



White Mountain National Forest 2023 Unauthorized Group Use Incident July 11, 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>Forest Service employees conducted a site visit July 10 and found that many individuals are continuing to pack up and haul garbage and abandoned items from the incident site.</p> <p>The site will need to dry out from recent rainstorms prior to some restoration activities taking place. Rehabilitation efforts are the responsibility of the unauthorized users with the goal of rehabilitating to the site to pre-incident conditions.</p> <p>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>As of July 10, attendance was estimated to be around 150.</p> <p>For a map and additional information on the incident please visit <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/rainbowgathering">http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/rainbowgathering</a>.</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>
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.</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 The Order is in effect through October 31, 2023, or until rescinded, whichever occurs first.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>
Information	<p>Public Information: (814) 230-6609 or email <a href="mailto:SM.FS.RainbowIMT@usda.gov">SM.FS.RainbowIMT@usda.gov</a>.</p> <p>Additional Rainbow Gathering Incident information can be found at <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/rainbowgathering">http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/rainbowgathering</a>.</p> <p>Berlin Police Department Dial 911 for emergencies.</p>

	<p>Non-emergencies: (603) 752-3131</p> <p>For more information about the White Mountain National Forest visit <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/whitemountain">www.fs.usda.gov/whitemountain</a>.</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>