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The American Context for Planning

• Private Interest versus the Public Good
• Market versus Public Sector
• Proactive versus reactive
• Local versus You Name It

AND... data, tools, and funding constrain the answers...
Regional Planning is...

• Planning for issues that no single jurisdiction can adequately plan for or act on by itself.

• Profoundly collaborative.
The Gallatin Plan – 1808
Long-lot surveys in the Mississippi Valley are of French origin; those in Texas, Spanish. Metes-and-bounds surveys in New Mexico and California are of Spanish origin.

The land divided
REGIONAL INTERESTS IN THE UNITED STATES

BY G.T. RENNER AND C.C. FAUNCE

Illustrations by the drafting section of the National Resources Board
Lessons...
• Planning Matters, Participation Matters, And Leadership Matters
• Good Things Take Time...or...Timing is Everything
• Regions have Clear Centers and Fuzzy Edges... Clarity of purpose is Key
• Focus on elements with Clear Spatial Bases... Make Great Places
• Institutionalize Boundary Crossing, not Boundary Management... Create a Culture of Collaboration
• Organize, and once organized, care for Relationships... Planners as stewards/facilitators for regional identity and purpose
Key Tasks...

- Defining the Region
- Organizing the Region
- Sustaining the Region

... Towards a “Region Ethic”
Success

• Goals get met, Problems are solved.
• A regional context for decision making is apparent.
• Regional planning is regarded as an ethical requirement rather than as a bureaucratic norm.
REGIONAL PLANNING IN AMERICA
Practice and Prospect
Edited by Ethan Seltzer and Armando Carbonell

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