



SERPPAS Circular

October/November/December 2025

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 2025 SERPPAS Strategic Plan. If you have information to share in the next SERPPAS Circular, please email your input directly to SERPPAS: info@serppas.org.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season and New Year!

FEATURED

► **SAVE THE DATE: Spring 2026 SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting**

- The Spring 2026 SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting will take place on March 3-4 in Atlanta, GA. The meeting will engage SERPPAS Steering Committee members in Partnership progress and prepare for the 2026 Principals meeting celebrating the 20-year anniversary of SERPPAS. For more details and registration information, please visit:
<https://serppas.org/resources/serppas-meetings/2026/march/spring-2026-serppas-steering-committee-meeting/>

► **SAVE THE DATE: 2026 SERPPAS Principals Meeting**

- The 2026 SERPPAS Principals Meeting will take place on April 27-29, 2026, in Pinehurst/Southern Pines, NC. The meeting will honor and reflect on the 20th anniversary of the partnership and consider ways SERPPAS can continue to address the important challenges and opportunities affecting national defense, natural resources, working lands, and installation resilience in the Southeast. For more details and registration information, please visit:
<https://serppas.org/resources/serppas-meetings/2026/april/2026-serppas-principals-meeting/>

IN THE NEWS

► **Spotlight**

- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation released its 2026 Request for Proposals for the Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund. This funding supports projects that advance longleaf pine restoration to benefit wildlife, improve water quality, sequester carbon, and enhance forest resilience. Limited funding is also available for the restoration of bottomland hardwoods. **Proposal deadline is Thursday, January 29, 2026.** For details, visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/longleaf-landscape-stewardship-fund/longleaf-landscape-stewardship-fund-2026-request>
- SERDP-ESTCP released the Impacts of Ecosystem Transformation on Testing and Training Lands Statement of Need that seeks to advance understanding of how recent, ongoing, or potential ecosystem transformations may affect Department of War (DoW) mission fulfillment and operations, both directly and indirectly, and how management actions might mitigate these impacts. Ecosystem transformations occur when historical ecosystems are replaced by others with contrasting properties, driven by factors such as invasive species, altered fire regimes, severe weather, and other disturbances. Proposers should follow SERDP Core FY 2027 Solicitation



instructions, with pre-proposals due **January 13, 2026**. For more information, visit: <https://serdp-estcp.mil/workwithus/callforproposal?id=3bac3899-43c7-4f5a-841a-6aa5174343c1>

- The Economic Development Administration (EDA) FY 2025 Disaster Notice of Funding Opportunity is now available. The EDA Disaster Supplemental Grant Program makes approximately \$1.45 billion in disaster recovery funding available to American communities that received major disaster declarations due to hurricanes, wildfires, severe storms and flooding, tornadoes, and other natural disasters occurring in calendar years 2023 and 2024. Readiness and Implementation of grant applications will be accepted and reviewed on an ongoing (rolling) basis until funds are exhausted, or the Notice of Funding Opportunity is canceled. Industry Transformation grant applications are due on **Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 5 p.m. Eastern Time**. For more information, visit: https://www.eda.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/FY2025_Disaster_Supplemental_Fact_Sheet.pdf
- The National Forest Foundation's 2026 Matching Award Program (MAP) is now open for applications. This program funds projects that benefit U.S. National Forests and Grasslands by matching federal dollars with a 1:1 nonfederal contribution. Priority is given to projects involving community engagement, stewardship, and lasting benefits for communities connected to National Forest System lands. Eligible applicants include nonprofits, Tribal governments, and universities. Projects must occur on or adjacent to National Forest or Grasslands, last no more than 18 months, and start in May or June 2026. **Applications are due January 22, 2026**. To learn more, visit: <https://www.nationalforests.org/grant-programs/map/>
- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Parks and Open Space Florida Forever Grant Program opened the 2025-26 grant submission cycle. The grant program provides funding to local governments and eligible nonprofit environmental organizations for acquiring community-based parks, open spaces, and greenways that support outdoor recreation and natural resource protection goals outlined in local comprehensive plans. It helps local government leverage state dollars to maximize conservation benefits and promote public-private partnerships and land acquisition initiatives. **Applications are due January 19, 2026**. For more details, visit: <https://floridadep.gov/lands/land-and-recreation-grants/content/parks-and-open-space-florida-forever-grant-program>
- The Pee Dee Basin Initiative, a multi-agency partnership, will permanently conserve more than 62,000 acres of forestland, the largest conservation easement in South Carolina's history. The conservation easement protects vital habitat for at least 115 plant and animal species, including migratory birds, rare mussels, and Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon. It also preserves 30,000 acres of bottomland hardwoods that absorb floodwater and buffer communities from severe weather events. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/media-center/featured-stories/conservation-milestone-62000-acres-south-carolina-forestland>
- The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is working with the National Indian Carbon Coalition to increase carbon sequestration and forest health for over two-thirds of their tribal lands. With overflowing classrooms and crumbling facilities, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is using revenue from carbon sales to build a state-of-the-art high school which meets the community's needs. View the informational video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRrYbqS9PfY>
- 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 Landscapes Landowner Resources Tool (LRT) is now available. The LRT aggregates landowner assistance programs offered in the states where Sentinel Landscapes operate, including cost-share opportunities, conservation easements, grants, loans, technical assistance, tax incentives, and more. The tool is designed to make it easier to connect landowners with the right resources. To view the tool, please visit: <https://sentinellandscapes.org/landowner-resources/>
- The Big Bend Coastal Conservancy in northwest Florida has put forth a proposition for a unified UNESCO World Heritage Site that frames the Florida Big Bend as a single, interconnected cultural landscape and natural system of outstanding value that merits international recognition and long-term protection. Florida's Big Bend is a vast area of locations with archaeological, cultural, ecological and geological significance. For more details, please visit:
<https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2025/11/06/florida-big-bend-unesco-world-heritage-site-coastal-ecosystems-environmental-protection/>
- The State of Florida approved an investment of \$27.4 million to protect over 21,500 acres of conservation and agricultural lands across the state. The land will be placed under a conservation easement and will provide a critical buffer for key military installations while protecting water quality and aquifer recharge in the Perdido and Escambia river watersheds. The property lies within the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape and Florida Wildlife Corridor. The acquisitions will strengthen Florida's conservation network, support military readiness through Sentinel Landscapes, and preserve family-owned agricultural lands, ensuring the state's natural and rural landscapes remain intact for future generations. For full details, please visit:
<https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/escambia-county/2025/12/18/florida-purchases-land-to-act-as-whiting-field-buffer/87816180007/> and <https://www.wgcu.org/top-story/2025-12-17/land-in-collier-hendry-and-okeechobee-counties-part-of-more-than-21-500-acres-of-strategic-areas-approved-by-the-state>
- The Conservation Fund announced the successful completion of the Stateline Forest conservation project, a multi-state land protection effort safeguarding 10,345 acres of land and nearly 45 miles of critical waterways, conserving the longleaf pine ecosystem along the Alabama-Georgia state line. The acquisition also preserves public access to natural lands, enhancing recreational opportunities, bolstering wildfire resilience near the rapidly developing Atlanta region, and advancing sustainable land management in the Dugdown Corridor of Georgia. The property will be state-owned and managed by the Alabama Forestry Commission and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. To read more, click here: <https://www.conservationsfund.org/our-impact/press-room/stateline-forest-secures-rare-longleaf-forest-and-public-access-across-alabama-georgia-border/>
- The Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape released their October, November, and December Updates newsletters that provide news, resources, partner collaboration, and partnership progress:
 - October: <https://serppas.org/media/vuslix5z/nwfl-october-2025.pdf>
 - November/December: https://serppas.org/media/voiinndfi/northwest-florida-sentinel-landscape-update-nov_dec-2025.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:
 - November: <https://serppas.org/media/ftajirk5/network-for-landscape-conservation-november-2025.pdf>
- **At-Risk, Threatened, and Endangered Species**
 - *Quail Call* is Tall Timbers' annual publication highlighting the work of the Game Bird Program. It provides updates on current research projects and initiatives, wild bobwhite quail hatch reports, feature stories from their biologists, and news on regional programs and research efforts across the Southeast. For more information, visit: https://talltimbers.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/QuailCall2025_LoResFinalForWeb.pdf
 - Tall Timbers' Central Florida Rangeland Quail Program is known for its intensive bobwhite management, but its prescribed fire practices also benefit rare species. During an October survey at Escape Ranch, Tall Timbers staff and volunteers discovered 41 Berry's skipper butterflies, a rare Florida species, while observing 45 butterfly species and 819 individuals overall. The fire regime, which creates a mosaic of burned and unburned units, promotes healthy, diverse populations in Central Florida prairies. Escape Ranch's commitment to maintaining large, contiguous areas of native ground cover with minimal invasive plants has resulted in the largest known population of Berry's skipper in Florida. To learn more, visit: <https://talltimbers.org/articles/bobwhite-management-in-central-florida-creating-ideal-butterfly-prairie-habitat/>
 - The Southern Regional Extension Forestry 2021-2025 report highlights the work and impact of the only regional forestry Extension office in the nation. The report details how SREF strengthens partnerships, expands institutional capacity, and advances regional education and outreach. It underscores SREF's ongoing commitment to developing tools, publications, and educational resources that make forestry knowledge accessible and useful, ensuring that programs and research reach the audiences who need them most. For more details and to download the report, please visit: <https://sref.info/about/mou/annual-reports/2021-2025-sref-multi-year-report/>
 - The frequent use of prescribed fire in Central Florida benefits bobwhite populations and also helps promote some of the state's rare butterfly species. During a survey by Tall Timbers staff in October, they discovered several unique species in the prairie habitat. For more details, please visit: <https://talltimbers.org/articles/bobwhite-management-in-central-florida-creating-ideal-butterfly-prairie-habitat/>
 - The Jones Center at Ichauway released the Fall 2025 edition of its newsletter that provides updates on research and other activities at the center.
 - Fall 2025: <https://serppas.org/media/v3leigqn/jones-center-fall-2025.pdf>
 - The October, November, and December 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:
 - October: <https://serppas.org/media/xbgpsric/tall-timbers-october-2025.pdf>
 - November: <https://serppas.org/media/5dcftsuj/tall-timbers-november-2025.pdf>
 - December: <https://serppas.org/media/rfff13ts/tall-timbers-december-2025.pdf>



- The Southern Regional Extension of Forestry has released its 194th through 203rd issues of their News Digest which shares relevant news and updates.

- Issue 194: <http://bit.ly/4nICFY>
- Issue 195: <http://bit.ly/46BI2v1>
- Issue 196: <http://bit.ly/4pLJROY>
- Issue 197: <http://bit.ly/4nwzSLJ>
- Issue 198: <http://bit.ly/46n6Rfn>
- Issue 199: <https://bit.ly/4agwZLn>
- Issue 200: <https://bit.ly/4pAgH4G>
- Issue 201: <https://bit.ly/4pKjisW>
- Issue 202: <https://bit.ly/4pH59MY>
- Issue 203: <https://bit.ly/44RXsVl>

► **Southeast Prescribed Fire Initiative**

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released new policy guidance to eliminate regulatory obstacles to prescribed burning. Regional offices are directed to collaborate with state, local, Tribal, and federal partners to revise State Implementation Plans (SIPs) so that they support strategic fire use. The guidance recognizes prescribed fire as critical for reducing catastrophic wildfire risk and allows it to be classified as an “exceptional event” under the Clean Air Act, providing air quality flexibility in fire-adapted regions. For the Southeast, this policy aligns air-quality regulations with ecological fire needs, enabling safer, more effective burns and reinforcing prescribed fire as a cornerstone of wildfire resilience and ecosystem health. For more details, visit:
<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-issues-policy-guidance-help-prevent-catastrophic-wildfires-promote-use-prescribed>. To view the memo, please visit:
https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-10/signed_final_prescribed-fire-policy-memo_25-06684-oar-gsg.pdf
- Prescribed Fire Work Group Lead Jenn Fawcett participated in a panel discussion at the premier of the short film, “Young Fires: The Future of Firelighting”, at the 2025 Thomasville GA Wildlife Arts Festival. The film follows several groups of young prescribed fire practitioners as they learn the art and science of prescribed fire in southern ecosystems. View the film’s trailer here:
<https://bit.ly/4qlInLP>
- The Fire Science Exchange Network (FSEN) released its *A Year of Collaboration* story map highlighting the real-world impacts and accomplishments of the FSEN in fiscal year 2024. Established in 2010, FSEN is a science delivery organization comprising 15 regional fire science exchanges across the U.S. These exchanges provide timely, relevant wildland fire science to federal, state, local, Tribal, academic, non-profit, and private stakeholders. By fostering collaboration among fire managers, practitioners, and scientists, FSEN ensures science is directly applicable to real-time decision-making. Funded by the Joint Fire Science Program, the network reports annual accomplishments by activities, organizational participation, and societal impact stories. This report offers a snapshot of results for Fiscal Year 2024:
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a9155f1cde4b4d27908bee bfb659cbb2>
- State forestry agencies across the Southeast are mobilizing under the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact to support the North Carolina Forest Service as it braces for elevated wildfire risk following Hurricane Helene and the resulting heavy fuel loads. For prescribed fire practitioners in the region, this situation emphasizes the importance of executing well-planned burns, maintaining clear ignition windows, and collaborating across properties to reduce wildfire risk. To read the full story, please visit: <https://southernforests.org/2025/10/27/southern-states-rally-wildfire-resources-as-north-carolina-braces-for-dangerous-fire-conditions-in-helenes-wake/>



- The Southern Fire Exchange released its bi-monthly newsletter Fire Lines, which contains news, updates, and events relevant to fire activities across the region.
 - October: <https://bit.ly/4rXUILY>
 - November/December: <https://bit.ly/4pnJNUd>
- The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 108th – 110th editions of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here:
 - October: <https://bit.ly/45eFTFF>
 - November: <https://bit.ly/3XUM6Tk>
 - December: <https://bit.ly/4pMj18Q>
- The Ember Alliance has released the October, November, and December versions of their newsletter, which features news stories and updates.
 - October: <http://bit.ly/4af8tu1>
 - November: <https://bit.ly/48YOBZU>
 - December: <https://bit.ly/3MHVmru>

► **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**

- Launched as a collaborative effort in the wake of the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in 2010 between The Nature Conservancy and dozens of federal, state, and local partners, the GulfCorps program offers a chance for young adults in the Gulf states to be a professional in a field that manages their own environment. The GulfCorps represents a powerful approach to improving landscape resilience through a community-led restoration approach that recognizes workforce development as a long-term strategy for advancing better futures for our lands, waters, and communities. To read more about this program, please visit:
<https://landscapeconservation.org/knowledge-center/stories/conserving-the-gulf-creating-jobs-reflections-on-building-gulfcorps-as-a-landscape-conservation-and-stewardship-program-that-weaves-together-workforce-development-and-ecological-restoration/>
- Amanda Gobeli, the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Coordinator, sat down with the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute to discuss how her role within SASMI is shaping the defense against specific threats to our coastal salt marshes. To read the article, please visit: <https://medium.com/wild-wonderings/conserving-south-atlantic-salt-marsh-through-collective-action-65ada3218eb0>
- The Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center (SECASC) has introduced Project Explorer, an interactive map showing over 90 projects across the Southeast and Caribbean. Each project supports communities, ecosystems, and resources that rely on climate adaptation science. To explore this tool: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/d27e001d9d15453a9b4febc339fcbef90>
- The latest update to the Southeast Conservation Blueprint, version 2025, is now available. The major improvements for this year include new and improved indicators in the continental Southeast and U.S. Caribbean, improved corridor methods, improved prioritization methods, and more. For a summary of what's new this year, and instructions on how to access the latest data and documentation, please visit: <https://secassoutheast.org/2025/12/05/Southeast-Conservation-Blueprint-2025-now-available.html>
- The Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center (SECASC) is seeking applications from eligible graduate students pursuing interdisciplinary research on global change and adaptation for the next



cohort of Global Change Research Fellows. Fellows receive financial and professional support during the year-long program while also building a network of collaborators and advisors across the Southeast. Applications and letters of recommendation are **due January 12, 2026**. For more details, please visit: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/home/about/people/global-change-fellows/>

- The SE Climate Adaptation Science Center released its Fall Newsletter, which includes climate-related news, resources, publications, webinars, and more for the Southeast region:
 - November: <https://bit.ly/4rRSmc6>
- The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy released its November and December Newsletters, which combine all the blogs written on the SECAS website during the previous month:
 - November: <https://bit.ly/45corl4>
 - December: <http://bit.ly/3Yt8S4S>
- The South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative released its October, November, and December Newsletters, which include salt marsh-related news, updates on SASMI efforts, and relevant funding opportunities.
 - October: <https://serppas.org/media/2b0bv4bz/sasmi-october-2025.pdf>
 - November: <https://serppas.org/media/qbhdhbum/sasmi-november-2025.pdf>
 - December: <https://serppas.org/media/svanrsp5/sasmi-december-2025.pdf>

► **Military Services News**

- The historic ocean liner, the SS United States, is set to become the world's largest artificial reef after it is sunk off the Florida Gulf Coast early next year. Okaloosa County officials announced that they expect to sink the SS United States about 22 nautical miles southwest of Destin and 32 nautical miles southeast of Pensacola. The nearly 1,000-foot vessel, which shattered the trans-Atlantic speed record on its maiden voyage in 1952, has spent most of this year at the Port of Mobile in Alabama being scoured to remove chemicals, wiring, plastic, and glass. The ship's final location was selected as part of an agreement with Pensacola tourism officials, who are contributing \$1.5 million to the project, and Coastal Conservation Association Florida. The contributions will be used to transform the SS United States into an artificial reef and finance a multiyear marketing campaign. The deal is part of Okaloosa County's \$10.1 million plan to purchase, move, clean, and sink the ship, which includes \$1 million toward an onshore museum to promote the ship's history. For full details, please visit: <https://apnews.com/article/ship-sinking-ss-united-states-artificial-reef-58da1c2ca7207d7c0774b22d80e21868>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 13, 2026: [Learn to Burn Field Day](#) (Andrews, SC)
- March 2-6, 2026: [DoD Applied Innovation Workshop](#) (Washington DC)
- **March 3-4, 2026: [Spring 2026 SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting](#) (Atlanta, GA)**
- March 4-5, 2026: [Southeast & Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership 10th Annual Meeting](#) (Charleston, SC)
- March 23-27, 2026: [4th International Smoke Symposium](#) (Tallahassee, FL)
- April 13-16, 2026: [National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration](#) (Omaha, NE)
- **April 27-28, 2026: [2026 Principals Meeting](#) (Southern Pines/Pinehurst, NC)**
- May 4-7, 2026: [Gulf Conference 2026: The Annual Meeting of the Gulf of America Alliance](#) (Mobile, AL)



- May 12-15, 2026: [Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals 15th Biennial Conference](#) (Wilmington, NC)
- June 2-4, 2026: [8th Fire in Eastern Oak Forest Conference](#) (Bloomington, IN)
- October 26-30, 2026: [80th Annual SEAFWA Conference](#) (Nashville, TN)

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
- January 15, 2026: [An Under the Hood Peek of Grasslandia, SGI's Forthcoming "All Things Southeast Grasslands" Website](#) by SECAS
- January 15, 2026: [Fueling Collaboration Panel Discussion Series: Storms and Strategy: Understanding Storms and Strategy: Understanding the Impacts of Hurricanes on Wildfire and Prescribed Fire in the Southeast](#)
- February 19, 2026: [Fueling Collaboration Panel Discussion Series: Reframing the Ecology of Fire in Eastern United States 'Old Growth' Forest Ecosystems](#)

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