



| White Mountain National Forest 2023 Unauthorized Group Use Incident June 30, 2023 | |
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| 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 typically stay on site for several weeks to work on clean-up and rehabilitation.</p> <p>Current attendance is estimated to be around 700 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><u>Severe Thunderstorm Safety:</u> <u>Outside:</u> Go inside a sturdy building immediately if severe thunderstorms are approaching. Sheds and storage facilities are not safe. Taking shelter under a tree can be deadly. The tree may fall on you. Standing under a tree also put you at a greater risk of getting struck by lightning. <u>In a Vehicle:</u> Being in a vehicle during severe thunderstorms is safer than being outside; however, drive to closest secure shelter if there is sufficient time.</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 in the vicinity of the incident.</p> |

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| 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>Friday night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 60. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 40%. New precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.</p> <p>Saturday: A slight chance of showers, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Areas of fog before 9am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 77. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New rainfall amounts of less than a tenth of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.</p> <p>Saturday night: A 40 percent chance of showers. Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. Southeast wind around 5 mph.</p> <p>Sunday: Showers likely, mainly after 3pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 74. Southeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.</p> <p>Sunday night: Showers likely. Patchy fog before 4am, then patchy fog after 5am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. Chance of precipitation is 60%.</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. |