Jane Difley, President of the New Hampshire Forest Society
interviewed by June Hammond Rowan, December 3, 2015

June Hammond Rowan (JHR): For the purpose of the recording it's December 3rd, this is June Hammond Rowan. I'm speaking with Jane Difley here from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Well thank very much for doing this.

Jane Difley (JD): Oh, you're welcome.

JHR: Our goal – just a quick, I mean – you know a little bit about my role at Plymouth State University Center for the Environment, this work for me is secondary, it's more just about my own interests and the exhibit that's coming up is around women in the White Mountains. So at one point in discussion there was, some students had been doing interviews around the White Mountains with different people but for the purpose of the exhibit we wanted to have some key themes identified, one of which is conservation and I said you would be probably *the* best example.

JD: [laughs] I don't know about that.

JHR: Well, a good example, given your time here at the Forest Society and all the good work that's happened. So I did send you the questions ahead of time to help you get a little bit prepped for it so, some of these obviously probably apply we can dig more deeply into some of them they are meant to be guiding questions and have some discussion around them but we can follow them.

JD: Right, sure.

JHR: So I guess the first one is, not knowing a whole lot about your background did you…are you from the White Mountains at all or New Hampshire or what was your first trip....when and where and…

JD: Yeah, I actually was born in Massachusetts, like so many people, but both my mother and my maternal grandmother were born in New Hampshire and when I was a kid my aunt, my mother's sister, lived in Portsmouth, and I don't remember the first trip we made but we used to every year come up to the White Mountains with my aunt and uncle and probably sometimes with my grandparents and we used to... I don't know if we ever stayed there but I remember going to the... what's that place called? The Pumpkin Resort?

JHR: The Jack o'Lantern?

JD: The Jack Lantern! Yes, we, well I mean that's the kind of thing a kid remembers, you know I remember that resort and we weren't people that hiked but we picnicked, you know, we picnicked at places and I can't remember where but I know we would be in the White Mountains and we would picnic and that kind of thing.

JHR: So it was more driving and sightseeing and kind of...?

JD: Yeah! I think we stayed overnight – we must've stayed overnight somewhere because in those days it would have taken us from central Massachusetts, not Boston, but central Massachusetts it would have

taken us several hours to get to the White Mountains you know there weren't – your state highway hadn't been built yet.

JHR: Yeah it was like 3 you'd take, right?

JD: Something, yeah I don't know. Something, anyway. I just we have there are pictures – oh we used to go to the, this isn't really about the White Mountains but we used to go to the attractions you know we have pictures of me when I was a little kid at Story Land.

JHR: Well that's in the White Mountains.

JD: Yeah and at um what's the other one? Santa's Village.

JHR: Santa's Village, in Lancaster?

JD: Yeah, so those were the kinds of things that we did you know this would have been in the 50's, 1950's, and those were the kinds of things that families did who weren't necessarily, my parents weren't necessarily avid hikers or anything. Although we, you know I remember, this isn't the White Mountains but we climbed Monadnock when I was a kid and you know which that was closer to home but so my family was not a hiking family I guess is what I'm saying.

JHR: Yeah. Did you climb Monadnock regularly like every year or…?

JD: No. We did it a couple or three times or something like that, that I recall.

JHR: Ok. So, but these were annual trips up to the White Mountains as you recall as a kid or more or less with extended family aunts, uncles you said ? Siblings and cousins?

JD: Yeah and not like long trips. We would vacation at Hampton Beach, which is sort of funny.

JHR: So do you remember these trips as fun?

JD: Oh yeah, yeah I do.

JHR: Do you remember the landscape at that time or the mountains or…

JD: Um I don't think so you know I think I was too… I'm talking about you know really quite young like before third grade probably. And part of that is from the pictures I have of me in the White Mountains, they're all fairly young.

JHR: Did those trips stop at some point I mean as you got older in high school or something any kind of… was there a gap and then you came back to the White Mountains?

JD: I think my sister is five and a half years older than I so she would have started to be a teenager when I was still you know 10 or whatever and I think that's kind of when things, when we stopped doing that quite so much because she probably didn't want to go. I mean I don't know, I don't remember I'm making that up [laughs] but yes they stopped at some point is the real point.

JHR: And then you start back up as an adult more coming up or did your… I guess this ties in a little about how did your career bring you through New Hampshire?

JD: Right. So I guess really the next time I would have sort of been engaged in the White Mountains was when I was a graduate student I worked at the Forest Society as an intern and while I didn't work in the White Mountains, I certainly knew of the connection of the Forest Society to the White Mountains. I worked more over on Gap Mountain. So I started to be reintroduced in a more adult sort of intellectual way of the Forest Society's connection to the White Mountains. And then I came back in the mid-80's and worked for the Forest Society and knew about the connection to the White Mountains and did some hiking in the White Mountains and then came back here almost twenty years ago.

JHR: That was a question I had, so you've been here about 20 years now?

JD: Since '96. August of '96

JHR: In this, in your role as president?

JD: Uh-huh

JHR: Ok.

JD: But this is my third time working in the Forest Society.

JHR: I didn't realize that.

JD: I was an intern when I was a graduate student, I came back and worked for about a year and a half in the 80's, and then came back full-time, permanent in '96.

JHR: So one question I had that isn't on this list is your just sort of your summary of your career because you're trained as a forester, correct?

JD: Yes.

JHR: So do you find that as a woman in that field… was that unusual in the time when you were in school?

JD: Yeah I actually, I have an undergraduate degree in English literature and then I… but I was in college during the first Earth Day and I really felt, I've said this before, there are a lot of people who really cared about the environment and were advocating on the environment's behalf but they didn't know anything, really, and some of the things that they were advocating were sort of erroneous. On the other hand I thought that there were a lot of scientists who knew a lot, who didn't care and were either afraid or just didn't want to speak up on behalf of the environment. I also didn't want to get a PhD because I didn't want to go to school that long, and I was I'd also wanted to do something really practical so I decided to go to forestry school because it seemed to me that that was practical, it was applied science and that it was both caring for the environment but also knowing something about the environment that you are caring for. So that's why I went to graduate school in forestry and in those days, if you had

any science undergraduate, and which I did even though I majored in English, you could get a degree in forestry. It's not as common anymore but..

JHR: Where did you go to school?

JD: I went to the University of Massachusetts for my graduate degree. I went to Connecticut College as an undergraduate.

JHR: So were there... how many other women were in the forestry school at the time do you think? I don't know, percentage wise or?

JD: Yeah, there were just a handful. I used to say that, I still say this, when I was in graduate school and went to forestry meetings, national forestry meetings, I knew all the women in the United States who were foresters. I don't anymore. Because there's more of us. I mean there were really there were a dozen or fifteen of us in those days.

JHR: In the country?

JD: In the country. And here in New England when I went to forestry meetings the guy at the registration desk, and it was always a guy, when I would come to the registration desk, would look up at me and say 'oh are you a Lynn, Jane, or Molly'?

JHR: [laughs] oh because there was three of you?

JD: Yeah, Lynn Lavigne, Molly Batey, and me. So yeah there were very few of us in those early days when I was in graduate school and then that changed. It's still, I would say it's still a male-dominated field but there are lots of women who are in forestry, interested in forestry—that kind of thing.

JHR: Yeah, that's pretty groundbreaking then I guess, which is awesome.

JD: Well there actually, I wasn't groundbreaking. I mean there were women who were in the forestry profession, there was sort of like a first wave that was before me. I would say I was in the second wave. I could give you the names of those women but I can't think of them. I mean Dawn Forest and Sally Fairfax and, the woman who was the first ranger for the US Forest Service whose name will come to me in a minute, she's now involved in land trusts, now that she's retired she's involved in land trusts. You know there were some women who were before us but we were only a few years, like three or four years behind.

JHR: Well. I think that's very groundbreaking, first or second wave, it's close enough and it's such small numbers –

JD: Yeah well, I wasn't at the time that wasn't...

JHR: You weren't necessarily doing it for any... just more about your connection and caring and...

JD: Yeah... yeah.

JHR: So, kind of back I guess to the White Mountains, what, I mean obviously your work covers New Hampshire in a broader region but is there anything in particular that draws you to the more northern parts and the White Mountains in particular?

JD: Yeah, well I mean who doesn't love the White Mountains? [laughs] I mean, they're beautiful, they're accessible; you know they offer so many different opportunities to experience being in the outdoors. You know from those experiences like Story Land, to remote wilderness areas and hiking and one thing that was really remarkable for me in my career is that when I was an intern at the Forest Society there was a writer John Mitchell, he's no longer with us, but he at the time was writing for Audubon Magazine and he wrote an article about 'Wither the Yankee Forest.' I think that was the one. Anyway he became a good friend but anyway when he was writing this article he and another woman who was working with... Paul Bofinger, who was my predecessor sent me off on this hike with John Mitchell and this woman who was the photographer for his article who happened to be a relative of his and the three of us hiked, I don't even remember what first trail but we ended up at coming out at the Zealand trail. We didn't stay at the lodge, we camped. And we talked a lot. It was interesting to be with a writer who was asking questions about the Whites and asking question about the Forest Society's role in protecting the White Mountains. You know and plus it was an overnight hike and this, I met this woman who was the photographer and it was just seeing the mountains through some different eyes and then you know and then to see my name in the Audubon Magazine as having been part of this trip was pretty, in those days, for me pretty exciting. But that gave me, that really was a different, also a different view for me to be with a writer and a photographer, these two artists, essentially, who saw things somewhat differently than I did you know I in a kind of professional sense thinking about forestry and they from their different perspectives. That was really, you know, a fun thing. And another, you know I've cross-country skied in the White Mountains. I loved skiing down the Zealand railroad you know that long, long stretch where you feel like a really good skier because it kind of looks flat but it's really downhill [laughs] There are a lot of people who have done a lot more hiking in the White Mountains than I have. But I just find the variety of the White Mountains they're just they're beautiful and they're just such an iconic part of what New Hampshire is. That rock, that granite gritty…thing about New Hampshire.

JHR: [Inaudible]

JD: The other thing I love sort of in terms of my affiliation with the Forest Society is you know when you think about what the Forest Society and the others who are advocating protection of the White Mountains and there's John Weeks and the Speaker of the House, what's-his-name, Cannon, you know , not one for scenery and John Weeks figured out how to use laws that existed, commerce laws that existed not for the protection of forests but for protecting the headwaters of navigable streams. Using that commerce law was the way he got people to agree to the Weeks Act that you know eventually protected the White Mountain National Forest. I mean that's just such a great story, it's such a great insight into how politics works and how there are lots of different ways to get consensus and I think that's part of the history of this organization you know is finding different ways to go about things to accomplish the same thing and not having it always be labeled as conservation even though that's the eventual outcome.

JHR: So I guess that kind of is a good segway into your work connecting you to the mountains in terms of you know what you're doing here with the Forest Society over twenty years and how... again it's recognized statewide, but can you speak about some of the projects that have been more specifically around the White Mountain region, which is a broad, broad area it is hard to draw a definite line around it. I mean there is the Forest service boundary, the White Mountain National Forest but we think of the regions as having connections past that too, right up until yesterday.

JD: Right, right, and on going in terms of Northern Pass. You know I think, When I think about this organization's connection to the White Mountains or to the whole state, in 1904 this organization's mission statement, which this organization has held onto for all of those years, over 100 years – over 110 years – in 1904 the mission statement was "To perpetuate the forests of New Hampshire through their wise use and their complete reservation in places of special scenic beauty." And you know I believe in that my core. That just resonates with that me. That is old fashioned language but that idea that having wilderness is the other side of the coin for using natural resources and I think that is one of the things that we most want in New Hampshire and especially in the White Mountain National Forest. So you know this organization is very involved in whenever the White Mountain National Forest does a forest plan, we are really involved in that. We led some of the efforts to create wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest but we have also lead the efforts to make sure that there was harvesting in the White Mountain National Forest because we think that both are important and that they are different sides to the same coin. And that has lead us into a lot of different policy discussions in the White Mountains and we work really closely with the folks who work at the White Mountain National Forest and we are a part of this Tilton Diner Group, which has been going on for years. Right now it is organized by the Appalachian Mountain Club and it is a group of organizations that meet once or twice a year and we invite Tom Wagner and some of his staff to come and we talk about various issues in the White Mountains that are of concern to all of us. Some of the latest is from the storms that have gone through and wrecked all of the trails, some of the trails and some of the roads in the National Forest and the work to reconstruct those or to relocate those. We have gone on fieldtrips together, with the staff, and you know the policies off of ATVS and snowmobiles. Those kinds of policies, we have been very active in those and it is always guided by this idea that yes we need to use the forest but we need to make sure that the use is appropriate, and that special areas, wilderness areas, habitats, are protected from incursions that will harm them. We have helped, in the past, the National Forest acquire land and were sometimes able to acquire land more quickly than the federal government is and hold lands and sell them to the White Mountains. Earlier in our history we did a lot of that. And of course the Franconia Notch controversy, which was before my time but was a huge effort of this organization over a decade and protecting the Old Man of the Mountain while he was still there and convincing the federal government that you can have an interstate highway that was only three lanes that went through an important State Park and National Forest. That was a huge effort on behalf of this organization that ended up in a compromise that I think has served New Hampshire well.

JHR: I was going to say that because that was before your time, do you see repercussions from it or do you still feel like that was a good decision and outcome?

JD: Yeah, I think having a four lane highway through that state park – that notch is incredibly beautiful and the water that is right there. It's not, I mean the Old Man was an incredible attraction but you know, there's those trails that overlook the ponds and the trails on Cannon and on the east side of the road, those formations. All of that is just incredibly beautiful and you don't need a four lane highway going through it. You know I know that there are people who complain during construction season or I am sure there are truckers who don't like the slow speeds through Franconia Notch but I think all in all that that three lane highway has served New Hampshire well. Especially given how important our tourism is to us. And you know it is good for Americans to slow down and look at the scenery.

JHR: [laughs] So can you speak a little bit about I mean obviously I recognize you represent the Forest Society but thinking about you as a person, as Jane, like how does your work, obviously you are very dedicated to the mission of the Forest Society, is that really your driving force in terms of believing in the work in the White Mountains? Is there anything deeper for you beyond that mission statement? Separating you and the work a little bit.

JD: Yeah, that is kinda hard to do. [laughs]. I sometimes joke that you know when I am out at an event in Concord or whatever and I am talking to people, I am always still the Forest Society, whether I am there because I am going to a concert or there because it's a forestry meeting. But you know I am deeply connected to the outdoors. You know I grew up in a rural, a small town, and was outdoors all the time. And you know, there's something about being in the mountains that touches, I think, if people allow it, it touches everybody. But it's something very basic about being in such a beautiful place, being out in the woods, the chance that you might see wildlife that is always there. Getting exercise. You know when I hike usually it's with friends and/ or my dog, but you, sometimes it is nice to be out there alone. I think, while my family roots are not in the White Mountains, the connection, the family connections to New Hampshire matter to me and that includes the Whites somehow. And there aren't enough places like the White Mountain National Forest in the world that provide both these opportunities to do things that are family oriented or skiing at a resort, but also offer the opportunity to be out in the wilderness. The variety of things you can do in the White Mountain National Forest is just incredible.

JHR: Well it sounds like some of your own personal feelings about that may drive your work a little bit more easily. It's easier.

JD: Right, Right, well I am here because my personal values and the values of the organization, you know are coincident. They match, they, you know God Bless the Wilderness Society but that's not where I should be working you know. I love wilderness but I also am very interested in forestry. So the Forest Society is exactly the right place. The other thing about working here is there aren't very many people in the world I think who can actually go out on land and walk on it and be in the trees and look at views and see wildlife and sort of say you know "because of the work that I do, this place will always be there. It may not look exactly like this because the trees will change and the trees will get bigger or they will be harvested or whatever, but this land will always be available to the public. This land will not be developed. This land will continue to provide clean air, clean water, places for wildlife to live, places for people like me to seek solitude. It will always be there and that happened on my watch." You know that really matters. You know I use to work for the National Tree Farm program, which I loved. I loved

working with tree farmers, you know, they are people who love their land, they want to do the right thing by their land. It was great because there were all of these wonderful tree farmers that I would get to meet and converse with and their foresters were really dedicated, it was really great. And I was in this national position but you know I was walking on somebody else's land, that it was all – *they* did it, I didn't have anything to do with it. And while I got to be with them and that was all fun, I came here and I was able to actually walk on what this organization has protected, including the White Mountain National Forest and that is very special. It's like tangible.

JHR: Can you speak briefly about some of the current work you are involved with around the White Mountains… Major projects that are, whatever you can say about those and your connection to them and that connection to the landscape of the mountain themselves.

JD: [laughs] You know the very biggest and first thing that the Forest Society is doing is we are opposed to the Northern Pass as it has been proposed. And we are opposed to it not just because of the White Mountains but because they want to put 192 miles worth of towers and/or underground pipe line through our state. And while they are proposing to put it underground around the White Mountain National Forest, the highway, the welcome mat to NH as you drive up route 93 will be crossed six times before you can get to the White Mountain National Forest by towers that are either somewhere between 85 and 135 feet tall. And you know trees in NH are, you know, about 65-80 feet tall in general. So these are going to be way taller than our trees. And at this point it doesn't look to me like NH is really going to get much benefit from that, the construction of this project. They need to put it underground, the whole length, and not scar our landscape, not damage our views, not affect our property values. That's really the biggest thing that we are involved in at this moment. I don't think we are doing any land protection projects right now that are adjacent the White Mountain National Forest, although we have certainly done some.

JHR: [inaudible] For the last ten, fifteen years.

JD: Yeah, we have done some projects in Tamworth. These are on private lands. I'm drawing a blank, but we have done projects around the White Mountain National Forest and as I said before, we have done some projects of holding lands that we have then sold or given the White Mountain National Forest.

JHR: I know you have done some land exchanges too.

JD: Yes that too.

JHR: Yes, I had a class that did a case study.

JD: I mean we have, this is no excuse but, we have 180 reservations and we have over 600 conservations easements. I can't keep track of all of them. [laughs]

JHR: That's understandable. That's impressive. That brings up a question, how many people do you have on staff here? How big is this, roughly?

JD: It's about 40.

JHR: That you are in charge of? That's another piece that's significant to you. I mean Forest Society is a big organization by New Hampshire standard.

JD: You know one of the things that we often don't talk about very much is that a lot of the other people who work in land trusts in New Hampshire were trained here at the Forest Society. So you know Brian Hart who runs the South East Land Trust worked here first. Chris Wells who now runs the Piscataquog [?] Land Conservancy worked here for 10 years. Anne McBride who works at the Monadnock Conservancy worked here for a number of years. Charlie Niebling who does wood energy stuff is now working on wood energy stuff you know. I mean I could just go on and on about the number of people who have worked here and sort of gotten their feet in the dirt here at the Forest Society. So there's a lot of people who have been trained, who are now leading other conservation organizations.

JHR: So speaking about the field of land conservation in the region, here in particular in the northern White Mountain area, coming back to the comments that you had about women in forestry, what is your sense of percentage wise of women you know then and now, over your career, different points, do you see more women engaged in land conservation work? Has that changed over time? Do you see any issues or motivations, positives, negatives, around women in land conservation?

JD: You know, I don't go to as many forestry meetings as I use too. I still go to local forestry meetings but not so much the national ones because when I go to the National Land Trust Alliance meetings, there are so many more women, there are so many volunteers, there is a different kind of energy with people who are involved in land conservation than forestry. Part of that is because you know land conservation and organizations are nonprofits and they include both volunteer board members as well as people who are paid to work for land trusts. But those sort of level of excitement and the eagerness to learn and the sort of thinking about policies at the national level and what's going on in States, the eagerness to share what we know with each other… I have just not experienced that elsewhere and I think it is because people love where they live. Or they love their state, or they love their watershed, they love their river, or they love, there is some landscape that is meaningful to them. They love it and they want to protect it. And it is so different. You know, in Montana they are protecting ranches and in Louisiana they are concerned about the wetlands along the coast. And in California and the west where there is so much public land, you know, their issues are quite different than they are here in New England. It's just a very exciting, vibrant sort of community. And you know we have seen land trusts grow up in New Hampshire partly as a result of the work that we have done. But you know there's the and around the White Mountains. So there is the Rebecca Brown's organization, ACT [Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust]. And there is the folks over on the Madison area, there is land trust over there. There are some communities that have what they call land trusts, mostly they are promoting land conservation. You know, there is the group in the Tamworth/ Sandwich area that was working to connect wildlife land with the National Forest. You know, watching that grow, and I think that is partly because of the Forest Society. When this organization was founded the way to protect land was to have it go to the federal government. And then you know there were lands that were protected by state forests and state parks and it was really my predecessor Paul Bofinger who brought conservation easements really to New England, as a way to protect land for this era. You know, that it complimented state lands and federal lands. But lands protected lands didn't have to be owned by a government entity or a community but they could be

owned by private citizens with a nonprofit organization overseeing a conservation easement and that's an extraordinary change. And I am sure there will be further evolutions of ways to protect land but that's a good one.

JHR: So in terms of women and gauge, you think that you see more women in the land trust and both nationally and locally, regionally and see other smaller organizations? Like I said there have been a quite a bit of changes over time just right around the White Mountains that are actually women led so…?

JD: Yeah they are! Absolutely.

JHR: I mean in particular, ACT is a good example of Green Mountain Conservation Group.

JD: Yeah, Green Mountain Conservation Group, absolutely, yeah.

JHR: That's kinda neat, over time. So one of the other questions here is that I guess I should ask is does Title 9 mean anything to you?

JD: I don't even know what Title 9 is.

JHR: Well that was one, that really I don't know a lot about that either, but that is legislation that gave women equal access in education primarily, so people often think about it as equal sports teams. I guess if you can't identify it, that hasn't have any impact in terms of equity in your … Or is there anything ese around in school or your career where equity has been an issue?

JD: I went to Connecticut College when it was for women and that was a choice for me because I went to a high school that was for women. And I was a scholarship kid and so part of my problem was that nobody ever told me I couldn't be a forester. You know my parents, when I was a little kid I wanted to be a fireman. You know I had firetrucks and I had those fire hats that we got at school and stuff. And my parents never told me that "No Jane, you are not going to be a fireman because you are a girl." You know they kinda forgot to tell me that. And I mean I outgrew that fireman thing but when I went to forestry school I don't think I was fully aware that there were not very many women in forestry. And I think people get logging and forestry kinda mixed up. Being a good forester doesn't necessarily mean that you are out there with a chain saw you know cutting down trees. Which is a great thing to do. It's just that people associate, in my day, associated forestry being tall trees, tough men kind of thing. So having gone to women's schools, going to forestry school was kinda a shock. And I was certainly part of the women's movement; I was sort of an obnoxious feminist in my day. [laughs]

JHR: So you weren't intimidated to become president of the Forest Society here.

JD: No, not by that time. But having gone to women schools where you know women ran student government, women teams, all women. I mean we had some male teachers but the head of a school was a woman. That was really influential in terms of my perception of what women could do. I don't know when Title 9 was passed but I think it was after I was out of school I think. I kinda vaguely remember it but…

JHR: But it sounds like that early influence around women in leadership roles was probably seeing that opportunity and having that chance, that's neat. So have your feelings changed about the White Mountain's over time?

JD: I don't know if this is exactly about the White Mountains but one of the things that… I'm not particularly interested in history but I am really interested in the history of this organization and of the White Mountains. I find all that stuff sort of fascinating. How the White Mountains, Dave Anderson our Director of Education, is fond of saying "In the south man shaped the land but in the White Mountains, you know, the mountain shaped men." Somebody said that, I don't think Dave made it up. You know there really is something about, as you learn more about the Whites by experiencing them and about learning more about their history, how much the White Mountains have to do with the character of the state and to who we are here. And I don't mean just the natives but anybody who lives here and how we deal with things. And that granite, sort of gritty. You know there are parts of that that I am not fond of but there is also some substance to that that is really appealing, people's independence, people's caring about land. You know we did a mail in asking for post cards to be sent around Northern Pass and we expected the postcards to come back saying why people didn't want Northern Pass to happen as it had been proposed. Instead we got hundreds of post cards back that said we oppose the current proposal but then they went on saying why they love New Hampshire. Just postcard after post card after post card. You know they love the mountains, they love the scenery, they love New Hampshire, they love the snow, whatever it is they loved about New Hampshire. And I think that's the unifying thing about New Hampshire is that we love New Hampshire because it is so beautiful and it's not just the White Mountains, but the White Mountains are certainly the cornerstone of that. You know, the as they say, the green jewel and the center of New Hampshire. It's something that helps us define how we define living here.

JHR: Do you think it's at all different for men or women in terms of specialness of the mountains? Have you ever thought about that?

JD: Yeah, I don't… When I was younger I think I would have had some sort of snappy reply to that. [laughs] I think for women there may be... You know whenever you make a generalization it turns out to not be true somehow. But I think women see the connection of the generations you know of… I was talking to a woman the other day whose great uncle bought a place in the White Mountains s and their family still owns it. You know and they still go there. It's like three generations later. They are still connected to this place and it is a place not just anywhere but in the White Mountains s. And I think that is true for some men too, but I think women are the ones who hold on to the strength that connects one generation to the next, to the next, to the next. To the past generations and the future generations. So it's not just the mountains but it is the experiences in the mountains that sort of define the connection to the mountains.

JHR: Well I guess, I guess do you have any particular favorite area of the White Mountains as kind of a wrap up here or... what's your favorite spot in the White Mountains?

JD: I don't know if I have a favorite. I don't know if I could define a favorite spot. I mean, but you know and maybe I am being influenced by the time of year but, I love to go… on Sunday I am going to the Rocks Estate to cut down my Christmas tree and I go every year with some friends. I have been doing this for twenty years. And you know the view of the Presidential Range from the Rocks is just un-paralleled. You know the Rocks itself has its own history. It's so much fun to get a Christmas tree there. You know, some people that I go with they walk in and go ok I am going to cut down that tree. But I can't do that, I am going to have to wander around for an hour. Just for the sake of walking around for an hour to pick out my Christmas tree. But the view when I am there is just spectacular. So I love the Rocks. That's not in the forest but it looks at the forest. And you know, I don't know how you cannot, in some way or another, love the Mount Washington Hotel. You know, the sort of iconic hotel with that incredible red roof looking out at the Mount Washington on the great cross country skiing there. I was there last January for a bit. Ah you know I really love that place too. You know I think every time I go for a hike in the White Mountains, that place is my favorite place, [laughs] for that week.

JHR: Any other final thoughts about Women in the White Mountains and your experiences or anything… that you thought about prepping for this? Or…

JD: I probably should have spent more time prepping for this but I was sort of caught up in some other things. You know I love all of those pictures of women in their old, their long hiking dresses. You know there is such a long tradition of women in the White Mountains. You know I hope that one of the people that someone is going to interview is Rebecca Oreskes.

JHR: She has been interviewed.

JD: Ok great. Because she really knows the mountains way better than I do and is such a wilderness person that has been out in the mountains so much. The other thing I did when I was a kid is we went up the Mount Washington in a car. You know like everyone does. Wondering if the brakes will hold on the way down. Uhm you know, but there are a lot of women who have been you know involved in the White Mountains. I am just one in a long line. [laugh]

JHR: Well that's an important one so... Alright I think this can wrap it up then. Thank you very much.