



White Mountain National Forest 2023 Unauthorized Group Use Incident June 25, 2023	
Situation or Background	<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 http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/rainbowgathering.</p>
Safety Concerns and/or Advisories	<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. <u>Please slow down.</u></p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>We share the outdoors with a variety of animals who make the forest their home. Remember, these are not pets. Keep a safe distance from them and be careful not to disturb their habitat.</p> <p>Many people never encounter a bear. But if you do, here's some simple advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DO NOT RUN. • Remain calm. • Group together and pick up small children. • Continue to face the bear and back away slowly, talking calmly to identify yourself as a human. • If the bear continues to approach, try to scare it away by making yourself as large and imposing as possible by stretching your arms overhead and making loud noises.

	<p><u>Food Storage</u></p> <p>Bears are always searching for food. Bears are curious, intelligent animals that have great memories. Their eyesight is similar to humans and their sense of smell is seven times more powerful than a blood hound’s, enabling them to smell food from miles away.</p> <p>Those are the very traits that can sometimes get them – and us – into trouble. Most bears are wary of humans and try to avoid them. However, bears can learn to associate people with food and be tenacious in their pursuit of something to eat. Even if humans are around.</p> <p>Everyone in bear country must do our part to store food and other attractants in bear-resistant containers at all times and dispose of trash properly.</p> <p>Bears remember and recognize familiar food sources like favorite berry patches, decaying logs swarming with delectable insects, and streams and rivers teeming with fish that provide much needed fat and protein.</p> <p>But bears also remember human packs, campsites, and dwellings offer tempting options. While bears are attracted to any edible food, they also might try to feast on items we might not consider edible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • toothpaste • shampoo • lotion • soap • cooking utensils • empty cans • wrappers • coolers • pet food • bird seed • garbage • petroleum products (including fuel) <p>For more information on food storage, visit the Bear-Resistant Food Canister web page at www.fs.usda.gov/visit/know-before-you-go/bears/bear-resistant-food-canister.</p>
<p>Closures</p>	<p>In anticipation of traffic congestion, the Forest Service has issued a new closure order for Bog Dam Road/Forest Road 15 restricting the traffic flow to one-way and reducing the speed limit to 25 mph to maintain the flow of traffic and for safety. Please reference closure order R9-22-23-04 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>
<p>Parking Information</p>	<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. <u>Please follow all posted restrictions.</u></p>

<p>Weather – Berlin, NH</p>	<p>Sunday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 3pm. Patchy smoke after 4pm. Patchy fog before 9am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 82. Calm wind becoming north around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts of less than a tenth of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.</p> <p>Sunday night: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 8pm, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms between 8pm and 2am, then showers likely after 2am. Patchy smoke before 7pm. Patchy dense fog after 10pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.</p> <p>Monday: Showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 11am. Areas of fog before 1pm. High near 68. East wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.</p> <p>Monday night: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm before 2am, then showers likely. Patchy fog after midnight. Low around 58. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%.</p> <p>Tuesday: Showers. High near 71. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%.</p>
<p>Information</p>	<p>Public Information: (814) 230-6609 or email SM.FS.RainbowIMT@usda.gov.</p> <p>Additional Rainbow Gathering Incident information can be found at http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/rainbowgathering.</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 www.fs.usda.gov/whitemountain.</p>
<p>Protected Sites</p>	<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>