

Maureen and Mike

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**Oral History Number: 462-001**

**Interviewee: John Grove**

**Interviewer: Anna Rose Costain**

**Date of Interview: June 26, 2018**

Anna Rose Costain: Today is June 26, 2018, I'm Rosie Costain, I'm interviewing John Grove. John, thanks for taking the time to talk with me today. To start, could you provide some brief background on where you're from, where you grew up, that kind of thing?

John Grove: I was born in Ketchikan, Alaska, 1930. My parents went up there approximately 1920. So that's getting pretty close to 100 years ago today. It was close to 100 years ago when they went to Alaska. Alaska was a very isolated place. There was no airplanes flying there. The only method of transportation was by boat—steamer—out of Seattle or other ports further south, but most of the boat transportation came out of Seattle or Vancouver, B.C. [British Columbia]. So it was very isolated. And my folks, my dad was Christopher Grove, and my mom's name was Phyllis Grove. They moved to Alaska in 1920, and they homesteaded and started a dairy farm. That seems strange today, but you have to understand that if anybody wanted to drink milk, they either had to buy it locally in Alaska towns...Ketchikan was a large fishing town for that, for the territory. Was about 4,000 people. Juneau was about the same population. Wrangell was somewhat less. But in order for those residents to have milk, you had to have a dairy, and you had to ship in on your food for the cows. So they started the dairy in and had a dairy clear up into the '40s, actually, around the start of the...well, a little bit after the start of the Second World War.

I had a deep and compelling interest in the forest and the natural resources that surrounded our homestead. It was homesteaded. We had around 60 acres about four miles north to Ketchikan on a single-lane road at that time—gravel road with turnouts. So I had pretty much free rein from the time I was pretty small to the woods that surrounded our homestead. At least on one side. The other side was Tongass Narrows so we were right on right above the beach of Tongass Narrows, but on up on the east side of our homestead and east side of the road were the forests and mountains and so forth. Those extended clear across the Revillagigedo Island, which Ketchikan was situated on, on a cross-beam canal along on the east side of the huge island that Ketchikan was located on, and on into B.C. until you got to some road back...way back in the interior of British Columbia where there might be a road. The Alaska Highway hadn't been built, but if it had been, that's where you would have you've ended up.

So it was what people would call today a vast wilderness area, and there was very few roads. There was roads around Ketchikan that went out both north and south that people built along. One road and then went about 15 miles north and the other about ten miles south. So that was the extent of the road of the roads. So I had a large interest because of the fact I just grew up in that way. Grew up with generally what people would call a wilderness, but we didn't even know the word. It is just part of the landscape. But there was no roads or things or trails back in a lot

of these places. So I hiked and I camped along, behind the house up in the mountains and across the bays from our house, and that's the way I grew up.

When I was probably around 13, 12 I guess or 13, that's when the Second World War started, and the demand really picked up for, particularly, fish. So the salmon canneries were going full bore. We had, I think, around 12 salmon canneries in Ketchikan—12 to 15—and salmon cannery employed a lot of people on a short-time basis. But I started commercial fishing about that time when I was 13, 12 years old, I guess, fishing dog fish which is a small shark about three-, four-foot long for liver which we would sell. So we did that for...I did that with another boy for probably three years, and I was...I guess, I was 13. Then when I was 16 I went to work for Knack-It (?) packing company over on the west coast of Prince Wales Island. They had a big salmon cannery, and I was a trap watchmen and I helped with rigging the traps—fish traps. The big traps were outlawed, prohibited, when Alaska became a state.

[pauses] I think that that's the main thing of...as I grew up. All of the territory of the southeastern part belonged...was part...it was Tongass National Forest basically. So it was administered by the Forest Service. So when I became 18, I went south—we always called it “going south”—went to Oregon State, and enrolled in forestry school. I graduated with a degree in science and forest management, and then I went back to work for the Forest Service when I graduated—went back up north to Ketchikan. The Korean War was on, the draft was on, and I'd only worked about two months and I was drafted. They said, “Get on Ellis Airlines,” which was some Grumman seaplane that had service to Juneau. I, along with maybe six other boys from Ketchikan, got on a plane, and we went to Juneau, got on an army plane. They flew us to Anchorage and started basic training at Fort Richardson in Anchorage. When that was finished, I was assigned to the 4th Infantry Regiment as an infantryman in Fairbanks. 4th Infantry Regiment was assigned to guard, to provide more than just security but to ensure the safety of all of interior Alaska. Like I say, the Korean War was going on, and so there was a lot of...there was threats from the Soviet Union. They had a reinforced regiment—infantry regiment—across the Bering Straits, which is just a short distance from Alaska. That was our purpose, I think, was to kind of offset that threat.

I got out of the army approximately two years later, and then I went to work for the Forest Service in Ketchikan. I worked there a couple of years, and in 1967, I was transferred to the Helena Forest [Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest]. I also got married—I better mention that—at the same time. [laughs] So Darlene and I went to Cordova, Prince William Sound, that was the ranger station I was transferred as a district ranger on a Cordova Ranger District in Prince William Sound. The district was approximately four million acres of forest—Chugach Forest—was at that time. Now, about six million [unintelligible]. Included two ranger districts: the Kenai Ranger District and Cordova Ranger District. So we lived there for about four years, and I have something I was going to give you. I better dig that out and show you. [paper rustling] Let's see if I've got it here.

You can have this to take.

ARC: Let's see, what is this?

JG: That certifies I was...I was present at a big celebration [laughs] in Cordova when Alaska became a state. I made a copy of it, so you can put that as part of the record.

ARC: That's fantastic!

JG: That was a while back. That wasn't the last state that was...that came into existence. Hawaii was the next, and that was the last one but it was pretty close to the last state. [laughs] You can have that document.

ARC: You mentioned that you went to Oregon State and got a forestry degree. What made you want to get a forestry degree?

JG: What made me?

ARC: Yeah.

JG: I guess my interest that developed when I was just a youngster. As I mentioned, we had a dairy and I used to help my dad deliver milk, and one of one of the places that deliver milk was to the district ranger's house in the town of Ketchikan. We lived four miles outside of town. So my dad would deliver milk, and I'd help. So I talked with him and then watched the ranger boat—it was about a 45-, 50-foot boat—go by every now. Then going out to do work in the forest, whether it be as laying out timber sales or whatever. I thought, you know, I'd really like to do that. It just generated a lot of interest. What was beyond there? Beyond the roads where we could access. Unless you had a boat, you couldn't...And I did have 16-foot skiff so we were not entirely bound by roads, but it was very limited. So I just thought, I'd like to do that. I was only probably 13 or 14 when I thought, yeah, that's what I'd like to do. I'd like to be a forester. I knew the ranger there. So that's the thing, I think, that generated interest, and then of course, I liked to be in the woods.

ARC: Was there something you hoped to do with that degree?

JG: Well, I hoped to follow basically the Forest Service: to be in the Forest Service, to work out in a...at that time off a boat, off of a Forest Service boats into the woods to help with that type of work. So that's what I hoped to do, after I got a degree. To get a degree was...it meant leaving home for quite long periods of time. But nevertheless that was what I wanted to do.

ARC: Was there a reason you decided to choose Oregon State?

JG: It was reported to be one of the good school of forestry. It had a good school of forestry, an excellent school of forestry I guess I should say. University of Washington had one that was

accredited. Washington State had a small school that hadn't been accredited. And the University of California had...I don't think they had an undergraduate school. They had a graduate school. So...and the University of Alaska Fairbanks didn't have a forestry course. It was mostly mining, engineering. And business, you know, pretty limited. It was a pretty small school, pretty small college, or university in Fairbanks. So that's the history up to that point.

ARC: So you did go into the Forest Service, and you mentioned briefly kind of how you jumped around. Could you tell me a little bit more about the work you did, and where you did it?

JG: When I was a permanent employee, or when I was a student and working in the summer?

ARC: You can go ahead and start with what you did as a student in the summer.

JG: Student? Okay, I worked off of a Forest Service boats—trail crew mainly. The three Cs [Civilian Conservation Corps], during the Depression, had built many trails from the coast and different places to lakes and things like that through...actually through much...not much, but limited area of Tongass National Forest but widely distributed. So we would...each year the Forest Service would have a trail crew that would go out and do the clearing of trails and things that were in existence. And that's what I did as a student for two years. Then on the third and fourth year, I worked up on the Chugach Forest locating proposed roads into camping areas—campgrounds, proposed campgrounds—because they were building a road from Anchorage into the Kenai Peninsula. So that's when I was a student, and that would have been probably around '50. '50? Yeah, '50, '51, '52, before I graduated. This was during the summers. So I had two summers up on the Chugach doing that kind of work with a small crew, and I was in charge of that crew. There was only three of us. So we were running these survey roads into these proposed camping area because we knew we'd have—or the Forest Service knew—have a big influx of people wanting to camp. People come in from Anchorage, mostly. Then in the winters, of course, and spring, I was in school. So, yeah.

ARC: Once you graduated, how did your career kind of—

JG: Well, I had a career with the Army for a couple of years [laughs], and then I got out of the Army and I went to work for the Forest Service right away in Juneau and worked on forest survey, surveying...a crew surveying resources of the Tongass Forest for possible pulp mill sales. And the pulp mills...well, one pulp mill had already been built in Ketchikan, but there were others proposed in Sitka and possibly one in Juneau. So we were doing survey work on that area. Mostly from probably Wrangell, Petersburg north to Skagway, inventorying the resources of the forest and volumes and so forth. That was probably from...I was trying to think, the period I got out of the service until I went to work in forest administration. I worked on the ranger district after I'd worked several years on forest survey, doing the inventory work. I went to work for administration on a ranger district. It was the Juneau Ranger District. Worked as an assistant ranger there for about a year, and then I was transferred—got married and

transferred up to Prince William Sound—Cordova Ranger District. I was a district ranger there for four years.

Then I transferred to the Helena Forest in 1967, and I worked in timber management and fire in the supervisor's office as assistant to the forest supervisor on the Helena Forest. I worked there till '79, and then I became a staff assistant to the resource officer of Lolo Forest [Lolo National Forest], but I had the timber sales portion—timber sales program on the Lolo Forest. I worked there five years, and then I retired. 1985, I retired.

ARC: So was it in your retirement that you joined the Bitterroot Timber Sale Review Committee?

JG: Yeah.

ARC: What year did you join that, do you know?

JG: Let me think a little bit about that. [pauses] The Bitterroot controversy erupted in the 1970s, you know, late '70s the Bitterroot controversy. And controversies around the nation, actually, concerning the timber sales programs on the forests and the lack of planning and the lack of complying with the laws and the regulations and the forest plan standards, as we saw it. As we read the forest plans and the standards that the forest supervisor of these forests, especially in Bitterroot forests, were to comply with, we felt they weren't complying with the laws and regulations. So we formed a Bitterroot...we called it the Bitterroot Timber Sale Review Committee. This was prior to the forming of the Friends of the Bitterroot. There was five of us that were members of this committee—Bitterroot Timber Sale Review Committee—that were...had been past employees of the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks—Montana State Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. And were couple other citizens that were very concerned about wildlife and conservation and what impact this big huge timber sale program was having on wildlife and the resources and the water—the watersheds. In our view, the people who were doing this, who were the [unintelligible] responsible—the forest supervisor and the district rangers—weren't complying with the laws, the regulations, and the forest plan standards—forest plan, in our case, being the Bitterroot National Forest Management Plan.

The Bitterroot Timber Sale Committee existed about a year and a half before the Friends of the Bitterroot organized, so we became—we, myself, and two others were involved in the Bitterroot Timber Sale Committee—we worked with the people who were concerned about the same thing we were concerned about, and were organized...and we organized to form Friends of the Bitterroot. Your grandfather was one of those people too, and a very vocal and enthusiastic person to want to form this organization—the Friends of the Bitterroot. So that started Friends of the Bitterroot. I, myself, provided the technical review of timber sale documents along with another person who helped in that regard—not only review, but also in writing it up. Writing up the appeal because we would appeal these decisions of the forest supervisor of these timber sales. That caused a slowdown in the process of advertising sales

because the Forest Service wasn't staffed at that time to take on the job that had to be taken on to properly review the impact of these sales on the resources of the forest, such as the watersheds, the fisheries, the wildlife, and so on. They just weren't financed or staffed to do that, so that caused a real...what would you say, a drastic slowdown in the offerings of the timber sales, which caused, basically, the Bitterroot controversy. How could you say it? It just kind of dried up the supply of timber for these sawmills, not only here but up at Kalispell and in Missoula somewhat. However, in the mill—big mill in Missoula—was operating mostly on private land. It was the Anaconda Company lands. So the mill, the big mill in Bonner—the Bonner mill—still had an adequate supply of logs. They bought some national forest timber from the Flathead and from Bitterroot forest and a certain amount from Deer Lodge, but most of their supply came from their lands. But here in the Bitterroot, the mills here were dependent on national forest timber, and that supply dwindled down to little or nothing.

Pretty soon there was no...after about four or five years, maybe even less maybe three or four years, the supply dried up, and the people were out of jobs. Basically, the sawmills had to shut down. That it occurred over a period of a number of years. I don't remember how long. But that was the start of the Bitterroot controversy, and the whole heart of the controversy. I don't think the Bitterroot—and I'm talking about Ravalli County, the Bitterroot forest-Ravalli County—had ever seen or experienced anything like that. Where so many people—the woods workers, the mill workers—were without jobs. You can imagine the anger that would generate. That same thing was happening up at Kalispell because most of the timber coming into those Kalispell mills were coming off national forest and the same thing was happening up there. There was conservation groups that organized and were reviewing timber sale documents, or timber...I wouldn't say sales because the sale wasn't made. It was proposed sales. Reviewing those documents to see if they complied with the law, and they were the same thing. They just didn't have the staffing in the Forest Service to address that kind of thing. [pauses] They just couldn't do it. They didn't have the staffing, period. They didn't have the finances. So the timber supply for these mills just dried up, basically. Not only here, not only here in the Bitterroot but up in the Flathead and to a certain extent—yeah, a large extent—over in the Deer Lodge valley. There was a big mill there just...How would I describe that? It was down river from Anaconda. Basically I guess, that would be, what, Deer Lodge, wouldn't it? Yeah. Big mill at Deer Lodge. It was dependent on national forest timber. So its supply was greatly reduced. So there was a lot of anger, a lot of frustration, and so forth at that time period.

ARC: That was something you mentioned earlier...Oh, and I'd also like to mention that my grandfather is Stewart Brandborg. But that was something you mentioned earlier with the atmosphere and how it was kind of violent. Could you tell me a little bit more about that?

JG: Well, the anger was directed against Friends of the Bitterroot here in this valley—the Bitterroot Valley. As I mentioned, it climaxed in assaults. Larry Campbell (?) was assaulted twice that I know of. His life was threatened. There was pistol shots and shotgun rounds fired into his buildings that were right alongside the Rye Creek Road. He was a subject, I would say, of most of the anger at a person, you know. Certainly more so than any others. I mention the fact that

the encampment up at Tincup Creek—Friends of the Bitterroot encampment—we were having a meeting, and at night we had tents set up. Those were attacked, and some of the tents were slashed. The people disappeared back up into the woods because they'd just come right out of the woods down there and you didn't have to drive in there. They didn't drive in. They just came over the hill through the woods. This was at night. There was a lot of anger expressed in letters to the editor. You can't imagine the number of letters of people threatening and that kind of thing that were in the newspapers—the local newspaper—the *Bitterroot Star* and the *Ravalli Republic* and in the Missoula paper. That commenced for quite a number of years, but it diminished slowly, I guess I would say, as a lot of these workers had to leave. And the Forest Service geared up to properly staffed themselves so that they could conduct business in a legal way. Could hire specialists—fisheries, watersheds, so forth—so that they could write a NEPA document—National Environmental Policy Act document—that would comply with the act and would insulate them from appeals and lawsuits. You could appeal, but if they complied with the laws and regulations, say, there was no point in it. But that took a lot...probably a decade to do.

To this day, the offered volume on the Bitterroot has been greatly diminished. The plan that they were operating at the time of the start of the controversy said that they could offer, I think it was, 32, about 34 million feet per year and build...the plan, the forest plan projected 20 miles of road—construct 20 miles of road each year—which would road many of the roadless areas. That, of course, generated more support to organize us as Friends of the Bitterroot to try to save some of these roadless areas. Some of them have been saved today as wilderness study areas on the forest and in other forests, because there was the same kind of organizations—type of organizations, citizens organizations—organized down in Bozeman and up in the Flathead and so forth. Because many of us could see that the watersheds and the fisheries resource, the wildlife resource would be destroyed at the rate the cutting...the road building, particularly, but the cutting also because that's combined with the road building, would just raise havoc with those resources. We felt our only recourse was to challenge the forest supervisor and the district rangers for not complying, as we viewed it, with the National Forest Management Act and their forest plans—standards—which they were required to do. So we appealed them, and some appeals went to litigation.

We had a case on the Beaverhead Forest that went to litigation over in the district court over in Great Falls. That was where the district court, where the trial was, and we won the case. That was on the Beaverhead Forest on a sale proposed in the Big Hole. After that, that just...what can I say [laughs], it shut down most of the timber sales on the, or the proposed sales, on the Beaverhead Forest, because they weren't either...they were not, just like the Bitterroot, they weren't staff to comply with the laws and the regulations of the forest plan standards. They just didn't have the money. So it took them a number of years to get those people on board to get the money from Congress to start complying with the laws, not just the National Environmental Policy Act, but the laws that established the national forests.

ARC: Are there any projects or aspects of Friends of the Bitterroot that you feel were particularly successful?



JG: I think our whole efforts were successful. I mean, we appealed timber sales under the law, under the regulations, and they could see in the appeal that they couldn't comply so they either pulled the sales off or put them back to try and redesign them and to do what they could to try to comply with the law until they could get proper financing to hire the specialists to do the work. When the money started coming through, they added some specialists at different forests, but the specialists had to work on two or three or four forests. In other words, they were shared because they didn't have the finance. So it was a slow process to get the timber sales program going again. They never did get to the road building program going again, really. The sales that they even have today was...there's a little bit of road building going on but not much.

But the result of our efforts are the WSA's—the Wilderness Study Act—areas that we have today, the ones that we have today—the Wilderness Study Act areas—were proposed, at one time, for timber sales. They were part of the timber sale base—the base in the timber in the forest plan that was supposed to be available for timber sales. There was also supposed to be available for road building. They projected—in the forest plan, the forest plan that actually exists today, but isn't being followed—was to project, I think it was, between 12 and 15 miles of road construction each year, which isn't happening of course. So they backed off these roads that many of the areas that weren't roaded, and those are the—in the Bitterroot Forest—are the Wilderness Study Act areas that are in existence, and on the Beaverhead Forest. They have some over there too, which are roadless areas that we basically save from road construction and timber sale harvesting. Saved them to be reconsidered as possible additions to the wilderness areas—existing wilderness areas.

That kind of summarizes, I guess, what some of the things that were done or accomplished. There was a lot of people involved in the Friends of the Bitterroot. We had probably 30, 40 people over the number of years that helped, especially in demonstrations or meeting with forest supervisors and so forth. But the big thing that really challenged the forest supervisors and the district rangers was the Friends of the Bitterroot and our review of their legal...of their documents—their NEPA documents—and their lack of complying with the laws that were required in the NEPA documents.

ARC: Was there anything you found particularly unsuccessful when it came to Friends of the Bitterroot on projects or just things you did?

JG: [pauses] You know, I can't...I guess, I can say as the Forest Service through the forest supervisors and the district rangers started complying with the laws and regulations in the forest plans standards—and not only started but actually did it and are doing it now—there was not...What can you say? There was no legal way to challenge that program, not that we wanted to or should, but once they started complying with the laws and regulations and the forest plan standards, in most cases they did. But in some cases even today, they may not be, and so there's still some review of timber sales. Some review on the ground and...mostly on the

ground. People going out on the ground to review them, but not...I was going to say not as representatives of Friends of the Bitterroot. Right now, the Friends of the Bitterroot is kind of inactive and has been for a number of years. But some of those former members are doing that. Larry's been doing that, and several other members working with Larry have been doing that. And you'd have to talk to Larry about what that involves and what effect they may have had and so forth. But the Friends of the Bitterroot as such is, at this point, pretty inactive. We don't have any officers or so forth, to that extent.

ARC: What was your role in Friends of the Bitterroot?

JG: Technical. I had a technical role to review the documents that they had—the legal documents that they put out—the NEPA documents, the National Environmental Policy Act document that they had to prepare, and the timber sales that they laid out. My role was to review all of that, and to see, in my opinion, whether it complied with the law. If it didn't, then I worked with another person to write up our appeal of that timber sale. We wrote a lot of appeals. [laughs] In some cases, it went all the way through the legal process—couple of cases—to the courts. The Beaverhead one, in particular I can think of, it went to the district court. Our representatives appeared in court, and our lawyer, our attorney, represented us, and we won a case and they backed...of course, they had to back off. It was given back to the forest supervisor. “You didn’t comply with the law, the regulations.” That kind of thing really, I think, had a big impact. Well, it did on forest supervisors and the district rangers. They knew they had to comply, and they knew they had to get staffed in order to get compliance. They knew they had to have more money from Congress in order to do that. But to answer your question, my job was to review the documents—the NEPA documents they prepared for each timber sale—and to, if we felt needed it, to write up an appeal.

ARC: How do you feel that your Forest Service background might have contributed to your role in FOB?

JG: Well, it was essential. I mean, you had a real deep knowledge of the laws, the regulations, and the forest plan standards that govern the administration of our national forests. It was what it was all about was, did you comply—you, the forest supervisor—with the laws, the regulations, and the forest plan standards? We're going to review your documents—the NEPA document—and if we feel they don't comply, we're going to appeal it. We appeal it, and if you turn it down, we're going to go do the judicial process. In other words, filing a lawsuit through our attorney, which we did in several occasions. That resulted in forest supervisors and basically the regional forester and the staff in Washington going after the money to properly comply with the laws. But that was...That took a number of, quite a number of, years to go through that process.

ARC: How long were you involved with the organization?

JG: [pauses] I was having to think about that. Probably a decade, actively involved in a decade. At least a decade, and longer in a, not-intensive role, just a member. Right now, the Friends of the Bitterroot is in, I guess I could say, remission. Larry keeps plugging away—thanks to him—but I don't think it's under Friends of the Bitterroot. He hasn't appealed anything. He just goes out on these proposed sales and with another couple members, of former members of Friends of the Bitterroot, and they review it and they discuss it and so forth—the proposal. Basically, that...I think you'll have to talk with Larry about it, I would suppose that, in Larry's opinion, they're in compliance with the laws and regulations and the forest plan standards.

Right now, and for a number of years, it's been kind of hard for me to get out in the woods or anything like that. I used to get out a lot and look at some of these proposals, but I can't do that anymore. But people like Larry can, you know, and some of the former Friends of the Bitterroot that he's working with that can do that. So that's kind of the story. [laughs]

ARC: I know you mentioned it a little, earlier, but could you go into more depth on how you came to join Friends of the Bitterroot?

JG: Well, I was just really concerned, in my opinion, that the laws and the regulations weren't being complied with. It was easy to see looking at the documents that they'd submit for timber sales, and looking out on the ground at the marking, that it just...And it wasn't that they...that in most cases, they didn't want to comply—that the forest supervisor and the district rangers didn't want to comply—they just plain couldn't. But they had to defend it. I mean, they felt they had to defend it. If they said, well, we can't do anything because we don't have the money so we're just...what can you say? That'd be insubordination. They'd just say that, well, we can't do that. Maybe if there had been a mass movement like that, they might have got the money. [laughs] I don't know what would have happened. But when you're working for an organization like the Forest Service, or a government organization, you do what you can to get the money but you also have to do your job as best you can and try to comply with the laws that govern your organization. In my opinion, I think most Forest Service employees tried to comply, but it was impossible for them. They just didn't have the staffing to do that kind of thing. But they still were charged with offering these timber sales, so they did what they could. But I could see that that wasn't happening.

So I thought the only way that we can resolve this dilemma was for a citizens group to organize...and in working with your grandfather and others, and others, to organize and to challenge it. In order to challenge, you have to have an organization like Friends of the Bitterroot, you have to have money, you have to go...And it takes quite a bit of money. So you either have to depend on dues, or in this case when you're talking to lots of money, you have to go to foundations. And Larry Campbell was instrumental in getting funding from those foundations. He had a good relationship with some of those foundations, one or two in particular, and it was on that basis that we could pay the person that was doing the writing. I worked with him. I worked with him in writing up our appeal. But we had to pay him. I didn't get any pay. But he did. We had to pay him. It took a lot of time. I didn't have to spend as much

time, but he had to spend a lot of time: researching, reviewing the laws, and doing the writing, and that kind of thing. We appealed a lot of documents over a period of four, five, six years. Many timber sales were appealed in that period.

ARC: How did you feel about your time overall with Friends of the Bitterroot in that period you were really active?

JG: I felt good about it. I felt badly for some of the people in the Forest Service that had to...they were caught in between, especially the ones that weren't the line officers—the supervisors or the regional forester—but others that worked for them that weren't the line officers that wanted to do the right thing but they didn't have the funding. They were being told, hey you...They were told by the line officers—the regional forester, the chief of the Forest Service and right on down. You know, it's kind of like the military in regard to direction. Their feet were being held to the fire to offer these sales. So they were doing what they could in most cases, and they were caught in between and it was a very difficult time for Forest Service employees who wanted to do the right thing but couldn't. You know, they just didn't have the financing, and they were being blamed by some of our members—some of our Friends of the Bitterroot. They were being blamed for not complying. They were personally blamed. So that was a hard thing for me to see because I had been employee of the Forest Service—a retiree—and I have a loyalty to the national forests and I have a certain amount of loyalty to the Forest Service [unintelligible] service. To me, I watched the people when I was a kid growing up, working on the national forest. So it was a personal relationship in a lot of cases right from time I was in grade school, high school. Yeah.

ARC: Did that influence your work at all with Friends of the Bitterroot?

JG: No, no. Well, I didn't get into some of the personal attacks on the agency. I certainly found fault with and got into criticizing some of the line officers that I felt could have done more to comply with the law or to at least try to make sales better and so forth, realizing that they were between a rock and a hard place. They were being held by the chief of the Forest Service and the regional foresters and, to a certain extent, by some of forest supervisors to get those sales out. So it wasn't a really easy time for me, but I had more loyalty, I guess, to the national forests when it got right down to it. My loyalty, in the end, was to the national forests and to see that they were properly administered. I could see that Forest Service people weren't being properly financed and, in some cases, weren't being properly led by some forest supervisors, some district rangers, some regional foresters—that kind of thing. So it was a tough time for the Forest Service as an organization, and tough time for some of us who had worked for the Forest Service and to see it attacked like that is a difficult thing.

ARC: Did you face any pressure while you were in the Forest Service to make sale or [unintelligible]?

JG: Oh, yeah. You bet. Yeah.

ARC: How did you deal with it?

JG: Well, I didn't have the pressure that ensued after I got out of the Forest Service. When I was in charge of timber sales, I was a forest staff officer working for the forest supervisor and fire and timber over on the Helena Forest. But the Bitterroot controversy just got started, and we didn't have to face that kind of criticism there. We did what we could, working...I worked with the foresters on the ranger districts to try to lay out the sales as best we could, to try to get the money. We tried to scale back, and we did, in cases, our timber sale program because we didn't feel we could meet the standards. But we weren't under the same pressure to...the east side forests weren't under as much pressure as these west side forests—national forests—because over on the east side there were still quite a bit of private timber available. So those mills over there could gain access, of course, to private timber. When I got over here, it was just towards the end of my career, and the Lolo Forest hadn't...[forest] supervisor hadn't, still didn't have the pressure that they did here in the Bitterroot. That controversy was starting to roll, and the forest supervisor wasn't as much pressure. Consequently, I was responsible for timber sales on the Lolo Forest, and it was a big program—big program. One of the bigger in this region. But I was only there, what, five years. Four or five years. By the time I got out, the pressure just started on forests like the forests other than the Bitterroot. The Lolo Forest, the pressure was just getting started on them. Pressure was just starting on the forest supervisors up at Kalispell. So I, as a person working on timber sales and working in the Forest Service, I didn't have to face that kind of pressure.

ARC: Could we go back briefly just to...you were talking about job loss with the sawmill workers and the loggers, and how they kind of took that our on Friends of the Bitterroot and other organizations? Did you personally ever receive any violence or [unintelligible] violence?

JG: No. No, I didn't. I think the people who were living, especially people like Larry, who were living right there near the mills, near where the woods workers live, near where the mill workers lived—although there were mill workers coming from here, woods workers from all, but nothing like up at Darby—so I didn't feel the pressure, I think, that...Larry wrote a lot and wrote quite a lot about letters to the editor, that kind of thing, so he was he was more out in the public eye, I guess I could say, than most of the rest of us.

ARC: How did Friends of the Bitterroot respond to that violence?

JG: [pauses] We went to the forest supervisor in the forest, and we—the president of the Friends of the Bitterroot and some of the rest of us—went to the forest supervisor and expressed our real displeasure, our real anger, at what was occurring. We also talked to...some of us talked to the sheriff of Ravalli County about the threats and things, but nothing much was ever done. Of course, we talked about the attack, I was talking to you about in the encampment up at Tincup. Larry could talk more about that and about talking with the sheriff. So there was an effort to try to get some enforcement of laws that would protect the safety of people,

but...It may have done some good. Nobody was seriously injured or even injured, which is kind of amazing because there was a lot of emotion. There was property damage. There was people like Larry set up on, physically attacked. Name calling, threats, but we went through that period without any real, serious, like a shooting or anything like that, but the potential was certainly there and we could all see that. We could all see that. It was something that that Larry had to be very aware of because he was living right there, you know. So there was some members that were under a lot of risk. There's not very little risk now, basically because there is no mills in existence. They just they ran out of supply and shut down. Four mills shut down and put a hell of a lot of people out of work—woods workers and mill workers.

It's hard to imagine if the frustration, the anger that those people felt, and Larry knows about that kind of thing and I'm sure some of the other Friends of the Bitterroot because they lived in places that were close by, not as exposed as Larry, I don't think, but certainly isolated in wooded areas and that kind of...So they were...there was a certain amount of risk, but that's the documents that the University [of Montana] has doesn't bring that out. That's a whole another story that people need to tell through interviews just like you're doing now. These people need to be interviewed and probably people who...no Friends of the Bitterroot, but people who were possibly woods workers or mill workers—I don't know who they might be—but they'd probably be some around. I'm sure, because a lot of them, they should be interviewed too, if you want the full story. I think that the University owes that. I think they should have the full story. When you look up the files there at the University, it should tell the full story on both sides. I think. That's the duty of a university to try to be as straightforward as they can.

ARC: Is there anything else you'd like to add to this conversation or anything—

JG: No, just that I appreciate you're being here. I appreciate...and you can tell your supervisor that I appreciate it. I appreciate their interest, and I particularly appreciate the fact that the University is interested in getting this complete story. You haven't got it yet even...there's a lot more interviewing to be done. But I think it's unique in the Bitterroot. The controversy that went on about the, at that time, on whether it's Kalispell or ever about the cutting on the national forests. And I don't know as it was ever done, ever happened before in Montana. So it's important that the University document it with interviews of other people so that there's an objective...that the University is dealing it in an objective manner. Talking to all sides of the controversy. Like I say, it was a huge controversy. It's hard to even now imagine the intensity of it.

ARC: How would you describe that intensity?

JG: Well, [laughs] there were people who were threatened with probably...I think, with even their lives. Yeah. Could be. Certainly serious...they were at serious risk of injury and possibly their lives. Not only here, but up on the Flathead. But that's part of the overall controversy involved at that time period, not just the Bitterroot Forest, but...the Bitterroot is kind of a case history because, just because it's kind of an isolated forest. It's compact. It's not spread out, and

it involves just the Bitterroot Valley basically in the Bitterroot Forest. So it's important that, I think, that the University follow and try to interview more people and get the full story and have that on file. Yeah, I think that's important. Will make more work for you. [laughs]

ARC: [laughs] Well, thank you for your time, John. I appreciate it.

JG: I appreciate it your...it's Donna [McCrea, Head of Archives and Special Collections], isn't it?

[End of Interview]