

For the first time, firefighters are starting to see progress in containment efforts of a wildfire that has been raging since April 25. Though estimated acreage has increased to 1,205 acres, firefighters are more upbeat, according to public information officer Jonetta Holt.

Yesterday's weather deserves a lot of the credit. Increased humidity made it possible for firefighters to use bulldozers and water hoses to contain the spread from Tuesday. Firefighters are now confident they have a handle on the western flank.

The fight is not over, however, as the fire continues to move north into the wilderness. While it is also spreading east, firefighters are less concerned because of the Linville River.

"We want to continue to hold the line for a couple of days before we up the containment percentage," Holt said.

Though the estimated containment is still 30 percent, firefighters believe they will have the fire under control by May 9. Latest numbers show 249 firefighters are currently fighting the wildfire in Burke County.