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Date: January 3, 2017

Ravalli County Commissioners

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Dear Interested Party,

The Bitterroot National Forest will be working on a Management Plan for the Lake Como Recreation Area and would like to hear from you! The first phase of the planning process is to gather public comments and feedback and have discussions about the future of the Lake Como Area. We will be hosting 3 open houses:

Date	Location	Time
Wednesday, January 18, 2017	Darby Community Clubhouse 106 N. Main, Darby MT	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 21, 2017	Bitterroot NF Supervisor's Office 1801 N. First, Hamilton MT	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 24, 2017	Bitterroot NF Supervisor's Office 1801 N. First, Hamilton MT	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Lake Como, an irrigation reservoir, is a major attraction in the Bitterroot Valley because of its proximity and easy access, its natural beauty, and the wide variety of year-round recreation opportunities provided. Some of the recreation activities include motorized and non-motorized water sports, camping, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, skiing, ice fishing, etc. This area is easily accessible year-round and visitor use continues to increase.

An estimated 200,000 people visit Lake Como each year, making it the most utilized recreation site in the entire Northern Region of the Forest Service. With the increase in use comes a higher demand for recreation opportunities and more impact to the natural resources and the use is extending beyond the developed recreation area. The management plan will help guide management actions, projects, prohibitions, restrictions, and opportunities within the planning area. The planning area for this project will be Lost Horse Creek south to the ridge overlooking the Tin Cup drainage, west to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness boundary, and east to the Forest Service boundary (see enclosed map).





Public input is an integral component of the management planning process. Please stop in at any time during one of the open houses. Forest Service personnel will be on hand to discuss the planning process and receive your feedback. We will also have numerous maps displayed showing existing and potential future uses for the area. The open houses will be the first phase of the planning process and are sort of the brainstorming phase. If you are unable to attend one of the open houses, you can still provide feedback by emailing, calling, or mailing the Bitterroot National Forest (see the enclosed comment form). After public comments/feedback are received, the comments will be compiled and shared with the public, and staff will work on compiling a document that will be a tool to help guide the management of the area to provide for a safe, enjoyable recreation experience while protecting the resources.

For additional information, please contact Erica Strayer at the Darby/Sula Ranger District at 406-821-3913.

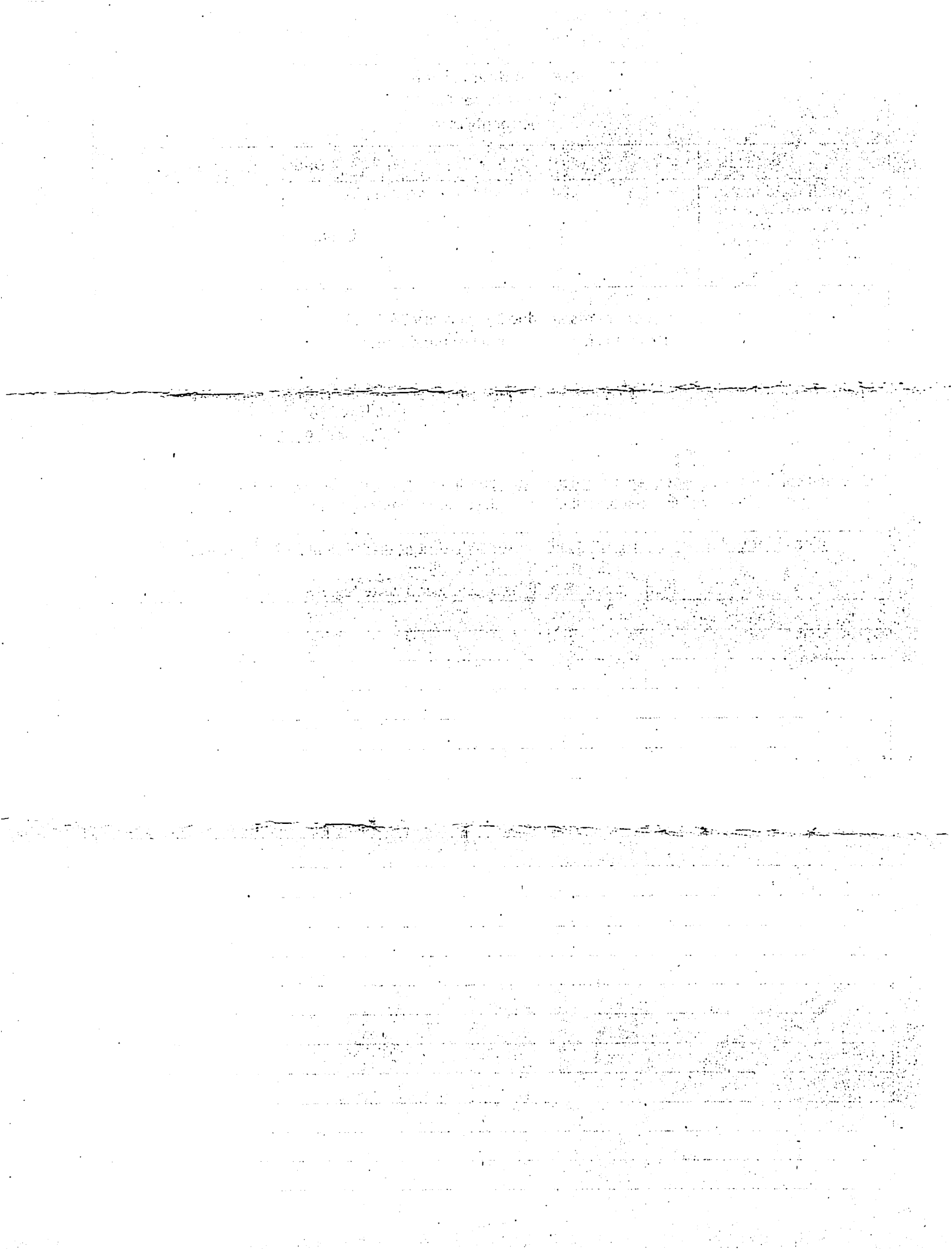
We look forward to working with you and seeing you at one of the open houses!


Sincerely,

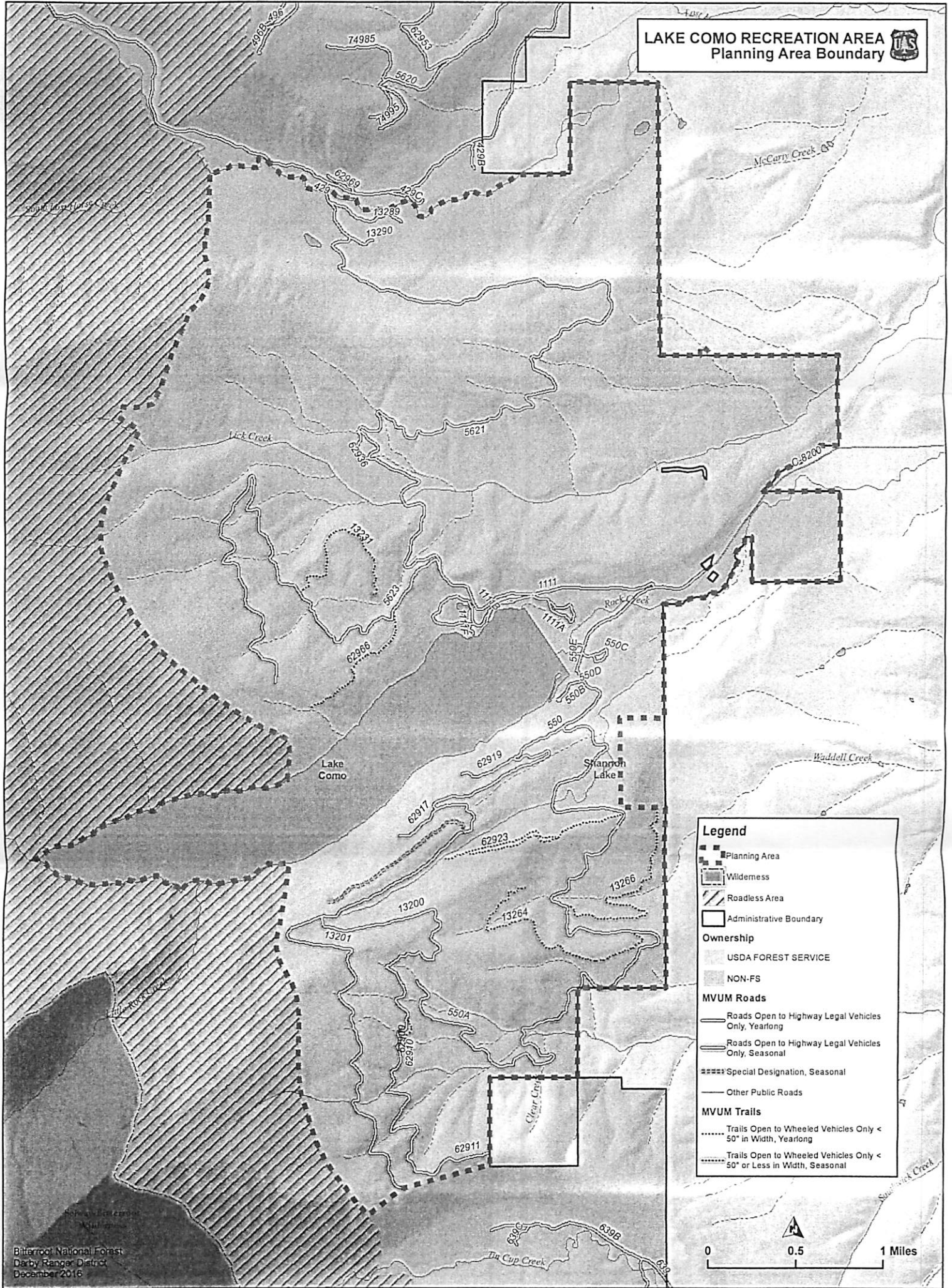
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Winthers", written in a cursive style.

ERIC WINTHERS  
District Ranger





**LAKE COMO RECREATION AREA**  
**Planning Area Boundary** 



**Legend**

-  Planning Area
-  Wilderness
-  Roadless Area
-  Administrative Boundary

**Ownership**

-  USDA FOREST SERVICE
-  NON-FS

**MVUM Roads**

-  Roads Open to Highway Legal Vehicles Only, Yearlong
-  Roads Open to Highway Legal Vehicles Only, Seasonal
-  Special Designation, Seasonal
-  Other Public Roads

**MVUM Trails**

-  Trails Open to Wheeled Vehicles Only < 50" in Width, Yearlong
-  Trails Open to Wheeled Vehicles Only < 50" or Less in Width, Seasonal

