



National Park Service Paleontology Program

Oral History Interview – Jill DeStefano

Natural Resource Report NPS/PALEONTOLOGY PROGRAM/OHI—2021/06



ON THE COVER

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The National Park Service, Paleontology Program publishes a range of reports, plans, oral histories and other documents that address a range of paleontological resource topics. These reports are of interest and applicability to a broad audience in the National Park Service and others in natural resource management, including scientists, conservation and environmental constituencies, and the public.

The NPS Paleontology Program disseminates comprehensive information and analysis about paleontological resources and related topics concerning lands managed by the National Park Service. Given the sensitive nature of some paleontological resource information, such as the specific location of fossil sites, some publications are intended for specific audiences and are maintained as restricted access. When appropriate, sensitive information is redacted from reports in order to allow greater access to these reports by NPS staff, partners and the public. This work supports the advancement of science, informed decision-making, and the achievement of the National Park Service mission.

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Background

[Interview with Jill DeStefano: This interview was conducted Tuesday, June 1, 2021 by phone from her home in Las Vegas, Nevada. The primary speakers are interviewee Jill DeStefano, who is the Founding Member and President of Protectors of Tule Springs, and Vincent Santucci, interviewer, NPS Paleontology. They are joined on the phone by Integrated Resources Management Specialist, Erin Eichenberg, Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument at her home in Boulder City, Nevada, and Jonathan Burpee, Superintendent at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park in Astoria, Oregon.]

The interview was recorded on a digital audio recorder and a mp3 file was created. A written transcription of the interview was produced from the digital audio recording and this document contains the discussion during the interview. Jill DeStefano signed a release form for the National Park Service for the preservation and use of the interview in the future.

Transcript

1:42:00 (Length of interview – Part One)

[START OF INTERVIEW]

VS: Today is Tuesday, June 1, 2021. Interview [by Vincent Santucci (VS)] with Jill DeStefano (JD), Founding Member and President of the Protectors of Tule Springs. We are joined today by Erin Eichenberg (EE), Integrated Resources Management Specialist at Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument, and Jonathan Burpee (JB) Superintendent of the Lewis and Clark Historical Park. Soon to be Acting Superintendent at Pearl Harbor and previously the Superintendent at Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument. The interview is being conducted by telephone from Jill's home in North Las Vegas. I'm at my home in Gettysburg, and Erin's in Nevada, and Jon I assume you are not in Hawaii yet.

JB: Not in Hawaii – in Astoria, Oregon.

VS: So, my first word is, 'finally'. Jill, one of the most important interviews, not only for Tule Springs, but also for our NPS Paleontology Oral History Program. We are so thrilled to be able to chat with you today.

JD: Thank you very much.

VS: You've been through interviews where you are helping to do the interview. This is the first time for you on this side of the conversation. You are probably familiar with some of the standard questions. So, let's begin.

VS: Jill, can you share with us when and where you were born?

JD: I was born in Long Beach, California in 1955.

VS: And then growing up can you tell us briefly about your childhood and things that influenced who you are?

JD: Yes, I had a great family life. My mom and dad were always very supportive and I think I got my early messages that you can be and do whatever you want from them. I went to high school and then college at Cal State Long Beach, living at home. Then went right into work when I graduated from college in December of 1977. My parents were older. They were 41 and 46 when I was born. I was the late child, accident, with two older sisters – much older than I was. And my parents were pretty well settled. My dad was the President of an International Wholesale Supply Company to the Armed Services when I was growing up. The reason I say this was it's unusual I got so involved in public lands because their idea of camping was going to a Holiday Inn rather than the Hilton. And they had no interest in the great outdoors or anything like that. The only experience I had as a child – as a young person with camping was with friends who would invite me to go. I remember once in Joshua Tree National Park and to some other state park or national areas in California. So, I had very little experience with camping or any other thing during my early life.

JD: Do you want me to go on with work life?

VS: No, no, we're on a good pace here. So where did you get your college education? What did you study?

JD: I did my Bachelor's degree at California State University at Long Beach in Business with a Marketing emphasis. Everybody said I could always sell anything and so I went into sales. I thought that was the easiest way to get a job. It was very fortunate that I worked for a food broker while I was at college and actually did route sales for a food broker. When I was interviewing as a senior in college I got a job immediately with Burrows Computer Corporation selling the very first computers to small business. When I say very first – a large computer system then had ten megabytes of storage. So, I was kind of on the ground floor of that kind of thing. I only stayed there about 18 months and then I went to work for Pacific Telephone which turned into AT&T actually. And I was in the sales of their new computer systems which was more MS DOS phase. There was no such thing as 'Windows' in the late '70's. They put me through Pepperdine [University] Masters of Business Administration degree. So I got my MBA from Pepperdine during those years. I worked in Denver at their National Sales School teaching basically the sales force all about parts of a computer and computer software and what things were back in the early, early days. Then they transferred me back to Los Angeles. I was doing a horrible commute to downtown LA. At that time, Tony and I – my husband, had just gotten married in 1984. He had retired early from AT&T at the age of 51 and we were living at the beach. It was an hour and a half commute each day to work for me.

VS: Very good.

JD: Actually, late in life when I came to Las Vegas I got another master's degree in Early Childhood Special Education. That's another long story.

VS: Then your most recent, prior to retirement, career choice was?

JD: I taught preschooler special education, specifically children with autism for five years. And then children with other disabilities in the three to five year old category until I retired in 2020.

VS: And a quick question: do you think children like fossils?

JD: Oh yes. I mean when you go back to how we started all this – that was my main thing. I was always a person and a teacher. New kids learn from hands-on. And of course kids go to dinosaurs. And some of those three year olds with autism know every name of every dinosaur on earth. Even more than I do. It's amazing what they retain. Yes, that was a really big deal to them.

7:19

VS: Taking advantage of the fact that Tony was a huge part of your life and supportive of the preservation of Tule Springs. Can you share with us a little bit about the roles that he served in supporting you and the Protectors of Tule Spring?

JD: Yes, I think really if we go back to when Tony and I moved in the fall of 1985 to Florida. He convinced me to get out of the corporate world and even though I hadn't been in it that long. But his dream was always to travel by motorhome through the 50 states and Canada and see everything he wanted to see without having to be on a 'you've got a week's vacation' schedule. So we moved to central Florida. To a place called Ocala, Florida which was perfect for me

because it was horse country. I was a horse country crazy kid. So that was a good place for me to land. We started traveling every summer, about four months of the year, all over the United States. We stayed specifically and on purpose in National Park sites. Whether it was the battlefields, whether it was West Point and Annapolis, whether it was Acadia National Park and Shenandoah National Park – we visited approximately 90 National Park sites. Historic sites such as in Boston. And that's where I fell in love with not only the great outdoors but all these amazing historic places that'd been preserved. For Tony and I, it was just our passion for about the five years we traveled. And we did get to all 50 states as well as most of the provinces of Canada. So, when we ended up coming back west and moving in here to North Las Vegas in 2006 – I think from the moment I came home from a meeting and talked to Tony about Tule Springs and the fossil sites that laid right behind our home. He knew from that moment on that I had found what I wanted to do with the rest of my retirement life. At that time I wasn't even considering teaching or a full-time job. He was always right by my side during all the years of the legislation run-up and afterwards. Totally supportive of not only the preservation but the hours and hours and hours that I would spend. He hauled the equipment and he set up the booths and we were a team.

VS: Thanks for that.

10:50

VS: So, Jill we have a lot of questions we want to ask you and you have a very rich and important history that we want to capture. So, it's likely we will be looking at more than one interview if we can pin you down again. Assume that's ok with you?

JD: Of course.

VS: Today we're going to try to focus on the pre-Monument history which you told us many, many aspects are really worth capturing in this interview. I don't necessarily need to guide you on that discussion. But the first question that I would have would relate to the fact that – when did you learn about or hear about these fossil beds at Tule Springs?

JD: I moved into Sun City Aliante in North Las Vegas – the very northern part communities, before the Las Vegas Range. To the north of our community was nothing but open desert and then the mountains. We arrived July 2, 2006. Again, since I had no plans to be working but I had always had a history of volunteering wherever I lived over the years. I went to a presentation in September of 2006. The Bureau of Land Management came to our Homeowner Association clubhouse and they started telling us about an Environmental Impact Study they were doing on 13,000 acres of land between our community and the mountain. And then heading west up to the Paiute Reservation. When they started rattling off statistics like 438 ice age fossil sites laying on the surface and showing us pictures of tusks – mammoth tusks that had come out of the ground and fossils that dated back at that time to 200,000 years ago, a group of us who didn't even know each other—never had met these people—went up to Gayle Marrs-Smith and Hillary Patton from the Bureau of Land Management who conducted the meeting. And we said, “You can't just plow this all under.” The city at that time – the cities of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas only wanted to preserve 2900 acres of that land. Which was the actual physical wash. They were planning to build bridges and everything across it to get homes on each side of the actual wash. So, five of us—a bunch of people—but five main people said to the BLM, “How can we stop

this? How can we get involved? Learn more about it and stop this from happening?” Basically, five of us. Well, I should say the Bureau of Land Management – I asked, “Can we go out to the fossil sites? Can we see them?” So, they arranged for huge, not busses, what do I want to say – huge vans and loaded them up with about 50 residents of Sun City Aliante and took us out to the mammoth site, that the Protectors of Tule Springs [POTS] have dubbed the ‘Tule Mammoth’, in October of 2006. And when you saw those mammoth bones laying on the ground everybody was like, ‘How could you possibly put a Quick King on top of this or a 7-11?’ And for me it was like an epiphany. It was almost like I was meant to be here. And there was just no way was anyone going to disturb that site. So, we wrote a letter, the five original founders, in October of 2006, to Juan Palma of the BLM informing them we were forming a Friends Group and we wanted to be included in the stakeholder meeting. Our title at that time was Friends of the Upper Las Vegas Wash. Later we would decide that sounded like we were trying to save a laundromat or something. So we eventually changed that to the Protectors of Tule Springs. That November 2006 Sandy Croteau, Sandy Valley, and I were allowed to sit in on the Bureau of Land Management stakeholder meeting with all the other cooperating agencies – the cities, the county, representative from the State. Who else knows who was there? Sierra Club was there. It was a room loaded with people. Basically we listened. But I think one of us must have asked a couple of pointed questions. After the meeting the North Las Vegas consultant that was being paid by North Las Vegas to protect their interest – his first name was Bruce. I don’t remember what his last name was. He came up to Sandy Valley, Sandy Croteau and I and basically said, “You all need to go home and play bridge. We’re building on all this land.” And that was a direct quote. So, that was a shot across the bow and anybody who knows me today knows that was probably the last thing he should have said to me. So, that takes us through 2006.

17:09

VS: So, wanted to back up for just a second. Can you provide all five of the founders of Protectors of Tule Springs?

JD: Yes, Sandra Valley, Sandy Croteau, Katherine Brandel, Lilly M. Rothstein, and myself. And Lil Rothstein is deceased.

VS: You went through the formal process of becoming a non-profit?

JD: Not at that time. At that time we were just basically a loose Friends Group. There was no money. There was no treasury or anything until January of 2007. We actually ended up in 2008 – the Southern Nevada Conservancy which runs Red Rock offered to let us put our name under their umbrella so we could start taking tax deductible donations at that time. Then we got our own 501(c)(3) in 2012. At our first meeting in January 2007 there were 48 people. And at the time we had been going door to door telling people here in Sun City Aliante what we had discovered. That’s when we collected our first \$247 in cash. Sandy Valley and I were laughing about it the other day. She kept the money in her underwear drawer. That was basically our starting point for printing fliers to take around to our neighbors. Going to little community events to share with people what we had learned.

VS: Through that process did you discover any other individuals or groups that were interested in protecting Tule Springs?

JD: In January at the meeting in 2007 right towards the end of the meeting this little, tiny lady dressed in safari gear with her hat and crazy red hair ran into the meeting loaded down with materials, a mammoth tooth cast – actually I think she had the real one with her at that time, And of course her name was Helen Mortenson. She started telling us the history of this area and just sparked everybody with her enthusiasm and her willingness to share and her excitement about having a group of people who shared her passion. And through the next year or two she was a vital person in educating us and introducing us to Dr. Steve Rowland. We also in 2006 had been introduced to a lot of the environmental groups through the Bureau of Land Management meeting process. Like the Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, at that time the Nevada Conservation League. I met with their local people. There were probably others but I think those were the three main groups. What all the groups at that time were trying to do was give us a lot of advice. Some of the things that they would tell me we should be doing was not the way I felt we needed to go. For example, the Sierra Club told me we needed to dress up in mammoth costumes and have somebody in a bulldozer costume and have the bulldozer running over the mammoths at these public meetings and getting the press there to splash all over the news. I just felt like that wasn't the right way to go. Because this was never about 'Not in my backyard.' It was never a NIMBY thing. That's not how we ever went about talking about this land. It was about how precious the resources were and why it needed to be preserved for future generations. Not why it was going to interfere with development. We very early on in 2007 had a marketing plan because that's what I did for a living. That was communicated to everybody at all the meetings. We have our goal in mind and yes it changed through the years but I worked from what that goal was backwards to what we had to do to get there. We went step by step all these years through those steps and sometimes as I told the Board we take a few steps backward when something was thrown at us. But then we started going forward again because everybody involved had what the goal in mind was. At that time it was preservation of all 13,000 acres that the Bureau of Land Management wanted to sell off for development. Like I said it changed along the way. That was the goal way back in the beginning of 2007 and it never changed.

23:45

VS: So, because we are talking about federal lands, Bureau of Land Management lands, the issue of economic development vs. preservation had to have political implications. Do you recall reaching out to people at the local, state, or federal level as it related to your goals?

JD: Yes, absolutely. I actually have a list here of (pause) 2007-2008 myself, and many times with Helen Mortenson with me, and sometimes with the geologist and paleontologist Katherine Springer, Eric Scott, met with over 35 public officials and supporters. During that time we met with Senator Reid personally. His staff many times. Senator John Ensign personally. Congresswoman Shelley Berkley, Mayor Oscar Goodman, the Mayor of North Las Vegas at that time Michael Montandon. And then Sheri Buck. The Las Vegas City Council people for the area, Larry Brown and Steve Ross. A planning commissioner. Planning Commissioners Tom Collins, Chris G, Rory Reid, Bruce Woodbury. I would say every Councilperson even in Henderson, Las Vegas, and North Las Vegas. The current Councilman Richard Churchill was actually just one of our supporters before he was elected to office. Those two years all I did, I was not working anywhere else, was made appointments, got presentations ready and sat in people's offices and dragged that mammoth tooth everywhere we could think of. We were always met with politeness except for one elected official I would say. Always, because one the thing we did – Helen

Mortenson gave me a four or five page vision that she had done for a Bureau of Land Management meeting. They were asked to do that during a SHRET. I took her vision of an ice age fossil park and made a one page flyer from it. Sandy Croteau did the artwork where a mammoth was walking across an iceberg. At that time it was a woolly mammoth because we didn't even know any better in early 2007 of the difference of mammoths. But that picture – we pulled out a date just out of our heads – of grand opening of Ice Age Fossil Park in October of 2020. What's kind of funny is if it hadn't been for Covid the State Park probably would have opened Ice Age Fossil Park in October of 2020. So, we almost hit that on the head. I sent that and it had Helen's dream in that of fossil repository and fossil laboratory, on-site students from UNLV studying in the field with paleontologists. Of course at that time we were advocating for the Bureau of Land Management to manage this land as a National Conservation Area similar to Red Rock. I sent that short one page flyer out with a cover sheet to every elected official in the valley and requested a meeting. That's how we were able to get all these meetings. They really all responded to that. And I think that vision of a mammoth going across an iceberg, which we know there were not icebergs here. But it was that marketing vision that I think opened a lot of doors for us. But this was very political. I have an article up in front of me now from the end of 2007 and basically of the 13,000 acres we were asking for - the city option was for 2900 acres as stated to the Bureau of Land Management. With bridges going across. Streets were named on this land on both sides, on Las Vegas and North Las Vegas. The first city planning maps I pulled up in 2007 showed all the street names, showed where the schools were going, shopping centers. Oh, and by the way, a 10 lane beltway up on the mountain. So, political it was.

29:01

VS: Your communication with the Bureau of Land Management this time – how was that communication?

JD: It was very good. In the beginning Juan Palma was the Las Vegas Director of the BLM. He was very excited to have a citizen group that was finally interested. They had been going to every HOA meeting that they could think of for six months prior to coming to Sun City Aliante. We were the first community that showed a real interest and sparked this organization. Gayle Mars-Smith was a pleasure to work with all of the years until she retired. I think in 2019. They were always very respectful. Obviously once the Environmental Impact Studies started totally professional. They certainly couldn't express any desires on their part, one way or the other, of what they would like to happen to the land. Always an open door to ever I needed to see at the Bureau of Land Management to learn more, pull up maps. It was a very, very friendly relationship.

VS: So, you really began to gain a lot of steam with your outreach and your networking with the political leaders. Did each of the founding members take on any specific role or responsibility for the Protectors?

JD: Yes, at that time Sandy Croteau was a full-time real estate agent which was an interesting person to have on the team. Here she was representing development selling homes yet wanting this preservation. She made a lot of presentations to Coldwell Banker Real Estate where she was one of the top sellers in the Association of Realtors. And Sandy was always the first one to want to be on the land leading tours. She and Helen [Mortenson] and I took so many people out. The Bureau of Land Management allowed us, at that time, to take public officials and other people

out to that mammoth site we call 'Tule.' I can't even begin to count. Probably every weekend we had people out on the land because when you show somebody fossil sites (pause). When you show people those bones laying on the ground, as old and brittle as those poor bones are, it just sparks something in people that's unbelievable. So, that was her specialty. Of course Helen was still driving her Hummer there. And those were some interesting excursions. That Hummer with public officials. Luckily we didn't lose anybody anytime we were going up and down those hills in that Hummer. Katherine Brandel always was the secretary and Katherine's specialty, as an English professor, was that any kind of documents, any letters, anything I was going to send out - she made sure the punctuation was correct and proper language was used. I mean she was excellent in that. She preferred to focus on [that]. Sandy Valley was our treasurer and while she did a lot of outreach at the events she was not a public speaker. She hated to speak in front of people. So she did not do that. And Lil Rostein was probably our contact at Su City Aliante and keeping those troops rallying. Lil was quite a bit older than the rest of us and just a spark plug. Again, she wanted to stay out of the limelight with the politicians. Really nobody wanted to talk to the politicians. I had never talked to a politician before but I've always been of the opinion they work for us. The old saying: they put their pants on one leg at a time just like the rest of us. So, I was never afraid of talking to public officials especially when I knew I was right. That was how we broke everything up.

34:20

VS: At some point you began to recruit members for your organization?

JD: Yes, so even at the end of 2006 we, like I said, went door to door; the five of us because we all lived here in Sun City Aliante. We just invited people to this meeting we had scheduled in January of 2007. We started telling people about what it was. And of course the Bureau of Land Management took us out there in the vehicles and that sparked interest. And I have an e-mail list of about 200 people by that time of January 2007 came along - got about 47, 49 people at the first meeting. Some lady was there and she said, "This is amazing. My daughter is trying to save the Arctic tundra and she can only get two people at a meeting." And I thought, 'It's hard to get people to meet up there.' Anyway, we did it that way. Then in 2007 we, with our little paltry funds, kept having meetings. We had Dr. Steve Rowland speak. We started being introduced to the science of paleontology. Getting people excited. We started appearing at events in the Aliante community. I think the Sierra Club let us have a portion of their Earth Day event tent in Summerlin that year. Really as we went through 2007 my e-mail list was getting bigger and bigger and bigger. We collected online about 1500 signatures for the first mid-2007 Environmental Impact Study comment period. The big comment period was coming up at the end of 2008. When we met with Senator Reid in January 2008, and I would like to go into that meeting a little bit more. He basically said, "Well, this is very interesting but I need to know that the public's behind this. So between February and May of 2008 we stood at the DMV. We had people in every park every weekend in the area. We just started telling people - here is the maps. A few of us carried the replicas of the mammoth teeth. And we started telling people what was out there and we wanted them to sign this petition to protect it. And we turned in - walked into Senator Reid's book signing at one of the local bookstores in May of 2008 - and presented him with 10,000 signatures on a petition to save this area. Of course all of that had been cleared by his staff. Shannon Raborn at that time was his legislative person here in Las Vegas. After the

January meeting with him she was very supportive in allowing us access to Senator Reid when we had something new to share. So, that's how it started.

38:10

VS: Very interesting. At some point did you develop a mission statement for the Protectors and did that evolve over time?

JD: I don't know where the original one is but basically our mission was to protect 13,000 acres of the Upper Las Vegas Wash because that was what the BLM called it in their Environment Impact Study. So to save 13,000 acres of the Upper Las Vegas Wash as a National Conservation Area managed by the Bureau of Land Management. That was the original intent. That by the end of 2008 changed dramatically because the cities from the very beginning and I have article after article of the push back in 2007 and 2008. From the Las Vegas City Councilmen and the North Las Vegas Councilmen and the Mayors and the planning people and the Regional Transportation people of Las Vegas that basically said, 'If you build on this – If this land is protected we will have to leapfrog the development on [U.S.] Highway 95 and that's just impossible.' So, they were definitely against everything we were trying to do and telling the BLM they only wanted the 2900 acres preserved. This went on all the way through most of 2008 when finally the economy was tanking. If you remember house prices crashed. A lot of the developers – most of them went away.

JD: It wasn't until we had the opening with the National Park Service in 2009 where we finally had the support from the city. And changed our mission statement to a desire for the National Park Service National Monument. That's how that evolved. I can talk to you more about how we got to that point in 2008 where the National Park Service was even an inkling. I would have always been pushing the National Park Service. But frankly when you see the land and you see the power lines out there and the dry desert you see when you first enter the land – of all the beautiful National Parks when I go back to my travels in '85 to the 1990's I couldn't imagine the National Park Service would want this as a unit because I always thought of National Parks as amazing, beautiful places like Yellowstone. Even though I had been to National Historic Sites and I'd been to National Battlefields – the Bureau of Land Management was working with us so well that's what I assumed. But the city did not want the BLM to have any part of this land as it turned out.

VS: So, I'd say digging deeper on this part of the discussion would be very valuable if you have more to share.

JD: So, after we presented to Senator Reid the 10,000 signatures, about that same time in 2008 the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) opened an office here in Las Vegas. Later I would learn that it was at the behest of Senator Reid, who at that time was the head of the [U.S.] Senate back in Washington D.C. A very powerful person obviously to have in Nevada. Lynn Davis opened that office in May of 2008 and she was getting to know people as we learned during her oral [history] interview. Other groups in Nevada and learned about Protectors of Tule Springs and what we were trying to do from them. We took her out in May of 2008. She was very enthusiastic about the potential of this site but then she disappeared. She wouldn't answer any e-mails or follow-up phone calls. So, that was one of our steps back. We thought we had a really big ally on our side. Head lobbyist in Washington. But we decided to continue on without

NPCA because we just weren't getting any feedback. Somewhere along that summer of 2008 we were still going to these Bureau of Land Management meetings. By then the Utah State University had been tasked by the BLM with doing these incredible studies on the Upper Las Vegas Wash - soil samples, the paleontology, the little archaeology that they would admit was out there - every kind of study you could think of on that land.

JD: And that summer when they presented that report I started thinking, "I hear planes over my head every day. Where is the Air Force in all of this?" There was nobody from the Air Force at any of these meetings. I didn't understand. They flew over this land. What was there feeling about more building and more homes? So, I contacted the Air Force Public Relations Department and just amazingly - which kind of happened all along the way - things happened almost by magic to push things along. The Air Force had just opened up an office to contact public groups to get groups more involved in Air Force activities and Air Force discussions on land issues. And what the Air Force was doing here in Nevada. I met in December 2008 with Deborah McNeal who was the brand new Air Force contact for their community outreach department. She was immediately like, "We had no idea this was going on." She brief Colonel Belote at that time and he said, "No, we should have been part of these discussions. One thing they want to put a 10 lane beltway across our jettison hill area. We need to be part of this team." So, I and Helen Mortensen met with him in October of 2008 and then in November of 2008 we conducted tours for Colonel Belote and Deborah McNeal out to 'Tule' the mammoth. Again, we did all this with the Bureau of Land Management permission. They couldn't be doing those tours because they were involved under federal policy with an Environmental Impact Study. We took them out to the Tule fossil site. There's article back in 2008 with Colonel Belote holding up a mammoth tooth. He was suddenly all in - 'We don't want any more building on this land. Obviously we want to protect this corridor. It's one of the most important fly corridors in the United States. We train every pilot in the Air Force and from most of our Allied countries on this land. Why not save this treasure on the ground while we protect the treasure of the air space above it?' So, now Nellis Air Force Base was advocating to our Congressional Delegation that they wanted this land protected as well. That was probably one of the most important steps that we happened into. Many people have told me since, "I can't believe you had the nerve to call the Air Force." Well, again to me all those people work for us. (Laughs) So, why wouldn't they be interested in what we had to say as citizens? Of course I went from why it is beneficial to you to want to save this land using some of my marketing background. He was an amazing person for us. He went back to Washington D.C., the Department of the Air Force. We ended up getting letters from the Brigadier Generals back there written to Senator Reid and Senator Ensign that they wanted this land protected. That was a big, big step. In December of 2008 I had a meeting with Shannon Raborn and Senator Reid's Senior Legislative Lands person from Washington D.C., Neil Kornze. He eventually was the Director of the BLM. At that time he worked for Senator Reid back in Washington D.C. and I was meeting with them in December of 2008. At that time the Air Force had asked us, "Why do we have to stop at 13,000 acres? We want to protect all of this land. All the way up to Creech Air Force Base because it's a huge wash area from the air and we never want any building up by [U.S.] 95 under our air space especially as we approach the Nevada Test & Training Center we get pretty low to the ground and it's pretty loud."

49:50

JD: And so I was specifically going in that December of 2008 to talk, now change our mind from 13,000 acres to 35,000 acres. Which would include the whole conservation transfer area and all the land up by 95. I knew that I needed to take somebody with me who could explain to Neil Kornze and Shannon Raborn about why the whole area needed to be preserved from a scientific and paleontological viewpoint. Kathleen Springer agreed to go with me. She made a great presentation at that time and told them what was on the rest of the land above the 13,000 acre conservation transfer area. The area we now as The Narrows and also the area we know as the shooting – what has been used for target shooting for many, many years. And told them the fossil resources went all the way up. Of course I explained that the Air Force was now agreeing with us and asking us to protect all of this land. Neil Kornze suggested NPS management – the possibility. He suggested the National Parks Conservation Association and we should be in touch with Lynn Davis about getting some studies from the National Park Service. I told him we hadn't heard from Lynn Davis and what had happened those last six months, since we had taken her out. And she said, "Well, I have a feeling she'll be calling you."

JD: In January 2009 she did call. Her [NPCA] management had to be convinced by Senator Reid's staff that this was a Senator Reid priority to get this land studied. The National Park Conservation Association and Lynn arranged for the National Park Service paleontologist Ted Fremd from John Day Fossil Beds to come out and visit for three days and spend time with Kathleen Springer and Eric Scott from the San Bernardino County Museum. Now we were off and running with his positive report and that's when our mission statement had to change.

VS: This is excellent because you have just gone through systematically about a half a page of notes and questions I was going to ask you. (Laughter) You tied them all together beautifully.

JD: I have it all written down in order. It's for my book someday. (Laughter)

52:55

VS: I did want to dig in a little bit more into Ted Fremd's site visit and report. Did you meet Ted during that time when he was in the field?

JD: I did. Of course Sandy Croteau and I were begging to go out in the field for those three days with him. And he absolutely refused. He wanted it to be a scientific expedition and he did not want to be swayed by members of the Friends Group so we sat on the sideline fretting about the whole thing. But, the last day we got a call from Kathleen, who said, "Ted would like to meet you for dinner tonight." And so the five of us, six I believe as my husband Tony was there, met for dinner. So that was Ted and Kathleen and Sandy Croteau and Tony and I. He was profuse about what he had seen. This was a missing link in the National Park Service story on the Pleistocene and climate change. And his report would be very favorable while also pointing out the challenges of the power lines in the area. And the community right on top of the borders of what could be a National Monument. Obviously we were thrilled with all of that.

VS: And just for some context Ted Fremd was the paleontologist for John Day Fossil Beds at the time. He also was supporting the Pacific West Region of the National Park Service, advising the Regional Director on issues relating to paleontology. The Director for the Pacific West Region at the time was Jon Jarvis who then later on became the Director for the National Park Service.

Serendipitously things came together nicely as it related to Park Service interest in Tule Spring's fossil beds.

JD: Right. And that's when the report came out and really his report – I felt personally was most important was Ted said, "This was the perfect story of an area that should be preserved and the part where the homes and the power lines and right-of-ways were so intense showed man's heavy hand on the land. That the northern part of what ended up being the Monument was wide open and pristine and hardly touched." I just thought I'd go back to what I thought – well the Park Service might not be interested in this land. I was just thrilled that that was the perfect scenario to carry forward. We were also very fortunate and I don't know the year that the new Interior Secretary came in, Sally Jewel, and one of the major pushes in her years was more urban National Monuments. That had always been the focus of Protectors of Tule Springs – getting these kids out to a National Park. When I started teaching I taught in highly challenged areas – very diverse populations, very poor. These kids were never going to get to a National Park. Some of their family didn't even have a car. Even though the Arizona National Parks, the Grand Canyon, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Zion – all of those parks are so close to Las Vegas. These kids had no hope of ever going to a National Park. So, our goal was always this is for the kids. We need to get them out from behind the desk and into a living laboratory and seeing things on the ground to spark those imaginations. With Ted's words that strengthened us even more and Sally Jewel having one of her major focus on urban National Monuments. Again, like you said it was serendipity. We were just every step along the way checking off all the boxes of how to push this along.

VS: In the fall of 2011 the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting was hosted in Las Vegas. And of course one of the field trips was to Tule Spring's fossil beds. So, here we're bringing the scientific community, tied to this meeting, out into the field to be able to see and speak on behalf of this important resource. Understanding this was a very pivotal time in terms of planning the future for Tule Springs. Do you have any recollections from that time period?

JD: I do. I was actually on one of the busses from Paris – one of the hotels - giving some background as we were going up there. It was being led on the ground by paleontologists and scientists. That was very important. That's basically all I remember. There were some things in support of this being a National Monument in 2009 and 2010 that I would like to go back to before we hop on.

VS: Please, go ahead.

59:55

JD: Personally it hurt me to have to tell Gayle Mar-Smith of BLM, that we were changing our support, from having Tule Springs managed as a National Monument by the Bureau of Land Management and going with the Park Service. I explained that I thought management by the Park Service, now that they were interested in the land, was the right thing because National Parks are forever. In all the National Parks I had been to [visit] they did such an amazing job of interpretation and handling visitors we really felt that was the way to go. That was a very difficult conversation. Of course Gayle and the rest of BLM handled it in a very business-like manner but I knew by then that really tore at their heart strings. And in the years to come I know that was a sore point in the Bureau of Land Management. But it was obvious with the cities and

county nobody was going to be on board with this as a Bureau of Land Management Monument. That was proven because by the end of 2009 on the dates November 17 and 18 we were able to get along – this was National Parks Conservation had now formed a coalition of groups of which the protectors was a part. Together we were able to convince the City of North Las Vegas, Las Vegas, and Clark County, as well as the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe – all passed unanimous resolutions to protect this area as a National Park Service National Monument. That was in a two day span in 2009. Shortly after that in the next legislative session Nevada State also passed a unanimous resolution in that regard. So, we were off and running then. At that time at the end of 2009 Senator Reid had said, “We need to make a map and determine borders and we are going to have nothing to do with it. We want the cities and county and supporters, citizen groups. Protectors, environmental groups get in a room. Draw me a border and come back to us.”

JD: When the first border was drawn up it was about 25,000 acres because everybody didn’t get what everybody wanted. We did a give and take. The borders of the Monument you see today were argued about and fought about and lots and lots of cooperation, give and take, amongst all of the entities at that time as well as the Air Force. In February of 2010 Neil Kornze again Senator Reid’s Legislative Director came to a Protectors meeting with about 100 Protector member’s and told us that legislation was imminent. That was an amazing, amazing day. And then we heard nothing. We heard nothing. We didn’t know what was happening. No legislation was being introduced. Even NPCA had a hard time, Lynn Davis, find out exactly what was going on. Suddenly I got a call from North Las Vegas City Richard Churchill that he had heard that NV Energy had asked for another power line corridor along the northern part of the Monument that would cut the Monument in half – the proposed Monument in half. Basically that set off a two-year battle with us, the Protectors, learning as much as we could about energy transmission. NV Energy insisting with the Congressional Delegation and their lobbyists they had to have this corridor for future growth. We just wanted them to look at alternatives which they refused to do. It was a very trying, personally terrible time, for me because I was the center of NV Energy’s wrath. Not treated very well in meetings with NV Energy to say the least. So, that continued for two years. The other thing in 2010 that was major that happened was we decided to have what was called the “Tusk Event” in early December of 2010. We toured 30 public officials, tribal leaders, and Air Force – the new Air Force Colonel Garland, to witness those San Bernardino excavated six to seven foot tusk that was right off from Grand Teton in the south part of the Monument. All the major networks and press were there and Channel 3 did extensive footage including following that tusk back to the San Bernardino County Museum repository. That was a great event because now we had all the major elected officials out to see how important this was. We had the Air Force Colonel standing on site over that tusk with his arms out. We have that picture basically saying basically, “We need this area preserved to save these treasures. And then pointing to the sky and saying, “To save the other treasures.” That takes us through 2010 and 2011. Of course the NV Energy battle continued on but I just wanted to get those two 2010 things in before we went on to 2011.

1:06:40

VS: Very good. Jon and Erin you have been very patient. Do you want to ask any questions at this point or do you want to save your questions to the end?

EE: We can save them to the end unless you have something Jon.

JB: No, so many of my questions have already been addressed. This is extraordinary bit of world history.

VS: So, 2011, you must have something in mind. Where do you want to go with the conversation starting with 2011?

JD: I'm trying to look at some of the articles. I'm going through the scrap book because it keeps me in order. Basically the biggest thing in 2011 was learning about energy transmissions. Our friends at Valley Electric, believe it or not, are a cooperative located in Pahrump. They have their own problems with NV Energy. They were trying to run a line around the mountain north of Pahrump and then come down through the Paiute Reservation and connect to a transmission station just west of the Paiute Reservation. They were getting a lot of blow-back from NV Energy in trying to do that. So, they became amazing advocates who took us through basically everything that we could learn about how to boost transmission on the existing power poles out there to handle future loads. Without having to put in power poles across these fossils sites, more power poles. And in 2011, Lynn Davis and I and Sherri Grotheer, who was now a very important Board member, had come on by then. She was and is a legal assistant, a paralegal for the law firm of [Bailus,] Cook & Kelesis who is our law firm. She's the one who helped with filing our 501 3(c) and she has the kind of mind to be able to read all this legalize and put it into English for all of us. And we would sit down in a room with NV Energy going through about what we had learned about alternatives about this line. Basically by then Senator Reid and Senator Ensign – Senator Reid was a Democrat and Senator Ensign was a Republican and then Senator Dean Heller took Senator Ensign's seat. He was also a Republican. Specifically what we were hearing from their staffs was, "If NV Energy needs it we need to find a way to accommodate it. Because obviously politically NV Energy a whole lot more clout than we did. So, we would sit in these meetings where NV Energy just said there are no alternatives. We need another power pole across that land. And then we would bring up all of these things that we had learned from Valley Electric about boosting power and the National Parks [Conservation] Association actually hired an energy consultant who used to be on the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada – named Kim Hay - and then an energy, governmental energy expert who is now a consultant. And they wrote about a 30 page document. Documenting all of the alternatives that are possibly in this area rather than building more poles.

JD: Unfortunately, the way that Congress was at that time and with Senator Reid in 2012 introduced the first Tule Springs National Fossil Beds National Monument legislation to Congress and only Senator Reid was a sponsor on the Senate side because the Republican Senator would not support it without this being worked out with NV Energy. Congresswoman Berkley was the only sponsor on the House side. I think our other Congressmen and women at that time were afraid of NV Energy. So that legislation died without a committee hearing. It became obvious as we moved into the new Congress in 2013 that we needed all of Nevada's Delegation to sign on as co-sponsors. And the only way we were going to get there was to allow the language for this energy corridor to go through the Monument with as many caveats as we could get. That ended up being a 400 foot corridor used for renewable energy only and as we are finding out now in 2021 when NV Energy has requested use of this corridor. We were able to get into the legislation it must meet the requirements and go through NEPA studies and most importantly NV Energy understand that corridor has some pre-existing conditions, right-a-ways, and encroachments on it and they must deal with it. Also, that had a 15 year time frame on it –

that if they did not ask for that line in 15 years it would revert back to the BLM to give it to the National Park Service. Because the 400 foot corridor itself remained in Bureau of Land Management hands. So that the Park Service – NV Energy did not want the Park Service to have that right-of-way because they knew that would make it more difficult during NEPA to get more infrastructure dug in that area. So, that's where 2011 was – a miserable in pass if you will. But we continued to gather steam and NV Energy wasn't a particularly popular entity in Nevada. So, we gained a lot of support from other groups and citizens along the way in 2011.

1:14:50

VS: It seems as though that 2011 time period there was the Coalition that had come together. That brought together the conservation minded groups, the government and political leaders, the scientists all pointing in the same direction. Would you agree with that? Or do you have any thoughts about that Coalition congealing?

JD: Absolutely. By 2011 I was a full-time teacher. I had finished 18 months of teaching as well as going to school at night. So the National Park Conservation Association and Lynn Davis were really leading the Coalition charge. She's the one that went out and got the leaders of all these other groups on board to support this effort. The lobbying effort of the National Park Conservation Association with Jon Jarvis, who by then was the Director of the National Park Service I believe, and the Congressional Delegation in Washington [D.C.]. NPCA was able to lobby and have the money to carry off things that we as Protectors certainly didn't have. She really led that effort, kept everybody meeting periodically. Gathered support letters – a whole booklet of support letters from all these amazing groups as well as leaders such as Chris G., county commissioners. To show now the entire community, the political community, the citizens, the environmental groups were all agreed in one direction. Everyone in Nevada that I spoke with that had been here awhile said they had never seen anything like it. There was no opposition of any kind to this effort.

1:17:15

VS: So, at this point a lot of the discussion was wait and see what happens with the political process? Is that correct?

JD: Yes. It was disappointing that the 112th Congress the Bill died but then starting in May of 2013 all six members of the Nevada Delegation signed on as sponsors and the legislation was again introduced. So, here we were up and running. In 2013 and 2014 were just filled with excitement for the upcoming Monument that we thought was going to happen. Everybody was very positive about it. Of course as Congress always was it was way to slow for me. Even though everybody was telling me this was a National Park creation of amazing speed – seven or eight years – I thought I was going to get old before I saw this happen. (Laughter) So, in October of 2013 we actually had a House sub-committee hearing. That hearing – I don't know how I was able to listen to everything while in my classroom. I would busy the kids with something and have in my ear the sub-committee hearings going on. Mayor Jon Lee from the City of North Las Vegas, Steve Roth, Councilman Steven Roth of City of Las Vegas and Kristen McMullen from the business group – the Chamber of Commerce. They all testified in the sub-committee hearing. Rob Bishop of Utah, Congressman Rob Bishop was the head of that committee. Obviously a Republican and actually Congressman Bishop turned over the reins to Congressman Horsford of

that committee – our Congressman - to carry out that hearing because they said there was so much positive testimony. Not one piece of negative testimony on this bill. Congressman Bishop called it a ‘Tule Love Fest’ that day. It passed out of that House sub-committee easily and on to the full committee. In November of 2013 the legislation passed out of the Senate sub-committee. Not quite as dramatic but again our full delegation testifying positively for this legislation. So, we thought we were on our way at the end of November 2013. We thought this is great. By December 2013 we were ready for the Senate and the House of Representatives – Congress – to vote on this. Of course as things go – never is perfect – in February 2014 I was sent the full House committee was going to vote on amendments to the Bill that gutted the SNPLMA provisions out of it and cut 18 pages out of the bill, including the National Park Service management. To leave it in BLM management until more study was done.

1:42:00

JD: So, everything erupted at that point. That was obviously Congressman Rob Bishop’s amendments to this bill. It was chaos. I mean everybody here was calling everybody on Reid’s staff in Washington D.C. and basically Rob Bishop decided to pull that vote. So, it never went for a vote on the amendments thank goodness. We invited Congressman Bishop to come out here and tour Tule Springs. Kudos to him and in March of 2014 he and his staff came out here to tour the site. Now, actually he was taken to, because he only gave us 20 minutes. We actually had Congressman Horsford and everyone – we took him on the state land to the Big Dig site. I was told not to expect him to say anything to us. But, I had all of the studies and documents that had been done on this area since 1930’s. I didn’t have the early 1900’s studies. And I had them piled, along with all the BLM EIS’s and studies and documents in the back of my SUV at that time. Stacked up they were about three and a half feet tall. And the first thing I showed him when we were introducing him to the site – “Congressman, these are all the studies that have been done since the 1930’s on this land. This top half is all the federal studies that have been done by the Bureau of Land Management on this land. So as a taxpayer you can see we’ve already paid for a ton of studies on this area. So, I would appreciate you taking that into consideration when your amendments call for more study to be done on this area. It has been studies for decades.” And then after his tour of the trenches, some of the UNLV fossil sites out on that state land, he looked at me as he left and he said, “I can’t believe this area hasn’t been protected before this.” And he walked off. And that was the end of his amendments. He pulled them. Agreed to leave the National Park Service on the bill and basically dropped all of his dissention. So, the rest is history. It moved through both committees and summer of 2014 until we got to December 2014 passage. Yeah!

1:24:48

VS: Important information to capture there. Thank you so much. I did want to ask you, “Is the statement you made ‘Tule Love Fest’ – was that an actual Rob Bishop quote or is that your interpretation of it?”

JD: No, that’s a quote. And it should be – I don’t know how they capture that in the records. That’s when he gave the podium to Congressman Horsford to run that committee hearing and Rob Bishop and many of the committee members actually left because it was so obvious what was going to happen at that committee hearing. So, Jill when you do write the book on Tule

Springs you have to title one of the chapters 'Tule Love Fest' to capture that portion of the information.

JD: I will. This is really my outline of the events that happened. Between that and the scrap books it's all pretty well in order. There are so many silly, amazing stories that need to be captured someday. Way too long for this oral interview. Getting the Air Force stuck in the mud out there and getting Neil Kornze stuck in the mud out there in vehicles. Oh my goodness. We had so many adventures it's just been a once in a lifetime experience.

VS: Yes. And again to me what also adds to the serendipitous nature of this whole thing is that on this interview we have Jonathan Burpee who was in the Office of Congressional Legislative Affairs for the National Park Service. So, he's clued in and shared information with us about this time period during his interview.

JD: Yes, there's not one step along the way that where I can't say that the stars weren't aligned. The right people came along at the right time. Just when we would be down and out and think we're not going any further, a person would show up like the Air Force. A situation would show up like having Ted Fremd out here and NPCA. Even the economy tanking in 2007 and 2008. I can say with full confidence that if the Las Vegas housing boom had continued we would not have had a chance to save this land. The developers were so entrenched. All of those things together created this National Monument. I said to Sara Moffet, who was Senator Reid's land person, when the legislation was going through the second time back in Washington D.C. and by then Shannon RabOrn was head of his Las Vegas office, his District Director. I told them in mid-2014, "If the Las Vegas has recovered the developers are coming back in droves. If we don't get this land saved in this 113th Congress we're going to lose it. It's never going to happen." Thank goodness all the right people and things were in place to go ahead and get it pushed through. Yeah, those celebrations in December were just one's I'll always remember. Presenting Senator Reid and the entire delegation with the mammoth teeth at that celebration at the Paiute Reservation and the smile on his face. He said, "I didn't think this would ever happen. I thought you guys were crazy." Of course, with him in the position he was as the head of the Senate. Without his skills as a legislator it would have never happened either. There's just so many people along the way that made this possible.

1:29:38

VS: So, that last year before the Monument was officially established in law. Listening to you it's palpable the excitement and anxiety about this whole discussion. I want to share with you, even though we've captured this oral history interview with you and I'm so glad we did because this is really important stuff – hard to get this information anywhere else – is that I'm also having a palpable anxiety excitement about you turning this into a book. Because you're the person to tell this story.

JD: Well, thank you. I need to get started is what I need to get. I want to capture everybody's little vignettes and stories and make it a fun book because we had so much fun. We're still having lots of fun but every victory and all the silly things that we used to do out there. Of course we can't do now (Laughs). Sheri Grotheer and Sandy Croteau and I took Bishop's 18 pages of amendments and we walked out to the end of Durango and walked over the mounds on the Monument into one of the washes and set them on fire. Sent them up into the heavens. We had a

party out at the Don Tully site and the Founders that were left and Board members had a champagne toast after President Obama signed it into law. All the stories of the early days in Helen's truck that should have never been out there. Taking us out to Tully and going across some of those roads and mounds. The time we got Sandy's jeep stuck in the wash half up a hill. There's cute stories. We were so inexperienced. None of us had never done any advocating for any kind of anything with Cities, Council people and Mayors and Congressional Representatives. We were all just neophytes. Somebody once said to me, "I think that's why it worked. Because you didn't go the usual route. You didn't know what was expected. Like all of the rules of what you could say to people and what you can't say to people. You just went and did what you thought was right. And convinced people there was just too much here to ignore." Because of not being afraid to not follow protocol because I didn't know what the protocol was. None of us did. Thankfully, I guess, we didn't offend anybody too much. Again, my whole, obvious feeling was – Number one you can't fire me. We could say things that people from the National Parks Conservation Association, what Lynn Davis couldn't say, because she was being paid. She had a job. She didn't want to lose her job. So, if there was a tough conversation to be had or a controversial statement to be made to the press that was my job. Because nobody could fire me. And that's why it worked so perfectly, I guess. Anyway, we could never happen again. It was just the confluence of too many perfect people and perfect moments of history.

1:33:48

VS: I've saved one question to wrap up this first phase of the interview. Want to be able to dive into the next part of this interview which will begin from those days just before the law passed, discovery and learning of that, and then everything else that happened after that. We'll save that for another day. But I want to ask you one final question before I turn this over to Erin and to Jon. Can you tell us a little bit about the scrapbook you put together? When you started it? And your thoughts about how you would like to see that go forward.

JD: Well, I guess early on – I mean I had never been in the newspaper before. So, in 2007 when the first newspaper article was done I was saving the newspaper clippings. As this proceeded and looked like we might really have something here. I always thought we did. But more and more people were agreeing and I started putting more and more things into a scrapbook. I'm not an artsy person in any way, shape, or form. My sister started helping me with buying little things to actually make a scrap book. When I look at Scrapbook One, which takes us through 2011, I was doing that for me. Just as a remembrance for me to organize the media articles, which were extensive. So, Scrapbook One is very Jill oriented. Obviously there are other people in it. But it was mainly because those first articles and TV programs were Helen and I. We were kind of tied at the hip on those. But, as we got into 2011 and I realized National Parks is on this and now the Cities and everybody is supporting us Scrapbook Two became more of the articles are in there but lots of pictures of lots of other people. Because I thought this is actually a recording of history. It's still not very professionally done but it does show the battles. And how we had to fight for every moment of this.

JD: I was thrilled and shocked that the National Park Service wanted this recording of our history when this all happened. And thank you Vince for asking that very first time. Because, if people go through this in the future it's a good – here, I go. I made it this far Vince without crying. It really shows (voice trembling/sniffs) I think that a group of people can do something if they set their mind to it. And we just kept fighting (voice trembling) and looking for the people who

could help (voice trembling). (sniffing) There was NO WAY that Tule was going to be built on. There was just NO WAY (voice trembling). If I had to finally wear that bulldozer costume, and mammoth costume, and stand on top of it there was NO WAY a Quick King was going there (voice trembling). So, I appreciate that the Park Service considers this (voice trembling) some of the history. In fact I've got up in front of me, the article that was written—gosh who was doing this article—anyway, the article titles was: “All Things, Bad Congressman, Tusk, Tusk. Politics: Bad to the Bone - Utah Congressman's changes to the Tule Springs Park Bill have unleashed a Mammoth problem” by Heidi Kaiser. These articles show what people were thinking. In the beginning in 2007 and 2008 it shows Councilman Steve Roth from Las Vegas and how against saving this area he was. And yet he was the one at the ‘Tule Love Fest’ in October 2013 saying how behind this Las Vegas was. So it shows how we changed minds and perception. It shows all the public outreach at the Las Vegas Science Festival. And all the scientific support that we ended up getting. It's just an amazing, amazing story I think.

VS: You're a big part of it for sure. So, you only get three wishes. My three Tule Spring wishes are: One, Jill DeStefano turns over the scrapbook to the Park Service so we can preserve it forever as part of our museum collections. Two, someday we get to do an oral history interview with Jill. Three, my last wish, is that you write this book about the history of conservation at Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument. No one on the planet would do a better job than you.

JD: Well, thank you. It will get done. (Laughs)

VS: Ok, Erin?

JD: I know you're younger than me and you'll bug me until the day I die.

VS: I wasted a wish then. (Laughter)

1:40:28

VS: Erin, any thoughts from you? Questions?

EE: I actually don't have any questions yet. Jill covered everything so detailed that I don't have anything at this moment.

VS: Thanks. Jon?

JB: Similarly, my gosh. What an incredible journey it is to get to listen to all this. Even though I heard so much of it while I was there. I just appreciate it. I don't have anything right now. More of my questions are of a later period. Thank you Jill.

JD: Thank you.

VS: Well, thank you very much Jill. So, what we'll do – We'll get to think about this for 24 hours and then begin communication on when we can pin you down for the second interview. Before you wind up on travel.

JD: Ok. I'll be gone June 30 through July 5. And then the 9th through the 17th in Iceland. I should be home after that until October 1st.

VS: Is a pre-June 30th call reasonable or would you prefer to wait?

JD: No, that's fine. Whatever works for you all. You have much busier schedules than I do.

VS: Ok, then I'm going to go ahead and turn off the recorder. Thank you again.

JD: Ok. Thanks for listening. Oh my goodness.

[END OF INTERVIEW]



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NPS 2021/006, June 2021

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