



INITIATIVE NEWS

It's nearly time for the inaugural meeting of the SASMI Partnership Council, set to take place later this month in Richmond Hill, GA. This group includes about 35 seats representing SASMI's diverse stakeholders, and in this first meeting, members will engage in a series of discussions on key needs and challenges they can address to keep SASMI marshing forward.



USFWS

SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

[Keystone initiative centers on salt marsh conservation](#). The Department of the Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service launched the Salt Marsh Keystone Initiative in January 2024 with funding support from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The initiative will work with partners to advance nature-based solutions that increase resilience, protect important natural carbon storage opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, and promote local economies.

[**Continued Decline of Wetlands Documented in New U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Report**](#). The 2009-2019 Wetlands Status and Trends national report is the 6th in a series of congressionally mandated reports spanning nearly 70 years. It provides scientific estimates of wetland area in the conterminous United States as well as change in area between 2009 and 2019. The report also discusses drivers of wetland change and recommendations to reduce future wetland loss. To achieve no net loss of all wetlands, including vegetated wetlands, the report concludes that a strategic update is needed to America's approach to wetland conservation. Read the report at the link above, or access the [Story Map here](#).

[**Pew collaborates with communities, Tribes, governments, and others on conservation projects tailored for a changing planet**](#). The Pew Charitable Trusts' U.S. Conservation Project focuses on addressing climate change impacts and declining biodiversity using 5 approaches: 1) protect ecosystems, especially those with high biodiversity; 2) conserve, restore, and connect fish and wildlife habitats; 3) help nature withstand changing conditions through climate-ready management planning; 4) prepare communities for climate impacts through resilience planning; and 5) prioritize carbon-storing landscapes. SASMI is and will continue to be an important part of this work, which you can learn more about in this article.

[**Saving the Salt Marsh**](#). We know our marshes are threatened by rising seas, increasingly intense storms, and over-development. This article shines a spotlight on SASMI and our role in saving the salt marsh, including several efforts currently underway in Georgia to solidify shorelines, protect marsh, and safeguard crucial ecological and cultural resources.

[**SOS-Save Our Saltmarsh!**](#) In this episode of the Sapelo NERRds podcast, SASMI Coalition Member and Implementation Team Lead Courtney Reich of Georgia Conservancy explains how SASMI partners are working to save coastal resources.

[**Sediment Management Guide Supports Coastal Resilience by Identifying Path to Efficient Permitting**](#). Nature-based solutions to coastal erosion and flooding, such as restoring dunes and wetlands, can help counter the effects of sea level rise, but they often require adding sediment to build up natural features. To add sediment, project managers must navigate a multi-agency regulatory framework for sediment application. While the primary audiences are in California, the Roadmap provides permit and environmental review guidance for all applicable state and

federal agencies, making it a potential blueprint for other communities across the nation seeking to streamline their permitting processes and reduce barriers to habitat restoration.

FUNDING REMINDERS

[Job Announcement: Audubon SC Coastal Program Manager](#)

Audubon SC is looking for a strong leader for our coastal program! The Coastal Program Manager will be responsible for leading Audubon SC's efforts to protect priority coastal bird species and the habitats on which they rely. Learn more about this opportunity at the link. Position is open until filled.

[America the Beautiful Challenge \(ATBC\) 2024](#)

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), through anticipated cooperative agreements from the Department of the Interior (DOI), Department of Defense (DOD), and the Department of Agriculture's U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is releasing the America the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC) 2024 Request for Proposals (RFP). The ATBC vision is to streamline grant funding opportunities for new voluntary conservation and restoration projects throughout the United States. This RFP consolidates funding from multiple federal agencies and the private sector to enable applicants to conceive and develop large-scale, locally led projects that address shared funder priorities spanning public, Tribal, and private lands. Pre-proposals are due Thursday, **April 4, 2024**.

[National Coastal Resilience Fund \(NCRF\) 2024](#)

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is pleased to announce the 2024 National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) Request for Proposals (RFP). NFWF will make investments in planning, design, and implementation of natural and nature-based solutions. The goal is to enhance protection for coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural coastal hazards and to improve habitats for fish and wildlife. Pre-proposals are due Wednesday, **April 10, 2024**.

[Catalyst Fund](#)

The Network for Landscape Conservation announced the 2024 Request for Proposals for the Catalyst Fund. The Catalyst Fund strives to accelerate the pace and practice of collaborative

landscape conservation and stewardship across the United States by investing in Landscape Partnerships. The Fund couples financial support (through a competitive grant program) with capacity building support (through in-depth Peer Learning) to catalyze Partnership efforts to achieve long-term conservation and stewardship goals. Proposals are due **April 26, 2024**.

[Defense Community Infrastructure Program \(DCIP\)](#)

The Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation announced the 2024 Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) Notice of Funding Opportunity. DCIP is a competitive grant program designed to address deficiencies in community infrastructure, supportive of a military installation, in order to enhance military value, cadet training at covered educational institutions, installation resilience, and military family quality of life. An informational webinar will be held on April 18, 2024, at 3pm ET to review DCIP goals and objectives and answer questions. Proposals are due **June 17, 2024**.

[National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program](#)

USFWS is seeking applications from eligible state agencies for the 2025 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. Applicants may apply for matching grants between \$50,000 and \$1,000,000 to fund coastal wetlands acquisition, restoration, and management projects that conserve and enhance coastal wetlands as defined in the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act. A total of \$20 million is available across approximately 25 awards. Proposals are due **June 21, 2024**.

[Readiness and Recreation Initiative](#)

The 2024 Readiness and Recreation Initiative Notice of Funding Opportunity has been released. The National Park Service will provide \$40 million in funding from unobligated Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State and Local Assistance Program balances as a potential match for REPI Program funding to support projects that will provide outdoor recreation opportunities to military families and the public while also promoting military readiness and resilience. Proposals are due **July 12, 2024**.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

[NCA5 Southeast Regional Workshop | April 3, 2024 | Raleigh NC](#)

On behalf of the author team for the Southeast Chapter of the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5) and the US Global Change Research Program, we cordially invite you to an in-person NCA5 regional workshop on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, hosted by the State Climate Office of North Carolina at NC State University. The workshop will be hosted in two parts: a morning session (9:00AM-12:00PM) ocused on regional climate research, and an afternoon session (1:00PM-4:00PM) for regional climate practitioners, connected by a networking lunch for all participants. RSVP is required and limited to the first 150 participants in each session. The registration form and additional logistical details and FAQs can be found at the link above.

[REPI Program 2024 Webinar Series | April 17, 2024 | Virtual](#)

The REPI Program and Sentinel Landscapes Partnership recently announced the 2024 Webinar Series! The REPI Program webinars will bring together installations and partners throughout the year to discuss efforts that support military missions, advance landscape conservation, and enhance military installation resilience to climate change. The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership webinars are designed to educate stakeholders and the general public on projects or initiatives occurring within the sentinel landscapes community. The webinars will include topics that are useful for prospective or current REPI project whether the installation is involved in a sentinel landscape or not.

All webinars will be from 1:00 – 2:00 PM Eastern Time, and recordings will be posted to the REPI website afterward. To view the series or for detailed webinar descriptions and connection instructions, please visit the link above.

[SECAS Third Thursday Web Forum | 4/18/2024; 5/16/2024 | Virtual](#)

The April 18th web forum @ 10 am ET will showcase the results of a recent Social Network Analysis (SNA) assessing the SECAS partnership led by Dr. Patrick Bixler of the University of Texas and Dr. Shawn Johnson of the University of Montana. For more background on the SNA project, [read Joshua Toran's blog](#) from last summer.

The May 16th web forum @ 10 am ET features Dr. Michelle Moorman of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Southeast Inventory and Monitoring Program. She will present work conducted in partnership with Dr. Neil Ganju to assess changes in coastal wetlands through a remote sensing approach assessing unvegetated-vegetated ratios, long-term monitoring using

Surface Elevation Tables, and on-the-ground experience from managers of coastal National Wildlife Refuges. For more background on this work, read [Michelle's blog](#) from last summer.

[Salinity Affected Lands in Transition \(SALT\) Conference | June 11-12, 2024 | Cambridge MD](#)

Salinity Affected Lands in Transition (SALT) is a conference on saltwater intrusion and sea level rise in coastal agroecosystems. Discussion topics include saltwater intrusion, sea level rise, coastal farming, ghost forests, adaption solutions, mitigation strategies, and more. This conference will be June 11th and 12th at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, MD.

MARSH Forward!

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