



SERPPAS Circular

April/May/June 2023

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 [2021+ 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

- ▶ **A Season of Change:** There have been a few retirements and job changes of key SERPPAS partners that we wanted to acknowledge for their contributions to SERPPAS. While we will miss having these great people engaged in the partnership, we wish them well on their next chapter and welcome the opportunity for new faces to SERPPAS.
 - In April 2023, Barbara Neale, Senior Program Analyst for the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management at South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control retired. Barbara was engaged in SERPPAS for many years and served as the lead for the Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation Work Group in its early development. Barbara was active as a SERPPAS Steering Committee member and was engaged in the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative.
 - In May 2023, Mr. Richard Kidd, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Environment and Energy Resilience in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations and Environment, retired after a long and distinguished career in civil service. Mr. Kidd served as the Principal DoD Co-Chair for SERPPAS for over two years and provided great leadership and support for the SERPPAS mission, especially as it relates to climate change.
 - In June 2023, Mark Williams announced he is stepping down as Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources after over twelve years leading the agency. Mr. Williams was a Principal in SERPPAS, including serving as the Principal State Co-Chair for two two-year terms from 2015-2019. Mr. Williams has been a strong supporter of the SERPPAS partnership and mission through efforts to conserve the Gopher Tortoise in partnership with DoD and enabled SERPPAS Steering Committee meetings at the GADNR offices in Atlanta. Mr. Williams will take over as Executive Director of the Jekyll Island Authority on July 1, 2023.
 - In June 2023, Geno Olmi, Coordinator of the Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Regional Collaboration Network, retired. Geno served on the SERPPAS Steering Committee and was integral in the re-engagement of NOAA as a Principal agency in SERPPAS. Geno contributed to the Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation work group and the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative.
- ▶ **SERPPAS 2023 Principals Meeting:** [The SERPPAS Principals gathered at Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville Florida on May 18-19 for the 2023 SERPPAS Principals Meeting](#). Hosted by Navy Region Southeast, 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 mission at Naval Station Mayport and the encroachment and climate resilience challenges and opportunities that connected to many of the SERPPAS priorities and actions in the [SERPPAS Strategic Plan](#). The SERPPAS Principals were able to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act and the exciting launch of the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative Marsh Forward Plan. The Principals also shared anticipated challenges that will inform the partnership priorities moving forward.

IN THE NEWS

► Spotlight

- (REPI) The REPI Program released the 2023 REPI Report to Congress. The congressional report provides information on the REPI Program and supportive DoD efforts to conserve land and address threats to military readiness from development pressures, environmental constraints, and extreme weather events. This year's Report to Congress summarizes the Program's significant accomplishments from Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 through FY 2022, showcases REPI investments and collaborative partnerships in the Pacific region, and highlights successful regional climate resilience initiatives across the country. To view the report, please visit: [https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Reports to Congress/2023 REPI Report to Congress.pdf](https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Reports%20to%20Congress/2023%20REPI%20Report%20to%20Congress.pdf)
- (REPI) The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment invites you to attend the 2023 DOD Climate Resilience Workshop from July 10-13, 2023, in St. Louis, Missouri. This workshop will provide a forum for DOD stakeholders and partners to explore the many facets of climate change, a national security threat that has tangible impacts to military readiness. Installations, environmental organizations, and climate change professionals will be broadly represented to help inform the Military Departments on data, tools, and resources for addressing and combatting climate change threats. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.dodclimateworkshop.org/>
- (SASMI) The South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative released [Marsh Forward: A Regional Plan for the Future of the South Atlantic Coast's Million-Acre Salt Marsh Ecosystem](#), a plan two years in the making recommending key strategies and actions for conserving the approximately 1 million acres of salt marsh within the South Atlantic states. To read more, please visit the new SASMI website: <https://marshforward.org/> and <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2023/05/16/new-plan-would-save-future-of-1-million-acres-of-salt-marshes-along-southeast-us-coast>
- (REPI) The REPI program is pleased to announce the release of the FY 2024 REPI Challenge Request for Proposals. The REPI Program designed the REPI Challenge to help meet its ambitious conservation goals while aiming to cultivate new projects, harness creativity, and protect critical testing and training capabilities. The primary focus of the FY 2024 REPI Challenge is on advancing efforts that preserve key mission capabilities of strategic importance to DOD and enhance installation and range resilience to climate change and severe weather events (e.g., drought, increased wildfires, thawing permafrost). For more information, please visit: <https://www.repi.mil/Buffer-Projects/REPI-Challenge/>
- (NOAA) NOAA is pleased to announce the Climate Resilience Regional Challenge Notice of Funding Opportunity. Approximately \$575 million is available for projects that build the resilience of coastal



communities to extreme weather (e.g., hurricanes and storm surge) and other impacts of climate change, including sea level rise and drought. Funding was made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act, a historic, federal government-wide investment that is advancing NOAA's efforts to build Climate-Ready Coasts. Letters of intent are due **Monday, August 21, 2023**. For more information, please visit: <https://coast.noaa.gov/funding/ira/resilience-challenge/>

- (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is pleased to announce the 2023 Southeast Aquatics Fund Request for Proposals. To help conserve habitats for aquatic species, NFWF is soliciting proposals to restore watershed habitats and improve water quality in targeted river basins and watersheds of the Southeast. The Southeast Aquatics Fund is a competitive grants program that supports watershed-based restoration and improved management within riparian and in-stream habitat and the connected upland areas. The goal is to improve the health of aquatic systems and secure populations of native freshwater aquatic species. By promoting a habitat-based approach, a diversity of species benefit, from game species to at-risk species, ultimately helping reduce the risk of future listings under the Endangered Species Act. Full proposals are due **Tuesday, July 18th, 2023**. For more information, please visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/southeast-aquatics/southeast-aquatics-fund-2023-request-proposals>
- (NWF) 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

- (SLP) The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is thrilled to launch the 2024 Sentinel Landscape Designation Cycle! Building upon the success of the 11 existing sentinel landscapes, this exciting initiative reflects a decade of valuable lessons learned by the partnership in fostering innovative connections amongst partners in conservation, working lands, climate resilience, and national defense. Apply today to become part of a pioneering community working to strengthen military readiness, conserve natural resources, bolster agricultural and forestry economies, and increase climate change resilience. For more information, please visit: <https://sentinellandscapes.org/apply-now/>
- (SECAS) The Lowcountry of South Carolina, just north of the Savannah River, is a landscape that's still a little wild. Here, the lands and waters support wide expanses of longleaf pine, salt marsh, maritime forest, and working lands. This is also a place where conservation partners from the Open Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, the Center for Heirs Property Preservation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and many others will work with local military installations (Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, and Naval Support Facility Beaufort) to achieve common goals within the newly established Lowcountry Sentinel Landscape. To learn more, visit the SECAS blog: <http://secassoutheast.org/2023/04/20/The-South-Carolina-Lowcountry-Sentinel-Landscape.html>
- (NWFLS) The Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape released the January, February, and March 2023 Updates newsletter that provides news, resources, partner collaboration, and partnership progress:



- April: https://serppas.org/media/s3ejh33r/nwfl-sl_042023.pdf
- May: https://serppas.org/media/50jnkbsq/nwfl-sl_052023.pdf
- June: https://serppas.org/media/zdufzuik/nwfl-sl_062023.pdf
- (NLC) 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: https://serppas.org/media/022pwnyf/the-landscape-conservation-bulletin_052023.pdf
- (REPI) The April Newsletter is now available, providing exciting news and announcements related to the REPI community.
 - April: https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/REPI_Newsletter_April_FINAL_20230425.pdf

► Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species

- (USDA) The U. S. Department of Agriculture is streamlining its Agricultural Conservation Easement Program to ultimately better help agricultural producers and private landowners conserve wetlands, productive farmlands and at-risk grasslands. USDA NRCS is rolling out several improvements to this important program, which has more than 5 million acres of land enrolled, in response to feedback from producers, landowners and conservation partners. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/usda-unveils-efforts-to-streamline-agricultural-conservation-easement-program>
- (NFWF) The NFWF Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund awarded \$32.7 million in partner funding and matching contributions, the largest grant slate in the program's history, to restore, enhance, and protect longleaf pine across nine states in the Southeast. These funds will allow 28 projects to impact more than 500,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat through needed management and outreach activities, bolster longleaf seedling capacity, and improve habitat for at-risk wildlife. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/media-center/press-releases/nfwf-announces-record-18-million-conservation-grants-restore-iconic-longleaf-pine-ecosystem>
- (KF) Keeping Forests partnered with the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station and NC State University to complete a study to answer what is the value of forests to water quality and quantity. The study found that conversion of natural land cover to non-forest uses can degrade water quality and increase treatment costs for Public Water Systems. To read more, please visit: <https://www.keepingforests.org/blog/southern-forests-lead-to-increased-water-quality-and-cost-savings-downstream>
- (USDA) USDA announced that it will expand its work on wildlife conservation by investing at least \$500 million over the next five years and by leveraging all available conservation programs, including the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), through its Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) effort. The funding will help deliver a series of cohesive Frameworks for Conservation Action, which establish a common vision across the partnership of public and private interests and goals for delivering conservation resources in a given ecosystem, combining cutting-edge science with local knowledge. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2023/usda-announces-historic-investment-in-wildlife-conservation-expands-partnership-to-include-additional-programs>



- (TT) The January, February, and March 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/0kvgpczn/tall-timbers_04_2023.pdf
 - May: https://serppas.org/media/1ujpr1p0/tall-timbers_05_2023.pdf
 - June: https://serppas.org/media/clyiqyoc/tall-timbers_06_2023.pdf
- (SPFFW) The Southeastern Partnership for Forests & Water released their quarterly newsletter containing news surrounding the pursuit of healthy Southeastern forested watersheds:
 - Summer 2023: <https://bit.ly/3CPrL7b>
- (KF) Keeping Forests has released the January, February, and March editions of For Our Forests, a newsletter focused on keeping partners and stakeholders up to date.
 - May: <https://bit.ly/4412KCa>
 - June: <https://bit.ly/3COGjnf>

► **Southeast Prescribed Fire Initiative**

- (SGSF) The Southern Group of State Foresters released a blog post on the impact of interagency relationships formed during regular prescribed burning operations in suppressing wildfires. The blog piece used a 2016 South Carolina wildfire as an example. To read the full article, please visit: <https://southernforests.org/2023/05/10/interagency-collaboration-in-prescribed-burns-cultivates-cooperative-approach-to-wildfire-suppression/>
- (USGS) The U.S. Forest Service has developed an app to deliver information about fire weather & fire behavior, WildfireSAFE. This app provides a one-stop resource and synthesizes the data into values that make the most sense to people on the ground. To learn more, please visit: <https://wildfiresafe.fs.usda.gov>
- (PopSci) Longleaf pine forests in Alabama are making a comeback thanks to fire. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians are conducting prescribed burns on their lands to restore the longleaf pine ecosystem and aid native plant and animal populations. To read more, please visit: <https://www.popsci.com/environment/longleaf-pine-restoration/>
- (SERPPAS) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 78th, 79th, and 80th 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/3CNU1ak>
 - May: <https://bit.ly/43Yj7zn>
 - June: <https://bit.ly/3NrQnYP>
- (SFE) The Southern Fire Exchange released its bimonthly newsletter, Fire Lines, sharing research, resources, news and upcoming events from around the Southeast and nationwide: <https://bit.ly/46mMBZh>.
- (REPI) The June Newsletter is now available, providing exciting news and announcements related to the REPI community.
 - June: https://serppas.org/media/fq1psvci/repi_newsletter_june_final.pdf



► Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation

- (Scientific American) On U.S. Barrier Islands, African-Rooted Traditions Protect against a Relentlessly Rising Ocean: Once you are across the bridge onto Saint Helena Island, S.C., trinket shops and strip malls give way to fishing shacks and saltwater marshes. Secluded from the bustling tourist traffic just a bridge away, the island remains largely untouched. It preserves traditions fostered even before some of its residents' ancestors were forced to traverse the more than 4,000 miles of ocean that separates the Saint Helena salt marshes from Africa...To continue reading, please visit: <https://bit.ly/44d8UyU>
- (FEMA) The Federal Emergency Management Agency and its partners released its second nature-based solutions guide, *Building Community Resilience with Nature-based Solutions: Strategies for Success*, which provides five strategies for implementing successful nature-based solution projects to advance natural hazard mitigation and climate adaptation. To read the guide, click here: https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_nature-based-solutions-guide-2-strategies-success_2023.pdf
- (NOAA) The U.S. Department of Commerce announced a \$2.6 billion framework to invest in coastal resilience through the Inflation reduction Act to support communities and people. This investment in climate resilience and coastal communities will help ensure the needed resources and support to prepare, adapt, and build resilience to weather and climate events as well as strengthen workforce development, marine resources, nature-based solutions, conservation, regional partnerships and Tribal priorities. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.noaa.gov/news-releases/noaa-ira-framework-2023>
- (SECASC) The SE Climate Adaptation Science Center released its January, February, and March Newsletters, which includes climate related news, resources, publications, webinars and more for the Southeast region:
 - April: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2023/04/19/april-2023-newsletter/>
 - May: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2023/05/15/may-2023-newsletter/>
 - June: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2023/06/14/june-2023-newsletter/>
- (SECAS) The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy released its January, February, and March Newsletters, which combines all the blogs written on the SECAS website during the previous month:
 - April: <https://bit.ly/3NNSJSY>
 - May: <https://bit.ly/46lkHNg>
 - June: <http://bit.ly/44mU48S>

► Energy Development and Siting

- (REEO) 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/t3oaohw0/southern-review-04-2023.pdf>
 - May: <https://serppas.org/media/monmhjem/southern-review-05-2023.pdf>
 - June: <https://serppas.org/media/c0nnpzef/southern-review-06-2023.pdf>



► **Military Services News**

- (DoD) NOAA selected The Nature Conservancy for a \$6.2 million grant to fund South Carolina coastal resilience and habitat restoration projects, a chunk of which will help Marine Corps Air station Beaufort address erosion near a housing area. The funds will be used to build oyster-castle living shorelines consisting of interlocking concrete blocks that become living reefs as oyster larvae attach to them and grow all while helping reduce wave energy and erosion along the shoreline. To read more, please visit: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/05/22/grant-will-help-bolster-marine-corps-air-station-beaufort-erosion-heres-how.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 10-13, 2023: [DoD Climate Resilience Workshop](#) (St. Louis, MS)
- July 20-21, 2023: NWFSL Partners Collaboration Meeting (Ft. Walton Beach, FL)
- August 6-8, 2023: [National Association of Conservation Districts Southeast Region 2023 Meeting](#) (Savannah, GA)
- **September 12-13, 2023: SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting (Atlanta, GA)**
- October 15-18, 2023: [77th Annual SEAFWA Conference](#) (Corpus Christi, TX)
- November 6-10, 2023: [6th National Cohesive Wildlife Fire Management Strategy Workshop](#) (Santa Fe, NM)

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- Archived: All Southern Fire Exchange webinars are recorded and housed on the [SFE YouTube channel](#).
 - [Slack and Scarcity in Wildland Fire](#)
 - [Forest Operations and Supply Chain Engineering to Facilitate Fuel Treatment in the Modern Bioeconomy](#)
- Archived: [2023 REPI Challenge Project Spotlight Webinar](#) by REPI
- Archived: [2023 REPI Report to Congress](#) by REPI
- Archived: [10-Year Anniversary of the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership](#) by REPI
- Archived: [2023 Hurricane Awareness Webinars](#) by NOAA
- Series: [Landscape Conservation Webinar Series](#) by the Network for Landscape Conservation
- Series: [SERDP & ESTCP Webinar Series](#) by SERDP & ESTCP
- October 11, 2023: [Partnerships to Advance Climate Resilience in Sentinel Landscapes](#) by REPI
- November 2, 2023: [Conservation Efforts for Managing Populations of Threatened and Endangered Species](#) by SERDP-ESTCP
- November 8, 2023: [REPI Project Insights Across Regional Partnerships](#) by REPI
- November 14-16, 2023: [2nd Solar Power and Wildlife/Natural Resources Symposium](#) by REWI
- December 6, 2023: [Conservation Finance Opportunities in Sentinel Landscapes](#) by REPI

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