

'Person of Interest' Sought in Table Rock Fire

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The U.S. Forest Service held a public meeting last night to talk to area residents about the fire that has blackened over 2500 acres of the Table Rock area of the Linville Gorge—and they released a photo of a 'person of interest,' seeking information about a man seen in the Table Rock area on Veterans Day. Forest Service law enforcement officials said the man may have information concerning the wildfire in the Linville Gorge, and is asking for the public's help in identifying the man.

Their release said they believe that he camped in the Table Rock picnic area during Veterans Day and may have information that would aid the investigation. Their release said the man was with a group of other campers and may play the guitar. There was a truck in the area believed to be a white, 2007-2009 Dodge Ram truck, possibly a sport model. Anyone with information concerning the man, the group of people or the vehicle at the Table Rock picnic area on Veterans Day are asked to call Law Enforcement Officer Jason Crisp at (828) 442-2470. The release said that, while the cause of the fire is still under investigation, fire investigators are looking for any information or observations that may help determine the cause of the fire, and a reward may be offered for substantial information.

As of yesterday morning, the fire area was 2,579 acres, with 50 percent containment. Two hundred firefighters are working the blaze.