



INITIATIVE NEWS

This month we are excited to connect with our [SERPPAS](#) partners at the SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting in Atlanta, GA. The meeting is a chance to share updates, highlight upcoming opportunities and resources, and link SASMI priorities with those of the SERPPAS Working Groups which are focused on resilience and natural resource issues throughout the southeast.



Karl Dudman

SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

[Release of Tidal Restriction Prioritization Protocol for the Restoration of Tidal Wetlands](#). On February 28, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the publication of the Tidal Restriction Prioritization Protocol for the Restoration of Tidal Wetlands in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration. The Protocol is designed to assist natural resource managers in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands as a screening tool to assess tidally restrictive structures. It can be used to help focus resources on achievable

projects that rehabilitate, remove or replace tidally restrictive structures and provide restorative benefits to tidally influenced wetlands and built infrastructure.

[**2023 Sentinel Landscapes Accomplishment Report Released**](#). The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is pleased to announce that the 2023 Sentinel Landscapes Accomplishments Report is now available. The report showcases how the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Defense (DOD), Department of the Interior (DOI), and their on-the-ground partners collaborate through the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership to solve complex land-use challenges, combining resources and aligning funding across the 13 sentinel landscapes.

[**Aquatic Connectivity Teams in the Southeast**](#). The 2023 Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) Goal Report is out and tells some interesting stories about successes and opportunities for improvement as SECAS looks forward to their 2060 goal of a 10% or greater improvement in the health, function, and connectivity of Southeastern ecosystems. Across our connectivity indicators, one metric is well in the green—aquatic connectivity. Learn more about the report and what is being done to increase connectivity in this blog article.

[**Out now: EDF's Natural Climate Solutions Crediting Handbook**](#). Want to understand Natural Climate Solutions Crediting? Now there's a handbook for that. Natural climate solutions are essential to achieving global climate goals, and stakeholders across the climate space need urgent help to cut through the noise on NCS crediting. The NCS Crediting Handbook aims to meet this need by clearly laying out how high-quality NCS crediting can work—for credit sellers, for credit buyers, and as part of an effective and ethical global climate response.

[**REPI Challenge Leverages Partnerships to Enhance National Security Priorities**](#). The Department of Defense's (DOD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program is thrilled to announce the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 REPI Challenge project funding recipients. For the FY 2024 REPI Challenge, the REPI Program contributed over \$23 million in DOD funds, coupled with over \$36 million in partner contributions. These innovative projects will promote compatible land uses, enhance military installation resilience, and relieve current or anticipated environmental restrictions on military testing, training, or operations. To learn more about this year's 17 REPI Challenge funding recipients, explore the 2024 REPI Challenge Story Map at the link above.

[DOD supports land conservation around local military bases](#). It's not often that the U.S. Department of Defense is mentioned in discussion about long-term conservation goals. But, as F-35s from Marine Air Station Beaufort lift off the runway headed toward Townsend Bombing Range located 82 miles to the south in coastal Georgia, it's apparent why the DOD has a very real interest in the land that surrounds its military installations. Learn more about how the military mission and conservation intersect in this article.

[From Seeds to Shoreline](#). From Seeds to Shoreline (S2S) is South Carolina's only salt marsh restoration program designed for K – 12 students and teachers. This year-long program engages participating schools with cultivating and transplanting *Spartina alterniflora* (smooth cord grass) to designated areas along the state's coastline. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has recently released a short film about the program, which you can watch at the link above.

FUNDING REMINDERS

[Together Outdoors Inclusive Micro-Grant Program](#)

Together Outdoors just announced the opening of the application period of its Inclusive Micro-Grant Program. This is a funding opportunity for small and rural grassroots organizations that are key to creating a more inclusive and welcoming outdoor recreation environment. The goal is to fund outdoor inclusion initiatives that are "by the community, for the community," using a trust-based approach to dismantle historical barriers to funding. In this initial pilot round of grants, Together Outdoors will make one-time awards of \$5,000 to \$10,000. Learn more and apply at the link above; applications are due **March 11, 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**.

[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**.

[Climate Pollution Reduction Grants](#)

The EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program provides \$5 billion in grants to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop and implement ambitious plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. Authorized under Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act, this two-phase program provides \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants, and approximately \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants. Applications are due **April 1, 2024**; find the [full NOFO at this link](#).

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

[Forested Wetlands of the Upper Estuary: Science and Management Advances | March 5-7, 2024 | Charleston SC](#)

The Forested Wetlands of the Upper Estuary conference will take place March 5-6, 2024 in Charleston, S.C., with an optional management workshop on March 7th. Participants will convene to discuss the state of knowledge regarding tidally-influenced forested wetlands in the Southeast and to build an understanding of information needs, including ecological services, cultural identities related to this resource, cross-system management comparisons, and decision-making frameworks. The conference is co-hosted by S.C. Sea Grant, College of Charleston, Clemson University, USGS, and the U.S. Forest Service with support from National Sea Grant and the South Carolina Aquarium. For more information, contact Brita Jessen, Interdisciplinary Research and Partnerships lead, at (339) 223-2346.

[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) focused 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 | Multiple dates through April | Virtual](#)

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. 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 | April 18, 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. No pre-registration required; just [click to join the Teams meeting](#) when the time comes! For more background on the SNA project, »check out [Joshua Toran'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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