

Weekend update on Linville Gorge Fire

Written by Lauren Ohnesorge
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Major progress has been made with a fire near Linville Gorge due to the assistance of the recent rains and cooler weather.

The fire, which began on April 25, is thought to have started near the Pinnacle Trail, possibly from a campfire. The Conley Cove Trail, one mile south of Wiseman's View, has been prepared as a potential northern boundary in case the fire spreads. Currently, the fire remains just north of Dogback Mountain and is being held by Old Highway 105 at its western flank. The Linville River serves as its eastern boundary. Rehabilitation efforts inside and outside of the Linville Gorge Wilderness are currently in progress and erosion control treatments on the Pinch In Trail, where the fire line was initially, is almost complete. 304 hand crews are currently battling the blaze that has now reached 2,357 acres. 8 fire engines, 4 bull dozers and 2 helicopters have assisted firefighters. The estimated containment has gone from 30 percent to 80 percent.

CLOSURES: The Linville Gorge Wilderness and the Table Rock Area have been closed by order of the Pisgah National Forest. That portion of the Mountain to Sea Trail from the Kistler Memorial Highway (Old Hwy. 105) to the intersection with National Forest System Road 210 is also closed for public health and safety. Kistler Memorial Highway and the Spence Ridge Bridge are also closed.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. Anyone with information about the cause of the fire is urged to contact Special Agent Jenny Davis at (828) 231-0288.