

750 acres burned near Linville Gorge

Written by Lauren Ohnesorge
Monday, 30 April 2007 01:40

A wildfire near Linville Gorge continued to burn over the weekend. Sunday afternoon estimates showed over 750 burned acres.

A firefighting team from Arizona was even called in to assume control over firefighting operations, but without rain, the fire threatens to spread even deeper into the gorge. The fire, which started Wednesday, has brought the help of over 200 firefighters and several fire engines, bulldozers, and a helicopter. Firefighters resorted to intentionally burning sections of Pisgah to control the main body of the fire. Large pockets of dead pines continue to contribute to the fire's spread. While preliminary speculation may point to a campfire, no cause has been officially determined, firefighters say. Hikers are urged to postpone trips into the Linville Gorge Wilderness until the fire is under control. Old N.C. 105 is closed from Wiseman's View to the bottom of the mountain. Anyone with information about the cause of the fire should contact the U.S. Forest Service office in Nebo at 828-652-2144.