An Interview with

Henry W. Debruin

by telephone from Columbia, Missouri
to Arnold, Maryland

09 July 1998

interviewed by Will Sarvis

Oral History Program
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PREFACE

Henry W. Debruin was born on May 27, 1923. He began his United States Forest Service (USFS) career in Oregon, and later worked on the Superior National Forest, before transferring to Missouri, where he was supervisor of the Mark Twain National Forest (during the mid and late 1960s.) While on the Superior, Mr. Debruin was instrumentally involved with the late 1950s establishment of the Superior-Quetico Boundary Waters Canoe Area, which was a pioneering effort to protect inland shoreline. This experience prepared him well for what he came to see as among his most important accomplishments in Missouri, preserving the Eleven Point River in free flowing form. The landmark 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act included the Eleven Point.

While on the Mark Twain, Mr. Debruin also worked for the reestablishment of grasses in natural grassland areas that were, at the time, producing low quality trees. This kind of ecological approach has gained much wider acceptance since the 1960s, but could be quite controversial in its day. In the following pages, Mr. Debruin offers a perspective on his conflict with the Missouri state foresters over grasslands restoration. Mr. Debruin's tenure on the Mark Twain also coincided with the establishment of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways under National Park Service management. During the 1961 Congress, Missouri Congressman Tom Curtis, Leo Drey, and others had backed an alternative bill advocating expanded Forest Service management of the Current and Jacks Fork rivers. Additionally, Mr. Debruin's experience in Missouri spanned some of the final years of open range in the Missouri Ozarks, and included herein are recollections of this topic, old local practices of burning the forest, timber poaching, and other local customs.

The interview was recorded on Sony type I (normal bias) audio cassettes, using a Marantz PMD-222 manual recorder (set on automatic recording level) with a direct telephone link. The audio quality is good, considering these recording circumstances.

The following transcript represents a faithful rendering of the entire oral history interview. Minor stylistic alterations -- none of factual consequence -- have been made as part of a general transcription policy. The interviewee carefully read a draft transcript and indicated quite a number of additional modifications, mostly to clarify data or of a stylistic nature aimed at greater readability. The following transcript reflects these changes as well. Any use of brackets [ ] indicates editorial insertions not found on the original audio recordings. Parentheses ( ) are used to indicate laughter or a spoken aside evident from the speaker's intonation. Quotation marks [" "] indicate speech depicting dialogue, or words highlighted for the usual special purposes (such as indicating irony). Double dashes [--] and ellipses [. . .] are also used as a stylistic method in an attempt to capture nuances of dialogue or speech patterns. Words are *italicized* when emphasized in speech. Although substantial care has been taken to render this transcript as accurately as possible, any remaining errors are the responsibility of the editor, Will Sarvis.

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WS: I'm sitting here in Columbia, Missouri, on the telephone with Mr. Henry W. Debruin, and you're there in Arnold, Maryland. Just to get started I wanted to get some basic information. Maybe you could give me your birth date.

HD: 5/27/23. I'm seventy-five years old.

WS: Okay, and where were you born, sir?

HD: Grand Haven, Michigan.

WS: Okay. I thought maybe we could just get started with sort of a biographical sketch. Maybe you can tell me how you got interested in the outdoors and how you ended up working for the Forest Service.

HD: I was basically raised on the water. The sea was my great love. Grand Haven is on the Grand River and Lake Michigan. My family has lived either on the river or the lake a lot of our life. During my youth, there was a family with six boys that I became attached to, because my mother died when I was very young. Their dad was county agent for the county and did a lot of tree planting and things like that. He dragged us along and allowed us to plant trees and do outdoor things. My dad was a hunter and fisherman; that was his big thing in life. I did a lot of that. Also, I was a boy scout with Scoutmaster Pat Patterson. We had a log cabin out in the hills along the lake where we went in the winter, over the snow, and camped out. We drank frozen water and all that kind of stuff that kids do.

Anyway, I was raised in a small town where the outdoors and hunting and fishing were immediately available. During high school I had a fish shanty on Muskegon Lake and other places where I'd go.

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[momentary electric power loss; material lost]

I started out as an apprentice seaman and worked up to be chief and that kind of stuff. I was a survivor, several times, from the south Pacific and also the Mediterranean. I was made regimental commander of the NROTC unit at Princeton. I finished there and went to the University of Louisville. I was company commander down there in a specialized unit. I met my wife there at a Demolay dance. We got married.

Then the navy gave me a chance. Because the war was over I could either take [command of] my ship or I could get out. So we decided we would get married . We wanted a large family, and I couldn't be a good father and be at sea all the time (which was my first love). My second love was forestry, so we went to the University of Michigan and finished degrees in forestry and wildlife. I also worked forty hours a week. Ed Warren, who ran plant services for the University of Michigan – by the time I was graduating – he said, "Stay with me, Hank. You'll make a lot more money here running plant services. You can be my heir," and all of that, because I was running the cars and stuff by then. Anyway, I said, "Ed, I've got this view of me riding a horse across the wilderness out west as a ranger, and I've got to go. I know your offer is good." And there have been several times in our life where big money has come by and tempted us.

But we finished school and I had a job with the Forest Service. I test high, just for no reason. Anyway, I hitchhiked out west to get my job. I left my wife and baby with her mother and father. I came into town. John Day, Oregon, was my first assignment. The boss says, "How'd you get here?" I said, "I hitchhiked in a logging truck." He said, "Well, forest officers don't hitchhike. I'm going to drive you up to Seneca, which is your

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station," which was a logging camp twenty-six miles from any town. He drove me up there [later my wife and baby came], and for a year and a half all we had was a red wagon. We didn't have a car. And we made out all right.

I went up through the Forest Service gradually. We moved ten times in twenty-one years with six kids. As my dad said to our family, "Bud can't hold a job." He didn't know that there were all these steps you had to go through to get to the top of the Forest Service. Anyway, five of our kids were born in Oregon. Because of some talents that another guy and I had, the boss of Oregon said that he'd give us our pick of ranger districts, which is the starting professional level for most foresters. Well, you start as a technician or whatever, but the good job is where you run a couple million acres or so as district ranger.

[tape meter, 50]

So I was Ranger [of Three Sisters District, Deschutes National Forest, and later] Ranger at Crescent District (which was the third largest district in the United States at that time), and then went on up in the Forest Service and became forest supervisor of the Mark Twain National Forest. I forget the year. But I had been given a lot of special assignments along the way for various reasons.

There was an accident while we were at Springfield as supervisor. I was on the school board. I've been an elder in the Presbyterian Church and a lot of other things in town. We lost eleven and thirteen year old girls in an accident. We've always run an open house and had a lot of other people living with us.

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Then my wife didn't want to transfer anymore, so my boss moved me to Milwaukee. Mequon is a fifty square mile city there. I was on the city planning commission. I've been on school boards in [Blue River] Oregon, Springfield [Missouri]; other places; generally involved in the community in planning or schools or whatever. And other things. But they moved us to Washington, which was the only place we could go and stay. Then I worked on up there. I was director of information and education and other [special assignments]. They gave me a promotion to [Director of Fire, Aviation, and Air Quality] for the Forest Service. We had lots of planes and helicopters.

Then I got to be fifty-five and they were offering incentives to retire. I had a lot of other things I wanted to do with my life. You don't retire to retire; you retire to do the things that you want to do. So we retired at fifty-six, and now I've been retired twenty years. I had worked on the Hill a lot for the Forest Service. We were offered the job of running a congressman's office. Also, [when we returned] we ran a marina for two years over at St. Michaels in eastern shore. We were going to buy one, but a friend wisely said, "Take a contract. Run one for a couple of years and see if you want to invest your life and savings." Well, Martha ran the restaurant and I ran the yard. We had two travelists. One big [one, 50 tons; one small one], and lots of boats.

Anyway, that went very well. We started at six in the morning and went till midnight every day. If the kids wanted to see us, they had to come work in the restaurant. We made a lot of money. My wife got a $1,000 bonus and stuff for the good work she did, and so on. But money wasn't worth it, for the rest of our life, anyway.

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So then we took on the Maryland Forest Association, built it up to being a viable group with a paid secretary and adequate salary. I wrote legislation for Maryland and other things [with the Legislature]. We bought a small tree farm over on the eastern shore; fourteen acres, which is my escape. We live in Annapolis in a colonial that's filled with people, normally. We have fifteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren, some of whom we've raised. We generally have a house full of people. Our focal point right now is God, family, and church, in about that order. But that's a brief resume. I would say, along the way, the way I measure things is that, whatever you do – if it lives after you, and length of time it lives after you – it's probably worthy.

[Before the Mark Twain] I was sent for six months to do the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Then I was assigned to the Superior National Forest, where I was in charge of timber and watershed [management and other special assignments]. But my main assignment was to reclaim the Boundary Waters Canoe Area as a wilderness area. I am a wilderness advocate.

WS: Was that before or after you were with the Mark Twain?

HD: Then I was assigned to the Superior National Forest, where I was in charge of timber and water and so on. But my main assignment was to reclaim the Boundary Waters Canoe Area as a wilderness area. I am a wilderness advocate.

WS: Was that before or after you were with the Mark Twain?

HD: That was before. George James was the regional forester. He said, "Hank, I want you to go down and work the Mark Twain. I was given the assignment of working the politics of the [state] capitol. In Duluth I'd been with Dr. George Selke and Ray Haik (who was

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head of Izaak Walton at that time) in getting the Boundary Waters going. We did get that job done. So then he [George James] sent me down there [to Missouri] and said, "Now, the Corps is trying to dam the Eleven Point." My only [instruction] when I went down there, George said, "Don't lose one acre of land." I'm a public land advocate, naturally.

WS: But don't lose it to the Army Corps.

HD: Or to anybody. So I went down there and took on Symington. The Corps not only had planning money, they had construction money. They [the Corps] had [already dammed] the White [River].

[tape meter, 100]

I had a bunch of airplanes and stuff which I kept around, under contract, and flew Symington and everybody else political [back and forth many times]. I had the state capital [assignment], so I worked hard. We got the Eleven Point first [under state law, and later Wild River status under federal law].

There was a guy that went through Missouri many years ago . . . anyway, he wrote a diary of what he saw. (I just had the name, but at seventy-five, some of these things come and go). Anyway, I read the diaries of what Missouri was originally. I'm interested in history [and its application to land and people].

WS: Oh, back in the nineteenth century.

HD: Oh yes. Schoolcraft. He wrote a series of diaries, and I read all those. Then I was traveling back and forth all the time. I'm a workaholic, so I'd get up at five in the morning and be down on the back end of Doniphan or Van Buren or wherever [by 6 am]. I'd have coffee and then be there before they [the crews] would arrive, and just keep

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everybody on target. But anyway, the battle for the Eleven Point took five years. We first got it under state law, and then under federal.

WS: So you were instrumental in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, I guess.

HD: My focal point was the Eleven Point, yes. Colonel Maynard was the colonel [of the Army Corps] at that time. Then, we wanted Big Spring and some other land. I'm a big a federal land acquisition buff. And while I was there, I started the first chapter of the Society of American Foresters, and then they elected me chairman. Then I was chairman of the Nature Conservancy. We got some azaleas and some natural prairie and stuff while I was there. Plus, you know, [we lived a busy] normal life.

But the Schoolcraft journals gave me a lot of insight. At that time there was a researcher named Bob Ralston up at the state capital at the Forest Service research center, that was doing a lot of research on trees, grass, and stuff like that. I was there six years, so we had lots of time. But Bob said, "Hank, you know that crappy oak that they're making charcoal out of, that's not economically viable. There are a few people employed by it, but there are some environmental problems with it. Grass is the natural thing." With research's backing, we went ahead and advocated getting rid of the crappy oak and growing grass.

WS: Now what part of Missouri was this?

HD: Down on the Mark Twain.

WS: Down in the Ozarks.

HD: Southeast and west. Anyway, we kind of started a grass revolution. John Wylie was one of the [state] timber guys. I was very active in forestry, so I knew everybody. And also

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the parks. I knew Joe [Jaeger] and everybody else that was running that, plus the governor. I was working the state capitol. Then, when they heard that we were going for grass, the forester guys got upset, and they got a petition up to send to my boss to get me fired, which is not unusual – I mean, it was not the first time [in my career people disagreed with the United States Forest Service].

WS: You're talking about the [Missouri] Department of Conservation, right?

HD: Yes. And they got the governor to sign it and send it up to my boss and so on, which was all right.

WS: Would that be Governor Hearnes?

HD: Yes. But that was all right; you know, it's part of the game. Gain is proportion to risk.

WS: (laughs) You must have pretty thick skin, I guess.

HD: Well; no. I just have faith; a lot of faith. If something's right, then you run the risk. But anyway, they really got upset over going to grass. Well, that whole part of the state went to grass – even the commercial guys went to grass. Because it was the natural thing. Do you know what I mean? [And it was economically sound].

WS: Like the soil supported the grass.

[tape meter, 150]

HD: Yes. Now, another thing I did, I asked George James – there's a guy still down there: Jerry Gott. He's probably retired now, but he was a soil scientist – I told George, "George, I want to manage this forest from the soils up. So I want you to give me all the soil scientists in the Region," which was [USFS] Region Nine, which covers several states. There were five soil scientists [in the Region]. I said, "I want them for the

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summer. I want to type the whole forest and manage it from the soils up." We were good friends. He was like a father to me. He said, "I'll give them to you for one summer." So I got all the soil scientists down there and we soil-typed the whole forest.

Then, after that, we tried to manage from the soils [geology and geography] up. Now I had some old crusty rangers – some *wonderful* people, like Bruce Elliott, who's still down there writing poetry in Van Buren – but I had some tough ones at Cassville (I changed some of the rangers after a while); but at Winona, that weren't with the program, so to speak. We went to shooting trespass animals with paint guns so we could identify them at auction and that kind of stuff. We really tried to bring [good management practices to all of the public lands in the Mark Twain].

I didn't want to change them [the locals]. I knew a lot about fire. In the Forest Service we have a hierarchy of fire fighters. And I'd always carry the top red card, and fought fire all over the United States, Mexico, Costa Rica, and so on. I learned a lot about what the people do for chiggers and snakes down there [in the Ozarks], burning a long line in the spring. Well, I was a fire advocate anyway. But later on in my career, when I got in the chief's office, it was called fire control, which was, you know, "Fire is the Devil and you chase it." Well, as I told John McGuire, who was the chief at that time (and he's still alive and well), I said, "John, our young supervisors are using prescribed fire. I want to go from fire control to fire management, believing in the ecology of that." He said, "Hank, if you can do it in five years – as you've done other things in five or six years – if you can do that without losing a person, I'll go with it. If you lose one person in this process, you're done." And I said, "It's a fair risk."

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Well, we did it. The year after I left the fire game; why, they lost a person in Michigan. But we got through it, and we changed from fire control to fire management, and we developed at Boise, Idaho, the incident command system with California and a lot of other stuff; teamwork with BLM [Bureau of Land Management] and Park Service and everybody else. We had some philosophical differences about the ecology of fire, but not much. Nothing basic.

Anyway, Missouri taught me a lot about native customs and why they burned what they did and what it did to the forest. Mainly, I always enjoyed my work. I won't do anything I don't enjoy. If I don't enjoy it, I'm gone. Because life is too short. In the Missouri instance, between trespass cattle and fire, I learned a lot [about local customs and people].

The fact is, there was an old ranger named Clayton Van Slyke. And when we started to institute some penalties for burning and also livestock trespass, man, they kicked in the door of his pickup and all sorts of stuff. [Some used guns to threaten our rangers]. But they were that kind of people. For some reason, God didn't make me fearful, and when we really had somebody with guns, I'd go in there, because I'm not afraid of getting shot. These guys back in the corners and hollows up there, they'd have some guns. We'd go in, and I'd go in with them.

[tape meter, 200]

We'd say, "Here it is, fellows. We're going to do this." Or, "We want your cooperation. But, if you won't cooperate, why, we'll probably do it anyway." It was not easy. And it's still probably not done yet, as things go on over time.

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There's a reason for everything that people do. But there's generally some reasoning behind what people do. Like chiggers and snakes, if you don't like snakes. The fact is, I was tested. And it's fair. I'll go back a bit.

I was tested out west. I had a big horse; great big buckskin with a Hanley saddle and everything that went with it. I loved it. I carried the horse with me in a trailer behind my truck all the time, and rode a lot. Well, I was out with some ranchers. They said, "Hank, you don't need to bring your horse. We've got a horse for you." I knew what was up, because I was reducing livestock on the range. They gave me a horse that had never been ridden. After I got bucked off three times, they said, "Okay, you pass. Here's a horse for you."

But when I got down on the Mark Twain, I was down at Doniphan, and they said, "We've got something for you." And it was a shoebox tied with string. I took it. I shook it. Of course, it was a rattlesnake – a big one. I mean, the box was heavy. So I untied it and opened it. They'd tied its muzzle. I had friends at SMS [Southwest Missouri State] (I don't know what it's called now, but it was SMS at that time, the college there in Springfield). I took out the snake and held it, looked in the eyes. The eyes were flashing, and it was buzzing, and all that. But they had it tied well around the nose. I put it back in the box, and said, "SMS is looking for big rattlers. I'll take it to them and I thank you for it."

But you get these little tests. And big tests. If you're going to be a leader, why, that's their right to test you – *I* think. Some of it's pretty psychologically smart, and some of it's just plain obvious. But they want to see what you're made of.

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We had a good staff when I was at the Mark Twain. Roger Kirkman was a very committed wildlife person. I had, by then, some advanced schooling at various federal institutes. I had taken additional work at the University of Wisconsin. They kept sending me to school to try and keep me up to date.

In our time there, I think the major contribution was getting the Boundary Waters canoe area in Minnesota back into wilderness. Now they keep threatening to put the motors back in and all that kind of stuff, which is natural.

Somebody was just down on the Mark Twain recently and went to Big Spring. As I was, they were tremendously impressed with this river flowing out of the ground. The other springs that we were able to save. I'm going back this year. We'll be down in Branson in September, and I'll travel the Mark Twain again, and [see what changed]. We'll go back to Springfield and visit friends and our daughters' graves.

I enjoyed the state capitol work.

[tape meter, 250]

Fact is -- (laughing) This is an aside: One day I went in to testify. It's tough going when you're working the capitol and fighting for conservation or ecology (or whatever term you want to put on it). It was a stressful testimony. I came out, and in the old capitol, the doors on the bathrooms were not clearly designated. So I'm in the toilet with my stuff on a radiator, and a lady comes in and says, "What are you doing in here?" I looked around. No urinals. I said, "Lady, I don't know what I'm in here, but I'm out of here." (laughs) But anyway; stress of the moment.

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WS: Do you remember any of the state legislators who were particular allies or enemies of your program?

HD: No. I used to keep the Blue Books. I'll tell you, I worked on the Hill so long for the Forest Service in Washington, and then in Maryland after that. It runs together. That's reaching back quite a ways.

WS: Now you came to Missouri probably in the early or mid '60s, I guess.

HD: I'd guess. I don't know. I'd have to look that up. We were there six years.

WS: Six years. So maybe you left by the late '60s.

HD: Probably right.

WS: So while you were there you did see the implementation of that Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

HD: Yes. We got the Eleven Point first under the state, and then under the federal. That was easier that way. That's as I remember it. Now you're talking a seventy-five year old man, remember.

WS: Right. But you have good recall. The way I came across your name, actually, I was looking through he archival papers of Leo Drey.

HD: Yes. Well Leo was a good friend of mine.

WS: I would guess so.

HD: We were very close.

WS: And of course you recall he was trying to get the Forest Service to acquire that land that the Park Service ended up acquiring.

HD: Right.

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WS: I had read all the congressional testimony from that event and everything, and one of the things I was trying to track down – and this may be difficult to locate – but it seemed at the time that the secretary of agriculture, who I guess was Orville Freeman, decided that he did not want the Forest Service expanding, and actually supported the Park Service bill – which would seem to me to really hurt Leo Drey's cause.

HD: It did. [But that's politics: "The art of the trade." We don't know until later what was traded for that decision.]

WS: I wonder what the explanation for that is?

HD: Well; are you a politician?

WS: I do a lot of political history here in Missouri.

HD: We've been in politics; in and out of it [non-partisan politics]. I've run for school boards, city planning commission, whatever. But we've stayed out of bipartisan politics, although we're around the periphery always. The reasons for things are not always apparent [at the time it is happening].

[tape meter, 300]

At the Washington level deals are made politically. All of politics is a trade off. I was working with a senator here for years, Gerald Weingrad in Maryland, and when Gerry violated his conscience (so to speak) I'd always call him on it. He said, "Hank, I've got to trade if I'm going to get what I've got to have." When you realize that, then you can look back and look at the issues of the moment and see why the trades are made. Generally, it might take five years, but in the end the truth comes out. People talk afterwards.

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But Orville Freeman. I thought he was a good secretary. We knew his wife and we knew him. But I'm sure a deal was made. You know what I mean?

WS: Yes.

HD: And once you've made the deal, then you've got to live with it. But that didn't change our goal of not only gaining land, or gaining the preservation of this type of river. Also, before the girls died – a week or two before – I took fifteen johnboats and canoes of church kids on a week's float on the Eleven Point. It was a personal thing with me to acquire the land, and also to get wild river status. Symington was a problem for a while, but then that came around. Leo Drey, I considered him to be one of my best friends.

WS: That's an amazing operation he has there, the Pioneer Forest.

HD: Right.

WS: I just got a tour of it last month. One of his foresters drove me all over Dent and Shannon counties and showed me. Of course, anybody that's seen a clear-cut – the contrast between what they're doing there on the Pioneer compared to most logging I've ever seen just amazed me.

HD: Yes.

WS: It's a very idealistic – and, really – practical operation at the same time.

HD: Right.

WS: It's really wonderful.

HD: Well he's a great guy. I'd say he's one of those that should be honored with a statue, for Missouri. [He is an unrewarded conservation hero].

WS: I think so to. To me, from what I've gathered, he's the preeminent environmental hero for the state.

HD: I'd say so.

WS: In fact, I came across an article in *Audubon* magazine a little while ago. I think the title of it was, "Every State Needs a Leo Drey." (laughs)

HD: That's right.

WS: (laughing) They were saying how lucky Missouri was. Well, it seemed to me that his ideas were kind of ahead of their time in some ways – and maybe still would be – with this idea of scenic easements (which was pretty new at that time) and getting the Forest Service. I mean, his whole vision of having the Forest Service protect that area with a low intensity or a dispersed recreation rather than the intense – and of course, all that came true.

[tape meter, 350]

Because now I think they get two million visitors a year, and they've got all the problems, all the headaches of having a crowd of people in there.

But your point of view kind of amazes me, *coming* from the Forest Service. I realize it's probably not unique, but it probably is not typical either, in that you were a wilderness advocate. So I'm kind of surprised you'd be with the Forest Service as opposed to, perhaps, the Park Service.

HD: In my first ranger district I had the Three Sisters wilderness. You don't know these mountains, but…

WS: That's in California?

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HD: No, in Oregon. Broken Top, Mount Hood. We lived at the base of Mount Hood for a couple of years.

WS: This is all in the Cascades, I take it.

HD: Yes. It's northern Cascades. And I had wilderness districts. The fact is, on the Crescent District we encircled the [Crater Lake National] Park, and we had 107 lakes, just on that one district.

WS: Would you ever happened to have met Ernie Dickerman, the wilderness advocate?

HD: No.

WS: He's in his eighties now, in Virginia. He's not that far from you.

HD: No, I haven't. Mostly Maryland, eastern shore, and Delaware is where I worked with the people.

[end of side 1, tape I; tape meter, 376]

HD: This Jerry Gott, he was just a kid when we brought him on. We've mentored many, many people. But he stayed on the Mark Twain. He's a soil scientist. But he knows that story. Another person that knows some of the story would be Roger Kirkman. I don't know if he's dead or alive, but he was younger than we are, so he still may be around. He moved to Rolla. He was the wildlife biologist on the Forest at the time. Those are the only two, I think (plus Bruce Elliott) who would know. I don't know who's still living down there.

WS: I saw Mr. Elliott.

HD: Everybody dies, eventually. To me, the Mark Twain was a great learning experience, and really totally enjoyable. Of course, all my jobs have been that, so.

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I'm a dispersed recreation person. One of the great tragedies of our civilization [is the loss of touch with the land]. I live in an urban area. Maryland has a person behind every tree (if you've ever been to Maryland). We just finished a daily vacation Bible school – the only point is, we're trying to build a bridge back to the land. The problem with today's generation is the loss of the tie to the land and the lessons [it teaches us of life and living]. You know, a lot of the Biblical lessons are all tied to the land. And if you don't understand the land [you miss a lot]. I have this tree farm. My family calls it a swamp. It's in a critical area [near Chesapeake Bay]. In Maryland we have a critical area law, where a thousand feet from all water is a critical area, and so on. That's [where I receive] my restoration of soul. I have bald eagles and Seka deer and regular [white tail] deer; all sorts of wildlife over there. I plant a thousand trees a year, or more. It is a swampy area.

But it's a place where I renew my soul. In Genesis it says we're given dominion over the world, and I appreciate that stewardship. Our whole message, and my whole career, *is based on the concept that we are stewards of land*. We don't own anything. We look at our house as a gift that we're stewards of while we're here. That's why we've always run an open house and have a lot of good and some bad experiences; mostly good; people living with us for various reasons.

If you see the world as a stewardship operation where we don't own it; we're just here for a time; we're all going to die – and if you want to feel good about what you've done here, you want to make a contribution. [We try to teach the] understanding that

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everything you have on, everything you've eaten today, every part of your car, or whatever is important to you, that it's a product of the *land*; and the air and the sea.

We just had a meeting with the chief of the Forest Service this week. Us old folks are, as a courtesy, invited in. The guy's name is [Mike] Dombeck. He's a smooth politician [and is pushing watershed management].

WS: He's a biologist, isn't he?

HD: Yes. His emphasis is watershed, but he is a biologist. I know him. I just talked at the meeting. But the Forest Service has been politicized [and is trying the change into a new mode of operation by the year 2000].

WS: It has?

HD: Oh yes.

WS: In what way?

HD: Well; Dombeck is a [partisan] politician. Now that's a different type of person, basically, [from the old chiefs who came up through the USFS]. (chuckling) He's a neat guy. My wife and I went to hear him a while back. She said, "Boy, is he smooth at working an audience." Because he worked her very well.

But anyway, he had his regional foresters, and so on, in. I'm still in and out of forestry to a degree, but mostly out. I'm just informed. But anyway, the crew he surrounded himself with are not natural resource types. They're political types. There's a difference. There really is. He's gradually bumped the green underwear people out and brought in his own people.

[tape meter, 50]

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I have other words, but I'm going to be discreet. His people. I like him. And he's the man for the hour. He's pushing watershed, which is good. Water is a life function and you can't go wrong with that. And many of the nation's watersheds are on the national forests, which we all knew and cared about too. It's just the type of people he brings in are not land caring as much as they are political survivalists. Does that explain your question?

WS: Sure. Yes.

HD: Jim Lyons is our assistant secretary; he's a personal friend. The fact is, a lot of them are. I was also with the American Forestry Association (now American Forests) for six years. The deputy chief of the Forest Service took it over and asked me to come and run the programs, which I did for six years. Then he got fired and they asked if I wanted to do it and I didn't want to do it and stayed on while they made the transition to Neil Sampson. All of these are friends and interworking relationships. I was talking to Washington today about what's happening there this week. Also, one of my other things was, I was executive director of the State Forest Service Association, which has all the state foresters and so on. These all influence what I say and what I think. [The state foresters are a very interesting group].

I wish more natural resource professionals would take psychology and communication and develop writing skills. I'd say the greatest problem with the people that wear green underwear (as we call them; those that are dedicated totally to stewardship), they don't write enough. I mean, one thing I give research credit for, it's

"write or die." But you don't have any requirements like that for line people or people that are trying to run things – (laughing) because they don't want to be quoted, normally.

WS: Right. That's part of the problem, the controversies and all. When I was talking to Mr. Trammel down there at the Pioneer (he's a forester for Mr. Drey), he mentioned that. He was interested in having me write something about the history of their operation – which is why I contacted him – but he expressed pretty much what you just said, that I could get the word out in ways that they can't. And he *tries*. He gives people tours of that area and all. He's involved with this Forest Stewards Guild. Are you aware of that?

HD: No, I'm not.

WS: Sort of a newer kind of organization; I guess may be the future organization in the way that the American Forestry Association has been for the last hundred years or whatever.

In terms of timber, when you were there on the Mark Twain, was that shortleaf regeneration going on that early?

HD: Oh yes.

WS: They were trying to bring that back.

HD: Yes.

WS: How about grandmawing? Did you have any problem with that? You know what I'm talking about? Timber theft? Poaching?

HD: Yes. There was poaching. There's always been poaching down there. You know, give these people credit. We can call them rednecks or hillbillies or whatever – these people are survivors, and they're going to do what they have to do to survive, legal or illegal.

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I have trouble with speeding, I must admit that, but I try to obey the laws. Recently I started to wear a seatbelt because my granddaughters and great granddaughters were driving me crazy with, "Papa, your seatbelt! Papa your seatbelt!" So now I wear it. That's kid pressure. [It takes pressure and economic incentives to make changes in people's habits].

But there was a lot of illegal grazing, timber theft, and a lot of arson. Those were three things that, I guess, have always been there. I was in big timber out west for years. You gradually get to marking stuff and branding and so on. It's like shooting these pigs and cattle with paint pellets. You can't get that off [by catching them in the woods]. But when they brought them to market we could spot them right away. And it really worked. But you've got to find them in trespass, and you've got to shoot them and document it.

WS: So were you able to fine them when they brought them to market?

[tape meter, 100]

HD: Oh, yes. It worked. The fact is, we were in court quite a bit. I never thought the assistant district attorney in St. Louis was on our side very often. I thought he was anti-federal government. But that's all right. We still did our thing. But we did a lot with the courts. You have to if you're going to administrate land.

WS: By the time you came to the Mark Twain, the Forest Service had been in Missouri for a good thirty years, I guess.

HD: Oh, yes.

WS: I wonder if your impression was if the local people had generally accepted the Forest Service presence, or if they were still resisting it?

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HD: Well, I'm an I&E [Information and Education] person, or communication person. We had a reporter for the Springfield paper that ran a big spread on the Forest every week, almost; and working the other papers with feeds. I would say there has always been a group of anti-government people down there, and I think there always will be. If these people were visionary they would see that it is in their long term interest to keep the beauty of the Ozarks and protect it. But if you're living hardscrabble, that's kind of hard to talk about. "Hey, I've got to eat tomorrow." Or, "I need a road to get my kids to school." Or whatever it happens to be.

I think, except for some of people back in the gullies and up in the hills, we had generally good relations. But there were some that were what we called outlaw types. They were a pain in the tail from the word get-go till the end. I mean, this was a family tradition to give the Forest Service a hard time. (laughing) You know, it travels from grandpa to papa to kids. The lifestyle continues, too.

I'll be back there this year. We always visit. The kids are buried in Springfield, so we come there to visit the graves and cry and so on.

WS: Did you notice any kind of difference between the eastern and the western Ozarks? Because I know politically around Springfield there is heavily Republican, and then you get back into Van Buren and those counties and it's all traditionally solid Democrat. It's just opposite.

HD: Yes. I'm going to say this: we were aware of it. But to answer your question straight out, it didn't affect us. People like Leo Drey and the people that were running the various state conservation groups – we had a partnership and a friendship. I don't think except in

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the local races, where there may be issues, why, it had any effect. We certainly, long ago, as green underwear people, realized that you can play one side or the other. You've got to have your value system and talk straight if people are going to believe you. And if it's popular, fine. If it's not popular, you take the heat and whatever comes with it.

I believe the truth comes out in the end. If it's wrong, it's not going to work. Like the grass just exploded. If I hadn't had Bob Ralston in the research center there at Columbia, I'd have been dead. Because I had factual research that showed this was the natural and *best* economics for the land. And Bob did a lot of economic studies. He was a brain. He saved my bacon with the state over and over. Who can argue when you've got research and history and everything going for you?

WS: Now, would these be prairie grasslands? Tallgrass prairie or just some other kind of grass?

[tape meter, 150]

HD: The goal was to save prairie grasses. [That was one of the many goals of] the Nature Conservancy. But this grass was grazing grass. I can get into the various terms of grass, but it was not the original prairie grass. It was patterned after that, but you've got new grasses that grow better and do better and so on.

WS: Another thing that came to mind with the east and the west of the Ozarks – Mr. Elliott was telling me the timber was generally richer in the eastern sections. I guess the soil is a little bit better.

HD: Yes it was, no question.

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WS: So when you were establishing those grasses, it made me think that perhaps that was more in the southwestern part of the state.

HD: It was. But see, again, it goes back to soil type. If you look at your soil maps, you can quickly tell what's good timber soil. In timber it's called "site class," in soils it's a whole bunch of different terminology. But you can tell by your soil what it's capable of growing best. That's what we used as our guide and model, was the soil. Reading the Schoolcraft journals you got a mental picture of what it was originally. The soil [determines what will grow best there even with all the] other environmental influences. A lot of it was burned every year [and the Indians probably did it before our time]. You can determine from soils and geology and also the weather what's best suited for that site or what grew there naturally. But these journals of history are the best things to know what was there originally. Thank God for people who wrote.

WS: One question I have for you that I just thought of during this conversation: I can remember looking through the old Forest Service manuals (and I think it's still a current rule) where they tell their employees that they are not to get involved with politics. And you've kind of mentioned that, in terms of not playing one side or the other. But then, of course, if you get up into the upper level such as the position you held with the Mark Twain, and then you were just talking about the Forest Service chief – I'm sure it would be naïve to think that a person in such a position could avoid politics.

HD: I was assigned the capitol. I was up there at least one day a week. I mean, what is politics? Partisan politics is what they're talking about, and there are laws about that. That's why I ran for school boards and other jobs. They were nonpartisan. But the goal

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was, you play the political game. See, to me, all of life is like a game, although it's run for us by the Bible as the foundation. But it's all a game. And if you don't enjoy the game you shouldn't be in it. And you've got to know the rules, the language, and so on. Each game has it's own rules and its own language. The political game is that way.

When I was working on Capitol Hill here in Washington, why, the goal was to get the budget increased. That was reality for us. In working the Missouri state capitol there are always issues that affect the land. What you're trying to do is present a professional's view – a professional wears green underwear and loves the land and the stewardship concept – to present that picture.

WS: So really you kind of functioned as a lobbyist for the Forest Service, I guess.

HD: Well, yes . . .

WS: And I don't mean the connotations—

HD: And I've been a lobbyist; not for the Forest Service, but since.

WS: It's the same kind of skills, though.

[tape meter, 200]

HD: Yes. What it is, where you're wanted or where you're asked, you explain a given position, or write it, or do whatever you do. But you just stay out of the partisan politics part of it. But I mean, life is politics.

WS: Was it ever sort of a tightrope to walk in between politics and partisan politics?

HD: No, because all of us knew what the rules were. If you wanted to run for Congress, state legislature, house of reps, or whatever, you had to leave the Forest Service. More became preachers, I think, of my group. But some elected to run later on. We saw

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ourselves, basically, as information gatherers and givers in the congressional role. It's the same at the national capitol. We had a dog and pony show we took up and gave up to the staff [of congress people and senators], because they make a lot of decisions. Then we gave it to the senator or congressman later in an abbreviated, sophisticated [form -- highly visualized and backed up by a] written version, or testify before the committees. But it was the same thing there.

I testified on certain bills that the Forest Service had a position on, but not in a bipartisan way. If it affected resources, we wanted to have something to say. We worked a lot with Joe Jaeger and the various state foresters; Osal Capps and others. We tried to maintain a uniform position. The only place they disagreed with me was on the grass thing. But that didn't go anywhere. It didn't affect me in any way, or my relationships with them.

WS: Had the Missouri Prairie Foundation gotten going that early?

HD: No. That was after. We worked with Nature Conservancy. That was really the only environmental group. Well, we started the Society of American Foresters local chapter while I was there. But those were to get the foresters organized and united, and mainly, active in their profession. Because some of them were kind of drying up.

WS: Did you have any interaction with the local Sierra Club chapter, the Ozark chapter there?

HD: Yes.

WS: I would think they were pretty interested in what you were trying to do.

HD: They were, and they were good friends. I've been a member of almost everything at various times in my life. I can't remember if I was a member of the Sierra Club there or

not. I have been, but I don't think I was there, because I had my hands full with Nature Conservancy, SAF, and school board and a lot of other things.

WS: Once the Ozark National Scenic Riverways got going, did you guys over in Forest Service have much interaction with them?

HD: We interacted with anyone that was trying to save land.

WS: Sometimes I realize there's a rivalry or antagonism between Park Service and the Forest Service. But you had none of that in Missouri?

[tape meter, 250]

HD: No. My whole career I've worked with the Park Service. I could be working for the Park Service. It wouldn't make any difference. I just loved the Forest Service and wore green underwear (as we say, if you're really committed). They were all my brothers and sisters, so to speak. I never had any problem with any other group that was interested in land stewardship. I worked a lot with the soil conservation districts, because they were basically doing the same thing. And I encouraged them to be big in their thing.

I became a little jaded later on when many farmers started to farm the system. Some don't farm the land [-- they farm the subsidies]. And I still feel that way today, about the big farms. They farm the system. They don't farm the land. A lot of them admit it.

WS: How about the Farm Bureau?

HD: Close to them.

WS: They figure into that?

HD: Yes. They're good people.

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WS: That's interesting, though. I'm sure that ties into the federal subsidies.

HD: Yes. Some have drifted away from farming the land and caring about the land, to farming the system, [plant to the streams and gullies], because that's where they make their money. We've become a welfare state for farmers, in my opinion.

WS: I see what you mean. That topic is too complicated for me to understand completely, but I get bits and pieces of it sometimes.

HD: Well, when we're subsidizing tobacco? We're [not too bright].

WS: A lot of that stuff goes back to the 1930s, I guess. I know in Missouri they were paying them to destroy the cotton crop down in the Bootheel, from over-production. I think there was a rhyme and a reason to it then, but I don't know how it got from where it was then to now. I just have never studied it.

HD: Well, big money talks. Believe me. Big money talks. You know, I give Leo Drey great credit.

WS: He's doing something unusual with his money, isn't he?

HD: Not only that. He has the money, *but he has the heart*. He's got the right heart. I always loved that man. He helped us beyond belief.

WS: In what ways was he able to help you?

HD: We were friends, and we just believed in the same thing. Of course, you always have some differences; in style, more than anything. But he was the kind of local person that gives professional people like me, that are passing through, the courage to do what's right. Because you've got a lot of people that are on your tail all the time, criticizing. Like the Corps trying to get money to [dam every river and stream]. (laughs) Of course,

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maybe it isn't bad. But for the Eleven Point it was. And the Current; you know, the whole thing. The main thing was, protect the rivers.

[tape meter, 300]

I met with Colonel Maynard and Symington and others quite a few times. There was competition [between us and the Corps on basic philosophy].

WS: Of course, as you realize, Mr. Drey, in his timbering philosophy, is strictly a selective logger; sort of like going back to the days of Gifford Pinchot, is the way it struck me.

HD: Well, that's right.

WS: And does not practice clear cutting.

HD: No.

WS: Of course, being with the Forest Service, you would be subjected to the national policy more, and I would guess in the '60s was when clear cutting was beginning to accelerate pretty rapidly within the Forest Service. How did you weigh in on clear cutting?

HD: I was raised on clear cutting out west. Have you ever been to Oregon?

WS: Oh sure.

HD: Okay. I was on the Willamette. Bob Aufderheidi was the supervisor. And you've got to realize that people do things – and I believe this; it may not be accurate – but people do the best they can with the knowledge they have at that time. It's easy to Monday morning quarterback, and look back and say, "Hey, you were really dumb, there, buddy."

The Willamette was the largest cutting forest in the United States. We prided ourselves in bringing lots of money to the treasury, and reasonably protecting the land. Bob Aufterheidi told Norm Gould and I, "If you guys will stay an extra year and get out

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the cut for me -- " Because it isn't easy to get out the volumes that we were moving. He said, "I will give you the choice of any ranger district you want." So Norm and I got out the cut, and he made his goals. Then I chose Sisters Ranger District, which is in eastern Oregon, and Norm chose Steamboat, which is down on the river, on the west side. I went over to the east side, and that was keen tree class. [All cutting was by tree selection in Ponderosa Pine. So I was brought up on both systems of cutting. Personally I prefer tree selection].

WS: Now that's in the Blue Mountains, right?

HD: Yes, Blue Mountains and eastern Oregon. We did everything by selection cut there. Everything on the [western] side was clear cut. I'd been in John Day originally, and that was all keen tree class – again, you selection cut. That was ponderosa pine, basically.

WS: And in the west, of course, it was Douglas fir.

HD: Yes, but that was clear cut.

[tape meter, 350]

WS: Right. Now somebody told me that clear cutting was really designed for Douglas fir forest.

HD: It was.

WS: So when you got into a deciduous forest or a mixed forest, that's when maybe there were problems.

HD: Right. Now the Forest Service – I don't know if you know current philosophy – is getting out of the timber business, basically.

WS: Right! That was the impression I had.

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HD: It's true.

WS: Mr. Dombeck that you mentioned, he's the second biologist to head the Forest Service, isn't he? I mean the guy just preceding him was the very first non-forestry background chief, as far as I know.

HD: Right. And he was not the best chief. He was a Forest Service green underwear guy, but had problems as chief. He's back doing what he should in Montana. Yes, that's true. That's a true statement. The Forest Service was run by foresters for many years. And it was a male-dominated organization. That was the way it was. It's not that anymore. I was just at a meeting where the regional forester in Albuquerque is a black lady. As I told the group that was assembled there (the regional foresters and so on) I think in my lifetime I may see a woman minority chief. It wouldn't surprise me.

But anyway, times do change, and the Forest Service is getting out of the timber business. The Missouri forests didn't lend themselves to big controversies. You know what I mean?

WS: Was it partly because you weren't getting the volume of cut?

HD: It's not a timber-dominated community.

WS: Whereas western Oregon would be.

HD: Western Oregon was timber—

[end of side 2, tape I; tape meter, 384]

HD: And then the foreign markets came in, and that changed it again. But now the Forest Service is getting out of the timber business very rapidly. Dombeck is pushing watersheds. I think it's the right choice. He's really coming right along with his

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program. The Forest Service is under some heat for its fiscal stuff and all of that. But he's going to survive, and I think do reasonably well. He [brought in his own crew and is] surrounding himself with political types who I think will help him do that.

WS: Know how to run the operation.

HD: Well, more than that. The whole key is, "Get elected." In other words, everything is run for reelection; the whole system is run for reelection. There are some dangers in that, politically, and for people. But it's not all bad. Sometimes the people in their non-wisdom aren't always up to steam and on schedule with things that need to be done. They're not making land anymore; not on this earth. So land values and water have become critical mass, so to speak.

Here in Maryland we live in a small community. I was showing Martha an ad. One of the houses down the street is on the water, but it's over a million bucks, and this is just a normal neighborhood.

WS: Getting to be like coastal California.

HD: Right. Yes, I mean, unreasonable. But the other thing that I hope is happening – and you would know more about this than I do – is that Missouri protects the uniqueness of the Ozarks. You know, somebody just drove the old road across from Van Buren and West Plains on into Springfield, and they said, "Man, it's like going back in time." The vistas and all. And I'll drive that road when we go down in September, but I haven't been there in about five years. Springfield has grown just massively since we were out there. How do you see it happening? What do you see happening to Missouri?

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WS: Well, the big thing in timber, down in the Ozarks now, is the controversy over the chip mills. I guess you've heard about that. They're worried; everybody – the Pioneer Forest is against them, and I was talking to a guy you might have known (he may not have owned it then), but the Beamer Handle Company, there in Van Buren. They're worried about it. At first it sounded like a great idea, like all this slab wood and such that may rot would get used. But what they're worried about is that somebody with immature trees will cut everything to get a fast dollar, because the chip mills, of course, are just after fiber, and they'll utilize anything and everything. They have run their course in the South, from what I'm told. I haven't really studied this. But a lot of people feel that they're getting toward the fringes of their territory. They tried to get a moratorium on them, but they failed, just recently. They tried to get the state legislature to put a moratorium on any *additional* chip mills.

HD: Why did it fail?

WS: I honestly don't know. I think the governor refused to support it.

HD: Leo would know.

WS: Yes, he would know. Mr. Drey would know, because I think he was involved. He's still involved in things.

HD: Yes; you have to shut stuff like that off, somewhere.

WS: I had a friend, he just left the state forestry division in Virginia and went to Oregon. I worked for the Forest Service in Virginia there, the Jefferson National Forest, for a while.

HD: Oh, did you?

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WS: Yes, and did historical work for them. And all that timber that was pretty much wiped out a hundred years ago is coming back now. I don't really know the details, but my friend Paul said the international timber corporations are moving in there now, and he said the greed factor was very pronounced. It was bothering him, because he saw a lot of violation of law in regard to protecting the watershed and all. And Virginia being kind of an old, traditional, conservative type state government would deal with it in a progressive fashion, the way Oregon apparently *is* doing. So he was very happy to make that move and just get out of the mess. (laughs)

And Paul is a good guy. He's been a logger and a treeplanter and worked in a sawmill, and is not just some college guy with a forestry degree. So he could speak their lingo. But he would get responses like, "Now Paul, don't ask for too much." You know, when he's trying to get them to quit driving their logging trucks through a creek or something. And he'd say, "It's not a matter of 'too much.' This is the *law*." (laughing) "And you have to stop doing this." But I think it was a pretty stressful job for him there.

HD: I'm sure it was.

[tape meter, 50]

WS: That's in the east, though. As far as Missouri, what I've heard so far is this thing with the chip mills. But I don't know. To me, the Pioneer Forest, being 156,000 acres, makes the entire situation there exceptional. I've just never seen anything like it, with an acreage that big being run in that manner.

HD: That's right. Well, you have to have money to do it, because a lot of the big companies are selling out when it comes to greed. They just won't pay the taxes. Also, the

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environmental community is on their back all the time. They just sell out and go where they can make more money faster and easier.

One thing about the Ozarks, it's not a quick in and quick out type of operation; distances and everything give it some protection. Leo's generally politically very astute. I'm surprised they lost that one.

WS: Yes. And then, of course, they lost their Natural Streams Act in 1990. That was very controversial. And there was a lot of – well, I guess in any political campaign – there was a fair amount of propaganda and misinformation that was thrown around in regard to that. I think the legislation itself was maybe more complicated than it could have been in order for it to be efficacious. I think some people just understand it, and they went on rumor about what they *thought* the legislation meant, rather than understanding what the legislation actually was.

HD: Whatever goes through has to be simplified to the point where an average person reading a newspaper can understand it. And if they can't, the propagandists will win. And a propagandist is anybody who doesn't view what I view.

WS: Right!

(much laughter)

WS: Hey, I wonder when you were on the Mark Twain, if you had much in the way of mineral exploration or mining companies interested in your land?

HD: No.

WS: That wasn't a very big resource.

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HD: They were always snooping around. We, having been out west, and also. The most lasting [memory for me] about mining is the Iron Range. Have you ever been up in Minnesota and looked at the iron pits?

WS: No.

HD: You'll never forget it if you do. I have a cautionary eye towards all mining, and particularly living here and traveling West Virginia; and also northwestern Maryland has a lot of coal mines, strip mining. I've always been very cautious. I don't discourage it, but I certainly don't advocate mining in many instances. Because it's ruined *so* many streams. Cheap coal is not cheap coal, to me.

WS: I know what you mean.

HD: But no, it was not a problem.

WS: Well, what is the most proud accomplishment you have in regard to the Mark Twain, when you think back?

HD: Working to preserve the Eleven Point. No question about that. And the springs; Big Spring, and other things. Working with Leo and others to preserve God's gift to Missouri, the Ozarks. We worked hard at that. The beauty, that appreciation, and also that recreation for the people in Springfield [and all of Missouri]. A place to go to hunt, camp, hike, and fish; to keep that viable. Because it's easily destroyed. I know the trips I made down the Eleven Point, and catfish feeds, and all that kind of stuff; they're good memories.

But I'd say the number one was the Eleven Point. Number two was getting all those soil scientists and changing the management from what I'd say "surface

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management" to "soils management." Getting back what's there, and what will do best for society in the long run on that site.

WS: On the Eleven Point, was your main thrust to buy that riverbank land? Was that the main thing you were doing?

HD: There were two thrusts. The main thing was to get it classified for protection. That was number one. We got it first through the state, and then federal, later.

WS: Was that through the 1964 Wilderness Act? Was that how you were doing that?

[tape meter, 100]

HD: It was a state law, classifying the Eleven Point as a wild river. That was the first step.

WS: Were you able to get that land all through willing sellers, or did you do any eminent domain?

HD: For the majority it was willing sellers. If we had the money we could get the land. Now Big Spring and some other things, there were political complications; all kinds of complications. It took a lot of work. We acquired all the land we could that we had the money for. If we'd had more money we could have acquired more land.

The main thing was, to me, was to protect the unique, God-given, special resources, like the rivers. Water is a life process, and also great for recreation. The magic of those springs coming out of the ground with the volume of water they carry; the caves, and all that kind of stuff. Just to keep a base where people could relate to the land. You know, city people that have lost touch with the land don't have a lot of chance to go to places and experience nature's chiggers, ticks, bugs, and all the other stuff. A lot of them don't want to, either. That's too bad.

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I had an attack of lime disease earlier this year. Martha is a very good expert of picking off ticks. But it's part of the land. You know; it doesn't bother me. Right now we have strawberry flies, and they bite; sometimes mosquitoes, and they bite. But our grand kids have a wonderful time there with the RV four-track and other things we run; hunting, camping, campfire nights, and fishing. I've got three ponds on it, so we have good fishing.

But the Eleven Point. And although it's a side thing, the use of Schoolcraft and Bob Ralston and the soils to try to find a management program that was economically the best for Missouri.

WS: You mentioned you had two thrusts for the Eleven Point. And one was getting it classified.

HD: Right. Well, the other was to stop the Corps [from damming the rivers]. (laughing) The number one, straight out, is, "Stop the Corps!" They had construction money. Not planning money, construction [money]. And they'd do the same thing they did with the White. You know. End up with another Table Rock [Lake]. And we just didn't think everything had to be dammed. Once you stop the Corps, you can start on these other things. I flew more miles in a Cessna with more people than you'll ever know. I had a bunch of planes under contract, and I'd grab one wherever I was at and fly. I like to fly, but it's a way to see the country.

WS: I guess your work up at the Boundary Waters was good training for what you were going to do at the Eleven Point.

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HD: Oh, yes. I learned resistance up there. We pulled out forty resorts on the ice over the winter months, and man, I'll tell you; they [local resisters] did everything. The locals really blew their cool on that. But, you know, that's part of the game. I went back after we got it reclassified as Boundary Waters Quetico [Canoe Area], and had my family up there canoeing and camping and catching walleye pike. Then you know it's worth it, when you experience it yourself.

WS: Down on the Mark Twain, you got your Eleven Point designation accomplished. Was there anything that you were trying to get done, that you were *not* able to get done; that was a disappointment to you when you left Missouri?

[tape meter, 150]

HD: Well, I'm going to say no. Because we had six good years there, even with the family tragedy. I thought we did the job I was sent to do, and then I was ready to go on to the next challenge, which was to take fire control and make it into fire management, with all the agencies in the government along with you, plus California. That was a fun assignment, too.

WS: Yes, I guess you really saw the transition from the Smokey the Bear type of "no fire" up to prescribed fire.

HD: Right. Well, change is the only constant we have, and being a change agent, why, if you like the work, if you enjoy the game, it's a lot of fun. If you don't, it'd be hell. But I enjoy people and politics, and I enjoyed the game. It's really not politics; it's a game of people and their attitudes and opinions. Our whole goal was to change attitudes and to try to keep the greedy ones from grabbing more than they should. You come to the

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conclusion eventually, people will do anything for money – and somebody has *got* to be stewards of the land. Not that we're goody-goody, it's just that we believe that; that God gave us dominion over the earth, and we're supposed to take care of it. See, I've got fifteen grandchildren, four great grandchildren coming up, and I want something left for them. Of course, I'm also for population reduction, but as Martha says, I didn't practice that very well.

WS: (laughs) Well, Mr. Debruin, I believe I've gotten through all my questions for you.

HD: Okay.

WS: I'd like to give you a chance to make any closing remarks that you want to make.

HD: No, I just am always appreciative of historians or documentors or journal people. See, the only thing that lives is writing. All the rest; words and tapes and all that eventually goes. But what's written – it's like the *Sand County Almanac* or any of these; *Breaking New Ground*, with Gifford Pinchot. The fact is, at the chief's meeting, Gifford Pinchot's book, *Breaking New Ground*, was quoted four times.

WS: (laughing) I'll be darned.

HD: Anyway. Mike was using that as his pulpit.

WS: I'm glad to hear they remember him.

HD: Yes, they do. But I am just thankful there are people like you that are recording for history, as best they can, what is happening, what has happened, and will predict the future if we don't do certain things. Anyway, God bless you, and glad you're there.

WS: Thank you Mr. Debruin.

[end of interview; incidental conversation omitted, 182-187]