



Friends of the Clearwater

Keeping Idaho's Clearwater Basin Wild

P.O. Box 9241 Moscow, ID 83843 | (208) 882-9755 | friendsoftheclearwater.org

November 14, 2024

Karen Hardwick, Project Team Leader,
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests
1008 Highway 64
Kamiah, ID 83536

Re: FSR 1114 Road Closure Modification

Submitted via project website at:

<https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=67078> and also emailed to:
ronald.tipton@usda.gov

These are comments on the FSR 1114 Road Closure Modification document entitled “Proposed Action, Preliminary Environmental Impacts, and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact” on behalf of Friends of the Clearwater (FOC). The document also refers to itself as an Environmental Assessment (EA).

We note that this is actually a modification of the Clear Creek Integrated Restoration Project, as the EA indicates:

The purpose of this seasonal closure is to reduce elk vulnerability during the Pine Knob timber sale (from the Clear Creek Integrated Restoration Project) until roadside cover has returned along most of the route.”

...The closure would commence when the Pine Knob timber sale for the Clear Creek Integrated Restoration (CCIR) project begins harvest through such time as a Forest biologist determines roadside cover has returned along most of the route.

Therefore it is unclear why the Forest Service (FS) is preparing an EA to close some roads to mitigate impacts of a project which was developed with an Environmental Impact Statement. As the FS is aware, FOC participated as interested public throughout the agency's project development leading to the CCIR final decision, so we incorporate into these comments all of our submissions on CCIR.

FOC supports “The intent of the proposed seasonal road and trail closure ...to reduce hunter access for short-term ungulate protection.” And from our comments and objections to CCIR, the FS is aware that FOC advocates for more comprehensive reductions of the management-induced impacts of motorized routes, and since this is a scoping process please revisit our previous input in consideration of those impacts.

Please keep each us on the list to receive all future communications regarding this proposal.

Sincerely submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeff Juel". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jeff Juel, Forest Policy Director
Friends of the Clearwater
jeffjuel@wildrockies.org
509-688-5956