



White Mountain National Forest 2023 Unauthorized Group Use Incident July 5, 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. The incident coincided with the Fourth of July holiday, with attendance estimated to be around 2200 attendees on July 4.</p> <p>The Incident Management Team is starting to transition the incident to the Forest. It is anticipated that a group of Rainbow Family members will stay on site for several weeks to work on clean-up and rehabilitation.</p> <p>For a map and additional information on the 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>When hiking in the woods you should expect the unexpected and plan accordingly. Even if you are going out for just a few hours, pack enough essentials that you can stay hydrated, fueled, and prepared for any type of weather.</p> <p>Your essentials should include at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than enough food and water for the activity you plan. • A compass that you know how to use. You may want a GPS device, but those sometimes do not receive a signal, or the battery fails. Cell phones also likely will not work because of a lack of signal. • Appropriate maps. Study the terrain and your planned route. Know where you are going and how you will return. • Sturdy hiking boots, clothes that you can layer depending on the weather conditions and additional socks in case the ones you are wearing get wet. • A blanket, flashlight, matches kept in a water-resistant container, and other items that will help you survive overnight if necessary. <p>It's also important that once you have planned your outing, tell someone. Give them exact details of where you are going, the trail you plan to follow, when you will return, the vehicle you are driving (and where you plan to park) and how many people will go with you – do not go alone.</p> <p>If you do become lost your most important tool is keeping a positive mental attitude.</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. The Order is in effect through July 15, 2023, or until rescinded, whichever occurs first.</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. The Order is in effect through October 31, 2023, or until rescinded, whichever occurs first.</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>Wednesday night: Patchy fog after midnight. Otherwise, mostly clear, with a low around 61. Calm wind.</p> <p>Thursday: Isolated showers between noon and 1pm, then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Areas of fog before 9am. Otherwise, mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 92. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 20%.</p> <p>Thursday night: Patchy fog after 1am. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 65. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.</p> <p>Friday: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2pm. Patchy fog before 7am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 86. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph in the morning. Chance of precipitation is 60%.</p> <p>Friday night: Showers and thunderstorms likely before 11pm, then a chance of showers between 11pm and 2am. Patchy fog after 1am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 64. 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>