



SERPPAS Research Committee

Background

DOW SERDP's (Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program) Innovation Landscapes Network (ILN) program has identified threats to the military mission in the Southeast that undermine DOW's ability to maintain natural and built infrastructure. Identified mission threats according to the ILN include (1) wildfire, (2) extreme weather, (3) endangered species, (4) sea level rise, and (5) temperature increases. Currently, the Eastern ILN provides a process for intentional collaboration between the research community and land managers with a primary focus on fire science. To expand the research topics, connect with regional decision-makers and continue to advance co-production of research and technology to address all of the threats, SERPPAS plans to use its Work Group structure to more effectively align science, policy, management, and agency partnerships to accelerate solutions to these issues. The SERPPAS work groups provide a mechanism for identifying research topics and gaps in 4 major topical areas important to the DOW and SERPPAS. These work groups (Southeast Sentinel Landscapes, Natural Resources Management, Wildland Fire, and Coastal Resilience & Regional Adaptation) along with affiliated partnerships (America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative and South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative) bring together subject matter experts from NGOs, universities, federal and state agencies, and other interested parties and stakeholders to share information, elevate challenges, compile resources, and promote successful practices or strategies in support of SERPPAS goals and objectives. Building off this structure and with commitment from the DOW SERDP to fund a FTE through the ILN, SERPPAS has proposed the formation of a SERPPAS Research Committee.

SERPPAS Research Committee Proposal

At the Spring 2026 SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting, the Steering Committee endorsed the formation of a SERPPAS Research Committee to link the research needs from the perspective of SERPPAS goals in the Southeast with researchers and the networks that can actionize the science and technology. By establishing a structure and process that provides a feedback loop of research and development that advances the DOW's mission related to natural resources, installation resilience, and compatible land use in the Southeast, the Committee will:

- Identify and prioritize natural resource research needs that are aligned with SERPPAS goals in the Southeast and communicate those needs to appropriate audiences.
- Connect research needs with funding opportunities and qualified research partners along with precise needed deliverables to ensure actionable outcomes.
- Develop and track a coordinated research agenda, including key questions, operational procedures, and progress updates for SERPPAS members.

Next Steps

- SERPPAS and DOW SERDP will host a series of virtual conversations with the SERPPAS work group leads and key POCs to flesh out the framework for this effort – development of organizing structure, workshop plans and/or other elements to build a successful endeavor
- The framework, plan for FTE support, and any additional engagements will be presented at the Fall 2026 SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting