

Destry Jarvis & Jon Jarvis Oral History Interview UA 5.391

Destry Jarvis & Jon Jarvis Oral History Interview
2026 May 11

Title Statement

Destry Jarvis & Jon Jarvis Oral History Interview UA 5.391

Author: William & Mary Special Collections Research Center staff

Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections Research Center

William & Mary Special Collections Research Center
Earl Gregg Swem Library
400 Landrum Dr
Williamsburg, Virginia
Business Number: 757-221-3090
spcoll@wm.edu
URL: <https://libraries.wm.edu/libraries-spaces/special-collections>

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-07-16 14:01:41 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

UA 5.391

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/10112

Unit Date

2026 May 11

Language

English

Extent

24.35 Gigabytes

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Manuscript collections and archival records may contain materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations, such as the Virginia Public Records Act (Code of Virginia. § 42.1-76-91); and the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Code of Virginia § 2.2-3705.5). Confidential material may include, but is not limited to, educational, medical, and personnel records. If sensitive material is found in this collection, please contact a staff member immediately. The disclosure of personally identifiable information pertaining to a living individual may have legal consequences for which the College of William and Mary assumes no responsibility.

Conditions Governing Use

Before publishing quotations or excerpts from any materials, permission must be obtained from the Curator of Manuscripts and Rare Books, and the holder of the copyright, if not Swem Library.

Keywords

College of William and Mary--Alumni and alumnae

College of William and Mary--History--20th century

National parks and reserves--United States

National parks and reserves--Law and legislation

Wildlife conservation--United States

United States--Politics and Government

Climate

Global warming

Description of Subordinate Components

Destry Jarvis & Jon Jarvis Oral History Interview

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/668207

Unit Date 2026 May 11

Scope and Contents

Daniel Sunshine conducted this interview with brothers Thomas Destry Jarvis (W&M Class of 1969) and Jonathan B. Jarvis (W&M Class of 1975), focusing on their extensive careers in conservation and their leadership within the National Park Service. They reflected on the importance of William & Mary biology professors Mitchell Byrd, Stewart Ware, Charlotte Mangum, and Garrett Brooks as mentors in the emergent field of environmental science. Destry Jarvis recalled his military service in Vietnam, his experience in conservation advocacy and lobbying, and his tenure as Assistant Director of the National Park Service under President Bill Clinton. Jonathan Jarvis described his lifelong career with the NPS, serving in wilderness parks across the western United States and Alaska, before becoming Director of the National Park Service under Barack Obama.

Together, the brothers discussed the increasing politicization of the NPS, challenges posed by resistance to climate science and inclusive historical interpretation, and tensions among the competing missions of the Department of Interior. They concluded that the National Park Service should be spun out as an independent agency, modeled after the Smithsonian, an argument advanced in their book *National Parks Forever: Fifty Years of Fighting and a Case for Independence* (2022).

Keywords

College of William and Mary--Alumni and alumnae

College of William and Mary--History--20th century

National parks and reserves--United States

National parks and reserves--Law and legislation

Wildlife conservation--United States

Climate

Global warming

Interview

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/668208

Unit Date 2026 May 11

Transcript**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/668209**Unit Date** 2026 May 11