

**Alliance for Regional Stewardship
National Forum on Regional Stewardship
Concurrent Session: "Stealth" Federal Practices Encouraging Collaboration
Friday, May 6th
9:45 – 11:15 a.m.**

An increasing number of federal agencies are working to promote regional collaborations. During this session, agency representatives will discuss how they are working to promote regionalism through various initiatives.

Moderator: R. Scott Fosler, Visiting Professor, University of Maryland—School of Public Policy

- ❑ Fed. gov't doesn't have a comprehensive approach to regions, but a series of approaches, not always in synch.

Kathy Covert, Associate Strategist, Federal Geographic Data Committee, U.S. Geological Survey

First law of geography...Everything is related to everything else; but near things are more related than distant things.

Seed funding...grants

Regional spatial information community of practice...ARS members as focus group participants

GIS information critical to regional decision-making...

Eldon Hout, Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

- ❑ Smart growth not a favored term by this administration...instead look at opportunities for sustainable development in critical areas.
- ❑ NOAA taking an "end user" approach...listening more closely with the end user community...

Jeff Speck, Director of Design, National Endowment for the Arts

NEA is organized by discipline, one of which is Design...

Speck works on design issues at larger scales...specifically at the city levels

NEA has a passive side and an active side...

- Passive side is the grant making side...half the applicants get about half the funding they ask for...
- Active side are leadership initiatives
- Mayors' Institute on City Design

Q&A/Comments

- ❑ Does the organization of geographic data really affect regional issues...
Technology allows us to develop a regional perspective to fit the need or issue...
How to develop a Governor's Institute for Regional Design?
Organizing the Institute around critical questions...growth, development, etc.
Adverse affect of Homeland Security on regionalism in terms of design and data sharing...
Lack of state strategies of thinking about regions..."nest of regions"...Eldon Hout...