



Blodgett/Mill Lake Fire Information

Phone: 406-426-9612 daily from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Email: 2022.blodgettlake@firenet.gov

Date: September 21, 2022

Doug Turman, Incident Commander

Contact Information: Phone: 406-426-9612 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. **Email:** 2022.blodgettlake@firenet.gov

Start Date: 8/29/2022

Cause: Lightning

Total Personnel: 184

Engines: 2

Helicopters: 1

Completed: 43%

Heavy Equipment: 10

Crews: 3

<u>Fire Name</u>	<u>Acreage (estimated)</u>
Blodgett Lake	2307 acres
Mill Lake	915 acres
Big Creek	157 acres
Bear Creek	235 acres
Kootenai Creek:	1 acre

Summary:

Progress continues on a shaded fuel break east of the fire, where firefighters are working on containment lines west of the Bitterroot Valley. The fuel breaks are intended to provide a high probability of success for fire suppression should fire progress downslope on this or future fires. Firefighters encourage the public to be cautious of extra fire traffic in the Mill Creek area.

Afternoon winds increased smoldering fire behavior on Tuesday, creating smoke visible from the valley. Little growth occurred as the recent wet weather and shorter burn windows restricted growth. Fire managers expect smoke to remain visible from the valley in the coming weeks as warm and dry weather returns next week.

Firefighters are making progress in widening buffers on road #1325 using wood chippers to clear brush in tight turns and other vulnerable locations. Fire resources will again be stopping traffic at the intersection of FS-737 and FS-1325 to help complete the remaining work.

Structure protection personnel scouted structures adjacent to US Forest Service lands east of Big Creek, Bear Lake, Mill Lake, and Blodgett Lake Fires. Fire Managers and Structure Protection Specialists met with Bitterroot Valley Volunteer Fire Departments to review a Coordinated Response Plan for use in this or future Wildland fires. More information on the Coordinated Response Plan can be seen in a short video on the Discover Bitterroot National Forest Facebook page.

The Forest has implemented trail closures across the fire area. Refer to the Bitterroot National Forest website for details <https://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot>

Weather:

Dry weather persists thru Wednesday, with wet conditions moving into the area in the evening. Weather forecasters predict a high likelihood of a wetting rain Wednesday night and Thursday morning before dry conditions return.

InciWeb: Mill Lake Fire: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/8392/>

Bitterroot National Forest Website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot>

Air Quality: <https://fire.airnow.gov/>

