

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/22/2023 4:00:00 AM

First name: Ron

Last name: Hartig

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Nez Perce- Clearwater National Forest North Fork Ranger District 12740 Highway 12 Orofino, Idaho 83544 Dear Ranger Skowlund, I am in full support of changing the access plan regarding the issue of elk in the Fish Lake Trail area. The Forest Service has a credibility issue with the closure of Fish Lake. As you are aware, agreements were made; Idaho Senators and Clearwater County Commissioners were in full support along with the Forest Supervisor, Ranger and District personnel who worked on site along with citizens totally more than 90 people that first year. The project work continued for 3 years with large groups, and then was adopted by Clearwater Road and Trail to do yearly maintenance. The project work included: building a bridge type span to protect a riparian zone, construction of erosion ditches and barriers, removal of brush and hazards from the trail, outhouses updated, campsites designated, spring developed with access to lake via a stairway, plank walkways constructed and an end of the trail designated parking space for motorized use with signage. I am hopeful that this issue will be addressed quickly and resolved to the satisfaction of the citizens of Clearwater County. It was an absolutely amazing experience when the Forest Service and the public worked together to accomplish a goal such as Fish Lake Trail. It is unique that the elderly, handicapped and young can all enjoy this backcountry setting at a high mountain lake. Sincerely, Ron W. Hartig 168 Timberline Drive Pierce, Idaho 83546 September 22, 2023