



# SERPPAS Circular

April/May/June 2024

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 [2024 SERPPAS Strategic Plan](#). If you have information to share in the next SERPPAS Circular, please email your input directly to SERPPAS: [info@serppas.org](mailto:info@serppas.org).

## FEATURED

- ▶ **SERPPAS Spring 2024 Principals Meeting:** The SERPPAS 2024 Principals Meeting was held on May 8-9, 2024, in Gulfport, MS. The meeting allowed the Principals to continue to build relationships and, through learning and engagement on partnership progress, inspire continued advancement of the SERPPAS mission in the southeast United States. The meeting successfully highlighted the climate resilience challenges and opportunities that the State of Mississippi faces that are connected to many of the SERPPAS priorities and actions in the SERPPAS Strategic Plan. The Principals were also able to endorse the revised 2024 SERPPAS Strategic Plan. See the agenda with resources here: [https://serppas.org/media/kx5eib2d/2024\\_serppas-principals-meeting\\_immediate-follow-up.pdf](https://serppas.org/media/kx5eib2d/2024_serppas-principals-meeting_immediate-follow-up.pdf) (Please note some draft resources linked in this document may be outdated.)
- ▶ **SAVE THE DATE: SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Webinar:** Please save the date for a virtual SERPPAS Meeting focused on EPA's strengthened NAAQS PM 2.5, the Exceptional Events process, and possible effects of both on prescribed burning in the southern region. This meeting is open to all SERPPAS Principals, Steering Committee members, and work group members, and will include presentations from EPA, air quality, and natural resource representatives, and a discussion with each of the SERPPAS work group leads on how their respective working groups are considering the changes. **The meeting will be held on Thursday, July 11th at 2:00 – 3:30pm EST.** For registration details please visit: <https://ufl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0vdOqhrigsHd3HotH4vtpClO6eWJ9NRdoK#/registration>

## IN THE NEWS

- ▶ **Spotlight**
  - SERPPAS was recently featured in the Winter 2024 issue of Natural Selections, the DoD's newsletter that recognizes successful marine conservation efforts while sustaining military readiness across the United States. The article covers SERPPAS partnerships as well as some successes that SERPPAS contributed to. To read the article, please visit: [https://serppas.org/media/gazlxnf0/natural-selections-newsletter\\_winter-2024\\_v8\\_final.pdf](https://serppas.org/media/gazlxnf0/natural-selections-newsletter_winter-2024_v8_final.pdf)
  - The Biden-Harris Administration issued the first-ever national, legally enforceable drinking water standard to protect communities from exposure to harmful per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as 'forever chemicals.' This final rule represents the most significant step to protect public health under EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap. The final rule will reduce PFAS exposure for approximately 100 million people, prevent thousands of deaths, and reduce tens of thousands of serious illnesses. Today's announcement complements President Biden's government-wide



action plan to combat PFAS pollution. For more details, please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-finalizes-first-ever-national-drinking-water-standard>

- The REPI Program released the 2024 REPI Report to Congress summarizing the program's investments at 124 locations across 37 states and territories, highlighting partnerships across local, state, and Federal agencies, and showcasing mutually beneficial projects in the Pacific Region. Through the support of partner organizations, the REPI Program aims to enhance the Nation's defense capabilities, positively impact surrounding communities and the environment, and maximize taxpayer benefits. To view the report, please visit: [https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Reports to Congress/2024 REPI Report to Congress.pdf](https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Reports%20to%20Congress/2024%20REPI%20Report%20to%20Congress.pdf)
- The DOD's Natural Resources Program recently released the new Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs) webpage. The new INRMPs webpage is designed to enhance user experience. These functions allow users to find INRMPs by installation name, Military Department, state, INRMP effective date, or the responsible USFWS region, making users search for specific plans more efficient. The repository can be found here: <https://www.denix.osd.mil/inrmp/>
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced the release of the 2024 Southeast Aquatics Fund Request for Proposals. This RFP expects to award approximately \$8.4 million in federal and private sector funding in support of projects that will benefit aquatic habitat quality and connectivity, and conservation practices on working agricultural lands to benefit water quality. **Proposals are due July 18, 2024.** To view the full RFP and for more details, please visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/southeast-aquatics/southeast-aquatics-fund-2024-request-proposals>
- The 2024 Readiness and Recreation Initiative Notice of Funding Opportunity has been released. The National Park Service will provide \$40 million in funding from unobligated Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State and Local Assistance Program balances as a potential match for REPI Program funding to support projects that will provide outdoor recreation opportunities to military families and the public while also promoting military readiness and resilience. **Proposals are due July 12, 2024.** For more details, please visit: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/352170>
- 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/>
- Many of these funding opportunities can be found on the SERPPAS website: <https://serppas.org/resources/funding-opportunities/>

#### ► Sentinel Landscapes

- The DoD's REPI Program and the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership shared the newly released Grasshopper Sparrow Documentary telling the story of DoD's leading role in conserving threatened and endangered species at Avon Park Air Force Range in south central Florida. Filmed at Avon Park Air Force Range and produced by Wildpath, the film chronicles the extraordinary efforts to bring back one of the most endangered birds in the United States. To learn more and for a link to the



video, please visit: <https://www.defense.gov/News/Feature-Stories/Story/Article/3751517/protecting-endangered-species-national-security-at-the-avon-park-air-force-range/>

- The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership, comprised of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense, and Department of the Interior, announced the designation of five new sentinel landscapes – Eastern New Mexico, Great Salt Lake in Utah, Hawaii, Kittatinny Ridge in Pennsylvania, and Mojave Desert in California. In these landscapes, natural and working lands thrive alongside military installations and ranges. The partnership is excited to welcome these new landscapes and support their partners' work to mitigate climate change impacts and improve sustainable land and water management practices around military installations. For more details and a list of the new landscapes, please visit: <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3776193/dod-interagency-partners-designate-5-new-sentinel-landscapes/>
- The Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape released the April, May, and June Updates newsletters that provides news, resources, partner collaboration, and partnership progress:
  - April: <https://serppas.org/media/zb4bw1dw/nwfl-sl-april-2024.pdf>
  - May: <https://serppas.org/media/3l4dcjpp/nwfl-sl-may-2024.pdf>
- The REPI Newsletter for May is now available, providing exciting news and announcements related to the REPI community.
  - May: <https://bit.ly/3xfyYyt>
- The Network for Landscape Conservation released its bimonthly newsletter, The Landscape Conservation Bulletin, sharing timely news, information, topics, and upcoming conferences and opportunities within the field of landscape conservation:
  - May 2024: <https://myemail-api.constantcontact.com/May-Bulletin-Network-for-Landscape-Conservation.html?soid=1128366788872&aid=KIW4ePi2Rvc>

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

- The 2023 America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative Range-wide Accomplishment Report is now available. The 2023 report celebrates over 2.17 million acres of accomplishments on longleaf lands as well as ALRI's initial 15 years of partnership. To learn more, please visit: <https://americaslongleaf.org/news/2024/alri-looks-to-the-future-and-celebrates-the-past-with-2023-achievements/>
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced \$33.5 million in conservation grants from the Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund to restore, enhance, and protect longleaf pine forests in eight southern states. This year's grant slate is the largest in the program's history, building on a recent trend of increased funding for longleaf pine restoration. These grants will leverage \$21.2 million in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of \$54.7 million. These funded projects each help to advance the restoration goals of America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative laid out in the Range-wide Conservation Plan (2025-2040). To learn more, click here: <https://www.nfwf.org/media-center/press-releases/nfwf-announces-record-33-5-million-conservation-grants-restore-longleaf-pine-habitat-and-help-risk>
- The Smithsonian Magazine recently published an article about the conservation efforts for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker at the Avon Park Air Force Range. For the full article, please visit:



<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/endangered-woodpeckers-find-new-home-military-training-ground-180983986/>

- Leaders from the Department of Defense and the Department of the Interior met at the Pentagon in May to celebrate the renewal of the Recovery and Sustainment Partnership (RASP) following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding earlier this year designed to advance the recovery of threatened and endangered species while also supporting national security. To read more about the MOU, please visit: <https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3776081/dod-and-department-of-the-interior-renew-partnership-for-conserving-wildlife-an/>
- The Jones Center at Ichauway has released their 2022-2023 Biennial Report. The report highlights the latest from the Research, Conservation, and Education programs. This digital issue includes thought-provoking science, compelling management strategies, beautiful images and videos, and educational content. To view the report, please visit: <https://emag.jonesctr.org/205529/205825/241920/BiennialReport2022-23/index.html>
- The May and June editions of Tall Timbers eNews are now available. The monthly newsletter provides the latest news and stories from Tall Timbers on prescribed fire, wildlife management, and land conservation:
  - May: <https://serppas.org/media/3eoh1o24/tall-timbers-may-2024.pdf>
  - June: <https://serppas.org/media/om2br51e/tall-timbers-june-2024.pdf>
- The Southeastern Partnership for Forests & Water released their newsletter containing news surrounding the pursuit of healthy Southeastern forested watersheds:
  - May: <https://bit.ly/3KONj8b>

#### ► Southeast Prescribed Fire Initiative

- Prescribed burn associations are spreading across the United States, with North Carolina standing out as a hotspot in the Southeast. These community-led organizations are working to educate and support anyone interested in the use of prescribed fire as a management tool on privately owned land. Multiple stakeholder groups in North Carolina are featured, including the Sandhills Prescribed Burn Association, the first in North Carolina. To read more, please visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/features/prescribed-burn-associations-ignite-future>
- Keeping Forests released the report from their 2023 Annual Meeting. The report includes a meeting recap and the roadmap for future next steps. To view the report, please visit: <https://www.beautiful.ai/player/-NvrAFisTJn4xlAuFfck/Keeping-Forests-Follow-Up-Presentation>
- In April, Georgia Forestry Foundation welcomed forest landowners, utilities, conservation groups, state agencies, and other individuals interested in conserving Georgia forests and protecting drinking water sources. Robust presentations and conversations captivated the audience, including an announcement of the official formation of the Georgia Forests and Water Partnership. To learn more about the partnership, please visit their website at: <https://southeasternpartnership.org/georgia>
- The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 90<sup>th</sup> and 91<sup>st</sup> editions of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here:
  - April: <https://bit.ly/45vrFPI>
  - May: <https://bit.ly/3VNzdtV>



### ► Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation

- The Environmental Defense Fund has recently released a preliminary analysis of threatened wetlands due to encroachment and development. To see the analysis, please visit: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/4ee055766699446485fd98bd9d539a37/>
- The USGS Coastal Science Navigator underwent its first update in late March 2024 to include 14 additional USGS coastal change hazards related products, each of which can be explored below. This brings the total number of products in the Navigator to 68. Visit the Coastal Science Navigator to discover which products meet your specific needs here: [https://www.usgs.gov/apps/coastalsciencenavigator/index.html?utm\\_source=partners&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=coastalsciencenavigator](https://www.usgs.gov/apps/coastalsciencenavigator/index.html?utm_source=partners&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=coastalsciencenavigator)
- The SE Climate Adaptation Science Center released its April, May, and June Newsletters, which includes climate related news, resources, publications, webinars and more for the Southeast region:
  - April: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2024/04/23/april-2024-newsletter/>
  - May: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2024/05/21/may-2024-newsletter/>
  - June: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2024/06/18/june-2024-newsletter/>
- The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy released its April and May Newsletters, which combines all the blogs written on the SECAS website during the previous month:
  - April: <https://bit.ly/3XCGL3Q>
  - May: <https://bit.ly/3VvAVyL>
- The South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative released its April, May, and June Newsletters, which includes salt marsh related news, updates on SASMI efforts, and relevant funding opportunities.
  - April: <https://serppas.org/media/kveb5wsf/sasmi-april-newsletter.pdf>
  - May: <https://serppas.org/media/y3nj3gs4/sasmi-may-newsletter.pdf>
  - June: <https://serppas.org/media/slen020s/sasmi-june-newsletter.pdf>

### ► Energy Development and Siting

- The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office released its April, May, and June editions of the Southern Review of Legislative & Regulatory Actions for Federal Region 4. This newsletter includes environmental and energy related developments for DoD/Army leaders and installation staff, giving early notice of legislative and regulatory activities relevant to DOD interests.
  - April: <https://serppas.org/media/cttgjlx/southern-review-04-2024.pdf>
  - May: <https://serppas.org/media/qm2dy54l/southern-review-05-2024.pdf>
  - June: <https://serppas.org/media/n54liedw/southern-review-06-2024.pdf>

### ► Military Services News

- The Department of Defense announced the Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards winners for 2024. Eglin Air Force Base in Florida was among this year's winners for demonstrating a commitment to stewardship and sustainability through enhancing habitat and fostering the protection of threatened and endangered species, including the Okaloosa darter. For more details, please visit: <https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3750212/department-of-defense-announces-winners-of-the-2024-secretary-of-defense-enviro/>



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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- ▶ August 8-9, 2024: [Longleaf Foundations](#) (Andalusia, AL)
- ▶ September 16-19, 2024: [7<sup>th</sup> Annual National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop](#) (Atlantic City, NJ)
- ▶ September 17-20, 2024: [2024 Society of American Foresters National Convention](#) (Loveland, CO)
- ▶ October 6-10, 2024: [RAE 2024 Coastal & Estuarine Summit](#) (Washington, D.C.)
- ▶ October 8-11, 2024: [15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Longleaf Conference](#) (Sandestin, FL)
- ▶ October 12-16, 2024: [78<sup>th</sup> Annual SEAFWA Conference](#) (Augusta, GA)

## UPCOMING WEBINARS

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- ▶ Series: [Landscape Conservation Webinar Series](#) by the Network for Landscape Conservation
- ▶ Series: [Southeast Monthly Webinar Series](#) by NOAA
- ▶ Series: [SE CASC Science Seminar Series](#) by the SECASC
- ▶ Archived: All Southern Fire Exchange webinars are recorded and housed on the [SFE YouTube channel](#).
- ▶ Archived: [Climate-Driven Changes in Land Management Practices and Wildland Fire Smoke in the Southeast](#) by SECASC
- ▶ Archived: [Southeastern Plants Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need](#) by SECASC
- ▶ July 10, 2024: [Fire and Climate Change](#) by Wisconsin Forestry Center
- ▶ July 11, 2024: [SERPPAS PM2.5 NAAQS and Prescribed Fire Webinar](#) by SERPPAS and Southern Fire Exchange
- ▶ July 24, 2024: [2024 Designation Cycle Sentinel Landscapes Spotlight](#) by REPI
- ▶ July 24, 2024: [Natural Resources Webinar Series – Influence of Prescribed Fire on Wild Turkeys](#) by Alabama Extension
- ▶ October 9, 2024: [AICUZ and REPI Partnerships for Enhanced Land Protection](#) by REPI
- ▶ December 11, 2024: [Navigating Military Readiness Through Responsible Project Execution](#) by REPI

For more information about SERPPAS, visit [www.serppas.org](http://www.serppas.org), or email [info@serppas.org](mailto:info@serppas.org)