



**Bitterroot National Forest**

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Web: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot>

# News Release

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## Forest Seeks Comments for Lake Como Plan

Hamilton, Montana (January 12, 2017) – The Bitterroot National Forest is inviting the public to attend several open houses beginning next week to discuss and solicit input regarding the Lake Como Recreation Area on the Darby Ranger District. Three different meetings are scheduled with the first one taking place on January 18<sup>th</sup> in Darby. See below for open house dates and locations.

The Forest is in the initial stages of working on a Management Plan for Lake Como. An estimated 200,000 people visit the area annually making it the most utilized recreation site in the entire Northern Region of the Forest Service. The area is very popular for water sports, camping, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, skiing, and ice fishing among other activities. It is easily accessible year-round and visitor use continues to increase.

Recreation specialists will be available at the open houses and would like to hear from the public regarding what kind of activities they would like to see occurring at Lake Como. There will also be numerous maps showing some of the existing and potential future uses for the area. The open houses are the first phase of the planning process and are sort of the brainstorming phase.

Lake Como open houses will occur:

- Wednesday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> at Darby Community Clubhouse, 106 Main Street, 6-9 pm.
- Saturday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> at Bitterroot NF Supervisor's Office in Hamilton, 10am-2pm.
- Tuesday, Jan 24<sup>th</sup> at Bitterroot NF Supervisor's Office in Hamilton, 6-9pm.

If you are unable to attend the meetings, you can still provide feedback. Comment forms are available by visiting our website at [www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot](http://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot).

For additional information contact Erica Strayer, Darby/Sula Ranger District at (406) 821-3913. Stay in touch with us through [www.facebook.com/DiscoverBitterrootNF](https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverBitterrootNF) and [www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF](https://www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF).

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