

Interviewer: This is Mark Solomon. I'm here with Sue Flammia on April 11th to talk about issues regarding the Ferdinand Lake Watershed. And I guess just starting off, how long have you owned property in the watershed?

Interviewee: Mark, my husband had a little sawmill and he bought that land I believe in the 60's. And it's at the current time and always has been for timberland. It's 160 acres.

Interviewer: Wow.

Interviewee: So if he – I'm sure he got – I think he got it in the 60's – in the early 60's.

Interviewer: Oh, and how long did he operate the sawmill?

Interviewee: He had that a few years. You know I'm not sure exactly how many years, but anyway, and then he was bought out by IFI and so he retained the 160 acres on Ferdinand Creek, which we've always loved that land. And then there is 120 acres up above. You go in on Grouse Meadow Road and there is 120 acres up there that is also timberland.

Interviewer: That you still have?

Interviewee: Yes. Yeah. No, my husband is deceased.

Interviewer: Right.

Interviewee: Yeah, Pat.

Interviewer: But when he had the sawmill was it or originally he had more than that 280 acres that he has now?

Interviewee: Yes, but over the years it was sold. You know at that time land was \$25.00 an acre and everybody had chunks. You know all of

these farmers and they would sell chunks and they would, you know, and they would log a little bit. It was a whole different thing, you know, only 40 years ago.

So anyway, but we have always loved that Ferdinand prop – well, both of them, but this one in particular because the stream goes through it. It's so great.

Interviewer: **Ferdinand Creek, itself, or?**

Interviewee: Well, we call it – I call it Ferdinand Creek as compared to Upper Ferdinand. I call the other one Upper Ferdinand, the one across the meadow, yeah.

Interviewer: **And if I understand correctly, you don't live on it, but live over on _____.**

Interviewee: Oh yeah. No, it doesn't – there is nobody on it.

Interviewer: **Yeah. Has there ever been a homestead on it?**

Interviewee: There was a homestead. There was a homestead. That's why we have a water right.

Interviewer: **Oh, good.**

Interviewee: Yes, we have a water right. You know they're doing that whole basin wide determination – you know all that. And so, anyway, I checked the records. There was a homestead in 1909 out there. And at the time, this would be about in the late 60's there was still a barn and a little house – a little cabin – a one room cabin and another barn like structure out there from the original homestead.

Interviewer: **Mm-hmm, well so it was actually a real homestead.**

Interviewee: It was a homestead.

Interviewer: Timber and Stone entry for logging purposes?

Interviewee: Right. Right.

Interviewer: Yeah. Do you manage the property for timber these days?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: And what's your management plan?

Interviewee: Just leave it alone and watch the trees and eventually, you know, it's about a 20 year cycle before you can do any selective logging. And so it's still way – it's still growing trees and it has good reproduction too out there.

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah. When was the last time it was actively logged?

Interviewee: Oh dear, it was a few years ago. I could check those dates, but it was I would say in the early 90's is my guess.

Interviewer: Right. And when that logging happened was it for tree value or for improvement of the tree stand, or?

Interviewee: Tree – no, it was selective logging and he sold the logs and you know.

Interviewer: Do you manage the property for timber yourself or do you have a forestry consultant that you work with?

Interviewee: There is a marvelous consultant and he works with us and also, my sister and I took the U of I Forestry class this past November. It was with Chris. It was terrific. We learned a lot. And we'll do – we are going to pay a little more attention kind of inventory to the log – the consultant has inventoried trees because we turned in a timber plan.

But anyway, it just regenerates and we just leave it alone and I leave that creek alone too. And I don't know if that's one of the next questions, but there was a big flood and this was a few years ago and we were told we could get help to come in and put barriers along the edge of the stream and all that and we said no, leave it alone, because no matter what you do it's going to go back to what it originally was.

And so, we have left that completely alone and it is a very healthy stream flow through there. I don't know if any of your people have told you, you know, there were a couple of researchers out there, but all that vegetation is all along and it is cutting. It is cutting down near in the south part. It's cutting into the making quite a big bank, but it really meanders through there.

Interviewer: **Good.**

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: **So your section of land wasn't affected by the highway reconstruction?**

Interviewee: Yes, it was, but the creek wasn't.

Interviewer: **The creek wasn't.**

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: **And the highway reconstruction was okay in terms of how it affected your land or it had negative impacts?**

Interviewee: Well, because it's all left alone, you know, I would say negative. I would say no real impact.

Interviewer: **No real impact.**

Interviewee: I thought they moved the fences. I thought the right of – I didn't measure it, but I thought the right of way was a little wider than it should have been, but I didn't argue with them about that. They did put a nice gate on both sides of, you know, the land is on both sides of the road, so anyway.

I saw water coming in a ditch on the as you're going north on the right side and but I'm not worried about it. It'll take care of itself.

***Interviewer:* Do you have any plans for developing any of the land that is homestead or residential properties?**

Interviewee: No. I am letting my sister build a house on – I'm giving my sister and her son ten acres, five on one side and five on the other and that'll be the extent of the houses out there. They have loved it, so we're going to let them have a house. And she will then guard that property. They guard it already. They watch it, but this way – but that's the extent of it.

***Interviewer:* Okay. So that's down by the road?**

Interviewee: Yes, it's by the road, yeah. Well, of course one wants on one side and they're beautiful spots out there for a house, so this will be in the future, but that's it. There is no, it's not going to be developed.

***Interviewer:* Okay. Does Ferdinand Lake water quality influence your management decisions at all?**

Interviewee: Well, not per se. You know, Mark, because I want to leave it alone. It's going to benefit Ferdinand Lake, sure, but in terms of Ferdinand Lake itself, making a decision on this land no, but my hope is to protect that land and protect that stream. That's my plan.

***Interviewer:* So yeah, maintaining the health of the land ____
____ [crosstalk] –**

Interviewee: Just leave it alone, mm-hmm.

Interviewer: – make your management and direction.

Interviewee: Right.

Interviewer: Just from your visiting up and down the watershed to visit your land do you notice any changes in the incidence of algae blooms in the lake?

Interviewee: Oh yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: And the onset _____?

Interviewee: Well I am aware. Well I am aware that there is more. And then I heard that there was a discussion here with one of your experts and who talked about the increase in the algae blooms and part of the causation and all that. So I am aware of it, you know.

Interviewer: Do you have any knowledge of who is taking charge of being responsible for reducing those algae blooms?

Interviewee: All I know is that this Ferdinand Lake Group is really trying – is really active, yeah. And they're terrific.

Interviewer: I think you may have already answered this, but who do you look to for advice on managing your property?

Interviewee: Oh the management of the timber?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Interviewee: Well the first thing is that marvelous consultant and his name is Bruce Stuart. And he is, he is just terrific and very thoughtful, very knowledgeable. So he – Pat knew him. Pat worked with him and then I work with him.

Interviewer: So Bruce and is your advisor as to when to cut and how to cut and –

Interviewee: Right. Right.

Interviewer: And your direction to him is to maintain the health of the forest or to get the certain amount of money or ____ ____?

Interviewee: No, it's always protect that land. Protect the land. We never would clear cut. We'd, you know, no that we were told, you know, there is a time clear cut is, but no we want to guard the land and manage the trees.

Interviewer: Okay. Looking to the future there have been projections that climate change is going to change the vitality of different tree species, you know, certain trees that are – tree species that are currently at a certain elevation may not fare as well if it dries out or if the pattern of snows change.

If your management consultant advises you to replace those species with the ones that were projected to fare better in the future, would that be an option you would consider?

Interviewee: Sure. Sure. Yeah, you know, we want to learn and do what's best for the land.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. So yeah, it's just for – I think you said this two or three times, but I'll just do it again for clarity. Your primary purpose in your management consideration is the health of the land and that economic benefit is appreciated, but it's the secondary interest.

Interviewee: Exactly, yeah.

Interviewer: Do you have opportunity to go out and just hike around and enjoy the property?

Interviewee: Mm-hmm, yeah.

Interviewer: You do?

Interviewee: Yeah. I go out there and I have a young nephew, who loves that land and he and his fiancé go out there all the time. And my sister goes out there. It's really interesting, you know the lady bugs gather.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Interviewee: This is one of the gathering sites. It's a phenomena. And so, they come in in the fall and they leave in the spring. So that, we guard that. We just make really, we're very careful to watch for them and make sure that if we're out there park over here and not here and we have those pale blue butterflies out there, and I'm reading that those are getting rarer.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Interviewee: You know and they're out there. So by just leaving it alone there are a lot of natural things. And in the past there was a fifth grade elementary school teacher who would take a busload of kids out there, and then they could turn rocks and see all kinds of creatures and so anyway, we just leave it alone so that it just, all these creatures can live out there and that's really nice.

You know my personal philosophy is highest and best may be leave the darned thing alone. Leave it alone and let the land just be instead of all of the – I don't believe constant development is the highest and best use. I know it's the mentality, but I don't buy it. I don't believe it.

So I believe this land being left alone in 100 years if we can keep it safe that long, will be priceless, even more than it is now.

Interviewer: Are property taxes a consideration?

Interviewee: No, because thank goodness for the timber – for the timber exemption. You know they're taxing everything else pretty – lakefront property is just out of sight in terms of taxation and it's a real hardship, but no, property tax – it is very fair. But in that, I mean I think they should leave it alone so that you can maintain a tract of land, so yeah.

Interviewer: Anything else you might want to tell me about the land and its importance to you or its relationship to the watershed?

Interviewee: Well, not in particular. I mean we do, we're constantly aware of that stream. We check it. There is a lot of water going through it and it's good clear water, you know. And I have no doubt with that property next door and there is a Beth Pargamian has bought that land next door.

She is trying to protect the creek. We're protecting the creek. The neighbor across the road adjoining us just bought a I think it's 120 acres. He also is going to have one or two houses, but leave the land alone. And so I think that is –

Interviewer: Is that Welch – Howard Welch?

Interviewee: Hmm-mm. What's his name? I can't remember his name right now. He worked in Fish and Game, but he is wonderful. Anyway, this is a wonderful thing for Ferdinand Valley at this time that we're all cognizant of the importance of leaving the land in a natural state and watching over that creek, and that is going to help Ferdinand Lake in the future.

Interviewer: Who is ownership abuts your land on the uphill side, is that Fire Service?

Interviewee: Next to – what is this man's name? Anyway, next to that is Forest Service, yeah. And when there was a guy who bought the land – the 20 acres that now Beth Pargamian has purchased, he was putting a campsite there. We all fought that, because we thought it was going to harm that creek.

So we all went to the hearings and all that and subsequently he didn't put that camp – he was unable to do it fortunately, and so then the land is now safe again, which is nice. So we all work together and it's all going to help the lake, you know, so but that's about it.

Interviewer: **Yeah. Well, that's the end of my questions.**

Interviewee: Oh, all right. Good, good, good. So you're trying to figure out –

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