



SERPPAS Circular

July/August/September 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 2023 Fall Steering Committee Meeting:** The SERPPAS Steering Committee met in Atlanta on September 12-13, 2023, to debrief on outcomes and actions from the 2023 Principals Meeting, and to continue partnership engagement and advance the implementation of the 2021+ SERPPAS Strategic Plan. See the agenda with resources here: https://serppas.org/media/k25h1uop/202309_serppas-steering-committee-meeting_agenda_with-presentations.pdf (Please note some draft resources linked in this document may be outdated.)
- ▶ **SAVE THE DATE – 2024 SERPPAS Principals Meeting:** We are targeting the week of May 6, 2024, for the 2024 SERPPAS Principals Meeting, in Gulfport, MS. More information will be on the SERPPAS website as it becomes available.

IN THE NEWS

- ▶ **Spotlight**
 - (EPA) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Energy, and DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory announced the availability of up to \$350 million in formula grant funding to help monitor and reduce methane emissions, one of the biggest drivers of climate change, from the oil and gas sector and for environmental restoration of well sites. The funding, provided by the Inflation Reduction Act, will also help oil and gas well owners, as well as operators of applicable facilities, voluntarily and permanently reduce methane emissions from leaks and daily operations of low-producing conventional wells on non-federal lands. To read more, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-availability-350-million-grants-states-cut>
 - (NLC) The Network for Landscape Conservation announced 15 Catalyst Fund grant awards for Partnerships working to implement place-based, community-grounded conservation at the necessary landscape scale. Catalyst Fund grants are intended to allow for strategic investments in strengthening a Partnership's collaborative capacity in ways that create enduring forward momentum within the Partnership and accelerate conservation progress into the future. To learn more about the details of each grant award, please visit: <https://landscapeconservation.org/catalyst-fund/2023-catalyst-fund-grant-awards/>
 - (OLDCC) The Department of Defense awarded 17 Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP) grants from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation, totaling approximately \$100 million, including grants in Florida and Georgia. DCIP is a competitive program for states and communities to undertake infrastructure enhancements to support military value, the training of cadets at independent cover educational institutions, installation resiliency, and/or family quality of



life that benefits their local installations. To read more, please visit:

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3534765/department-of-defense-approves-100-million-in-grants-under-the-defense-communit/>

- (DOI) The Department of the Interior announced that all bureaus and offices have finalized sustainable procurement plans to phase out single-use plastics on public lands within the next decade. The Department-wide plans support Secretary's Order (S.O.) 3407, which Secretary Deb Haaland signed in June 2022, to reduce the procurement, sale and distribution of single-use plastic products. S.O. 3407 is part of the implementation of President Biden's Executive Order 14057, which calls for federal agencies to take actions to reduce and phase out procurement of single-use plastic products to the maximum extent practicable. To read the full article, please visit: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-announces-progress-phase-out-single-use-plastics-across-public>
- (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) In July 2023, the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership announced the designation of the Virginia Security Corridor consisting of two Sentinel Landscapes—the Potomac Sentinel Landscape and the Tidewater Sentinel Landscape. These two new Sentinel Landscapes connect two previously designated landscapes: Middle Chesapeake and Eastern North Carolina. Together, these three sites cover an area larger than the state of West Virginia in which federal, state, and private entities can cooperatively manage terrestrial and marine ecosystems to simultaneously serve environmental, economic, and national security interests. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2023/07/10/virginia-could-see-conservation-gains-under-new-federal-designation> and <https://americaslongleaf.org/news/2023/virginia-security-corridor-sentinel-landscapes-designated/>
- (Conservation Florida) Conservation Florida, in partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Department of Defense, has permanently conserved the 2,526-acre Role Tran property (previously known as Triple Diamond Ranch) in Okeechobee County. This protection project further links the Florida Wildlife Corridor. To learn more, please visit: <https://conservationfla.org/cflnews/2023/7/20/roletranprotected>
- (APAFR SL) The Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape has been engaged in efforts to bring the Florida grasshopper sparrow back from the brink of extinction. To read more about these efforts, please visit: <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/floridas-vanishing-sparrows>
- (DoD) The Department of Defense and the Open Land Trust have announced the permanent protection of 488.33 acres, known as "Bowers Farm," on the South Wimbee River in the St. Helena Sound in the ACE Basin. The conservation easement was funded by the DoD and South Carolina Conservation Bank and is held in partnership between DoD and Open Land Trust. To learn more,



please visit: <https://yourislandnews.com/conservation-easement-protects-land-in-mcas-beauforts-critical-flight-space/>

- (NWFLS) The Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape released the July, August, and September 2023 Updates newsletter that provides news, resources, partner collaboration, and partnership progress:
 - July: https://serppas.org/media/gzini0lw/nwfl-sl_07_2023.pdf
 - August: https://serppas.org/media/0qykufev/nwfl-sl_08_2023.pdf
 - September: https://serppas.org/media/wfaiqwoo/nwfl-sl_09_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:
 - July: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/July-Bulletin-Network-for-Landscape-Conservation.html?soid=1128366788872&aid=q45QQy9ShWQ>
 - September: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/September-Bulletin-Network-for-Landscape-Conservation.html?soid=1128366788872&aid=HO1wfJWuHr8>
- (REPI) The August Newsletter is now available, providing exciting news and announcements related to the REPI community.
 - August: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USGOVREPI/bulletins/36dd157>

► **Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species**

- (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the addition of 446 acres to the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge near Charleston, SC, a key acquisition that will boost wintering wetland habitat for migratory birds and recreational opportunities for bird lovers. The South Carolina land purchase was approved by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission chaired by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. To read more, please visit: <https://myrtlebeachsc.com/us-fish-and-wildlife-service-announces-major-expansion-of-cape-romain-national-wildlife-refuge/>
- (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Water Management Plan on August 8, 2023, which provides a roadmap for refuge management in the coming years in a way that provides a clear understanding of the interconnectedness of water movement through the refuge and communities surrounding it. The plan, which incorporates the diverse perspectives shared by members of the local community, includes strategies for expanding stakeholder engagement efforts and developing new educational tools. It identifies a series of complementary and supportive strategies aimed at broadening the understanding of water movement on the landscape across private lands, identifying barriers to water movement or other issues across the landscape. To view the full plan, please visit: https://serppas.org/media/qq0ni31y/plnwr_final-wmp-and-ea_signed.pdf
- (Jones Center) A new study from the Jones Center at Ichauway shows the positive connection between restoring longleaf forests and enhancing stream flow to combat water scarcity in the Southeast. Researchers found that areas with abundant longleaf pine woodlands had more streamflow than average and higher streamflow during droughts. Check out the full publication: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969723046247?via%3Dihub>



- (TT) The July, August, and September 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:
 - July: https://serppas.org/media/wjvi0fjs/tall-timbers_07_2023.pdf
 - August: https://serppas.org/media/u5ul2kd0/tall-timbers_08_2023.pdf
 - September: https://serppas.org/media/ijtpu00q/tall-timbers_09_2023.pdf
- (SPFFW) The Southeastern Partnership for Forests & Water released their quarterly newsletter containing news surrounding the pursuit of healthy Southeastern forested watersheds:
 - Fall 2023: <https://bit.ly/3ZK1KRF>
- (KF) Keeping Forests has released the July and August editions of For Our Forests, a newsletter focused on keeping partners and stakeholders up to date.
 - July: <https://bit.ly/45d5zzC>
 - August: <https://bit.ly/46pJyi6>

► Southeast Prescribed Fire Initiative

- (USFS) The U.S. Forest Service and HBCUs are uniting to boost diversity in wildland firefighting through an apprenticeship program that seeks to increase the number of Black fire personnel. To read more about the program, please visit: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/us-forest-service-hbcus-unite-boost-diversity-wildland-firefighting-rcna93129>
- (ALRI) America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative released the [2022 Range-wide Accomplishment Report](#), its annual report on longleaf restoration efforts of the past year, over 2.2 million acres of management activities. Among the most notable accomplishments for 2022 is a record 1.7 million acres of prescribed burning. To read more, please visit: <https://americaslongleaf.org/news/2023/2022-alri-accomplishments-set-the-stage-for-future-success/> and <https://americaslongleaf.org/resources/2022-range-wide-accomplishment-report/>
- (UF IFAS Extension) A new fire science fact sheet co-produced by the Southern Fire Exchange and the University of Florida IFAS summarizes the latest research on the impact of prescribed fire on southeastern tick populations. This new fact sheet dives into the topic and provides a convenient summary of the latest research. To learn more and to view the fact sheet, please visit: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FR469>
- (SERPPAS) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 81st, 82nd, and 83rd editions of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here:
 - July: <https://bit.ly/4563e9K>
 - August: <https://bit.ly/46gNmmo>
 - September: <https://bit.ly/3ZDXira>
- (SFE) The Southern Fire Exchange released its bimonthly newsletter, Fire Lines, sharing research, resources, news and upcoming events from around the Southeast and nationwide.
 - July: <https://bit.ly/3F47VpP>
 - September: <https://bit.ly/48B3yQC>



► Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation

- (St. Johns WMD) Rising sea levels are threatening communities across the Gulf Coast—but restoring vital coastal wetlands such as salt marsh, seagrass, and mangroves can boost climate resilience and mitigate impacts. To view the full article and learn more about Coastal Wetland restoration efforts, please visit:
https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e4d0f606c20240999f92fa76fe9e6e86?utm_campaign=2023-09-05+SFN&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Pew&subscriberkey=00Q7V00001qG9BAUA0
- (EPA) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of the Army announced a final rule amending the 2023 definition of “waters of the United States” to conform with the recent Supreme Court decision in Sackett v. EPA. The agencies are committed to following the law and implementing the Clean Water Act to deliver the essential protections that safeguard the nation’s waters from pollution and degradation. To learn more about the ruling, please visit:
<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/conform-recent-supreme-court-decision-epa-and-army-amend-waters-united-states-rule>
- (NOAA) Explore timely and reliable information on past, present, and future drought conditions to increase drought early warning capacity and support decision making across the ACF Basin with the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin Drought & Water Dashboard. To view the dashboard, please visit: <https://www.drought.gov/watersheds/acf-dashboard>
- (SECASC) The SE Climate Adaptation Science Center released its July, August, and September Newsletters, which includes climate related news, resources, publications, webinars and more for the Southeast region:
 - July: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2023/07/18/july-2023-newsletter/>
 - August: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2023/08/23/august-2023-newsletter/>
 - September: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2023/09/20/september-2023-newsletter/>
- (SECAS) The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy released its July, August, and September Newsletters, which combines all the blogs written on the SECAS website during the previous month:
 - July: <https://bit.ly/46rvSmQ>
 - August: <https://bit.ly/46zClwd>
 - September: <https://bit.ly/3LNroz1>
- (SASMI) The South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative released its July, August, and September Newsletters, which includes salt marsh related news, updates on SASMI efforts, and relevant funding opportunities.
 - July: https://serppas.org/media/aj1elhoq/sasmi_07_2023.pdf
 - August: https://serppas.org/media/ouemgv0q/sasmi_08_2023.pdf
 - September: https://serppas.org/media/anjn3aci/sasmi_09_2023.pdf

► Energy Development and Siting

- (DOE) The U.S. Department of Energy launched a new initiative to support states and local communities as they plan for and evaluate proposed development of large renewable energy facilities. The Renewable Energy Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP) program will support the creation of new, or the expansion of existing, state-based programs or initiatives that improve renewable energy planning and siting processes for local communities. To learn more about the R-STEP Program, please visit: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/us-department-energy-launches-program-expand-state-and-local-capacity-renewable>



- (REEO) The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office released its July, August, and September 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.
 - July: <https://serppas.org/media/enrh5tou/southern-review-07-2023.pdf>
 - August: <https://serppas.org/media/05accifs/southern-review-08-2023.pdf>
 - September: <https://serppas.org/media/owcpuzgt/southern-review-09-2023.pdf>
- ▶ **Military Services News**
 - (Air & Space Forces) The first article in a two-part series on how Tyndall Air Force Base is working to protect itself from future hurricanes. To read both parts, please visit: <https://www.airandspaceforces.com/tyndall-air-force-base-hurricane-part-1/>
 - (DoD) Episode 189 of America Adapts features interviews conducted at the DoD Climate Resilience Workshop in St. Louis, Missouri. The DoD extended an invitation to podcast host Doug Parsons to conduct interviews with key leaders within the DoD and their external partners who are actively involved in adaptation planning around military installations. To listen to the full podcast recording, please visit: <https://www.americadapts.org/episodes/the-us-department-of-defense-adapts-to-climate-change-the-podcast>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ October 15-18, 2023: [77th Annual SEAFWA Conference](#) (Corpus Christi, TX)
- ▶ October 17-19, 2023: [Longleaf Academy: Groundcover 101](#) (Moncks Corner, SC)
- ▶ October 27, 2023: [Learn & Burn – Prescribed Fire Workshop in Georgia](#) (Alapaha, GA)
- ▶ November 6-10, 2023: [6th National Cohesive Wildlife Fire Management Strategy Workshop](#) (Santa Fe, NM)
- ▶ February 3, 2024: [Red Hills Fire Festival](#) (Tallahassee, FL)

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- ▶ Archived: All Southern Fire Exchange webinars are recorded and housed on the [SFE YouTube channel](#).
- ▶ Archived: [SECASC Science Seminar – Tribal Climate Adaptation Priorities and Opportunities for the Southeast CASC](#) by SECASC
- ▶ Series: [Third Thursday Forum](#) by SECASC
- ▶ Series: [Landscape Conservation Webinar Series](#) by the Network for Landscape Conservation
- ▶ Series: [SERDP & ESTCP Webinar Series](#) by SERDP & ESTCP
- ▶ October 18, 2023: [Partnerships to Advance Climate Resilience in Sentinel Landscapes](#) by REPI
- ▶ October 19, 2023: [Climate Change Impacts on Brook Trout Populations in the Southeastern USA](#) by SECASC
- ▶ 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