

Ecosystem Services and Idaho's Farmers

Interview Twenty-Two

I: All right, let's begin with a little bit of background information. Please tell us a little bit about how you got into the farming business.

R: I was born in Blackfoot Idaho in 1962. I grew up moving pipe on a farm, later married a girl from this area, managed her dad's farm for 25 years, and now I manage my own for the last 8 years.

I: Did you grow up on a farm or you worked for a farmer?

R: I worked a farmer. My dad was a mechanical engineer.

I: What do you grow?

R: For the last eight years, I've grown hay, grain, and beef cows.

I: Do you feed your cows the hay and grain or do you sell it, or a little of both?

R: We use approximately 80% of the produce, the hay that we raise, for our own use and market about 20% of it.

I: You probably sell your grain?

R: When we plant grain, yes, we do sell it.

I: And how many acres do you farm?

R: We have about 800 acres of irrigated ground and we control, meaning state and federal ground, we control about 32,000 acres on the desert and about the same in the mountains for summer range for our cattle, spring and summer range.

I: In what ways, if any, has urban expansion or any nearby construction affected you and your farm?

R: One example, we had an old horse that was foundered and somebody drove by on this road, felt sorry for it, called the animal welfare department, and I asked the animal welfare, the animal welfare officer came to visit me, wanted to know about that horse, and I told her I don't have the heart to shoot it, you shoot it. That's just one instance that has affected me.

I: Has there been any construction?

R: Construction really has not encroached on us here yet.

I: Do you have any current plans to sell or lease part of your farm in the future?

R: No. We are in expansion mode.

I: So you would like to buy some more?

R: Yes.

I: Do you have any idea what you will do with your farm when you stop farming it yourself?

R: I have a son that works with me and he will probably take it over.

I: How important would it be to you that your farm remains an agricultural operation?

R: I guess me personally when I'm dead and gone I don't care; but there is benefit, yeah, probably, that it remain in it. I don't have any concerns. I'm not sentimental. Whatever happens to it happens to it when I'm gone.

I: You wouldn't put a lot of pressure on him to have it stay in agriculture?

R: No. If somebody can come give him a lot of money to build a shopping mall, I wouldn't care.

I: Have you implemented any conservation practices into your farming operation?

R: We've developed a lot of springs for water troughs in the mountains. We've cross-fenced the ground for rotational grazing. We put the salt in different areas to make the movement of cattle different. On the actual farm ground, I don't think so. I don't know.

I: Have you used pretty much the same amount of water that you did a lot of years ago?

R: I don't have an answer to that question. I think we used more water years ago when it was flood irrigated; but that was before my time. In my time, when we had hand lines I think since most of our ground is irrigated with pivots I think they use less water than the older means of irrigation.

I: Is there any efforts to keep your soil attached to the ground?

R: Well, where we are primarily alfalfa, it runs for about five year crop rotation, there's not much erosion. It is a pretty environmentally friendly crop. It's there in the winter. It's there in the summer. The wind does not blow the ground away like you see some of the ground in the spring. It is an environmentally friendly crop.

I: It is definitely one of the positives about alfalfa.

I: What kind of pesticides and/or herbicides do you use on your farm?

R: Herbicides, we use 2-4D. For weed control Roundup. Once in a while, I don't know the name of it cause I haven't use it for a while we will spray for aphids in the hay. That's about it.

I: How do you make decisions about pesticide and herbicide use and application?

R: On the herbicide, it is just for weed control primarily and on the other one it is if there is a problem, mostly recommended by a field man. Or if we are walking there walking and your pants are covered with aphids, you know you'd better do something.

I: Sometimes you bring a field man out and ask for his advice?

R: Right. Yes.

I: So, the use of GE (genetically engineered – also sometimes referred to as GMO) seeds has been in the news a lot recently, but the coverage only rarely discusses how American farmers are being impacted – either positively or negatively – by this technology. Has the use of GE seeds affected you as a farmer, and if so, how?

R: We don't use any of them. But the GMO seed is just, in my opinion, a way to do what Mother Nature does in a short period of time. It is not witchcraft or something like that. It's just something that they can do in two or three years what would almost take a lifetime to do. With Mother Nature's plans, breeding naturally would take a long time to make a Roundup Ready alfalfa. We don't use it but.

I: Do you anticipate using it in the future?

R: Yes. Maybe. I don't know. We like to have a little bit of grass in our hay because we use most of it for our stock cows. We don't sell it. The dairy people don't like; so that hinges on whether we over-produce or something in the future. Yes. I think it is a good thing to make your hay field last a lot longer.

I: Just depends on the market that you have in mind.

R: Yes. If I was gonna sell hay. If I was in the business of selling hay, I'd plant Roundup Ready alfalfa; which is to my understanding a genetically modified GMO crop.

I: What is your opinion of genetically engineered crops?

R: I think they are mostly good. I think that I'm not afraid of them; but I think like alfalfa for instance how you gonna kill it?

I: In some other field?

R: Right. Because typically what we do now is we will spray Roundup on it to kill it so we don't have to work, use minimal till. To go in and plant a wheat crop behind an alfalfa field you don't have to till it. We would just spray with Roundup, three days later you can start harvesting it and

feeding it to your cows. If it was genetically modified I have not explored that. That might be one part that I don't know if I agree with or not.

I: It is a potential concern?

R: Yes.

I: Turning now to the subject of environmental change, have you noticed any changes in the environmental conditions in your area that seem beyond normal variation from year to year?

R: I don't keep history; but I am here to tell you that every year is different. Whether it's. There is a lot of things that environmentalists would like you to believe. I went to a seminar and they talked about global warming. I don't remember what year that. It has been a few years ago. That year, it was in the month of November, and to that date that year on the average was ten degrees colder than the previous ten years. So tell somebody a lie and they like to believe it a lot more than the honest truth. I don't believe in global warming.

I: I am going to be more specific. Have you noticed any persistent changes in the length of your growing season, or the first and last frost dates of the year?

R: You know, the same way. I remember eight years since I managed my father-in-law's farm and I will date it by the Eastern Idaho State Fair, which is what the first week in September. There were years when we would have a killing frost before occasionally but most of the time it was after that. So I think each year is pretty dependent on its own. We never, we never had a very good winter, last winter, as far as snow fall. But with the early spring rains and the abundance of thunder storms that we've had through the month of July so far, we have an unbelievable grass crop range where our cattle are. It is as good as I've seen it in thirty years.

I: It is a really good year for you for the range?

R: Yes. The grass is unbelievable. So I don't know what to tell you. I've been doing that for thirty years and we've had a lot more moisture than we have recorded this year, just the timing of it has been perfect I think.

I: Have you seen any changes in when the moisture comes, the snow as opposed to rain, seasons. Do the winters seem different?

R: They haven't been very hard. I think we have been having a much milder winter than we have been, not necessarily temperature wise but moisture wise we have not. Hell, you've lived here your whole life. You don't. When you used to get snowed in, it's been a long time.

I: You don't have to use a helicopter to get to the hospital.

R: There were days we could not get down this road and we have not seen that for several years. On the other hand, thinking back about calving cows, we usually start calving cows in the middle of February. And the worst snow storm we have ever had was April 1st. Buried calves along

our fence line down there. That has been five or six years ago. That was one of the worst storms we have had. I think it is dependent on the year.

I: Many of us have heard about the drought affecting the western U.S. right now. Have you noticed any persistent changes in yearly precipitation?

R: I guess the biggest thing that I notice about the drought is I think most people reference to the drought in Idaho would be production of grain. There are not very many dry farmers. Most in our area irrigated would be snowfall and how much water they can recover from the snowfall. So like I said earlier this is the best grass year we have ever had; but yet water-wise in the canal system I think they are calling it a short year. For what I do as ranching it is timing of it. Sure, I've seen decline. I guess I can't really say that. I've seen a decline in the amount of water that runs in springs in the mountains last year and the year before. But I think that usually comes from the snowfall, the water that penetrates down into the ground. But I have seen. We just moved cows three days ago and they saw springs I've never seen running. I don't know what to tell you.

I: Do you worry about water availability or maintaining your water rights?

R: I worry about maintaining my water rights. It seems to be, and I don't know what you are. I am a God-fearing person. I think when the good Lord shines upon us we are gonna have plenty of water. When He decides we don't have any water, it does not matter what laws, what rules, what has passed. There just won't be enough water. And us as a people try to regulate that, determine who is the boss and who is not. I think I mean there might come a time when it comes to fist to cuffs because there is not enough water. But since the beginning of time, people have died over water and the fight is there.

I: So there have been fights over water since the beginning of time?

R: Since the beginning of time, people who live at the end of the ditch always got less water than the people who lived at the beginning of the ditch. The biggest fight right now in this area is the people that live at the end of the ditch, which is Twin Falls, but they have yet, they have yet to see crop failure because of loss of water. The problem with the Twin Falls Company is, and I go back to when I told you about the irrigation system, I think when we flood-irrigated we used a lot more water. They have a right to 8 million acre feet of water. Today with the improvement of the sprinkler irrigation, they only use about 4 million acre feet of water but their right says 8 million. Now is it for agricultural use or is it for them to run the turbans to generate power and send the water down to Idaho Power?

I: Good question.

R: I say it's the truth. They could not use their 8 million acre feet today. They could not use it. It is to keep those canals full of water so they can have generators on them and sell the power to Idaho Power.

I: Where and how do you receive your water?

R: We are probably 90% well, deep well, 10% on the canal system, the canal system.

I: If you have a certain amount of water allocated to you, about how much of that water do you usually use?

R: I don't know. I rent that piece of ground and I don't. I think they use pretty close to, in a normal year use most of it. It depends on the natural flow. When it turns off I think there is a little over an inch of water per acre. That's about what the canal will allow you. Some of the old-timers have 2 inches or so. If you were to get water, they will allow about an inch or inch and a half per acre sufficient to water crop.

I: They have not come in and said you have to do less?

R: No. From the old days, people that are using deep wells instead of the canal system have water rights in the canal and you can usually pay their dues to the canal company and use their water for a year.

I: Sometimes you can negotiate with somebody who has rights?

R: Yes.

I: Do you rely on bees to pollinate any of your crops?

R: No.

I: Have you noticed any changes in bee populations around here recently?

R: I don't know. We have a guy that brings a bunch of em and puts em up here. Occasionally, once out of five or six years we end up spraying em and killing em cause we forget about em when we kill the aphids. So I don't know.

I: He compensates to you with a little something?

R: Like honey? He gives us more honey than we can eat.

I: Thinking specifically about changes to the climate, how concerned are you about climate change?

R: I told you earlier, I'm a God-fearing man. I think we have no control over it. I think that I don't have. I don't worry about what is gonna happen. I think that is going to take care of itself.

I: This next question is similar. Do you think that any of the changes to the climate some people are talking about are caused by human activities?

R: I think there are two sides to every story. So I don't think so.

I: More of like a natural cycle or?

R: That's what I think it is. I don't think you're gonna. I mean it is kind of like the water. Does the water really. Is this aquifer really connected to the aquifer in Twin Falls? I mean out at the site they dug all those test wells around it where they used to dump radioactive waste water down a well. They had test wells around the outside to see if it was traveling. They couldn't measure travel. In 60-70 years, it never went from where they dumped it to this well. So do I think we are connected with them? No. It's a big fight. It is something that's gonna happen. Lawyers are the only ones that are gonna win.

I: Similar with the climate, do you think human activity has any impact?

R: You know what? I don't keep up on it because I don't think so. Maybe it does. I don't believe so. I think that. I mean what did we do to cause it to rain this afternoon? Cut hay?

I: Yes, ha ha.

R: I don't know. I don't believe it does. I guess some people believe that we are polluting with hairspray or whatever goes up there and causes trouble in the environment. What do you think? Do you think it has something to do with it? Do you think?

I: I'm not being interviewed. Ha, ha. It's your turn to talk. Ha, ha.

R: Yeah.

I: Here's the next question. Are you are worried about the health or availability of any natural resources in this area?

R: Health or availability, what do you mean?

I: Well availability of natural resources. Do you see any limitation in the resources available to you.

R: Fuel. Look how much fuel they just found. Do I believe in those wind mills, that green energy? You know, I drive by em every time I go to the ranch up there and they are just. I don't care. I don't like em first of all. But it's not my ground. I mean it comes down to the fact do you want somebody telling you how you can build a house on your property. I don't like people being able to tell somebody else what they can do with their ground is my personal complaint. My next complaint is what are they gonna do with those things when the damn things quit working in ten years? I mean, Obama came through and did a lot of stuff to stimulate the economy and green energy was one of his big deals and those wind mills that are here in American Falls and up there in Bone are a throw-off of his stimulus money. Do I really believe they're helping us? I don't know. But I think in ten years we're gonna wonder what the hell we got all things standing up there for, not doing any good.

I: So you see abundance of power? You're not concerned about the availability of power in your future?

R: No. I think that if they really wanted to work on something I think the nuclear. Everybody is afraid of it; but I think that is something that would give us more power than all these things they are trying to do.

I: What about soil health, is that a concern for you?

R: You know what? A concern for me around here is I think these farmers ought to have to control the wind erosion in the spring.

I: There is a lot of dirt in the air.

R: And I don't know if it pollutes or what if it does anything. Soil is definitely going somewhere; because you can see it. They are. It is so competitive for the ground that they have to use such a short rotation. I think they oughta have to. If they are gonna plow that spud ground and get it ready for beets I think they ought to have to put something in there, some kind of a cover crop. You live here. It's miserable. Hell, you can get in a damn wreck sometimes driving down the road. In fact, right down from your house, that field of John Doe's right down from your house. Hell, it blew across the road right there you couldn't even see.

I: Yep.

R: I think that's wrong. I used to raise those crops and you know what? There was one time that the wind blew like it did one spring and we had a roller harrow parked at the end of the field. It drifted in two feet tall and buried it. That's how much dirt moves. These farmers are all. I don't think there's a big farm program right now; but I know what it used to be on the farm I managed. We used to be in the government so-called environmental highly erodible ground whatever program they make you sign up to do everything. We were getting \$100,000 a year. I'd hate to shout to see what Driscoll's, that big corporation. I bet they're getting over \$1,000,000 a year in government programs, subsidies. If they are gonna be in those programs and receive that stuff I think people. I just use their name as an example; but I think these farmers ought to have to comply. The problem is it is like everything else. We make all these regulations and rules that we are supposed to follow and we have nobody to police and governed them.

I: Have you changed any of your farming practices or decisions in recent years, such as the type of crops you are growing, when you plant or harvest your crops, how you manage pests, or other major changes, and if so, why?

R: No. In the last eight years, I have strictly been a cow-calf producer, rancher. We just raise a little hay.

I: Stay the course.

R: Yep.

I: What are the biggest challenges you see to farming in southeastern Idaho?

R: Freedom. Outside.

I: Is there anything more you want to say?

R: No.

I: Where do you go to get news about weather, regulations, or other farming-related information?

R: Internet.

I: Any particular web sites?

R: I don't know. I have some weather channel there. I use that a lot. I have some marketing apps on my phone that I use as far as prices for stuff. I guess I read the morning paper, you know. That's about it.

I: You have some farm magazines?

R: Farm Journal Comes and the some other magazine. I read through those a little bit, yeah.

I: Which regulatory agencies, such as the USDA or other government agencies, have you been in contact with in the last few years?

R: USDA. I have been in contact with them. We sign up with their government program. We have been with the NRCS working on a pipeline on the desert to. Instead of haul water to water troughs we would like to pipe it, put a 16 or 17 mile pipe line in. Yes. I have been in contact with both of them.

I: Did they help you out?

R: Yes. They are helpful; but they are a government entity, NRCS in particular. It's my own personal opinion that overdesign of the thing makes it a little bit cost prohibitive. I think that they need to calm down and realize what is applicable and what is not for each different area. Government makes a big old Band-Aid to fit the whole United States and it does not really work that way. They had a drought program for the Midwest and they implemented that program. We took advantage of it only because it was there. It wasn't meant for our area. I don't think. How they did it and how they figured it was not meant for her. They need I think to make their programs more tailored to each individual area.

I: How was that experience for you? For example, was it a positive or negative experience, and why?

R: Both. I don't know how much you understand; but on a pipeline that runs 17 miles every time it goes over a hoop or down a holler you have to put an air valve in. What they call for is just outrageous.

I: Do you have to go over a lot of lava rock.

R: That's the other thing. Because of the environmental study or impact of the environment out there, if there is a rock knoll. We have to stay within ten feet of the road. If there is a rock knoll we can't go out around it. If it was. To go straight through the sage brush to the water trough, if it was 50 yards, instead of going all the way around the way the road goes, which is a mile, we have to go the mile instead of 50 yards because it will "disturb" that. I guess if you drive out there and see some of the.

I: You're driving your truck out there everyday disturbs.

R: You gotta go on the road. You can't go over it. What I'm saying is if my water trough is right there where that spud cellar is and the road does not go from here to there, the road goes around and comes back in over there, you have to go all the way around the road and come back in over there rather than make a short line straight through here.

I: So you are not allowed to disturb anything except the road?

R: Because they consider that already to be disturbed because the road is there. And it really doesn't disturb it. In three years, you wouldn't know that that ripper shank went through there.

I: What about other people or organizations in this area, can you think of anything they could do to help you farm?

R: I think that the farmer, the farmer is self-made, self-motivated, self-employed, and thinks he can win the whole battle by himself. I think that and I'm trying to think of the organization. What the hell is the environmentalist. You are the environmentalist. What are they?

I: Are you talking about the EPA?

R: No. I don't care about the EPA. It's these organizations. What is the guys' name that, watershed. Western Watershed. Those people cause a lot of problem that they don't even know about. They cause more trouble because they are so organized. And you get somebody that moves to Idaho from California or wherever and they like what they see out there and they want to try to keep it the same. They haven't been here but they think they know what is best for us. We are not organized. I'm not talking about farm. I'm talking about ranching. Western Watersheds cause us more shit than anybody in the world. Western Watersheds was smart enough to figure out how to go about suing the rancher and being reimbursed by the government. It took somebody who did a study and found out how much money that they were actually getting reimbursed because they filed a lawsuit. Every law suit they filed, the government would pay for it. I think that's bullshit. I think Western Watersheds oughta get the hell out of here. For instance, did the road from Arco through the desert come first or did the sage grouse lekking area

come first. I'm here to tell you 90% of them environmentalists have never been up at 5:00 in the morning and drove across that road and seen the sage grouse sitting, spanning like fence posts along that road doing their dance in the spring. Because the road is bare. The barrow pit is bare and they can see each other in my opinion and that's why. Because you can drive for a mile and them sage grouse are on that road doing their lek. You can go to where our water troughs are and how a cow works on the desert. She goes out early in the morning and fills her belly full of grass. Comes back into the water trough around 10:00 or 11:00, gets a drink of water, and lies down around the trough and chews her cud all day long until evening when it cools off again, and then she leaves and goes out and does the same thing. Comes back the next morning. That's about how she works. Well, while she is sitting around that trough. You can imagine. There are 200 or 300 cows that are sitting next to these water troughs. The shit is that deep. Where is the leks at. Where are the leks on my desert? Right at our damn water troughs. I'm not kidding you?

I: What are leks.

R: That is the place that these environmentalists have marked that birds, the sage grouse their dance and do breeding. It's around those leks; because that would be 100 yards by 100 yards, approximately 100 yard circle. If you put the water trough in the middle and do 100 yard circle, it's bare dirt. That's where them sage grouse do there. I would like to do the experiment. They won't let me do it. I would like to. Plant that back to sage brush. Move the water trough. And see if they'd move the lek. Because according to the environmentalists and Western Water Sheds that is 100 year old sacred territory where those leks are. I call bull shit on it. Did the road come first or did the lek come first? The same way with the water troughs. That's my biggest fear is the environmentalists who do not belong here who organize themselves, come and have more of a say than the single farmer does.

I: The question was how can other organizations be of assistance to you?

R: We don't have one. We don't have one to fight. We are too independent. A farmer is too independent to have it.

I: You think it would be a good thing, though, farmers maybe organizing more?

R: If they would but they can't. They have tried it for centuries. The only farming organization that can stay organized is the Florida Orange Growers. They are the only ones. Look at PGI. They tried to have this. What is this one that just got done being sued for, United. Tried to get all these farmers together and figure out so they could limit how many potatoes they would plant and other stuff. Because some of them were connected to potato warehouses, they called it price fixing. They sued them. Hell. They won like 70 million dollars or something.

I: Is there anything that the local, state or federal government could do to help you in farming?

R: Protection from the environmentalists. The Taylor Grazing Act 19-whenver it was left all this ground out here to be grazed. That is what it was set apart for. That is what the Taylor Grazing Act protects us. The environmentalists are trying to kick us off of that ground. The only

reason we are there is because some people still honor the Taylor Grazing Act on public ground. If the environmentalists have their way, we will be gone. But in their studies the only reason we are not gone because in their studies the number one problem or the number one worst problem. How do you call it? I need a big word? The biggest problem for sage grouse is their environment disappearing. The biggest danger to their. The biggest problem with their disappearing is fire, wildfire. The best thing for wildfire is grazing. It's the only thing. That's the only reason why we are still there. The BLM, because they are afraid of being sued by Western Water Sheds and the environmental groups, on a year like this one, with the abundant grass that's on that desert, it is still done by a clock, done by so many days. You are here so many days. You are here so many days. We had three pastures. Where each one of these pastures so many days and out you go. But they need to have some. It's not they can't do it because the damn Western Watershed would sue their ass. I mean on a bad year, when there is nothing out there, get outta here. But because we have the right to be there and we have to many AUM they will cut us a little bit but they will let us go. On a year like this year, when it is so abundant out there, you can't use them. When we have so many AUM when we are done we are done and get outta here no matter what is left. I think it ought to be piece by piece. That's what they give us a head for. It's not just to rest this hat on. It is so we can use it and do what is best. Because of lawsuits and our range coordinator, our range cop, whatever you want to call him that is over us on the BLM said himself that every decision they make they have Western Watersheds in the back of their mind and that's a shame.

I: Are you using aerial drones or unmanned aircraft systems at all for your farming operations?

R: No. I would like to figure out how to see how far they can fly so I can check cows at the Arco well on our spring range. Check the water hauling, make sure he is keeping the tanks full or if we got a pipeline in I could fly it out there. I don't know how you could fly it 40 miles. I don't think that. You'd have to have a military one or something.

I: So you see maybe in the future?

R: Yeah, I think there is a use for them.

I: Okay, before we finish here, I would just like to ask you a couple of brief demographic questions. Including yourself, how many people live in your household?

R: Three. Two besides myself. Three total.

I: In the simplest terms, how would you describe your political views?

R: My political views in simple terms is it is way over-rated. I think Obama has ruined the United States. I think that when you have to have. When you have, and these numbers aren't exact but you can look em up and they are pretty close. When you have 25% of the people paying for 75%, the other 75% of the people, to live something's wrong. When Mitt Romney ran for president, he did a study. Not that I was for him. I would have voted for him but I don't care about him or anybody else. But he did a study. The study said this. He had to have 38 or 42%. He had already given up 42% of the vote to the free-loaders and the people that had their hand

out for Obama or the democratic give me this entitlement. I'll state it as entitlement. Forty two percent of the United States are "entitled" to whatever they get and don't work. They don't put in the bucket. It's the easiest term I can say. Twenty five percent of the people put it in the bucket, fill the bucket for the rest of the 100%, which means 75%, around 75% of the people are taking it out.

I: Would you describe yourself as conservative?

R: I am conservative but I don't like. I think you oughta earn what you get. I mean you grew up in this community and you know darn well that there is no reason for any able-bodied person to not have a job. There are plenty of jobs in an agricultural community. It may not be the labor you want. It might not be the job that you think you are entitled to. But there is a job out there for everybody here. The government is coming up with the minimum wage. What is the minimum wage? \$7 and.

I: \$7.25 now, right?

R: \$7.25 or something. I guarantee you there is not a person in this valley, Hispanic, white, I don't know if we have any African-Americans, Indians. I guarantee you they are not getting \$7.35. \$7.35 is not what they are getting paid.

I: You think they are getting less than that?

R: Hell no. The guys that work for us get \$11 an hour. They are uneducated Hispanic people that work their guts out. I respect. I am not downplaying them. I'm just telling you that the minimum wage has no place in this area; because there is not. The wage is driven by competitiveness between farmer to farmer or whoever you can get to do the job. That rate right now is a pickup to drive and \$11 an hour and the gas to go in the pickup. They drive it to and from work. And most of them get furnished a house.

I: And what is your age?

R: I think I'm 55, 53, 55. Something like that?

I: This is an open-ended one for you. Is there anything else you would like to share with us about farming in southeastern Idaho, your experience?

R: No. I just think. I think that there are a lot of people that get on the bandwagon. What's the new tax they are gonna do to us? For example the moo-tax, the gas manure whatever methanol the cows burping gonna charge us so much a cow for methane. That's bull shit. Whoever did that study? I mean these things. These people are coming up with stuff that is just crazy. It is just crazy to my mind. I mean. Hell. If the people had not done their job, the farmers and ranchers had done their job and I'm speaking of ranching only because that's what I do. If we had not raised genetically the quality of the animals that we produce in 1956. I went to a meeting that's how I know this. In 1956, a finished steer weighed 900 pounds. If we had sat on our butts and not taken care of stuff and not been progressive and not done all this stuff that the

environmental people want us to do, we would have still been raising that 950 pound steer. It would have taken all of Yellowstone to have enough grass for all those cows to produce the same amount of beef that we produce today because we have done a job and done our job. The environmentalists need to realize that not all of us are good. There are a few people that abuse the ground and abuse the range land and abuse things. But 75% of us are, that is our livelihood, that is our life. We take better care of it than we do our own lawn and our own damn house. They just need to realize that's our livelihood. That is my biggest complaint. The environmentalists think they can come in here and control our life, things that are our livelihood they know a better way to do it than we do it. We don't want ? But there are some of us that abuse those things. That's the biggest pet peeve is all these environmentalists coming out here telling us how to do it.

I: All right, thank you very much. We really appreciate the time you have taken to participate in this research. It helps us understand what issues you are facing and how steps could be taken to help you do your work, which is work we know benefits this community and others.