



White Mountain National Forest 2023 Unauthorized Group Use Incident July 7, 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 500.</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>A closure order is in place 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 The Order is in effect through July 15, 2023, or until rescinded, whichever occurs first.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 The Order is in effect through October 31, 2023, or until rescinded, whichever occurs first.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>

<p>Weather – Berlin, NH</p>	<p>Friday night: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm before midnight, then scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly between midnight and 1am. Some of the storms could produce small hail, gusty winds, and heavy rain. Patchy fog after 11pm. Low around 64. Calm wind. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.</p> <p>Saturday: Scattered showers before noon, then scattered showers and thunderstorms between noon and 2pm, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2pm. Areas of fog before 9am. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a high near 82. Calm wind becoming southeast around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.</p> <p>Saturday night: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 8pm, then scattered showers and thunderstorms after 8pm. Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 64. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 60%.</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: (603) 752-3131</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>