

**Meeting Notes**  
**Geo Book Workshop**  
**March 23, 2006**

Bob Wilkerson opened the meeting with introductions of participants and presenter Dr Neil Burns EPA Region 4. There were 13 attendees for the workshop

Burns presented a PowerPoint overview of the product and made the following comments:

- Birmingham has a great opportunity to preserve greenspace needed for recreation, connection with the landscape and production of food and livestock.
- The Southeast Ecological Framework was built upon a philosophy of identifying critical areas of 500 ac or greater that are referred to as “ecological hubs”; viable eco systems.
- Once identified, the issue becomes one of how we link those hubs across the surface of the region, state etc...
- The SEF covered 8 southeastern states.
- The resolution ranges from 90 meters down to 10 meters depending on the feature.
- A sample map shows the motivating concern for generating the SEF info: How connectivity is being lost.
- Accordingly, the model shows the opportunities: Note fragmentation of the landscape is a factor of both urban and agricultural lands.
- A sample map was shown identifying areas of “potential” sprawl,
- Other elements highlighted included: biodiversity, recreation, and potential threats.
- The EPA Science Advisory Board provided a positive evaluation of the product stating that it was based on “good science”.

In other comments, Burns made the following statements:

- EPA wants to get this info in use as an informative tool for communities.
- The product has the ability to be customized: state, county or city may utilize the product and can customize by plugging in logos, PowerPoints, images etc...
- The system links to the USGS website, allows for the aerial and topo info to be pulled in.
- The SEF was recently approved to be expanded to the national level covering all of the 50 states.
- Also, negotiations are underway to get this information on the internet

Participants navigated through the data.

Questions included:

- What are the resolutions? Range is from 90 meters to 10 meters depending on the layer

- Is the meta data available? Uncertain, thought it might be on the disk. Will verify.

In closing, Burns opened the door for the committee to define enhancements needed for the product to serve the needs of the community.

The committee should develop a list of desired features/ info and present to EPA for consideration toward project deliverables.