July 02, 2007

**Fire Information 828-443-1668** 

## Fire Update

National Forest in NC Pisgah National Forest Grandfather Ranger District Linville Complex

- ❖ The Linville Complex is located on the Pisgah National Forest, Grandfather Ranger District. Three wildfires, each started by lightning on June 8, 2007, comprise the complex. Total complex acreage is currently at 5,400 with 95% containment. There are 162 personnel assigned to the complex. This includes 4 hand crews, 2 helicopters, 4 engines, 1 dozer and 2 water tenders. Air support from the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources is available if needed.
- **❖** The Linville Complex consists of:
  - ➤ Shortoff Mountain Fire 4,517acres in Linville Gorge Wilderness
  - ➤ Dobson Knob Fire 816 acres (contained)
  - ➤ Cold Mountain Fire 67 acres west (contained and controlled)
- **\*** The Table Rock picnic area and trails are closed due to fire danger.
- ❖ Portions of the Linville Gorge Wilderness have been reopened to the public. The western side off Forest Road 105, including Wiseman's View, is entirely open, as well as the north end of Linville Gorge. The only section closed is from Spence Ridge Trail on the eastern side of the Linville River to Shortoff Mountain, between the river and Forest Road 118.
- All burnout operations have been completed. Firefighters will continue to patrol and mop-up any hot spots and fell any snags that may pose a threat to firefighter and public safety.
- ❖ Dobson Knob fire may still pose a threat due to the large amount of unburned fuel within the fire perimeter. Crews will continue to patrol and evaluate the situation to determine if additional action is necessary.
- ❖ Members of the current Incident Command Team have completed the transition to Incident Command Team Cherry, who will assume control of the complex.
- ❖ Over the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday the public is reminded that fireworks are not allowed on the Pisgah National Forest. The public should also be careful with campfires if they are camping on the Forest, and make sure their fire is never left unattended and is completely out when they leave their campsite.