

ORAL HISTORY
2000-95-20
PT. 1-3

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Tape/Transcript Key Word Index

Tape Number: 1 **Date of Interview:** Nov. 12, 1999

Narrator(s): William C. Reffalt

Interviewer: Christine L. Stephensen

Others Present:

Location of Interview: USFWS Bldg. 1011 E. Tudor Rd. Anchorage, AK 99503

Indexed by: Christine L. Stephensen **Date:** December 30, 2002

Index prepared from: Tape

Comments

Personal Names mentioned:

Billy the Kid

Places mentioned:

Denver, CO; UCO; CSU; Deer Flat NWR, Napa, ID; Minnedoka NWR; Bear River Bird Refuge, Brigham City, UT; Bitter Lake NWR, Roswell, NM; Old Apache Camp; Good Night Loving Trail Cattle Drive; Albuquerque, NM; Washington, D.C.; Saw Creek Wilderness

What Projects were discussed?

*Desert National Wildlife Range, Las Vegas, NV-Student Trainee Program-USFWS

*Alpine Snow Research-Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Station, CO-Research Assistant-USFS

*Deer Ecology Study-Research Assistant-CO Game & Fish Dept.

*Self-Serve Fee Booth Program-Bitter Lake NWR

*28 EIS-K Street Office, Washington, D.C.-Division of Refuges-Alaska Area-Populations Biologist Specialist in Resources Branch & "Neutral" Coordinator for K Street Office (July 18, 1973)

What issues and/or events were brought up?

*Basic Manager's Training School-Minneapolis, MN

*Experimental Fee Program Area

*Wilderness Bill-Wilderness Act

*6-month, Departmental Elite Management Training Program-Washington, D.C.

*ANCSA (Jan. 1971)

*Automated technology available during the mid-70s (in pertaining to the 28 EIS)

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Tape Number: 2 **Date of Interview:** Nov. 12, 1999

Narrator(s): William C. Reffalt

Interviewer: Christine L. Stephensen

Others Present:

Location of Interview: USFWS Bldg. 1011 E. Tudor Rd. Anchorage, AK 99503

Indexed by: Christine L. Stephensen **Date:** December 30, 2002

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Comments

Personal Names mentioned:

Jimmy Carter; Cecil Andrus; Udall; Gordon Watson; Hank Hansen; Clay Hardy; Reagan; Watt; Horn

Places mentioned:

Noatak National Preserve, AK; Shismaref, AK; Kenai Fjords, AK; Katmai, AK; Albuquerque, NM; Izembek, AK

What Projects were discussed?

- * 28 EIS were changed due to the Jimmy Carter Administration (1976)
- *Organic Legislation-Wilderness Society
- *"History of National Wildlife Refuge System" (book he is writing)

What issues and/or events were brought up?

- *ANCSA (in 1976)
- *Alaska Lands Act
- *Designation of Wilderness
- *Bob Conn's 36-page document on Alaska Lands Act
- *ANWR
- *NPRA

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Tape Number: 3 **Date of Interview:** Nov. 12, 1999

Narrator(s): William C. Reffalt

Interviewer: Christine L. Stephensen

Others Present:

Location of Interview: USFWS Bldg. 1011 E. Tudor Rd. Anchorage, AK 99503

Indexed by: Christine L. Stephensen **Date:** December 30, 2002

Index prepared from: Tape

Comments

Personal Names mentioned:

Christine Enright Reffalt; Burkett Neely; Clayton Hardy; Morris LeFever

Places mentioned:

Alaska National Maritime Wildlife Refuge, AK

What Projects were discussed?

What issues and/or events were brought up?

*Regional Wildlife Society Meeting, NM

An Interview with William C. Reffalt (3 tapes)

An interview with Mr. William C. Reffalt, (for the Oral History Project of the US Fish and Wildlife Service), was conducted by Christine L. Stephensen on November 12, 1999.

The topics discussed were, (1) Mr. Reffalt's early years in Denver, CO, including his parents' background, and activities he participated in; (2) his military experience after high school; (3) using the GI Bill to attend Colorado State University in Wildlife Management (BS-1963); (4) his work at Desert National Wildlife Range, Las Vegas, NV, through the student trainee program (sponsored by the USFWS); (5) his work as a Research Assistant at the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Station in CO (through the Forest Service); (6) becoming the Assistant Refuge Manager at Deer Flat NWR, Napa, ID, and his troubles with the refuge manager; (7) his 2-month stint at the Minnedoka NWR, and his return to Deer Flat NWR; (8) attending the 11-week Basic Manager's Training School in Minneapolis, MN; (9) becoming the Assistant Refuge Manager at Bear River Bird Refuge, Brigham City, UT; (10) obtaining the Refuge Manager's position at Bitter Lake NWR, Roswell, NM; (11) the development of his award-winning, "Self-Service Fee Booth Program" (used country-wide); (12) his first introduction to the Wilderness Act, and his study that created the Saw Creek Wilderness at Bitter Lake; (13) attending the 6-month, departmental, Elite Management Training Program in Washington, D.C.; (14) returning to the Albuquerque Regional Office as a Wildlife Biologist for the Federal Aide Division; (15) becoming the Regional Wildlife Biologist (Refuge Division) for the 8-state Albuquerque Region; (16) his introduction to ANCSA, and his work in D.C. for Alaska; (17) becoming a permanent employee with the Division of Refuges as a Populations Biologist Specialist in the Resources Branch assigned to the Alaska office, making him the "neutral" Coordinator for the K Street Office (July 1973); (18) his K Street staff, the 28 EIS they were assigned to complete by December 17, 1973, and the automated technology available at that time; (19) the completion of the EIS and the aftermath caused by the media; (20) the 1976 Jimmy Carter Administration's affects on the EIS, ANCSA, and the USFWS (Cecil Andrus); (21) becoming Chief of Refuges, then reassigned to ADC by the Reagan Administration; (22) leaving the USFWS and doing organic legislation for the Wilderness Society; (23) taking time off to write his book, "History of the National Wildlife Refuge System"; (24) his reflections of the USFWS's beginnings to the present, plus his career highs and lows; (25) meeting his wife, Christine Enright Reffalt, and her career positions; and (26) an interview list which includes Burkett Neely, Clayton Hardy, and Morris LeFever.

This was the one and only session with Mr. Reffalt. He was only in Anchorage for a few days, and graciously carved out some time for this interview. The session lasted approximately 3 hours, and generated a little over 2 cassette tapes of information.

I was impressed by Mr. Reffalt's ability to convey so much information considering the short amount of time and preparation he must have had.

I felt the interview went very well. Mr. Reffalt has a great sense of humor, which added to the enjoyment of the interview. He is personable, and I felt comfortable during the interview.

Mr. Reffalt offered to do a follow-up interview if the project felt more information was needed. However, another interviewer would have to continue due to my circumstances.