



SERPPAS Circular

April/May/June 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 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.

FEATURED

► **Virtual SERPPAS Steering Committee Meetings:**

- The Virtual April and June 2025 SERPPAS Steering Committee Meetings were held on April 24th and June 25th, respectively. The meetings served to allow Steering Committee members to stay in touch and hear updates on recent agency developments.

► **SAVE THE DATE: SERPPAS Fall 2025 Steering Committee Meeting**

- The SERPPAS Fall 2025 Steering Committee Meeting will take place on August 27-28, 2025, in Atlanta, GA. The meeting will allow for in-person networking opportunities among the Steering Committee members, and feature updates from the SERPPAS working groups and on the recent revisions to the SERPPAS Strategic Plan. For more details and registration information, please visit: <https://serppas.org/resources/serppas-meetings/2025/august/serppas-fall-2025-steering-committee-meeting/>

IN THE NEWS

► **Spotlight**

- The DoD's REPI Program has released the 2026 REPI Challenge Request for Proposals. Up to \$20 million in funding is available for projects that protect military readiness by preventing land use conflicts, reducing environmental restrictions, and enhancing installation resilience. Eligible applicants include state and local governments, Tribes, private organizations, and federal agencies. **Pre-proposals are due by July 3, 2025, at 8:00 PM ET via the REPI Challenge Online Portal.** Resources and guidance are available at www.repi.mil. For more information of the REPI Challenge: <https://www.repi.mil/Buffer-Projects/REPI-Challenge/>
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has released the 2025 Request for Proposals for the Cumberland Plateau–Southern Appalachians Stewardship Fund. NFWF invites proposals ranging from \$250,000 to \$750,000 for projects focused on restoring and enhancing forest, grassland, and freshwater habitats, as well as promoting conservation practices on working agricultural lands to benefit wildlife and improve natural resources. Additional funding may be available for riparian restoration, aquatic connectivity, and forest management in the Southern Appalachians. Full proposals are due by **Thursday, July 16, 2025, at 11:59 PM Eastern**. For more information: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/forestland-stewards/cumberland-plateau-stewardship-fund/cumberland-plateau-southern>
- NFWF has released the Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund and is accepting applications for competitive grants supporting habitat improvement projects that benefit both



monarch butterflies and other at-risk native insect pollinators. The grants range from \$200,000 to \$300,000 and are open to non-profits, educational institutes, and government agencies. Projects must take place in eligible states. To check eligibility and access the full request for proposals, visit <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/monarch-butterfly-and-pollinators-conservation-fund>. **The application deadline is Tuesday, July 8, 2025.**

- (NFWF invites proposals for the Southeast Aquatics Fund 2025 for the conservation of aquatic habitat in the Southeastern U.S. Funding for this program will range from \$150,000 to \$500,000 and will support projects that aim to improve water quality and quantity, instream and riparian conditions, with limited funding available for aquatic connectivity, species recovery, monitoring, and planning. Projects are expected to span 24 to 36 months following the finalization of the grant. Priority will be given to specific project types. **Full proposals are due July 8, 2025, by 11:59 pm Eastern time.** To determine if your project qualifies and aligns with program priorities, read more: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/southeast-aquatics/southeast-aquatics-fund-2025-request-proposals>
- The Americas Longleaf Restoration Initiative 2024 Range-wide Accomplishment Report is out and highlights major restoration efforts across the Southeastern U.S. From October 2023 to September 2024, partners collaboratively established over 100,000 acres of new longleaf, conducted prescribed burns on a record 2.3 million acres, and protected more than 49,000 acres. These efforts support biodiversity, weather resilience, and community benefits. The report highlights the collective success of public and private partners. To learn more, visit <https://www.americaslongleaf.org/news-events/news/2025/june/america-s-longleaf-celebrates-major-milestones-in-longleaf-pine-habitat-restoration-with-2024-accomplishment-report/> or to read the report, click <https://bit.ly/2024-accomplishment-report>.
- The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) funding opportunities for fiscal year 2026 are now open. For full details, please visit the JFSP funding announcement page. In addition, JFSP will continue to support the Graduate Research Innovation award program. Current master's and doctoral students enrolled at U.S. colleges or universities and studying wildland fire or related sciences are encouraged to apply. These awards aim to enhance student engagement with natural resource management and policy through student-led research. JFSP is also accepting applications to continue the regional fire science exchange programs in the following six FSEN regions: California, Great Plains, Lake States, Southern, Southern Rockies, and Tallgrass Prairie. To view the funding opportunities, please visit: https://www.firescience.gov/ords/prd/if_ifsp/if_ifsp/r/ifsppublic/ifsp-funding-announcements1
- 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 Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program has released its 2025 Report to Congress. Covering activities from FY 2024, the report highlights



that the DOD has invested over \$1.5 billion, matched by nearly \$1.4 billion from non-DOD partners, to protect or restore more than 1.3 million acres of land. In FY 2024 alone, the program protected over 32,000 acres and achieved over \$108 million in cost savings, with nearly \$7 million coming from partners in Hawai'i and Alaska to support critical Indo-Pacific defense capabilities. To read full REPI Report to Congress: https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/2025_REPI_RTC_FINAL_1.pdf

- The Nature Conservancy has acquired Paint Hill Farm, a 305-acre property in Moore County, North Carolina. This acquisition will expand Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve by approximately one-third and safeguard nearly 60% of the unprotected portion of the Paint Hill Significant Natural Heritage Area. The property is home to rare species like the red-cockaded woodpecker and sandhills pyxie-moss, as well as unique geological features from a 35-million-year-old asteroid impact. It has since been incorporated into the North Carolina State Parks System for long-term protection and public benefit. To learn more: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/paint-hill-farm-weymouth-woods/> and https://www.thepilot.com/news/weymouth-woods-expands-by-300-acres/article_946d693c-1f59-4a09-96f7-9139f691de35.html
- The Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape released their April, May, and June Updates newsletters that provides news, resources, partner collaboration, and partnership progress:
 - April: <https://serppas.org/media/24sc4eig/nwfl-sl-042025.pdf>
 - May: <https://serppas.org/media/jgej4es4/nwfl-sl-052025.pdf>
 - June: <https://serppas.org/media/geoo4qt0/nwfl-sl-062025.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:
 - May: <https://serppas.org/media/en5ffyyg/network-for-landscape-conservation-052025.pdf>

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

- The Nature Conservancy and partners released 42 eastern indigo snakes—22 females and 20 males—into Florida's Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve, marking the ninth consecutive year of reintroductions. This year's release is the largest to date, bringing the total number of reintroduced snakes to 209. The snakes were bred at the Central Florida Zoo's Orianne Center for Indigo Conservation and raised at Welaka National Fish Hatchery before being released at age two. In 2023, the first wild-born hatchlings were observed at the preserve, indicating the success of the program. The preserve is the only location in Florida designated for eastern indigo snake reintroduction. For more information: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/43-eastern-indigo-snakes-released-at-tnc-preserve/>.
- The April, 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:
 - April: <https://serppas.org/media/ukcdcwdk/tall-timbers-042025.pdf>
 - May: <https://serppas.org/media/izijbqxy/tall-timber-052025.pdf>
 - June: <https://serppas.org/media/tdlzhvw/tall-timbers-062025.pdf>
- The Southern Regional Extension of Forestry has released its 189th through 103rd issues of their News Digest which shares relevant news and updates.



- Issue 189: <http://bit.ly/4l9WUXK>
- Issue 190: <http://bit.ly/3TOQips>
- Issue 191: <http://bit.ly/44HeWum>
- Issue 192: <http://bit.ly/4l345AM>
- Issue 193: <http://bit.ly/3l3dz0x>

► **Southeast Prescribed Fire Initiative**

- Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes (SWERI) has developed the Treatment and Wildfire Interagency Geodatabase through its ReSHAPE Program to compile and display nationwide data on federal fuel treatment projects and wildfires. According to SWERI, the ReSHAPE Program aims to support planning and monitoring by providing accessible data on treatment-wildfire interactions, and by analyzing and reporting treatment effects across boundaries. To explore this tool: <https://reshapewildfire.org/twig/layers>
- A recent Stanford study provides valuable insights into optimizing prescribed burns to reduce harmful emissions. By adjusting burn parameters such as fuel moisture, oxygen levels, and fire intensity, the research demonstrates potential reductions in polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) by up to 77%. According to estimates, this could cut cancer risks from smoke exposure by 50%. These findings are relevant for the Southeastern U.S., where prescribed fire is a critical tool for land management and wildfire prevention. To learn more: <https://news.stanford.edu/stories/2025/04/study-prescribed-forest-fires-safer-cleaner-cancer-risks>
- The USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station has released a report, *Fire: An Analysis to Support the Southern Forest Outlook*, examining wildfire and smoke risks in the Southern United States. It emphasizes the critical role of prescribed fire in reducing these threats and improving ecosystem resilience. The report urges strategic collaboration, especially as weather-related impacts shorten safe burn windows, and highlights the need for increased workforce capacity and training to support effective fire management. To read more of this report: https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs280.pdf.
- The Eastern Innovation Landscape Network (EILN) is advancing fire management in the Southeastern U.S. by developing cutting-edge tools like QUIC-Fire, BurnPro3D, and 3D fuels mapping using LiDAR. These cutting-edge technologies enhance the planning, safety, and effectiveness of prescribed burns. By working directly with land managers, EILN ensures the tools are practical and grounded in real-world needs. The latest annual report highlights how these efforts support healthier ecosystems and reduce wildfire risk. For more information: <https://research.fs.usda.gov/srs/articles/eastern-innovation-landscape-network-accelerating-wildland-fire-innovation-new-tech>.
- The Nature Conservancy in North Carolina reached a major milestone: 500,000 acres burned through controlled burning across TNC and partner lands. TNC started burning in North Carolina in 1989 with three burns across 81 acres and now burns at a pace of over 40,000 acres per year thanks to the hard work of many TNC fire leaders, strong partnerships, good science, a focus on training and development of fire staff, new models of operation, and securing funding for more crew, fleet vehicles and equipment. To read more: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/north-carolina/stories-in-north-carolina/fire-forests/>



- The Southern Fire Exchange released its bi-monthly newsletter Fire Lines, which contains news, updates, and events relevant to fire activities across the region.
 - April: <http://bit.ly/4nzYWC7>
 - June: <http://bit.ly/4lqVDuW>
- The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 102nd and 103rd editions of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here:
 - April: <http://bit.ly/4nsPuAc>
 - May: <http://bit.ly/4etFI23>
- The Ember Alliance has released the April, May, and June versions of their newsletter, which features news stories and updates.
 - April: <http://bit.ly/4kO7T8W>
 - May: <http://bit.ly/44rq5iV>
 - June: <http://bit.ly/4nhXgwS>

► Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation

- The Spring 2025 update to North Carolina’s Flood Resiliency Blueprint, North Carolina’s science-based and stakeholder-driven initiative, is designed to support the planning, evaluation, and implementation of flood resilience strategies. To learn more, click here: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/mitigation-services/ncdeq-flood-resiliency-blueprint-spring-2025-report/open>
- A new study led by USGS scientists uses advanced 3D modeling to identify the key factors that determine whether a marsh gains or loses sediment—findings that could improve efforts to protect vital salt marsh ecosystems. To read more, visit: <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/cmhrp/news/what-are-key-conditions-marsh-survival-amid-rising-seas>
- A new report from Restore America’s Estuaries sheds light on the critical role coastal restoration plays in supporting our nation’s economy. From job creation and housing to national defense and recreation, healthy estuaries are foundational to economic vitality and community resilience. Estuaries drive economic growth by supporting major industries, protecting infrastructure, and enhancing quality of life. To read the full report: https://estuaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Jobs-and-Dollars_2025-7.pdf
- The SE Climate Adaptation Science Center released its April, May, and June Newsletters, which include climate-related news, resources, publications, webinars, and more for the Southeast region:
 - April: <http://bit.ly/44aaJyO>
 - May: <http://bit.ly/3GcZpcm>
 - June: <http://bit.ly/4kOcKXI>
- The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy released its April, May, and June Newsletters, which combine all the blogs written on the SECAS website during the previous month:
 - April: <http://bit.ly/3HTQwFc>
 - May: <http://bit.ly/3GgVnQd>
 - June: <http://bit.ly/4I9aACH>



- The South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative released its April, May, and June Newsletters, which include salt marsh-related news, updates on SASMI efforts, and relevant funding opportunities.

- April: https://serppas.org/media/j13hcznw/sasmi-newsletter_202504.pdf
- May: https://serppas.org/media/tccilis0/sasmi-newsletter_052025.pdf
- June: https://serppas.org/media/gtnijony/sasmi-newsletter_202506.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/xbaprz3a/eastern-review-04-2025.pdf>
- May: <https://serppas.org/media/z43id1iw/eastern-review-05-2025.pdf>
- June: <https://serppas.org/media/qomfva3v/eastern-review-06-2025.pdf>

► **Military Services News**

- Fort Stewart in Georgia is collaborating with NASA to enhance prescribed burn practices aimed at improving wildfire management and ecosystem health. This partnership focuses on studying fire behavior, smoke dispersion, and vegetation recovery to refine fire management strategies. Findings from these studies are expected to inform broader wildfire management efforts, particularly in the southeastern United States, and contribute to the development of more effective fire management models. To read more of the study:

https://www.army.mil/article/284791/fort_stewart_and_nasa_ignite_new_possibilities_through_prescribed_burn_study

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 5-6, 2025: [The Longleaf Alliance: Gopher Tortoise Academy](#) (Andalusia, AL)
- **August 27-28, 2025: SERPPAS Fall 2025 Steering Committee Meeting (Atlanta, GA)**
- September 9-11, 2025: [2025 SECASC Regional Science Symposium](#) (Asheville, NC)
- October 4, 2025: [2025 Fire in the Pines Festival](#) (Wilmington, NC)
- October 15-17, 2025: [National Habitat Conservation Plan Coalition 2025 Annual Meeting](#) (Washington, D.C.)
- October 22-25, 2025: [2025 Society of American Foresters National Convention](#) (Hartford, CT)
- October 26-29, 2025: [SEAFWA 2025 79th Annual Conference | Mississippi](#) (Biloxi, MS)
- December 2-6, 2025: 11th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress (New Orleans, LA)

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
- ▶ July 22, 2025: [Drivers of Flash Drought in the Southeast](#) by the Southeast Regional Climate Center
- ▶ July 23, 2025: [Leveraging the Treatment and Wildfire Interagency Geodatabase \(TWIG\): An Open-Access Tool for Exploring National Wildfire and Fuel Treatment Interactions](#) by Fire Learning Network
- ▶ September 24, 2024: [Connecting Defense Communities and Military Installations](#) by REPI
- ▶ October 15, 2025: [Conservation Finance Opportunities in Sentinel Landscapes: FEMA 101](#) by REPI

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