

# Southeast regional partnership for planning and sustainability (SERPPAS)

Rapid population growth in the Southeastern United States is increasing urban sprawl. The conversion of land into developed communities has resulted in the loss of agricultural land; critical wildlife habitats; working landscapes such as farms, forests and fisheries; and increased encroachment on military installations. This rapid urbanization presents challenges to the sustainability of defense and natural and economic resources throughout the Southeast region.

The issue of long-term sustainability crosses geographic and organizational boundaries. Affected communities and agencies across the southeast region must work collaboratively to protect our natural resources and balance and optimize the health and safety of the environment and communities, while promoting economic development and military readiness.

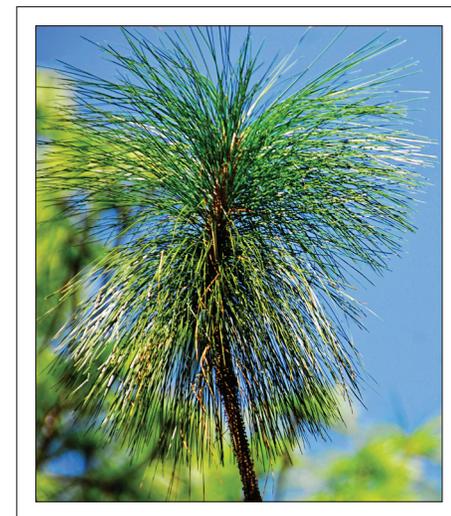
In 2005, state environmental and natural resource officials from across the southeast partnered with the Department of Defense (DoD) and other federal agencies to form the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) to promote better collaboration in making resource-use decisions. SERPPAS works to prevent encroachment around military lands, encourage compatible resource-use decisions and improve coordination among regions, states, communities and military services. The region covered by SERPPAS includes the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

The mission of SERPPAS is to take opportunities and solve problems to provide benefits to the partners, sustain the individual and collective mission of partner organizations and secure the future for the partners, region and nation. This mission will be accomplished through identifying opportunities for mutual gain among all partner groups, effectively addressing differences among the partners and focusing on identifying solutions to complex problems.

## Objectives

- Promote improved regional, state and local coordination
- Manage, sustain and enhance natural, economic and human resources as well as national defense

- Develop and complete regional sustainability projects supporting the sustainment of natural, economic and national defense resources related to base realignment planning in the southeast region as well as other identified sustainability needs



- Develop a GIS Sustainability Decision Support Tool that integrates federal, DoD, military services and state data for use in regional planning by SERPPAS and individual states

## Sustainability Issues

- Building working relationships among states, communities and the military to improve conservation, the economy, quality of life, sustainability and military readiness
- Promoting compatible use of military, agricultural and forestry lands
- Mapping marine/coastal regions and identifying interested stakeholders
- Examining policy and possible legislation to support the mission of SERPPAS, including maintaining working lands
- Promoting resource use (air, land, water and frequency) that is both compatible with and complementary to military, community and environmental requirements
- Preserving the longleaf pine habitat, including the protection of species as the red-cockaded woodpecker and gopher tortoise, and forests, farmlands and recreational areas

