



# Smoke Outlook

# 11/16 - 11/17

## Nantahala Forest/Western N. Carolina Collett Ridge Fire

Issued by [Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) on November 16, 2023 at 08:39 AM EST

### Special Statement

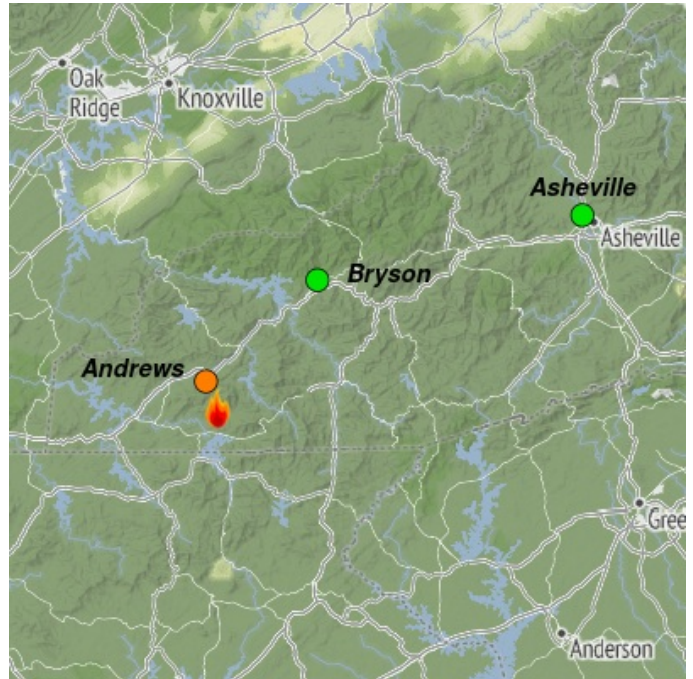
The Collett Fire was started October 23, 2023 by lightning on the Nantahala National Forest. Drought conditions allowed the fire to establish and eventually grow to 5,447 acres. Firefighters have worked hard to gain 80% containment of the fire.

### Fire

Fire crews cleaned up unburned fuel near Andrews yesterday. Fire behavior increased but containment lines were strengthened as a result. Cooler and moister weather later on today may hinder further burnout operations. Some large debris will most likely continue to burn down.

### Smoke

Burnout operations produced enough smoke to drop into Andrews yesterday. Smoke will be visible in Andrews today and continue to flow and pool into the drainages at night. There are other fires and local burning in surrounding areas that may contribute to smoke in adjacent areas.



Daily AQI Forecast\* for Thursday

Station	Yesterday hourly		Wed 11/15	Comment for Today -- Thu, Nov 16	Forecast*	
	6a	noon			6p	Thu 11/16
BRYSON				Similar air expected as yesterday but breezier		
Asheville - BDED				Similar good air today as yesterday		
Andrews P.A.	No hourly data			Expect smoke in evening and mornings until rain reduces smoke production		

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Air Quality Index (AQI)	Actions to Protect Yourself
Good	None
Moderate	Unusually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion.
USG	People within Sensitive Groups* should <b>reduce</b> prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.
Unhealthy	People within Sensitive Groups* should <b>avoid all</b> physical outdoor activity.
Very Unhealthy	Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
Hazardous	Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity.

**\*Disclaimer:** This forecast is based on fine particulates only; ozone is not included. Forecasts may be wrong; use at own risk. Use caution as conditions can change quickly. See your health professional as needed. Smoke sensitive groups should take appropriate precautions.

### Additional Links

[InciWeb Collett Ridge Fire](https://inciweb.nwcf.gov/incident-information/ncncf-2023-collett-ridge-fire) -- <https://inciweb.nwcf.gov/incident-information/ncncf-2023-collett-ridge-fire>  
[Fire and Smoke Map](https://fire.airnow.gov/#close) -- <https://fire.airnow.gov/#close>

[Collett Fire Update](https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD1150420) -- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD1150420>  
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Issued by Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program -- [www.wildlandfiresmoke.net](http://www.wildlandfiresmoke.net)  
Nantahala Forest/Western N. Carolina Updates -- <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/bde167d2>  
\*Smoke and Health Info -- [www.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-health](http://www.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-health)