

Gorge fire spreads

Written by Lauren Ohnesorge
Wednesday, 02 May 2007 05:59

Firefighters Wednesday are reassessing their containment plan for a wildfire near Linville Gorge after it spread overnight.

“We had just a little bit of slip over in the western section, but we got a hold of it,” Assistant Public Information Officer Dyan Bone said. Firefighters worked late last night tackling the fire as it spread west and further north into the Gorge. As a precaution, all trails in the Linville Gorge Wilderness are closed.

While GPS has yet to reassess the acreage, Bone estimated the northern spread charred 20 additional acres. The last GPS estimate put total charred acres at just under 550, but firefighters say 700 may be a more accurate total today.

Firefighters will be concentrating their efforts this afternoon on a spot on the west side of Old Highway 105.

Firefighters hope cooler temperatures today will help with containment. Firefighters estimate 30 percent of the blaze has been contained.

Closures: Kistler Memorial Highway (Old N.C. Highway 105), Spence Ridge Bridge, and all trails in the Linville Gorge Wilderness

Stay tuned or check this website for further updates.