



## Pedro Mine Fire

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Fire Information: 406-502-8205

[Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF Wildland Fire Information Facebook](https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtbdf-pedro-mine)  
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September 11, 2024 7:00 p.m.



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**Incident Commander: Chris Hericks**

**Location:** Southwest of Branham Lakes Campground

**Start Date:** 09/04/2024

**Cause:** Lightning

**Size:** estimated at 152 acres

**Resources on Site:** 3 Initial Attack Modules

**Total Personnel:** 14

The Pedro Mine Fire, located nine miles east of Sheridan in the Mill Creek area, is burning in steep, rocky terrain with little to no access for firefighters. The area contains a large concentration of standing dead trees ("snags") that pose challenges to ensuring firefighter safety and in responding to potential medical emergencies, jeopardizing the well-being of firefighters and other responders.

Fire managers from the Forest, working in collaboration with local Madison County officials have identified and prioritized critical values at risk in the fire area. Firefighting efforts will focus available resources on the protection of structures on private inholdings, active mining claims, and Branham Lakes Campground. All these values are approximately .1-.6 miles from the fire.

There are several factors involved in making wildfire management decisions. These factors include, firefighter safety, resource availability and threats to public safety and property. As well as, terrain, fire behavior, fire season outlook and modeling, and past prescribed fire units and vegetation management projects in the area. Fire managers are strategic in their approach and continually reassess conditions and alter management strategies to protect critical values.

### **CURRENT STATUS/PLANNED ACTIONS:**

Crews completed the firing operation to protect the infrastructure and vegetation in and around Branham Lakes Campground. This burned area also provides a place of refuge for recreationists and first responders for fires in the future. The cabin closest to the fire continued to have sprinklers operated around it all day. The barricade remains in place at the intersection of Mill Creek Road (FS RD 111) and the Middle Fork Mill Creek Road (FS RD 7313) to limit public access into the fire area and Branham Lakes Campground. An overnight mapping mission using infrared has been ordered again for tonight. One of the Initial Attack Modules was released home at the end of shift.

Tomorrow's actions will be weather dependent. If forecasted weather materializes then crews will most likely check the fire in the morning and focus the rest of the day on rehabbing gear and equipment. If little moisture is received, then crews will continue to mop-up and secure fire near the cabin and the campground, remove snags in the fire area, and continue to monitor fire spread. If significant moisture is received then the evening update for Thursday, September 12 will be the last one issued unless fire activity returns later this fall.

These actions are designed to allow fire personnel to protect the identified values at risk while operating in areas that have much better access and egress to safety.

Agency representatives continue to compile contact information for affected landowners immediately adjacent to the fire area.



**WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR:**

Today was the last dry, warm, and windy day for the foreseeable future. The system arriving has approximately 0.6-1.2" of rain forecasted through Friday with snow levels dropping to 7,000'. As most of the fire area is above 8,500' measurable snow could cover the entire fire by Friday morning. If this forecast plays out it will be considered at least a season-moderating event and may be a season ending event for the fire area.

**CLOSURES AND RESTRICTIONS:**

The Forest is in Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. Campfires are allowed only in a permanent metal fire grate/ring provided by the Forest Service in a designated, developed recreation site. Smoking is restricted to vehicles, in buildings, or in an area clear of flammable materials. Devices with an on/off switch that use LPG fuels are allowed in an area clear of flammable materials within 3 feet of the device.

