Rain a mixed blessing in efforts to fight Pinnacle Mountain fire

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This week's rain has prevented the Pinnacle Mountain fire from spreading, but the wet conditions also are hampering firefighting efforts.

The fire that has burned 10,560 acres is now 62 percent contained, according to a Wednesday morning update from the Pinnacle Mountain Fire Joint Information Center.

For the second consecutive day Wednesday, crews were not dispatched to the fire lines due to the concern over the safety of wet roads, slick terrain and soaked ground, according to the update.

An approaching cold front moved into the area Wednesday afternoon. The front was expected to dump up to an inch of rain, which officials expect will help increase containment of the fire.

Firefighters may be able to resume work on the fire Thursday, according to an update issued Wednesday afternoon.

While the fire lines appear to be holding well and the weather is helping to keep fire activity to a minimum, officials stress that firefighting efforts will likely continue for weeks.

Costs related to the fire currently are estimated to be $4.57 million.

As a result of the recent rain, the South Carolina Forestry Commission lifted a burning ban on Tuesday for 19 counties, including Anderson, Greenville, Oconee and Pickens.

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