2026 SERPPAS Principals Meeting
Mobile Meeting Stations

Station 1: Prescribed Fire

Topics:

- Discuss the importance of fire on the landscape
- Benefits to longleaf ecosystem, wildlife and Fort Bragg
- Engaging with private landowners through the Prescribed Burn Associations
- Public lands perspective – timing of prescribed fire for species

Speakers:

- Jesse Wimberley, Sandhills Prescribed Fire Association
- Gabriella Garrison, NC Wildlife Resources Commission

Station 2: Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program at Fort Bragg

Topics:

- Importance of conserving buffer lands for military readiness
- Role of REPI and NGO partners
- Secondary benefits to wildlife, natural resources, etc.,
- Importance of partnerships

Speakers:

- Brian Williams, REPI Program Manager, Fort Bragg Range Operations
- Jessie Wilson, Three Rivers Land Trust
- Jeff Marcus, The Nature Conservancy

Station 3: RCW Cavity Trees

Topics:

- RCW management
- Importance of well-managed old growth longleaf
- Recent downlisting
- Connection to the history with the Army

Speakers:

- Pete Campbell, Retired USFWS
- Lydie Costes, Sandhills Conservation Planner, The Nature Conservancy
- Susan Miller, District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service, Uwharrie National Forest

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Partner Expo

Fort Bragg

- Fort Bragg's mission and vision are to deliver modernized infrastructure, quality of life, and resilient readiness that support global response forces and their families, while serving as the Army's premier power projection platform and installation of choice.

NC State Parks/Weymouth Woods Nature Preserve

- Weymouth Woods-Sandhills Nature Preserve is a protected natural area in Moore County, North Carolina, preserving one of the last remaining stands of longleaf pine forest that once dominated the southeastern United States. The park features centuries-old trees, including some of the oldest known longleaf pines, and supports rare species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker and unique Sandhills plant life. Visitors can explore hiking trails, observe wildlife, and enjoy quiet recreation in a historically and ecologically significant landscape.

RLUAC (Fort Bragg Regional Land Use Advisory Committee)

- The Fort Bragg Regional Land Use Advisory Commission (RLUAC) is a regional organization that promotes coordination between military installations and local governments in the North Carolina Sandhills, focusing on compatible land use, sustainable growth, and environmental stewardship. Its mission is to serve as a forum for communication, provide guidance and analysis on development and land use, and help protect both military readiness and critical natural resources.

Sandhills Prescribed Burn Association

- The mission of the Sandhills Prescribed Burn Association (SPBA) is to assist landowners in restoring the Longleaf ecosystem through prescribed burns. The SPBA provides training, equipment, and support to ensure safe and effective burns, helping landowners manage their lands sustainably. The association is a community-led organization that works to educate and support anyone interested in the use of prescribed fire as a management tool on privately owned land. The SPBA aims to overcome obstacles to using prescribed fire, which is crucial for the economic, cultural, and environmental future of the region.

The Nature Conservancy/North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership

- The North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership (NCSCP) is a collaborative initiative uniting federal, state, and nonprofit conservation organizations to share knowledge and resources focused on protecting the rapidly disappearing longleaf pine ecosystem and supporting the recovery of threatened plants, animals, and fungi in the North Carolina landscape. Established in April 2000, the partnership works to protect, enhance, and restore this distinctive landscape, recognizing that although each member organization has its own priorities, cooperation and coordinated action offer the most effective path to achieving shared conservation goals.

NCSU Forestry Extension

- NC State Extension Forestry is an outreach program of North Carolina State University Extension that supports forest stewardship by connecting research with practical application. It works with landowners, natural resource professionals, and communities to provide guidance on forest management, conservation, and economic opportunities, helping ensure

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

- The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), established in 1947, is the state agency responsible for conserving fish and wildlife resources through research, science-based management, public engagement, and law enforcement. In addition to managing wildlife populations and habitats, the NCWRC enforces the state's fishing, hunting, trapping, and boating laws. Funded primarily through license sales and federal grants, the agency employs about 800 staff statewide and works to protect wildlife and habitats while providing opportunities for hunting, fishing, boating, and other outdoor recreation.

Three Rivers Land Trust

- Three Rivers Land Trust is dedicated to permanently conserving the natural areas, family farms, scenic rivers, and historic landscapes of North Carolina's central Piedmont and Sandhills regions, where rapid population growth is increasing pressure on land and water resources. Since 1995, the organization has protected more than 50,000 acres of important habitat, farmland, and waterways, helping ensure clean water, healthy wildlife populations, and outdoor recreation opportunities for future generations. Formerly known as The Land Trust for Central North Carolina, the organization adopted the name Three Rivers Land Trust in 2018 and expanded its impact further through a 2019 merger with the Sandhills Area Land Trust

The Longleaf Alliance

- The Longleaf Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring and sustaining the longleaf pine ecosystem, a once-dominant forest stretching from eastern Texas to southern Virginia that now exists at only a fraction of its historic range. Through science-based outreach, education, research, and partnerships, the Alliance supports landowners, agencies, and conservation groups in promoting healthy longleaf forests that provide important ecological benefits, economic opportunities, cultural history, and wildlife habitat across the southeastern United States.
- North Carolina's forests remain healthy, productive, and sustainable for future generations.

U.S. Forest Service/Joint Chiefs Project

- The Uwharries to Sandhills Phase 2 project in central North Carolina focuses on reducing wildfire risk and improving forest health across public and private lands. It includes restoring about 18,000 acres in Uwharrie National Forest conducts prescribed burning and forest management while helping landowners safely conduct controlled burns. The project also aims to improve water quality and supply key watersheds through collaborative efforts with regional partners.

Working Lands Trust

- Founded in 2013 through a partnership between the North Carolina Forestry Association, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, and community conservation leaders, the Trust was created to

meet growing interest among landowners in conserving working farms and forests. Since earning 501(c)(3) status in 2014, the Trust has built strong public and private partnerships to permanently protect more than 17,000 acres across North Carolina. Guided by its mission to sustain the state's food and fiber supply from the mountains to the coast, the Trust works to keep land in private hands, support rural economies, and preserve North Carolina's working landscape for future generations.