



White Mountain National Forest 2023 Unauthorized Group Use Incident July 6, 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>Current attendance is estimated to be around 1,075.</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>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. The Order is in effect through July 15, 2023, or until rescinded, whichever occurs first.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 The Order is in effect through October 31, 2023, or until rescinded, whichever occurs first.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>

<p>Weather – Berlin, NH</p>	<p>Thursday night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11pm. Patchy fog after 2am. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 64. South wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.</p> <p>Friday: A slight chance of showers, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Some of the storms could produce small hail, gusty winds, and heavy rain. Areas of fog before 9am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 86. Calm wind becoming south 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>Friday night: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce heavy rain. Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 64. South wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.</p> <p>Saturday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 9am, then a chance of showers between 9am and 3pm, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 3pm. Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 82. Calm wind becoming southeast around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.</p> <p>Saturday night: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 9pm, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms between 9pm and midnight, then a chance of showers after midnight. Patchy fog after midnight. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 64. Chance of precipitation is 70%.</p>
<p>Information</p>	<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>
<p>Protected Sites</p>	<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>