

Linville fires 95 percent contained

Written by Lauren Ohnesorge
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As of yesterday, the fires in the Linville Gorge Wilderness are 95 percent contained.

Totaling over 5,400 acres, the three fires initially started from lightning strikes on June 8. Both the Dobson Knob fire and the Cold Mountain fire have been contained. Firefighters are working to contain the 4,517 acre fire at Shortoff- and believe they are almost there.

Although contained, the Dobson Knob fire is being watched closely today because of the amount of unburned fuel within the fire perimeter.

Firefighters plan to spend today mopping up hot spots and maintaining the containment lines. While the Table Rock picnic area and surrounding trails remain closed, the western side of the gorge off Forest Road 105, including Wiseman's View, is open. Spence Ridge Trail on the eastern side of the Linville River to Shortoff Mountain, between the river and Forest Road 118 is still closed.

The U.S. Forest Service wishes to remind the public that fireworks are not allowed on the Pisgah National Forest.