



White Mountain National Forest 2023 Unauthorized Group Use Incident July 4, 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>As of July 3, attendance was estimated to be around 2100 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>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> <p>Please keep the following in mind while driving through the woods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for and obey posted speed limits. Forest Service roads can be narrow, rocky, and are not meant for high speeds. • Beware of rocks, road washouts, downed trees and brush on the roadway. • Use appropriate tires for the terrain and conditions you'll be traveling. Remember to stay on authorized roads. • Carry a car kit, equipment, tools, and supplies, in case of an emergency. • Always let someone know your plans and stick to those plans.

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>Tuesday night: Showers and thunderstorms likely before 11pm, then a slight chance of showers between 11pm and 3am. Patchy fog after 9pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. Calm wind becoming northwest around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.</p> <p>Wednesday: Scattered showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 2pm. Patchy fog before 9am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 86. Northwest wind around 5 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>Wednesday night: A 30 percent chance of showers before 9pm. Areas of fog after midnight. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 62. Calm wind.</p> <p>Thursday: A 30 percent chance of showers after 2pm. Patchy fog before 8am. Otherwise, sunny, with a high near 87. Calm wind becoming north around 5 mph.</p> <p>Thursday night: A 30 percent chance of showers before 8pm. Areas of fog after midnight. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 64.</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>