



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Forests in North Carolina

U.S. Forest Service News Release



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<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/ncncf-rattlesnake-branch>

<https://www.facebook.com/nfsnc/>

Rattlesnake Branch Fire Final Update -- April 4, 2025

NOTE: *This is the last update of the Rattlesnake Branch Fire by the Southern Area Red Complex Incident Management Team. A smaller team will remain in place for the remainder of the incident and can be reached at the contact above.*

CRUSO, N.C., April 4, 2025 –The Rattlesnake Branch Fire remains at approximately **1,843 acres** and **26-percent** contained. With several resources returning home, **more than 110 personnel** continue to work on the fire.

Yesterday's Activities

Yesterday, many firefighters and equipment were released from the fire because they were in excess of current needs for the Rattlesnake Branch Fire. Management of the fire has shifted to monitoring, patrolling and completing data collection for structure protection and potential places for fire line construction. In the Crawford Creek Area, crews cleared roads for emergency access. Most of the assessment work yesterday was northwest and west of the fire, near the Camp Daniel Boone Boy Scout Camp and including the Frazier and Little East Fork Road systems. The drone flew up to the peak of Cold Mountain and checked the southern fire perimeter for heat signatures. Some areas of the fire received more rain yesterday.

Today's Activities

More firefighters and equipment will be released from the fire today. Remaining personnel will continue to patrol and mop up around structures in Crawford Creek and Cruso, as needed, and improve fire lines to protect structures in the Burnett, Lenoir and Dix creek drainages and around the Boy Scout Camp.

A hotshot crew will also work to assess and clear trails on Cold Mountain. Roads

and fire lines used for fire suppression around Crawford Creek, Cruso and Burnette Cove Road will be repaired, including installing water bars on roads to prevent erosion. Firefighters will continue to collect data on potential future fire lines and structures for a structure protection plan, including data on interior logging logs west of the current fire footprint.

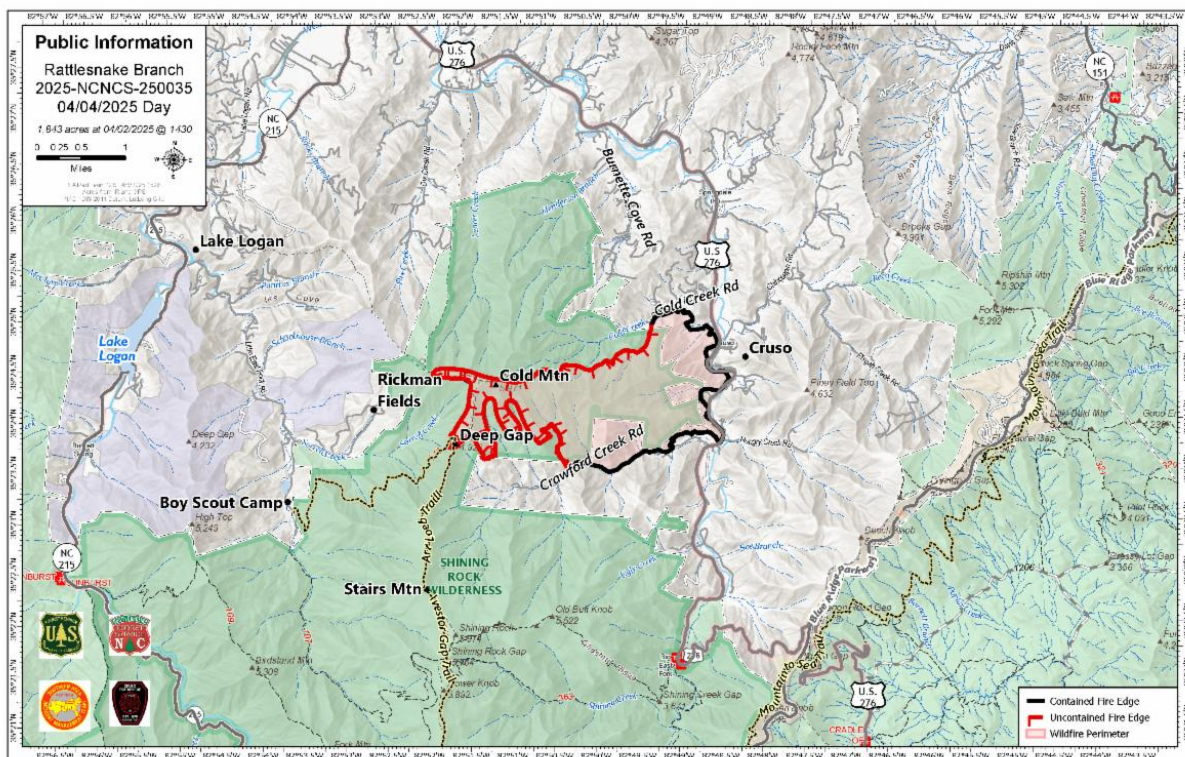
Weather/Fire Behavior: Today will be mostly cloudy with warmer temperatures and strong southerly winds. A strong, rainy cold front arrives Sunday, with wetting rain (1.5 – 1.75 inches) and thunderstorms. The high temperature today will be 71 -76 degrees with 45-48 percent minimum relative humidity. Winds will be south to southwest, 10-14 mph with gusts to 32 mph.

Minimal fire activity is expected again today due to moisture retained by dead leaves and woody vegetation on the ground.

Closures and Restrictions: The Pisgah National Forest has modified an area closure of the Shining Rock Wilderness Area to protect the public from wildfire and firefighting operations. This closure includes all National Forest System land in the Shining Rock Wilderness Area only. Please stay safe and keep out of the wilderness area.

A temporary flight restriction is in effect in and around the fire area. This includes use of personal drones.

For wildfire updates, follow the National Forests in North Carolina on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nfsnc or visit <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/ncncf-rattlesnake-branch>.



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