



SERPPAS 20 Years of Impact

Key Milestones and Outcomes 2005 - 2025

2005 – 2010: Building a Regional Partnership

SERPPAS was established in **2005** to bring together state, military and federal leaders to address shared challenges at the intersection of **military readiness, natural resource conservation, and regional growth.**

Key accomplishments during this formative period include:

- Established the **SERPPAS mission, vision, governance structure.**
- Created **Steering Committee, project teams, and the first strategic plans.**
- Launched early collaborative initiatives focused on:
 - **Longleaf pine ecosystem restoration**
 - **Red-cockaded woodpecker translocation**
 - **Gopher tortoise Candidate Conservation Agreement**
- Initiated regional **GIS mapping and data integration efforts**, known as the foundation of the “**SERPPAS Good Map.**”
- Strengthened coordination between **military installations, state agencies, and conservation organizations** across the Southeast.
- Contributed to the launch of **America’s Longleaf Restoration Initiative** and regional conservation planning.

2011 – 2016: Advancing Landscape-Scale Solutions

As the partnership matured, SERPPAS expanded its work to address **landscape-scale conservation and land-use compatibility.**

Key accomplishments include:

- Supported development of the **REPI Challenge** and expanded partnerships protecting lands surrounding military installations.
- Advanced the **Southeast Prescribed Fire Strategy**, promoting the use of prescribed fire to restore longleaf ecosystems and reduce wildfire risk.
- Launched initiatives to **keep working forests and agricultural lands viable**, recognizing their importance to conservation and military readiness.
- Helped catalyze the **Sentinel Landscapes Partnership**, including support for the **Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape.**
- Explored **market-based conservation approaches**, including biomass energy and conservation finance.
- Hired the **first SERPPAS Coordinator (2016)** to strengthen partnership capacity and coordination.

2017 – 2020: Scaling Regional Collaboration and Innovation

SERPPAS began focusing on **regional planning, shared data, and emerging threats to military readiness and ecosystems.**

Key accomplishments include:



- Advanced development of the **SERPPAS Good Map**, integrating spatial data on military mission footprints, conservation priorities, and land use on the REPI Interactive Map.
- Contributed to the development of the **Southeast Fire Map**, improving regional data on prescribed burning.
- Expanded partnerships to address **energy siting, coastal resilience, and natural hazards**.
- Strengthened engagement with **NOAA, Sea Grant, and coastal partners**.
- Convened focused workshops on **prescribed fire, mapping, and coastal resilience**.
- Provided regional input to federal programs including **REPI and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Coastal Resilience Fund**.

2021 - 2025: Leading Regional Resilience Efforts

In recent years, SERPPAS has emerged as a **regional leader in installation resilience, coastal conservation, and collaborative landscape planning**.

Major accomplishments include:

- Launched the **South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative (SASMI)** to conserve and restore salt marsh ecosystems critical to coastal resilience.
- Advanced the focus on resilience in **Sentinel Landscapes** and strengthened coordination across landscapes in the Southeast.
- Advanced **nature-based solutions** for coastal protection, including living shorelines and beneficial use of dredged material.
- Established partnerships with **conservation and resilience funders** to accelerate project implementation.
- Received recognition from the **Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies** for natural resources partnership leadership in adaptation.
- Convened regional workshops on **coastal resilience and adaptation, and prescribed fire smoke management**.
- Developed tools and guidance to support **public health messaging and regulatory coordination for prescribed fire**.
- Released the [SERPPAS Good Map](#) – the first-ever tool specifically created for SERPPAS priorities and partners to enhance collective action.

Enduring Impact

Over two decades, SERPPAS has been a model for effective coordination and demonstrated the power of regional collaboration to:

- **Protect military readiness**
- **Conserve critical ecosystems and species**
- **Sustain working lands**
- **Strengthen coastal and installation resilience**

Through strategic partnerships, shared data, and innovative solutions, SERPPAS continues to advance **compatible landscapes that support national defense, healthy ecosystems, and resilient communities across the Southeast**.