



SERPPAS Circular

January/February/March 2026

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.

FEATURED

► **Spring 2026 SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting**

- The SERPPAS Steering Committee convened on March 3–4, 2026, for its annual Spring meeting, where members reviewed partnership progress and highlighted key initiatives underway across each SERPPAS working group. The Steering Committee also prepared for the 2026 SERPPAS Principals Meeting, including coordinated briefings to ensure Principals are well informed- ahead of the April meeting. For more details, please visit: https://serppas.org/media/2v5jvz4r/spring-2026-serppas-steering-committee-meeting_final-agenda-with-presentations-1.pdf

► **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 (NFWF) has released its 2026 Request for Proposals for the *National Coastal Resilience Fund* (NCRF). This national grant program supports nature-based solutions to enhance the resilience of coastal communities and ecosystems. The NCRF funds planning, design, and implementation of projects that reduce risks from storms, flooding, erosion, and other coastal hazards while improving fish and wildlife habitats. **The proposal deadline begins with pre-proposal submissions due March 31, 2026.** To check eligibility and access the full request for proposals, visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund/national-coastal-resilience-fund-2026-request-proposals>.
- In partnership with NFWF, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has opened a new grant program, the *National Species Recovery Grant*, aimed at accelerating recovery of species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The program focuses on species that could be delisted or downlisted within the next three years with additional support, as well as species found in areas with significant land-use activity. Grants range from \$30,000 to \$43.5 million and must show measurable progress toward species recovery. **Proposals are due April 9,**



2026, at 11:59 PM Eastern. To check eligibility and access the full request for proposals, visit:

<https://bit.ly/4IPFSPL>

- The NFWF Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (WILD) Grants support innovative projects that conserve, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife habitats in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. These grants fund efforts to protect key landscapes, improve water quality, and bolster climate resilience through collaborative, science-based approaches. **Proposals are due April 9, 2026, at 12:00 PM ET.** For more information, visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/chesapeake-wild/chesapeake-watershed-investments-landscape-defense-wild-grants-2026>
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has launched the Wildfire Smoke Preparedness in Community Buildings Grant Program to help communities reduce exposure to wildfire smoke in public spaces. This grant supports projects that enhance the ability of schools, community centers, libraries, and other public buildings to maintain healthy indoor air quality during wildfire events. The program represents an important step toward building resilience against the growing threat of wildfire smoke nationwide. **Applications are due April 15, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET.** For more information, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/emergencies-iaq/wildfire-smoke-preparedness-community-buildings-grant-program>
- NFWF has released the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund, a grant program that supports on-the-ground projects to restore, enhance, and conserve bottomland hardwood forests and wetlands, improve soil health and water quality, and promote aquatic connectivity and community resilience across multiple states. **Proposals for the current cycle are due Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 11:59 PM Eastern.** To check eligibility and access the full request for proposals, visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/lower-mississippi-alluvial-valley-restoration-fund/lower-mississippi-alluvial-valley-0>
- 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 War’s Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program released its 2026 Report to Congress, highlighting two decades of protecting mission-critical capabilities. From FY 2003–FY 2025, REPI leveraged \$1.7 billion, alongside \$1.5 billion in partner contributions, to safeguard more than 1.4 million acres across 41 states and territories. In FY 2025 alone, partners helped protect 117,000 acres beyond installation boundaries, reinforcing the DOW’s ability to prevent encroachment and ensure the readiness of our warfighters. For more information, visit: https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/REPI_2026_RTC_20260305.pdf
- NFWF is funding two projects in the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape through its National Coastal Resilience Fund. Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program was awarded \$1.38 million for final design and permitting of a major stream restoration on Carpenter Creek. At the same time, Walton County will receive \$595,000 to advance a 30-acre living shoreline project along State Highway 20. Both efforts will improve habitat, reduce erosion and flooding, and protect local



infrastructure and wildlife. To read more of the NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund 2025 Grant Slate, visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2025-12/nfwf-ncrf-20251117-gs.pdf>

- The Sentinel Landscapes Federal Coordinating Committee (FCC) announced that the updated Sentinel Landscape Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been fully executed with signatures from leadership across all member agencies. The 2026 MOU reflects revisions aligned with the evolving military, environmental, and policy priorities of the Department of War, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Department of the Interior. To read the 2026 MOU, visit: https://sentinellandscapes.org/media/vjtj34on/sentinel-landscapes-memorandum-of-understanding_2026_signed.pdf.
- The Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape released their January and February Updates newsletters that provide news, resources, partner collaboration, and partnership progress:
 - January: <https://serppas.org/media/u0k2pju/northwest-florida-sentinel-landscape-update-january-2026.pdf>
 - February: <https://serppas.org/media/pxnpj51w/nwfs-l-update-february-2026.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:
 - <https://serppas.org/media/i44nflwd/january-bulletin-network-for-landscape-conservation.pdf>

► **Natural Resources Management**

- The Southeast Conservation Blueprint 2025, a data-driven, regional plan for a connected network of lands and waters across the Southeastern U.S. and Caribbean, is now available. The update adds several new and improved conservation indicators and refines prioritization and connectivity methods to better guide conservation actions. Users can explore the data and get support for applying it to on-site projects. To explore the blueprint, visit: <https://secassoutheast.org/2025/12/05/Southeast-Conservation-Blueprint-2025-now-available.html>
- The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) received a National Agency Partner Award for its leadership in conserving the threatened Eastern Black Rail. The award recognizes years of collaborative, science-based efforts to understand the species better and protect its delicate coastal marsh habitat. Through research, habitat management, and partnerships with conservation groups and landowners, SCDNR has played a vital role in advancing efforts to stabilize and support the birds' population for the future. To learn more, visit: <https://www.dnr.sc.gov/news/2026/Feb/feb27-conservation.php>
- The University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources scientists have published an article on a few fall and winter tree insect pests that are currently active in Georgia and similar temperate regions. This article provides guidance for landowners, arborists, and forest managers planning for fall/winter pest management strategies. For more information, visit: <https://bit.ly/4OrZkT>
- The USDA Forest Service and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission have signed a historic \$290 million Good Neighbor Agreement to support Hurricane Helene recovery in western North Carolina. The 10-year effort, the largest agreement of its kind for the Forest Service, will accelerate restoration across the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests while creating jobs and



reducing costs. Through the partnership, the commission will lead critical recovery work, including debris removal, road and recreation site repairs, invasive species management, watershed restoration, and improvements to wildlife habitat, helping strengthen communities impacted by the storm. For more information, visit: <https://bit.ly/3NZ8zx1>

- The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) released its January and February Newsletter, which combines all the blogs written on the SECAS website during the previous month:
 - January: <https://bit.ly/4sqs68A>
 - February: <https://bit.ly/4tagTsY>
- The January and February 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:
 - January: <https://serppas.org/media/oknixkx5/tall-timbers-january-2026.pdf>
 - February: <https://serppas.org/media/fpwfmqxf/tall-timbers-february-2026.pdf>
 - March: <https://serppas.org/media/yignrdfk/tall-timbers-march-2026.pdf>
- The Southern Regional Extension of Forestry has released its 204th through 206th issues of their News Digest, which shares relevant news and updates.
 - Issue 205: <https://bit.ly/3PuJdHV>
 - Issue 206: <https://bit.ly/47pr0lc>
 - Issue 207: <https://bit.ly/4c8En17>

► Wildland Fire

- The Department of the Interior announced the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service. The new service realigns the department's wildland fire programs and personnel, including aviation and firefighting bureaus, into a unified service reporting to the Secretary. Its purpose is to streamline and modernize wildland fire operations, improve coordination and resource use, enhance response and prevention on public and Tribal lands, and better support firefighters and partners in confronting the nation's growing wildfire risks. For more information, visit: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-launch-us-wildland-fire-service>
- The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Wildland Fire awarded about \$5.08 million through the Slip-on Tanker Pilot Program to help 97 local emergency response agencies across 26 states strengthen their wildfire response capabilities. The grant supports small, remote departments by funding slip-on tanker units that convert existing vehicles into wildland fire engines, improving preparedness and response in communities with moderate to high wildfire risk. A new round of funding opportunities is expected in early 2026. For more information, visit: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-departments-office-wildland-fire-awards-5-million-strengthen-local-0>
- Tall Timbers reports that new smoke management rules for the 2026 prescribed burn season around Albany, Georgia, are now in effect. After successful results from the Albany Pilot Project in 2025, which improved air quality while increasing burned acreage, officials updated how air quality is measured, using a 6:00am PM2.5 reading instead of a 24-hour average to reduce unnecessary burn bans. This rule, developed with input from land managers and Tall Timbers' Smoke Science Program, is expected to reduce false bans by 90% and more accurately predict days that could exceed federal limits. The Georgia Forestry Commission also offers daily burn guidance tools to



help plan burns with minimal smoke impacts on the community. To learn more, visit:

<https://talltimbers.org/articles/improved-air-quality-rule-set-for-albany-2026-burn-season/>

- Tall Timbers has unveiled a major update to its Prescribed Burner Planner, establishing it as a comprehensive resource for land managers and private landowners. Developed in collaboration with the U.S Forest Service and Timmons Group, the upgraded tool enables users to customize weather and wind thresholds for each burn unit and receive real-time notifications when optimal conditions are predicted. Key enhancements include advanced smoke modeling for improved community safety, multi-day weather forecasting, and new mapping capabilities that let users define precise polygons for individual burn sites. These features streamline planning, promote responsible burning, and help practitioners better coordinate prescribed fire operations. To view this updated tool, visit:
https://rxburnplanner.com/?fbclid=IwAR35Qigh1YhHQ9b_G0FexqWma6fVdoIndeAxEOXIYzVb-lpVeWOG0nDyS_g
 - A new study from North Carolina State University indicates that warmer weather may make air quality impacts from prescribed burns worse within the Southeastern U.S. The study finds that while controlled burns are crucial for management and wildlife prevention, they also contribute a notable share of fine particulate (PM2.5) pollution, especially in low-income, high burn counties. With warmer weather, there are fewer safe burn days expected due to heat, drought, and wind, meaning more burns may be conducted on fewer days with conditions that intensify smoke and pollution exposure. This could push vulnerable communities toward future air quality violations, underscoring the need to balance wildfire risk reduction with public health protections. To learn more, visit: <https://responsibleus.com/climate-change-could-worsen-air-quality-impacts-of-prescribed-burns>
 - The Southern Fire Exchange released its bi-monthly newsletter Fire Lines, which contains news, updates, and events relevant to fire activities across the region.
 - January: <https://bit.ly/4drjRET>
 - The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 111th – 113th editions of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles, and more from across the region. Learn more here:
 - January: <https://bit.ly/3NoQubH>
 - February: <https://bit.ly/40VvdJF>
 - March: <https://bit.ly/4bT1XIK>
 - The Ember Alliance has released the January and March versions of their newsletter, which features news stories and updates.
 - January: <https://bit.ly/47j1QVf>
 - March: <https://bit.ly/4bFfIKQ>
- **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**
- Georgia's Romerly Marsh Creek artificial reef was recently expanded with 60 concrete pyramids, boosting biodiversity and fishing. The project was a year-long collaboration between the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division, the Coastal Conservation Association of America, and Smyrna Ready Mix, which donated leftover concrete for oyster habitat. To learn



more, visit: <https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/environment/2025/12/17/georgia-dnr-and-nonprofit-add-concrete-to-reef-in-wassaw-sound/87776800007/>

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has released a Coastal Risk Finder tool that allows users to customize their sea level rise and coastal flood scenarios to learn who and what is at risk. This tool also provides more information and resources for adapting to coastal flood risks and a list of coastal resilience efforts for each state. To explore this tool, click here: <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/coastal-risk-finder.html>
- A new interactive mapping tool is empowering South Carolina's coastal communities to visualize how salt marshes may shift inland as sea levels rise, enabling more informed planning for climate impacts. By pinpointing potential areas where future marsh migration could intersect with development, the tool helps guide smarter infrastructure decisions, targeted conservation, and effective resiliency strategies. For more information, visit: <https://www.pew.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2026/02/10/new-mapping-tool-can-help-south-carolina-prepare-for-sea-level-rise>
- South Carolina will gain a new state park and heritage preserve thanks to a \$4 million NOAA grant. The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism used the award to purchase 107 acres of critical coastal habitat near the Little River and Atlantic Ocean, safeguarding undeveloped carrier island, salt marsh, and maritime forest ecosystems. This purchase and new state park provides public access, supports wildlife, honors cultural heritage, and enhances natural storm protection and coastal resilience. To learn more, visit: <https://coast.noaa.gov/states/stories/merrill-boyce-tracts.html>
- The SE Climate Adaptation Science Center released its January, February, and March Newsletters, which include climate-related news, resources, publications, webinars, and more for the Southeast region:
 - January: <https://bit.ly/4bJaWvH>
 - February: <https://bit.ly/40NVvNY>
 - March: <https://bit.ly/40RBw0Q>
- The South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative released its January, February, and March Newsletters, which include salt marsh-related news, updates on SASMI efforts, and relevant funding opportunities.
 - January: <https://serppas.org/media/j1zbcsup/sasmi-jan-2026.pdf>
 - February: <https://serppas.org/media/h1nn5f2j/sasmi-feb-2026.pdf>
 - March: <https://serppas.org/media/bxllwxyg/sasmi-march-2026.pdf>

► **Military Services News**

- The Air Force Civil Engineer Center's Natural Disaster Recovery Division achieved major construction milestones in 2025, advancing more than 60 projects across Tyndall Air Force Base, Offutt AFB, and Joint Base Langley-Eustis. Efforts focused on rebuilding resilient, mission-ready infrastructure following significant natural disasters, including Hurricane Michael and historic flooding, while delivering key facilities such as operations centers, dormitories, and training complexes. Together these projects strengthen operational capability, improve quality of life for Airmen and families, and support long-term readiness of the U.S. Air Force. For more information, visit: [The Rebuilders: AFCEC NDR marks major construction milestones in 2025 > Air Force Civil Engineer Center > Article Display](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ April 13-16, 2026: [National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration](#) (Omaha, NE)
- ▶ April 18, 2026: [Party for the Pine](#) (Southern Pines, NC)
- ▶ **April 27-29, 2026: 2026 SERPPAS Principals Meeting (Pinehurst/Southern Pines, NC)**
- ▶ April 28-30, 2026: [2026 Southeast Land Conservation Conference - Land Trust Alliance](#) (Greenville, SC)
- ▶ 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 Resources Extension Professionals 15th Biennial Conference](#) (Wilmington, NC)
- ▶ May 12-14, 2026: [7th National Adaptation Forum](#) (Pittsburgh, PA)
- ▶ June 2-4, 2026: [8th Fire in Eastern Oaks Conference](#) (Bloomington, IN)
- ▶ June 6, 2026: [North Georgia Prescribed Fire Council Meeting](#) (Jasper, GA)
- ▶ August 26-27, 2026: [North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting](#) (Nags Head, NC)
- ▶ September 22-25, 2026: [Restore America's Estuaries 2026 Coastal & Estuarine Summit](#) (San Francisco, CA)
- ▶ October 25-29, 2026: [13th U.S. Symposium on Harmful Algae](#) (Cedar Rapids, IA)
- ▶ October 27-30, 2026: [16th Biennial Longleaf Conference](#) (Williamsburg, VA)

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
- ▶ April 10, 2026: [Burning For Birds - A Manual for the Application of Prescribed Fire in High Marshes on the Northern Gulf Coast](#) by University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Tall Timbers, the Southern Fire Exchange, and the University of Florida IFAS
- ▶ April 15, 2026: [Duff in the Coastal Plain Fire Science Workshop](#) by Duff Fire Research and Adaptive Management, hosted by the Southern Fire Exchange and CAFMS
- ▶ April 28, 2026: [Plan, Predict, & Burn – The New Prescribed Burn Planner \(PBP v2\)](#) by Southern Fire Exchange

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