

SERPPAS Circular March/April/May 2020

The SERPPAS Circular is a bimonthly 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 2018 – 2020 SERPPAS Strategic Plan. If you have information to share in the next SERPPAS Circular, please email your input directly to the SERPPAS Coordinator, Addie Thornton, at Addie.Thornton@ag.tamu.edu. You may also contact her at 919-515-3931.

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Given the uncertainties of how the next few months will play out with COVID-19 and what the North Carolina state guidance will be in September, we have decided to move our rescheduled 15 Year Anniversary Principals Meeting in Beaufort, NC, to **May 4-5**, **2021.** Please mark your calendars!

In place of any in-person meetings this year, we have decided to provide a few virtual sessions to allow the partnership to engage, stay connected and continue to move our priorities forward. We will be sending more detailed information soon, but please save the dates on your calendar for the following virtual sessions:

- August TBD, 2020 SERPPAS Steering Committee Virtual Session (Time TBD)
- Tuesday, September 15, 2020 SERPPAS Principals Virtual Session (Time TBD)
- Wednesday, September 16, 2020 SERPPAS Coastal Resilience Virtual Session (Time TBD)

Thank you for understanding these changes, as the health and safety of everyone is our highest priority. We hope you will still plan to engage in these virtual sessions to allow us to advance the <u>SERPPAS objectives</u> across the region.

As we continue to navigate the road ahead, I found these "7 Tips For Effective Remote Collaboration" from the Institute for Conservation Leadership helpful as we consider how to engage and collaborate in this new normal: <u>https://www.icl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ICL-Remote-Collaboration-Tips-2020.pdf.</u> This is just one of *many* online resources out there to help us adapt to these new challenges. Please feel free to send me other resources you have found to be helpful, and I would be happy to share them with our SERPPAS network. - Addie Thornton, SERPPAS Coordinator, addie.thornton@ag.tamu.edu

IN THE NEWS

- Spotlight
 - ► (OEA) The Office of Economic Adjustment has announced an opportunity for State and local governments, and not-for-profit, member owned utility services to receive federal funding from OEA to address deficiencies in community infrastructure supportive of a military installation, under the Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program. Proposals are being accepted until June 26, 2020, for grants for the construction of off-base infrastructure. Projects that have a cost-share and have been endorsed by the local installation will receive a more favorable evaluation. Proposed projects must request at least \$250,000, but no more than \$25 million and they must be ready for immediate execution (i.e. acquire permits within 6 months and start construction within 12 months). A pre-proposal webinar will be held on June 2, 2020, at 3pm



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EDT. To learn more, please visit: <u>https://oea.gov/defense-community-infrastructure-pilot-program-dcip</u> and <u>https://oea.gov/sites/default/files/OEA_DCIP-FFO.pdf</u>

- ► (SLP) The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership released a 12 minute short-documentary of the longer *The Sentinels* documentary. Directed by award-winning filmmakers, this short-documentary tells the inspirational stories of the farmers, ranchers, conservationists, and military bases that are working together under the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership to create a more sustainable future. Founded in 2013 by the U.S. Department of Defense, Department of Agriculture, and Department of the Interior, the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership works across conventional boundaries to strengthen military readiness, conserve natural resources, and bolster agricultural economies. To view the video, please visit: https://sentinellandscapes.org/about/resources/
- (DoD) U.S. Department of Defense leadership and the SMR Planning Committee have made the difficult decision to postpone the 2020 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference planned for August 10-13, 2020, in San Antonio, TX. Given the continued developments of the novel corona virus (COVID-19), public health guidance, and the uncertainty of future travel restrictions, DoD is working to reschedule the conference in the summer of 2022 to provide the experience you expect in a safe environment. For more information, please visit: http://smrconference.org/
- ► (EPIC) The Conservation of Defense is a new 40-page analysis from the Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC) that looks in depth at programs and initiatives used by the U.S. military to advance its mission and to benefit conservation. The report also discusses new initiatives that could dramatically expand national defense and conservation goals. The report is based on dozens of interviews and a series of roundtable discussions with military conservation leaders, and attempts to look at what the military and conservation partners could accomplish over the next 10-15 years. To learn more, click here: <u>http://policyinnovation.org/wpcontent/uploads/Conservation-of-Defense.pdf</u>
- Sentinel Landscapes
 - (NLC) The feature story in the Network for Landscape Conservation March newsletter highlights the Sentinel Landscape Partnership and the release of the 12-minute short-documentary, showcasing the innovative and impactful work unfolding in this realm across the country. To read the full article Sentinel Landscapes: Uniting People, Securing the Future, please visit: <u>http://landscapeconservation.org/knowledge-center/stories/sentinel-landscapes-uniting-peoplesecuring-the-future/</u>
 - (TNC) The Nature Conservancy and partners, including the REPI Program, announced the protection of the critical and diverse landscapes of Rafter T Ranch, a working cattle ranch of more than five thousand acres located along the eastern edge of the Lake Wales Ridge in Sebring. The protection of Rafter T Ranch advances the collective conservation effort designated by the Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) Sentinel Landscape in which the property is located. To read more, please visit: https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/florida-biodiverse-rafter-t-ranch-protected/
 - ► (GASL) The Georgia Sentinel Landscape recently received a \$2.1 million award from the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) award, one of the first under the 2018 Farm Bill. The RCPP award will allow for Georgia Sentinel Landscape partners to address certain



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land conservation needs and support agricultural producers while enhancing military readiness goals. To read more, click here: <u>https://www.georgiaconservancy.org/land/rcpp-grant</u>

- (REPI) The April REPI Newsletters are now available, providing exciting news and announcements related to the REPI community To view, click here: https://repiprogram.createsend1.com/t/ViewEmail/d/5070E03B8291606A2540EF23F30FEDED
- (KP) The Keeping Forests Partnership recently underwent a rebranding process and created a digital two-pager communication document to share with anyone who might be interested. There are three versions to the document, each only varying in the headline title and supporting photography to suit difference audiences. You can find each version below:
 - Keeping Forests: They're Working for You. We're Working for Them.
 - <u>Keeping Forests: The Mission-Critical Movement for Forests</u>
 - Keeping Forests: Support Our Planets Hardest Workers
- (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:
 - March: <u>https://myemail.constantcontact.com/March-Bulletin-Network-for-Landscape-</u> <u>Conservation.html?soid=1128366788872&aid=StmrroI6JQM</u>

• Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species

- ► (ALRI) The America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative Range-wide Accomplishment Report for 2019 is now available. Over 1.7 million acres of accomplishments were recorded in 2019, including restoration and conservation activities such as prescribed fire, land protection, and new longleaf establishment. This year is particularly special as it marks the 10-year anniversary of the federal Memorandum of Understanding between the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, and the Interior that helped establish ALRI, one of the most successful large landscape restoration partnerships in the country. For more information and to view the full report, please visit: http://www.americaslongleaf.org/news/2020/alri-illustrates-substantial-gains-in-2019-range-wide-accomplishment-report/
- (NRCS) The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service recently released the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Restoration FY20-24 Implementation Strategy. The five-year strategy provides guidance on restoring, improving, and maintaining longleaf pine forests in the Southeastern U.S. by focusing on four conservation actions to address threats to and needs of the longleaf ecosystem: vegetation management, prescribed fire, longleaf establishment, and conservation easements. The Implementation Strategy outlines the voluntary conservation actions private landowners can take to enhance their longleaf stands, as well as participate in advantageous technical and financial assistance programs. To view the full Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Restoration FY20-24 Implementation Strategy, click here: https://serppas.org/media/3034/nrcs_longleaf_pine_strategy_march_25_2020-1.pdf.
- (TNC) The Nature Conservancy released a new feature story, *Longleaf Pine Forests: A Southern Treasure*. Throughout the Southeast, a coordinated effort is underway to conserve and restore these rich and vital forests. To read more, please visit: <u>https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-</u>
- <u>us/where-we-work/united-states/florida/stories-in-florida/longleaf/</u>
 (LLA) The Longleaf Alliance and Enviva announced the signing of a five-year partnership to protect and restore longleaf pine forests by collaboratively implementing the <u>Enviva Forest</u> Restoration Plan. The partnership between Enviva and The Longleaf Alliance will also support



the goals of America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative. To read more, please visit: <u>https://www.envivabiomass.com/enviva-and-the-longleaf-alliance-announce-partnership-to-protect-and-restore-longleaf-pine-forests/?fbclid=IwAR0JNqiifhWHEkIaWq3VVzMvZ2QvcnvofaYjEXeMIrwLc8WAlk8_0uDG ZGw</u>

• Southeast Prescribed Fire Initiative

- ► (NASA) Satellites are showing a decline in prescribed fire the U.S. Southeast this year. Due to the novel strain of coronavirus spreading throughout the U.S., many prescribed burning programs have been disrupted by public health measures aimed at slowing the spread of the virus and minimizing smoke exposure. The U.S. Forest Service temporarily suspended all of its prescribed burns on federal lands in the Southeast in March, and state agencies in Mississippi, South Carolina, and North Carolina also issued spring burning bans. To read more, please visit: https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/146714/satellites-show-a-decline-in-fire-in-the-us-southeast?src=nha
- ► (AGU) The American Geophysical Union is accepting manuscripts through May 2021 for a special collection entitled Fire in the Earth System. The collection will span 10 AGU journals, and will bring together new research on physical and biogeochemical processes associated with landscape fires, implications for human and ecosystem health, effects on water resources and critical infrastructure, fires in the wildland-urban interface, the use of prescribed fire and other mitigation strategies, and modeling efforts to characterize potential future fire regimes in a changing world. To learn more, please visit: <u>https://eos.org/editors-vox/new-special-collection-fire-in-the-earth-system</u>
- ► (EPA/SFE/SREF) The list of resources has been compiled, with input from partners including the Environmental Protection Agency, Southern Regional Extension Forestry, and the Southern Fire Exchange, to help inform decisions regarding prescribed fire implementation in the era of COVID-19. To learn more, please visit: <u>https://research.cnr.ncsu.edu/blogs/southeast-fireupdate/2020/04/08/prescribed-fire-smoke-public-health-and-covid-19/</u>
- ► (SERPPAS) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 43rd and 44th editions of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here:
 - April: <u>https://myemail.constantcontact.com/April-Driptorch-Digest-Now-Available.html?soid=1117561491017&aid=IirQPp7XaOg</u>
 - May: <u>https://myemail.constantcontact.com/May-Driptorch-Digest-Now-Available.html?soid=1117561491017&aid=f8mtL0Zdm2A</u>
- (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://mailchi.mp/southernfireexchange/fire-lines-newsletter-volume-10-issue-2?e=bb53816d54. This issue contains a new fact sheet: "Planned Burn (PB)-Piedmont: Predicting overnight smoke conditions in complex terrain".

• Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation

► (NC) The recently released North Carolina Climate Science Report is a scientific assessment of historical climate trends and potential future climate change in North Carolina under increased greenhouse gas concentrations. It supports the governor's Executive Order 80 (EO80) by

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providing an independent peer-reviewed scientific contribution to the EO80. The report includes an overview of the physical science of climate change, detailed information on observed and projected changes in temperature and precipitation averages and extremes, hurricanes and other storms, sea level, and other relevant climate metrics. To learn more, please visit: <u>https://ncics.org/programs/nccsr/</u>, or to read the full report, click here: <u>https://ncics.org/pub/nccsr/NC%20Climate%20Science%20Report_FullReport_Final_March202_0.pdf</u>

- (WFU) A recent virtual panel, *Climate Solutions for North Carolina*, hosted by Wake Forest University, featured three experts who led a discussion with 150 students, faculty, and community members from across North Carolina to discuss climate solutions for the state. To watch the full panel discussion, click here: <u>https://sustainability.wfu.edu/2020/04/09/climate-solutions-for-north-carolina/</u>
- (NWF) The National Wildlife Federation partnered with the Coastal States Organization to develop *Softening Our Shorelines*, designed to promote the broader use of living shorelines. This report offers a state-by-state summary of policies relevant to living shorelines and suggests best practices for how federal and state agencies can promote the increased application of these ecologically friendly shoreline protection techniques. To learn more, click here: https://www.nwf.org/SofteningOurShorelines. To read the full report, click here: https://www.nwf.org/-media/Documents/PDFs/NWF-Reports/2020/Softening-OurShorelines.ashx
- ► (SECASC) The SE CASC South Atlantic Spring/Summer Science Series will take the place of the South Atlantic Third Thursday Web Forum for the spring and summer months. These webinars will highlight SE CASC projects relevant to conservation in the South Atlantic region. To learn more about the upcoming monthly webinars and watch recordings of past webinars in the series, please visit: <u>https://secasc.ncsu.edu/s6series/</u>
- (USACE) The South Atlantic Coastal Study released its April 2020 newsletter, detailing the latest project updates. To view, please visit: <u>https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/Portals/60/siteimages/SACS/SACS_Newsletter_04_20.pdf?ver=</u> <u>2020-05-08-152359-873</u>
- (NFWF) The NFWF Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund released its selected projects, totaling more than \$43 million in grants to improve the resilience of local communities and wildlife habitat in the face of increasingly severe and frequent natural disasters. These grants will support natural and nature-based infrastructure that will help people and wildlife recover from hurricanes Michael and Florence, Typhoon Yutu, and the California coastal wildfires of 2018, and be better prepared for future events. Two of the selected projects received letters of support from SERPPAS: in Florida, *Raffield Peninsula Restoration* in partnership with Tyndall AFB, and in North Carolina, *Protecting Education Infrastructure, Critical State Roadways and Estuarine Habitats with Living Shorelines* in partnership with MCIEast, Camp Lejeune, and MCAS Cherry Point. To read more and view the complete list of grants, please visit: https://www.nfwf.org/media-center/press-releases/more-43-million-coastal-resilience-grants-announced-communities-devastated-2018-natural-disasters or https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/ecrf-2020-grant-slate.pdf
- (REPI) The North Carolina Coastal Federation partnered with Carteret County to acquire 76.25 acres of land in the community of Ocean. As part of the transaction, the Navy acquired a restrictive easement over the entire property to prohibit incompatible development, which might



otherwise compromise pilot training performed at nearby Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field Bogue. The State of North Carolina was also granted a conservation easement on 24.14 acres, preserving the natural habitats in that area and prohibiting any development in the future. Purchase of the property was made possible, in part, by funding from the REPI Program. To read more, please visit: <u>https://www.nccoast.org/2020/04/coastal-federation-purchases-land-on-bogue-sound-in-partnership-with-carteret-county-state-and-federal-agencies-and-lawmakers/</u>

► (FL FWC/GOMA) The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, and the American Society of Adaptation Professionals have partnered to offer an online climate adaptation course for natural resource managers working in the U.S. Gulf Coast region. The free of charge, interactive course contains nine sessions aimed to equip conservation professionals with the necessary knowledge to carry out critical conservation work in a time of uncertainty and change. The course will run from June to October 2020. For more information, please visit:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfnjXYexroHVzRor8gEhKdzgc2cff_R1_PFWaM7 yaNbcZWM8g/viewform

- ► (SACB) The South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint released its March, April, and May Newsletters, listed below. To learn more, please visit:
 - March: <u>https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOIFWS/bulletins/2806094</u>
 - April: <u>https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOIFWS/bulletins/280c3b3</u>
 - May: <u>https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOIFWS/bulletins/28a2ec6</u>
- (SECASC) The SE Climate Adaptation Science Center released its March, April, and May Newsletters, which includes climate related news, resources, publications, webinars and more for the Southeast region:
 - March: <u>https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2020/03/19/march-2020-newsletter/</u>
 - April: https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2020/04/14/april-2020-newsletter/
 - May: https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2020/05/20/may-2020-newsletter/
- (PGCLC) The Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation is a coalition of more than two dozen land conservation organizations whose shared mission is to increase the pace, quality and permanence of voluntary land and water conservation in the Gulf of Mexico region. The Gulf Partnership's releases newsletters with a round-up of news from the gulf region states:
 - March 18th: <u>https://serppas.org/media/3035/pgclc_march-18th-newsletter.pdf</u>
 - April 3rd: <u>https://serppas.org/media/3036/pgclc_april-3rd-newsletter.pdf</u>
 - April 16th: <u>https://serppas.org/media/3037/pgclc_april-16th-newsletter.pdf</u>
 - April 30th: <u>https://serppas.org/media/3038/pgclc_april-30th-newsletter.pdf</u>
 - May 15th: <u>https://serppas.org/media/3039/pgclc_may-15th-newsletter.pdf</u>

• Energy Development and Siting

- ► (REEO) The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office released its March, April, and May editions of the Southern Review of Legislative & Regulatory Actions. 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.
 - March: <u>https://serppas.org/media/3041/southern-review-03-2020.pdf</u>
 - April: https://serppas.org/media/3042/southern-review-04-2020.pdf
 - May: https://serppas.org/media/3043/southern-review-05-2020.pdf



- ► (REEO) The U.S. Army Regional Environmental and Energy Office released its bi-monthly publication, Southeast Energy Monitor. The Monitor contains current legislative and regulatory activity and state public services commission dockets pertinent to military interests for Region 4.
 - April 2020: <u>https://serppas.org/media/3040/southeast-energy-monitor-04-2020.pdf</u>
- (USGS) The U.S. Geological Survey Energy and Wildlife Research Annual Report for 2019 highlights new research on the interactions of energy development with wildlife. The report encompasses investigations of conventional and renewable energy development across the United States and summarizes ongoing USGS research projects and publications related to the impacts of energy development on fish and wildlife resources, tools to assess those impacts, and solutions to avoid or minimize risk. To view the full report, click here: https://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1458/cir1458.pdf
- Military Services News
 - (Eglin AFB) Eglin Air Force Base and its diverse ecosystems are on display in this *Into the Wild* video. Watch the video to see the proactive approach the team uses to protect endangered species that keeps Eglin's test and training missions on track. To view, please visit: https://www.dvidshub.net/video/742385/we-ce-ep-7-into-wild

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- ► Archived: <u>SERPPAS 101 Webinar</u> by SERPPAS
- ► Archived: SFE Webinar: Air Quality 101 by Southern Fire Exchange
- ► Archived: SFE Webinar: The Case for Prescribed Fire Science by Southern Fire Exchange
- ► Archived: SFE Webinar: Longleaf Pine Forest Patch Dynamics by Southern Fire Exchange
- Archived: <u>SFE Webinar: QUIC-Fire: A Fast-Running Simulation Tool for Prescribed Fire Planning</u> by Southern Fire Exchange
- Archived: <u>SFE Webinar: Overview of the North Carolina Climate Science Report: Implications for</u> <u>Wildland Fire</u> by Southern Fire Exchange
- ► Archived: <u>REPI and the National Defense Strategy</u> by REPI
- ► Archived: South Atlantic Coastal Study (SACS) Update by USACE
- ► June 3, 2020: Drought Decision-Making Tools You Can Use by NOAA
- ► June 17, 2020: Leveraging GIS to Identify New Partnership Opportunities by REPI
- ▶ June 17, 2020: SFE Webinar: LANDFIRE Remap in the Southeast by Southern Fire Exchange
- ► June 18, 2020: <u>Clarifying Science Needs for Southeastern Grasslands: The Piedmont, Coastal Plain, and</u> <u>Beyond</u> by SE CASC
- ► June 24, 2020: <u>SFE Webinar: Prescribed Fire 101</u> by Southern Fire Exchange
- ► July 16, 2020: <u>Perspectives on Prescribed Fire Management in Longleaf Pine Ecosystems: The Context</u> of Landscape Transformation and Anthropogenic Climate Change by SE CASC
- ► September 9, 2020: <u>Effective Community Engagement</u> by REPI
- ► November 4, 2020: <u>Preparing for Extreme Weather: Improving Installation Resilience</u> by REPI
- ► December 9, 2020: Exploring Endangered Species Crediting Strategies by REPI



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ► June 3-4, 2020: Wildfire Management Summit 2020 (Virtual)
- ► August TBD, 2020: SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting (Virtual)
- August 9-11, 2020: <u>2020 National Association of Conservation Districts Southeast Region Meeting</u> (Gulf Shores, AL)
- September 13-16, 2020: <u>Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies 110th Annual Meeting</u> (Sacramento, CA)
- ► September 14-16, 2020: <u>Gulf Coast Conservation Conference</u> (Gulfport, MS)
- ► September 15-16, 2020: 2020 SERPPAS Principals Meeting (Virtual)
- October 8-10, 2020: <u>Land Trust Alliance Rally 2020</u> (Virtual)
- ► October 13-16, 2020: <u>Natural Areas Conference</u> (Virtual)
- ► October 20-23, 2020: <u>The Biennial Longleaf Conference</u> (Wilmington, NC)
- ► October 25-28, 2020: <u>74th Annual SEAFWA Conference</u> (Springfield, MO)
- October 26-30, 2020: <u>4th Annual National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop</u> (Asheville, NC)
- October 29-31, 2020: <u>Society of American Foresters National Convention</u> (Virtual)
- ► November 2-6, 2020: <u>Wildland Urban Interface Conference</u> (Reno, NV)
- May 23-26, 2021: <u>Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP) 2020 Conference</u> (Sunriver, OR)
- ► August 23-25, 2021: <u>National Stream Restoration Conference</u> (Baltimore, MD)
- ► May 3-5, 2021: 2021 SERPPAS Principals Meeting (Beaufort, NC)

For more information about SERPPAS, visit <u>www.serppas.org</u>, or email <u>info@serppas.org</u>.