

## Commissioners

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**From:** McKay, Tod G -FS <tgmkay@fs.fed.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2014 1:52 PM  
**Subject:** News Release: Conditions hazardous near Lake Como  
**Attachments:** Conditions hazardous - Lake Como.docx



## NEWS RELEASE

### *Bitterroot National Forest*

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United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Bitterroot National Forest  
1801 N First St  
Hamilton, Montana 59840

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Tod McKay (406) 363-7122**

January 24, 2014

### **CONDITIONS HAZARDOUS NEAR LAKE COMO**

Hamilton, MT, – The Darby Ranger District is advising skiers, fisherman, and other winter recreationists to use caution while driving on Forest Service roads near Lake Como. With our recent sunny weather and higher than normal temperatures, many areas are experiencing excessive snowmelt during the day and the runoff is freezing at night, creating sheets of ice that are dangerous to negotiate. As weather warms there could be water on top of ice or as we get snow it will be snow on ice creating additional safety hazards. At the same time, the runoff also creates a soft roadbed on dirt roads that is easily damaged by vehicle traffic.

Another concern at Lake Como is thin ice. The warmer temperatures have melted the ice on the lake and in many spots it's not thick enough to support anyone walking on it, or trying activities like ice skating or ice fishing.

“We are advising people to use caution while recreating near Lake Como,” said Darby District Ranger Chuck Oliver. “Driving conditions are hazardous and ice on the lake is shrinking, and we don’t want a fun family outing to turn into a dangerous situation.”

For more information contact the Darby Ranger District at (406) 821-3913.

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