

Interviewer: *So this is March 28th, and this is Mark Solomon, and I am here Bill and Dana Andrews.*

Bill Miller: Miller.

Dana Miller: Miller.

Interviewer: *Miller. Excuse me – to talk about issues regarding Fernan. Thank you for making the time. It's truly...*

Dana Miller: Certainly.

Interviewer: *Not only worth it to do it on behalf of the lake and assisting everyone else, that's great, but also I appreciate your time personally. So how long have you lived in the Fernan Lake area?*

Bill Miller: We moved here in 1997. My parents lived in this house since 1975. So we bought it from them, and so the family has been here since 1975.

Interviewer: *What prompted your parents to move and build here?*

Bill Miller: Well, they actually – the house was built in the 50s, and they just moved up from Colorado actually in 1975 to kind of move – come to a different place here, and they wanted a place on the lake and found this place and bought it. And then when they were getting ready to – kind of couldn't take care of it anymore, thinking about going south with some other family, we decided to buy it from them because, you know, we couldn't let it go basically.

Interviewer: *[Laughter]. So what do you find most valuable about living here?*

Bill Miller: I think the solitude in the sense it feels like we have no neighbors. We feel like we're living in a houseboat, but not.

Dana Miller: The birds...

Bill Miller: Birds and...

Dana Miller: All the wildlife...

Bill Miller: The wildlife. It's a very quiet area, and solitude, I guess.

Interviewer: How do you use Fernan Lake?

Bill Miller: We use the – we have a little pontoon boat kind of thing, and we fish a lot – quite a bit, and we use it to monitor the eagles, a couple of eagle nests. We go out two or three times a week and watch the eagles grow up, and other birds. And swimming and the grandkids come and play in the water and just kind of a great spot for outdoor...

Dana Miller: And our kids all grew up in around here too, so they all were swimming – and we used to even ski back the day. We had another boat, but we don't have that boat anymore. [Laughter].

Bill Miller: We moved here in '91, and so we – my parents were here, so we were here a lot with our kids growing up. So we just kind of hung around. We actually debated at times if we wanted to move, and the reason we don't want to move was because of the place we live. We can't repeat this somewhere else.

Interviewer: Yeah. [Laughter].

Bill Miller: [Laughter].

Dana Miller: [Laughter].

Interviewer: Is your use of the lake changing over time?

Bill Miller: I don't think so. We do – I have a kayak and I have a scull, so I do some rowing. I think it hasn't changed. It's not a very – I think it's highly used lake, but it doesn't feel like a highly used lake. And so we haven't had problems with – a major issue with big boats and waves and stuff like that, so the noise is really not ever an issue on an ongoing basis.

Lots of fishermen and they are always nice, and we've never had – I don't think we've had one [inaudible] from all the 30 years our family has lived in. I mean it's been very safe. So our use has

been the same. Probably the one thing I would say is I wish we used it more. Yeah, I was gonna say if you live there, you probably don't use as much as you should because you're so used to it.

Interviewer: Looking towards the future, would you hope that your family continues to stay here?

Bill Miller: It would be nice. I doubt if that will happen. We're probably the last group of the – because our kids are gone and spread out, but our plans are to stay here until we can't take care of it anymore, probably, hopefully 10-20 years or whatever it is, and then who knows. Like I said, we kind of debated whether or not we wanted to move closer to kids or something like that. It's just like let's just stay here. They can come visit us.

Dana Miller: [Laughter]. I think when you talk about the use of the lake; I think the use of the lake has increased quite a bit by fishermen and things. And I think that there is a greater sense, and I don't know if this is since the road's been done, but we still see a lot of litter and things like that. Like there is a group down here that fish that have really taken pride in the area. They don't leave their garbage. There are always the people that come and do. But we are seeing a lot more fishermen now than we used to and cars lining up and stuff like that over the last few years.

Bill Miller: I think that's one thing the road increased...

Dana Miller: Yeah, I do too.

Bill Miller: Which I guess that was part of the idea of the road was to increase the accessibility. But there are – I think there is an increasing number of shore fishermen and stuff like that; the traffic is a little more. The accident rate is the same. They didn't improve that at all. Every year, somebody goes in the lake. But the road has definitely changed the runoff, the dirt road...

Dana Miller: [Inaudible].

Bill Miller: You know, the stuff you see going in the lake after storms and stuff. But like this spring, for instance, and they had a couple of [inaudible], was much browner, which is nothing more than sediment. And I hadn't really noticed that – I noticed that clearly more since – in the last three or four years since the road has been

done, which it was bad in its own right, which I don't know if that...

Interviewer: Would there be any particular piece of the road that you think is more or less problematic?

Bill Miller: I don't know enough about that but I know they're doing the study, and when they had that big rain that came down, they found a couple of places where the water was really coming in. When they were building the road, we had a – they just weren't set up for [inaudible], and it took about two years to build the road. We had a flood, and they had flooded our whole [inaudible] place. We had a foot of water in the house and in the garage area over there. And everywhere, just big plumes of sediment.

Dana Miller: Going into the lake...

Bill Miller: That we had, and that is better than it was, but it's still worse than it was.

Interviewer: So prior to reconstruction, the road wasn't passing the water from upstream from the uphill side.

Bill Miller: Yeah, it was. There was a lot of – I mean when you come down there, all of this was just...

Dana Miller: That was trees.

Bill Miller: ...scars. It was all trees and grass. There were scars like that anywhere on the road. So that was all moved. I'm assuming – you know, I'm not an expert so I don't know. There were trees all along the lakeside of the road. You can see there is not one tree. They cut them all down. So all that vegetation and stuff that was there is gone, so I assume that had something to do with it. The road was smaller with probably not as much of a ditch on each side, so, again, less exposed around – my guess is.

Interviewer: You tend to have a filled ditch that seeps slowly on the uphill side [crosstalk] working.

Bill Miller: I think a lot of the culverts weren't working. I remember people saying that when they were – these culverts were all – which

maybe meant you just stayed on the other side of the road, [laughter], until it leached down on its own, you know, just didn't come out.

That could be because I remember that was a comment they made about all the culverts are just shot. They have been there for so long. That clearly is a difference. And of course in the algae blooms, there is also associated timing-wise, but the same thing, which is the whole concept of what we're doing this for.

Interviewer: Right. So thinking of algae blooms prior to the road construction, was the incidence of the algae blooms consistent year-to-year, or –?

Bill Miller: Oh, very rarely. I think – I remember one time prior to road construction since the 90s, and my parents were here before that, and I don't remember them talking about it, but it wasn't something –. But I think there was only like one time they had a bloom and it was very late in the year...

Dana Miller: I think it was '97.

Bill Miller: When it was real hot, and the lake water was down and everything was kind of stagnant just because of –

Dana Miller: There is always algae in August, but not like this.

Bill Miller: But not bad algae. They never closed the lake.

Dana Miller: Right.

Bill Miller: The greenness of the water would increase, but we were never told – except one time, that this was blue-green algae. It's been three times since the 40 years since the road was done. So something it getting through here that wasn't before, at least your gut tells you that.

Dana Miller: And very early, like June...

Bill Miller: Yeah, and that's the other thing, all these blooms were...

Dana Miller: It's not even hot yet.

Bill Miller: I mean it's kind of...

Dana Miller: Weird.

Bill Miller: Yeah, it's weird. It's like it wasn't even hot at all this last year. It was like whoa. The water hadn't even warmed up yet. So that was a surprise. I guess that is something that's changed. Now we're always watching and always worried about it. A couple of our neighbors get their water from the lake and filter it, and they can't use the water when it gets that – the algae blooms. So I think they're more concerned about that because of that. But still, it's a real great place despite that. I mean it's not...

Interviewer: So how much of the summer months are impacted by the blooms?

Bill Miller: I think last year, we had like two weeks that there was a warning out, and then it came out with another warning, a real brief one a little later in the year so it was twice. The year before that, it was like two weeks. It seems to be just – I don't know, it seems to be getting worse in the sense of earlier and longer – but only a three-year thing so I can't really say. It just feels that way.

Interviewer: So then again, prior to the road construction, there would be some annual bloom in August...

Dana Miller: Yes.

Bill Miller: But nothing that was – we weren't told it was blooming. [Crosstalk]. It got a little skuzzy and then you'd see algae, and everybody ignored it. They never said don't have your daughters in the water. Nobody ever gave you any kind of warning or anything about it.

Dana Miller: It's obviously different – two different kinds of algae or whatever it is.

Bill Miller: And the other thing that is kind of weird is just, I think, the August blooms are noticeable now. It was very [crosstalk].

Dana Miller: Yeah, that's right.

Bill Miller: When we had – two years ago, had the big bloom, the first bloom, they closed the lake down. And it was July, end of the July, and it died off and killed everything – the algae, and the lake was clear as

it had been in August – usually in August, it gets worse and worse and worse, but it kind of got cleared up. I don't know anything about it, but someone said, well, the oxygen got depleted so the other algae couldn't bloom. I don't know if that's true or not.

But it was a strange thing. Since we now have these earlier, it feels like, I think a very small number of years, it feels like we have the earlier bloom without the skuzziness of the water. People would complain about – compared to Coeur d'Alene Lake.

Interviewer: Are there ever fish kills associated with it?

Bill Miller: Never know it's bloomed. I have never noticed that. Never noticed a fish kill.

Dana Miller: Nun-uh.

Bill Miller: We still have the muskrats and otters come up periodically, and ducks, and I haven't seen any changes in anything.

Interviewer: Who do you see as taking responsibility for reducing the algae blooms?

Bill Miller: Well, nobody was/is – was, and we would just kind of work with the Idaho EPA.

Interviewer: DEQ.

Bill Miller: DEQ. And they were always very helpful in the sense of, oh...

Dana Miller: We'd called them. *[Laughter]*.

Bill Miller: We'd collect data, and *[inaudible]* collect data, so I mean I was doing the water sampling and taking them out on the boat or whatever, and they would always come to look. I don't know if they really could do anything anyway. I mean I don't know what they can do. But they did pay attention to us.

Dana Miller: Yeah, they did.

Bill Miller: I felt heard. They would report it to the proper authorities to do what they felt they had to do, and they tested the way they felt they had to. So they helped us get monitoring equipment. So they were very – I can't complain one bit about it, but I don't know if it's just they don't have power. So nobody really was doing it. Then they did their TMDL study, which is good.

It's another ____, but that was, in a sense, for the person that's uneducated, kind of disappointing because it doesn't tell you anything, really, you know. You just say, yeah, there's a problem, but what do you do about it? So that's when we truly – you know, the University of Idaho project that you guys are involved in, it's like the first – we were so excited about that because it really feels like somebody is gonna take a look at this, and really come up with some suggestions of what to do.

Dana Miller: Because we don't know.

Bill Miller: Because we don't know what to do. All we do is speculate and get pissed off, which is – [crosstalk]. It doesn't do any good either. And we [inaudible] pissed off too. And, unfortunately, I think the community, we have a realtor friend of ours, he said, you know, Fernan has kind of got this reputation of being a place you don't necessarily want to buy a house because of the water quality. It was kind of interesting to hear that. And it's all about the last couple years of the stuff that gets printed, which is ludicrous really. A guy was gonna buy a house down in the village, and he came down and talked to me and said, "Geez, I don't know if I should do this. What do you think? You lived there –." So actually it is kind of a big deal. So that's a shame. So it's really exciting for us, and the village people, I think, are really excited. And I think the support that you guys are feeling from at least the local people, we just want some answers and we can – if there is something we can do, great. And I truly – there has to be something you can do, I hope.

Interviewer: So who should take responsibility?

Dana Miller: Who knows?

Interviewer: Is it a person, an agency, a group of people, everybody?

Bill Miller: Well, everybody should. I mean everybody should – I think we always – everybody should do what they can do with your

individual property, with your individual fishing spot, you know. Everybody should – and educating people is an important piece. But I think there probably is some things that have been done around here that somebody should take some responsibility for.

In my opinion, if the department of transportation – well, the thing is we were – this thing came about – the road thing came about in about 1995-1996. There was a little thing in the paper: “Fernan Road is gonna be rebuilt.” And my dad come here and said, “Gee, look at this.” So he ended up moving and we came in.

So in '97, we really started getting involved because they were really pushing this through. And they weren't gonna do an EIS study. They actually were gonna straighten the road out, all these bays were going to have bridges across them. And so we fought for – over ten years, really fought with people about it, and got things done. We kind of cut them in sections and we'll reuse the old road that – we won't widen the road. They were gonna widen the road to 40 feet or something crazy, and we were gonna leave trees on the side of road. Well, they did exactly what they wanted to do...

Dana Miller: Except...

Bill Miller: I think we got some concessions of it than we did – but they did torture the hillside. They did a lot of changes that we – we didn't think we even needed to fix the road. We were not unhappy with the road, but there were all these accidents. Well, there are just as many accidents since the road happened anyway.

Dana Miller: And then they didn't put up guardrails.

Bill Miller: No guardrails. I mean which really didn't matter to me, but from an access standpoint, you think it would matter. But so I think there is something happening with that. What they did up in the valley, which you'll talk to some people that live up there, it's just – it was stupid. It was stupid.

So somebody ought to – they spend 15 million dollars and made – and the things we worried about would happen are probably happening hopefully to a lesser degree than they would have, and wouldn't have been raising a stink. But they are – I think they have happened. You know, and I don't know the big picture of all this and what that means.

You know if it got worse and worse with the blue-green algae every year because we have such a sentiment buildup. But Frank is worried about it's got so much in there all the time that it's just kind of feeding itself; boy, that would be tragic because then it really could be a problem, you know. It gets longer and longer every year. So I just don't know enough about it to say what to do, but somebody is responsible for fixing it if some of the problem is caused by their behavior.

Dana Miller: Also small things that our group has talked about, trying to figure out how much pollution comes from fertilizer and so forth, from the village especially because they all have these gorgeous lawns and they all fertilize. We try not to fertilize. We hardly ever fertilize. Our daughter was getting married a couple of years ago; we fertilized. *[Laughter]*. But things like that they say really did make a difference. So trying to educate people. People are really, really...

Bill Miller: And we had an incredible response. Anybody that is closely associated at the lake has not done – I think everything possible. And you probably can't live on the water. And you probably – you can't live on the water and not have an impact on it.

Dana Miller: Yeah.

Interviewer: So how has the area extent of the blooms changed? Did they used to be small and now they're large? Did they used to be large, and now they're small, or –?

Bill Miller: I don't have anything to compare it to except the ones we've had recently have all been throughout the lake.

Interviewer: Throughout the lake?

Bill Miller: Yeah. They sometimes with the water move and it kind of accumulates, but from what I understand, it's throughout the lake. You just see these lines of it.

Dana Miller: You can just see it all over.

Interviewer: This one is [inaudible], but who do you look for leadership in reducing the algae?

Bill Miller: DEQ, I think would be the – and, again, I don't even know if that's appropriate.

Dana Miller: That's whom we call.

Bill Miller: I don't know if that's their job or what power they truly have. I don't know.

Interviewer: That's a lot of our discussion. If the unthinkable happened and the lake continued to get worse for algae blooms, how would that affect your life and your living here?

Bill Miller: You couldn't enjoy the lake the way you enjoy it now.

Dana Miller: It smells bad. It would be awful.

Interviewer: Is there a smell associated with it?

Dana Miller: Oh yeah. It's a terrible smell. Not the regular algae so much, but these blue-green algae have a terrible smell.

Bill Miller: And your dogs *[inaudible]*.

Dana Miller: Yeah, a lab can't go swimming. You know what I mean, that's...

Bill Miller: We have to fence off the lake when it was that way.

Dana Miller: We couldn't use the lake. We couldn't swim. The kids couldn't swim.

Bill Miller: And I would imagine the wildlife wouldn't – I would think that would inhabit the wild fish to the fish eventually.

Dana Miller: And the birds...

Bill Miller: I don't know enough about it, but the birds. I don't know. Yeah, it would be a tragic loss. This is really – for the lake right in the middle of town with no houses on it, is pretty amazing. And it's kind of like Tug's Hill, only it's a lake and that would be really – it would be shame.

Dana Miller: Very sad.

Bill Miller: The rowing people, I don't know what impact it would have. They have rowing clubs out here. It was kind of cool, all the stuff. **Art and Stacy**, if he is one of the guys on your list, but he kind of runs the coach of the rowing club and he's been here for years. It's great. The kids come – high school kids, and they...

Interviewer: Are there rowing meets?

Bill Miller: Yeah. They have several meets a year. Some are here, and they are out there very single morning. It's really kind of a cool thing, you know, quiet, peaceful, and pretty European or whatever. *[Laughter]*.

Dana Miller: Versus big powerboats. But we don't have a lot of powerboats on the lake. Some, but...

Interviewer: They can get to one end of the lake to the other pretty fast.

Dana Miller: You really can. *[Laughter]*.

Bill Miller: Although it is the best skiing lake around. It's flat and even. It's blowing like that right now, and it's pretty flat. *[Laughter]*.

Interviewer: How do you get your information on the water quality of the lake?

Bill Miller: DEQ because I do the water testing for them the last three or four years. So we're always talking – I go and drop it off and they call me and say go out and do some testing today because we're concerned about something. So I'm right in the middle of it. So I got more connections.

Interviewer: Do you people call you and ask you?

Bill Miller: Oh yeah. I've gotten *[crosstalk]*. And then people get pissed off me because it's not right.

Dana Miller: *[Laughter]*.

Bill Miller: Just like we get pissed off at DEQ because it's not right. You know how that goes. It's just the way it goes. *[Laughter]*.

Dana Miller: The bearer of bad news.

Bill Miller: But not a problem. It's funny.

Interviewer: I guess what am I not asking you? I mean what more should I know about the lake and people that live here on the lake?

Bill Miller: I just think the people, and I think probably much more of the community then even realizes it, values this from a recreation standpoint. Everybody that comes here, "Ah, as a kid, I used to –." I mean everybody. It's amazing how many people. So it think it's used a lot more than we realize with a variety of people that we probably maybe don't realize.

And it's taken for granted. It's not big and fancy like Coeur d'Alene or Hayden. It doesn't have the rich big houses around it like they have, which is one of the nice things about it. People camp over on about three or four of those bay at the end there – camping there. They go in there by boat and camp, and really we don't even mind.

Dana Miller: Across the lake.

Bill Miller: They leave a mess, and we clean up the mess every spring. But, you know, they are not really bad. They enjoy the lake a lot. So I think that would be it. People would be impacted much more than they realize, and it would be a shame to have that happen so close to town. On the other hand, if it could be beefed up a little bit and even made a little more pristine, what an incredible asset for the community.

Interviewer: Do you see more development happening around the lake?

Bill Miller: I don't think they can. There are all these hillside ordinances that keep this side pretty much developed-free. There are just not going to be able – the way the lots are shaped, and they come down straight and narrow in pieces from the top. So the houses are on top, and they own all the way down. There are some development going on top around here a little bit, but that isn't – you can't see it. I think that's one of the – I don't think there's gonna be a lot of development. Nobody could have a place like this ever again.

Dana Miller: Yeah, they won't let you.

Bill Miller: They won't let you. It's too old, unfortunately. So I don't think there is gonna be a lot, but the village is the village, where – it's not gonna change any. So I don't anticipate a lot more development.

Interviewer: I wasn't aware there was a hillside ordinance.

Bill Miller: Well, there is a hillside ordinance. The first issue that came up was they were gonna develop down by the boat launch.

Dana Miller: Let me tell, that's for sale again. I just saw that.

Bill Miller: They were gonna develop – a guy was gonna buy that and develop a whole thing with condominiums – hundreds of condominiums.

Dana Miller: And boat docks...

Bill Miller: And put a big boat dock down there. And the people in Fernan panic, ended up buying it, and then giving it to the city. There is just a little bit piece for sale where they can put a couple of houses, but nothing big. And so the city is developing a park over there now, if you're aware of that.

Interviewer: The city [inaudible] – yeah.

Bill Miller: With the idea of **he's now** free of development. That was the first thing that prompted people to kind of get involved. What was the question exactly? I forgot the last part.

Interviewer: Development.

Bill Miller: Yeah. So that put a stop – so the city got engineers. They went and firmed up the hillside ordinance, you know, on soil quality, evaluation, steepness, etcetera, etcetera. So the majority of that is undevelopable just because of the county hillside ordinance – or maybe it's the city because that was city property, with a piece of property. And then the way that these lots are shaped, they're bought from the top in a strip. That map won't have it, but you could look at other maps and just straight down.

Dana Miller: The same with these here.
Bill Miller: And you can't really break up those properties for whatever reason, and so the houses, the building lots are all the way on top. So those houses right there are not in Armstrong Park. In fact you get to them by going way over there coming back around. There are a couple of them up there. And so they own straight down.

Interviewer: The ones over here you get to off *Potlatch Hill*.

Bill Miller: Yeah, those are Armstrong Park. Yeah. And then that [inaudible] the last one that is Armstrong. Here over – you have to come over from Yellowstone. [Inaudible]. It's kind of a long ways. So I think that prevents it. And there is a property for sale down at the very back there that is owned by the railroad or the county schools, or some crazy thing that they're hard to get to. I don't know if that really could be developed. So [inaudible] developed, I think it can't happen because just because of the situation we're in.

Interviewer: That's interesting. Does your ground go across the road here?

Bill Miller: No.

Interviewer: So you just have this little...

Bill Miller: Just this little peninsula. It was filled in from years ago by a [inaudible].

Interviewer: So talking with you about timber management is not something I need to do.

Bill Miller: Nope. No, we don't have any timber managing except the 20 trees on our property.

Dana Miller: When they die, we take them down. [Laughter].

Bill Miller: We hope they stay around.

Interviewer: So who else should I be talking with?

Bill Miller: The Moates, who live in the bay right here, they have been here for – they built that house. I mean they’ve probably been here since the 60s or 50s. An elderly couple – nice people.

Dana Miller: Wonderful people.

Bill Miller: They’re a little...

Interviewer: Um, large.

Bill Miller: Yes. They’ve been here forever so they’d be good people. Bob **Shinai**, who – that house at the end of the lake. You can see right there, a retired dentist. He grew up in the village actually, and then he bought a house there, and then he sold that and built that house. So he’s lived on Fernan his whole life.

Dana Miller: What about the people across _____?

Bill Miller: I got his. Do you want a phone number, or –?

Interviewer: Yep, if you have a phone number, that’d be great.

Bill Miller: Yep. He is a good fellow.

Dana Miller: He is a dentist. And what about the **Hargers** who live across – up on the hill.

Bill Miller: The Hargers live right across from us up on the hill there. They have been here a long, long time too.

Dana Miller: Great people. I’m trying to think of their first names. I used to always call them Mr. and Mrs. [Laughter]. What is her name?

Bill Miller: Okay. Shinai’s number, Bob, is 664-5437, if they still have a landline. And then the Hargers, which live right across the street from us, they can actually give you more information on what’s changed because they’ve truly lived here – it’s Bill and Agnes Harger. Their phone number is 664-8485.

Interviewer: Thank you.

Bill Miller: Armstrong Park, do you have anybody from up there?

Interviewer: Um...not yet.

Bill Miller: There is a couple up there that used to work on our lake association for a long time, and then they kind of finally backed off. Really nice people.

Dana Miller: Audubon Society.

Bill Miller: Very following the birds.

Dana Miller: Yes.

Interviewer: Let's see. Buegler.

Dana Miller: Yes, that's it.

Bill Miller: Yep.

Interviewer: Susan gave me that.

Bill Miller: They're very knowledgeable, intelligent people, and very – have good opinions and insight. They'd be great to talk to, and I think they'd be very happy to talk to you. Another autobahn person who really would be good is – he lives right down here too. He's lived here and his wife has written books about the birds on Fernan.

Dana Miller: I can't remember anybody's name.

Bill Miller: We're getting old.

Dana Miller: Sheesh. [Laughter]. It starts with S, I think, doesn't it?

Bill Miller: Keith and Shirley Sturts.

Dana Miller: At least I got that right.

Bill Miller: S-T-U-R-T-S. Their phone number is 664-5318. But she is a – I mean just renowned birder, and this is her place. I mean she sent me lists of all the birds on Fernan Lake that have ever been seen on

Fernan Lake. So she knows when and where and everything. So she and ____ up on the hill there. They are very close friends.

Interviewer: What about folks up on this hill?

Bill Miller: You know, the only people – I don't know a lot of – what's the guy –?

Interviewer: Susan gave me the names of the Moate's children. The parents live up towards the top of the hill.

Bill Miller: Yes.

Dana Miller: Yeah.

Bill Miller: And they would be very good. They are nice people. And then there is a guy – a realtor that fell off – **Torgeson**.

Dana Miller: Oh, yes.

Bill Miller: They live kind of right up there, and they're nice people.

Dana Miller: Right. He's a realtor in town.

Bill Miller: Their phone is 640-8086. They've only been here probably ten years...

Dana Miller: But he knows the area.

Bill Miller: But he knows the area.

Dana Miller: He grew up here.

Bill Miller: Down towards – they're the only people I really know – well, what's that other family that lives up there that has little piece of property in that cove there, and I always call them when people are camping in there?

Dana Miller: Oh yeah.

Bill Miller: They're really nice people.

Dana Miller: I can't remember their name either. *[Laughter]*.

Interviewer: So the parcels run the same where there are narrow strips that go up the hill and come down?

Dana Miller: Yes.

Bill Miller: Yeah. And that's Dusty Flamand. F-L-A-M-A-N-D. Dusty and Nancy. 667-4976. They've been there a long time, and they're really, you know, he is always willing to put a boat dock down here that people are always camping on the property. He had a canoe down there once, and they stole it. But he has a view of a this lake and Coeur d'Alene. It's a beautiful spot. So they're very good people to talk to. And the village, I mean you know people from the village more than I do.

Dana Miller: Susan is the one, and she's got everybody's number.

Bill Miller: And I'm sure you talked to the guy down – a couple of rancher's down there that...

Interviewer: I will be, yeah.

Bill Miller: Because they have a whole different view of what's going on, and...

Interviewer: And I'll be talking with Sue *Flamea*.

Bill Miller: Yeah, Sue, she's a great – what a great person she is.

Dana Miller: Yeah. One thing we didn't talk about is the winter. There is a tremendous amount of activity in the winter.

Interviewer: I've seen the ice fishing.

Dana Miller: Yeah. I mean people really are enjoying the ice in the winter. It scares me to death, but...

Bill Miller: [Laughter]. I mean that's an important aspect of this lake, I think, you kind of forget about because in the winter, water quality affects the winter. It's interesting; this year everybody complained that fishing was so different – worse than it's ever been.

Dana Miller: Yeah.

Bill Miller: I don't know, is there a relationship or not? But there was a dramatic – the ice fisherman said it was dramatically not as good of fishing as it had been even the year before.

Dana Miller: No problems in the summer though. I mean everybody...

Bill Miller: But you wonder if there is an impact with...

Dana Miller: It's gotta be an impact, I would think.

Interviewer: Yeah. We can speculate on that. I'd have to talk with the fish & game as to how much of the fishery that is taken is resident fishery, or how much is from the put and take.

Bill Miller: I think in the winter, it's almost resident fishing because they aren't catching little rainbows – very rarely. They are all catching perch and stuff like that. I mean they used to catch 50-60 fish. *[Inaudible]* catch anything. They just weren't schooled up the same way they were before.

These people have fished this for years, and they kind of really know what they're doing, and they were all shocked. They were all dismayed about, geez, we're out here and we didn't catch a fish all day. And with ice fishing, if you don't catch something, it's pretty boring. *[Laughter]*.

Dana Miller: And cold.

Interviewer: That's why I asked about if there was an fish kills.

Bill Miller: I haven't, so I wouldn't – we catch little perch and stuff is what we're catching just for the kids, mainly, and I have not really noticed any significant change in the summer. I don't ice fish, but they did. And ice fishing is a big deal here. There will be 50 or 60 people out there in that lake.

Dana Miller: It's amazing.

Bill Miller: I mean many fishermen fish the same amount of days in winter that they are in the summer on the lake. It's interesting. They really tend to like it, so another reason to take care of the area. You hate to – it's used by blue collar – that's another thing I think is a little

different. This lake is not used by people with nice big boats and fancy – with money; this is a blue-collar lake.

People come out there and pull their car on the side of the road, and they get out and sit and fish. The kids are running around and the dogs are running around. They just sit and fish all day, and get in the car and go home. I mean it's a little different than the other people –

Dana Miller: And you can't do on Hayden anywhere.

Bill Miller: And the fishing boats are not fancy boats. These are little 12-foot, you know, three-foot bean posts that are there with a little motor dinking around...

Dana Miller: Sometimes too little.

Bill Miller: So I mean I think it's a nice way for people that don't have a lot to come. It's easy to get to. Easy access. There is plenty of parking down there, plenty of parking down here. They did do a nice job in fixing the – putting the boats in up there. The one down here has always been real nice. Martin **Stacy**, if you don't have his name, he's the president of the boat club. I have his number too. Martin would – he's on the water probably more than anybody, as far as time on the water.

Dana Miller: He really is. Hours everyday.

Bill Miller: So he could probably – he has an opinion.

Dana Miller: I think they rode right through the algae. I'm not sure.

Bill Miller: Yeah, they didn't stop, but they are in the water so it didn't really matter. But they were there. Stacy, Martin. Here it is. I just have his email. I don't have his phone. His email is member, M-E-M-B-E-R one at CDA Rowing, R-O-W-I-N-G, dot-org. And you can use my name that I gave you his email. I mean that is probably – he is on the water more than anybody. He's out there three or four hours every morning seven days a week, sometimes more, yelling at his rowers.

Dana Miller: Yeah, *[laughter]*, yelling at his rowers. It wakes up in the morning, which is cool.

Interviewer: I'll turn these things off.

[End of audio]