



White Mountain National Forest 2023 Unauthorized Group Use Incident July 3, 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 1800 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>All Forest visitors are encouraged to practice informed situational awareness. Never approach, come in contact with, or pick up items that are obviously out of place in your National Forest. Some things are easily identified as human generated waste or disturbance while others may not be so obvious. Suspicious items or disturbance should be avoided. For emergencies dial 911 for non-emergencies in the area of the incident please call the Public Information Line at (814) 230-6609 or the Berlin Police Department at (920) 361-2121.</p> <p>Please, remember that fireworks are prohibited on all National Forest System lands, including the White Mountain National Forest (Code of Federal Regulations 261.52 (b and f)).</p>
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>

	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.
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>Monday night: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Patchy dense fog after 2am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. Calm wind. New rainfall amounts of less than a tenth of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.</p> <p>Tuesday: A chance of showers before 11am, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms between 11am and noon, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after noon. Patchy fog before 8am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 79. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.</p> <p>Tuesday night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 7pm, then a chance of showers between 7pm and 2am. Areas of fog after midnight. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. Calm wind. Chance of precipitation is 40%.</p> <p>Wednesday: A chance of showers between 8am and 5pm, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 5pm. Patchy fog before 8am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 84. Calm wind becoming northwest around 5 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 50%.</p> <p>Wednesday night: A chance of thunderstorms before 8pm. Areas of fog after midnight. Otherwise, mostly clear, with a low around 62. Chance of precipitation is 30%.</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.