

**DARRYL STANLEY**

**Interview 269a**

**October 15, 2014 at /The History Center, Diboll, Texas**

**Jonathan Gerland, Interviewer**

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**ABSTRACT:** In this interview with Jonathan Gerland, former Temple Inland wildlife manager Darryl Stanley reminisces about his career in parks and recreation and wildlife management, including time spent with the parks departments at the City of Houston (Houston Zoo and associated parks) and the City of Baytown and 29 years as a wildlife manager for Temple Eastex and Temple Inland. After working for the two cities and receiving a degree in recreation and parks management, he moved to work for Temple managing the wildlife at Scrappin' Valley and in other areas where the company managed the wildlife. He managed deer and quail and monitored the hunting, logging, and planting programs, including management of endangered species like the red cockaded woodpecker. He was a go-between when foresters wanted to cut trees in this area and had to determine if it was a risk to the managed wildlife populations. He also talks about hunting parties at Scrappin' Valley and Boggy Slough and Bruni, relations with environmental groups, balancing the needs of hunters, wildlife, and loggers, the changes in the industry's relationships with environmentalists, and the changes in the company's management of Scrappin' Valley and Boggy Slough.

**Jonathan Gerland (hereafter JG):** Okay today's date is Tuesday October 15, 2014. My name is Jonathan Gerland and we are at The History Center today with Darryl Stanley. He worked for Temple Inland actually I guess would have been Temple Eastex first...

**Darryl Stanley (hereafter DS):** Temple Eastex and then Temple Inland.

**JG:** He started in the late seventies and retired after about 29 years. So we will talk mostly about that time period, but maybe Mr. Stanley to begin, just tell us when and where you were born.

**DS:** Well, I was born in Houston, Texas in 1949; gosh I'm getting to be old. And my dad was a contractor, so naturally we moved around a lot. Then I lived in quite a few different places before we finally settled down in Huntsville and that is where I went to school and graduated and kind of call that home.

**JG:** Okay. Did you have any brothers or sisters?

**DS:** I've got two brothers, one four years older than I am and a younger brother who is eleven years younger so we are spread out.

**JG:** Did you ever work with your dad?

**DS:** Oh yes, my older brother and I, that was just our job after school and in summers to work with him.

**JG:** What type of contract work?

**DS:** He was building houses mainly, contracting wherever he could get a job and then he went to work for the prison system building superintendent and was building prisons. We never worked with him after that, but when he was doing general contract stuff we worked. That was just expected that we were going to be there to do the clean up and the dirty work, so we did.

**JG:** So, you went to college?

**DS:** I went to college in a round-about way. My whole career has just kind of been...it hasn't been planned – really it just happened, but yes I went to college. I went to A&M and graduated in 1974. I had been...I had gotten married and got out of high school and went one year to junior college and decided I didn't know what I wanted to do or needed to do, so I just went down to Houston and went to work. And I worked at all kind of jobs. I went to work at the prison system and I was a prison guard for a short time down there and then I went to work for the Parks and Recreation department in Houston.

**JG:** For the City of Houston?

**DS:** The City of Houston. I worked as a dispatcher and equipment operator for several years. In that time I got married and my boss, who was an Aggie, kept on and wanted me to go to school, go back to school. I just...we were making good money, both my wife and I were working and school was the furthestest thing from anybody's mind. And he kept on and finally it got to the point where the only way I could move up under civil service was to get a degree. So I went home one day and it was in January and asked my wife, said, "how would like to live in College Station?" She said, "What?" I said, "Well I'm going back to school, we have got to move in about a month." So I started back to A&M and graduated with a degree in recreation and parks management.

**JG:** Recreation and parks management.

**DS:** I got out of that and was hired back by the City of Houston and was a superintendent with the Parks Department and my district was the downtown district they called it. It included the zoo, Miller Theater, Herman Park, all the old downtown parks and everything. We had to maintain, and of course we were responsible for maintaining the zoo.

**JG:** Tell me a little bit more about obtaining that degree. Was that relatively new? How long had that been a degree program?

**DS:** It had not been...it wasn't that old there, I couldn't tell you how many years. I know the first year I was there they had no building and our classroom was the old mule barn

they had for the mules there at A&M. They had converted it into kind of a half way classroom.

**JG:** The mule barn. (laughter)

**DS:** Yes, and then after that we moved over into one of the other buildings that had become vacant and it kind of grew then and got more and more people. But it hasn't been, you know, in existence in a long time. The main thing is, it was kind of a general degree plan. We took business law, we took animal science, we took animal... most of the wildlife courses we took. And then forestry, we took some forestry and we took a little bit from every department to come up with our degree plan.

**JG:** Anything having to do with the outdoors, I guess.

**DS:** Yes, and that way you could kind of work any direction you wanted to go, you know you knew enough, so, I was real lucky that I got in on that.

**JG:** How many other people during your time were in that same program? Do you know approximately?

**DS:** Oh there were probably 100 or so in that over the period of time I was in college.

**JG:** Was your former boss for the City of Houston, was he still at the City of Houston when you got out?

**DS:** Yes, he hired me. They had kind of told me when I got out to come on back and I did.

**JG:** Do you remember his name?

**DS:** Robert Mosty, he was assistant director when I got out. I took his old district over and it was interesting work because you got to deal with the public and you got to deal with the planning, the landscaping, the arboretums, the parades, musicals in the theater, outdoor theater. It was just a little bit of everything we had to cover.

**JG:** That was in the '70s?

**DS:** Yes, it was quite interesting in Houston in the '70s, so it was a good deal.

**JG:** I'm sorry keep going, you were talking about the zoo.

**DS:** Well the zoo, before I went back to college they had put me in charge of the zoo, the maintenance or the landscaping maintenance of the zoo. So, that became my only...

**JG:** In Herman Park?

**DS:** In Herman Park. That became my only duties were to make sure that everything within the zoo was maintained. We had to plant flowers and different times of year had to change them out and all sorts of things like that. So we got to work with some of the zoo people because we had to go in the pens and coordinate when they were going to be in there and out to do the planting and stuff that needed to be done in their pens and stuff. It was an interesting job. It was because you had to learn how to be around some of them and when not to be around some of the animals, so it was certainly interesting. I left there and the city of Baytown, man I knew and had worked with the recreation department in Houston, went to Baytown as their recreation director and a little while later they called me and asked me if I would come interview so I said, well why not. So, I went to Baytown and interviewed and they hired me as their superintendent of parks. It was a split department; it was recreation department and a parks department. So, I took that job and I was there probably five or six years I guess, and then it gets to where it comes to the point where I made contact with Temple and how I wound up here with Temple. Well, it's really another case of just chance encounter and it becomes parts of your career, but I had an uncle who worked for Temple at that time, Dallas Chandler.

**JG:** Chandler?

**DS:** Chandler.

**JG:** Dallas Chandler, okay.

**DS:** He was in charge of Scrappin' Valley Wildlife Management area, the lodge and all, that complex over there.

**JG:** He was your uncle on your mothers...?

**DS:** On my mother's side and they lived there and every Easter I guess we would have a big barbecue and all the relatives, kind of a mini reunion I guess you would say at their house, and so that is how I become familiar with Scrappin' Valley and Temple Inland is through him. And it rocked along there for several years, maybe three years and I got a call. My uncle had already told me he said his boss was talking about hiring somebody else to help him out there to actually do wildlife management. They were just kind of maintaining stuff at that time and I thought well, I don't really, you know, I wasn't really looking for another job. I was doing alright where I was. I didn't do anything and they called me, I guess it was Gene Sanford called me and asked me if I wanted a job. I said well I really don't think y'all could pay, would be what I'm making and I enjoy going up there, it would be a really neat job, but I got a wife and one kid, at that time. So, he said well let me think about it and a few days went by and Mr. Booker, John Booker, who was mill manager in Pineland and also he had responsibility for the Scrappin Valley lodge and that area, he called and asked me if I was going to apply for the job. And I said well this is the deal I can't afford to, you know. Well, he said, well let me think about it and do some thinking and talking and I'll get back with you and I said okay. So...

**JG:** Did they ever ask what you might need to go?

**DS:** Yes, yes, they did and I don't, at this point I can't...it wasn't...it would sound awful small right now at this day and time.

**JG:** But you had thought about it. I guess you asked a little bit more than where you are.

**DS:** Yes, I thought about it, I thought about it and had made up my mind that I just couldn't pick everything up and go somewhere for less money and move my wife and my kid and another kid on the way. It was just...and I was happy with my job. Anyway, he comes back with an offer and he says "look we can't come up with the money, the salary it would have to be to hire you" and I said "well okay." He said "but, what we can do is you can work for Gene Sanford and for me" so I'd have two bosses and that way I can put you over the maintenance, grounds maintenance crew at the Pineland Mill and then you can live and work at Scrappin' Valley half time.

**JG:** We can't pay you what you need but we will give you two jobs.

**DS:** Yes, and it was close enough and I guess I was just...

**JG:** So, I guess the combined salaries of the two would get close?

**DS:** Yes, and it was close enough, it wasn't what I was making but it was close enough to make me think well it would be nice to not have all this public to deal with and you know.

**JG:** There in Baytown.

**DS:** At that point the parks department, even though it was a good job, I guess I convinced myself because I could just see myself riding around through the woods, you know, having nobody to tell me really anything to do and do what you wanted. Anyway I thought about it and we discussed it, my wife and I discussed it, and I think I finally just convinced her it was a good deal.

**JG:** Now where did she grow up?

**DS:** She grew up in Houston.

**JG:** So, she was a city girl more or less.

**DS:** Yes, more or less.

**JG:** Was that one of her main concerns?

**DS:** Well no, no, no, she stayed with her grandparents kind of raised her out in Rosenberg, in that area and the summers that is where she stayed all the time. So, she would like to be in the country. She wasn't what you called a city girl even though she

was raised there. Well anyway, I took the job because I came up and met them and they told me my duties and it rocked on from there.

**JG:** So, Gene Sanford and Mr. Booker interviewed you?

**DS:** Yes, well basically I went up and met them and he said, “When can you start to work?” Yes, an interview of some type, you know, but I worked there with my uncle, gosh I can’t remember how many years. It was probably about five years, four or five years.

**JG:** And you think you were hired there in about ’78?

**DS:** Yes, that was my first job so it would be ’78 and then probably in the ‘80’s, early eighties Gene and the Company decided they were going full force with a wildlife department. They had hired Don Dietz as a wildlife biologist and Bill Goodrum was hired as a wildlife biologist, one on South Boggy and one on North Boggy Slough.

**JG:** Before we get into that, let me just ask a couple of more questions about Scrappin’ Valley.

**DS:** Okay.

**JG:** So, your supervisor at Scrappin’ Valley was Gene Sanford?

**DS:** Yes.

**JG:** Or your uncle I guess.

**DS:** Well in a way, but if you drew a chart yes, my uncle would have been my boss but Gene was basically our bosses.

**JG:** How did that work out basically having two bosses and two responsibilities?

**DS:** Well it was challenging. They both had...

**JG:** Did they coordinate your work pretty good between themselves or were both of them needing you at the same?

**DS:** They were both strong personalities, let’s put it that way, and they pretty much coordinated. Of course I had worked around and had been in management positions so it wasn’t like a new deal for me to deal with bosses and how they get things crossed up when you can’t really work for two people at once. But they worked pretty good as far as Mr. Booker took care of the lodge mainly, anything that went on at the lodge, and Gene had say over anything that pertained to wildlife.

**JG:** Now when you say the lodge you mean?

**DS:** The Scrappin' Valley lodge.

**JG:** The one at Scrappin' Valley lodge, not the Pineland.

**DS:** No, not the Pineland.

**JG:** So the building?

**DS:** Yes, the building.

**JG:** And immediate grounds around it?

**DS:** Yes, the immediate grounds and Gene had everything else which was deer management and whatever else. We had Elk at that time over there and a bunch of wild horses that he had adopted.

**JG:** So there really wasn't other than what he did since you were just talking about Bill Goodrum and Don Dietz, this was all before that right? I mean how much of a program was there as far as wildlife management?

**DS:** Before I came along there was I would say very little if any. Gene Sanford had dabbled with it. He made some trades and got elk and put them in there and then he is the one that got the Adopt a Horse thing and adopted a bunch of these horses and put them in there.

**JG:** What were they?

**DS:** Just wild out of the BLM [Bureau of Land Management].

**JG:** Just wild mustangs?

**DS:** Yes, the BLM.

**JG:** Bureau of Land Management.

**DS:** Yes, they still have that you can adopt the wild horses they trap out there.

**JG:** Why was he doing that?

**DS:** All, I can think just PR [public relations]. I mean that is the only thing I can think, but we must have had 100 of them.

**JG:** And they just ran wild?

**DS:** Ran wild.

**JG:** Did you ever try to catch one and ride it?

**DS:** We did, we did. We caught a lot of them and a matter of fact some years later we had the task of getting rid of them, get them out of there because they were competing with the deer so bad so we started trapping them. I sold some to people and they broke them and made good horses out of them.

**JG:** Just locally?

**DS:** Yes, local people. And I broke two or three and they turned out to be decent horses.

**JG:** Did y'all ever use horses in your...there at Scrappin' Valley?

**DS:** Oh yes, I had a horse and my uncle had horses that we kept. The company paid, it was agreed on that we would have horses because at that point and time...

**JG:** That was before four wheeler or ATV's huh?

**DS:** Right it was before ATV's and the only way you could get around the high fence that surrounds the wildlife management area is by horseback or by foot. So, it was one of our duties to at least every...once every month that we ride the fence, in other words make a complete circle of the place at least once every month, stop and repair holes or cut trees or whatever and that is where we used the horses. I broke some of those mustangs and I used one of them for awhile and somebody bought it, but it was like the Wild West when you got them trapped. It was something to see.

**JG:** How did they manage in the woods, the East Texas woods, because they didn't come from that type environment?

**DS:** No, they came from dry areas. See, they did well.

**JG:** I mean were their manes and tails real bushy?

**DS:** Yes, it is just like you see on TV.

**JG:** Did they get it caught up in the brush and stuff or just?

**DS:** No, they seemed to manage the woods and everything real well. They reproduced pretty well and they...

**JG:** Did y'all feed them during the wintertime or anything?

**DS:** Well the only thing we feed them, we put out hay and stuff for the animals and had some corn feeders out and things like that. That was all they got basically...

**JG:** Supplemental.

**DS:** ...supplemental. Elk, deer whatever come by they would eat it but that was the only feeding we were doing at that time.

**JG:** Were they tame enough where they would come when you brought it out or just dropped it and left?

**DS:** No, they were never that tamed.

**JG:** Never came when they heard the truck coming.

**DS:** No, the only way you could get them in a trap, you couldn't do it by feed because they didn't know what feed was, was to get them somewhere and deny them water and put water in the trap and they would finally go in the trap for the water. That was the only way I found to get them into a trap. It was strange because they didn't know what manufactured corn or feed or anything like that. You think they would come to it but they didn't.

**JG:** Was the company doing hunts and things at that time?

**DS:** No, the first three years that I was working when I first started there wasn't any guest hunts, I guess you would call them. They were having a few at North Boggy I think just on a real limited basis but at Scrappin' Valley we didn't have any guest hunts, you know, there was Mr. Temple or some of his relatives or somebody he brought or told to come might hunt out there but as far as any organized hunts no we didn't have any.

**JG:** So who would have stayed at the lodge then was it just?

**DS:** It was Mr. Temple would have his guests, you know, and then after Buddy got into, you know, he would bring people out there. Of course the lodge was added onto, it wasn't always like it is now. It has just evolved over time into what it is.

**JG:** What about the lake there? Were y'all stocking it with fish or anything?

**DS:** The Lake was there when I went to work. There hadn't been any fishery management that I am aware of done in it. We did start, we ran some fish counts and we done some fertilization and manipulation of the water to get it in good shape. We did buy some fingerling, at the time you could get them from the state free and we put those in there several times.

**JG:** What species?

**DS:** It was mainly we put a bunch of these little sun perch in there and some bass, just regular old...

**JG:** Black bass.

**DS:** ...black bass. And I can't remember what else but over the years there have been some fish put in there and continued management really of it over these last... Well from that point on, they would pretty much keep the water fertilized to keep it clear and do what needed to be done for the fish to survive. And the guests got to where they used the lake. Almost every time somebody was there, there would be somebody fishing. It was a...I want to say a manmade lake, it was not a natural lake but...

**JG:** Talk about what you were getting to, about some of the changes that the company was doing, hiring professional wildlife biologist and then eventually your move from Scrappin' Valley to I guess North Boggy is where you went.

**DS:** Well, no I moved to the corporate office.

**JG:** Oh okay. Well just talk about that transition.

**DS:** I spent oh I don't remember just how many, sixteen years or something at the corporate office.

**JG:** Oh okay, I didn't know that.

**DS:** Well, what I was fixing to say was we had become a wildlife department and Gene Sanford was our boss, it would be Bill Goodrum, Don Dietz and myself.

**JG:** Now what was Gene's background, do you know?

**DS:** He had worked for the company for years and years and years. He had worked in different places within the company off and on. He was kind of a...his title at that time was Director of Public Relations.

**JG:** Oh okay.

**DS:** So it was kind of strange to have a wildlife department under public relations but that is just the way it worked out. But anyway they decided they wanted to get it more professional and really do some, sure enough, deer management. So, we started...

**JG:** Did Mr. Temple ever get actively involved in that? I mean, I'm sure he did with Gene but did you ever have any encounters with Mr. Temple calling everybody together and giving a vision that he had.

**DS:** Never called us together, he was good about he would show up and he would say come on let's go for a ride, you know, and you would go ride around the pasture with him and he would talk about this or that or something we had done.

**JG:** But nothing like organized called meeting or anything?

**DS:** Nothing like organized, not... I'm sure he did with Gene, but with myself and the other biologist it was pretty much just out there quite a bit, and he would always want to go for a ride, you know. That is where he would get his information from us, would be on his drives through. But anyway back to...

**JG:** Yes the transition.

**DS:** When we came up with a management plan for each area.

**JG:** And this would be roughly what time period?

**DS:** This would be during the time I was at Scrappin' Valley, so it would be the last... '78, '79, it would be the early eighties.

**JG:** The early eighties, okay.

**DS:** Before that there had been some research studies done by SFA [Stephen F. Austin State University] on some of the areas, but I don't recall what they were but there was some management under those but very little. But anyway we made...had to come up with our management plan and our goal was to raise, you know, quality white tail deer. So, we had our management plans done and we from that point began serious wildlife management with the supplemental feeding and planting, creating food plots, cover plots.

**JG:** Targeted mainly for white tail deer?

**DS:** SMZ, targeted mainly for white tailed deer but also we had to make adjustments for the elk at Scrappin' because we had some elk there and then...

**JG:** Were they hunted?

**DS:** They were not hunted no, just something to look at. So from that point on it was just kind of a routine deal that every year we would make a report to the boss and then we would, you know, adjust our management plan as we went along. About that same time is when they started having guest hunts at the two lodges, North Boggy and Scrappin'. They had them pretty regular during hunting season. It was people there pretty regular from that point on until the buyout, basically. We had to manage the deer stands and the people, the hunters, the deer; we would manage those and probably two of the most successful white tail deer areas in the country that I know of.

**JG:** What would the other one be?

**DS:** Well Scrappin' and North Boggy, those two, well North and South Boggy you have to kind of have put them together because there is no fence.

**JG:** That is what I was going to ask you. In the early days when Temple was doing this, you know, having a natural wildlife plan and a department even were you aware of anybody else, any lumber, or big corporations that were doing that in Texas?

**DS:** Oh yes, there was pretty much all of them had some type of entertainment and it was usually hunting, they had areas that they hunted. Some had like lodges or hunting cabins or bunks that sort of thing. Nothing as nice I would say as either of the places we had as far as the facilities, the deer might have been on par with what was there but Champion had it, I. P. had some of those.

**JG:** They actually had game biologist working for them?

**DS:** Yes they had game biologist. About the time I moved over to Diboll they reactivated the national, under the AP&PA organization they reactivated the wildlife committee, so I got contacted to be on that committee and our first meeting there was like twelve guys there, they represented every wildlife biologist working for a private company that there were in the United States. There were twelve so that tells you how few they had.

**JG:** Wow, and what was the name of that organization again?

**DS:** American Pulp & Paper Association and then they would have different committees under that. It is a national based in Washington, it is a national committee.

**JG:** Yes, I think I've heard of...they were the ones driving some of those forestry initiatives, SFI, and some of that, Sustainable Forestry Initiatives and stuff.

**DS:** Right, yes that come out of some of the committees I was on.

**JG:** So, you had a meeting and there were only 12 people who came.

**DS:** Yes I think it was twelve.

**JG:** That was the whole United States?

**DS:** Well they had contacted all the timber forest management companies and if they had someone who was their wildlife biologist or person, some of them were just people that they said were in wildlife and that was how few there were. The last one I attended in early 2000 there might have been 120 people sitting around the table that were actually members of the company.

**JG:** Tenfold then huh?

**DS:** Yes, of course it was a big item, your spotted owls and your red cockaded woodpecker issues and black bear issues. Everybody rushed to get them a wildlife biologist so they could head off any trouble they might be going to get into.

**JG:** So you were in Diboll then. What was your job title when they moved you from Scrappin' Valley?

**DS:** When they moved me to Diboll they had moved Gene to a different position. I think he was...I believe he went and took over Contractors Supply, which was a company owned by Temple, or I don't know just exactly how that fits, but anyway he left and that is when they moved me over as head of wildlife department. So I become Don and Bill's boss and hired Joe Hamrick, who I hired to take my place at Scrappin' Valley, and we moved over to Lufkin and for the next 18 years I ran the wildlife department and it was just managing people and managing programs.

**JG:** So the wildlife department is not just Scrappin' Valley and Boggy Slough but it is all the lands.

**DS:** It's everything. We also, it was all the land and we had to deal with any endangered species issues that might come up, management plans, sensitive areas you could say. Areas of historical or scenic or something we would try to write management plans to cover those things working with the foresters. Then we had... outside of the company we sat on some of the national committees, sat on the committees and worked on some of the hot issues that would come up. Kind of like the spotted owl, the crisis they called it, out in the northwest. We had ours with the red cockaded woodpecker here and the black bear, but with working with everybody in Washington and all over we headed that one off, or those off, didn't cause much of a problem at all.

**JG:** Who was your boss when you first became head of that department?

**DS:** Glen Chancellor.

**JG:** Glen Chancellor, okay. He was head of forest?

**DS:** He was head of forest.

**JG:** Okay.

**DS:** And... but he pretty much, unless it was some special something, he pretty much left us to our own directions, you know. Every year we turned in management plans and kept him posted on how our plans were going and how we were doing and budgeting, you know, writing up budgets which began to get bigger and bigger as we went along, because we would add improvements or started supplemental feeding and different things like that, so it became quite expensive.

**JG:** Where was the biggest expense, the increase, was it? I guess in a sense you were saying nationally 12 people at the early meeting and later you know have 120 people representing these companies so it seems that it is good for business I guess.

**DS:** Yes, and what it was, it was all driven I think, at least in my opinion, by the environmental groups, the real radical ones, the spotted owl issue is actually what got everybody's attention.

**JG:** Yes, go ahead and talk a little bit about that.

**DS:** The timber companies out in the northwest, it basically shut some of them down because it was an "endangered species." It occupied the same habitat, the very habitat that they used...was managed for their mills and stuff. So it had the potential and did shut some lumber companies down. So that made everybody, any timber company, start thinking, "oh we got to think about those things" and the big push out there with the spotted owl and the wildlife biologist was doing research studies basically to show that the spotted owl could be managed along with timber and not impact it. They were doing, I don't know how many studies, but a lot of them, every company just about had their own study of one. Then they also began to see the benefits PR wise of having wildlife biologist, people who could say this is what we are doing and highlight the benefits of forest management. So, both of those things drove having all these biologist and wildlife people being hired and today it is probably back down to, I don't know...I wouldn't be able to guess how many but I'm sure it is down now. The PR and the need to do true research to prove that you could manage timber and have the endangered species, not impact that and so then it just kind of moved across the country from the spotted owl over into the southeast with the Red cockaded woodpecker which basically was our spotted owl. The same scenario played out with the environmentalist.

**JG:** How prepared do ya'll think y'all were for that or could you be prepared for it?

**DS:** Oh, I think we were well prepared for it because we had already started doing some management and the committee...

**JG:** Were y'all already inventorying the red cockaded woodpecker before it became an issue?

**DS:** We were inventorying and also we were following the management guidelines that the National Wildlife Committee from AFPA we had put together that committee of what needed to be done. So, we were already, the timber industry was already working on it when it became a big PR issue so we were already ahead of it, and so it can be managed. Every company has shown that timber can be managed without impacting the red cockaded woodpecker. It cost a little more, you have got to change your management plan a little, but it is nothing that is going to cut you to the bone where you have to close the doors.

**JG:** Where did you have the red cockaded woodpeckers?

**DS:** Oh gosh Jonathan, North Boggy had some.

**JG:** What species of tree there at North Boggy?

**DS:** Basically they liked the old growth long leaf and their one of the few or only woodpecker that makes its nest or cavity in a live tree.

**JG:** Now were there long leafs in North Boggy?

**DS:** Yes, long leafs, particularly they would try to select long leaf to build their cavity in.

**JG:** Was that planted long leaf years ago?

**DS:** Yes, most of it was long leaf that you see out there was planted. Over in the national forest they might have some, I doubt there is any that...

**JG:** I've seen some of the early studies that various branches of the government did before there was even a Forest Service, like 1904 William Bray did a Forest Resources of Texas study and all of his maps show the extent of the long leaf belt being like southern Angelina County. I've never seen it going up into that part of Trinity and Houston County so I was just curious.

**DS:** That is kind of the range, the upper portions of Trinity County and around and if you've ever gone to Crockett there is one place there you come over a hill and you are in the pine trees and you come over the hill and from that point on it is just a pine tree here and there. It just looks like somebody drew a line there and said don't go past this line and that is in Houston County, about half way. So, that range would be correct.

**JG:** I was talking about the long leaf though?

**DS:** Yes, the long leaf. I'm sure it would be the same it just that it takes so long to reproduce and regenerate that I'm sure once it was harvested the first time we are just now seeing, you know, harvest of the results of that.

**JG:** So, once you identified an active nest in a tree what do you do?

**DS:** Well the first thing we done is we get a GPS location for the tree.

**JG:** Now y'all were doing that back in the '80's even?

**DS:** Yes, well back in the eighties we didn't have GPS units but we were using a map and saying okay here is this gate here and here is this gate here and the tree is right here somewhere. That was as close.

**JG:** Survey it.

**DS:** Yes, survey it but that was the first thing we done and then we notified, well usually the forester is the one that notified us that they thought they had a red cockaded

woodpecker tree and we would go and investigate it. A lot of times it would be truly be one, or more likely it was some other woodpecker that made the cavity, it wasn't RCW.

**JG:** RCW is abbreviation for Red Cockaded Woodpecker.

**DS:** Yes, I'm sorry.

**JG:** That is alright, just for the tape.

**DS:** So, if that was the case then you didn't have to worry about it. If it was truly a RCW cavity we would survey the area around there to see if there were more. In some cases there would be three or four trees with cavities. Sometimes it would be just one lone tree so we surveyed the area around it too, to see if there were any more. If not we would write a management plan for that group or that tree of what needed to be done and when, around in that area, out so many feet and once you get inside a certain distance from the tree you could continue to manage, but it was only in certain months of the year so you didn't disturb the nesting.

**JG:** So how far out would you keep all heavy machinery if it was nesting season?

**DS:** Only during nesting season? Gosh, you would ask me this...I don't remember.

**JG:** Just in layman's terms for someone who doesn't know anything about it.

**DS:** Just a 100 or 150 feet.

**JG:** It is not far is it?

**DS:** No it is not far and you could have heavy equipment around those trees as long as you didn't destroy the tree.

**JG:** The tree itself?

**DS:** Except during those months when they were nesting. So, the impact on management was pretty small.

**JG:** Would they reuse the same cavity?

**DS:** They would reuse the same cavity over and over and over until something happens, the other birds enlarge the hole or they quit using it or lightning strikes and destroys it, or it breaks off, the wind breaks it off anything like that.

**JG:** What would be an ideal tree for, if you were a woodpecker and you were going to select a new tree for a nest what would you look for? What would they particularly try to find?

**DS:** You mean particularly that woodpecker?

**JG:** Yes, yes, that woodpecker.

**DS:** Well...

**JG:** You said they prefer live trees.

**DS:** Yes, yes, and they...it needs to have a pretty thin mid-story, in other words a park like, visualize a park with a big tree and then smaller trees, very little underbrush and things like that and that tree being at least 18 inches would be big enough for their cavity. But mainly just a big nice looking pine tree in a park like situation.

**JG:** Would they prefer to be on the edge of the tree or in the middle or?

**DS:** They prefer to be on an edge where they have a clear flight path in and out, but now they will...I have seen just as many in areas that were not that clear. That was one of the things we worked on.

**JG:** Were they all about the same height or vary?

**DS:** They vary from eye level to up to the top of the tree.

**JG:** Okay.

**DS:** I'm sure somebody really statistically got that information from all the trees.

**JG:** Does the hole face a certain direction?

**DS:** It faces, it usually faces south. The interesting thing is they are almost exactly alike, the diameter, the hole, the size of the hole...

**JG:** One size fits all huh?

**DS:** I used to know the exact deal...it is three inches or something. It is drilled in and it has a five degree slope going into the tree.

**JG:** Going upwards?

**DS:** Going upward.

**JG:** Five degree slope.

**DS:** Then they would clear out in the heart wood; that is where their cavity and nest is.

**JG:** So it would get all the way into the middle of the tree.

**DS:** And what happens, the reason for that five degree incline is water naturally didn't drain down into your nest and then they would peck all around it to get rosin sap flowing and that is an attractant basically. Also it prevents predators and what, snakes and things like that will get to that sticky part and can't do anything.

**JG:** They just get it to oozing and let it run down the tree.

**DS:** And when you are looking for one you can tell pretty good, if the sun is shining on it just glistens, you know, because of all that sap.

**JG:** All that sap, yes.

**DS:** But it was an interesting little bird to have. We've had...

**JG:** Did y'all ever climb up and look inside a nest?

**DS:** Oh yes, yes, we had to inventory the birds and every year we had to do a nest count of how many, you know,

**JG:** Do a census of how many babies?

**DS:** Yes, census of how many they had that year.

**JG:** How many babies, okay.

**DS:** And you climb the tree and one evening you climb the tree. I forget just how they do it but they catch the babies, count them and put them back in.

**JG:** Really?

**DS:** And every tree is identified by number.

**JG:** How protective are the parents? Would they try to peck you or anything?

**DS:** They would try but they are not aggressive or anything.

**JG:** Okay.

**DS:** Yes, you climb them and do that and then we also in areas where we felt like there were woodpeckers that did not have cavities to stay in, we had more woodpeckers than they had completed...it takes them forever to...I think it is up to seven years to get a cavity built...

**JG:** Seven years?

**DS:** ...so the rest of the time they are sitting out on a limb in the weather and predators and everything so...

**JG:** Seven years!

**DS:** ...so what everybody started to do was build artificial cavities. You take a block or stock of cedar usually and I had the Lufkin Workshop kids building these cavities. They would drill the holes, you know, and put it together and it comes, it is a solid block of wood, certain dimensions and then you go up the tree and cut out with your chain saw that dimension...

**JG:** And put that in.

**DS:** ...put that insert in and glue it in and chop along and peck around the tree and make it look like it was rosin.

**JG:** Is that something the industry was doing as a whole?

**DS:** Yes, the Forest Service, everybody was doing that.

**JG:** What do you call that? Is there any particular?

**DS:** It was just artificial inserts and it was very, very successful because we have put an insert in like one day, one evening or one afternoon and go back the next day and there would already be a bird in it, already took over.

**JG:** Wow!

**DS:** So, it was very successful. If you walk in the woods or around where there is any woodpeckers you would see.

**JG:** I was out at Scrappin' last year and saw a few.

**DS:** You probably saw a lot of inserts out there because we put in a lot of inserts. But anyway, that took... for about two years that was a main thrust of our work: documenting, finding out and identifying where we had woodpeckers and when we had them, working management plans up so our foresters would know what to do.

**JG:** So, Bill Goodrum and Don Dietz and Joe Hamrick were the ones working on all that?

**DS:** Yes, and then we contracted some of it out to an environmental group, a person that done that kind of thing.

**JG:** Was the Forest Service doing anything on their lands?

**DS:** Oh yes, they were doing the same things.

**JG:** Same thing. Did y'all ever work together on projects or anything?

**DS:** Oh yes, we did. Some areas they would come over and help us one day put in inserts and we would go help them on forest the next day, you know stuff like that. But a couple of times we did help them on some burns. It takes a lot of control burning.

**JG:** Yes, talk about that, burns in general.

**DS:** The control burning knocks the understory, the mid-story I guess you would say plants, it will knock those back and clean out all the stuff on the forest floor. If you do it on a regular basis, like every two to three years, it will become a park-like looking area with very little understory, and around those trees we had to do that annually.

**JG:** Talking about the red cockaded woodpecker ones.

**DS:** But on a regular forestry lands and timberlands they would do controlled burns, the fuel on the forest floor, so they didn't have forest fires that burn everything up to the crown of the tree; and they used it in site prep – they would burn site prep areas after they had harvested on them. But it was tough to do controlled burning on a really large basis because there were so many air quality issues that you had to go through, and you had to get permission to burn every time you burned.

**JG:** Permission from the county?

**DS:** Permission from the state, the air quality people and you would...you could burn, but you had to get permission and they had conditions – the humidity, the wind, the mixing, the height, and all this stuff you had to have, and it had to all be right before they would let you burn and it just took forever. And so on a large-scale basis we never could do that. We were able to do it around the woodpecker trees, but since then the laws have kind of gotten less stringent and we are able to burn if the weather conditions are right. They are able to burn pretty much all of North Boggy and Scrappin' Valley at least every other year, and I don't mean burn it, but prescribed burning.

**JG:** Yes, right, right. I guess my question was going to be, if you consider a burn over here and another burn we are going to do over there, what would be average or what would be the largest track acreage wise to be a manageable burn?

**DS:** Oh gosh!

**JG:** Is it just a lot of variable?

**DS:** A lot of variables. It varies by the person who is the fire boss, his experience.

**JG:** Did you ever contract any of that out?

**DS:** Yes, we contracted some of it, but if it was in-house it depended on the guy in charge of the burning.

**JG:** How much they felt comfortable doing?

**DS:** How much they felt comfortable, their experience with fire.

**JG:** I guess it could change from day to day with the winds and all that.

**DS:** Yes, from hour to hour sometime. And weather conditions. I've seen them start with good conditions and two hours in everything just quit. I've seen it the other way, not burn it hardly at all and all of a sudden just boom it just goes. But the size of it is regulated mainly by how well you can control it.

**JG:** So, y'all's job was the wildlife, so prescribed burns for the woodpecker would be... I imagine y'all are little closer connected to that. General burns for mostly timber producing, did that involve, how involved were y'all with that?

**DS:** Well, occasionally we would help them just for the need of manpower and if it was on one of the management areas we would definitely be involved with it because it was in our management plan. But it was generally anything had to do with wildlife that needed burning we done the prescribed burn.

**JG:** Now, I imagine the red cockaded woodpecker would be considered a challenge, but within some of these other burnings, any particular challenges or that you can remember? General or specific, any specific occasions that came up?

**DS:** Well I can't think of any off the top of my head, that any majors...oh you were always having little fires that jump in the fire line and get out on somebody's property and burning a little.

**JG:** Did y'all try to contact neighbors?

**DS:** They did, that was part of the procedure is to let the people that live around it know what you are doing.

**JG:** Did you have any opposition?

**DS:** No, not on burning because most people want you to burn. They think, years ago people would burn the woods to get rid of the ticks and all that stuff, so they know, or they look at it as a benefit. So we had very little complaint about that unless you got around town and smoke got really bad you would get some complaints.

**JG:** Yes, I know sometimes when the U. S. Forest Service does big burns it can get pretty...depending on the way the atmosphere is.

**DS:** Where it goes.

**JG:** It could hang over Lufkin for three or four days.

**DS:** And that night it might just drop down on the ground and stay there, you know.

**JG:** Yes. What about just general game management and everything? Actually y'all didn't consider it game; I guess it was wildlife, but any particular challenges outside of the woodpecker that you can recall changes? Sounds like the industry was kind of working together, how did these environmental groups, because you kind of get a sense that after awhile the environmental groups is what spurred the lumber companies to do what they were doing, how much of it was an issue of trying to stay ahead of the curve and how did the environmental companies react to the changes that were being done?

**DS:** Well I think they for the most part, a lot of the environmental groups, at least the ones I dealt with, either through Temple or through one of these committees, professional committees that I was on, we usually tried to include them in our meetings so they knew what we were talking about. They would voice their opposition, what they thought you know, and all this kind of stuff. But in the long run, I mean some of it was a long battle, but generally you could compromise with most of them and come out with something that was workable for everybody. There were a few groups that, you know, you could have all the data and all the information and anything that you could ever want to prove that you could manage it with timber and they wouldn't believe you, you know, "no that is not right."

**JG:** Yes.

**DS:** But with Temple we always had really good relations with all environmental groups that we dealt with. But we were doing some things early on before it was commonplace, like controlled burnings in some areas just for wildlife, protecting streamside management zones for wildlife, thinning areas just for wildlife not necessarily for timber management, so we were doing and also we were protecting plants. If we run across some endangered plants we would identify and locate them and write a management plan for that area. So, we were kind of ahead of the curve in doing some of these things. When the environmental groups started getting up in arms about it, well we could show them, "here this is what we are doing already." They kind of [said], "oh well okay." It kind of...

**JG:** Diffused it a little bit.

**DS:** ...diffused it a little bit. I was always proud to work for them because it did seem like we were always doing... I would go to one of those committees and we would come up with a problem that we were going to have to deal with, like some species or something, I could pretty much always say, "well we are already doing that." So I was always...that was one thing I was always proud of with the company we could always,

99% of the time say we are already working on that. So that was just one of the...and our attitude was that was part of the stewardship of the land and that was Mr. Temple's, you know, his philosophy and theory and most of the company's theory is that you are not just in there for the timber, you know, you've got an obligation to leave it in the best condition you can.

**JG:** Let's talk a little bit about that. You mentioned not just for the timber. I know in the 80's and 90's we mentioned that sustainable forestry initiatives and the ISO 140001 or whatever the number was, and then in '95, I kind of reviewed some of my notes I did a few years ago, but in '95 Temple started what they called Forestry Principles. (**DS:** yes) At least it was mentioned in some of the reports and things and it kind of redefined management overall and the term that I put in quotes is "multiple resource asset." Talk a little bit more about that. You said it was more than just the trees. Talk a little bit more in general about how, and maybe specifically, how the company addressed that through this so called Forestry Principles. Was that as big a deal as it seems to be in some of the reports and things?

**DS:** It was; it was because it affected everything that we did from the forester all the way down to wildlife and everybody; even the mills were involved in the forestry principles. And they were set up, the principles were just management said this is the way we are going to manage. This is the way we are going to do and this is our philosophy.

**JG:** Who was over forest at this time?

**DS:** Glen Chancellor I think.

**JG:** It was still Glenn, okay. In '95 is when it was implemented or announced.

**DS:** I'm pretty sure he was still over it.

**JG:** But it involved everybody?

**DS:** It involved everybody and everybody... we even had little cards, laminated cards that everybody carried in their pocket, they would pull it out number 5.

**JG:** Oh like a checklist?

**DS:** Yes, a checklist and the multiple species...

**JG:** Multiple resource asset.

**DS:** Okay that basically was saying we are going to find a survey for anything that is a natural resource asset, bat caves, endangered plants, endangered birds, endangered turtles, flowers, trees, endangered...I'm trying to think here...a unique eco-system maybe like a wetland or something like that. In all of those we were going to try to catalog

where they were and make sure everything around there was managed to preserve those areas as they are.

**JG:** Because the land had more value than just timber producing but it had recreational value and other.

**DS:** Yes, recreational, but of course the recreational gets into a whole other deal and that came under my department also. The land leasing but...

**JG:** Was hunting considered recreational?

**DS:** Yes.

**JG:** Okay. I know in the seventies there was some publicity that the company was going to try to have hiking trails and things like that. Was that still being talked about when you were first hired?

**DS:** Yes, that was talked about, started after I was hired really.

**JG:** Oh okay.

**DS:** And we even went so far, or I did, went so far as to just laying out some different areas for trails and we completed maybe one or two.

**JG:** Where were they?

**DS:** One was the azalea canyons area they had a trail going into that. And then one was, or I was the one to do a little more over there, a little more trails and then we did...we had a trail in North Boggy that just a kind of walk through the woods type trail. When I first came here they had started a botanical garden with a trail through it over at Scrappin' Valley. One of the employees, it was his hobby and he had in that enclosure over there had just about one example, at least one example, of every endangered plant found in east Texas. So, we went in and...

**JG:** Was that over there kind of looking at the lake on the left side?

**DS:** Yes, it is gone now; they burnt through it and everything now, but it was right in there is where it was.

**JG:** It had labeled little signage there.

**DS:** I went through and labeled all of them and we had a pamphlet, guide yourself through it and people used it, Garden Clubs came out and used it.

**JG:** Who is the guy who you said it was his hobby? Do you remember his name?

**DS:** Golly! No I sure don't, I want to say Gordon, but I'm not sure. He had gone, had quit working on it when I came here and I think he had been transferred to some other district or something.

**JG:** Did y'all ever look at any trails using some of the old railroad lines and stuff?

**DS:** Well naturally I looked at them because you know, I had a background in managing parks and stuff and they all had trails in them and stuff and I was just naturally curious why we couldn't do that but never...

**JG:** It just never got traction?

**DS:** It just never got picked up and run with.

**JG:** Who would have been the one to pick it up would it have been Glen Chancellor?

**DS:** Yes, him and the management group. It would have to go to the management group I imagine and it just never did catch a hold for some reason.

**JG:** Talk a little bit more, you were in Diboll for 16 years you said.

**DS:** At least that.

**JG:** So, you were in the corporate office over here?

**DS:** Yes.

**JG:** Okay, how much were you in the office verses going out in the woods?

**DS:** Probably forty percent of the time.

**JG:** Forty percent of the time you were in the office?

**DS:** In the office.

**JG:** Okay, so you were mostly outdoors.

**DS:** Yes, I was in and out and I kind of took over the part of all the handling the land leases, the hunting leases so the wildlife biologist could do their and they wouldn't be tied up with dealing with the hunting club members and all that sort of thing.

**JG:** So you did all that.

**DS:** So I did and that took up that 40 percent of the time that's probably where it went.

**JG:** Do you remember approximately how many leases y'all had?

**DS:** Oh yes, we had...they could tell you right now the exact number but when I retired it was something like 1100 something leases.

**JG:** Richard Capps was telling me the other day how many he had to deal with for Campbell and it is not just the Temple stuff it is all the other stuff. It was like thousands.

**DS:** Yes it is thousands, you take the number of members on each one of those clubs and that is a lot of people and every one of them have an opinion.

**JG:** So, you had to review all their bylaws and all of that huh?

**DS:** Yes.

**JG:** Make sure everybody was paid up.

**DS:** That was before we had computerized, it was all done by hand.

**JG:** Golly! So, did the company decide how much money they were going to get and then the hunting club then figured out how much to charge each member or?

**DS:** That is the way it worked.

**JG:** So regardless of how many members they had for this club to do what they wanted to do they would have to pay the company a certain amount of money.

**DS:** So much an acre.

**JG:** So much an acre.

**DS:** When I first started dealing with it, it was...I think it was fifty cents an acre for the hunting rights and then it went on up, I don't know Richard could tell you what it is now. It is up to the two, three, four dollar range now but, back then it was dealt with the way we would get a request for a hunting lease, well we had what they called the wildlife committee, the hunting lease committee.

**JG:** He is kind of smiling!

**DS:** The hunting lease committee is what it was and it was made up of at that time it was Mr. Denman, I think Richard Warner the legal guy, Glen Chancellor and myself. And, I would get everything ready all the request we had and then we would meet like once a month and sit down and I would go through each one and say this group wants to lease this and show on the map and this track of land and they would and we would go around the decision was finally made, okay let them have it or if there were particular changes or something I would have to contact them and do that. So, ultimately it was a wildlife committee decision and there was a good reason behind that, for forming that because if somebody sees you on the street and they know you have...you could make a decision on

a hunting lease or something to do with a hunting lease everybody you saw would stop you and say hey would you get me a hunting lease, could you do this, could you do that. So, with a committee you can say well I can do what I can but I'm just one person, you know, there is a committee that makes it up. Of course, we all know that, you know, the weight of the members on the committee depended on how the vote went but it worked well and they had it all the way up to when I retired I guess. It was always kind of strange to me that the president and the vice-president of the company was making a decision on somebody wanting to lease 200 acres of the land.

**JG:** (laughing) And, they just probably came from a meeting where they were talking about things higher than the roof really. But, Joe Denman was always on there huh?

**DS:** He was always on there and we always had one of the legal guys on there and earlier when they first formed that Mr. Temple was on it. I forgot about that. For a short time he was on it and then he went off to different things and got away from the company that much.

**JG:** Yes, he kind of started backing away when Temple Inland came in, a little bit anyways, when he moved his office to Lufkin.

**DS:** Yes, he just relocated he didn't really get out.

**JG:** He didn't want to be around y'all all the time.

**DS:** That is true!

**JG:** Let's see, talk a little bit more about Boggy Slough in general. What does Boggy Slough...and I guess in answering that maybe make the distinction and comment if you want in the south and north how was that different? You know keep in mind like people in the community you hear about Boggy Slough what is all that about? What is that?

**DS:** Well, Boggy Slough basically is around 22,000 acres and that is what people know as north and south Boggy Slough, that is the acreage with them combined. Well, they have been separated into North Boggy and South Boggy at some point in time, they separated them so, there is 11,000 on North and. What would it be?

**JG:** About eleven.

**DS:** Eleven on north and eleven on south...about half and half I guess. That would be right, yes.

**JG:** Or maybe north would be about 9,000. Was north a little bit smaller?

**DS:** North is a little bit smaller but I'm thinking, no you are right.

**JG:** Eleven and nine, somewhere in there?

**DS:** Eleven is what Scrappin Valley is. Anyway the total thing is 22,000 acres. It runs all the way from Highway 7 down the river to Highway 94 so, and it is right on the river, the river is actually its eastern border.

**JG:** And it is all high fence?

**DS:** It is all high fence and originally the north part of Boggy we call North Boggy Slough...

**JG:** Cochino Bayou is pretty much the dividing more or less, the Eastern Texas Railroad that went across there.

**DS:** Right, the Cochino Bayou is what we considered to be the boundary but anyway north of that is North Boggy. And it is my understanding and early on, you probably have some folks that know more about this than I do, it was actually a hunting lease and it was leased to a group of attorneys out of Lufkin I believe and it was just a regular hunting club. I'm not sure of the date or the year even when they started, when the lawyers got it taken away from them or something happened, I don't know, anyway they quit leasing it and the Company kind of took control of it and they started having squirrel hunts for the employees, for certain employees. They would use it off and on for that sort of thing and then later on some of the sales people started bringing their customers during hunting season and they would come out and hunt and, you know, play cards and just have fellowship out there just talking and having bull sessions around the campfire. So, that is kind of the way the guest hunting started. The lodge, what we call the lodge now was actually just one big room with a big pot belly stove in the middle of it and bunk beds up and down both walls. They said you could see and hear the walls moving at night when everybody was in there sleeping it was so loud snoring. But, that was kind of the first hunts they had and it just evolved to be used more and more and as the sales people saw the benefits and the different departments within the company saw the benefits of entertaining their guest or customers out there it started getting used more and more. The last count I had we would have 15 or 16 hunts during hunting season which is pretty much every day of hunting season. They pretty much continued to use it for that up until the time that Campbell and I. P. [International Paper] and all that took place. I. P. [International Paper] they are still using it the same way, using it the same way but, it just evolved out of a hunting camp or hunting lease into what it is today and like I say they have hunts almost every day of hunting season there is a group out there, which means 15 to 20 folks. And then during the other part of the year it is used for business meetings or trainings for different departments. Some of the civic groups will use it for a meeting or a banquet or something, so it gets a lot of use. The South side developed along with North Boggy. It was also a hunting club and it was called South Boggy and it was made up of I think Mr. Temple and more or less executive positions in the company. I'm not sure who the early members were but they done pretty much the same thing and they would go out and hunt, bring their guest and hunt during hunting season. They used it for...well they did a lot of fishing out there I understand but it just continues today to be a membership type club. We did not, we do not, I'm not we anymore but the wildlife department

doesn't do anything down there. They have to have their own wildlife biologist if they want one to do any management since I. P. owns everything now.

**JG:** Talk about when you moved to North Boggy.

**DS:** Okay.

**JG:** What lead up to that? And then I'm going to ask you specifically about what went on while you were out there but to...I mean you were over the wildlife management department (DS: yes) while you were here but were you still over that when you moved out there?

**DS:** No, no, no.

**JG:** What happened?

**DS:** It was a deal where I knew I was...it was basically health reasons. I was having problems with my back and my legs from having polio early in my life and so, my doctors basically told me you either slow down and change the way you are living or you're not going to be living very long. And so, I thought about it for a month or two and finally just went in and told Glen, he was still involved, my boss then, what the doctor said and then he said well we will do something. This stretched out over a couple of months but anyway, Mr. Sweeny had taken over before I had done anything so when I finally, my family and everybody told me you have got to do this because that job dealt with a lot of people, a lot of headaches, other peoples headaches and I was averaging being gone from home two and three nights a week so, just pretty much wearing everything out. Anyway, I went in and told Mr. Sweeny I was going to have to resign or find something else to do. And he says "well what do you want to do?" I said "well I haven't thought about it, I just I don't know what I'm going to do, I'm going to have to continue working for awhile." He said "no I mean what do you want to do in the company?" I wasn't expecting that to continue working for Temple and I said "I don't know that either I haven't even thought of that." Well he come up with the idea or someone there, I'm sure it was him, that they were building or had just built a new house in North Boggy for the wildlife guy that had just...well he was going to move in it and he got transferred into a different department before he even got moved into the house. And, he said "well what about if you and your wife and kids move out to North Boggy and you can have your office out there and just be there to kind of help those guys, steer them in the right direction. You're not going to be there boss but we want you to be there, just be there in case we need something and handle special issues within the Company." So, I up and we moved out there for six years I guess, which was awful, awful nice and I'm still thankful to the company for that because they didn't have to do it and if it was today with any company I don't think that would have turned out that way. I probably would have went on and found me something else to do but, that is how I got out there. When I got out there I got my office out there I continued to handle some of the wildlife, hunting clubs and issues and I helped the guys out there off and on but I was kind of able to set my own hours and if I got tired I would go home and then go back and work till nine o'clock at night or something. That is how I got out there and that is where I stayed until

they moved me back into Diboll about two years before I retired into the land department to help them. They had computerized the land leases, thank goodness, by that time and they needed a third person to help them cover all the things that needed to be done since they had computerized so they asked me if I would start working back up here in this office so I came back, maybe the last two years before I retired I was back in the land office working over there.

**JG:** Who did you work under when you were over there?

**DS:** I'm trying to think... Darwin... let's see was it Darwin... it was Bill Goodrum.

**JG:** Bill Goodrum, okay.

**DS:** Yes.

**JG:** So you were his boss then he was yours.

**DS:** It was real funny because I hired... well I didn't hire them but I was Don, Bill and Joe Hamrick's boss for a number of years and then Joe got promoted working for Sweeny, Bill went into environmental and so I had Don left of the originals who worked all those years and then when I moved to North Boggy actually on paper Don was my boss and I was working for him. Then when they moved me in here Bill Goodrum was my boss in here so I told everybody I was able to hire, work, and have them work for me then I worked for them, made a complete circle.

**JG:** This is a complete jump of topics but one of the things I was going to ask you and I don't know if it even applies now but, do you remember about road work that was done out there at North and South Boggy did that involve game in any way, some of the road work that was done, maintaining existing roads putting in new roads anything like that?

**DS:** The only way it involved the wildlife department is on the areas where we had those guest hunts we would get them to make sure and work the roads were they were passable and fairly decent roads because we were taking guest out to hunt so once a year they would come in and try to make those main roads at least passable.

**JG:** You or Richard Capps one was telling me about one of the really high up boss came in a really nice car at North Boggy and ended up tearing the bottom of it up.

**DS:** Oh yes, that could have been either one of us but yes, it was a hunting executive out hunting one evening and called me...

**JG:** Do you remember what car? It was a really nice car.

**DS:** Yes, it was a Lexus and called me at home that evening and asked me said "has any of your guys found a rubber piece that goes on the front of a Lexus and I said "no sir." He said "well I was hunting this evening and it got scraped off and I was just wondering if

you find it if you would give it back to me because they want to charge me \$200 to put one back on.” We never did find it but, he finally got one put back on.

**JG:** What about water how did that come into play with your wildlife management specifically out at Boggy Slough? I know South Boggy has kind of moved water around and I know they get water rights from the river and things like that. Just talk a little bit about that.

**DS:** Well North Boggy is, we were lucky there that it had a lot of natural little ponds and sloughs and lakes that didn't dry up like on South Boggy there were very few natural areas with water in them that stayed year round, maybe the slough would probably stay year round but there were no lakes. The stuff on South Boggy was manmade. The lake, the one lake that is there when you come into North Boggy is was a manmade lake and basically what it was was where they got dirt when they were building Highway 7 they used the dirt out of that area on the highway and it became a lake. Then there was another man-made one over on the old tram that you and I went to that day. It was ...

**JG:** At Walkerton I believe.

**DS:** ...it was a small little lake that dried up all the time and they built a levy and added to it and that sort of thing. But, water was never a big issue on North Boggy with access to the river and there were sloughs, marshy areas kind of scattered enough around that the wildlife had plenty of water up there, which was not the case on South Boggy.

**JG:** So, how did they deal with that on South Boggy?

**DS:** Well one thing is that big lake when you come in the front, Black Cat Lake, they built that but not until we really started managing the area they didn't put anything in for water. Once we started management plan they put in a levy system over at Aggie Land is what we always called it that held water and that was strictly put there for wildlife purposes. Then there was another little pond area that was dug in the center of the property.

**JG:** Is that one called the Duck Pond?

**DS:** No, the Duck Pond is a little south of that. This is just a little pond we scooped it out and then there is the duck pond and then we tried to get water, or areas scattered out enough that the wildlife didn't have to travel all that far to get water. This pond here was manmade and part of it is the north or the south end stays...

**JG:** And Aggie land would be over here somewhere.

**DS:** And Aggie land is right here.

**JG:** We are looking at a '75 map and it is near stand 52, 57 in that area.

**DS:** There is about three areas that we put in for wildlife strictly.

**JG:** Would you pump water from the river?

**DS:** On the duck pond, it is labeled there duck pond, yes they would pump water in because it was drying up, had to come in there and lay a pipeline from the river down to the duck marsh. They would pump water out of the river down that pipeline into the duck marsh and flood the duck marshes in years that we didn't get enough rain. But years we got rain you didn't need it but it was utilized several times and worked, brought the ducks in. Then they pumped water into...out of the river at Black Cat Lake to keep the level of it where they wanted it but those are the only two places we pumped water out.

**JG:** The little pond at the north end by the clubhouse that pretty much stays full even in a drought?

**DS:** Yes it does it stays fairly...it fluctuates but it never has gone on it's on never has gone completely dry; we have drained it once or twice.

**JG:** What was the relationship between the wildlife department and the department of forestry that was really about supplying the mills with timber? Did y'all ever come into conflict where the need to supply the mill might have been seen as outweighing any other concerns?

**DS:** Oh yes, there were times when the forester and the wildlife guy got kind of tiffed at each other over...it was usually because the forester had laid out his cut where he wanted to cut and the wildlife guy came in and it was overlapping one of the stream side management zones, or he was getting too close or not leaving it wide enough or not leaving areas along the road or something like that, and they would get into a debate over who's right and whose wrong. Am I the one that cuts the timber or you, that argument. But it usually won out that they would either totally go wildlife way or it would be a compromise, the wildlife people would, you know, figure a way to meander the stream maybe on a different cut over here leave it.

**JG:** So, if it was a win, lose and tie by that standard wildlife had a better chance of winning.

**DS:** If it was in an area that impacted any of the wildlife, you know, like the deer and particularly any endangered species there wasn't any question on that.

**JG:** Who resolved that? I mean if it came down between two people.

**DS:** Well it usually came to me and then I would have to either...

**JG:** Contact their boss?

**DS:** Yes, contact their boss or I would settle it between them or they would settle it between their selves a lot of times.

**JG:** Did any of it ever go all the way to Chancellor?

**DS:** Oh I'm sure it did, yes I'm sure it did.

**JG:** Did he ever get involved? Did he ever personally get involved and say I'm going to call the shots on this one?

**DS:** Oh yes, as far as the foresters he was pretty on top of them.

**JG:** But did he ever overrule wildlife?

**DS:** Yes, he did. I can't tell you specifically what it was but there was a lot of things he said no to, but I couldn't name one now. It wasn't anything major like a million dollar project or something, it was always...

**JG:** What all was done out at, well I guess in general at all your lands where you are trying to promote bigger deer herds and bigger, not only population but the size of the deer and antlers and all that, what all was done to promote that as far as actively engaging the environment such as species of plants planted or food? I mean can you just comment along those lines?

**DS:** Well we planted...

**JG:** Do you need some more water?

**DS:** Yes if you don't mind. My allergies are going crazy.

**JG:** I've got some more over here if you need it.

**DS:** No that is alright. We done quite a bit of farming, if you want to call it that. We put in a quarter acre, usually on average a quarter acre of like food plots and we would plant them twice a year, once in the winter and...

**JG:** What would you usually put in for the deer?

**DS:** Usually it would be rye grass and oats and over the years we tried all kinds of different mixes, but basically that would be the one we used the most and then in the summer we would plant some type of summer food plot mix or something like that. So that was kind of the first thing that we would do when we went into an area is look at what the natural habitat looked like and then if there wasn't enough areas, open areas to "farm" then we would try to pick out areas that we could make into plant-able acres. The goal was to try to get five percent of the acreage into some type of food plot or system.

**JG:** Which would mean tree removal if you needed to?

**DS:** Yes.

**JG:** Okay, so basically just clearing places where stuff for wildlife to eat specifically would grow well.

**DS:** Correct, right.

**JG:** For farming as you said.

**DS:** Right, and along with that we would do some supplemental feeding if the clubs wanted to do it, corn, minerals, spin feeder type deals and we would recommend what they needed to feed and how much and that sort of thing. Then the next thing we would recommend would be if they could do all that we would try to burn the areas, prescribed burn areas as they needed it. We...very seldom do we get to that point with the hunting club, with our management areas we did, but usually we run out of good burn days before we got around to the hunting clubs. Those were kind of the main things that we supplemental things we done. Of course that was all based on prior to doing that, we run a population census or spotlight count, we called it. Spotlight count is just basically going at night, shining spotlights off, you know, either side of the road and travel and start out and you count the deer, and the sex of what it is, and go along every tenth of a mile you take a reading of how far out you can see, so basically when you are through you get a distance and a width so you can figure the acreage and then you can just plug in how many animals they saw and that tells you you've got so many animals per acre. And we would do that and then do a brow survey, which is go in January or February and look at the actual brows, plants and there is a system you use to calculate usage on that plant, how much has been nipped off, how many...that sort of thing. It's a little more complicated but it also tells you whether you've got too many animals or too few animals, so those are the things you had to do before you even started anything. If you had too many animals the first thing you had to do was start harvesting more animals. If you didn't have enough then you start looking at why is there not enough, is it food or poachers or what. That is kind of the things we worked with the clubs with.

**JG:** You mention poachers, how much poaching did y'all encounter?

**DS:** Not all that much, a few.

**JG:** You pretty much let the hunting clubs monitor that?

**DS:** Yes, yes, pretty much.

**JG:** Were they required to report anything to you if they did catch poachers and anything?

**DS:** Not required to; they usually did. Poaching is one of those things that I think there is far less poaching than you hear people talk about. If you went by what people talked about and told you and guys told you how many times they had been in somewhere and hunted and poached illegally we wouldn't have any animals left. I think a lot of it is just talk. Now there is some, the ones that really could hurt you, these guys are pro at it; you don't hear them talk about hunting. It is the ones that get in a beer joint and tell of his escapades of illegally hunting deer they usually get caught but we might have one a year maybe, maybe two that we physically caught. I'm sure there's a lot of areas that people have been in that we didn't know about.

**JG:** What about at Boggy, did you ever catch people out there?

**DS:** Yes they have caught people out there.

**JG:** Would they be local people or people from far off?

**DS:** Usually local.

**JG:** Okay.

**DS:** Usually it was somebody who had worked out there and you know, a logging crew or a contractor or something like that.

**JG:** Yes, that is kind of half way familiar with things. Let's see...I think we have covered most all my...oh just for the recording you were telling me about when we were out there earlier this year when we were riding around the north end, if I recall right you couldn't remember any of the names or anything but just for the recording to document the fact that when you first started out there and began to know people, kind of knowledge of some of the old home places and some of the old people who would have lived there even before the lumber company came, just in your words tell that again. Like at Pisgah Cemetery you were telling me that you met some of the families and things, you know, if we had known that now that is who I would need to be talking to some of those old families.

**DS:** Well that...there is two cemeteries up there, Pisgah and...

**JG:** Luce and the Pisgah.

**DS:** ...Luce and the Pisgah, yes. The Pisgah always has a reunion, well both of them do, but Pisgah is always the one that would ask me to come over with, of course we would help them with their chairs and things, table and one year not too long before I retired they had a, I guess you would call it a cemetery working reunion or something, and all these people showed up and a lot of them were mostly women and they brought pictures and picture books and stuff of old buildings and things. And a lot of those women and a few of the men had gone to school within that Boggy Slough, what is now Boggy Slough area and a lot of them at that Pisgah School. There was a school house there and they had

some pictures of some of the old buildings that we looked for but didn't find. We found the spot but it was real interesting to see what it looked like back then. It was totally different. I mean it was, well basically it was cut over land and you could see as far as you could see in some of those pictures in the background and there was nothing there, you know.

**JG:** Open, no timber.

**DS:** Right, and the Rayville Ranch house they had a picture of that, which we know it as Buddy's camp house or Spencer's camp house, but it was the Rayville home. They had a picture of it and it was just a big huge L shape ranch house. It was a picture of, there must have been fifty kids and adults lined up across the front of it.

**JG:** Oh man!

**DS:** It must have been everybody in the community that lived around there. And then they had some of the stockyards where they were loading cattle onto boxcars there at Rayville. That year those women, I don't know, they were probably in their eighties but they had pictures, you know, of a lot of that stuff. It was pretty interesting to see somebody that had actually lived out there.

**JG:** Do you remember where they were from, I mean were they from Houston area or Dallas or real local?

**DS:** I sure don't. Some of them I didn't find out where they were from or anything. We were just looking at pictures. Charlie came over there that day.

**JG:** He did, okay.

**DS:** Yes.

**JG:** Talking about Charlie Harber for the recorder.

**DS:** Yes, Charlie Harber.

**JG:** Well that would have been when I was around, I started in '99.

**DS:** It was after that.

**JG:** Oh okay. I don't ever remember him mentioning that.

**DS:** They have it every year. They usually call. The Luce cemetery is another one that has...they have a reunion out there in September. I've never been to one of theirs but I'm sure they have the same thing, folks that lived within there. There were a lot more people living within the area we call Boggy Slough than I ever thought, you know. I knew of

three or four places you hear about, the cabins and all that we all hear about, but obviously there was a much larger population scattered around in there.

**JG:** Yes there was. You were talking about the quail, a relocation study that y'all were doing. Do you want to talk about that or any other studies y'all did out at Boggy?

**DS:** Oh gosh! The quail relocation study, that could get complicated. Well, in a nutshell what we done we created within South Boggy fifteen hundred acres and we manicured it, cut the timber, planted quail vegetation for quail, food for quail and all that and recreated what a south Georgia quail plantation would look like. Where in south Georgia they have these tremendous populations of quail and what the thought was we would take that and we would trap, wild trap quail and bring them into those areas and put them, relocate them to those areas and see if they would start reproducing and, you know, therefore get a bigger quail population.

**JG:** Whose idea was it to do that?

**DS:** I think it was several people's. I think SFA [Stephen F. Austin State University] Dr. Crow probably brought it up the first time and when it actually got done I guess Don Dietz, he was on South Boggy, and he was doing his masters [degree] work on quail and it kind of came out of that. The idea was to see if they would take hold and populate and also wanted to see if eastern quail and south Texas quail would actually cross and breed. They are the same species, same quail just locations in different...and that went on and we did that and we put out quail. I forgot the number but it was a tremendous amount of quail. Every one of them had a radio transmitter on them and we had some graduate students that tracked those birds everyday and located them every day. When the batteries would run down you would have to run down the quail and put a new collar on, new battery on it and let them go. There was that study then the hybrid crossing study, there was some vegetation studies that were done in that time in that area. I think there were about six graduate students that were working on different studies basically sprung out from that quail project. It was basically I think what we proved, is we proved that if you [want] to spend enough money you can have quail in East Texas. That is about what we proved.

**JG:** But it needs a lot of interaction.

**DS:** A lot of interaction.

**JG:** You can't just release them and let them go.

**DS:** No.

**JG:** Why is that?

**DS:** Well they require open cover, open ground with over story. It is just so thick around here and then when they...these areas start getting populated people start cutting down all

the brush and then when you harvest timber, you know, they site prep an area and they try to keep the under story down which is exactly what the quail need so I think it is just a matter of habitat, loss of habitat and there just cyclic birds too. I don't know that we ever had huge, huge number of quails in East Texas like they do other places.

**JG:** So with these radio transmitters was it ever determined where the birds went? Did they go back to Georgia or Oklahoma or what? (lauging)

**DS:** Well we did lose some of them out of the quail areas, but for the most part they stayed put – but other things, predators got a lot of them.

**JG:** What would be their predators?

**DS:** Hawks, snakes for the quail's eggs, coons, hogs.

**JG:** You were commenting about fire ants earlier.

**DS:** Well that was kind of a belief that fire ants were the reason we didn't have any quail in East Texas, but out there we had a nest adjacent or fairly close to a fire ant mound and when she hatched, her eggs first started to hatch, the ants were coming to the nest, starting to the nest. Well naturally she was just eating them as they got there.

**JG:** Just peck away huh?

**DS:** Yes just getting her belly full so you kind of come to the conclusion that the ant, you know, if they send out an ant to find what they want, food, well it comes back to the nest and leaves a trail, and if you break that trail and it doesn't know it is there they don't bother it. But now what usually happened is they would find the eggs that were just hatched and just cover them or they would find the little chicks that were just hatched.

**JG:** Still had all that moisture.

**DS:** Yes, all that moisture, but once they dried and as long as that hen was there it wasn't enough to be able to say that was the reason that we didn't have quail. They would almost have to be nesting right on top of a fire ant mound to have any impact.

**JG:** I just saw one thing on my notes. You were talking a couple of years ago about Bruni. Did you...I can't remember what you were telling me about it.

**DS:** Well it was a lot of work. I got in on Bruni...

**JG:** It is near Laredo right?

**DS:** Yes, it is near Laredo. It was another lodge down there, a converted house into a lodge and they had the land around it.

**JG:** The Company owned it?

**DS:** The Company owned the house and a few acres and they leased another couple of thousand or so.

**JG:** Okay leased.

**DS:** Mainly for bird hunting, that is all they used it for.

**JG:** Quail?

**DS:** Quail and dove, you know, any kind of bird hunting. What we would have to do, is if they were going to have a group or anything down there, everything had to be hauled in from Diboll. All the kitchen crew and all the food and everything had to be hauled into that place. All the liquor and all the shotgun shells and everything they were going to need. They had some storage down there, but they couldn't leave a lot down there so I got to go on two or three of those excursions before they got rid of the lodge there. It was like we would get up at four in the morning and they had these shell boxes that were labeled, 16 gauge, 20 gauge, you know, whatever the gauges were. It was all separated and we would have to fill those with the proper shells and put them on the back of a jeep or quail buggy we called them, some type of vehicle. And we would have to have the shells and have the shotguns already out there and have everything set and ready to go and take them on their quail hunt in the morning and then in the afternoon, evening we might take them again and of course you know where they headed, straight across the border a lot of times. That only happened once when I was there that they all left and headed over there, but it was winding down. When I first got here they were kind of winding the use of it down.

**JG:** So the company provided the shotguns and shells...

**DS:** And liquor you name it, food, beds.

**JG:** Were they over and under shotguns?

**DS:** Yes, over-under.

**JG:** Over and under.

**DS:** Yes they provided everything and even flew them in on the company plane usually.

**JG:** Was that mainly for safety why they had the over-under verses automatics or something?

**DS:** Yes, safety and it was safety mainly.

**JG:** That way everybody would know the gun they would have to have...I heard some stories from Scrappin' about that sometime these people they would bring in didn't know anything about a gun and they didn't want to have them with a loaded automatic.

**DS:** That is true, you don't.

**JG:** They wanted with it broken open so you could tell.

**DS:** Then if there weren't any birds at Bruni they had a farmer or something outside of Laredo that they would lease, he had harvested his milo or whatever it was. It had been cut already and they would lease that for a day and take the guest to Laredo. Well that is 40 something miles from where we were. The same thing, we had to get up that next morning and haul all the cooking equipment to Laredo and come back and get all the groceries and then come back and get all the kitchen help, the people that worked there, take them back and they would be there ready with the shells and everything when they all got there that morning. Then that evening the same thing, stay there all day then at night after they would leave we would have to make those trips back to Laredo taking everything back.

**JG:** Was Mr. Temple on any of those?

**DS:** He wasn't on any of the ones that I was on but he went down there, not that much, but he went down there.

**JG:** Anybody particular with Temple that really liked the bird hunting?

**DS:** A lot of the sales people love it and a lot of people didn't like it when we got rid of it, but it was just so expensive to operate and it was...

**JG:** Whose budget was that, stuff like that, was it just charged to each department like if the sales department...?

**DS:** I couldn't tell you that. I don't know. I wasn't in a position at that time to find out who was paying for it.

**JG:** I guess it was whoever sponsored it or something like that.

**DS:** It was a neat place but it was just too costly and a lot of work.

**JG:** Like I said I think in a general way we have pretty much covered most everything that I had on my general list. Anything in closing that you wanted to add?

**DS:** No, not really.

**JG:** So you worked for the city of Houston in the parks department, and Baytown and then for Temple.

**DS:** For Temple.

**JG:** So that is pretty much your wildlife management career I guess with a recreation and parks management degree.

**DS:** Yes.

**JG:** Alright Mr. Stanley.

**DS:** Well I appreciate it.

**JG:** Yes, I thank you and after we get it transcribed and stuff here in a couple of weeks or so maybe I will have some follow up questions.

**DS:** Okay, just give me a call.

**JG:** Okay, well I thank you again.

**END OF INTERVIEW**