

Interviewer: Okay, so is this March 28th, and I'm here with Susan Andrews at the Coeur d'Alene center to talk about issues with the Fernan Lake and the risk-vulnerability assessment that the university is doing to understand how the watershed might react in the future, with the idea that we wish to reduce the incidence of the blue-green algae blooms. As background, we have sent the survey to the residents of the watershed and to the undeveloped property owners that will ask many of these same questions, but the purpose of this interview is to gather more information than we can possibly get through a survey instrument, and to that end we will be interviewing key leaders and key people throughout the watershed as a way of validating the survey.

So basically, how long have you lived in the Fernan Lake watershed?

Susan Andrews: [Laughs] I have lived at my residence since 1989. My husband's family – and we live next door to the homestead. My husband's family has been there since 1948.

Interviewer: Wow. Was that when Fernan Lake Village was started, or does that predate Fernan?

Susan Andrews: That predates Fernan – the city of Fernan Lake Village, yes.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. And what brought you to live there?

Susan Andrews: Marrying my husband. [Laughter] My husband had purchased a property next door to the property he was raised on, and when we married we moved out there.

Interviewer: What do you most value about living where you do?

Susan Andrews: The wildlife, the beautiful scenery. We are only two-and-a-half miles from town, but in that two-and-a-half miles of driving home, I can totally leave the stress of the day behind me and soak in the beauty of Fernan.

Interviewer: How do you use Fernan Lake?

Susan Andrews: We canoe on it, and we visit our neighbors. That sounds funny, but we get in the canoe, and we drive over to our neighbors' back yards, [laughter] rather than taking the car. So when somebody is inviting us over to dinner in the summertime, we'll jump in the canoe and paddle. It's good exercise. [Laughs]

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. Do you swim in the lake?

Susan Andrews: No. My husband did growing up, but personally myself, I have never. Nope.

Interviewer: Because you don't like swimming or because of something about the lake?

Susan Andrews: Neither. I enjoy swimming. I infrequently swim, I will say that. It's not that I go somewhere else to swim. We do allow our dog to swim. So I can say I may wade in the water up to my knees and allow – we've had several animals, several dogs that have – we have taken down there in the summertime. But personally, no, I've never swum–swam in the lake.

My husband, growing up, they used to water ski in the lake. And our neighbors, Bob and Marge Mote, used to have a aluminum boat rental, and people used to come out and utilize their services. But the only thing that I really do in the lake is canoe. [Laughter]

Interviewer: Well, going back to the swimming, is it because it's not attractive to swim or because swimming is just not an exercise you look to do?

Susan Andrews: I think it's a – yeah, swimming is not an exercise I like. We do have a neighbor, Shirley Sturts, who – well, they've been there for – they have been there since at least the '60s, I believe. She used to swim. She'd come to the end of her driveway, cross the road, and get in the lake and swim. So she's in her 70s now. I don't know if she continues that.

Interviewer: Uh-huh. Is your use of the lake, the canoeing frequency or length of canoeing or whatever, changing over time?

Susan Andrews: No. It's a –

Interviewer: Do you use it more or less?

Susan Andrews: It's a very small lake, so it doesn't take very long to go from the – let's see, that'd be the north side to the south side. It takes a little longer to go from the east side to the west side. But no, that hasn't changed. The frequency hasn't changed.

Interviewer: Okay. Regarding the blue-green algae blooms, is the incidence of blue-green algae blooms changing in your perception?

Susan Andrews: Yes, it has over the last two years. As a matter of fact, we can smell something going on in the lake before we actually get down there to look and see the blue-green algae. So tying that into canoeing, we do not like to canoe when there's – the last two years that there has been the high level of intensity of the blue-green algae.

Interviewer: Are they more frequent or do they last longer? Are they more intense?

Susan Andrews: They're occurring – over the last two years the outbreaks occurred earlier than they had ever in the past. And you can see the discoloration of the water, and they're larger outbreaks.

Interviewer: Larger in terms of areal extent or how long they last?

Susan Andrews: Area, not – I don't know. I'm not knowledgeable to know how long they last, but when they did occur late in the fall, and we could see as we were driving the road the pockets in the bay. Now the last two years, they – over the span of the lake, they covered a much greater area. And again, the smell, it's – I can't quote exactly the months that they appeared – that it appeared, but it was earlier in the year, a larger area, and definitely stronger in smell. Yeah.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. And did the blooms say ten years ago have the same smell?

Susan Andrews: No, no. You could actually see the discoloration of the water, but you couldn't really smell it. I couldn't detect it. But again, they were just like pockets in the bays. Now it runs the full length of the lake.

Interviewer: All right. Who is taking responsibility for reducing the algae blooms?

Susan Andrews: We've worked with the Department of Environmental Quality, in particular Kristin Larson and Robert Steed.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. Should there be anyone else that's taking responsibility?

Susan Andrews: Again, we have no knowledge of – I have no knowledge of who should take – oh, well, now we're talking about the outbreak.

Interviewer: **Right.**

Susan Andrews: The outbreak itself, if you're asking who should take responsibility for the cause of the outbreak, I think all of us that utilize the lake. But once the outbreak is there, we rely upon the Department of Environmental Quality to tell us –

Interviewer: **Mm-hmm, when it's safe again.**

Susan Andrews: Exactly, yeah. And they have – here's an interesting tidbit. They have provided – the Department of Environmental Quality has provided fliers the last couple years, and the Fernan Lake Conservation and Recreation Association has volunteered to post those fliers. And we have had people, recreationalists I assume, take the fliers down, and that's a curious aspect of – yeah.

Interviewer: **That's very curious.**

Susan Andrews: And I say recreationalists or somebody passing through because we have contacted our neighbors, and they have said, "Yeah, we saw it yesterday, but it's not there today." So we really don't suspect it's the residents.

Interviewer: **Uh-huh. In terms of reducing the blooms, who should take leadership in seeing the actual reduction?**

Susan Andrews: Who should take leadership? I'm not quite sure who, but the –

Interviewer: **Who or what agency or entity?**

Susan Andrews: Well, thinking of the agencies that manage or that oversee, and I'm thinking state agencies, I assume it should be the Department of Environmental Quality. I make that assumption, but we should all take responsibility [laughs] in keeping the lake healthy.

Interviewer: Right. Do you have a belief as to why the blooms are occurring more frequently?

Susan Andrews: A hunch.

Interviewer: A hunch, a belief, whatever. Yeah.

Susan Andrews: [Laughs] I'm curious. I don't know who in our neighborhood shares the same feelings that I do, but at the east end of the lake there used to be a road, and some people called it the bypass. And in 2009, when the road project started, and DeAtley Construction out of Clarkston was the construction company, they removed the road on the east end of the lake and started working to produce the bridge, which the bridge is now in place.

My hunch is – and I hate to say it because this is our meadow. But my hunch is that the road or the bypass had two culverts under it, and it held back the debris or the sediment. And now it's free-flowing. The water is free-flowing. There are two cricks that come through the property, one north and south, one east and west. And it flows into the wetlands, as it always did, but now the wetlands is open to the lake. That's my hunch. Who knows?
[Laughter]

Interviewer: Uh-huh, uh-huh. That's a good hunch.

Susan Andrews: And years ago – well, the road was originally built in 1930s, 1933 I think, by the CCC, and at the time they built a wooden trestle that went across. And my husband's family's property started at the east side of the bridge, and they drove their road – their driveway, which is now a section of the road. So when they took out the wooden bridge, my father-in-law donated the land from his side of that valley, and Jim McCann donated from the west side, so the east side and the west side. And that's how that bypass was built. So that was in the late '60s.

Interviewer: So I don't have the geographic sense that you do. The east bypass road we're talking about went around the wetland that is currently cut off by the bridge –

Susan Andrews: No.

Interviewer: – or the main wetland?

Susan Andrews: The bridge – are we talking the old bridge or the new bridge?

Interviewer: The new bridge.

Susan Andrews: The new bridge, where it exists, replaced a road that was right there. Okay, so ask your question again. Oh.

Interviewer: The culverts that were removed were on the wetland –

Susan Andrews: No.

Interviewer: No, they were –

Susan Andrews: It was right in the middle, right in the middle of the roadway. And I don't know the size of the culverts, but I think it was the Western Federal Highways said that the culverts were blocked. Now yes, they were blocked – one was blocked because a beaver built a dam there, and nobody disturbed it. But beavers don't build dams in stagnant water, so the water was flowing. So even though there was a lot of debris from the beaver dam, the water was still going under the roadway. So it was where the two culverts were where the bridge is now. Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. Okay, that makes sense.

Susan Andrews: Okay. [Laughs] And so the debris from the beaver dam plus the road itself kept a lot of that –

Interviewer: Sediment –

Susan Andrews: – sediment from going into the lake.

Interviewer: – and the wind-productive wetlands.

Susan Andrews: Yeah, yeah. That's just my hunch. [Laughs]

Interviewer: Uh-huh. Well, that's definitely worth exploring. If the unthinkable happened and the algae blooms continued or even got more severe, how would that change your relationship to the lake and to your property?

Susan Andrews: It would be unfortunate to see that happen. I don't think that necessarily it would change – well, number one, we would canoe less. We would utilize the water less. However, more than us, I think the community as a whole would stop utilizing the lake. In the heat of the summer, people bring their dogs down, and maybe that's all they do is they themselves go in the water and cool off and enjoy it with their dogs. I think they'd definitely stop doing that. People would stop coming out and fishing.

So even though there are times when the public can be a nuisance because they think everybody enjoys their style of music that they crank up because they think they're out in the country, it still is enjoyable to see people utilizing the lake. And Fernan is one of the very few lakes in North Idaho that it's not completely built up all the way around.

And so people do feel – they do – they de-stress, just as I was saying when I de-stress when I come home. I think they appreciate the closeness of the lake to town, and they can come home from work and say, "Hey, honey, let's go out and relax." So I think that's – aside from the public using the lake less, I think also if the algae blooms continue, Fernan in the community would be known as, I hate to say it, but like a cesspool or an undesirable place. Those of us that live there that appreciate it don't want that reputation.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. This is more of a perception question, but when the smell is bad, how far from the lake do you smell it?

Susan Andrews: I am less than – it takes a half a mile. From the road to our gate and then back is a half a mile, but I'm back farther. So I'd say

maybe a quarter-mile from my house I can smell it. You just know that something's going on. And then of course, like I said, once we get down to the driveway and we – or down to the roadway and we head into town, the intensity on the lake road itself is really strong in pockets. And then you can see it all the way. But from my house, yeah, I'd say about a quarter-mile away.

Interviewer: **Okay. Do you still smell it when you are in Fernan Lake Village?**

Susan Andrews: I would imagine they would, yeah. I'm not in the village. I'm on the other end, and I guess it depends on which way the wind blows. *[Laughs]*

Interviewer: **Having not smelled it, how would you describe the smell?**

Susan Andrews: Ooh, that's an interesting question, 'cause I can clearly – let's see. It's not a desirable smell, and it is – well, I wouldn't call it a smell. I'd call it a stink or a stench. So trying to put – I'm trying to think of like when I'm tasting wine: "Ooh, it has a lemony taste or a woody taste." Just a cesspool kind of undesirable smell. Yeah. Again, too, it depends on which way the wind is blowing. We live in that draw. So the bridge is there, and we're this way. And we get a lot of wind.

Interviewer: **Mm-hmm, pushing it up.**

Susan Andrews: Yeah, mm-hmm.

Interviewer: **I'd be interested to understand how far that smell goes from the lake around the edge. So I'll ask people as we go through this.**

Susan Andrews: Yes, it'd be interesting to know, the people that are up on Fernan Hill, if the smell permeates that direction. Yeah.

Interviewer: How do you get your information on Fernan Lake water quality?

Susan Andrews: In the past, we've relied on the Department of Environmental Quality. Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. Panhandle Health District?

Susan Andrews: Oh, yes. Well, you're right, Panhandle Health. However, it's the DEQ that notifies them. The Fernan Lake Conservation and Recreation Association has been working since the early 2000s with Tom Herron at the DEQ. So I think once we established that relationship, whenever we had a question, it was to his desk.

Interviewer: Right. So when DEQ determines that there is a bloom that is of public health significance, they call you or –

Susan Andrews: No, they notify the Panhandle Health, and then we read about it in the newspaper. That's how our family does – I neglected to say that my mother – so I am on the east end of the lake with my in-laws, but my mother lives on Fernan Lake Road on the city – Coeur d'Alene city, not the city of Fernan. She's on Fernan Lake Road on the city side. And so I would say my family, including my in-laws and my mom and dad, they _____. But Mom the last two years has read it in the newspaper and said, "Oh, did you know you can't go in the water?"

And it's like, "Oh, yeah, I forgot to tell you that," even though, well, Mom is 88, so she doesn't go down to the lake. [Laughs]

Interviewer: Right. So is that information distribution an appropriate – does it do what it needs to do?

Susan Andrews: Well, it does for us. I don't know if it does for all of the recreationalists. Well, actually, to tell you the truth, it doesn't do it for all the recreationalists because there are people that will come out when the bloom – and it's obvious. You pull over to the side of the road, and you're telling them, "Did you know that the lake is closed for use right now because – "

And they go, "Oh, no, I didn't know it." It's like as you're talking to them, you can smell it. But most importantly, I've pulled over many, many times in the last two years for people who have dogs in the water. Yeah. So I don't know that – how do you reach everybody? I don't know.

But we highly use the newspaper, the *Coeur d'Alene Press* or the *Spokesman-Review*, and then the signage. And then of course the FLCRA meets monthly, and we usually have somebody from the DEQ or somebody who – an agency that's aware of what's going on. But you know what, we're the ones that usually say, "Hey, there's an out-bloom," and then they come out.

Interviewer: Do people regularly contact you to ask for information?

Susan Andrews: No, they don't, and I'm the secretary. I know that occasionally our neighbors – but again, we can all smell it, so we know what's going on. But the neighbors, they don't necessarily call to find out, but they call and chat about it.

Interviewer: Okay. The next couple questions are more future, looking at how property is used. So does your property have marketable timber on it?

Susan Andrews: My husband and I own 8 acres, but we're next door to my mother-in-law, who owns over 100 acres. So I would say our acre – our eight probably don't, but hers do.

Interviewer: And are there conditions in which you would cut that timber?

Susan Andrews: Not for profit, but for the health of the woods. And in 1997 we had the –

Interviewer: Ice storm.

Susan Andrews: The ice storm, yeah, and over 100 trucks, logging trucks, came out of Mom and Dad's property. And that was again just for – it was already down. But we wouldn't do it for profit.

Interviewer: Subdivision plans?

Susan Andrews: At this point, no. My mother-in-law is turning 90 this year, so the reality of the inheritance – and the five children and their spouses, we've all chatted, and we're going to keep the homestead as together as possible. My mother-in-law did sell five acres on the top, because her property goes to Fernan Hill. But she did sell that off. I'm not quite – I can't remember. It's been a couple years that she's – she wanted to do something with the money. But that's the only part that they have sold, gosh, I'd say since the '50s or '60s.

Interviewer: Yeah. How would increasing blue-green algae blooms affect those potential subdivision plans?

Susan Andrews: Well, we have no potential subdivision – [laughs].

Interviewer: Right, right. Yeah, I know. We're talking second-hand remove here.

Susan Andrews: But if I were a potential homeowner – buyer, I would definitely look at the quality of the environment, and if I saw a dying lake and a lake that was not – there was no watchdog group, I probably wouldn't settle there, personally. But there are so many people from other areas of our country that move to this area, and they feel that, "Oh, wow, that's a bargain. Look what we're getting for that price." I don't know how the environment affects their decision.

Interviewer: That's true. That's pretty much the end of the questions I have. Are there things that you think I should be asking you? What else would you like to tell me?

Susan Andrews: I didn't actually come prepared with any ideas or any agenda. Then give me some time to think on that, and then I will get back to you if there's anything – if I see any "holes" in this. And I'm

also trying to – I'm a landowner, but I also always try to look at the water from the recreationalists' point of view. That lake is actually heavily used, and Bill Miller came up with the quote – and I can't remember who he quoted – that more fish are caught in that lake per acre than the whole state of Idaho.

***Interviewer:* That's from Idaho Fish and Game.**

Susan Andrews: Yeah. The recreationalists, it's amazing how many people – I will give you a little tidbit, and maybe we have talked about this already. But Fernan Lake, if you know the people that were born and raised here in Coeur d'Alene and that are now in their '80s and '90s – did I say Coeur d'Alene? I meant Fernan Lake. Fernan Lake.

Fernan Lake has had a history of the party lake, and in the 25 years that I've lived out there I have personally seen the end of the school year, the high school kids, you see them caravan out there. They used to stop at Fernan Lake and have keggers. The community out there, I don't know, nobody seemed to – I think society maybe back then, it was kind of like, "Not my business." And there were – there's been fatalities because of these keggers.

Then the keggers – then the behavior of stopping at Fernan Lake stopped, and they moved up into the National Forest. And they occasionally, not as much – in the last 25 years, I've seen that behavior wean. But they would have their end-of-the-school-year keggers out into the – well, with that attitude of the lake, a lot of the recreationalists would spend a day fishing and enjoying the water, but they'd leave their trash. Or we had people, homeless people, that would live in their vehicles along the lake road.

So – was it 2010? – we approached the sheriff's department, the fire department, and East Side Highway District. When I say "we," the FLCRA. And we asked them – matter of fact, several of us drove the lake road with cameras, and we documented people sleeping in their vehicles, trash that was left behind. We asked the sheriff's department to provide us with calls, how many people were shooting off fireworks. And in our bay, where the bridge is, there was one 4th of July that people were shooting at each other across the bay with their fireworks.

So we gathered all that information. We brought the three agencies together. We had a PowerPoint presentation, which I still have, and the three of them chatted outside of our meeting. And it

was decided that East Side Highway District would write a roadside ordinance, and it was the second roadside ordinance in their district.

The signs are now installed, and we still have to call the sheriff occasionally to say, "There's kids down there with a campfire, and they're partying." But the highway department signs say, "For the next 5 miles," and then there are five nos: no parking in the roadway; no overnight camping; no campfires; no shooting, 'cause at our end there's lots of decks, and people would stand on the road and shoot at the decks; and then no fireworks. So that has held since I think it was January of 2011. It was definitely a January, but I'm not quite sure which year it was that they installed those two signs.

Now the sheriff's department told us last year that they're still – they're responding. That area is now an enforceable area, whereas before the sheriff would come out, and there was nothing they could do. But the sheriff now comes out, and they take the record of the license, the driver's license and the license plate. And they told us any repeat offenders would be cited, but they're still warning people, "Hey, you can't do this."

So that reputation of a party lake has disappeared, and we're getting more responsible people. And I have to tell you, Mark, on the east end, when Nick Snyder from the Parks and Waterways told us his plans were for a privy and some barbecue pits, how he was describing, we all went, "Well, Nick, that sounds great, but we just know the public is going to destroy that." Well, we're now eating our words because it wasn't true. Nick's thought on that was if you provide this for them, and you maintain that, they're going to appreciate it. Well, he was right. We were wrong.

We do have – occasionally, we do have people that do come out – and nobody's put a cherry bomb in the privy, and there's been no damage. But we do have people that do come out, and they think they can do a little campfire off of the pits. It depends. As a woman, sometimes when I pull up, if I sense that I'm going to find some kind of a struggle there like, "You can't tell me what to do," then I don't say anything.

But if they pull up and they are like, "Oh, hi," then I'll say, "Do you know you can't do this?" Nine times out of ten, the public will say, "Oh, weren't aware of it," and then they stop. But there are some people that, whatever reason, just you can't tell them what to

do, or maybe they're intoxicated or whatever. Then we call the sheriff, and they handle it.

Interviewer: Does the fishing use from the bank concentrate in any particular area?

Susan Andrews: It used to be heavy on our end because people could easily stand on that bypass. I've noticed a few people fishing from the bridge, but not as many people as used to come out. Oh, well, see, and the behavior, too, was when they would come out to fish on that bypass area, they would bring out a tire, and they'd set the tire afire. And that's not healthy for the water, and the garbage it leaves behind and whatnot. So that behavior has stopped.

One thing the bridge has caused – the bridge has two swales. So I've noticed that people walk out on those swales, which is a concern to us because for two reasons. One, there was some, not a lot of vegetation planted there. Because of the public that vegetation never got a foothold, so it remains just dirt. So people are now – instead of standing where they used to stand, they're standing on those swales. So a lot of garbage is going into the swales. They'll cast their line, get it caught, and just cut it.

So that area was really heavily – there was a heavy population of turtles in that area. Because of what the road construction did, I think they trapped a lot of the turtles, and I don't know turtle life, but if they can't – I don't know how long they can remain dormant before they can come up and live. It was a couple years that we didn't see any turtles at all, of course, in 2009 and 2010 when they were building, '11 and '12.

But last year, a few turtles surfaced. So I don't know, maybe the turtle population is coming back. But because the public can now go out on those swales, they're picking the turtles up and taking 'em home. I'll see people there with nets, and it's like, "Oh, leave them alone."

I was gonna say, too, the other things those swales have caused, and this is not water quality or water fowl or aquatic life. But the ends of our driveways where the bridge is, people think they can park and block our driveways. And I don't quite understand that, because we have gates. But maybe they think that these are just roads to the National Forest. They don't realize they're residents. But that's another issue having to do with the road reconstruction.

It didn't used – our driveways were dirt till it hit the pavement. Now the right-of-way is paved, so it's convenient for parking.

Interviewer: Uh-huh. Is there signage?

Susan Andrews: Well, we put up a "No Parking," but we didn't want a blatant sign out there. It's orange and black, and it kind of fits into the – and then our neighbors put up a sign that said "Private Property" and "No Trespassing," which John Pankratz at East Side Highway District said, "You can't put up 'Private Property,' 'cause it's not. It's a road easement." But even though that was said, John has not come out there and said, "Take the sign down." So that sign's been up for two years.

And then the additional signage, if you look as you're coming past our driveway headed west, and if you look again on the neighbor's driveway going east, there are two green-and-white signs that say - - well, they're either green and white or red and white. If they're red and white, they're enforceable. I forgot what green and white means. But it says, "No Parking Between Signs." But the signs are not obvious. So one sign is on one side of the curb, and the other is – and people are like, "No parking between signs. Well, I don't know where the other sign is." So they park there. *[Laughs]* And there are some people that just avoid.

Interviewer: Those sounds like handleable management issues over time.

Susan Andrews: Yes, yeah. We asked East Side Highway District to paint the road. Have you ever been to an area where there has been like a grid, and then that's like a no-parking area?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Susan Andrews: But they said no, they wouldn't. Well, I think East Side Highway District – and they've been very cooperative and understanding about those of us that live out there, what we've put up with. But they are not assuming the road yet, so *[laughs]* little that they can do. But again, that's a parking issue with the public and not the water quality.

And I will say, too – this will also add to your understanding of the residents out there. The people in Fernan Village – now mind you, I'm in middle. So I've got the people in the valley and the people in the village. The people in the village seem to – they appreciate the view they have from the lake and how they utilize the lake.

But they don't have the same issues the people live along the lake, who actually have to work with the recreationalists – and then the people in the valley who – again, the recreationalists don't utilize that area. So the people along the lake are dealing with the lake itself, the actual water quality, the smell, the recreationalists, vehicles going into the lake – they're driving too fast – whereas the people on the extremes have different issues. Yeah.

That's the one thing I like about our association is the fact that are all coming together. It's not east against west. My husband can attest to this. When they created the city of Fernan Village, it was known as the uppity area, and those people moved in and looked at the hicks and the – yeah. So I think since our association has been around since 1997, there's more people appreciating it. We've had some meetings in the village, and we've yet to have anybody in the valley.

But you talked about during the summertime – or was it you or Frank? Maybe it was Frank talked about coming out in the summertime and doing an educational program. And we were all excited and said, "Great, we could hang up two sheets between a tree, and you can do a PowerPoint presentation." He was all for it. So we may be bringing some of the village people to the valley.
[Laughs]

Interviewer: That would be great.

Susan Andrews: Yeah, it would be excellent. We also have one – we don't talk too much about the Forest Service. The U.S. Forest Service is right there and has been. In the same property that they're on now, there used to be a little white house, and in the early '90s they tore that down and built the facility that they have now, which I think they have outgrown. But we've always utilized the center, and we've always utilized the employees, especially the hydrologists.

And they travel that roadway. So they were one people, somebody from the U.S. Forest Service, I think you should chat with. They travel the roadway to get into the National Forest, but they have now with the new ranger kind of pulled away. I'm not sure what

his management style is, but the new ranger is from Florida, and he doesn't quite get the culture of North Idaho. So we've kind of lost that contact with working – and some of the people that used to work at that facility have retired, too. The hydrologist has moved to Alaska.

Interviewer: Well, that's a good lead-in to who should I talk with now that you know what I am asking?

Susan Andrews: Yeah. All of the – I'm gonna give that an additional thought, because all of the people that we worked with, as I said, have now retired. Skip Truscott or Glenn Truscott. Oh, well, you could still chat with them, couldn't you, even though they are not there at the facility.

Interviewer: Sure.

Susan Andrews: Let me recommend John Bruning, B-R-U-N, Bruning, B-R-U-N-I-N-G, yeah. Or his nickname is Skip Truscott, T-R-U-S-C-U-T-T. T-R-U-S-C-U-T-T, yeah.

Interviewer: And they're resident in Coeur d'Alene?

Susan Andrews: Yes, they both – but they both worked out of the Fernan station. And then, like I said, I don't know what happened to – Randy Swick was the ranger maybe a couple of positions ago. Randy Swick, S, Swick. Your guess is as good as mine on that mine.

Interviewer: S-C-H-W-I-K.

Susan Andrews: Yeah, and I believe he was transferred to the station that's on Kathleen, the regional headquarters, yeah, in Coeur d'Alene. Yeah, he might be another key person.

Interviewer: Okay. Other people that I am interviewing today are Richard Trevalin and Bill Miller.

Susan Andrews: Oh, perfect. Yeah, both –

Interviewer: And I have an appointment with Sue Flammia in a week or so.

Susan Andrews: Oh, good. Great, great.

Interviewer: And Bonnie and I are trying to figure out a time when it'll work. She could be either –

Susan Andrews: Bonnie Douglas?

Interviewer: Yeah. She could be –

Susan Andrews: Her husband was raised in Fernan Village. One thing we did not talk about, and I'm gonna throw this in, is the Fernan Rod & Gun Club. So that's on U.S. Forest Service property. Again, when Fernan was known at the party lake, right the very first area of U.S. Forest Service – so it was not private property. It was right over the boundary. People would bring out refrigerators and shoot 'em up.

Interviewer: So basically where the parking lot is now?

Susan Andrews: No, the other side is – where Mount DeAtley is, that area was an unofficial public shooting range. Well, this gentleman came in, Robert Smith, and said to the U.S. Forest Service – and these are back in the days when it was just a handshake. U.S. Forest Service didn't have to go through environmental issues. And so Robert Smith said, "My gun club would like to do – or my cronies." I don't think they were even a gun club yet. "Would like to clean this area up and make this an official gun range. We would like to build these facilities. We're gonna open it up to military and to law enforcement."

And that happened in 1990. The U.S. Forest Service gave them a one-year I think it was special use permit, and they went for 20 years without renewing that permit. So they were able to do what they wanted to do without anybody from the U.S. Forest Service really – and it became an established – not necessarily for the gun

club or for military, but for our law enforcement in the area, it became an established shooting range.

So we're trying to since 1997 be concerned about the ecosystem, and what we're dealing with now is an arm wrestle with the law enforcement agencies and departments, trying to get them to understand – and I think they do understand the environment.

But it's so easy to – and the other issue is with it's nice to see police cars in our neighborhood. However, they drive out with blinkers on. There are people that are parking in the road. Well, not directly. We have people who are parking directly in the lane, but these other people park slightly over, but their tires are still in the roadway, and they're facing the wrong way. And the police just go right by 'em.

So we're concerned about the lead that's going into the ground, and the lead, all of that old lead that was covered up by Mount DeAtley, that's another issue. The U.S. Forest Service, as far as we understand, are asking the Fernan Rod & Gun Club to do an environmental impact study, and they're screaming, "We can't afford it." So I don't know what that – how that's gonna be resolved.

Now that has to do with the water quality, but again, just like the blocking of the driveways with the road – with the vehicles, the other issue with the gun club is there is no restriction, and they set up tripods and shoot off these cannons. And I'm two miles away, and my dogs are freaked out, and the windows are rattling. So again, that doesn't have to do with water quality. That's another issue.

Interviewer: **No, no, no, but it definitely affects the enjoyment of –**

Susan Andrews: Yes, yeah, what your – what your study or your survey is covering.

Interviewer: **Yeah, a lot of noise.**

Susan Andrews: Yeah, okay.

Interviewer: Anyone else I should talk with? And understanding that I can't talk with everybody.

Susan Andrews: Everybody, right, right.

Interviewer: But key people.

Susan Andrews: I'm thinking – but you know what, I don't think that they will be back. They're in Mexico, and then they won't be back. But I think you should chat with E.G., or Earl, Lunceford. Yeah. His grandparents owned a big chunk of the Fernan Valley, and he resides there. He and his wife, Judy, are – they're the ones with the lawsuit.

Interviewer: Right, but they're in Mexico now?

Susan Andrews: They're in Mexico, yeah. Maybe can you do this via email? I don't know.

Interviewer: Yeah, depending on how much people like to use email.

Susan Andrews: I say "him" because he still resides there. His grandparents – and then E.G.'s mother is Judy Lunceford. But she was a Kelly. There's Ruby Kelly and Dorothy Kelly, and Ruby and Dorothy have both passed. Matter of fact, their spouses have both passed. I don't know about June, Earl's mother. But Dorothy married Gookstetter. They settled out there. Ruby married Montandon. They settled out there. Lunceford moved away – or June moved away and married Lunceford. But E.G. came back and stayed on the property. So he's got a lot of –

Interviewer: What about Howard Welch? I know that –

Susan Andrews: They're new. They're from California. They bought the Kelly ranch, but they bought it from Van Camp, the pork and bean people. *[Laughs]* But Howard – I think the road reconstruction – I would not suggest Howard and Bobby. The road reconstruction – and for some reason Howard's gotten it in his mind that some

authority is gonna come in and say, "You can only have x amount of head of cattle." So I don't think he would really want to cooperate. He wouldn't.

Mike Webb. Mike Webb is a longtime Coeur d'Alene resident, and he's owned his property, gosh, maybe since the '60s or '70s. And he's next door to Lunceford. Matter of fact, Mike Webb is the landowner or property owner out there. They're not residing out there.

Interviewer: **That's fine.**

Susan Andrews: Although he resides out there in the summer in his camper. It's his property. We're hoping that Frank Wilhelm will come out, and that way we can get the village people out to the valley. So Mike and Roxy Webb, yeah. And if you would like, they're FLCRA members, and I can share phone numbers.

Interviewer: **Sure.**

Susan Andrews: Or do you have that info?

Interviewer: **I'm pretty sure I found his phone number.**

Susan Andrews: Okay, okay. Frank definitely has it, 'cause Frank wanted to put a sampler on that box culvert.

Interviewer: **Okay, I'll check with Frank.**

Susan Andrews: E.G. Lunceford was in particular I thought a key person, because as a child his grandparents lived out there. They were a hoot. Everybody called them Ma and Pa Kelly. I know his name was –

Interviewer: **Is he expected to be back from Mexico in the summer or sometime?**

Susan Andrews: I'll find out. I'll find out. I sent an email to them, and I forgot why, and I didn't hear a reply. And then all of a sudden I heard a reply from Judy, and it said, "We're in Mexico."

It's like, "Well, that's why you didn't answer your phone."
[Laughter] But Sue Flammia was born and raised here in Coeur d'Alene, and she's owned that property out there with her husband, who has passed, Pat Flammia. She was Sue Solomon. Yeah. Let's see, who else up there and on the other side? Mostly I think getting input from the valley people is key.

Interviewer: Is there anybody up on Potlatch Hill or on Fernan Hill that'd be representative of that community?

Susan Andrews: Perhaps the Buchlers, B-U-C-H-L-E-R, Chris and Ed Buchler. He was a biologist, I guess. He studied bats. [Laughs] And they are really into the Audubon Society, so they can tell you a lot about the eagle activity. Chris and Ed Buchler up there on Potlatch on the other side of Fernan Hill.

Oh, you know who would be great is one of the **Motes**. Did you talk to Marge and Bob **Mote**?

Interviewer: The name is familiar, but I haven't –

Susan Andrews: They're the ones – there's Bill Miller on the lake, and the next one is Bob and Marge **Mote**. Bob is in his early 80s. He was raised directly up the hill on Fernan Hill. I don't know where he was born, but he was raised as a child up there. And then in the early '50s when he and Marge married, they built that house that's on the lake, and he's the one that had the boat rental.

So I would say – I would take what – Marge is kind of an alertist. She actually feels, and she's said this to many of us, that they lived there so long, and so many studies, and this is just another study, and nothing's gonna come of it. That's Marge. She's a sweet lady. Bob has lived there all his life out at the hill and on the lake since the early 1950s.

Two of his boys live up on the – up on the hill. There's Bob and **Cathy** and Randy and – Randy and Dana – Dana. Dana. Bill's wife, Bill Miller, is Dana, and she's Dana, both spelled the same. Bob and **Cathy** and I can supply you phone numbers for all of them. So Bob and **Cathy**, Randy and Dana are on the original **Mote** homestead, and then Mom and Dad, Marge and Bob, still live on the lake since the early '50s.

Interviewer: Those people.

Susan Andrews: Great people, longtime residents. And then the other person I was gonna say, who swam in the lake, was Shirley Sturts, Keith and Shirley Sturts. They're on Fernan Lake Road. Their driveway is between Bob and Marge Mote, and Bill and Dana Miller.

So their driveway is one where the dirt washes down the driveway across the road. Yeah. Keith specifically talked to the Western Federal Highway about the location of the drain. They put it where Keith didn't suggest it. I am not quite sure of that conversation, but the water used to come off their driveway and puddle prior to road reconstruction. It still puddles after road reconstruction, and the drain is on the high side. So Keith and Shirley Sturts.

Phew, a lot of information, Mark.

Interviewer: I think we've taken it as far as we can go.

[End of Audio]