



White Mountain National Forest 2023 Unauthorized Group Use Incident July 2, 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 1685 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>
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>Please follow these safety tips when hiking in the woods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay on marked trails.</li> <li>• Don't hike alone. Let the slowest person in your party set the pace. This is especially important when children are a part of your group.</li> <li>• Leave your itinerary with a friend or family member and check in with them upon your return.</li> <li>• Develop an emergency plan before you start your trip. Make sure everyone knows what to do if they become lost or a medical emergency arises. Give children whistles with the instructions to "stop and blow" if they become lost.</li> <li>• Take frequent rests or vary your pace to maintain your energy level.</li> <li>• Drink plenty of water, even on cool, wet days. Never drink your entire supply between refills.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear appropriate clothing, including sturdy boots that are broken in and are comfortable.</li> <li>• Consider using a hiking pole or walking stick to help maintain your balance in unlevel or hazardous areas.</li> <li>• Be aware of your surroundings, and pre-plan your approach before hiking through more hazardous areas. Wet surfaces can be a hazard and even more so if it's on a slope.</li> <li>• Consider what you'll do if you start to slide or fall so that you are prepared. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If falling, do not try to catch yourself; try to avoid landing on your hands, elbows or knees. Landing on the side of your body is much safer.</li> <li>• If the slope is such where you know you are going to slide, lowering your center of gravity, by sitting down and sliding on your feet or bottom, is safer.</li> <li>• If sliding while standing up, keep your weight over your feet and bend your knees—do not lean back or forward while sliding.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If on a day hike, extra weight wears you down and reduces your agility over uneven terrain. Pack as light as possible. Leave the extras behind, but consider bringing these essentials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map</li> <li>• Sunglasses and a hat</li> <li>• Sunscreen</li> <li>• Flashlight</li> <li>• Waterproof matches</li> <li>• First aid kit</li> <li>• Water and water-purifying tablets</li> <li>• High-energy bars, granola, candy, or fruit</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Closures	<p>The Forest Service issued a 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 concerns. <u>Please follow all posted restrictions.</u></p>

Weather – Berlin, NH	<p>Sunday night: Showers likely, mainly before 9pm. Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 62. Calm wind. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.</p> <p>Monday: A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 2pm. Patchy fog before 9am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 76. Calm wind becoming southeast around 5 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 40%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.</p> <p>Monday night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Patchy fog after midnight. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening. Chance of precipitation is 40%.</p> <p>Tuesday: Showers likely before 11am, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm between 11am and 2pm, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 80. Calm wind becoming northwest around 5 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 60%.</p> <p>Tuesday night: A 30 percent chance of showers before 2am. Patchy fog after midnight. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 62.</p>
Information	<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>
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>