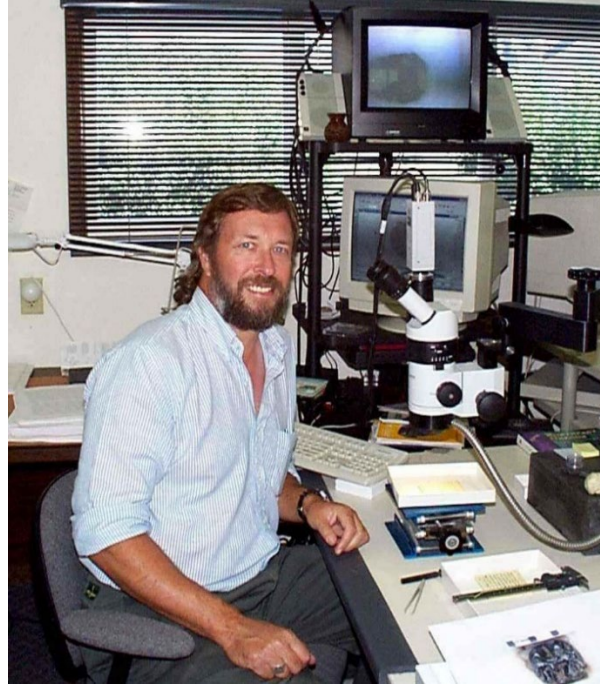


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NPS Paleontology Program Records (HFCA 2465) Vincent Santucci's NPS Oral History Project, 2016-2024



Ted Fremd
December 11, 2021

Interview conducted by Vincent Santucci
Transcribed by Rev.com
Edited by Molly Williams

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Interviewer: Vincent Santucci
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Transcript

[START OF INTERVIEW]

Vincent Santucci: 00:03 All right, we're good. Today is Saturday, December 11th, 2021. My name is Vincent Santucci, Senior Paleontologist for the National Park Service Paleontology Program. Today we are conducting an interview with Ted Fremd, retired National Park Service Paleontologist. This is our second interview with Ted, who previously participated in the first interview on August 19th, 2020. During that interview, we discussed his background, education, and work at Fossil Butte National Monument in Wyoming.

Today we would like to focus on Ted's work for the National Park Service as a Science Advisor to the Pacific West Regional Director. We are accompanied today by Erin Eichenberg, the Integrated Resource Manager at Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument in Nevada. The interview is being conducted by telephone from Ted's home in Oregon. Aaron is in Nevada and I am in Pennsylvania.

Ted Fremd: 00:59 Actually, I'm at my office at the University of Oregon.

Vincent Santucci: 01:02 Let's go ahead and change that, yeah. Okay, so from his office, perfect. So Ted, can you give us some background about how this whole concept of a Science Advisor evolved in the Pacific West region and how you became involved with it?

Ted Fremd: 01:20 Well, I believe I sent you a memorandum from then Regional Director John Reynolds, who started the whole concept of a science advisor largely as a result of input from the CESUs and CPSUs at the time and the impetus of the Natural Resource Challenge of—gosh, this was like 20 years ago. And his wish was to make certain that we didn't just talk about having science-based resource management, but we needed to really have people that were formerly dedicated to doing that as much as a third of their time.

- 02:18 All of us, all science advisors were stationed at individual parks and formed what later Regional Director John Jarvis referred to as a science council. And the effort was to integrate our own specialties, whatever they may be, into park management and decision making. So parks were offered an opportunity to formally request - the superintendent of each park would formally request one or more members of the science council, depending on their specialty, to visit a park and provide input for if they were in the middle of doing GMPs.
- 02:56 That was one thing or resource management plans or working with CESUs. Or if they had a specific environmental catastrophe happened, which in fact, was twice I was involved with one of those. And it was an interesting thing because I was the only paleontologist on the group and what I tried to do was bring a more deep time perspective to the points of view that many of the others had. And although they were familiar with deep time and things like the Anthropocene and so forth, few of them, if any, had brought that perspective of it to managing many of the resources.
- 03:44 And then I did specific work events for individual parks like Joshua Tree, Golden Gate, Wrangell-St. Elias, and other parks in an effort, which I'm not sure how successful it was, for park managers and resource managers to focus, if they had significant fossil resources in the park. I felt that they were obligated to at least know about them and hopefully be able to integrate paleontological concerns into their management planning, whatever it may be.
- 04:25 So it was an interesting period of time and I don't know how successful it was. They don't exist anymore. As far as I know, I don't think there is a science council anymore in the Pacific region, at least. And none of the other regions, to my knowledge, had formal science advisors. So this was something definitely in the Pacific Northwest; California, Hawaii part of the park.
- Vincent Santucci: 04:52 Excellent. And thanks for sending that memo of June 3rd, 2002, which invited you and others to participate in a science meeting that, I guess, led to this position that you held for Pacific West region. And so putting it into a context of time period, during the time that you served this

position, how many regional directors were in the Pacific West region that you served under?

Ted Fremd:	05:23	Just two regional directors. The original John Reynolds, the original – the fellow who started it. And then I worked with John Jarvis for the rest of the time until 2009 when I retired from the National Park Service and shifted my efforts up to the University of Oregon after 30 years. John and I met actually in 2002 when he awarded me the Park Service Research Scientist of the Year award. Which I don't even know if they're doing that anymore either, are they?
Vincent Santucci:	06:02	They do have a Washington-level award that is focused on research, yes. It's one of five natural resource categories.
Ted Fremd:	06:12	Cool.
Vincent Santucci:	06:13	Yeah, congratulations for that.
Ted Fremd:	06:14	Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. It was fun.
Vincent Santucci:	06:18	So I'm officially adding this to our Ted Fremd archives and it's already heavily populated by a lot of important research publications, largely from John Day. But yeah, thank you for sending that. And the other question is that—
Ted Fremd:	06:36	Yeah. If you want, I could send you a huge pile of stuff. But you know what's funny? About half an hour ago, Vince, in preparation for talking to you and especially Aaron, I tried to dig out my old report on the Las Vegas Wash that I'd written for John Jarvis as a science advisor. I can't find it.
Vincent Santucci:	06:56	We have it. We'll send it to you.
Ted Fremd:	06:59	Oh, okay. Would you please?
Vincent Santucci:	07:00	Yeah.
Ted Fremd:	07:02	It disappeared. I saw a reference to it and a number of online sites, but I'm embarrassed to say when I cleaned out my hard drives, I cleaned out an awful lot of stuff and transferred it into new laptops that I don't even have some of these old things anymore.

Vincent Santucci: 07:18 Yeah, that's really one of the most important historical documents associated with the history of Tule Springs pre-monument, so yeah. Erin, are you able to forward that to Ted after the call?

Erin Eichenberg: 07:32 Yeah, sure.

Vincent Santucci: 07:33 Okay, appreciate that.

Ted Fremd: 07:36 Sorry to bore you with all this stuff, Erin.

Vincent Santucci: 07:39 No, I don't think so.

Erin Eichenberg: 07:40 No, it's fine.

Vincent Santucci: 07:42 And then the other historical context—

Ted Fremd: 07:45 That report actually led, I had forgotten, to the upper Las Vegas Wash Tule Springs reconnaissance report that came out of the Denver Service Center in, let me see here, June 2010. And I can see by reading through it, they relied pretty heavily on my report, which they even say as much.

08:14 I know that when I did that report, Vince, that I talked to John—we got to be, not friends, but better than just regional director scientist. And he told me that he had read my report while on the plane going from, I guess, San Francisco to Washington and enjoyed reading it. Enjoyed the photos, he said, more than anything.

Vincent Santucci: 08:45 And putting things into a historic context, that at the 2002 time period, you already had been at John Day for how long?

Ted Fremd: 08:56 I got to John Day from Fossil Butte in June of 1984.

Vincent Santucci: 09:01 Okay. So you were there prior to Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument becoming a National Park Service unit within the Pacific West region.

Ted Fremd: 09:12 Correct. And Dan Chure and I were on the committee along with Bill Ackerston and two other people to prepare a draft reconnaissance report on whether or not Hagerman was nationally significant and whether or not it should, in fact, be made a national monument. And this is a fun thing to put on the record.

09:36 Dan and I both didn't think it was, but political Idaho really wanted the National Monument there, and lo and behold, there it is. But at the time we went through all the criteria and very carefully evaluated it and thought, "Geez, if Hagerman is nationally significant, what about the Bighorn Basin? What about hundreds of other localities that are probably a lot more significant than Hagerman?" But anyway, now you know.

Vincent Santucci: 10:09 And for that particular meeting, is there any other background that you would be willing to share that would be of interest?

Ted Fremd: 10:19 I have detailed files.

Vincent Santucci: 10:22 And would these be files that would be appropriate and you'd be willing to share and we would get them into the Ted Fremd archives?

Ted Fremd: 10:33 I don't know. People at Hagerman might be kind of insulted.

Vincent Santucci: 10:36 Okay. I'll leave that up to your discretion.

Ted Fremd: 10:41 If I can find them. As I told you, I couldn't even find the Tule Springs thing, which was much more recent. So there is a paper archive with my name on it at John Day Fossil Beds that includes a lot of analog files and it may be in there.

Vincent Santucci: 11:03 Okay, great.

Ted Fremd: 11:04 We didn't do a good job curating our work because we didn't—we, meaning a lot of us from the Park Service—didn't think anything we ever did would be that important. And I'm not sure any of it really was, but we didn't really curate our own stuff. We curated others work carefully, but for some reason a lot of us just didn't think that was that urgent a thing to do.

Vincent Santucci: 11:30 So 150 years from now, young paleontologists are going to look back at Ted Fremd as the Jim Bridger of the early Park Service paleontology. And the other thing is that when we did the background search with the CIA, they had a lot of information to share with us that we won't talk about today.

Ted Fremd: 11:52 Well, that's true. That's true. The whole paleontologist thing was a cover.

Vincent Santucci: 11:59 Very good. So I do want to report to—

Ted Fremd: 12:02 Poor Erin is going, "Who is this jerk?" Anyway, go ahead.

Vincent Santucci: 12:05 I wanted to report to you today that the obsessive Santucci and inventorying the Park Service for sites that have fossils, we've confirmed 41 National Parks in the Pacific West region that have some remnant of fossils within them.

Ted Fremd: 12:22 Absolutely.

Vincent Santucci: 12:24 Yeah.

Ted Fremd: 12:24 I actually did an evaluation of another--actually a couple of other places, one in Washington State not far from Olympic that I was requested to evaluate that I also thought was not nationally significant. It consisted of an Eocene-aged [unclear] that contained abundant fossil wood and leaves and things of that sort. And the local representative very much wanted that to become a national monument of some sort, either via BLM or Park Service. And I just couldn't in good faith endorse it.

Vincent Santucci: 13:03 Was there a name that was applied to that locality that you can recall?

Ted Fremd: 13:09 Not off the top of my head, but I could find it out for you. Let me make a note here to send that to you.

Vincent Santucci: 13:15 Okay.

Ted Fremd: 13:15 I've got to have these reports somewhere. I'm sure they must have been on one of my backup hard drives.

Vincent Santucci: 13:20 Okay. And did you assist the National Natural Landmarks Program or the National Historic Landmarks Program in evaluation of any sites in the Pacific West region?

Ted Fremd: 13:32 I did, actually. And that was actually one of the lesser categories that I thought that this – if we were ranking categories, I consider NNLs to be a step below a national monument. Do you agree with that?

Vincent Santucci: 13:49 Yes, mm-hmm.

Ted Fremd: 13:51 Yeah. And I didn't even think it was worth that, but yeah, actually that began at Fossil Butte National Monument. I was exhorted by then Regional Director, Lorraine Mintzmyer, to also keep tabs on a particular butte that was near the Wind River Range. I can't remember the name of it right now. I think it was just Red Butte, and it was a National Natural Landmark. And I visited with the State Highway Department people who had planned to build a bypass road right through it. And they had a very, very – the Wyoming State basically was not even slightly impressed that that was a National Natural Landmark, and they just went ahead and bulldozed it.

Vincent Santucci: 14:46 Interesting. Just ignore the gunfire you're hearing in the background where I am. It's hunting season.

Ted Fremd: 14:55 Oh, seriously?

Vincent Santucci: 14:56 Yes. I just heard what sounded like a muzzleloader go off outside. Anyways, sorry to digress. So anyways, you were involved in a number of evaluations, so Golden Gate was one of the projects that you had sent me a report. Anything briefly to say about that park assessment?

Ted Fremd: 15:24 I wrote a report for that, as well, that I can find and send to you. Yeah, Golden Gate has a wonderful type section at one of the beachside localities with – there's at least a couple of type specimens from it, and they range from Paleozoic Permian stuff all the way to Pleistocene. Golden Gate, even though it was established for obviously very different reasons as—didn't you do a survey of advance—you know what I'm talking about? It's got tremendous fossil resources.

Vincent Santucci: 15:59 Right. Including Will Elder.

Ted Fremd: 16:04 Yes, he's a great guy.

Vincent Santucci: 16:06 Yeah, definitely. There's another project that you were involved in at Wrangell-St. Elias. Can you give us a little bit of background on that? Because that was outside of the region, right?

Ted Fremd: 16:22 Right, it was. But it was actually sponsored by Dave Schaber in GRD. I went up there actually on a vacation and Skyler and I just fell in love with Wrangell and I thought, "Gosh, look at the geologic maps. There must be all kinds of fossil resources here." And I met with the geologist then. And I'm not sure if he's still there, a fellow by the name of Danny Rosenkrantz, who was an excellent geologist. But pretty much by himself in an area of, gosh, what is it? 9 million acres? And tremendous stratigraphic sections and just beautiful places.

17:03 And to make a long story short, I did a report for them as well. And I got, I think 10,000 from Dave Schaber of the GRD to do an evaluation of a very specific series of outcrops characterized by the type section on the Frederica Glacier area. And we discovered, in just brief—what was it, a week?—field reconnaissance, three important new paleobotanical localities that we were able to fly into.

17:41 And the pilot landed and off we went and found that, "Wow, there's a Miocene-age superb record." I should send you that report, too. Oh, I don't know, there are so many localities in Wrangell-St. Elias and I realize just rolling the dice and hitting perfect results every time we visited a site up there, it's an amazing place.

Vincent Santucci: 18:19 Absolutely.

Ted Fremd: 18:19 So if you like, Vince, I can send you that report as well.

Vincent Santucci: 18:22 Sure.

Ted Fremd: 18:23 The problem with the place is that all of these localities require either a helicopter to get into, which the area we were in was a wilderness study area, so we didn't want to really do that. Or get a bush pilot to land you on one of the remote pediments in between the 17,000 foot peaks, glaciers, and then you hike into areas and just backpack your way in. So the problem with a lot of these, although the reason they're not known, I guess, is that they're just insanely remote compared to things in the lower 48. As you know, you've done a lot of work in Alaska. You know what I'm talking about?

Vincent Santucci: 19:07 Yes. So in one of your emails, you had referenced these reports as trip report narrative summaries. So do you know,

in addition to the summaries you did for Golden Gate and Wrangell-St. Elias and Tule Springs, how many of these reports you've done? And do any other ones come to mind?

- Ted Fremd: 19:30 I did one for Lava Beds, Joshua Tree—I'm trying to think—there were quite a few and they developed into different format. In some cases, the reports would be just a quick memo to the superintendent summarizing the visit and others were more detailed. I think the Golden Gate one went to about 20 pages or so, but their intent from my point of view was just to alert the managers that these things were present and here are some resources and ways that they could go about dealing with them.
- 20:14 I'm afraid that in many cases superintendents have a whole lot of other things on their mind, and this was simply a way for them to check the box saying, "Yes, yes. I called in this guy and he looked at it and we know they're there. Box is checked. Let's move on."
- Vincent Santucci: 20:33 Perfect. Okay. So to the heart of the matter, from Erin's perspective, in as much detail that you can recall, can you share with us your first discussions about Tule Springs prior to it becoming a monument? How you wound up getting involved with the field trip there and the recommendations report? Erin will probably have some specific questions. But if you wanted to begin that discussion, say chronologically, when you first learned about Tule Springs.
- Ted Fremd: 21:13 John Jarvis had invited me to go there to look at it. It wasn't an order, it was a request. Would I be interested in doing that? And so I contacted my buddies, Kathleen Springer and Eric Scott, who I knew had done pretty extensive work there. And just very casually asked them both in private phone calls, "What do you guys think? Is this something that help or hinder your efforts if it were a National Monument?" And both of them were very enthusiastic. And so I arranged a trip.
- 21:47 And Skyler, my wife of almost 50 years now, and a great field assistant by the way, went down there. And Kathleen and Eric were our hosts and essentially gave us the best guided tour you could hope for. It's just the opposite of Wrangell-St. Elias. We were totally on our own and no one knew anything about any resources. In this case, Kathleen

and Eric were extremely steeped in knowledge of the area, including the very important cultural stories that are involved with some of the early radiocarbon work and so forth.

22:30 And so I think, what, three days I spent there is all? Just enough to realize, yeah, this is—my first thought, to be frank, was that, "Nah, this is going to be like Hagerman. This isn't particularly important, is it?" And it was largely talking to Kathleen and Eric, really, that my opinion was swayed.

22:54 And I began to think of it as a great opportunity for the Park Service to not only preserve the Pleistocene area of great significance, but also the cultural side of it. And also a wonderful demonstration of climate change that's afforded by looking at those strata and realizing what the place can be reconstructed to have looked like not that long ago. Not to mention, you can see downtown Las Vegas right from the wash and it was a—yeah, I'm trying to think how to put it all. It's been a while now since I was there.

Vincent Santucci: 23:43 So the date of the report--and thank you, Erin. Erin just emailed it to both of us. It's July 21st 2009. So that just puts a time perspective on it. But it's a very—

Ted Fremd: 23:54 Thanks, Erin.

Vincent Santucci: 23:56 —very well written report, obviously. And I think it was quite influential in terms of getting this on the radar screen of John Jarvis, who then afterwards became the Director of the National Park Service. And during his tenure, he put forth this Call to Action Plan that was tied to the Centennial of the National Park Service. And one of the items that he had listed in the Call to Action was one called Filling the Gaps.

24:29 And the Filling the Gaps part of this really is tied to your report and the discussion because I had a verbal discussion with John in terms of the interest and need of getting a dedicated Pleistocene fossil park in the system. Although we have a lot of parks that have Pleistocene Ice Age resources like Channel Islands and elsewhere that, unlike other parks like Badlands, Florissant, Hagerman Fossil Beds, et cetera, which really well represented geologic time

periods that preserve fossils, that we didn't have a dedicated fossil park for the Pleistocene.

- 25:11 And so I had talked to him at the time and wrote a report indicating that, "Hey, we've got two potential candidates in the Filling the Gap for the Pleistocene with Tule Springs Fossil Beds and Waco Mammoth. And lo and behold, both of those within a span of less than a year and a half, became units of the National Park Service preserving these resources.
- Ted Fremd: 25:35 That's right. That's right. Good work.
- Vincent Santucci: 25:38 So yeah, again, I think your going out there—
- Ted Fremd: 25:42 Looking through that other report somehow you weren't involved in that 2010 preliminary evaluation from Denver Service Center, were you?
- Vincent Santucci: 25:52 No, I was not. Greg Jarvis.
- Ted Fremd: 25:56 Greg McDonald was.
- Vincent Santucci: 25:57 Yeah, Greg McDonald—
- Ted Fremd: 25:58 And Greg Jarvis, I think.
- Vincent Santucci: 25:59 Yeah, both of those individuals. So I only came in after the fact to learn about this. And so, again, I just wanted to re-emphasize, I think Erin and myself definitely believe that your July 21st memo is extremely important component of why we have a National Monument administered by the Park Service.
- Ted Fremd: 26:22 Well, I'm glad to hear that. Actually, Vince, I'm looking through this report right now that was written in 2010. It says, "Other National Park units"—if I can just read this—"containing paleontological resource representing Pleistocene, megafauna and microfauna. They include Agate, Arches, Badlands, Channel Islands, Florissant Fossil Beds,"—which is incorrect—"Fossil Butte,"—which is incorrect—"Glen Canyon,"—yes—"Hagerman,"—not so much—"John Day,"—absolutely not—"Joshua Tree,"—yes—"and Oregon Caves"—yes. So whoever wrote this report didn't know what they were talking about.

Vincent Santucci: 27:02 And Grand Canyon and Carlsbad, and there's other ones, yeah.

Ted Fremd: 27:06 I mean, the list goes on and on, but Fossil Butte, Florissant, Badlands—well, Badlands a little bit, I guess, yeah—but John Day, definitely, there's no place to see megafauna and microfauna.

Vincent Santucci: 27:21 So anyways, I think your modest—

Ted Fremd: 27:23 This report is flawed. But anyway, go ahead.

Vincent Santucci: 27:27 You have the opportunity to edit it, and we'll take a redacted version if you want to slip that into the archives. But anyways, we think you're being modest. And, again, I think you had a huge influence over the destiny of this important Pleistocene site.

Ted Fremd: 27:48 Well, I would say that I was very much influenced by Kathleen Springer and Eric Scott.

Vincent Santucci: 27:58 When you did your site visit, I assume that you met with Kathleen and Eric on site?

Ted Fremd: 28:06 Yes, that's what I was saying before. They basically gave us the grand tour for three days. They put us up in this horrible casino. And Skyler and I came back from one field day, and we had to walk through the gambling floor of this place in order to get to the elevator to our rooms. You know how they do that?

28:29 You can't go directly to your room without going through the casino. And we were wearing our rock hammers, and we were covered with chalk and carrying our—and they looked at us like we were some sort of floor show. It was really pretty comical. I've never felt quite so—and security was looking at our rock hammers and it was funny. Las Vegas was quite a place.

Vincent Santucci: 28:56 Definitely.

Ted Fremd: 28:57 If I had a friend who had never seen a light bulb, I would take them to Las Vegas. Other than that, I don't know. No offense, Erin.

Erin Eichenberg: 29:02 [unclear]

Vincent Santucci: 29:04 So they were sort of just getting started, but did you get a chance to interact with anybody from the protectors of Tule Spring or some of these other conservation people?

Ted Fremd: 29:18 Yes, I did. Yes.

Vincent Santucci: 29:19 And how did those conversations go?

Ted Fremd: 29:23 Really well. I think we had a dinner and I also met—oh, what is her name? She was the regional director for the—

Vincent Santucci: 29:39 Lynn Davis?

Ted Fremd: 29:40 Gosh, the conservation—Yes, Lynn Davis!

Vincent Santucci: 29:43 Yeah.

Ted Fremd: 29:44 Yes, yes, yes. She and I and two very wonderful ladies who were in charge of the friends of Tule Springs met and then I had lunch with Lynn. And they also informed some of my thoughts on that report as well, come to think of it, yeah. And those folks were interested. And as far as we knew, there was no one in the legislative assembly that was opposed to it. In fact, Harry Reid's office had been in touch with me a couple of times afterwards, just via phone calls. And Harry Reid was interested in making it happen. He was supportive of it.

Vincent Santucci: 30:30 I happened to do an oral history interview with Harry Reid in terms of his perspectives on Tule Springs.

Ted Fremd: 30:40 Cool.

Vincent Santucci: 30:40 Yeah, it was a fun interview.

Ted Fremd: 30:41 Oh, that's great.

Vincent Santucci: 30:42 Yep.

Ted Fremd: 30:43 Yeah, I bet. Is what I said, not the case?

Vincent Santucci: 30:48 No, it's absolutely the case.

Ted Fremd: 30:50 Yeah, okay.

Vincent Santucci: 30:51 Definitely. So Erin—

Ted Fremd: 30:54 I don't know that anyone opposed it. The folks at the shooting range, I think it was called the Clark Shooting Range or something, they were the only people that I had heard of, secondhand, were not necessarily opposed to it, but were worried that it was going to interfere with the activities there. I don't know if that was resolved or not. The flyover also of some of the jet air traffic expressed some concern. And these are just things off the top of my head, Vince. I just remember there were two parties that were sort of iffy about it; the shooting range and the military.

Vincent Santucci: 31:36 And I'm sure you're well aware of the interesting history during the 1960s with the Tule Springs expedition that Vance Haynes and others were involved in trying to find a—

Ted Fremd: 31:50 Absolutely.

Vincent Santucci: 31:51 —contemporary co-occurrence of humans and late Pleistocene megafauna. Vance Hayes—

Ted Fremd: 31:56 Absolutely. I think I mentioned that in my report.

Vincent Santucci: 31:59 Yeah, Vance Haynes is still alive, and he's actually coming to Tule Springs in January to meet with Erin and—

Ted Fremd: 32:05 Oh, how cool is that?

Vincent Santucci: 32:06 Yep. And Kathleen Springer's going to be there.

Ted Fremd: 32:09 That's awesome.

Vincent Santucci: 32:10 I'm going to be there.

Ted Fremd: 32:11 Wonderful.

Vincent Santucci: 32:12 And we did wonderful an in-depth interview with Vance Haynes. It was several hours long in terms of the history of that expedition. So the pre-monument history of the site is just incredible, both from a scientific and historic perspective.

Ted Fremd: 32:30 It really is. I have to say that I hope the new interpretive exhibits or efforts that are made either with the cooperating agencies or just by the Park Service, focus on that because

humans are obviously a really important part of that whole story. And now that we know, thanks to yours and Kathleen's work with the footprints at White Sands. Congratulations on that, by the way.

Vincent Santucci:	33:00	Thank you.
Ted Fremd:	33:00	That's a wonderful manuscript.
Vincent Santucci:	33:02	Thanks.
Ted Fremd:	33:03	We know that has long been suspected by my archaeology buddies, humans were here way before we thought.
Vincent Santucci:	33:13	Arlington Man and Channel Islands has more credibility now.
Ted Fremd:	33:18	That's right. Well, I share an office space here with Jon Erlandson, who is very much about coastal archaeology. He's done a lot of work at Channel Islands. I think you've met him, haven't you?
Vincent Santucci:	33:29	Yes, uh-huh. Yes.
Ted Fremd:	33:31	Yeah, great guy.
Vincent Santucci:	33:33	Yeah.
Ted Fremd:	33:37	But we're digressing here, I think.
Vincent Santucci:	33:38	That's okay. This is just your opinion; so do you ever engage in any discussions that relate to whether or not Tule Springs, if it was proclaimed a monument, was going to be a Park Service versus a BLM-administered monument?
Ted Fremd:	34:00	Oh, I'm sure we did. Yeah, I'm sure we did. But I was happy that it ended up being Park Service. I think just the nature of our mandate is so much more—I'm singing to the choir here, obviously—straightforward and unconfusing. My experience has been both professionally and personally. The public is really confused about the different agencies managing National Monuments.
	34:39	And I don't think most people understand the fundamental resource mandate differences between BLM, Tourist Service, and Park Service. If something's called a National

Monument, I don't know what to do about that. But I think a lot of people are confused by it, don't you?

- Vincent Santucci: 35:00 Yes. And one thing I wanted to add that even differentiates that more for paleontology, is that under the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act from 2009, BLM is mandated to consider casual collecting in some cases on BLM lands, which the Park Service would never, never allow.
- Ted Fremd: 35:21 Right, right. Exactly. Even my friend who used to be the state archaeologist of Utah thought that Bears Ears National Monument was going to be administered by the Park Service. And, of course, it isn't.
- Vincent Santucci: 35:37 So Erin, I wanted to see if you had questions for Ted?
- Ted Fremd: 35:42 Yeah, please.
- Erin Eichenberg: 35:46 Ted, during your visit to Tule Springs Fossil Beds, were there any discussions of the archaeological sites that were present throughout the Fossil Beds and how that could be co-managed with the paleontological localities?
- Ted Fremd: 36:00 The geological sites, did you say?
- Erin Eichenberg: 36:03 Archaeological?
- Ted Fremd: 36:05 Archaeological? No. Human historical was discussed, but I can't say that I ever got involved with the archaeological aspects. No.
- Erin Eichenberg: 36:19 Okay, thanks. I think you covered the other questions that I had.
- Vincent Santucci: 36:23 Okay, very good. Ted, is there anything we're forgetting that you want to share?
- Ted Fremd: 36:30 No. I wish I had a more clear memory of all of that. No, I don't know, I think you covered things. Like all the parks to focus on just one specific aspect is sometimes seen to be detrimental to the other more holistic views that we have of these areas. I understand that. But I hope Tule Springs, like a lot of parks have, doesn't get too carried away with cultural resources because there's such a strong—we're just naturally drawn to talking about ourselves and humans.

And often in that loud cacophony of human history and so forth, it's easier to focus on those things than it is to focus on the fossil resources. So, I guess, we'll see what happens.

- Vincent Santucci: 37:45 Yeah. And one final—
- Ted Fremd: 37:46 You remember, Vince, I used to get on a rant at that at Fossil Butte. That efforts were being strongly made to preserve the Hornbek Homestead or the old Haddenham—I'm sorry, Florissant was Hornbek Homestead—Fossil Butte. Let's all talk about the Haddenham cabin. Even Dinosaur got carried away with Josie's cabin and just human history has a way of infiltrating and reducing the significance of fossil resources. Bless their hearts, right?
- Vincent Santucci: 38:19 Yep. Some of the history at Tule Springs, though, is remarkable.
- Ted Fremd: 38:24 It's really interesting.
- Vincent Santucci: 38:25 Yeah.
- Ted Fremd: 38:25 I agree.
- Vincent Santucci: 38:26 Willard Libby—
- Ted Fremd: 38:27 I absolutely agree.
- Vincent Santucci: 38:29 As you had mentioned earlier, the advent of radiocarbon dating and the work of Willard Libby, who later won the Nobel Prize for his development of that. He came out of the Manhattan Project and so, one of his early field projects for Carbon-14 in the 1950s was work right at Tule Springs.
- Ted Fremd: 38:54 Mm-hmm.
- Erin Eichenberg: 38:57 Yeah. And a lot of the fossil localities are because of who worked there. And as them being a part of the Tule Springs expedition, a lot of them are considered historic sites now, too. So we're trying to find ways to come up with preservation measures that still preserve those fossil sites that maybe the fossils are collected from it, but it still serves as the location where we could interpret it to the public.
- Ted Fremd: 39:26 Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Vincent Santucci: 39:29 And one final note, Ted, I don't know if we shared with you. So when we interviewed Vance Haynes at the University of Arizona, he had talked about pulling Libby in to do more carbon dating during the 1960s Tule Springs expedition, in part because Libby had already sampled from the area in the '50s.

39:50 And so, lo and behold, Vance Haynes had a small amount of original carbon that was collected during the expedition in the '60s. And so, he's going to donate that to the Park Service as a cultural resource to go into the museum collection. But he's asking us, I mean, this was in his possession for 50 years. He was asking us if it was okay if he run modern C-14 analysis on it to see how close they were in their original testing with Libby.

Ted Fremd: 40:24 Oh, cool.

Vincent Santucci: 40:25 Yeah.

Ted Fremd: 40:27 And has that been done?

Vincent Santucci: 40:28 Yes, mm-hmm.

Ted Fremd: 40:30 And?

Vincent Santucci: 40:32 Very close.

Ted Fremd: 40:34 Very close. Oh, that's cool.

Vincent Santucci: 40:36 Yeah.

Ted Fremd: 40:37 Actually, Erin, I just got—thank you very much for mailing me that report, the memo to John.

Erin Eichenberg: 40:48 Yep.

Ted Fremd: 40:49 There's actually a much longer version of this. So now I really do need to find it. This is the very, very short, sweet version. There's one that's about 20 pages longer and I will try to find that for you.

Erin Eichenberg: 41:03 [unclear].

Ted Fremd: 41:05 It's the same year, yep. It's the same. In fact, it's the same date. Yeah. I'll see if I can find it, but it doesn't have that much more in it as I recall. But you should have it, I guess.

Vincent Santucci: 41:21 Yep.

Ted Fremd: 41:24 But yeah, I'm just reading through this report while I'm talking to you right now. This is the abbreviated one. But yeah, talking about the trenches on the radiocarbon, my report says, "The large trenches first appearing as something of an eyesore are actually an interesting educational component. This was the first place where they then newly discovered a Nobel Prize winning technique of radiocarbon dating was first put to the test", blah, blah, blah. So, yeah.

Vincent Santucci: 41:52 Good stuff.

Ted Fremd: 41:53 Yeah, it's a cool place. I liked to come by again sometime.

Vincent Santucci: 41:59 So if you're not busy in January and you want to meet with Vance Haynes on site, you would be welcome.

Ted Fremd: 42:07 Well, I'd love to meet him. He's a legend.

Vincent Santucci: 42:09 Yeah.

Ted Fremd: 42:11 How old is he now?

Vincent Santucci: 42:13 Close to 90. Is that correct, Erin?

Ted Fremd: 42:16 Yeah, he'd have to be.

Erin Eichenberg: 42:17 I believe, over 90. I think he was 88 when we interviewed him in 2016.

Ted Fremd: 42:21 Oh, that's cool.

Vincent Santucci: 42:25 Yeah. One last note, Ted, while we have on you on the phone. So, of course, Libby has long passed away, but we were able to locate Willard Libby's daughter who lives in Southern California. And Erin went and visited her at home because she kept scrapbooks about her dad's career and things like that.

Ted Fremd: 42:45 Oh, wonderful. Yeah, yeah.

Vincent Santucci: 42:50 Yeah. Erin was a museum curator in her previous life, and so she's meticulous in terms of being very well organized and captures all this kind of information and preserves it.

Ted Fremd: 43:04 Good for you, Erin.

Erin Eichenberg: 43:07 Thanks.

Vincent Santucci: 43:08 Well, Ted, we have to pin you down for two things. One is the third interview regarding your work at John Day, and then if you're willing to share any of the other archives, honestly, we will put those into our Ted Fremd National Park Service Paleontology archives. It really exists.

Ted Fremd: 43:26 Well, that's pretty funny. I went to go [to] John Day to clean up my old files and I left a whole filing cabinet of things and they wouldn't let me take them. The archivist said no. The regional archivist forbid me from gathering those things. So, otherwise, I would send you that.

Vincent Santucci: 43:54 I think they're probably best held at the park, but we can always work with them to get scans.

Ted Fremd: 44:00 I wish that there had been more people like you, Vince. And actually you, as well, Erin, since you're doing curatorial work with folks. There's so many people that we had an opportunity to interview and talk with, say in the late '70s, early '80s, and they're gone now. And we'll just never know what—imagine if we'd have had the interview that I was trying to set up with Arnold Shotwell, for example, when it comes to—I mean, what a great guy.

44:32 I got all those reprints and all those things from him and interviewed him casually. But he had so many things to say about the National Park Service and his work with the Merriam family and all of those things. Imagine if you could interview J.C. Merriam now. Wow.

Vincent Santucci: 44:51 Oh, yeah. Yeah, absolutely.

Ted Fremd: 44:57 So this has been fun.

Vincent Santucci: 44:59 Yeah, absolutely. Fun and very valuable to us. And do we want to thank you again, Ted. You're still contributing to the Park Service.

Ted Fremd: 45:08 Yes, and I hope to continue to, as per our previous memos.

Vincent Santucci: 45:12 Definitely. So—

Ted Fremd: Alright.

Vincent Santucci: —you both have a great day. Thanks for investing your Saturday and your day off to do this.

Ted Fremd: 45:21 Thanks, Vince and Erin. Let me dig around; I will find the expanded report to send you. If nothing else, there's some great photos in it, if I do say so myself, but Skyler took them. That, in fact, I see that this Denver Service Center report plagiarized some of these photos, actually. Those little buggers.

Vincent Santucci: 45:46 Send our hello to Skyler.

Ted Fremd: 45:50 I will indeed, and you guys take care of yourselves and keep doing the good work. I think the National Park Service is engaged in some of the most important work on the planet right now. Keep it going, you guys.

Vincent Santucci: 46:02 Thanks, Ted.

Ted Fremd: 46:02 Stay well.

Vincent Santucci: 46:02 Bye-bye.

Erin Eichenberg: 46:02 All right. Thanks so much.

Ted Fremd: 46:02 Bye-bye.

Erin Eichenberg: 46:02 Bye.

[END OF INTERVIEW]