

JOE HAMRICK

Interview 272a

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Jonathan Gerland, Interviewer

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ABSTRACT: In this interview with Jonathan Gerland, former Scrappin' Valley Wildlife Manager, Manager of Forestry Practices and Principles, and Manager of the Natural Forests, Joe Hamrick discusses his career at Temple Inland. Beginning in Scrappin' Valley in 1983, Mr. Hamrick was responsible for managing the wildlife, including white tail deer, elk, axis deer, quail, turkey, wild horses, nilgai antelope, and sika deer. He also managed the lodge and was responsible for the company hunts that would take place in Scrappin' Valley. He discusses management of the wildlife, the forests, and the people, as well as the visitors (including Arthur Temple, Jr. and family, politicians, salesmen, and entertainers) who enjoyed hunting, fishing, chili cook-offs, and trap and skeet shooting. Mr. Hamrick also discusses Red Cockaded Woodpecker habitat and management, compliance with the Endangered Species Act, working to manage special parts of the forest, and complying with environmental standards in forest management such as stream side and aesthetic management zones. He mentions John Booker, Daryl Stanley, Clifford Grum, and Dan Lay.

Jonathan Gerland (hereafter JG): My name is Jonathan Gerland. I am with Joe Hamrick and we are at The History Center. Today is Thursday, March 19, 2015 and we are going to do an oral history interview. Joe, just to set the stage, we visited probably about an hour and a half and so hopefully we didn't cover all the good stuff when the recorder wasn't going. But I thought that was important to state that for the recording to know the context, but, if we could begin the formal interview with just, we will address some of your background. But tell us a little bit about when you were born, your family life, some of your education, and essentially why and how you came to be who you are in the world of forest management, game biology, and then how you came to work for the Temple companies.

Joe Hamrick (hereafter JH): Alright.

JG: That is a big question.

JH: That is a big question. Well, I was born in Sulphur Springs, Texas, which is north east Texas, and I grew up in Nacogdoches and graduated from Nacogdoches High School. I attended Texas A&M University and graduated in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in, get this, landscape architecture. Should have minored in Wildlife Science – I ended up with about 154 hours instead of 132, which was the normal amount, but all those electives were in natural sciences. I got out of school and I actually began working construction. I was working for R. G. McElroy out of Nacogdoches, building very large industrial size buildings for the federal government. Then I learned from two close friends, Bill Goodrum and Don Dietz, that a job opening was available at Scrappin'

Valley, and believe it or not I left a very good paying job. I was actually a job superintendent for this construction company and on July 1, 1983, I began working as the wildlife manager at Scrappin' Valley for Temple Inland.

JG: Did Daryl Stanley interview you?

JH: Darryl Stanley did interview me and did hire me. I will never forget, when I met him at Scrappin' Valley we got into a buggy that had been hand built at the Pineland mill by Buckshot Ferguson and we drove all over Scrappin' Valley in that buggy.

JG: That was like a modified jeep?

JH: Yes, it was a modified jeep. I can't even describe it. (laughter)

JG: That reminds me... when I interviewed him, we, and I want to get to the wild horses and stuff that were there eventually, but I asked him about it, because he had just come to work at Scrappin' Valley just a few years earlier and you know, how in the age before four wheelers and ATV's, how did you survey or scout out the property and everything, and he talked about horses. So, it is interesting that you say by now at least they have sort of a jeep buggy.

JH: Right.

JG: What did you know, having grown up in Nacogdoches and everything? I'm just curious what did you know of the Temple companies? What was your thought about them? How much did you know about them or how visible were they in your community?

JH: I knew the name, but beyond that I really didn't know anything. But I did know, as I said, Bill Goodrum and Don Dietz had already worked for the company for two and three years each, and you know, based on their experience with the company, they were very happy and thought it was a good company to work for. I had always wanted to manage land. I always loved the outdoors, loved the forest, loved wildlife, was an avid hunter and fisherman, an outdoors person. And I got a lot of that from my grandfather who was a dairy farmer in Sulphur Springs, where I was born. And he had a pretty large dairy farm and milked a hundred jersey cows every morning and every afternoon and I spent a lot of summers with him. And I just grew to love the outdoors and that was Blackland Prairie, and you know was just a wonderful experience to grow up, I didn't grow up on the farm, but to spend as much time as I did on the farm was just a great thing.

JG: And what did your father do for a living?

JH: My dad was a professor at Stephen F. Austin.

JG: Okay, okay.

JH: He was department head of school services.

JG: Alright, and so did you know Don and Bill, you said you were good friends with them, but you were in construction work so how did you know them?

JH: We grew up together. Bill was a neighbor in Nacogdoches and Don moved to Nacogdoches his sophomore year I think, and so...

JG: In high school?

JH: Yes, in high school we were very good friends and eventually were roommates at A&M as well.

JG: Okay, okay, okay. Talk about some of your early memories and experiences at Scrappin' Valley. If you want to talk more about the interview, fine, but if not, just some of your earliest memories.

JH: Well Scrappin' Valley was the greatest place on earth as far as I was concerned. I certainly did not mind the remoteness and actually enjoyed it, I think. Because when I first moved there, and Darryl was my predecessor, I moved into the house, the company house that Darryl Stanley and his family had lived in. This is 1983 and there was still no phone, and in fact it took two years for me to get a phone into that house, which was fine with me, to be honest. So if I needed to use the phone I either had to drive through Scrappin' Valley to the lodge, which was on the...the biologist's home was on the south side, the lodge was on the north side. It was three miles through the woods to the lodge. So, if I wanted to use the phone I could drive three miles through the woods. I did have a company radio in my truck. That was back in the days where every company vehicle had a radio, so I could communicate with folks if there was an emergency, but it was pretty remote and very quiet and very dark at night.

JG: What was the closest community? Where would you have gotten your groceries and things like that?

JH: Well Jasper was the closest community of any size and it was 23 miles away. Hemphill was to the north and it was probably about the same distance, and Newton to the south about the same distance, so very remote. There were some small community stores, you know, kind of country stores closer than that, but if you wanted to do any serious grocery shopping you had to go to Jasper, Hemphill, or Newton.

JG: So what were some of your duties as a wildlife biologist? That was in '83 you said, right?

JH: In '83.

JG: And set the stage maybe in the context of what you understood then to be where the company was, and how you fit into that company. I asked that because in a short time was the creation of Temple Inland, the spin-off. So it would have been Temple Eastex, right, when you came?

JH: It was, yes.

JG: Just talk a little bit about that.

JH: Okay, well Darryl had been the manager for I think five years and had just been promoted to the head of the wildlife department. So the wildlife department originally began with, I think Don was the first to be hired and then Bill and then me. And when I first got to Scrappin' Valley, Darryl had been working on a quality white tailed deer management program, and it made a good deal of progress, but I think when I got there, there was only 15 deer stands, and when I left, there were 60. There were 30 in the north pasture and 30 in the south pasture. So developing a means to hunt and manage that deer herd was at least part of my responsibility, but then, and I think I gave you a few of my harvest recommendations and management plans, so every year I would write a management plan for white tailed deer particularly, but also turkeys. We eventually ended up with a quail program, so there was just a lot to do. It was a big place, ten thousand acres. That is sixteen miles of perimeter fence, a very extensive road network and ultimately I was responsible to make sure all of that remained intact and in good service, as well as managing the wildlife, and of course the people that came to hunt the wildlife.

JG: So hunts were going pretty good at the time you were hired?

JH: They sure were.

JG: I think when Darryl came in the late seventies they weren't doing a whole lot of hunts outside, other than the company people. I think Mr. Temple and his family hunted, and a few others, but not outside groups necessarily.

JH: Right, that is my recollection in my memory. Of course I wasn't there when Darryl was, but certainly during the...I lived on the property for ten years and managed it, and then for the next three years I managed it remotely from the regional office in Jasper. But essentially for thirteen years, I was responsible for the management of Scrappin' Valley, at least in part. Not always the lodge, although ultimately I did become manager of the entire complex including the lodge, but it...after my arrival in '83, the hunting increased incrementally every year, until finally after thirteen years we were hunting more than just the deer season because we had the quail program, which was a put and take program. In other words, these were pen-reared birds, so they could be hunted any time of year, and we had wild turkeys that we hunted in the spring and there were enough exotics, elk and axis deer, that we could hunt them any time of year too, because they are not regulated by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

JG: So you were hunting the elk by that time?

JH: Yes, and that was one of the things that I wanted to initiate actually, because I felt like the property was overstocked at the time and that was no fault of anyone. There was not enough hunting pressure initially to effectively manage all of those large ungulate species, axis deer, elk and whitetails. So, yes the hunting increased dramatically over just a few years.

JG: What did you know about the elk and how they came to be there?

JH: My understanding is that in the late sixties, early seventies, Mr. Temple wanted additional species in there, and actually it was a popular thing I think for Texas ranches in those days, and when I got there, the only exotic species that were left and of course, elk are a north American species and axis deer are not, but before I got there, there were also Sika deer. There were fallow deer. There were Nilgai antelope.

JG: How do you spell the sika deer?

JH: S-i-k-a.

JG: Okay.

JH: The nilgai antelope, n-i-l-g-a-i. They were black buck, so it was...

JG: It was a hodgepodge.

JH: Yes, and also wild horses and mules, which were brought there through the adoption program that the department of interior had developed to try and relieve some pressure on the mountain range where the horses and mules or burrows had been released, the old cavalry stock had been released. So, yes it was pretty much a menagerie in '83.

JG: And Darryl Stanley told me a little bit about the wild horses and about the elk, but it sounds like you were there through the transition. So talk a little bit about what ultimately became of the elk and a lot of these other species. They were eventually hunted out, or did y'all ship them off? Or when did y'all change to being more of what it became?

JH: Well we began hunting the elk, I think it took two or three years after my arrival, so maybe '85 or '86, before we started hunting elk, because it was actually not a popular thing with some of our more frequent guests. They liked to look at them.

JG: Why is that?

JH: Well because they are beautiful animals and they were not afraid of anything or anyone, I mean you could drive right up to the axis deer and the elk, but of course once we began to hunt them, that was not at all the case. But you asked what ultimately

became of them. As far as I know the axis deer, we never did hunt the axis deer. They hung out at the lodge and they were actually kind of neat to look at, and they never posed a threat or a danger to any of our guests, so they were left alone. The elk were never hunted out of existence; in fact, we were trying to manage the elk for quality antlers. So when I left it, as far as I know the elk were still there.

JG: Still there, okay. Y'all never tried to send them off or phase them out or anything like that?

JH: No, the intent was to never eradicate them but the intent was to manage them by harvesting the very oldest males and occasionally the females too.

JG: What about the wild horses?

JH: Now they were trapped, and so Dallas Chandler and I built a trap or improved a trap that had already been started on the cross fence and we began trapping the wild horses, and actually sold them to locals who were interested in that sort of thing. We ultimately did get rid of all the horses and mules.

JG: Were those through your recommendations or?

JH: Yes, in part, but also one of the problems you know, there was and is an air strip at Scrappin Valley, and it was used quite frequently, and one of the problems with the air strip and the horses and the mules or burrows was that they...it is actually a survival mechanism, they defecate and they for one reason or another they preferred the air strip, but they defecate in huge piles and they continue to add to that pile and it actually is a source of food in the winter. So we were constantly having to be very careful when we knew aircraft were coming in, that number one, there was not a horse on the air strip or a burrow on the air strip, and number two, that there was not a big pile of crap on the air strip (laughter) that might cause some trouble for the pilots.

JG: That is interesting. Talk a little bit about, and there is no real order to any of this, but Mr. Booker, John Booker, what was his role? And talk a little bit about him, and I guess, did you report directly to Darryl or Mr. Booker?

JH: I did report to Darryl directly. I mean if you looked at the chain of command, that was my link, but it was Mr. Booker who was in charge of the lodge facility and he was of course manager of the Pineland mill too. But it was the Pineland mill staff that was really the support staff for Scrappin Valley. Any trades people that were needed, plumbers, electricians, etc. for maintenance at the lodge, came from Pineland and it was really Mr. Booker's responsibility. So I kind of reported to both. On paper it was Darryl, but everyone knew that Mr. Booker had a large influence over what happened at Scrappin Valley.

JG: Okay, was Gene Samford still around when you were there?

JH: Gene was no longer with Temple Inland; he had moved to the concrete plant, to Temple Industries...

JG: Contractors Supply?

JH: Contractors Supply, so I never reported to Gene, I knew him just casually.

JG: And it is Samford, S-a-m right?

JH: Correct.

JG: With an m, okay, I thought that was right. And I think he...Darryl was telling me had kind of began the wildlife department, but his real title was Head of Public Relations, I believe, at the time. So talk a little bit about that in context, what was the role as you saw it maybe when you first began and did it change over the years? What was the role of Scrappin Valley in the scheme of what the big company was trying to do?

JH: Well again, you know based on what I know from what Darryl told me, the five years prior to my arrival, and what I've said earlier, that you know, it wasn't because of my arrival, it was the company's decision I think to begin to use Scrappin' Valley more frequently. But every year there would be more and more guests and it was used primarily by the sales department to invite customers on hunts. There was also a swimming pool, there was a tennis court, there was a trap range, there was a sporting clays range. I helped put the sporting clays range in. As I said, you know, the wildlife programs began to increase and improve too, and, you know, during the regular hunting season there would always be a group every weekend and very often even during the middle of the week. It was Financial Services eventually that began to come too, began to come to Scrappin' Valley also. And even HBO would come annually. We would book fishing guides on Toledo Bend at Fin and Feather, which is only about fifteen miles up the road from the lodge. So, as I said, you know, over time it became what was always a year round job, but over time there were guests constantly almost at the lodge, but particularly during the hunting season.

JG: Do you want to talk about any particular guest you can recall? Any noteworthy ones or any funny stories or anything of interest that happened in the time you were there? And you were hired in '83 and you left in what year?

JH: Well I moved to Jasper in '93 and Diboll in '96. So, I lived on the property for ten years.

JG: Okay, so we would be talking about that ten year period when you were there, what you remember.

JH: Oh there were a lot of wonderful people. One of the things that was always a great event every year was the chili cook-off, and that was for both the executives of the company, but also the close friends of the Temples themselves. That entourage every

year was always a lot of fun and they were always, the group was always very nice, pleasant to be around, cordial etc. And that was the Temples, Mr. Temple, Lottie, Buddy and Ellen, the Stubblefields, the Burkhalters, his good friend Arch Hollingsworth and his wife Sudie, Harold Maxwell and his wife, just a lot of people. And often they would invite others. On two occasions I remember Lady Bird Johnson and Liz Carpenter being present during the chili cook off, and of course Mr. Booker and Ruby were always at the chili cook-off and pretty much ran the thing. The crew, by the way, did 99% of the work. Most of what the guests did was stir the pot once we had it about 90% cooked. Although I will tell this story that I always enjoyed...it wasn't every time, but it was more than once I remember Mr. Temple bringing a small screw top or screw cap vial with him to the chili cook-off and we would have I think twelve pots going at one time and once they were just about ready to be dipped, they were cooled off but still being stirred, Mr. Temple would reach in his pocket and he would get out this vial and it was what he called "woofle dust" and he would dust every pot of chili. And it was nothing but sawdust from one of the mills, but a very appropriate thing for him to do. It was to kind of christen each chili pot with "woofle dust," so that was fun.

JG: And during that time, he [Joe Hamrick] was describing the little vial, just for the recording, he would just twist off the top and sprinkle it in.

JH: Yes, a little screw top vial. He would get a pinch with his fingers, it was a minuscule amount, but it was woofle dust.

JG: (laughing) Woofle dust!

JH: Other guests...Jerry Jeff Walker entertained on occasion, the East Texas String "Ensimble," not ensemble, would play.

JG: Yes, from SFA!

JH: Yes.

JG: I guess that was Abernethy and Tom Nall and Alexander.

JH: Yes, Abernethy.

JG: I can't remember the other one, now I've embarrassed myself on the recorder.

JH: No, that is alright. That is neat that you know. Ab is actually a good friend of mine. I went to school with his kids, but anyway, and also, I mean, Charlie Wilson came numerous occasions and would bring an arsenal of firearms for us all to test, which was fun.

JG: Did he ever have any AK-47's? (laughter)

JH: Yes, and in fact one time he brought an Afghan assault rifle that he had been presented by one of the tribes and it was very ornate and he let anyone who was interested and wanted to shoot it. So, it was a lot of fun!

JG: What caliber was it do you remember?

JH: I think it was a .308.

JG: A .308, okay.

JH: Gary Hart came to Scrappin' Valley about, just...it was after he had announced his candidacy for President, but it was before the monkey business scandal. So he was at Scrappin' Valley just a few weeks or a few months prior to his first announcing he was running for president and then suddenly announcing he was no longer running for president.

JG: Talk about, you had told me earlier about the red cockaded woodpecker and some of the work there, and I think I had a note here, you told me I think months ago about Dan Lay. Talk a little bit about Dan Lay and...

JH: Dan Lay is one of my favorite people. Of course he is deceased now but Dan was also a wonderful mentor for me. We became friends and he would come to Scrappin' Valley on occasion at my invitation and I would always learn from Dan, but some of the first research that was done on the red cockaded woodpecker was done by Dan and his cohorts. He did not do it all, but some of the initial research on RCW [red cockaded woodpecker] was done by Dan at Scrappin' Valley. In fact the first time he came out we went to the location where he had built an observation platform, basically a tree house in a pine adjacent to an active RCW tree for observation purposes. So he had a connection to Scrappin' Valley as well.

JG: Talk a little bit about the bird. Talk about what they like, the habitat they need, the house that they make.

JH: Okay.

JG: You had talked to me earlier and I learned something. I just knew kind of what is generally thought, I guess, but I had assumed that they liked longleaf pines and you had set me straight on that, that it is really just an old tree and that any pine will do. Is that correct?

JH: It is correct, although there may be a slight preference for longleaf, but it is hard to determine now since there is so little longleaf left. But, it is a very interesting species, a very interesting bird that truly is an old growth species. You hear that term thrown around a lot for wildlife, the marbled murrelet in the Pacific Northwest is an old growth species. But RCW truly is, and truly is a strictly southern pine forest species. They must have a pine tree, a living pine tree. They are in fact the only woodpecker that excavates its nest

cavity and root cavity in a living tree. All other woodpeckers use dead wood or snags. But the RCW actually knows and can choose the very oldest tree, and it requires a tree that... 80 years old is actually quite young. Preferably the tree needs to be 90 to 100 plus years old. Pine trees have a very long biological age. A lot of people don't realize that, but in a very rough sense, I'm sure this is not precise, but essentially loblolly 200 years old tree, short leaf 250, and longleaf is the longest lived biologically of those three species. And, of course the virgin forest, the first forest that was encountered by European settlers and was here of course when the first people were... when Native Americans were here was a very old forest. It was 200 to 300 years old so that is the forest that RCW evolved into and they choose the very oldest trees because those trees nearly always have red heart fungus, which is a fungus that gets into the heart wood of the tree and decays the heart wood so that it becomes very soft. So when a RCW excavates its cavity, it first has to break through the outer bark and then the living cadmium layer, but once it gets into the center of the tree, it gets very soft and construction becomes much easier. And they always will pick the older trees and the trees with red heart. How they know that, I'm not sure that science has figured that one out yet. They are a very unusual species for that reason. Another reason that they use living trees, living pine trees now not hardwood trees, it is only pine trees, but another reason is that once they finish excavating the tunnel into the tree and then they excavate downward for the bowl, the nest bowl, once that is complete they go to the outside of the tree, and they actually begin this during the cavity construction itself. But they get really vigorous with it afterwards. They begin to peck resin wells all around the cavity entrance and those resin wells are a defense mechanism against other species, and primarily against the Texas rat snake, better known as the chicken snake, which can actually climb a tree. They are actually an arboreal species. So the woodpecker pecks these little holes or wells all around the entrance to their cavity so that the tree constantly exudes sap, fresh sap, and if the snake ever does climb that tree and tries to get into the cavity to say rob eggs or eat fledglings, it becomes completely debilitated from all that sap that gets on its belly scales so it can't climb anymore and just falls off the tree.

JG: Now, the hole going in is it at a slight incline?

JH: It is, it is always at a slightly upper incline for obvious reasons, number one the sap that is dripping from the tree, you don't want that to end up in your nest cavity and also of course rain. With that upward sloping entrance cavity you've got a dry nest area and one that is free from sap.

JG: Who is it that does the grunt work of boring the hole? Is it the female or male, or multiple?

JH: It is multiple, but nesting always occurs in the male's cavity, but all males, females and the helpers, the offspring from previous year or years, all participate in cavity construction but the breeding and the nesting always occurs in the male's cavity.

JG: Now what does that mean, the male's cavity? There is more than one cavity?

JH: Yes, every member there, they used to actually be called family groups and I think scientists or biologists started using just groups, rather than families to not personify the species quite so much, but they are very gregarious. They are social breeders. They are cooperative breeders. They defend their territory so they do act something like family units.

JG: So each bird has its own hole?

JH: Each bird has its own cavity.

JG: Really?

JH: Yes, and that is one of the problems, it's one of the reasons it's endangered. Number one, the first and foremost reason is because there are so few 80-plus year old pine trees left, but number two, the other thing that I haven't yet mentioned is they really prefer a very open stand of pine timber, and by open I mean almost park-like and with very little hardwood mid-story and understory that is so common in today's forest. Our forests are just almost choked with yaupon, holly and American beauty berry and a lot of other species. The primary reason for that is the lack of fire.

JG: The reason why we don't have that habitat is for lack of fire?

JH: That is right.

JG: What is the reason they prefer that type of environment?

JH: Well there is actually a lot of speculation about that. It is not that they can't survive above a mid-story as long as they have old growth living pine trees, but the research suggests the reason is that they prefer essentially a forest grassland. Which is what you get with very frequent and periodic fires, you get blue stem grasses, herbaceous species, and far less and in some cases no woody species like the yaupon and the beauty berry. What that does, is that engenders a lot of insects, which of course RCW are mostly insectivorous, but also arboreal ants. Ants that actually live in trees is thought to be...well known to be a primary part of their diet. So that open park-like, frequently burned, older pine forest grassland—that is their ideal habitat.

JG: So that is the reason they select certain trees, the result is they have good flight paths in and out, huh?

JH: That is part of it, sure.

JG: Okay, but that is more of a result of the other.

JH: They can survive in heavy mid-story as long as there is still enough of the trunk of the pine tree above the mid-story for them to construct their cavities.

JG: So, they wouldn't want a big yaupon bush getting close to their hole.

JH: No, they do not like that.

JG: Talk about that aspect in the context of, and this is kind of I guess it has an issue, you came in a little later, but Darryl was telling me a little bit about, and really what I'm getting at, is the influence of environmental groups on the Federal Government being a land owner and private industry timber companies being land owners. Darryl told me a story that he went to one of the, I guess it was the Pulp and Paper Wildlife Committee or something, one of the very first meetings maybe that they had or certainly that he was a part of. There were like twelve members, a national meeting and there were twelve wildlife biologists there, but within a few years it was up to 120. It was just huge, and that everybody now was on board, with everybody needing a company biologist or the government forest managers felt it was important that they have a biological program going. Talk about how the RCW fit in with the South and specifically with Temple. I mean, was that already an issue before you came, habitat for RCW? Or how did that change, grow, decline, come about?

JH: Well it...

JG: Does that make sense?

JH: Yes, for RCW specifically I can tell you that when the federal government got the attention of all private land owners who might have RCW, and by this time I'm talking about the Endangered Species Act.

JG: And this is what year?

JH: The Endangered Species Act of '73-74.

JG: Okay.

JH: Being on the books but not really enforced. But there was an Army facility in Georgia, it may have been Bragg, I can't remember specifically, but two biologists who were not in the Army, but they were in charge of managing the natural resources on this army base, were actually arrested and jailed for taking RCW. In other words, endangering, harming RCW, and that pretty much got the attention of everyone who owned forest land. And this was I think '83, it may have been the first year that I was there. [Transcriber's note: According to a document provided by the interviewee at a later date, three Army civilian forestry employees were charged with unlawful taking of RCW in 1993.] I actually remember going shortly after that to Atlanta to the regional Fish and Wildlife office in Atlanta, Georgia to defend a known loss of RCW on our property, Temple-Inland property, in Louisiana and explain and describe the circumstances under which that particular group disappeared. It was all above board, you know, bad things often happen to wildlife species without human intervention. In that case it was of entirely natural causes through no fault or neglect of the company. But, shortly after that

the company became very serious about RCW management and one of the things I did while at Scrappin' Valley was I wrote, and I no longer have a copy and one may not even exist, but I wrote an endangered species handbook for the company. And actually conducted training for all forest employees here in Diboll. In fact Mr. Grum himself attended one of those training courses. At that time you could actually use a vocal recording, an audio recording, of a call of the RCW legally and I actually handed that out to each forester to use, because now it is since illegal to do that and I probably shouldn't have done it then. But the reason for that was that you can take a recording of the RCW into the woods, play that recording very loudly and if you are in the territory of an existing RCW they will come and seek you out. They respond pretty rapidly to the encroachment of potentially another RCW which you are mimicking with this recording of course, so. I wanted to be sure that we knew where all the RCW's on our company lands were and that was the reason for the training and the reason for the recording as well. And it turns out that ultimately, including Scrappin' Valley and Boggy Slough, there were five groups at Scrappin' as I recall and two groups at Boggy, maybe three, that is eight. There were fifteen on all company lands, so there were I think four other locations. I would have to actually look in the handbook here. The Tower Club was one that comes to mind. But there were four other groups, so it turns out the company did have RCW on its lands. It was a federally protected species under the Endangered Species Act and we needed to do something about that.

JG: So when you were hired, was that already in the talks or was that you doing that?

JH: No, that was not on the radar screen.

JG: Not on the radar screen, that is what I was getting at, okay.

JH: Like I said there were existing groups at Scrappin' Valley in the northwest corner, which is the longleaf area. Which by the way, through no effort of my own, but Darryl and predecessors, the year I got there the Texas Organization for Endangered Species, TOES, actually gave Temple an award for having the best longleaf habitat in the State of Texas, or at least what they thought was the best longleaf habitat in the state of Texas. So, anyway I digressed. The next step for the company was to write a management plan for the Red Cockaded Woodpecker, which I did. And, part of that was to also hire some research consultants. We...the final goal was to enter the company into what is called a Habitat Conservation Plan, which is part of the Endangered Species Act. That is, in HCP's or Habitat Conservation Plans are enabled by the Endangered Species Act and Texas was developing a regional HCP for RCW regional because the RCW is only in East Texas, where the pine forest is. I actually was on that committee and the same committee in Louisiana that developed the Habitat Conservation Plans for Texas and Louisiana. And so we enrolled Temple Inland into the Habitat Conservation Plan with what is called Safe Harbor, and Safe Harbor is part of an HCP. And what Safe Harbor does, is once a land owner has thoroughly surveyed their property and knows exactly how many RCW groups they have, once they enroll into the Habitat Conservation Plan they can also enroll into Safe Harbor, which guarantees if they have proof they have zero RCW when they initially enroll, they will never be held accountable for more than zero

RCW. That is their baseline population. So for Temple, our baseline population was fifteen groups, because that is what was on all of our property, not just Scrappin', Boggy, but Scrappin', Boggy and those other groups, which were by the way demographically isolated groups. The acronym is DIGS, you call them digs. Our habitat conservation plan actually established Scrappin' Valley, the north 5,000 acres of Scrappin Valley, and really only 3,000 upland pine acres, as our habitat areas dedicated to the management of RCW and over time we were allowed to move the juvenile RCW from those demographically isolated groups to Scrappin' Valley. So as I said, we started there with five groups, our baseline obligation was fifteen and before the company was sold there were nineteen groups at Scrappin' Valley, so we were very successful in transferring our entire population to the optimal habitat that the company owned. In fact, the research I mentioned earlier was about that. It was... we hired a company that banded every RCW on the Davy Crockett National...excuse me the Sabine National Forest, which is just north of Scrappin' Valley and we banded every RCW on Scrappin' Valley and we did that for three years. We determined, or we found out, that actually the Sabine National Forest population and the Scrappin' Valley population were acting as one population. There was emigration with an "e" and immigration with an "i" occurring constantly with those groups. So it made perfect sense. And because the habitat was ideal, old growth longleaf burned annually in the northwest corner of Scrappin' Valley was an ideal location for Scrappin' to be designated as the habitat management area for RCW, and as I said, it took a number of years, but over time we were able to essentially translocate our entire population onto one area that was optimal ideal habitat. And in doing that, those demographically isolated groups were no longer endangered. Those birds were eventually moved to Scrappin' Valley as well.

JG: How was that monitored by whatever agency, I mean did y'all file annual reports and somebody would come out and check on it or what?

JH: Well it requires annual monitoring and an annual report to the Fish and Wildlife service. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is actually the lead agency obviously, for the Endangered Species Act, but the reporting also goes to Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Texas Forest Service because what the Fish and Wildlife Service has done, is they have relegated habitat conservation planning to the states. And that is probably a very smart thing to do, because the states know more about their own habitat availability requirements, land donors, etc. So, the regional habitat conservation is actually managed by Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Texas Forest Service, but it is overseen and allowed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

JG: So with all the inclusion of all these different groups and people, is that part of the oversight, that if somebody's cheating, everybody is going to know about it?

JH: Well, to be honest and as far as I know, I'm unaware of any landowner who has been enrolled in Louisiana or Texas or any other southern state and I'm somewhat familiar with the regional aspect of RCW, I've never heard of, don't know of any land owner ever reneging or doing the wrong thing after enrolling in an HCP.

JG: Because I know, not necessarily that one, but a lot of these agencies, and I guess the overall impact of the seventies and eighties with these environmental groups putting pressure on a lot of people, is the industry's response to it. And so, industry steps forward and does all these initiatives and different things, but you know, it is almost that if the environmental groups hadn't put pressure on, it wouldn't have come about and so the question would be, is the effectiveness of it...was it indeed a case of the fox guarding the hen house?

JH: Well I don't think so in the case of regional habitat conservation plans, or even statewide habitat conservation plans, but you may be referring to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and its comparison by some to the Forest Stewardship Council and other standards of...

JG: To lay people, we don't know.

JH: ...other standards of excellence. Well you are correct. It really was I think the pressure, political pressure, cultural pressure, public pressure from an environmental group or groups.

JG: Which ultimately goes to...I guess the people who own the stock, and to make more money, we need to have a program. I guess that is the mindset I'm getting at, you know. This business is doing well and they have a program and to be competitive, I guess it all comes down to the almighty dollar I guess but...

JH: Well, that is exactly right because really the pressure from the quote-unquote environmental groups was not on Temple-Inland *per se*, or Champion, or IP, or LP, it was on Home Depot, it was on Lowe's, it was on big box folks who sell forest products. Because it was really Home Depot that began asking the question of Temple-Inland and others: Do you have Forest Stewardship Council certified products? Or any other forest management certification type of product that we can sell, because we think there is a demand? And of course they think there is a demand because the environmental groups are pressuring them. Now that is not to say it's not a good thing, but initially what happened was during the late eighties and nineties one of the groups that became well known and really progressed very rapidly with forest management certification, environmental certification, is called the Forest Stewardship Council [FSC]. And they are actually an international global organization and they have written and created what they consider to be and I think what are very responsible stewardship and management guidelines for every country and for every ecological region of each country. For instance, in the United States, FSC has a southeastern standard for forest. It has a northwestern standard because that is a different forest, it is a different ecology, same thing for the northeast, etc.. So, there are a number of standards even within the United States. But there was, you know, early in the nineties and throughout the nineties a lot of pressure from the big box stores on their providers, their product providers to get certified one way or another. So, FSC was one option. One of the things that I was able to do or allowed to do, we were one of the...I think we may have actually been the only company, I don't know that for certain, but we were certainly one of the few and probably the only

company that actually entertained FSC certification and we actually underwent what I called a gap analysis, a scoping where we invited FSC to our forest and we said we want you to look at our management processes and our management policies and we want you to tell us how big a change would be required for us to become certified. It was a gap analysis and we did that and it was a great experience and it taught us a lot. Ultimately, we actually did have some FSC product online. It was mostly our MDF fiberboard, the first plant to come online was Clarion Pennsylvania, an MDF mill up there that... this was after I was in Diboll and was the manager of Forest Practices and Principals. Clarion was one of the first mills in the country, first MDF mills in the country to become FSC certified. So, ultimately Benbrook was and at least one other mill as well became FSC certified so we did go through that process.

JG: Okay.

JH: That probably wasn't what you wanted.

JG: Well, like we were talking earlier, there are just so many aspects of your career, and at multiple levels even within each one, it may be hard to even come up with a proper question. I guess part of it is a sense of trying to... a question of how did a company, a big company like Temple-Inland that had lots of irons in the fire, had a financial services department, and everybody is trying to meet certain numbers, make as much money as they can, I guess, how does a big company like that balance, when you have got people whose only job is to make sure we do these few things right? Say an environmental project or say, "hey are we protecting the bird," and then you have got people that are ultimately saying make as much money as we can? This particular operation is going to need a lot of wood to do it. Just how did the... what was your experience with that? A more specific question might be when there was an issue, when a wildlife concern and the concern to supply fiber to the mills, whether it be solid wood or MDF for particleboard, whatever, and so you have got a conflict, how did Temple-Inland deal with that, or were you involved? Was that higher than your position or whose ear did you have if you had concerns? Is that a valid question?

JH: Well it is, and in fact, I mean, we just kind of jumped to it, but you know at the end of my career I spent the last five years of my career or four and a half years in Diboll as a corporate manager in the forest division and my first job was manager of Forest Practices and Principles and my second job was manager of the natural forest or the selection forest. You will see it written or described as both, but in terms of the manager of Forest Practices and Principles, and specifically to your question, what I would always say or at least try to keep as a primary focus was to "connect the smart dots." You can, I think, do all of the things you described. You can be a responsible steward of your forest, but at the same time you can also intensively manage where it is appropriate and proper for high fiber production. So when I say connect the smart dots, what eventually happened was we did end up with a natural forest sector or a natural forest operation but that forest was all of our streamside management zones. It was all of our habitat conservation areas. It was all of our distinctive sites. It was all the pieces of the forest that were already designated

for use other than intensive fiber production. So, that became the job of the natural forest department was to manage that forest. When I say manage that forest it is really about...

JG: Protecting?

JH: It's protecting its values but also extracting when and where possible some fiber, because not every tree has a moratorium on it, even in those forests. I mean, you can improve conservation and you can improve habitat quality sometimes by actually thinning a forest. An example of that is RCW. One of their requirements also is a somewhat low, by today's standards, basal area. That is the number of trees, the size of the tree and their spacing. It is actually the area at the diameter breast height at the stump itself that is the basal area. RCW's actually do better in pine stands between a forty basal area and a seventy basal area. That is a very low stocking by today's standards, okay. So, we could improve RCW habitat by thinning those stands and it wasn't an excuse to thin it... really was the focus and the goal of the harvest would be to improve RCW habitat. The same is true for Aesthetic Management Zones [AMZ]. Once the forest behind an AMZ, which is often left beside a highway, is of a similar height or at least enough height that and you also know that it will not be harvested for x number of years, you can thin the AMZ in front of it. So, there was a lot of opportunity. Streamside Management Zones [SMZ] were very carefully managed, let me say that. There were fewer opportunities, because the primary purpose of a Streamside Management Zone is to preserve water quality, which means that you don't want any adjacent harvest operations to add sediment to that stream, to have tops in that stream, meaning the tops of trees...

JG: Tops of trees.

JH: Once they are harvested and that sort of thing. So, SMZ's were a bit more sacrosanct, let's say, because water quality was a very important value of the company.

JG: Talk a little bit about AMZ's, Aesthetic Management Zones. I know this was after your time, but I know locally, for a lot of people it was kind of a big deal for awhile. As Mr. [Alan] Miller used to call it, it was "Mr. Temple's driveway," the area along FM 1818 out here, and you know, the mature age forest that was along much of 1818.

JH: Right.

JG: And then when Campbell came in, they pretty soon harvested that. And I've talked to some foresters about it, and everybody has their own opinion, and some people of course get defensive about it and said, "you know, an AMZ by definition doesn't mean you don't ever cut it." At some point it goes, but I think to the lay person, them seeing a big tree is a lot better than seeing devastation, World War I battlefields right up to the public highway.

JH: I agree.

JG: So I don't know, just some thoughts from someone of your professional background, comment on AMZ's and the public, because really that is really what all this...we are talking about is, I mean.

JH: Sure.

JG: Go ahead.

JH: Well, I do think, you mentioned Campbell specifically, I think that although I was opposed at the time, it was one of the reasons I actually resigned from the company. I was opposed to the selling of the forest, and when I left it was becoming inevitable, it seemed, and for other reasons, too, but I do think that ultimately Temple was lucky that Campbell Group actually became the manager of the forest. They are actually not the owner of the forest, because they are a timberland investment management organization and that, I think that is a very carefully crafted and a very carefully chosen term, timberland investment management. They are managing their investment. They are not managing their timberland, right? It is not a timberland management investment organization, it is a timberland investment management organization so...

JG: A TIMO, yes.

JH: So they are obligated to, my understanding is actually CAPERS owns the paper on the forest, now that is the California Public Employees Retirement System, CAPERS. But we are lucky I think, that Campbell became the manager of the forest, because I think they do as good and probably much better a job than many other TIMO's or REIT's. Real Estate Investment Trust is the other tax diverting timberland management organizations. But I have heard the same comments about things like AMZ's disappearing under Campbell's management. I am not sure that ultimately Temple might not have been forced to do the same thing, but I don't know that.

JG: I was told by some, that when Temple had it on the books, those trees were cheaper on Temple's books than they showed on a new buyer's books, because a new buyer had to borrow a bunch of money to even buy it to start with, and those trees are going to sell for a lot more money than some smaller trees, and it was just a matter of economics. Is that fair or is that misunderstood?

JH: No, I think that is fair, but I think the question of the book value is actually an important question when you talk about the divestiture of the selling of the forest, which has occurred across the entire industry for companies that were fully integrated. In other words, they owned their manufacturing plants, but they also owned the forest that fed that manufacturing plant. So, you know, the book value of the AMZ trees, our cost basis, Temple's cost basis, was sometimes probably cents per acre. Probably more commonly dollars per acres, but as I recall CAPERS paid like twelve hundred, thirteen hundred dollars per acre, essentially basically gross. So their cost basis absolutely increased, but that is offset by the tax benefits they received from being a TIMO. So, I'm not sure that the argument you know the tree is worth more etc. I think it goes back to the fact that it is

a Timberland Investment Management Organization. They are managing their investment more than they are managing the forest, okay.

JG: Right, right.

JH: Because as I said, Campbell doesn't own the forest. No TIMO actually owns their forest, they are hired as the managers of that forest, and somebody else owns that forest. I think in our case it is CAPERS.

JG: Okay, well that is good. That helps some of my understanding or misunderstanding (laughs). And we really jumped around there. I didn't necessarily mean to do that. So, let's talk before we...I do want to get into your career and you know, you mentioned quite a few things, the natural forest and that, but before we chronologically get there, is there anything else you want to add about your time at Scrappin' Valley? We talked, you had mentioned sometime about some of the shotgun shootings, not shootings but the trap and skeet and clays and all that you were telling me the last year you were there it was how many thousands or tens of thousands shotgun shells you used?

JH: We fired twenty thousand individual twelve gauge shot shells, the last year that I was there, which would have been '93, the last year I actually lived on the property. So, yes but that was because we had...we were shooting trap, we were shooting sporting clays and every time you shot sporting clays, that was fifty shells. It is a fifty shot course so, but we are also hunting quail and that, as I said earlier that was a...we had a permit from Texas Parks & Wildlife to do this. We were actually hunting pen reared quail, which is not quite as sporting as hunting native quail of course, but still everybody enjoyed it. But ultimately we were shooting about twenty thousand rounds a year at Scrappin' Valley.

JG: Y'all provided all the shells?

JH: We provided everything they needed including a kennel of dogs. When I left, I believe we were up to eleven bird dogs, pointers, and yes, so the operation as I said earlier, just kept growing and growing and growing. But I tell you what, it was probably the best ten years of my life. I loved Scrappin' Valley and I mean that literally I loved that place, I loved the land, I loved the people that came out there, for the most part anyway. We had a wonderful staff that came from Pineland. I was fortunate to be able to hire a few biologists while I was there to help and one of those is now the executive director of Texas Parks & Wildlife. I misspoke; he is the game director not the executive director.

JG: Oh yes, because I was thinking of Carter Smith.

JH: Yes, Carter Smith is the executive director, my bad.

JG: Do you want to say the person's name?

JH: Sure. It is Clayton Wolf. He is just a fine biologist. He has had a magnificent career and he has deserved every bit of it and he did not benefit any from knowing me, maybe from being at Scrappin' Valley so I'm not taking any credit for anything Clayton has done. The staff out there, Dallas and Jerry Chandler were like my parents the first few years out there. They took really good care of me. They were the caretakers of the lodge facility itself. And the staff over the years of course changed somewhat, but initially it was C. L. Garrett, Willie G. Moore, we called him Shy or that was his nickname. Jack Norman, Hollis Williams, and that was the genesis staff. That was the staff that was there when I first arrived. We just had a great time, and they were great folks and it was just...I mean imagine, you know, I had, when there was no one there, I had a ten thousand acre playground and it was a lot of it was not old growth but second growth forest. I mean it was a beautiful place and we prescribed burned as much of it as we could annually. We just had a great time!

JG: That was a very good assessment, what you just said, and I was thinking of five or six questions along those lines. I can't, we can't leave it without me asking about the Morrow Buck, so if you will remind me to ask that. But I want to go back to something you had told me earlier, that at least in the early days you were there Arch Hollingsworth was reloading all the shot shells.

JH: He was.

JG: Okay, tell a little bit about that.

JH: Arch was a close friend of Mr. Temple's himself, and he lived on Sam Rayburn and when I first arrived we were shooting trap only. We did not have the sporting clays course and we did not have a quail program yet.

JG: Tell what trap is?

JH: Trap is just a single skeet throwing machine that you stand behind, there are five stations lined in an arch behind the trap machine and it throws one clay pigeon at a time out for the shooters and of course only one shooter shoots at a time, so we shot a lot of trap, but we didn't have those other shotgun sports available, the sporting clays and the quails, so Arch was able to keep up with our reloading needs. So, I would, probably once a month I would take all of our empty shot shells to Arch and he would reload them and when I dropped off the empties he would give me several cases of shells that he reloaded.

JG: Did y'all use high brass or low brass?

JH: Low brass, it was all low brass, but we did and Arch knew this and he actually chuckled about it himself, you know, occasionally maybe one out of two hundred shells, instead of a big boom you would get a little poop. And, you would even see the shot and the wading just barely fall out of the end of the barrel. And we would call those Hollingsworth specials. (laughter) "You got a Hollingsworth special but the good news is we are going to give you another shot for free."

JG: Generally what was the reason? Was it not enough powder or the powder was wet or what?

JH: I'm sure it was just the powder load did not get charged. And the only thing that exploded was the primer which was just enough to get the wading and the shot out of the end of the barrel.

JG: Did y'all use mainly over and unders?

JH: All over and unders. I'm glad you mentioned that actually, because there were two things that Mr. Booker actually taught me, and I think I would have come to the same conclusion, but we had to be constantly aware of safety issues. And I mean there is nothing more dangerous than a nimrod with a twelve gauge. So we as far as the shotgun was concerned, we insisted that everyone use, always, no exceptions, our over and unders. We would not allow pump. We would not allow an automatic, no. And we kept, and in fact I bought most of them, but when I first got there, they were Japanese over and unders, but they were very high quality, very high grade Nikko Golden Eagles. We had ten of those.

JG: How do you spell that?

JH: N-i-k-k-o, Nikko Golden Eagles.

JG: Oh okay.

JH: And before I left, I think we had bought ten Browning citori field grades and had a couple of Ruger over and unders, and we had those because they were twenty gauges and I forget the model number, but that particular Ruger had a silver or aluminum or an alloy receiver. The Browning Citori's, the Nikko's were all blued jet black right, but those Rugers had a silver receiver so they could immediately be identified as a twenty gauge.

JG: Oh okay, I see what you're saying.

JH: So, that was one of the reason we bought those, but we did have some twenty's on hand for somebody that wanted a little lighter shooting than a twelve gauge. And in turn, we did actually also keep some deer rifles, but again we insisted that those have detachable box magazines. They were not top loaded, they were not trap door loaded. We insisted that number one, now when people deer hunted with larger caliber center fire rifles, scope rifles, they could bring their own of course, but anytime they walked through the door of the lodge the bolt had to be out of the action. We very seldom had any automatic weapons but if we did, of course the bolt had to be open, but if it was a bolt action the bolt actually had to be removed from the weapon and on the gun rack sat beside the butt of the weapon. And when we carried our customers to the deer stands, and I always gave as Don and Bill did, and any of the other biologist did, anytime you had a hunt you always gave the safety presentation and a management presentation. You tell

them what legally they must do from a legal point of view, what they must do or what we are asking them to do from a management point of view, but mostly it is about their own safety.

JG: Would that be the night before?

JH: Yes, the night before and I mean early the night before, before any card playing or drinking started. So... (laughing)

JG: You couldn't go hunting, say if somebody came in late that evening, they couldn't go hunting until they had the safety talk.

JH: They could not go hunting until two things had been accomplished. Number one, you know, it didn't have to be a formal presentation like we were doing in the conference center okay, but they did have to have a safety talk, but they also had to go to the rifle range with one of the staff members and prove that they could hit what they were aiming at and that their rifles were accurate, that it was scoped properly okay.

JG: So if somebody came in at ten o'clock at night and y'all didn't know who they were...

JH: The next morning they couldn't get on a deer stand until somebody had given them a safety talk and until they had gone to the rifle range and fired a few rounds at a target.

JG: Y'all wouldn't have taken them to the rifle range early in the morning.

JH: No, no, they would have to wait until we had everybody on the stand or...

JG: Mid-day.

JH: Right, right. And in terms of Scrappin' Valley I think the thing that I'm most proud of, really and truly, I think a lot of great things happened while I was there, but it wasn't necessarily because of me, it was because of the staff. It was because the company allowed me to do a lot of things, etc. and so on, but my greatest accomplishment or the greatest accomplishment of the entire staff, not a single injury what-so-ever in the thirteen years I was associated with Scrappin' Valley. I mean not even a scratch.

JG: Wow!

JH: So, yes and we are talking over...particularly in the later years over a year we would have five hundred different guests at least, you know, shooting some firearm of some sort, you know, a shotgun or a rifle so.

JG: What, I'm assuming that a shotgun load, by load I mean the quantity of shots, got to be too much for Mr. Hollingsworth at some point.

JH: Oh absolutely, absolutely!

JG: I'm just curious did y'all have a particular brand of shell you bought?

JH: We actually bought them from a professional reloader. I say professional, maybe a semi-professional reloader, but anyway through Carter Country in Houston. We began to buy...they were, and actually we even had the hull printed Scrappin' Valley.

JG: Oh okay!

JH: Yes, they were cheaper than even bulk commercial shot shells and they were a little bit customized, so they were pretty cool. But they were perfectly fine, perfectly safe.

JG: Any hot loads for Mr. Temple or anything?

JH: No, and no Hollingsworth specials.

JG: Okay, let's talk about the Morrow Buck.

JH: Okay, well the Morrow Buck, gosh I can't even remember the year now, maybe it was '93, '92 or 93. Mr. Morrow, Sam Morrow was a guest hunter at Scrappin' Valley during a sales hunt. He is from Mississippi. I can't remember exactly where, but a very nice man who had been to Scrappin' Valley previously. I did get to know a few of those sales customers because they returned every year. Sam was one of my favorites, a great guy. We put him on a deer stand that morning and shortly thereafter heard a shot and went to check on him and he had killed a whitetail buck that scored 196 and 3/8 Boone and Crockett. He was a non-typical buck but it was the biggest buck ever killed at Scrappin' Valley. I believe it may actually also be the biggest buck killed on Temple lands. If it's not, it is very close to it. I can only think of one other or two other bucks, actually another typical buck that made the book, Boone and Crockett book, from a score standpoint. They could not be entered into the book because it is a high fenced management area. We killed a 170 class typical, which is a 170 is the break-off point for Boone and Crockett typical, and 195 is the break-off point or you have to score at least a 190 for a non-typical and 170 for a typical, so we barely made the book score on both of those deer but they came from Scrappin' and they were both really magnificent bucks.

JG: What does that mean about being a high fenced area and not being in the book or in the book?

JH: Well the Boone and Crockett Club if you are going to enter and it is for all large mammals, game mammals, and it is world-wide, not just in the United States or in North America, but any animal that is killed from within a fenced property and it doesn't matter if that property is ten acres or ten million acres if it is fenced property, it is not eligible for the Boone and Crockett Club record book.

JG: And by fence you mean a fence that would keep an animal from going and coming?

JH: A high fence, that is right. Yes, I'm sorry, but yes a high fence, which of course Scrappin' Valley was. There is a nine foot fence around all ten thousand acres and actually it is more than that now, in acres. There were sixteen miles of high fence around that property.

JG: Is that what it needs to be to keep a whitetail in?

JH: No, in fact for that many acres you can probably perhaps do a better job or have a higher quality buck herd and of course you probably minimize or at least diminish poaching but really and truly all a high fence does for a human it just keeps the honest poachers out. But, it is very difficult particularly when you get into very large acreage to maintain a fence that is sixteen miles long. A tree can fall on it; there is 24 creeks that flow underneath it. You have to have a water gap or something there, you know, so it is...so high fences are never a hundred percent. Maybe in South Texas on perfectly flat terrain where it's easy to get around them every day, but at Scrappin' Valley, Scrappin' Valley was very rolling terrain particularly on the east side. There was a lot of relief. I mean there were some hills and streams on the east fence that were almost straight up and straight down. I mean they were almost like foothills in the Appalachians or something' so really hard to keep that fence up.

JG: Did y'all ever do any restocking, bring deer in from outside?

JH: No, never did.

JG: Did y'all ever swap deer between Scrappin' Valley and Boggy or anything like that?

JH: No, the wildlife department participated in some deer trapping at Boggy because the managers, the biologists at the time actually recommended the harvest was greater than they could ever achieved just through hunting, so we did some trapping with Texas Parks and Wildlife. Those deer that we trapped were translocated to other properties. To be honest I don't know where, we just helped with the netting itself, so...

JG: Oh okay, but that was at Boggy Slough?

JH: Yes, at Boggy.

JG: Ya'll didn't really take any out other than hunting at Scrappin' and didn't bring any in intentionally?

JH: No, never did.

JG: Okay.

JH: Now one thing too, just real briefly I will mention this. When I got there, there were a few turkeys. We did focus on turkey management and improving and increasing that

population and in time it probably had the densest turkey population of any population in East Texas. In fact, that there were sufficient numbers of turkeys that Texas Parks and Wildlife used Scrappin' Valley as a trapping location and so we did trap and translocate eastern wild turkey from Scrappin' Valley to other properties and in fact many of those turkeys went to Boggy Slough from Scrappin to Boggy.

JG: Are there any turkeys at Scrappin' now?

JH: There certainly should be. I mean I haven't been there in a long time, but there is no reason for there not to be a very healthy population of turkeys.

JG: Are there any turkeys at Boggy Slough?

JH: To my knowledge yes, I believe there is still a viable population there as well.

JG: Sounds like turkeys have been successful on Temple lands. But is it true they haven't done so well in other places.

JH: Well that is true but...

JG: I mean in our neighborhood, more or less.

JH: Well it is true but I think probably I have no...I'm unfamiliar with any research that proves this, my instinct says that the areas that were unsuccessful were probably poached heavily. The habitat in East Texas for wild turkeys has declined due to the absence of prescribed burning, but in most areas where the turkey restocking began, and Temple played a huge part in that and in fact received an award for our turkey conservation efforts and turkey population expansion efforts from the National Wild Turkey Federation. I believe that was '96 or '98, somewhere in there, but that was a national one-time award. Mr. Grum himself was behind the restoration program, and Temple Inland funded a bunch of those turkeys. They were being wild trapped in other states and brought to Texas and released in suitable habitat, now that was all through the Texas Parks and Wildlife and the National Wild Turkey Federation but Temple had a big role in that.

JG: How about fire ants? How did they affect turkeys?

JH: I honestly don't know, but I don't think they are too inordinately terrible on turkey reproduction. Really, the biggest enemy of turkeys, believe it or not is a coon. During... raccoons are terrible nest predators for turkeys. But of course there are others, bobcats, skunks even, snakes, you know, the reproductive cycle of a turkey they are ground nesters. If they are not in a very well camouflaged place or if they are just unlucky, you know, their nest can be predated by any number of animals. They are very susceptible to bad weather. Once the poults are born, they require a high insect diet when they are days old to even months old, so it has been difficult for the turkeys, but they have been restored to East Texas successfully.

JG: Alright, well we just pretty much covered Boggy Slough. If you want to agree to call it an interview for today and pick up some of the other stuff later.

JH: Sure.

JG: Because I want to get into your time and talk a little bit more about the natural forest and some of those initiatives and efforts that were trying to be done. I think we had talked before about...I remember I came in January of '99 and the big thing in the In Touch magazine was, you know, a designated hardwood forester, which was kind of unique I guess. I guess it was the first and only one maybe but just get into some of those subjects.

JH: Sure.

JG: Would that be good?

JH: I would be happy to.

JG: Well I appreciate it for today and we will just call that an interview for now.

END OF INTERVIEW