



<b>White Mountain National Forest</b> <b>2023 Unauthorized Group Use Incident</b> <b>June 23, 2023</b>	
<b>Situation or Background</b>	<p>On June 12, the U.S. Forest Service learned about the potential for an Unauthorized Non-Commercial Group Use Incident (Rainbow Family Gathering) to occur in the Kilkenny Area on the Androscoggin Ranger District of the White Mountain National Forest.</p> <p>The USDA Forest Service mobilized a national incident management team with experience managing these types of incidents. The team is working closely with the local community, including law enforcement agencies, to protect the health and safety of everyone involved, and to lessen environmental impacts to the site by providing information and enforcing laws.</p> <p>The incident coincides with the Fourth of July holiday, and participants have already begun arriving. The Forest will experience the highest concentration of visitors during the first week of July. The incident is expected to draw around 5,000 attendees.</p> <p>After July 4, a group of Rainbow Family members stay on site for several weeks to work on clean-up and rehabilitation.</p> <p>Current attendance is estimated to be around 350 attendees.</p> <p>For a map and additional information on the Rainbow Gathering Incident please visit <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/rainbowgathering">http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/rainbowgathering</a>.</p>
<b>Safety Concerns and/or Advisories</b>	<p>When driving on Bog Dam Road/Forest Road 15 please be aware of vehicles parked along the roadway and pedestrians in and around vehicles or walking along the roadway. <b><u>Please slow down.</u></b></p> <p>Please keep the following in mind while driving to/from the incident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch for and obey posted speed limits. Hazards exist, such as limited sight distance, wildlife and soft surfaces.</li> <li>• Be careful braking on gravel roads. Allow more time and distance when coming to a stop.</li> <li>• Beware of washouts, downed trees and brush on the roadway.</li> <li>• Carry a car kit, equipment, tools, and supplies, in case of an emergency.</li> <li>• Always let someone know your plans and stick to those plans.</li> </ul>
<b>Closures</b>	<p>In anticipation of traffic congestion, the Forest Service has issued a closure order for Bog Dam Road/Forest Road 15 restricting the traffic flow to one-way to maintain the flow of traffic and ensure an open roadway throughout the incident. Please reference closure order R9-22-23-02 for more detail.</p>

	<p>An area closure (R9-22-23-03) is in place for an area around Pond of Safety Road for road maintenance. This road is located in the vicinity of the incident.</p>
<b>Parking Information</b>	<p>No Parking signs have been placed along Bog Dam Road/Forest Road 15 in locations where the road is narrow and/or it is not safe to park due to resource concerns. Please follow all posted restrictions.</p>
<b>Weather – Berlin, NH</b>	<p>Friday night: A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly after 1am. Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening. New precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch possible.</p> <p>Saturday: A chance of showers, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after 11am. Areas of fog before 8am. High near 77. South wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.</p> <p>Saturday night: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Patchy fog after 10pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm. Chance of precipitation is 70%.</p> <p>Sunday: Showers likely, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after 11am. High near 79. Calm wind becoming northeast around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%.</p>
<b>Information</b>	<p>Public Information: (814) 230-6609 or email <a href="mailto:SM.FS.RainbowIMT@usda.gov">SM.FS.RainbowIMT@usda.gov</a>.</p> <p>Additional Rainbow Gathering Incident information can be found at <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/rainbowgathering">http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/rainbowgathering</a>.</p> <p>Berlin Police Department Dial 911 for emergencies. Non-emergencies: (920) 361-2121</p> <p>For more information about the White Mountain National Forest visit <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/whitemountain">www.fs.usda.gov/whitemountain</a>.</p>
<b>Protected Sites</b>	<p>The Forest Service protects many sensitive resource sites. Sensitive resource areas include wildlife areas, cultural sites, riparian areas and wetlands. Restricting access to such areas provides protection for several threatened wildlife species and other aquatic and wildlife species. Excavation and/or removal of prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resources, structures, sites, artifacts, or property is prohibited.</p>