

MIKE TAZAR TRANSCRIPT

MIKE: Well, my first question is, did we get anybody in here from the railroads? No, they're not in here yet? Okay, good.

[LAUGHTER]

MIKE: One of my specialties, and then I'll start off with this, one of my specialties is the experience that I've had in the job. And the great thing is, is that I've got two colleagues in here, Barbara and I have Doug that can correct me if I'm wrong. The thing I have over them is that I don't have to worry about the organization being mad at whatever I say. So, I can say things pretty much the way it is or what I've experienced.

And based on that experience what I'd suggest is that if you're looking for some funding when as soon as the railroad representative enters the room, we should all stand up and start applauding, clapping and yelling wildly for the amount of funds that they've donated. It's one way to do it.

But anyway, what I wanted to talk about is that there's what I've gone through in my career is the experience with different types of designation because the question came up earlier, well what does that matter? Terri, she gave us a good starting point on that. And what I said earlier about the higher the, sort of, element, the elevation of significance that's provided to a given location site if you will, usually is commensurate with a certain amount of activity or organizational priority that's given to the operations of that particular area. That translates to what is the budget going to be or how much attention is an agency going to give that particular area that you have in mind that's important to you.

And, so, two things I wanted to talk about was that, in terms of looking at some of the activities and particularly with this last tour is that, one of my favorite programs, and hopefully Barbara I'm not stealing any thunder, but one of my favorite programs was the heritage areas that's administered by the Park Service, and largely because usually, there's legislation I know that, they're trying to make a lot of these heritage areas, there's a number of them around the nation that exist already. And the 2018 tour reminded me a lot of some of the shows or the kind of activities that would go under a heritage area linking various communities along a certain route or so.

The heritage areas, when one is created, now there is a push to get a national template for these heritage areas. Each one of them has got

its own separate piece of legislation. Usually comes with funding that provides for a ten year period of funding that's to get this area off to a sustainable, you know after the funding goes out the idea is for the area to become sustainable to itself. There are certain derivatives of studies that are produced with a governing board and so forth, okay? That's one thing that would be good and just the whole 2018 tour kind of reminds me what you could do with that.

The Summit Tunnel area itself, being a more certain, specific area things like a National Monument or National Historic Site, National Monuments can be declared presidentially or by an act of Congress. You can have a National Historic Site which is also legislation. And, I think there are certain avenues you get with that, with a Monument designation you have the ability to put in there, and usually there's some pretty common language which is certain purposes, won't be, for example, we've already heard from Phil this morning, that this area is more of a recreation-oriented area in the land management plan of the Forest Service. So, therefore, recreation opportunities would not be diminished say by Monument status. You wouldn't have, you might have other things where it might explicitly say no mining, no oil drilling, those kinds of things. Fundamentally, you're trying to create the situation, with the Monument, where you have compatibility with the "stewardship envelope", that this particular area and its importance deserves.

With the National Historic Site, you could do something very similar as well with the Grey Towers legislation years ago with the Forest Service. Grey Towers is, basically, it's a very large estate of Gifford Pinchot in Pennsylvania. It's near the town of Milford. One of things that we did that was a little different, and I think this will be important going forward is in the funding scheme of things, you can always start off with a little excitement, for example in an agency, if you're doing a monument there's always attention given, so funding is shifted for a period of time, it's always very helpful to get it off the ground or so. The idea is, what do you do, for real sustainability and things and one of the things that to me, was very unique with the National Historic Site Act for Grey Towers was there was a clause put in there that basically allowed Grey Towers to act as its own entity meaning that it was budgeted for, in the Forest Service on an annual basis, it's still is part of the budget, but Grey Towers can go out and seek its own funds. It can go out after grants and one of the things that really impressed me was after that legislation was passed, all of the maintenance problems that Grey Towers had, they somehow managed to come up with a lot of matching grants and other kinds of things and it just really, the whole place became, not only refurbished, but

became sort of a real jewel in the whole county, local area, because a lot of other organizations had partnered and they had park money there they could really work together much better.

And so, it's anything that we go forward with, I would say, with it might be legislatively conceived we need to be very careful and make sure that the right kind of language gets in that. A quick example would be with the heritage areas, oftentimes it's the Park Service program and they'll say, this language usually in heritage areas, which says and other federal agencies may cooperate. Well, I know what that translates to, if you're a forest supervisor you don't have enough budget somewhere and somebody says "well, we *can* do this if we want". Usually, the answer is "no, we'll wait 'til we have more money" which, that doesn't happen, that's not going to be the case with a Federal unit let's say.

So, I would just say, we need to be careful so that the inclusion of language would be very specific to get other Federal agencies cooperating, or something like that, and they were actually named there to be partners. One thing that is good is, I know that it was difficult with the Forest Service, I know they had problems with the partnerships and other things up until they had changes in partnership legislation. And I know that, the fellow that's now sitting in my old seat, has done a lot of work with partnerships and creative kind of planning. So, there is some possibilities in terms of developing the kind of relationship with a Federal, say, entity where, your associations, that are maybe affiliated with such endeavors, could be real bona fide partners. And, we can do cooperative fund raising or things like this and all of that has to be components of what you're thinking about and should be included in whatever does go forward.

Because, I think what's important, as I see it, is that there's great energy with this group, I love it, that's why I'm here actually. And, you have a place in history, and it should be there. And it would be really great to see something that gets firmly established, something that you can point to that says, this whole group, there's an accomplishment.

You have to look at this and look at the economic viability of it, look at how it's accepted locally, look how it's making progress. And then, you know, continue from there, and use that as a leverage board to do some of the other things, because some of the other educational endeavors and things are great ancillary things that will, I think, add to the historic real well.