



White Mountain National Forest 2023 Unauthorized Group Use Incident June 28, 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 535 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>Pets – An increase in visitors to the area has included pets. Be alert for their presence in and near the roadway(s). Dogs in particular are common in the Incident area. Forest Service staff have encountered unpredictable behavior from the dogs at the Incident. Remember dogs are often protective of their space and owners.</p>
Closures	<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>

Parking Information	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>
Weather – Berlin, NH	<p>Wednesday night: Showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 2am, then a slight chance of thunderstorms after 5am. Some of the storms could produce heavy rain. Patchy fog. Low around 61. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New rainfall amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.</p> <p>Thursday: Scattered showers before 11am, then scattered showers and thunderstorms between 11am and 1pm, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 1pm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 74. Calm wind. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.</p> <p>Thursday night: Showers and thunderstorms likely before 8pm, then a chance of showers between 8pm and 2am. Patchy fog between 10pm and 2am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 57. South wind around 5 mph becoming calm. Chance of precipitation is 60%.</p> <p>Friday: A 50 percent chance of showers after 2pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 80. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph in the afternoon.</p> <p>Friday night: A 30 percent chance of showers before 2am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.</p>
Information	<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>
Protected Sites	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.