

Gathering Our Voice

Interviewee: Phil Archibald

Interviewer: Nancy Warner

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Transcribed by Heather Jones, AmeriCorps Volunteer

NW: This is Nancy Warner and I am here with Phil Archibald at his home in the Entiat Valley and the day is December 12, 2012. And we are going to talk about some of your background Phil and then your experiences with the Forest Service in the Entiat Ranger District and this is part of the part of the community work we've been doing around the Community Success Summit which was held last month in the Entiat School. So if I could just start by asking you something pretty basic like when you were born?

PA: I was born in uh November 1947

NW: And where were you born?

PA: San Francisco, California

NW: I thought you were a California guy. Ok all right. So then where did you go to school?

PA: All over the United States. My father was an Air Force officer so we would I was a military brat we got transferred all around. So um I went to school in the East Bay, in New Mexico, in Alabama, Iowa, Ohio a little bit in Maine and several places in California. I once made a list of um I had been to by the time I graduated high school I had been to 17 different schools. And I graduated from high school in Zenia, Ohio which is near an Air Force base. Oh so

NW: Wow 17 schools. Oh my gosh. So you moved about every year.

PA: Two to three. But sometimes we'd like when we went to New Mexico we lived in short in a period of 6 months we lived in one, two, three different places. And they were far apart. So we lived up in high hills, Tia Rosa, Alamogordo, then we moved on the base. Then we moved three times on the base. In always trying to move into better housing so yea.

NW: Wow, so how many brothers and sisters do you have brothers and sisters?

PA: I do, I have five sisters and no brothers.

NW: Well how did you all handle that? Just support each other a lot during all those moves?

PA: Differently I don't you know. It never - it never bothered me. I never thought about it until I became socially aware as a young teenager and when we we were scheduled to move from Berkley, California to - I thought we were going to San Antonio, Texas and then my father said no he's got orders to go to Brussels, Belgium. So that was really exciting and then no we were

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going to move to Ohio. And um I really got mad at that time and I remember kicking a door off its hinges and so my parents did their best to accommodate me. They left me behind while they moved the family cross country. So I got to finish the semester of 10th grade in Berkley. Then I flew on an airplane to meet them, in Iowa where we lived with my grandparents for another semester. Then I finished that school and then I flew from there to Dayton, Ohio where they had moved to government housing. I started the eleventh no finished the tenth grade in Dayton, Ohio. Then the eleventh grade then we moved then we got out of government quarters and moved into a town called Zenia, Ohio into a private house and that was nice so I spent the eleventh and twelfth grade in Ohio. Zenia, Ohio.

NW: Oh good. Where is that by Toledo or something?

PA: No it's down south. Dayton is the nearest large city so it north of Cincinnati, south of Columbus and East of Dayton.

NW: So where in all this did you get interested in nature?

PA: Well probably in New Mexico - we lived there for four years. And again you know moving from high rolls to Alamogordo to Tis Rosa to the base I spent a lot of time just wandering out in the desert. Looking for lizards and rocks and arrowheads and whatever was out there. And at that time my father would take me out hunting and fishing quite a bit too so you know we spent a lot of time out of doors.

NW: Oh ok so so where did he grow up? How did he get interest in hunting and fishing?

PA: In Maine.

NW: Oh ok. And how about your mom? Was she also from New England?

PA: Nope she's from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She's the daughter of first generation immigrants from Czechoslovakia. So she grew up in a house that spoke Czech. And she for a while was bilingual but she was anxious to leave her European identity behind. They were they were um I don't know, not persecuted is not the the right word. There was a bias against eastern European immigrants - Polish, Czech - so she wanted to blend in and be as American as she could as quickly as she could. So she quit speaking Czech. She can still read she could still read it when she died but she had not spoken it for a long time.

[5:16]

NW: Oh huh

PA: Yeah

NW: So you didn't learn any of that

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PA: No no

NW: Ok so is Archibald English?

PA: Scottish

NW: Oh Scottish, of course you look very Scottish. Ok all right wow what an interesting, boy you are flexible. You were taught to be flexible with all that moving around.

PA: Yea it builds an adaptability in you whether you like it or not because if you don't you're going to be very unhappy all your life.

NW: Yeah

PA: I made the best of it. But as soon as I could get out of Ohio I did. I applied to University of California at Davis for my freshman year. And I went there and that's where I met Kim in 1965.

NW: Yeah that's what I heard before.

PA: Yea

NW: So you guys have been together a long time long time. Ok so um did you know what major you wanted to have when you went to UC Davis?

PA: Nope no it was 1965 I was just in college. I had applied to Syracuse University in New York and also Oberlin College in Ohio because Syracuse had a forestry program which the idea kind of appealed to me but I had no idea what it was about. And Oberlin had some sort of resource natural resource program that also the idea appealed to me and I forget the particulars but I was accepted to Davis and it looked like a ticket out of Ohio so boom, I went. Yea

[6:45]

NW: Ok yea UC Davis in 1965

PA: Yeah Yeah

NW: Yeah great. Ok then so did you do a bachelor's degree there?

PA: No I flunked out there

NW: Ok

PA: Yeah I flunked out and Kim did not so we were separated. I lost my student deferment - the old 2S, I had a 2S deferment. And that was during the Vietnam War so as soon as I flunked out I lost my deferment and within a few months I well I moved back to Zenia living with my parents paying room and board working part time jobs. Then I got a um draft notice and it was basically to report for induction physical which meant well it was the first step in being drafted. If you're

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physically fit then the next step meant you're going to get drafted. So I enlisted in the Navy to avoid being drafted. The tradeoff was the enlistment in the Navy was for four years on active duty and being drafted was only two years but I figured being drafted was a sure, you know, way to get killed in a hurry and being in the Navy I thought was relatively safe. Well for a few years it was and then I got um um I made grade (?) I advanced and as soon as I became a second class person I got orders and I thought I was going to go to a ship and actually I did it was a minesweeper out of Long Beach and then within a month they had changed it to for me to report to a Navy mobile construction battalion out of Port Hueneme, California which is CB's. And CB's don't even wear the Navy uniform - they wear marine fatigues and boots and hats and carry weapons and do constructions projects there. So there CB's are non-combatant but they're armed for defensive purposes only. So anyway to make a long story short I ended up in Vietnam anyway in the CBs but as a non-combatant in a secure area. And the kind of work the CB's did in those days was building airstrips and roads and working on the infrastructure. In Vietnam and they did quite a bit of outreach, schools, dental clinics, medical clinics, housing for homeless people - it was all it was very I don't know kind of interesting.

NW: Oh very interesting wow. So what years were you there?

PA: I enlisted in '66 and then I spent time in New Jersey well the Great Lakes, Illinois then Jersey year and a half. So uh 68 so from 68 to 70 when I got out I made two deployments. I made one deployment the first was to Da Nang and the second deployment was to Okinawa that was at the time when Nixon as president was ostensibly ramping down American involvement in Vietnam and we were still all there we just weren't in Vietnam - we were on the outlying islands Philippines, Okinawa, Australia. Everywhere there were American service men within a few hours of Vietnam. Anyways Okinawa is not very fun. The Japanese still resented the Americans from World War II - the Americans had some sort of political control over Okinawa. The Japanese wanted to revert - I mean the Okinawans wanted to revert to Japanese control. So Americans weren't very popular there. Then I got sent to um a small detail in the Marianas Islands, um Guam um and spent the rest of that deployment on um Guam.

NW: Huh. What did you do there?

PA: I was a personnel man basically an office worker. Um in charge of enlisted records. So every member of the armed services has a service record. They document everything about them and it has to be maintained and updated and then every time they move they have to have orders cut, they have to performance evaluations, so these I was in charge of doing all of those also personnel accounting. The Navy has a personnel accounting machine installation and I think it's in Patuxent, Maryland. Every month we would have to send personnel reports of exactly how many people and what ratings they were to Patuxent. With a battalion with several thousand men we had details spreading all over the Pacific it was hard keeping track of that but that is what I did.

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[11:16]

NW: You did a lot of things I mean the outreach in um Da Nang

PA: Yea, Da Nang.

NW: Yeah that sounds really interesting. So the theme continues - lots of diversity in your background. Then what happened when you got home and got out of the Navy?

PA: When I got out of the Navy in 1970 in um Port (?) California. I worked for about a month maybe two no I got out in June, July-August, September as a taxi driver. It was about the only job I could find and I worked the night shift from 6 in the evening to 6 in the morning and I was not making any money I mean I was just paying the rent and that's all. And um a friend of mine who was stationed on a ship in Long Beach got out and he stopped by my house on his way back to Seattle of all places. And he stayed there for about a day and we talked and I told him I wasn't very happy and um he said why don't you come to Seattle and I thought why not. And within a couple days I had thrown everything I owned into my car and was on my way to Seattle and that was September 1970 and I've been in lived in Washington state ever since.

NW: Whoa so let's see how old were you then?

PA: Well I was older than 21. I would have to take a piece of paper and do some math.

NW: Yeah oks early twenties

PA: Early Twenties

NW: Where's Kim? Kim from UC Davis during this time?

PA: Kim was long gone. She and her husband um well let's see. She stayed in school at Davis and graduated and became involved with another man and married him and he was doing master's research and I forget in what and they went to Germany and so they were in Germany for a while - I don't know how long exactly, probably less than 2 years, maybe just about 2 years while he completed his master's thesis. Then Kim just you know lived there and taught English and you know and then they toured around Europe and then they came back to this country only at that time they didn't want to return to this country because of the Vietnam War thing so as a protest gesture they immigrated to Canada. They returned to Canada and just cut their ties in the US. He was from Stockton and she was from Reno, Nevada so she and Peter, her then husband, lived in Canada and I forget the exact chronology

But when you live in Canada you kind of move back and forth between the big eastern cities Montreal and Ottawa and Vancouver and she um eventually she and her husband separated and she went to um University of British Columbia to get a librarian degree so she has a MLS from UBC. And she met another man and they then moved back east to Ontario where they had

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bought some property and built a house and um the story's almost getting to long. I had attempted to contact her after I got out of the Navy - I contacted her family in Reno

NW: This is when you were a taxi driver?

PA: This is well yea just after that so by the yeah I moved up to Seattle and I was living with my friend in his apartment with his girlfriend and that became uncomfortable after a couple of months so then the next thing was to go back east to visit my family and um sisters and by then they were living in Kansas City, Missouri so I went to Kansas City anyways and on the way back from Kansas City I had left a car back in Ohio so I hitchhiked a while got the car anyways coming back to the West Coast back to Washington I stopped in Reno and called her house and talked to her father who sort of remembered me not very fondly I am sure. But he would not tell me where she was - he wouldn't give me her address or phone number but he would take a message. So I gave him this brief message who I was and where I lived and what my phone number and address were and I expected that was going to be the last of it umm. And then a few years went by and then I got a letter from Kim. And then a few more years went by and I wrote her back. (laughing) Then a few more years went by and I got another letter from her uh and I am not sure on the chronology here but it was a long, long time this was and she wrote me a letter that she was coming that she was going back to Reno to visit her family and parents for the first time in a long time because she had become estranged from them. To do that she had to go to Vancouver, fly to Vancouver then she had to cross the border in a bus to Seattle and at that point all she could afford was to get on a train or bus to go to Reno to visit. So she knew that I, of course, lived in Seattle and she just was wondering if I had time to see her and I thought well sure and I wrote her back right away yes and I made arrangements to meet her at the bus station. And it was an afternoon a nice summer it was in June of um 1982 and I picked her up at the bus station. I was working downtown Seattle and um we went and you know walked along the waterfront and had dinner and we've been together ever since.

NW: Oh that's great you hadn't seen her since 1965, wow that's impressive. Oh that's a great story, oh my gosh. I assumed you know you had been together since 1965. Not quite

PA: No there's a little bit of a gap.

[17:18]

NW: Yeah little bit of a gap. So what then were you doing in Seattle? Did you go back to school then?

PA: Yes, when I came back to Seattle I got a job and got my own apartment down in Kent and as soon as I could using the GI bill I went back to school at Green River Community College and just sort of took a little bit of everything just to see what I was interested in. Became interested in art through art history and then started taking drawing and painting and design courses. Then concentrated on graphic design. Got accepted to the U - University of Washington in '73, 4, 5 in

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'75 so then I went to U Dub and graduated from U Dub in 77 with a Bachelor's in fine arts and graphic design. Then I started free lancing for a while then I started working for a guy that was really good and making a lot of money – I did that until um 86.

NW: Oh long time

PA: Well um it was actually probably when Kim and I got together back together in 82 I had probably been working there since about two years. So 80 to 86 – yea. Six years, 6 years. But I um by then I realized I really I didn't want to spend the rest of my life doing that, you know life in the fast lane.

NW: Oh commercial drafting

PA: Yeah

NW: Computers - so you were using computers?

PA: No, no, no. This is old school-this is with a drawing board and T-squares and compass lines and razor blades and pens and inks and brushes and yeah no this was this was old school. The computer era of graphic design had not someone had envisioned it I think Adobe had just set up a headquarters in Seattle or something like that. The people who knew about it and could do computer graphic design were few and far between.

NW: Yeah I was thinking 90's yeah

PA: Yeah, yeah. So I went back to school and Kim at that time was working at Seattle University as a librarian had a fairly steady job and allowed me to quit working as a designer and go back to school and we talked long and hard about well what should I do with the rest of my life and she encouraged me and said well what do you really love. And of course it was the outdoors it was things being around water. And every weekend we would go camping somewhere Cle Elum mainly. Cle Elum area Yakima area um I discovered eastern Washington very early after I one of the first trips I made when I arrived in Washington was to come east of the mountains in the fall of 70 with some friends of mine to go bird hunting you know it was you know that was it that's where I wanted to be. It just took me twenty years to get out of Seattle.

[20:19]

NW: Oh my

PA: So I went back to school in '86 at the UW to get a degree in fisheries and I decided to do it right so I went a full four years to take all the math and science that I have dodged around the first time and um graduated with a second bachelor's in 90 then worked a seasonal job in Idaho with the Forest Service and another seasonal job in southeast Washington out of Dayton on the Snake River for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Then I decided I needed a master's

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degree and applied to University of Idaho. And in the spring of 92 I got accepted to University of Idaho graduate program and I had also applied for a job at the Entiat Ranger District as kind of an entry level biologist a GS 7.

NW: In 92?

PA: '92 yes

NW: Oh ok

PA: And that's how our life here begins I took I said the hell with graduate school- I had enough with education and I took the job with Entiat, it was a temporary job and I just kept at it and things just kept snowballing and it turned into a permanent job. And so I've been in the Entiat for 22 years and September, October, November, December, and seven months.

NW: Ok wow, oh I will just

PA: Which isn't very long you know. You've got to have two or three generations under your belt before you're a real local.

NW: Given you're um life path it's a whole long time you've been in this place.

PA: It is for both of us - actually this is the longest either of us have been in a single place.

NW: Yeah, yeah. So tell me about those two seasonal jobs before you came to the Entiat. What did you do in those seasonal jobs?

PA: Well the first one was in on the Nez Perce Forest out of Elks City, Idaho and it was a real it was a GS4 doing stream survey work. And um it was a summer job I took just as soon as I got out of school in 90 I went directly over there and worked for them. Um in the mountains and streams in the northeast Clearwater. I forget now, Elks City is an old mining town gold mining town and the place was really-all major streams and rivers were really torn up by dredge mining for gold. And um but it was um a great job and I really got to know the Forest Service a bit and liked the people and liked um the working conditions so but then that job ended in October, November or '90. No '91 then I came home back to Seattle started filling out job applications job applications and applications to graduate school and finally late in the spring of 91 or late in the winter early in the spring got a bite from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife an application that I had submitted to be in charge of two crews sampling um northern pike minnow or at the time they were called squawfish on the at the four dams at the Snake River. They wanted to know everybody wanted to know how much predation by the squawfish on salmon and steelhead smolts and how many were there they were trying to develop population estimates um everything from how many eggs - what was their fertility. So we collected a lot of data. The intertribe the Columbia Intertribal Fish Commission hired crews of anglers to work the dam on twelve hour shifts and catch squawfish. And they would keep them alive-they would put them in big live

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wells with pumps. We would come around and sample those fish. We would tag a certain percentage of them and release them. We'd collect scales, we'd um kill a certain percentage and collect um egg samples and you know gonad samples, tissue samples, scale samples, weight and measurement and um handle a lot of fish. And um but that two was a temporary job from I don't know October of 91 so it was back home to Seattle. But that job allowed me to live down in um the Pomeroy-Dayton area which I really like. Kim and I have friends down there. The Tucannon River we really like that area so I got to spend a summer down there then back to Seattle. Then more scratching - sending out more job applications - started watching the job announcements. I'm thinking about going to graduate school we even drove to Moscow and talked to professors in fisheries there. And um but I wasn't really all that keen on it - it just I keep seeing all these job announcements wanting masters degrees I was thinking aw damn. And then the Wenatchee National Forest put out a job announcement for several ranger districts and I applied specifically to the Entiat District and um got hired.

[24:45]

NW: Oh good, no more, no graduate school

PA: Yea no graduate school. I gave up on that it was easy to let that go.

NW: Yeah good for you. So 92, you started in spring of 92?

PA: Uh huh

NW: And what was the title of the first job?

PA: Fisheries biologist but it was just salmon which is you know.

NW: Ok, were you replacing someone or did you work alongside someone?

PA: Entiat had not had a fisheries biologist or hydrologist really since um the 1970's when a guy named Ralph Holdby was on the district and he wasn't I don't know how long he was here. He did some pretty interesting work- I've looked at old documents of his. But between him and me there was another guy and he was called he was called a watershed technician and his name was Art Johnson. Art Johnson is the father of Mark Johnson. Mark and Nancy live in Entiat. They have two sons Brody Johnson who lives in Wenatchee and Ty Johnson who is a veterinarian at Cascade Vet Clinic and Ty Johnson is married to Emily who used to be Emily Kirit(?). Emily Kirit worked for me for quite a few years so anyway.

NW: Well that's interesting. I know Ty Johnson.

PA: Yeah Yeah

NW: Ok

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PA: His father is Mark Johnson and Mark's father is Art.

NW: And he was the fisheries technician?

PA: - Yeah, watershed technician was his title. But I've you know I've been looking through the old paper records and I found a lot of he left a lot of tracks. And he did pretty good work; he did really good work actually.

NW: So his job as opposed to your job by 1992 they were more focused on wanting to know about the fish populations is that true?

PA: Well yes, that and but um the real um big driver was the Wenatchee National Forest Plan which was signed in 1990 - the decision notice was 1990. And um that first plan said that the Wenatchee National Forest was going to do a lot of stuff with respect to restoring species and habitat especially aquatic species and aquatic habitats. But you can't restore or work on something if you don't know what condition it's in. So we launched into a fairly extensive period of collecting doing stream surveys. Data intensive stream surveys on all the major waters on the district. And that wasn't just Entiat it was happening Lake Wenatchee, Naches, Cle Elum and up north in the Methow.

NW: So surveying in the streams, depths, speeds, water?

NW: So when you started your job in the Entiat fisheries biologist did that kind of um you know those objectives were you talking to the oldtimers who had been around? Working before the Army Corps straightened it out and everything?

PA: I did set out to knock on doors and talk to people but something happened in Entiat that summer the summer of '92. There had been um Washington Department of Fish actually I don't know it used to be WDW and WDF but anyways an enforcement officer had cited a local landowner for clearing brush along the bank of the river next to his orchard which is fairly common and actually still is for a variety of reasons which we can talk about later. But he got cited and um his name is John Henton. John is not a fellow to sit and take it quietly so he made a stink. He got a hold of his local elected representative and he ya know raised hell and um what it did was it drew a lot of attention to the Entiat and it sort of polarized the community as well. A lot of the locals you know we don't, you know, we don't need you government types and telling us what to do and how to manage our land and we have been here longer then you and you know the whole story. And there were a series of meetings that included landowners it included resource people like me and it included people from Olympia from Washington Department of Wildlife and Washington Department of Fisheries and also Washington Conservation Commission a guy Ed Manery I remember him coming over several times. BPA sent up a representative -Bonneville Power Administration- a guy name Roy Batey he came up, he is still around, to moderate these meetings and basically the whole point was just to let everybody speak their piece and get it out and see if something could be done. No one even knew what that

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something was. It turned out that the citation against John Henton was dropped or somehow was rescinded I forget what the term is but the state didn't follow through on that. But that led to the formation of an Entiat landowners group. It included people like Ray Sandidge, Russ Griffiths, and Conard Petersen and the Small brothers Jon and Jim and Jack Asher. At that time Dale Foreman was the elected representative so he was very visible and a number of other names which escape me. I can go upstairs and get my big book and give you the list of name if you want them.

NW: Ok so what year is it again? '90?

PA: 92?

[32:16]

NW: The year you started

PA: Yeah that was midsummer to fall of 92 then by 93 meetings continued to happen and there is a chronology of those meetings in the watershed plan and I have forgotten exactly when they were but I always attended them because the Forest Service had a sort of a role in the community and it always had here and uh and it also if I could have not attended it was up to me but it sort of fit in my the um the religion I had acquired which was water and preservation of clean water. And fisheries was just my way at getting at working in the water working near the water. I could have been a hydrologist for that matter. Also I understood I had somehow developed this knowledge or this feeling that if anyone was going to get anywhere the Forest Service had to get involved with the local community not just you know too many Forest Service employees I thought would draw you know the line the green line on the map and they work on Forest Service side and if its on the private part line they don't work we don't go there even though all the important stuff happening in terms of water, water quality, water use is all downstream from the Forest boundaries. So all the big issues for me were on private land and the private community, the way water was allocated and used and um on private land. And fortunately I had support of the district ranger Karen Whitehall, my supervisor, the district hydrologist and program manager whose name Rick Edwards and the forest supervisor Sonny O'Neal. They all felt strongly and the same way I did and they gave me a pretty long leash to participate in really what wasn't a Forest Service activity but it was a watershed activity. You know it depends on your extent of your view of the world and my view of the world was watershed wide. And so um boy the history kind of escapes me now there were meetings there were complaints there were people and then of course there were lots of rumblings about endangered species listings. The owl, the northern spotted owl had been listed and the all the information was being collected on the upper Columbia, spring Chinook, steelhead, bull trout didn't look good they were all and it wasn't just Entiat - all the upper Columbia tributaries and the Yakima all had plummeting populations and you can look at graphs of fish numbers and everyone bottomed out in '94 for a

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variety of reasons which aren't really important right now. Some of it was local, some of it was harvest, some of it was ocean conditions which turned out to be one of the big drivers.

NW: So there is this growing recognition of the need to act in the watershed and you're trying to gather information to implement the Forest Plan and these listing are coming along and there this sort of edginess in the community

PA: Yeah, tension

NW: And so then how does watershed planning get started?

PA: Well um

NW: Well I know it goes way back

PA: Yeah, it does actually. Well I guess the official beginning was a group of landowners including Al Shannon who then was the president of the Chamber of Commerce and is a local orchardist. Probably Ray, probably Conard, probably Jim and Jon Small with the support of the which was then called the Chelan County Conservation District which is now Cascadia. Um a guy named Phil Mcholey, Rick Edwards, my supervisor and me attended an Entiat Chamber of Commerce meeting with the idea to get to gather support for um sort of developing a watershed plan. And it would um it would look at past efforts to collect some new data but it would involve the community. Because they are the water users. It turns at the Natural Resources Conservation Service which was then called the SCS, Soil Conservation Service, had sort of a template no they did they had a template for doing just that and I forget the name of it . It was a complicated acronym. They had just completed the process over in Sotum (?) Creek they were working heavily in wheat country over on Snake River tribs. And we got their representatives from Spokane to come over and talk to us about their method - so their methodology. There were several organizational meetings in Entiat and by then the group had gotten quite large. We would meet at the Grange um and sort of I guess you'd describe them as um visioning meetings although none of the landowners would use that terminology. The idea is to you know was to get people to speak to articulate what their idea for a watershed was you know what they wanted out of it you know their community. And I strongly believe by that time I was not a brand new newly minted you know undergraduate I already had a few years on me and so at the time I guess I was what would I have been in 92? 40-something?

NW: Yeah I mean you been around you been around you've been in Vietnam . . .

PA: So in '87 I would have been 40 so at that time I would have been 45.

NW: Ok

PA: And I was beginning to embark on a second career. But I had this deep feeling that I what I knew I could offer what I knew about my expertise to do water and fisheries in with just a little

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bit of cooperation and working together that's what I could offer, that's what the Forest Service could offer to this group. I always made it clear I wanted to help out I wasn't there that's the good this about working for the Forest Service they are non-regulatory it the Forest Service is a resource management agency the regulatory agencies are the one who get everybody in trouble when they start handing out violations and citations DOE is regulatory, WDFW is regulatory, NMFS is regulatory, US Fish & Wildlife is regulatory. All these they all have this regulatory power that the Forest Service doesn't have which kind of lets you work let me work in a good place.

NW: So they'd you'd been here a while so you'd become kind of a trusted broker. Maybe not broker . . . ?

PA: That took a while that took a while. There was a lot of distrust for the first couple of years. Then in '94 things were sort of starting to get rolling, we thought we had we thought we were organizing, we thought we were going to us this NRCS watershed multiple resource management planning process. We had brought in some outside experts. You know the landowners were kind of grumbling we'll see we'll see how this goes we'll see what comes of it. And then the Tyee fire came along in the July of '96 and of course that sucked my life up for the next two years doing burned area surveys and environmental assessments of all the burned area for recovery or whatever.

[40:42]

NW: Wasn't it 94/95 Tyee?

PA: Tyee was July 24, 1994.

NW: Oh '94 ok

PA: It started right over there.

NW: Yeah ok, I thought you said 96.

PA: No

NW: Oh ok good

PA: So for a year it really did shut down. It took too many people away from home so we didn't do anything for a year. Then in '95 it resumed and by that time we had settled on a structure and keep in mind that I am pulling all this out of my head and I may not get all the details exactly right. But it became clear that we should adopt a structure which it would have a landowner steering committee, had a technical advisory committee which I was on and the intermediary became the watershed coordinator who was Phil Jones who was also a retired Forest Service guy

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and he was hired by the landowners. They interviewed candidates and they basically said we like Phil Jones. Phil Jones worked with them for several years

NW: Is he still around?

PA: Yeah

NW: And how did they pay him?

PA: He was grant funded. He got a little bit of money he didn't get rich but he did get some pay I don't um I don't know.

NW: That's ok it wasn't through the irrigation district or anything?

PA: No, he was no he was a conservation district employee. It was decided that was the best neutral agency to sort of um well landowners had a lot of faith in the conservation district. Conard was on the board the conservation did good work in the Entiat helping them with irrigation, water efficiency, upgrades, piping, open ditches that sort of thing. So conservation district was a logical choice so Phil Jones worked for them. That went on for several years and by then we had identified some data needs and we had been so various parties were collected both hydrologic and biological data mostly the Forest Service with government federal government dollars. Um things having to do with basic stuff, water temperature, water quality, fish populations, habitat quality, you know to try to have a sort of a state of the art to look at the watershed before we decided was anything wrong and what to do.

NW: So you went all the way to the mouth of the river huh?

[43:09]

PA: Yeah

NW: Ok, the whole stretch

PA: Yea

NW: And how many miles is that stretch again?

PA: 26 miles. And that was one of the first accomplishments of this group getting permission from the lower river landowners to allow our group to come and do the stream survey of the privately owned water land which was from the mouth all the way up well all the way up to here. The whole river is in private ownership up to river mile 26 and that's river mile 18, right out there so another 6 miles beyond here had never been survey except by in a cursory fashion by those two guys I had mentioned, Art Johnson and um I forget his name. So most of the activity was up in the national forest so anybody with any professional expertise in biology they were doing spawning surveys up there but not down here they were looking at water quality up there,

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but not down here, water temperature up there but not down here. It was such a stupid view of the world that the world ended at the forest boundary. And you know so here I am getting excited about you know something because I have people coming up to me saying well who do you work for well Forest Service well what are you doing down here well it's hard to explain what I am doing down there, trying to help anyways. But we identified the need to do a habitat survey on the privately owned portion of the Entiat River and in 1996 that got done by a team from the Natural Resource Conservation Service out of Spokane.

[44:41]

NW: Oh, ok the summer of '96?

PA: Yep

NW: Ok

PA: And so that was kind of a good basis document because they collected data in a standardized format to allow them to compare their results with accepted metrics for the channel based on the type of channel that it is. So channels kind of organize themselves in the you know steep and fast and rocky, and slow and in sinuous and sandy and you know there's this whole hierarchy of channels and along with that hierarchy is this are these metrics. You know a low grade in sinuous channel of gravel bed should have I don't know what it is four pools per mile or something like that and because those are those are hydrologic geomorphic principals. That's how they form in an undisturbed system. So they did that and that was well received and that was our first big accomplishment. Because the landowners agreed to it and the technical systems group agreed to it and the coordinator guided it and they produced their collected their data, produced reports, presented their results and said this is what we found and this what we think needs to be done to fix the Entiat river or leave it alone you know that kind of thing. And 96ish 97ish then the next milestone was 1998. That's when the state legislature passed the Washington State Watershed Planning EHSB 25-14. It turns out that you know we weren't the only ones rumbling out here in the wild, there were various groups up and down and all around who were having the same problem. It came on at just the right time because we in the Entiat had already done the organizational phase which is the first phase of watershed planning. Watershed planning has four clearly defined phases. The first is um is um is organization. You have to get all the key players together. If you don't have them forget it you're not going to do watershed planning - we already knew that. You had to have three local you had to have the had to have county government supporting you, you had to have city government supporting you, and you had to have a large water purveyor and you had to have the watershed supporting you. And for us we lined all those things up easily because Esther Stephanieu was county commissioner, um the mayor of the city of Entiat was supportive and the major irrigation district was Don Olin was Entiat Irrigation District so being that we lined all those ducks up in good order so the next phase was data collection. We had already begun that with our stream survey of the lower 26 miles

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actually they only did 21 because that's all they needed to do. And at the same time the Forest Service was doing national forest waters so those two things came together anyway. So we are already well into that, we had deployed an array of water temperature monitoring devices, we had done some post fire water monitoring, we had begun sampling spawning gravel for fine sediment. So we had all these science data collecting efforts underway so that fit into the data collection phase of the water shed planning. The third thing was to write the plan and this was all supposed to happen over a period of several years many years actually it wasn't supposed to be like one, two, three, four, five years. And the third phase was to take your data, analyze it, write a report, and come up with a plan. Then the fourth phase was to implement the plan. So we are already well ahead. We are also fortunate to get out there sorry. We are also fortunate to get a local, I mean not local a representative from the Department of Ecology whose name was John Monahan. Prior to John he was assigned as our watershed lead from the state. He represented all Washington agencies. He spoke with one voice for the state. So WDFW, DOE, DNR he was their voice, one person and it was and you can imagine that's a big role and he fulfilled it beautifully. He was a young, enthusiastic, well-educated, articulate, smart guy and he happened to believe as I did and many other people that the only way you're going to solve things have solutions is to get out and work with the community and not just sit in your office and design this and say here's your solution. That does not work! So John Monahan came along he was the heir to a series of DOE representatives. I don't know if I should name names of not I can remember a few. Jim Milton was the first and he was pretty good but he moved on. Chris Hall came along and she moved on. Then several others, and none of them really stuck, and none of them really represented the state well.

NW: Until John came along?

PA: Until John Monahan came along. Then things changed, he came with the Watershed Planning Act. He helped the conservation district organize, apply for funding. So the Watershed Planning Act came with money. If you could pass these milestones, if you could organize, get the three you know lead entities, if you could do these things then they would then give you grant money to do these things. And John Monahan helped us do that and we got money. We did we got much more ambitious with our surveys and data collection and also Cascadia well no Cascadia Conservation District also hired a new watershed coordinator whose named Sarah Walker at the time she was Sarah Merkle. She was working for the county but then she ended up working for Cascadia as the Entiat Watershed Coordinator. She did a fabulous job. She had an insatiable appetite for work and she was so grounded in um I forget what the term is environmental cooperative environmental problem solving.

NW: Collaborative

PA: That it really worked I mean she didn't she didn't have to be she didn't have to go to a three day training course to get the religion. She already had it. She was the writer/editor of the plan but she was much more than that. She understood all the data she was looking at and she could

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understand it put it together and she could connect the dots and come up with the right answer. She didn't need a fisheries biologist or a hydrologist. She could do that so she wrote that thing single handedly. We each had a section we worked on then she put it all together into one big document. And it's probably, I think it was the first and most complete watershed plan produced under the watershed planning act. It took on all four elements, water quality, water quantity, in stream flow, and habitat. The only one that was required by the state water, no two, water quality and water quantity. Habitat and in stream flow were optional. In stream flow was the big thorny one that's the one that you know sort of reared its ugly head. I haven't even talked about that. DOE did an instream flow study in the Entiat and concluded that um it was um they presented their results they didn't even present their own results they hired a consultant to present their results at the Grange Hall in Entiat that went over like a lead balloon. So if Hal Beecher and Brad Caldwell can't even come to Entiat and present the results of their work how much ownership do you think the community is gonna buy into that?

NW: Oh when was that?

PA: That was also 1994.

NW: Oh dear

PA: That was ugly.

NW: That was a bad year. Oh geez

PA: So here's this bogus instream, well this not well done instream flow study, with its attendant recommendations, that the community, the water users, choked on. I choked on it as a resource professional. Everybody choked on it. Except Caldwell and Beecher.

NW: Oh interesting. So you had to do the instream flow element over again as part of the watershed planning process? And so Monahan was the DOE representative and you were way involved in that?

PA: Yep

NW: In your role in the Forest Service.

PA: Yep, yep

NW: And then tell me a little bit about the overview of the process. I think a plan was actually published in 2002 wasn't it?

PA: Two or three something like that the final plan.

NW: And it was the first one in the state?

PA: Under the Watershed Planning Act.

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NW: Yeah

PA: It was also the first set of instream flow recommendations that had been agreed to and was what's the word they used um accepted by the state and watershed in over 25 years. It was the only watershed plan that I know of that was um the Yakima Nation wrote a letter it's in the plan. A copy of the letter is in the plan saying that they agree with it. I mean they supported it. So it was a ground breaking piece of work.

NW: Yeah I remember it because I was fairly new to the area then. So I just wanted to ask you a little bit I've talked to other people now over the last few months about Entiat and working together in Entiat. So tell me a little bit about what you saw happen during that period of years leading up to the publishing of the plan. How did you get past hurdles in the watershed planning unit? How did you learn to work as a team? Especially you I mean your perspective as a Forest Service person. I think that's that would be something good to you know pass on to others.

PA: Well, that's a hard question to answer. I tried to answer it before. First of all there was there was the time was right, and the people that came, was the right group of people. Both from agencies, and land owners and nongovernmental folks, outside help, you know it was all the right people at the right time at the right place.

NW: Including you

PA: Including me, I include myself in that as well yes.

NW: Yeah Yeah

PA: So that's one thing. The second thing was, I think it's important for resource people, like Forest Service employees to live in their watershed. And that's just a personal commitment that I have and a feeling that I have because, because you need to belong to your community. It pays dividends even though you don't always see them. People are more prone to trust you, talk to you, you know you join their clubs, attend their churches, you you know whatever you become part of the community. In I don't think it worked, you know the style now and it has been with the Forest Service and this is not a complaint it's a fact, that a lot of them live in Wenatchee or East Wenatchee then they commute to their ranger district. Well I don't think you know, you can't make people live in their watershed but I think it helps a lot. So living here and the people involved and the timing, the issues, the thorny things that we that did eventually work out. It involved a lot of complicated science especially the instream flow studies and recommendations. And more and more, when I and other professionals, um sort of, stood up to the DOE instream flow recommendations, the landowners I think that said something to them. That we didn't just want to rubber stamp and railroad it and you know get a plan that they weren't gonna like in the end. They slowly started to realize that we were working for them, helping them understand all this complicated science. And how they were involved and that they could control, they could look at it and they could make recommendations and they could comment. And so a lot of trust

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building was done in those years from '95, 6,7,8,9, and 2000 for that period of time mid-nineties to the early 2000's. And the only way you can't tell people you know the joke is I am from the government and I am here to help you. You can you have to prove, you have to do something. And you have to do something hard and it can't be something easy. You can't just bring them a can of gas to get their rig going again. You have to do something hard. You have to be committed and you have to mean it. And how you demonstrate that to a group is up to you. I there is no, hey buddy, there is no guidebook, I don't think, I mean either you figure it out or you don't.

[58:05]

NW: You just kept showing up?

PA: Just kept showing up

NW: Just kept showing up

PA: Just kept showing up

NW: And you were always working with them and

PA: Just kept showing up yep

NW: Is there any when you think back on it, is there any stand out moments when you knew you were really gonna you were getting traction you know and you sort of the vision you guys had early on was really starting to take shape or was it just gradual?

PA: There probably were but nothing comes to mind right now. They were a lot of little milestones along the way. A certain study would get completed, or we would get through some phase or we would get a new participant or a new representative from the state agency who was more helpful than a hindrance those sorts of things. Also um some the way the landowners during committee began to behave it wasn't like they had to they were up until a certain point I don't know what that point was, they were reviewing everything that was done by anybody. Either the technical assistance committee or some agency. They reviewed it suspiciously. They were suspect and every word in there. And you should talk to Phil Jones about that. They would want to word smith literally every sentence of every document and that was a painful process. They got over that after a while though. They started we started having we established a good working format where the technical assistance committee people would meet with the landowner's steering committee outside the watershed planning meeting. And you know we would deal with the really tough issues that involved compromise that involved regulations and laws well the law says you got to do something. Um anyways and so we developed a good working relationship and at some point they realized people like John Monahan were working for them not against them and people like me. And I don't know when that point was exactly chronologically. But one could sense it and there the way the landowners would defer to

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someone like me or ask for my opinion or realize or refer to something I had done at a prior meeting and say well Phil said thus and such and that was good enough for them. That's that was their trust they began to trust me.

NW: Yeah ok alright and so that's interesting that you'd have those other meetings aside from the . . .

PA: Yea

NW: The plan

PA: Yeah yeah

NW: And you were working after hours on a lot of this stuff I would imagine.

PA: Yep there were lots of evenings

NW: Which also speaks to living in the watershed.

PA: Can we put this on hold?

[61:05]

NW: Ok we just took a little break there to let Baxter [German shorthair] come in out of the cold. So I wanted to ask you a couple more questions before we wrap this up. And one is just can you talk a little bit about after the plan was um approved and then you had implementation ahead of you and you still have the supportive team of managers around you Karen Whitehall and Sonny O'Neal and um

PA: Well by then the forest supervisor had changed and I forget who it was. The Wenatchee went through a whole series of interim acting temporary forest supervisors.

NW: Oh after Sonny left?

PA: Yep

NW: Oh yep alright. Well if you would just talk a little bit about your work in implementing this after all those years of teaming it up.

PA: Well we had developed, the planning unit had developed a list of proposed actions, recommendations, its chapter nine, and from that chapter nine had developed a separate document called a detailed implementation plan, which was the final step for watershed planning. And began um first of all, looking around and collecting information that everything that had been done and listing that then looking at areas where these various survey and research efforts had shown that the system was out of whack some way or another. Dikes and levees are an obvious one. Channelization where the channel has been confined by a levee is an obvious

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one. And we began in um 2000 the state san recovery board became active so there was a source of money. So Cascadia the conservation district began identifying projects with willing landowners that had -- we had a sound scientific and data background for and then applying for money to implement those projects. They were mostly habitat projects to create different channel conditions, slower, deeper water in the lower river is the easiest way to explain it. The lower river is basically one big, fast ripple. And those efforts I think the first one was 2001. They were one, two, three large rock crossing weirs were built, Dinkleman Canyon bridge and down by the fire station. That was sort of the beginning of the heavy duty stuff and then a lot of smaller duty stuff went on. Various people then started coming to, students started coming to the Entiat to do research to start to fill those data gaps that we had identified in the plan. It's a whole sediment transport thing was a big question. Water temperature was a big question. We had data, empirical data showing what it was in the summer, about every two or three miles. But we didn't have a way to you know twist the dials in a black box to say what if you did this, what if you put 100-foot tall trees over there what would it do. There was a model for that. John Monahan got a Eastern or a Central student to come in and work the SN temp black box for us with our data. Things like that began to happen that really filled in the picture and gave us more confidence that what we were doing where we were proposing, preparing planting was the right place. Where we were proposing to change the channel and create a pool was the right place. That we were using the right methods. And that sort of went on for most the rest of my career. I retired in January 2010 and then something sort of happened along the way and I forget what year it was. (laughing) Um Bonneville Power, everybody got interested in the Entiat because it's a hard process to go through the watershed planning things. Come out with a plan, come out with instream flow recommendations and actually start doing stuff. With the support of the landowners and agencies and on and on. So a lot of people started showing up and then somehow we got we got sucked into a vortex that I believe is still sucking up things. This integrated status and effectiveness program ISEMP and then this other acronym the IMW the integrated on the intensively monitored watershed thing. Basically what those two efforts are is really intensive monitoring to prove that all of these actions actually make more fish. That's all it's about. And I think there is a bit of a pit fall there. And you can the landowners, and the land owners believe this and I believe it to, you can fix your river, take care of your river, improve the water quality you can do everything you can. Your river can be producing as many fish as it possible can. They can leave here and something can happen after they leave that will shoot you in the foot and you have no control over it. You can lose all your fish down the line. At a dam, or a series of dams, or a fishery or some event some catastrophic environmental event, some bad ocean conditions, some high seas fisheries, some combination of these things, you can lose all these fish and not get them back or enough of them back and people with point to you and say look you're not really making more fish. So ISEMP and IMW are doing the best they can to monitor Entiat fish at there are fish out there that are radio tagged, that are pit tagged, there are antennae's, and underwater detection arrays, there are screw traps, there are all these monitoring

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technology devices deployed throughout the water shed to try to um estimate survival and answer that question.

NW: So that was one of the last things you kind of worked on as you retired and I also interviewed Catherine Willard as part of this series of interviews and she told me that you are still volunteering to work with her.

PA: Yeah

NW: So that's really great to have that continuity in the Forest Service.

PA: Well yes and see that is one of my personal beliefs. I think it's a mistake the way the Forest Service does business. We often too often a position vacated then it stays vacated for a while while you look for a successor if you even look for one. And so there's not that continuity that institutional memory is lost, the transition is bad, all of that. The new person has to start from scratch. I mean they don't even know where the bathroom is for crying out loud and you're asking them to hit the ground running. Anyway so my personal belief is that the way to do it correctly is to hire your replacement before you leave. And almost made it with Catherine, not quite I think there was a one month gap. I retired in January and she reported for duty in February. I told her over the phone before she well if was trying to decide whether or not to take the job whoever takes this job I am not going away. I am gonna continue to live in the Entiat, I will volunteer to help. I know where everything is kept. I know all the cupboards and cabinets and the reports and all are. I know where all that stuff is at. I know where to go to look for bull trout spawning and all that stuff. I am not going away so I will volunteer to help as much as I can. To help make the transition.

NW: Good for you. Boy that is behavior model. So I've got two questions for you that I ask everybody I interview , and one is looking back over all this your experiences in the Entiat is there one that that your most proud of that you did here in the Entiat?

PA: The watershed plan.

NW: Ok the whole thing?

PA: Yep the watershed plan. The whole process of going from where we started to where we ended up is without a doubt was exactly what I wanted to do with my life my career and um it works.

NW: Yeah

PA: And it wasn't easy!

NW: No it was a labor of love and really a lot of persistence and patience and showing up, again and again.

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PA: Yeah well

NW: You were have they ever had a meeting where they weren't there? Have you ever missed a meeting?

PA: I don't know maybe if they didn't tell me about it maybe if they didn't want me there. I don't know. No I when I had attended I think every watershed planning meeting with a couple of maybe exceptions. Every um um, technical assistance committee meeting, every meeting with the landowners, plus no no yeah.

NW: So let me ask you this, you have had years to get to know the Entiat and um the community as well as the land so what do you love most about this place?

PA: Hmm hmm, oh its small size for one thing. The water shed is 268,000 acres which is very small. You know a quarter million acres compared to Chelan which is a million Chelan Ranger District which is over a million or over a million, Lake Wenatchee which is immense, Naches is immense, Cle Elum they are all big districts. And because it's small it's the right scale for me that I can think about and understand so I know how the Mad River works in combination with the Entiat and how the tributaries work and the timing of the hydrographs and how the water temperature works and where the fish go. I can wrap my brain around the Entiat. I couldn't do the Wenatchee River, I mean there is Mission Creek and there is the Chumstick, and then there's Lake Wenatchee, and Chiwawa and the Chiwawa itself would be enough but there's all this stuff. That I like about it. I like the fact that we managed to burrow into a great spot and we ended up in the right part of the watershed and where I am happy living and found a great house to buy where we are happy living. Although it's a long drive to Wenatchee and I wanted to say something else in there but I forget what it was.

NW: Well you are in a great spot so 16 almost 17 miles up. So um things kind of changed down there at Ardenvoir. It feels really different once you get down

PA: It does, it does, the valley shape changes. The valley narrows up from you know from Mud Creek up to um Roundy Creek at mile post 15. It tightens up the narrowest point in the river is right there at milepost 13 is it 13, 14 yeah 13 no 13 is um 14, 15, I think it is 13.

NW: It really narrows up?

PA: It gets really narrow and there is a bridge across the river right there. So that's what I am talking about is understanding the geomorphic differences the differences in land form between the lower river the middle reaches of the river, the upper river, the head waters, the tributaries, the way they are structured, and the way they behave and who lives there in terms of wildlife and fish um so that's one thing I like that I really like.

NW: Yeah ok

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PA: It's in Eastern Washington, it's close to things I like to do, it's near water, and it's small. I know what I wanted to say and a road does not run through it. We don't have pass. It's a dead end. If you want to come up here I mean if you come up here it's because you want to be up here not because you're on your way to something else.

NW: Yes, but it's a little bit like a miniature version of the Methow in the wintertime.

PA: A bit yeah only that's much more desirable place. There's a lot more money up there for whatever reason I don't know.

NW: Ok well thank you Phil.

[72:45]