

## Six Departments on Tenacious Woods Fire

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Six fire departments from Watauga, Wilkes and Caldwell are on the scene of a large woods fire on the border area of the three counties. Stewart Simmons was called out early today to the fire, bordered by Paisley Ridge Road, Rock House Road, and Penley Road. (Tom Lanier, Jim Landis photos) Stewart Simmons was soon joined by Blowing Rock, Boone, Champion, Yadkin Valley, Patterson, and the NC Forest Service and aided by the Red Cross and Watauga Rescue in the firefighting effort. One issue is the location of the fire is causing a number of smoke reports, most of which have turned out to be the fire in the Sampson area. But with ashes being blown even into Boone from the fire, each call has been investigated, sometimes taking away from the effort at the scene. Dry, windy conditions are contributing to the danger and the spread of the fire.