



White Mountain National Forest 2023 Unauthorized Group Use Incident July 1, 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 3,000 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 1300 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>Keep it clean. Wash your hands, particularly after using the bathroom and before handling food to prevent the spread of germs and disease. Use biodegradable soap. Keep your campsite clean, too. And don't forget to remove all trash.</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>
Parking Information	<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</p>

	<p>concerns. <u>Please follow all posted restrictions.</u></p>
Weather – Berlin, NH	<p>Saturday night: A 20 percent chance of showers after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. Southeast wind around 5 mph.</p> <p>Sunday: A chance of showers, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 73. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.</p> <p>Sunday night: Showers. Patchy fog. Low around 61. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening. Chance of precipitation is 90%.</p> <p>Monday: Showers likely. Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 78. Calm wind becoming southeast around 5 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 70%.</p> <p>Monday night: Showers likely, mainly before 2am. Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. 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	<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>