

95 percent containment on Gorge fire

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Cooler temperatures and rainy weather brought much-needed backup to firefighters in Burke County this weekend. As of Sunday night, 95 percent of the wildfire was contained.

While it should take another week for the fire to be fully contained, the Eastern Arizona Management Team transferred command of the fire to a locally based team yesterday evening. Area residents will probably still see smoke in the gorge, firefighters say, but firefighters are optimistic that continued rains and higher relative humidities will eventually extinguish the burning materials. The Linville Gorge Wildernes and the Table Rock Area remain closed today, as well as Kistler Memorial Highway (Old Highway 105), and the Spence Ridge Bridge. Firefighters hope to be able to open those areas to the public next week.