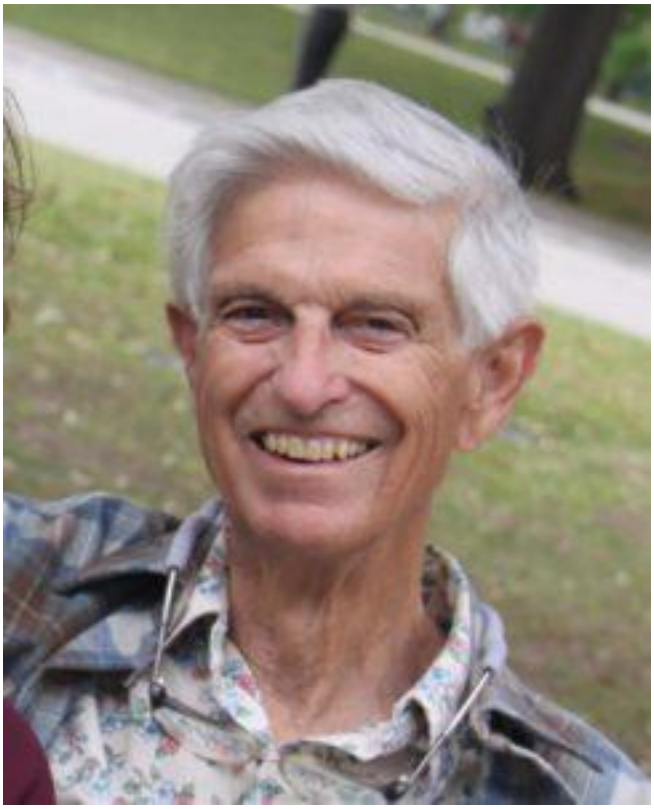
BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Bryan Harry

Bryan Harry received a B.S. at Michigan State and an M.S. at Colorado State, both in wildlife management. After short term jobs as a botanical researcher, a refuge manager for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and tour guide, he settled in with the National Park Service (NPS) for over 50 years. He served as the former Regional Director of Alaska Region of National Park Service, former manager of National Wildlife Refuge, former chief naturalist at Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks, and the former Yosemite Valley District Manager, among other positions. Harry came to Hawai‘i in 1971 as the Superintendent of the Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park and also served as the NPS Pacific Area Director until his retirement.



INTERVIEW INDEX: Bryan Harry

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
with
Bryan Harry (BH)
March 23, 2021
Via Zoom
Interviewed by Alana Kanahele (AK)

AK: Okay, so just to start off, would you mind giving me your full name and when and where you were born.

BH: I'm Bryan Harry, I was born in 1928.

AK: And you mentioned you were born in Flint, Michigan, is that right?

BH: Yes, Flint, Michigan. I'm a Michigander. I went to the University of Michigan.

AK: Ann Arbor, right?

BH: Yeah, I studied forestry. And at that time there was only one gal in the whole forestry school. Later, they abolished the School of Forestry, changed it to the School of Environmental Design, and now I think three quarters are women, and they are really sharp.

AK: That's great. Can you tell me a little bit about yourself and maybe the transition of arriving in Hawai‘i and your first visit?

BH: Oh, okay. When I grew up and I liked to hunt, fish and trap, and I thought that was an ideal life. I got interested in birds, and ended up befriended by a professor at the University of Michigan, and went to school there. There a friend wanted to show me some good country, so he took me up to the Tetons and I fell in love with the Tetons. My career ambition from then on was to be a ranger in the north end of the Tetons. I never achieved that career goal, but an interesting thing that relates to Haleakalā happened while I was the ranger there. The United States had a study, the Outdoor Recreation Review Commission that Laurance Rockefeller headed and he held all his meetings at Jackson Lake Lodge in the Tetons. The Park Superintendent assigned me to attend those meetings and I became a friend of Laurance Rockefeller--a friend for life. And of course, Laurance had a great deal to do with Haleakalā.

I never applied for any other jobs in the Park Service; I was always just directionally reassigned. But to some pretty nice places, though, Yellowstone and Yosemite. I got in trouble in Yosemite and during the years of the riots. They fired me from that job in Yosemite and sent me to Hawai‘i, where I'd likely be totally out of their hair. I became superintendent of Hawai‘i Volcanoes Park. Hawai‘i Volcanoes is kind of the sister park of Haleakalā. So I was good friends of the superintendent at Haleakalā, Ross Cayhill. I got in all kinds of trouble at Volcano Park with goats and letting visitors into eruptions.

I was reassigned to Alaska to try to get through the proposed native claims new parks in Alaska. With a lot of help from other people, we got the ANILCA (Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act) through that added some 15 new parks to the national park system by a great act of Congress. I got canned from that job, went to Glen Canyon, and then at Glen Canyon, I was reassigned to be the Area Director of the Pacific Parks here in the Pacific. That was in 1981. At that point in time, on paper at least, I was the supervisor of the superintendent of Haleakalā. Although superintendents of Haleakalā have been an independent lot, so I never could say that I was much more than a cheerleader to them. Maybe the guy that took the rap on things that failed them.

AK: Great, thank you. So your initial connection to Haleakalā, you mentioned, was through Laurance Rockefeller?

BH: Yeah, as you recall, Haleakalā used to be just the sort of top of the mountain, the upper crater. In the early 1970s, Governor Burns, at the time the Territory of Hawai‘i, asked Laurance to come out and look at properties on the Kona side of the Big Island. He wanted advice of how it would be more attractive to tourists. Laurance, because of his involvement in national parks, particularly in Jackson Hole, had inherited a slew of lodges and concession facilities throughout the national park system. Burns asked him to come out and they tracked from Kailua-Kona on up to the north end of the island. Laurance recommended that if they build a more direct and scenic highway, that they place the telephone poles on the mauka side of the road, so as not to spoil the views. When they got up to where Pu‘ukoholā is now, Burns conned Laurance into making a prototype hotel. It became the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, on that beautiful bay on the Big Island. Part of the deal with Laurance delt with the Parker Ranch, who owned the property. He bargained them to give the lands at Pu‘ukoholā Heiau to the National Park Service to be a historical park, and to give the lands and the beach at Hāpuna beach to the state for a state park, as part of the deal. They shook hands and that was it.

But while he was there, Charles Lindbergh who lived on Maui invited him over to look at a place on Maui. He went there with Lindbergh and with Sam Pryor. Sam, at that time, was the head of Pan Am Airlines and was a mover and shaker. They showed Laurance the Seven Pools and made the pitch that it should be added to Haleakalā Park. Laurance agreed and bought the Seven Pools property lock, stock and barrel. He also bought a bunch of other shoreline property and offered, "I'll give the park this also – if the state and the people give adjoining acreage to the Seven Pools to the park." He got the Nature Conservancy to come out and hustle for those private lands (with squirrely titles) and Governor Burns gave upper Kīpahulu State lands to the Park.

That was a huge addition to the park and a big controversy over the Nature Conservancy trying to get the lands to add to the park that went on for decades. But bit by bit, The Nature Conservancy acquired the lands and added them to the park. The Nature Conservancy also financed an expedition into Upper Kīpahulu to check it out. You've heard of the expedition, surely, for they found a beautifully unimpaired valley. In that valley, upper Kīpahulu, they found birds long thought to be extinct. They found new species of insects, new species of plants. It was phenomenal, and the University of

Hawai‘i got interested and had a series of expeditions to upper Kīpahulu, and just wrote many reports. My spin there is that this association between Haleakalā Park and the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa not only changed the park from just a park as someplace for people to visit—but to be a center of research into rare native ecosystems, and also transformed the University of Hawai‘i. Before that time, the Department of Botany at the University of Hawai‘i was world famous for simply taxonomy of rare plants found on island ecosystems. They had vast herbaria of pressed plants where people knew these plants simply because of pressed plants on pieces of paper. But now in upper Kīpahulu, these curious professors, saw them real and alive. Thus, they went on expedition, after expedition into upper Kīpahulu.

My involvement there as Area Director was to help start a cooperative ecosystem study unit at the University Department of Botany. Cliff Smith became its director, and Cliff was in all of those early studies at upper Kīpahulu. I turned out to be the hustler to get them funding for their studies. I wrote up all these research proposals, send them through the region where, Jay Goldsmith in the region, he became a champion of mine hustling year after year to get research money for Kīpahulu. We even funded most of Cliff Smith's salary at the University of Hawai‘i. Step back a minute, think about that: Haleakalā once a place for visitors to come, now was a place doing significant research on the preservation and the restoration of native island ecosystems centered in upper Kīpahulu. This was a new unique new idea. Ron Nagata got involved about that time and with he and Cliff, they pondered: How do we keep this unimpaired? How do we keep people from bringing in seeds to screw it up? Thus, Ron started this program of everybody sanitizing their shoes, and only going in by helicopter. He sanitized the rudders of the helicopter before he went up there. The only people who could go to upper Kīpahulu were people who were researching the place and the research had to be integral in preserving and perpetuating Kīpahulu.

AK: Yes, I'm still here.

BH: Ron Nagata started snaring pigs because some pigs were getting in to upper Kīpahulu. He built fences copied after our stuff at Volcano Park and got all of the pigs out of upper Kīpahulu. Ron was the champion for managing, but the University was the champion for researching and trying to figure out how do you manage native ecosystems. The upshot there is, Haleakalā was really the catalyst to change this view at the University of Hawai‘i. The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa became then, not just the taxonomy school, it became the place you learned how to manage and restore native island ecosystems. And look around, you see now more than a few people working in the Park Service that learned their talent there.

AK: Thank you for sharing that. As you mentioned, the transformation of Haleakalā as a park really spearheaded the university research into preservation of ecosystems, did this include the development of certain management techniques too, or was most of this research focused on. . .

BH: And there were some spinoffs too. Some of the stuff spun off into the old part of Haleakalā too. When I was at Volcano Park, I was a birdwatcher and I wanted to see a Hawaiian petrel, and, say, these were rare as shark's teeth. And they weren't going survive as a species. There were a handful of Hawaiian petrel coming and nesting at upper Haleakalā. None of the young birds survived. No one knew how old these birds were nesting there, but they were probably old birds; you didn't know how much longer they were going to be around. The prevailing view was that the Hawaiian petrel would be extinct. Ron Nagata not only fenced Haleakalā and got rid of the goats who trampled things and messed up the nests, but Cathleen Bailey and Ron started, trapping cats and rats and things that killed the young birds during the nesting time of the petrels. My involvement was my hustle to get them money to do this. Sometimes I was successful. But they never were able to, get rid of the rats and the cats but they knocked them down during the period that the petrels were nesting. Thereafter the petrels survived. If you look at the maps, the dots on the maps where nesting spots are in the summit of Haleakalā now, compared to what they were in the 1970s, you would just say, wow right on! That became the model for rare petrel management, not just in Hawai‘i but worldwide. They invented it – Ron and Cathleen at Haleakalā.

AK: Wow, you can see how the how the benefits have paid off. Sorry, go ahead.

BH: These things weren't without argument. You don't have to look far on Maui or on this island to see lovers of feral cats and the cat lady's feeding them. PETA and Humane Societies attacked us. There even were groups of the Friends of the Rats in California attacking NPS from removing non-native rats from Channel Island National Park. Here in Hawai‘i even the Department of Land and Natural Resources attacked us for killing goats and pigs. There was a guy working as a part time temporary employee with Ron's crew. His name was Alan Holt. Alan saw these arguments ongoing about whether or not to fence out goats, whether to use snares on pigs, whether to kill cats, whether to poison rats. After he left Haleakalā, he became the head of the Nature Conservancy in Hawai‘i. He called me one day asking, you know, Harry, why the heck are all those people, who are trying accomplish same thing—killing and fighting each other? Why don't we just sit with them and try to have lunch together without arguing? And so, we did that and eventually decided to have another lunch, and a few more. We then formalized as a group now known as the Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance. Our sole goal is to try to save native ecosystems like NPS is doing at Haleakalā and Hawai‘i Volcanoes, and where we had arguments or disagreements with each other—we'd do it over lunch and a glass of beer rather than in headlines of the local newspapers. Or, just to try to cooperate.

Of course, we evolved that—not easily—into a foremost environmental group. Haleakalā was involved in one of the early interesting steps. It was not merely Haleakalā that had native ecosystems on East Maui. Along its edges, there were natural area reserves and outstanding native forest. Encouraged by HCA [Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance], people working on these places started working together. Folks like Betsy Gagne working outside the park, started working with the people inside the park and eventually, they formalized calling themselves the East Maui Watershed Coalition. Crazy idea, but enormously effective. Now that's patterned on every island in the Hawaiian Islands, after

what you all did at Haleakalā. Later it went a step farther with the invasive species control groups, and Haleakalā was integral in the formation of MISC, the Maui Invasive Species Commission. Those were gigantic steps toward preserving native ecosystems and Haleakalā was the catalyst. In my narrow view, Haleakalā became more than just a nice national park for visitors. It's now integral in the philosophy of management and restoration of native ecosystems.

AK: And can you clarify a little bit for me on the timeline, I know you mentioned you were at Haleakalā in the early 1970s. Is this sort of when all of these discussions around…

BH: I was at Volcano Park in 1971 to maybe about 1975 or 1976 and then I was sent to Alaska. Then I was at the Area Director, and supervised the superintendent for Haleakalā from 1981 until I retired about 25 years later.

AK: Do you remember your first trip up to Haleakalā or into the crater?

BH: Oh, yeah, with Russ Cahill, and around to Kīpahulu.

AK: Did you hike into Kīpahulu or did you helicopter in?

BH: We drove around with Russ Cahill, Cliff Smith and Winston "Win" Banko to Seven Pools, and then Win hiked us up the route that they had gone up with the upper Kīpahulu Expedition. We were astounded. We went along the way Win remembered when he'd gone there the first time, he had never seen an invasive alien plant. When we followed his way up, there was a solid line of strawberry guava. Cliff just said pigs followed your footsteps, they pooped seeds of solid strawberry guava, and the strawberry guava now traces your route to upper Kīpahulu. And we still have not resolved our statewide problem of strawberry guava. It still is a rampant invader; one of the most invasive plants that we have.

An interesting sideline of that—unrelated to the tale—Cahill was driving us on that narrow road to Hāna. It was narrower than it is now, and two cars couldn't pass. When you came bumper to bumper one of you'd had to back up and find a passing place. Back in my old days, in the Tetons, my wife and I had been caretakers for a guy’s dude ranch in Jackson Hole and wintering there and we were the first people to survive the whole winter. Nobody else had ever come close to making it through the winter. So, we were always his champions. And anyway, as we're going down the road, we met head-to-head with a car. It was a tourist and as we passed by his car rolled down his windows, and it was the guy that owned the ranch in Jackson Hole. He looked at Cahill and said, "Ever hear a guy named Bryan Harry?" Yeah, Cahill said, "The son of a bitch is sitting in the backseat." We hadn't seen each other for nearly 25 years, but met on the road at Seven pools.

AK: That is funny. What a coincidence.

BH: Cahill is a good one to talk to if you're looking for a real character.

AK: And you said he was the superintendent at Hawai‘i Volcanoes?

BH: He was the superintendent at Haleakalā in the early 70s. He had a hard time because he was a Native Hawaiian, and so the Native Hawaiians expected him to do their bidding on everything, including the controversies on the requirements for land acquisition in Kīpahulu. Russ, I think he finally resigned from Park Service over all that hassle and made a cabin in Alaska homesteading there. But then somebody tipped off the Alaska governor to grab him, and Russ became head of the state parks in Alaska.

AK: Wow. Yeah, we'll try to get him on the list, too, if he's open to talking.

BH: I've got his address if you're interested, I don't have his email address.

AK: Oh, thank you. And then can you talk a little bit more about some of the programs and projects that you were responsible for while at Hawai‘i volcanoes that also aligned with Haleakalā?

BH: Haleakalā copied our Volcanoes goat program (and remember, Haleakalā used to be part of Hawai‘i National Park). They were established together in 1916 and beginning in 1916, they begin to eliminate the goats that were trashing the native ecosystems. When they directed me to go there, the goats were a national issue and the Director said, do something about the damned goat problem. From 1917 until I arrived in 1971 at Volcano Park, the park staffs had eliminated them every year. So how were there more goats now than there ever were if we eliminated them every year? Realistically we’d merely harvested the surplus but had never reduced their population. When I hit volcano park, I didn't know anything about goats, but in college, my master's thesis was on ungulates, so I knew numbers pretty well. And we had a couple of sharp goat guys. One guy was naturalist at Volcano, Don Reeser, who later became superintendent at Haleakalā. He said, you know, we're not doing anything about goats; it's just a total waste of time. We need to do this right.

At the same time, I was sent to volcanoes, the Director had promised Congresswoman Patsy Mink that one, we wouldn't eliminate the goats, and number two, we'd take care of the goats by having licensed public hunters to be ad hoc rangers. When I got to volcanoes, Reeser told me we were supposed to take care of the goats by public hunters (which wouldn't work). Though we were supposed to do something about goats, but we weren't supposed to eliminate them, (which wouldn't work). My new staff gave me pretty much of a bad time telling me that using public hunters was against the law. As I chewed that over, I realized that this was true, it was against the law to use hunters.

So, I made a call to a friend of mine, the Department of the Interior Solicitor in San Francisco and asked him if I would come over to San Francisco, could we have a beer together and talk story? One thing: this is Harry's Law, the first law that's inviolate, is never ask the solicitor for their opinion if you don't want to hear the answer. Because you can do a lot of things, you break a lot of laws, you can screw up a lot of ways, but if the

solicitor looks you in the eye and gives you an opinion you cannot violate it. That's one that you can't do. So, I made up a story about a hypothetical place with this mythical ungulate that was screwing everything up, and the park director had said to take care of them by using public hunters—which I said was illegal because you can't use hunters in national parks.

Well, we poured another beer, and Ralph said "Yeah, you can't do it." And he said, "If you ask me, which you haven't asked me now, and don't you dare to---if you ask me, it would be illegal for your rangers to kill any goats in a park because the law says it's against the law to kill wildlife."

I countered that these are invasive and alien ungulates. Ralph countered that any judge in any court would look you in the eye and say those suckers were alive until you shot them. They're wild, hard to catch. They're wildlife. Any court would say so. We didn't even talk about this, right—I quickly changed the subject. "Ralph, what the hell have you been doing in your spare time?"

So, he told me what he had been doing. He explained that he was trying to defend the superintendent of Redwood National Park. Environmentalists were suing him because he, the superintendent, wasn't taking care of the redwoods for which the park was established. And I said, "Oh Ralph that's ridiculous, you can't sue the superintendent, you sue the government but not the superintendent—a poor sucker trying to show up to work every day."

He said, "That's what we told the court. But the judge said no. The superintendent of the park designates what employees do; and he wasn't taking care of the redwoods so the court could hang him."

"The courts said that?"

Hmm, back in Hawai‘i Volcanoes Park if I don't take care of the native vegetation for which the park was established to preserve, that's a gross felony, I can be hanged.

"Well, you could read it that way."

And killing alien goats may be just a misdemeanor—if they catch me. So, we left our meeting with a philosophy that I carried over in Volcano Park and Haleakalā that is if a superintendent, if he doesn't take care of the natives flora and fauna for which the park was established, he's a goner.

From then on, we evolved techniques to deal with alien goats and pigs. We studied new ways to accomplish ungulate control. We discovered that we could fence out goats, but only, small acreage. We kept enlarging the acreage and but it still cost you just as much money to cut a goat population in half, whether the population is a thousand or ten. Getting the last two was as expensive as getting the first thousand, you know, because they're smart. I had asked the scientists, after we got rid of, we thought, all the goats in

Volcano Park, but I wanted to know when the first ones got in again immediately so that we could kill it before we became thousands. I asked Charles Stone, the park scientist to run censuses using the King Index census to find when the first goats came back in. Chuck patiently explained to me that censusing was a good technique and it worked when you were hunting goats, but it was scientifically utterly invalid when there were only one or two goats. So, when the first goats got in the census technique was utterly useless.

I said, "Chuck, let me know, I want to know when the first goats get in."

"Well, I'll run a study. We'll run a study of King Index, and I'll prove to you with the studies that they're wrong."

So he, in our fenced area, put radio collars on about a half a dozen male goats and put them in the park and then run censuses to see if they could come up with a count of six goats.

They never came up with six goats. They came up with either no goats because the census didn't hit any or hundreds of goats because they hit a couple, and then when they extrapolated the numbers, that meant were hundred, so Chuck was right. The King Census technique was utterly scientifically invalid. And Harry, you're nuttier than a fruitcake. But, inadvertently, sometimes science leads you to some funny deals.

Chuck said, "You know, some goats did get into the park while we did this study."

"Oh, how did you know that?"

He said, "The goats are gregarious and some of those collared goats found the new goats that came in and hooked up with them."

And so just by radio locating where the collared goats were, we knew where the new goats that came in there. We now call our collared goats the "Judas goats." Since we discovered the "Judas goats" we don't need to have just a small fence enclosure. Large acreages are okay. Ron Nagata was able to fence the entire park and not just an individual clumps because he could use them, the Judas goats. We learned a lot.

AK: Wow. And so this was at the same time. . . . was the fence around Haleakalā mainly for pigs?

BH: Ron followed Volcano's technique, but he was able, instead of making it a lot of little tiny pieces, make it one big enchilada and throw some Judas goats and find any goats that came in.

AK: Do you know how tall was the fence for the goats at Hawai‘i Volcanoes? Were they kind of the standard six feet or were the goats. . .

BH: What's that?

AK: Was the fence for the goats at Hawai‘i Volcanoes also six feet?

BH: To jump over the fence? Goats try to sneak through it and so they couldn't get through. The trouble is with axis deer, at Haleakalā, they'll jump over the fence. But I can't think of his name, now, the biologist at Kalaupapa, has put big webbing things up in the sky above his fences and the axis deer. They don't jump over that. He's got a neat technique but I can't think of his name now, but he's sharp.

AK: That's very interesting. And while you were working at Hawai‘i Volcanoes, could you tell me a little bit about maybe some of the qualities of the park and how they sort of changed over time? I know you mentioned that it was focused on goats originally and then there was also this big research push.

BH: Say again?

AK: So at Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, you mentioned there was a period of time where they really started doing research and working with UH. And then you also mentioned there was kind of this period of time where they were doing fencing for the goats. Can you tell me a little bit about maybe some of the other kind of big initiatives or big programs. . .?

BH: One thing I was happiest about at Volcano Park wouldn't relate to Haleakalā. When I arrived at Volcano Park, Kīlauea was just in fantastically beautiful eruptions, it was just superb. On my first day there, they took me out and showed me lava eruptions. I went out with the chief scientist at the Hawai‘i Volcano Observatory and our chief ranger. As they showed me the eruptions I looked around and I asked the chief ranger, “Where are the visitors?”

He said, “Oh, it's too dangerous to let visitors in here.”

I said, “It is? Then why are we here?”

“Oh, we're okay.”

I scratched my chin about that, and then I talked with Don Peterson, the chief scientist at the Volcano Observatory, I said, “Don, this is a National Park, you're here to study the National Park and I'm here to take care of the park, but I'm just the people's caretaker. This is the peoples’ park and we're not letting them come and see these stupendous eruptions.”

Well, he said, “It's too damn dangerous.”

I said, “Well, how come you are taking me there? You guys are going in there, taking your families, your friends.” So, I said, “Well Don, let's you and I have a handshake deal right now: If it’s safe for us, it’s safe for visitors. And/or if it’s not safe for visitors it’s not

safe—and closed for us. The exception I'll make is for your scientists, that individual scientist who is going in to make studies integral to understanding the volcano and only that person and only at the time he's making those measurements. He can't take his family and can't take friends. If we find ways to allow the visitors, then our scientists, families and rangers can come in too."

We agreed and then started studies—not just of the volcano activity—but studies of risk analysis of the volcano. Where can you allow visitors, and they would be safe. That became a whole line of study for Don. One of the places we opened up was Mauna Ulu. It was the most wild scene you can imagine, visitors right to the brink and see and hear this its wild eruption. We worked it out that only 50 people at a time could come. We made a little observation platform there, and fifty people would come for a half hour there and back and we just rotated 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And we always had a Park Service employee there. And the trouble with that site is that once in a while it would collapse into the molten lava.

AK: And sorry, what site was this? I didn't hear.

BH: This was at Mauna Ulu downdrift from Halemauʻumaʻu. It collapsed into the molten lava several times, a number and you didn't want it to collapse with people. But we had people there 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

So, one of Don Peterson's crazy scientists, was a young, insane, PhD inventing instruments that could be put on the moon to analyze the geology on the moon. This was before their moon landing. Unger was his name. So, he decided to design a little rig that we could try to predict when Mauna Ulu's rim was going to collapse. That would be cool. He designed some instruments and he put them out along the rim. We called them Unger's "creep-meters." Basically, they monitored cracks. If cracks around the edge widened gradually, at a constant pace, it's okay. But if the cracks widening accelerated---uh oh, dangerous. And he had his "creep-meters´ triggered off to an alarm that he carried with him; he went to sleep at night with his alarm. If the alarm went on, he grabbed a radio and warned the ranger, get the hell off Mauna Ulu and he'd get everybody off.

The upshot was our visitor platform collapsed into the molten lava probably seven or eight times. None of those times was anybody present because each time Unger had been triggered that it was going to happen. We had about three or four false alarms. But that's great science. We kept that philosophy up as long as I was there and afterward. If it's safe for the scientists and the rangers to go, it's safe for the visitors. If it's not safe for the visitors, it's not safe for the other guys. An offshoot of that was Peterson, while he lived, developed a model for hazard zones of the Big Island using his risk analysis. Then, he went a step further and made a study of Mount Rainier hazard zones, patterned after the idea of how do you keep visitors safe on Hawaiʻi Volcanoes.

AK: How neat, so both parks were very proactive and very kind of ahead of ahead of a lot of the other parks in terms of. . .

BH: Well, I don't know. You know, I've worked in parks where we had signs out there warning that when you go on the trails, grizzly bears are dangerous. Well, you know, I agree.

AK: Yeah. When you were the Director of the Pacific Area National Parks, where did all that encompass? Because I know in Hawai‘i it's Haleakalā and Volcanoes.

BH: There are 11 parks areas: Haleakalā on Maui, Volcanoes, Pu‘uhonua o Hōnaunau, Pu‘ukoholā Heiau, Kaloko-Honokōhau and a National Trail on the Big Island, Kalaupapa National Historical Park on Moloka‘i, Arizona Memorial on Oahu. Outside of Hawai‘i there were War in the Pacific Park on Guam, the American Memorial on Saipan, and a new marvelous park, the National Park of American Samoa. The Samoa Park is a gem and we got it established ourselves here in the Pacific Island Office. Decades ago, the NPS studied a potential National in American Samoa but couldn't resolve a way to acquire the lands. The Samoan villages own the land and that cannot be changed. You don’t sell or buy land in American Samoa.

One day in my office, a big Samoan guy came in and wanted to see the boss. They pointed to me, and he came over and demanded why the devil there isn’t a national park in American Samoa? I explained, because we can't get equity in the land to have a national park established.

He said, “Well, I'm the Lieutenant Governor and we want to have a national park in Samoa.” He said he was heading to Washington to try to get them to pass legislation to make a study to establish a park in Samoa.

I suggested the congressman for him to go to, and suggest they have my office, the Honolulu office of the National Park Service, conduct the study. And have them appropriate money, but just a small amount like ten or fifteen thousand dollars (for some airplane flights down there) because if you get any more, they'll grab it in Washington and they'll screw up the study. If we, do it, we'll give you a fair study. So, he did that. We got the funding and we made the study. One of the key people on that study was Melia Lane-Kanahele. She is presently the Park’s Pacific Area Director.

We made a good study and got through Congress. We were allowed a new idea to get the land—a renewable, long-term lease as a different way to get equity in land for the park. Getting such a lease was an unresolvable sticking point. But it pays to get lucky. Flying to Samoa one day the main cabin was so crowded I had to upgrade to first class. By happenstance the others in first class were only the Governor, the Chief Justice of the Samoan Court and Eni, the former Lieutenant Governor—and me—stuck together on a 6-hour flight. Eni, who is then the same Eni who came into my office, that was now the congressman from American Samoa in Washington said, “what are you doing about the park?”

I responded that I hadn’t found a way to work out a deal to pay for a long-term lease. People say it's impossible to have an appraisal because there's never been any land sales

in Samoa. I added that in my opinion to that one way of having an appraisal is, is what the owner will accept in payment and what the purchaser is willing to pay, and I said, I know about how much the Congress is willing to pay and they won't go over that. And you know how much they are willing to accept.

The judge was listening to this and he said, “Well we can figure that out.” He said, make it a renewable 50-year lease and that it can be canceled by either party, without cause, we all agreed on a price for the lease on this airplane flight. He said, “I, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court would accept that and I will adjudicate it between the nine villages on how that money is dispensed.”

So, by the time we landed at Pago Pago, we had worked out the lease and had the papers all drafted up. It was a done deal.

AK: Wow, that's great.

BH: If I hadn't flown first class that, I could never have gotten those people together for more than a 15-minute meeting.

AK: Yeah, I was there not too long ago. It's incredible. I remember I was I was going to ask you about how that worked with the private ownership in a federal system.

BH: Well, it was a crazy deal. One of the weird pieces of land ownership philosophy came from the guy that was then Secretary of Interior, James Watt. In the history of the annals of American government, Watt was absolutely the worst. There's no one in his class. But one things Watt abhorred was to spend money buying land for these useless national parks. He directed us to just find some way that you can get equity in the land other than paying good money to own it. With that new license to lease the land. That was the gem of the idea we fleshed out on the long first-class flight to Samoa.

AK: Yeah, that's incredible.

BH: Sometimes being lucky is better than being wise.

AK: And when was this 50-year lease? When was this around? Has it been renewed since then?

BH: Yeah, it's renewable. They would like to have it renewed. I was in Samoa with Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt for the big flag day celebration at Pago Pago. We're up in the stands, Secretary Babbitt and I sitting with the governor and his wife, and the kings of all these other island countries in the South Pacific.

The governor of American Samoa got up and he reached over to the governor of Western Samoa and he said, “Man. I tell you, you guys are asleep at the switch. I've got to deal”. He said, “I'm part of the United States of America. And he said they take care of us. They've cut a deal to have a great national park in in our islands here and they’re hiring a

bunch of rangers to do stuff that I ought to be doing at my expense. Now they're doing it at their expense. I ought to be taking care of these lands, not letting them be spoiled, and letting visitors to come and see them. But no, the U.S.A. is doing it at their cost. They've giving us this new park—and don't tell this guy sitting next to me, the Secretary of the Interior—that he's paying me to have these guys come down and do the job that I'm supposed to do. What a deal have I got!"

AK: What year is this? What year were you down in Samoa on Flag Day?

BH: That Flag Day was in the mid-1990's. Babbitt was Secretary of Interior under Bill Clinton. One other deal that directly relates to Haleakalā, I was Area Director and I knew Laurance was getting along in years (and not well) so I called his secretary and his business manager and reminded them that back in the 1970s, Laurance cut a deal. When the governor of Hawai'i gave the state lands and the Nature Conservancy got the private lands and donated these to Haleakalā Park, he would donate his other lands, this beachfront property to the park. I told them the state's done their part and Nature Conservancy has done their part; it's all intact so let Laurance know that we fulfilled our obligation. They asked me to back off a bit while they worked on donating the J.Y. Ranch to Teton Park. And as soon as they figured out how to dispose of the J.Y, they'd get on the Haleakalā transfer, and they did. Laurance gave his lands to the park and all of his other beachfront lands to Haleakalā.

In another related deal at Volcano Park, involved Kahuku Ranch which adjoins the park on the west side, and who we always fought we were enemies at the park. It was a huge private ranch, going back in ownership to I think Kamehameha II. It was held in trust. The trust, came a point in time to be dissolved, and I got a call from their lawyer, and Suzanne Case, then head of the Nature Conservancy, was on the line. They said Kahuku Ranch is going to be sold because they had to disperse its value to the hundreds of recipients (who couldn't agree other than that some of them wanted cash on the barrel). "Harry, if the Nature Conservancy bought Kahuku, could you get it repaid?"

And I said, "Geez well, how much time do I have to try to figure that out?"

"We need an answer tomorrow morning."

"Oh!" And, so I thought about it overnight, I talked to Senator Inouye and I got enough body language from Inouye, to say, what the heck, I'll give it a gamble – the only thing hanging on the block was my head. So I told Suzanne, "Go for it. We will do our goldened best to reimburse you."

So, she bought the property for $22 million. Over time we got all but a quarter million back to her. That became a pretty nice example for these big land trusts. They could get money, cash on the barrel, and their ranches wouldn't be cut up and subdivided. And so a couple of the ranchers are joining Haleakalā followed that same practice in recent years. They got the idea from Jim Martin and my gamble at Kahuku Ranch.

AK: That's great and I guess to sort of close, I don't want to take up too much of your time, but do you have any final thoughts about Haleakalā Park or any final things you'd like to discuss that maybe I didn't ask about or you'd like to share?

BH: I guess I'd say look around you, and at the staff, and say that wonderful park with its silver swords, petrels, and upper Kīpahulu, certainly would not exist without that staff. That is beyond belief. And the ones I know used to be park service experts, like Art Medeiros, Ron Nagata, Cathleen Bailey, but you've got new ones that I don't know, but I'm sure they're just as great. That's a treasure.

AK: Are there any sort of future directions you'd like to see the park going or future programs?

BH: One deal, yes. Use the DNA modified mosquitoes to kill mosquitoes so avian malaria doesn't kill the last honeycreepers in Kīpahulu and on Kīlauea. Josh Fisher is the guy in Fish and Wildlife Service who is the keeper of the DNA. And say, you'll bet the ranch on trying to DNA modify the mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are there.

AK: Very interesting, thank you. And I know you've had the opportunity to work at numerous national parks over the years, just as sort of a last question, how do you feel your relationship has kind of changed with the parks, have changed over time, working with National Park Service in all your various capacities?

BH: You know, I think people at the time, Olmsted, when they established Yosemite as a state park, and the establishment of Yellowstone in the Yellowstone Act and the incredible people that they had working there. I don't think we've changed. I think that they started a marathon in those days, and you never knew when the end of it was. But everybody has handed the baton off to the next ones, the next ones have run better laps than the ones before, because they're smarter and healthier and better and it's going strong.

AK: Sounds great. Well, thank you so much and I know it's been about an hour, so I don't want to take up too much more of your day.

BH: Well, you can you can screen out all of the stuff that doesn't fit and all the irrelevant and bold face lies.

(Laughter)

AK: Everything's related. So, I really appreciate it. Thank you. And one thing a little bit off topic from Haleakalā, I'm helping to run the archives down in American Samoa. And so, we have eight hundred thousand images that we're sort of sorting through from 1969 to 2012. And one of the categories that we have, I think we have over thirty thousand images of various Flag Days. So, I'll go through it and see if maybe you pop up in any of those. (Laughs)

BH: Yeah, I was on the study team for North Cascades National Park. We were a small team, but one of the persons on the team Woody Woodbridge had formerly been a photographer for National Geographic. We put him in charge of pictures. Like, Woody, you're in charge of pictures. His scam was you've got plenty of film to take pictures, but when you get your slides back, label them and Woody would take the best ones for the official Department of Interior files. You can have the junk reject slides. So, I had piles of slides, well labeled. I'm getting along in years, and so a couple of years ago I took all those slides digitized and had them scanned into CDs. Then I put the metadata from what was on the slides, the digital images, and sent all the old slides and CD to the superintendent of North Cascades, and said, here's the "rejected slides" from our old studies if you want them. You know, boy, she sure did want them.

AK: That's great. And I guess sort of in relation to this project as well, if you'd like, we are, you know, asking people if there are any images of you or yourself or your time at Haleakalā that you would like to be included with your archive.

BH: I might have a few like aerial views of upper Kīpahulu or something that I could send to you.

AK: Yeah, if you don't mind.

BH: Yes, I think most of my slides of Samoa are in the park files, but I may have some. I'll look. And if you're interested, it's worthwhile going to the park slide collection, and look at what they are. And you can get them scanned now really cheaply and then add the stuff into the metadata and get those into the digital archives of the park's pictures.

*Post-Interview Add-on:*
[In the past I made some web pages with picture lists of corals, fishes, marine invertebrates, birds, plants of American Samoa. A few other parks asked me to do the same for them. Links to those web pages are at web page--

http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/basch/uhnpscesu/picrp/inventory.htm#top

I am not volunteering at UH so I am unable to edit or modify any of those web pages, and the Birds of Haleakalā page has a broken link and is unusable. But I do have htm file copies of all the web pages and hard drives of all the high-resolution images on them if you are interested.]

AK: Yeah, absolutely. We're planning to make a trip to the museum archives soon once everybody's been vaccinated and whatnot. Well, thank you so much, it was such a pleasure talking to you.

BH: And if you have saved this digitally, there's a button, it's called delete, you can wipe it all out.

(Laughter)

AK: Never! Well, thank you. And once I finish typing up the transcript, which may be a little while, I'll send it on to you and you can feel free to edit, change, redact, delete anything you like.

BH: OK, thanks. Take it easy.

AK: You, too, bye

BH: Bye.