit: http://www.dnr.sc.gov/news/2018/jun/jun28_coastalbirds.html

- **Energy Development and Siting**

- ▶ (NC WRAL) According to a newly-released report out from the Navy, conducted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the 104 turbines at the Amazon Wind Farm US East near Elizabeth City do not interfere with the Navy's "Relocatable Over The Horizon Radar" facility in Chesapeake, Va. The radar monitors more than 10 million square miles of airspace for the military and law enforcement agencies. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.wral.com/katharine-kollins-new-report-says-n-c-on-right-track-to-expand-wind-energy/17690561/>
- ▶ (ADC) The Association of Defense Communities released an article titled 'Wind Farm Study Would Assess Mitigation Options for Weather Radar, DoD Operations'. The conference report to the fiscal 2019 defense authorization bill directs DOD to work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to study the impact of wind farms on weather radar and military operations. The study, due to Congress one year after the legislation is signed into law, would focus on improving existing tools needed to validate mitigation options for weather radar, according to section 318. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/wind-farm-study-would-assess-mitigation-options-for-weather-radar-dod-operations/>

- **Military Services News**

- ▶ (AFCEC) The Air Force Civil Engineer Center revived its Air Force Environmental Workshop this year after a six year break. Air Force senior leaders and environmental experts from around the globe tackled a variety of installation environmental issues during the August 7 – 9, 2018, event held at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in San Antonio, Texas. Please click here to read more about the workshop: <https://www.afcec.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1599405/back-to-bases-afcec-revives-environmental-workshop/>

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- ▶ Archived: [Update on At-Risk Species in Longleaf Project](#) by South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- ▶ Archived: [Think Like a Facilitator from Woodland Stewardship for Woman](#) by WOWnet Professionals
- ▶ Archived: [Using the South Atlantic and Southeast Conservation Blueprints to Inform your Organization's Priorities](#) by South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- ▶ Archived: [The latest on fall products from SECAS](#) by South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- ▶ Archived: [Fire in Wetlands – Fire Ecology and Prescribed Fire Tactics](#) by SFE
- ▶ September 6, 2018: [Informing Restoration Programs for Threatened and Endangered Plant Species](#) by SERDP & ESTCP
- ▶ September 11, 2018: [Climate-driven species redistribution in marine systems](#) by NOAA MPA
- ▶ September 12, 2018: [Proactive Planning: Incorporating Mitigation Strategies into Your REPI Partnership](#) by REPI
- ▶ September 20, 2018: [Plant Diversity and Biological Nitrogen Fixation in Longleaf Pine Ecosystems at Military Installations](#) by SERDP & ESTCP
- ▶ October 10, 2018: [Lessons Learned from Learn-n-Burn Events: Strategies for Successful Programs](#) by SFE/SERPPAS
- ▶ October 17, 2018: [Mitigation solutions with the Conservation Fund](#) by The Network for Landscape Conservation
- ▶ November 1, 2018: [Supporting DoD Installation Sustainability Through Informed Stormwater Management](#) by SERDP & ESTCP
- ▶ December 12, 2018: [Measuring Impact: Developing Mission Benefit Metrics and Determining Military Value](#) by REPI

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ September 12 -14, 2018: [Global Climate Action Summit](#) (San Francisco, CA)
- ▶ September 17 – 19, 2018: [2018 Carolinas Climate Resilience Conference](#) (Columbia, SC)
- ▶ **September 20-21, 2018: [SERPPAS Fall 2018 Steering Committee Meeting](#) (Atlanta, GA)**
- ▶ September 24-25, 2018: [18th Annual Managing Florida's Aquifers](#) (Orlando, FL)
- ▶ September 25 – 26, 2018: [North and South Carolina Forests and Drinking Water Forum](#) (Stanley, NC)
- ▶ October 11-13, 2018: [Land Trust Alliance Rally 2018 National Land Conservation Conference](#) (Pittsburgh, PA)
- ▶ October 21 – 24, 2018: [72nd Annual SEAFWA Conference](#) (Mobile, AL)
- ▶ October 23 – 26, 2018: [12th Biennial Longleaf Conference](#) (Alexandria, LA)
- ▶ November 27 – 29, 2018: [SERDP-ESTCP Symposium 2018](#) (Washington D.C.)

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