



SERPPAS Circular

January/February/March 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

- ▶ **SERPPAS Spring 2023 Steering Committee Meeting:** The SERPPAS Spring 2023 Steering Committee Meeting was held on March 8-9, 2023, in Atlanta, GA. The SERPPAS Steering Committee continues to support the work group actions in advancing the 2021+ SERPPAS Strategic Plan, identified topics and/or decision points for the SERPPAS Principals, and is equipped to prepare their Principals for attendance and engagement at the 2023 SERPPAS Principals Meeting. See the agenda with resources here: https://serppas.org/media/w4eorft0/serppas-spring-2023-steering-committee-meeting_agenda-with-resources.pdf (Please note some draft resources linked in this document may be outdated.)
- ▶ **Sea Grant/SERPPAS Coastal Resilience Workshop:** The *Advancing Coastal Resilience in Mississippi Defense Communities Workshop* was held on February 23, 2023, in Ocean Springs, MS. About 36 participants from the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, SERPPAS, Federal agencies, state, regional, and local government, installation staff, NASA Stennis, and NGOs were present. The workshop consisted of 10 informational sessions and an opportunity for breakout sessions for idea exchanges. The workshop was successful in bringing together key stakeholders and creating new relationships with the DoD. See the workshop report here: https://serppas.org/media/u4vin0q2/ms_sea-grant_-dod_workshop_report.pdf

IN THE NEWS

- ▶ **Spotlight**
 - (REPI) The REPI Program is thrilled to announce the 2023 REPI Challenge project recipients. For the 2023 REPI Challenge, the REPI Program contributed \$24 million in funds, coupled with \$50 million in partner contributions, to advance innovative projects that limit development pressures, enhance military installation resilience, and relieve current or anticipated environmental restrictions on military testing, training, or operations. By distributing funds across 13 projects, the REPI Challenge contributed to initiatives benefiting 26 installations and their communities across the country. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.repi.mil/Buffer-Projects/REPI-Challenge/>
 - (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 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/>

- (REPI) The REPI Program is pleased to release the first-ever Resilience Project Funding Guide. This guide serves as a one-stop shop for installations and partners to learn about more than 25 federal and non-federal resilience and conservation programs that can support existing or new REPI installation resilience projects. Installations and partners can leverage the guide to review funding opportunities for developing nature-based solutions near installations and ranges that preserve military missions, enhance habitats, increase climate resilience, and ensure military readiness. The REPI Resilience Project Funding Guide, Resilience Primer, and newly updated Resilience Fact Sheet can be found on the REPI Program website at www.repi.mil/Resilience/Resilience-Resources/.
- (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is pleased to announce the 2023 National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) Request for Proposals (RFP). NFWF will make investments in planning, design, and implementation of natural and nature-based solutions. The goal is to enhance protection for coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural coastal hazards and to improve habitats for fish and wildlife. Limited funding is available in partnership with the DoD to support projects advancing nature-based solutions *in the vicinity of* but not within the boundaries of DoD installations and ranges that enhance military resilience to coastal hazards. Pre-proposal are due **Wednesday, April 12, 2023, by 11:59pm ET**. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund/national-coastal-resilience-fund-2023-request-proposals>
- (NFWF) The NFWF Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund will award grants to restore, enhance and maintain bottomland hardwood forests and wetlands, implement conservation practices on working agricultural lands to improve soil health and water quality, and promote aquatic connectivity on private and public lands to improve wildlife habitat and water quality. Major funding is provided by the USDA NRCS, International Paper's Forestland Stewards Partnership, the Walton Family Foundation, and USFWS. Proposals are due **Thursday, April 13, 2023, by 11:59pm ET**. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/forestland-stewards/lower-mississippi-alluvial-valley-restoration-fund/lower-mississippi-alluvial-valley-restoration-fund-2023-request-proposals>
- (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is soliciting proposals within the Cumberland Plateau region that will help accelerate the restoration and enhancement of critical forest, grassland, and freshwater habitats and increase the voluntary adoption of conservation practices on working agricultural lands in the region to benefit wildlife and improve soil health, water quantity and quality, and carbon sequestration. Proposals are due by **Thursday, April 13, 2023, by 11:59pm ET**. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/forestland-stewards/cumberland-plateau-stewardship-fund/cumberland-plateau-stewardship-fund-2023-request-proposals>
- (NLC) The 2023 Network for Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund is now accepting proposals. The purpose of the Catalyst Fund is to accelerate the pace and practice of landscape conservation and stewardship across the United States. The Catalyst Fund makes strategic investments in strengthening the collaborative capacity of place-based, community-grounded Landscape Conservation Partnerships. **Proposals are due on Friday, April 21, 2023**. To learn more, please visit: <https://landscapeconservation.org/catalyst-fund/>



- (USDA) The FY23 National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Renewable Resource Extension Act – National Focus Fund Projects (RREA-NFF) request for application has been published. The purpose of the grant program is to provide funds for extension projects that have national or regional relevancy. In particular, the program supports extension projects that address emerging forest and rangeland resources through the adoption of climate-smart technologies among forest and rangeland owners. **Proposals are due Monday, May 8, 2023.** For more information, please visit: <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/renewable-resources-extension-act-national-focus-fund-projects>.
- (NEP) The request for proposals for the 2023 National Estuary Program Coastal Watersheds Grant is now available. The NEP CWG program supports projects that address urgent and challenging issues threatening the well-being of coastal and estuarine areas within a determined geographic region. Restore America’s Estuaries will administer grant program funds and select grantees through a two-step process: 1) letters of intent; and 2) full proposals by invitation only. **Letters of intent are due Friday, May 5, 2023.** For more details and the full RFP, please visit: <https://estuaries.org/coastal-watershed-grants/2023-coastal-watersheds-grant/>
- (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 2022 Sentinel Landscapes Accomplishments Report outlines how the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership enables the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense, Department of the Interior, and their on-the-ground partners to combine resources and align funding to pursue mutually beneficial land use goals in sentinel landscapes. The report also highlights case studies from the Fort Huachuca and Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscapes that illustrate how work through the Sentinel Landscape Partnership led to innovative outcomes for protecting and managing working lands. To view the report, please visit: <https://sentinellandscapes.org/media/cgxbk214/2022-sentinel-landscapes-accomplishments-report.pdf>
- (Avon Park SL) Conservation Florida, USDA NRCS, and DoD have conserved 1,250 acres that will protect vital wildlife habitats on the eastern edge of the Lake Wales Ridge in Highlands County, Florida. The property is a major connector piece in the Florida Wildlife Corridor, linking environmentally important and protected properties in the region. Arbuckle Creek Ranch is critical to protect and beneficial to the public because it helps filter and replenish drinking water within the Lake Istokpoga watershed, which drains into the Kissimmee River and on to Lake Okeechobee. It also supports local agriculture, aids military readiness, and provides habitat for native plants and wildlife. To read more, please visit: <https://conservationfla.org/cflnews/2023/2/7/conservation-florida-conserves-arbuckle-creek-ranch>
- (SLP) The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership released the March 2023 edition of its newsletter that shares success stories, announcements, and opportunities to the sentinel landscapes network and public.
 - March 2023: <https://bit.ly/40KwilE>



- (NWFLS) The Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape released the January, February, and March 2023 Updates newsletter that provides news, resources, partner collaboration, and partnership progress:
 - January: <https://serppas.org/media/vgqpgby2/nwfl-sl-update-january-2023.pdf>
 - February: <https://serppas.org/media/k51lqjhw/nwfl-sl-update-february-2023.pdf>
 - March: <https://serppas.org/media/mzjdr5y4/nwfl-sl-update-march-2023.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:
 - January: https://myemail.constantcontact.com/January-Bulletin-Network-for-Landscape-Conservation.html?soid=1128366788872&aid=7TF_rOrsxd
 - March: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/March-Bulletin-Network-for-Landscape-Conservation.html?soid=1128366788872&aid=iFwJga9IGPE>
 - (REPI) The February Newsletter is now available, providing exciting news and announcements related to the REPI community.
 - February: <https://bit.ly/40ElvJV>
- **Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species**
- (FL) Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Cabinet approved the investment of more than \$17.7 million to conserve more than 3,500 acres across the state. The five properties stretch from Nassau County south to Charlotte County and protect or buffer lands within the Florida Wildlife Corridor, a recently designated network of connected lands that is crucial for wildlife habitat. They also completed two Florida Forever projects. To read more, please visit: <https://www.flgov.com/2023/01/18/governor-ron-desantis-and-the-florida-cabinet-invest-over-17-7-million-to-conserve-3500-acres-in-florida/>
 - (USFWS) Through President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, the Department of the Interior is restoring our nation’s lands and waters and advancing climate resilience with a \$2 billion down payment that builds on existing DOI programs and invests in locally led landscape, partner driven restoration. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/interior-department-to-take-action-to-restore-lands-and-waters.pdf>
 - (NRCS) USDA NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife announced the launch of Bobscapes, a Mobile App to track Northern Bobwhite. Bobscapes is the newest online tool to join the suite of decision-support tools hosted on the Landscape Partnership Portal. “Bobscapes” Mobile App is a citizen science tool to help researchers better understand bobwhite population dynamics and help managers direct resources for habitat work to the areas where those investments will be most effective in recovering the species. To learn more, please visit: <https://bobscapes.org/>



- (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:
 - January: <https://serppas.org/media/wfqf5qp/january-2023-tall-timbers.pdf>
 - February: <https://serppas.org/media/arti0o10/february-2023-tall-timbers.pdf>
 - March: <https://serppas.org/media/plrj3tbn/march-2023-tall-timbers.pdf>
- (SPFFW) The Southeastern Partnership for Forests & Water released their quarterly newsletter containing news surrounding the pursuit of healthy Southeastern forested watersheds:
 - Spring 2023: <https://bit.ly/43sRfmX>
- (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.
 - January: <https://bit.ly/3KtUGSR>
 - February: <https://bit.ly/40ZU795>
 - March: <https://bit.ly/3zqsASi>

► **Southeast Prescribed Fire Initiative**

- (SERPPAS) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 75th, 76th, and 77th 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/414fvdj>
 - February: <https://bit.ly/3MlwmUV>
 - March: <https://bit.ly/3MjrQGf>
- (USDA) The Joint Chief's Landscape Restoration Partnership enables NRCS and USFS to collaborate with agricultural producers and forest landowners to invest in conservation and restoration at a big enough scale to make a difference. USDA will invest more than \$48.6 million this year through the Joint Chief's Landscape Restoration Partnership for projects that mitigate wildfire risk, improve water quality, restore forest ecosystems, and ultimately contribute to USDA's efforts to combat climate change. Through the new three-year projects, landowners will work with local USDA experts and partners to apply targeted forestry management practices on their land, such as thinning, hazardous fuel treatments, fire breaks and other systems to meet unique forestry challenges in their area. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/joint-chiefs-landscape-restoration-partnership>
- (NASF) The National Association of State Foresters and the Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils released the 2021 National Prescribed Fire Use Report. The report lists the main impediments to prescribed burning as identified by fire practitioners which revealed many familiar themes including those related to capacity, public perception, and liability. To read more, click here: https://www.stateforesters.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2021-National-Rx-Fire-Use-Report_FINAL.pdf
- (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/3GhPTBI>. This issue contains a number of research reports and more information on the [EPA's proposed changes to PM2.5](#).



- (TEA) The Ember Alliance released their newsletter, The Broadcast, sharing fire-related news around the country, as well as the group's work with partners nationwide to create a more fire resilient society through fire management and community engagement.

- March: <https://bit.ly/3KyZgQ2>

► **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**

- (SECAS) With the release of [Southeast Conservation Blueprint 2022](#), which replaces the standalone South Atlantic Blueprint, the South Atlantic resources have been transitioned over to a larger regional partnership—the Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS). The South Atlantic LCC website has been taken down, and that web address now redirects to the SECAS website. While the South Atlantic Blueprint newsletter is no longer active, news will continue to be shared through the SECAS newsletter the latest developments, opportunities to help improve the Blueprint, and reminders about the Third Thursday Web Forum series. To visit the SECAS website, please visit: <https://secassoutheast.org/>
- **NCDOT Nears Completion on its First Living Shoreline Project:** The North Carolina Department of Transportation, citing its commitment to consider nature-based solutions for resiliency, has partnered with the North Carolina Coastal Federation on a living shoreline project along the causeway between Swansboro and Cedar Point to protect N.C. 24. This living shoreline, expected to be completed this summer, is one of three being built along the causeway with the other two managed by the NC Coastal Federation. The first living shoreline was completed in July 2022 and the third will be built sometime this year. This project was pointed out to SERPPAS Principals during the mobile meeting of the 2022 Principals Meeting in Beaufort, NC. To learn more about the living shoreline project, please visit: <https://coastalreview.org/2023/03/ncdot-nears-completion-on-its-first-living-shoreline-project/>
- (Pew) The Florida Department of Environmental Protection approved an extensive plan for the Nature Coast Aquatic Preserve to conserve some waters off the state's west coast by expanding water quality monitoring, restoring damaged seagrass, and encouraging community groups to work together to address pollution and other problems. The preserve covers about 700 square miles and area hosts mangrove islands, salt marshes, oysters, sponges, corals, and more than 350,000 acres of seagrass—part of the largest seagrass bed in the Gulf of Mexico. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2023/03/14/plan-aims-to-protect-the-gulf-of-mexicos-largest-seagrass-bed>
- (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:
 - January: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2023/01/18/january-2023-newsletter/>
 - February: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2023/02/16/february-2023-newsletter/>
 - March: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2023/03/15/march-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:
 - January: <https://bit.ly/3MzDHjy>
 - February: <https://bit.ly/404qJ0i>
 - March: <https://bit.ly/3KqbHMN>



► Energy Development and Siting

- (REEO) The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office released its January, February, and March 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.
 - January: <https://serppas.org/media/bbbnfomj/southern-review-01-2023.pdf>
 - February: <https://serppas.org/media/kb4bfzme/southern-review-02-2023.pdf>
 - March: <https://serppas.org/media/nfza5tqt/southern-review-03-2023.pdf>

► Military Services News

- (SFE) In March 2022, the Southern Fire Exchange joined the Integrated Research Management Team (IRMT) at Fort Stewart in southeast Georgia for an interagency, collaborative DoD Wildland Fire Science Initiative research burn event. To view the two videos SFE produced from that visit, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLg38mXDqkgvNY9Ny81-KdXQt06twX4orH>
- (DoD) The Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) are joining forces to preserve land around military installations and improve access to outdoor recreation for millions of Americans and defense communities. Through the new Readiness and Recreation Initiative, DOI's National Park Service will provide \$40 million in funding from unobligated Land and Water Conservation Fund (LCWF) balances to safeguard natural areas, protect water resources, preserve cultural heritage sites, and provide recreation opportunities for the public. The REPI Program will provide a matching \$40 million in funds to support projects within an existing REPI agreement area or an area that is actively developing a REPI agreement area. To read the full press release, please visit: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-and-defense-departments-launch-readiness-and-recreation-initiative-preserve>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 22, 2023: [Party for the Pine](#) (Southern Pines, NC)
- April 25-28, 2023: [Prescribed Fire for Wildlife Class](#) (Haines City, FL)
- May 9-10, 2023: [North Carolina Oyster Summit: Resilient Coasts for Future Roasts](#) (Raleigh, NC)
- **May 18-19, 2023: 2023 SERPPAS Principals Meeting (Jacksonville, FL)**
- May 17-18, 2023: [Blue Carbon Law Symposium](#) (Athens, GA)
- June 6-8, 2023: [Groundcover Restoration Academy](#) (Lake City, FL)
- June 12-15, 2023: [Southern Group of Foresters 2023 Annual Meeting](#) (Oklahoma City, OK)
- 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 TBD, 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](#) (Tyler, TX)



UPCOMING WEBINARS

- ▶ Archived: All Southern Fire Exchange webinars are recorded and housed on the [SFE YouTube channel](#).
- ▶ Archived: [2023 REPI Challenge Project Spotlight Webinar](#) by REPI
- ▶ Archived: [Climate Support for Species Status Assessments](#) by SEACASC
- ▶ Archived: [2023 REPI Report to Congress](#) by REPI
- ▶ April 12, 2023: [Communicating Risk in a Changing Climate](#) by SEACASC
- ▶ April 20, 2023: [Sea Level Rise and Salinity Impacts on At-risk Native Freshwater Mussels](#) by SEACASC
- ▶ April 26, 2023: [10-Year Anniversary of the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership](#) by REPI
- ▶ August 9, 2023: [Connecting Counties & Military Installations](#) by REPI
- ▶ May 4, 2023: [Risks, Resilience and Readiness of Military Lands Facing Coastal Flooding](#) by SERDP-ESTCP
- ▶ May 4, 2023: [SFE Webinar: Slack and Scarcity in Wildland Fire](#) by Southern Fire Exchange
- ▶ 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
- ▶ 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.