

# **Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS)**

## **PARTNERSHIP CHARTER**

**2008**

In the Southeastern United States, the population is growing and shifting rapidly, urban areas are sprawling, incompatible development is occurring in many places and encroaching on existing uses, and there is intensifying and accelerating competition for increasingly scarce resources such as water and air space. These forces have resulted in the loss of agricultural land, critical wildlife habitats, and working landscapes such as farms, forests, and fisheries. Furthermore, these forces also have caused increasing encroachment on military facilities, installations, systems, areas, and ranges supporting testing and training operations. The competition for scarce resources presents challenges to the sustainability of defense and natural and economic resources throughout the Southeast. Because the issue of long-term sustainability crosses geographic and organizational boundaries, it is essential for the affected communities and agencies across the Southeast to work collaboratively to protect our natural resources and balance and optimize the health and safety of the environment and communities, while promoting economic development and military readiness. Any party's implementation of provisions of this Charter is contingent upon consistency with that party's authorities.

### **Purpose**

In 2005, state environmental and natural resource officials from across the southeast partnered with the Department of Defense (DoD) and other federal agencies to form the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS, see Addendums A-B) to promote better collaboration in making resource-use decisions. SERPPAS works to prevent encroachment around military lands, encourage compatible resource-use decisions, and improve coordination among regions, states, communities, and military services. The region covered by SERPPAS includes the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida.

### **Mission**

The mission of SERPPAS is to seize opportunities and solve problems in value-adding ways that provide mutual and multiple benefits to the partners, sustain the individual and collective missions of partner organizations, and secure the future for all the partners, the region, and the nation.

### **Statement of Values**

Participation in the partnership is voluntary. Each partner will strive to create an effective working relationship among the partners and to have that relationship rise to the level of partnership. In other words, each partner will strive to identify and seize opportunities for mutual gain, to deal well with differences, and to solve complex problems. Furthermore, each partner will be constructive, i.e., each partner will do those things that are both good for the relationship and good for that partner, whether or not the other partners reciprocate. Specifically, each partner will do everything it reasonably can to:

- Balance emotion with reason
- Understand each other's interests
- Communicate openly and effectively
- Consult before deciding
- Use persuasion rather than coercion
- Accept each other as someone worth dealing with

## **Objectives**

SERPPAS partners have identified objectives that support the mission of SERPPAS. These objectives include:

- Promote improved regional, state, and local coordination;
- Manage, sustain, and enhance natural, economic, and human resources as well as national defense;
- Develop and complete regional sustainability projects supporting the sustainment of natural, economic, and national defense resources related to base realignment planning in the southeast region as well as other identified sustainability needs; and
- Develop a GIS Sustainability Decision Support Tool that integrates federal, DoD, military services, and state data for use in regional planning by SERPPAS and individual states. (Information will be provided where release of such information is not protected from disclosure by state or federal law.)

## **Partnership Structure**

SERPPAS consists of Principals, a Steering Committee, and project working groups. SERPPAS is co-chaired by a Principal representing the Department of Defense's Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) and a Principal representing one of the state partners. The Principal representing a state and serving as the co-chair for SERPPAS will serve on a rotating basis, as agreed upon by the Principals. The addition of new members shall be contingent upon the approval of the current SERPPAS Principals (see Addendum C). Participation is wholly voluntary and any partner can discontinue participation by providing written notice of its intent to do so at any time.

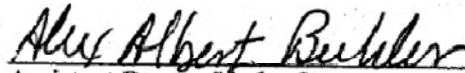
### ***Principals***

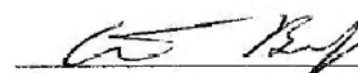
Principal members are the senior leadership of participating organizations. Principals are responsible for identifying priorities, developing strategies, making decisions, and providing overall leadership and direction on efforts undertaken by the partnership. In addition, the Principals act as the primary champions for SERPPAS led efforts within their respective organizations.


### ***Steering Committee***

Steering Committee members are staff-level representatives from the participating organizations. The Steering Committee leads the development of projects and efforts supported by the SERPPAS Principals. Each SERPPAS member organization/agency appoints one Steering Committee representative (hereafter referred to as Steering Committee Principal Liaison [SCPL]) with additional staff participating in project-related work groups as regular members of the Steering Committee (see Addendum D). Each SCPL acts as a liaison to his or her respective Principal. The responsibilities of the Steering Committee Principal Liaison are to relay information regarding SERPPAS affairs directly to/from the Principal, represent the Principal at Steering Committee meetings, and coordinate with other Steering Committee members from their organization. It is the responsibility of the SCPL to communicate and disseminate information from SERPPAS activities within his or her organization.


**Department of Defense Principals:**

  
Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense,  
Environment, Safety and Occupational Health

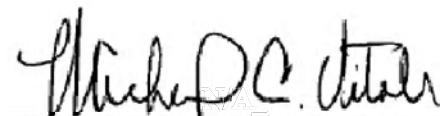
  
Director, Environmental Readiness and Safety,  
Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of  
Defense (Installations and Environment)

  
Director, Military Training and Sustainable  
Ranges, Office of the Under Secretary of  
Defense (Readiness)/RTPP

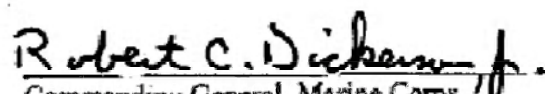
**Military Component Principals:**


  
Deputy Director, Army Training (G-3)

  
Director, Army Installation Management  
Command, Southeast Region

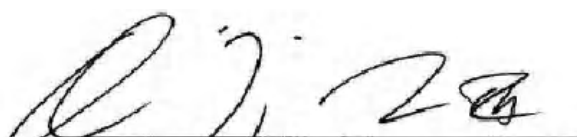
  
Commander, Navy Region Southeast


  
Headquarters Air Force Designee

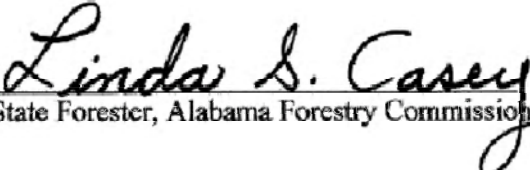
  
Commanding General, Marine Corps  
Installations East

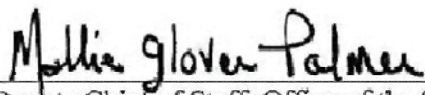
  
Commander, South Atlantic Division  
US Army Corps of Engineers


**State Principals:**


  
Director, Alabama Department of  
Environmental Management

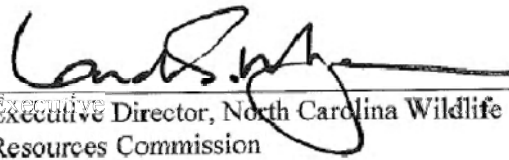
  
Chief, Wildlife Section, Alabama Division  
of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

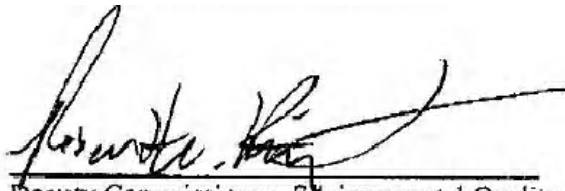
  
State Forester, Alabama Forestry Commission

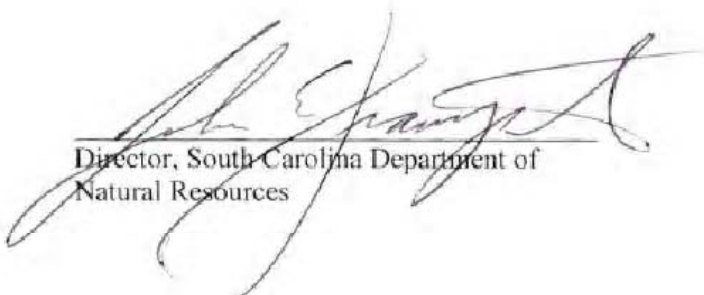
  
Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary,  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

  
Commissioner, Georgia Department of  
Natural Resources

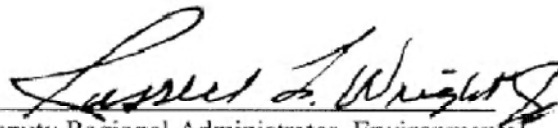
  
Secretary, North Carolina Department of  
Environment and Natural Resources

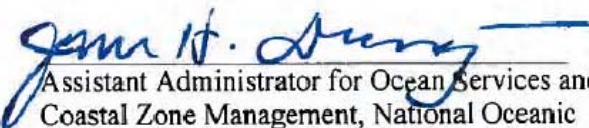
  
Executive Director, North Carolina Wildlife  
Resources Commission

  
Deputy Commissioner, Environmental Quality  
Control, South Carolina Department of Health  
and Environmental Control

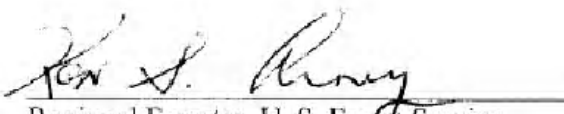
  
Director, South Carolina Department of  
Natural Resources

**Other Federal Agencies Principals:**

  
Deputy Regional Administrator, Environmental  
Protection Agency, Region IV

  
Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and  
Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic  
and Atmospheric Administration

  
Deputy Regional Director, United States Fish  
and Wildlife Service, Region IV

  
Regional Forester, U. S. Forest Service,  
Region VIII

## **Addendum A:**

### **SERPPAS History**

In 2005, the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) was formed when environmental and natural resource offices from NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, the Department of Defense and Military Services, and regional federal agency representatives from the Southeast Natural Resources Leadership Group (SENRLG) decided to form a partnership. SERPPAS was formed to engage partners in the sustainable use of natural resources to balance and optimize the health and safety of the environment and surrounding communities while promoting economic development and military readiness.

The inaugural meeting of SERPPAS took place in July 2005, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The Principals came together in response to a common goal – a sustainable Southeast. To work towards the goal of a sustainable Southeast, the SERPPAS Principals agreed to form the partnership around a basic equation:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Effective Working Relationships} + \text{A Good Map} \\ &= \text{Mutual and Multiple Benefits} \end{aligned}$$

The “good map” was defined as a seamless and shared Geographic Information System (GIS) that describes the relevant military, natural, and other systems across the Southeast. These maps provide the information and scales the partnership needs for effective planning and sustainability across the region. More importantly, such a partnership affords both mutual and multiple benefits. The partners agreed to call this newly formed partnership the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability or SERPPAS.

The efforts of SERPPAS have continued since that inaugural meeting in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Subsequent meetings have moved the partnership from concept toward specific place-based projects, project timelines, and planned next steps for the partnership. The Principals also directed the formation of the steering committee and project teams to carry on the work of the partnership. The projects identified in these early meetings and formation of the steering committee set the foundation for the continued success of the SERPPAS partnership.

## **Addendum B:**

### **SERPPAS Principals**

The SERPPAS Principals include participants from the Department of Defense and various military components, state agencies, and other federal agencies. Participation from non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and other agencies is encouraged for specific project implementation. Additional participants at the state, federal, local, or non-governmental level can be added at any time provided their participation supports the overall mission of SERPPAS and is supported by the SERPPAS Principals.

#### **Department of Defense Principals:**

- Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health)
- Director, Environmental Readiness and Safety, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment)
- Director, Military Training and Sustainable Ranges, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Readiness)/RTPP

#### **Military Component Principals:**

- Deputy Director, Army Training (G-3)
- Director, Army Installation Management Command, Southeast Region
- Commander, Navy Region Southeast
- Headquarters Air Force Designee
- Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations East
- Commander, South Atlantic Division, US Army Corps of Engineers

#### **State Principals:**

- Director, Alabama Department of Environmental Management
- Chief, Wildlife Section, Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
- State Forester, Alabama Forestry Commission
- Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Commissioner, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Executive Director, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- Deputy Commissioner, Environmental Quality Control, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
- Director, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

#### **Other Federal Agencies Principals:**

- Deputy Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV
- Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Regional Director, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Region IV
- Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service, Region VIII

The partners agree that their respective missions are threatened by the effects of incompatible resource use and development and growing and shifting populations in every southeastern state. Consequently, the partners have chosen to work in partnership, aided by a good Geographic Information Systems (GIS) map. By so doing, the partners believe they may best respond to the waves of change moving through their external environments and have the greatest likelihood of realizing their vision and accomplishing their mission.

**Addendum C:**  
**SERPPAS Co-Chair Transition Plan**

The Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) will be co-chaired by a participating member state agency and the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health).

The participating member state agency co-chair will serve a two-year term.

At the end of a two-year term for the state agency co-chair, the SERPPAS Principals will meet in executive session for the purpose of selecting a new state agency co-chair for SERPPAS.

A state agency co-chair may serve a second two-year term if so chosen by the SERPPAS Principals.

**Addendum D:**  
**SERPPAS Member Framework**

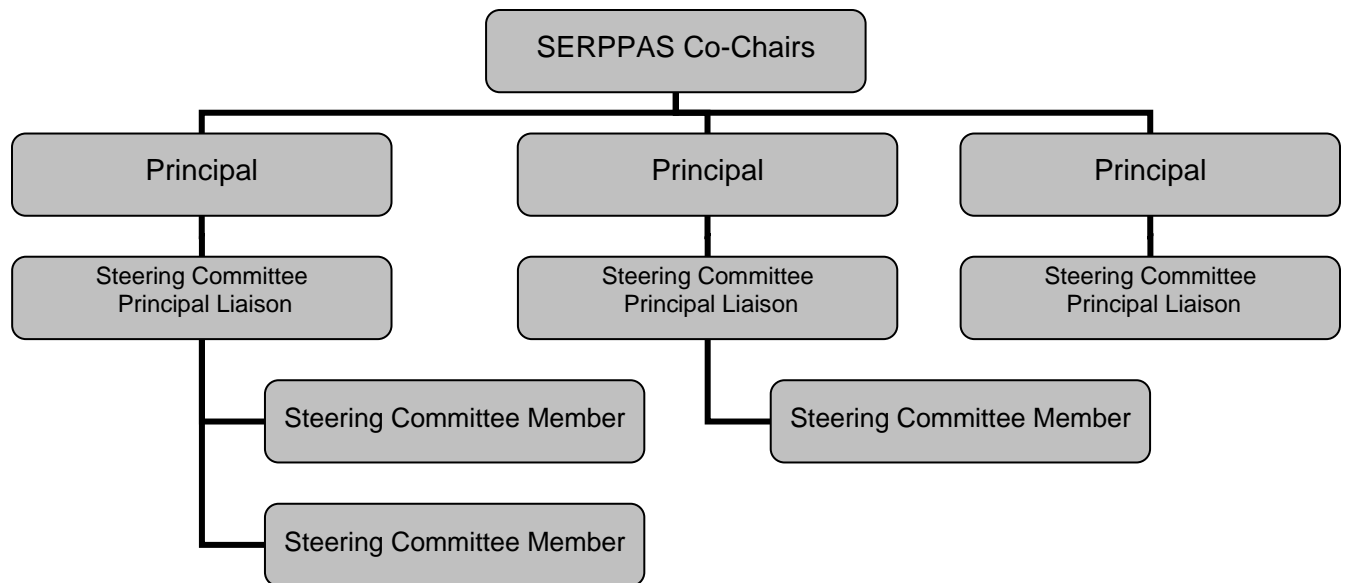


Figure 1. Conceptual SERPPAS Framework for Principals and Steering Committee Members