



Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS)

The [Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability](#) (SERPPAS), established in 2005, is an innovative partnership among leaders from the Department of War (DOW), the Military Services, six states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina), and the federal natural resource, wildlife, ocean, and working lands agencies in the Southeast. SERPPAS brings together interagency and cross-sector partners in a collaborative forum to identify challenges and implement solutions where and when the interests of military readiness, conservation, working lands, and local communities intersect. For the last two decades, SERPPAS has a proven track record of providing coordinated regional leadership, promoting integrated mission-compatible land use outcomes, and enabling policy alignment across jurisdictions and scales.

SERPPAS Mission

To seize opportunities and solve problems that sustain and advance compatible landscapes essential to military readiness and provide mutual and multiple benefits to all the partners, the region, and the nation.

SERPPAS Vision

A sustainable Southeast where SERPPAS partners effectively collaborate to ensure the long-term viability of national defense operations, alongside resilient working lands, abundant natural resources, and thriving communities and economies.

Partners

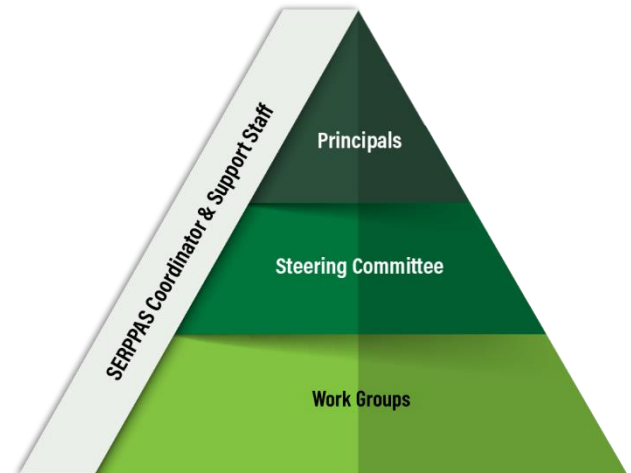
- Alabama
 - Florida
 - Georgia
 - Mississippi
 - North Carolina
 - South Carolina
 - Office of the Secretary of War
 - Navy Region Southeast
 - Marine Corps Installations East
 - Department of the Air Force
 - U.S. Army Environmental Command
 - U.S. Forest Service
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 - U.S. Geological Survey
- Non-governmental organizations and others are involved in the implementation of specific projects.

Partnership Governance and Strategic Plan Implementation

SERPPAS is a collaborative group of state and federal agencies organized in a structure to encourage open communication, build effective working relationships, and identify and act on opportunities for mutual gain for all partners.



- Principal members** – Senior leadership of participating state and federal agencies responsible for identifying priorities, developing strategies, making decisions, and providing overall leadership and direction on efforts undertaken by the partnership. In addition, the Principals act as the primary champions for SERPPAS-led efforts within their respective agencies. SERPPAS is co-chaired by one Principal representing the DOW’s Office of the Secretary of War and one Principal representing one of the state partners on a rotating basis. The Principals meet once a year to build and maintain relationships, guide the partnership, and advance regional leadership and collaboration.



- Steering Committee members** – Staff-level representatives from the participating state and federal agencies appointed by the Principal. The Steering Committee leads the development of projects and efforts supported by the SERPPAS Principals, communicates about SERPPAS within their agency, and represents the Principals’ interests in the work groups. The Steering Committee meets twice a year to share agency-specific information, identify opportunities to address shared challenges or advance priorities, and support the work group efforts to implement the SERPPAS Strategic Plan. Additionally, State representatives of the Steering Committee engage in a State Forum to increase connections across the states, identify regional priorities among the states, and encourage state engagement in the partnership.
- Work groups** – Established around topical focus areas determined by the partnership to engage various partners in developing and implementing objectives that will help achieve the partnership’s goals. Work group members include SERPPAS agency representatives and subject matter experts from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities, or any partner interested in or working on the focus area. Work groups meet regularly to share information, elevate challenges, compile resources, and promote successful practices or strategies in support of the goals.

SERPPAS Benefits to the Partners

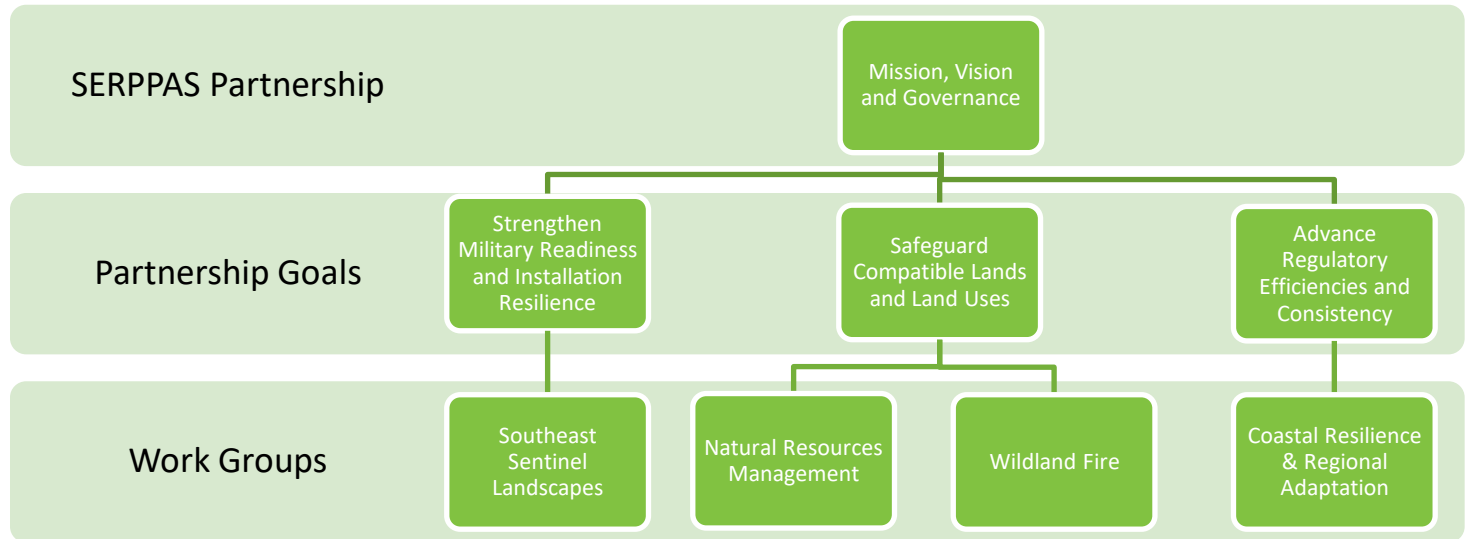
- Department of War and the Military Services** – Reduces vulnerability to encroachment through coordinated efforts with various partners, thereby supporting the installation’s ability to maintain testing and training in support of the warfighter while balancing community and environmental needs. It fosters strong relationships with external agencies, facilitates information sharing across military services, and helps identify solutions to systemic encroachment challenges, enhancing the resilience of the Southeast U.S. defense mission.
- States** – Fosters trusting relationships, provides direct engagement with the Department of War, promotes regional collaboration, and supports multi-state partnerships. It helps states align efforts with federal and military partners, facilitates knowledge sharing across states, and provides insights into federal requirements, grants, and emerging opportunities.
- Federal agencies** – Provides a valuable forum for relationship-building, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing across sectors. It fosters innovation, strategic problem-solving, and resource coordination to address national



security, economic, and environmental challenges. Additionally, it helps agencies align missions, understand scientific needs, and direct technical assistance effectively.

SERPPAS Strategic Plan

Informed by the SERPPAS Principals, the **SERPPAS Strategic Plan** serves as a framework for identifying and implementing collaborative and cooperative solutions to various challenges affecting national defense, natural resources, working lands, and community resilience in the Southeast region. The plan outlines a set of goals and objectives to help the Principals, Steering Committee, and work groups advance the partnership’s mission in the next three to five years.



Onboarding Materials

- [SERPPAS Fact Sheet](#)
- [2024 SERPPAS Strategic Plan](#) (2025 version coming soon)
- [SERPPAS Organizing for Impact – Roles & Responsibilities](#)
- [SERPPAS Commander’s Guide](#) (2022)
- [SERPPAS 101 Presentation](#) (to be updated)
- [SERPPAS Story Map](#) (coming soon)

SERPPAS Communications

SERPPAS provides regular communication to the SERPPAS Principals, Steering Committee, work groups, and a larger partner network. Most SERPPAS communication is sent from the general SERPPAS email (info@serppas.org) or the Coordinator, Addie Thornton (Addie.thornton@ag.tamu.edu). The regular communications from SERPPAS are as follows:

- **Quarterly SERPPAS Circular** – a collection of news, funding opportunities, and events from across the region, sent four times a year to the SERPPAS Network (sent from info@serppas.org)
- **Bimonthly Steering Committee Update** – a collection of updates sent every other month to the SERPPAS Steering Committee to include SERPPAS activities, announcements, and work group news (from the SERPPAS Coordinator)



- **Meeting Announcements** – All meeting information is sent to the Steering Committee leading up to and after the regularly scheduled meetings. Only Principals Meeting information is sent directly to the Principals (from the SERPPAS Coordinator). Work group meetings are sent to work group members (from info@serppas.org). One general announcement of each SERPPAS Meeting is sent to the entire SERPPAS network list serve (from info@serppas.org)
- **Funding and other Relevant Announcements** – Sent to the full SERPPAS listserv as needed (from info@serppas.org)

SERPPAS Meeting Schedule

- **Steering Committee Meetings** – occur twice a year, in the fall and spring, in Atlanta, GA.
 - Audience: SERPPAS Steering Committee members
 - In-person attendance is encouraged (virtual option provided)
- **Principals Meeting** – occurs once a year, historically in the April/May timeframe. The meeting travels around the Southeast, rotating between the six states and near different military installations.
 - Audience: SERPPAS Principals and Steering Committee members
 - In-person attendance is highly encouraged. No virtual option is offered.
- **Focused Meeting** – occurs once a year, off-cycle from the Principals Meeting, to accommodate a focus on a particular topic or to advance a specific interest of the SERPPAS Principals.
 - Audience: based on the topic of the meeting, usually with guidance and attendance from Steering Committee members
- **Work Group Meetings** – Occur monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly based on individual work group schedules.
 - Audience: anyone interested in the topics being discussed, Steering Committee members are encouraged to participate in the work groups and/or share with others in their agency