



White Mountain National Forest 2023 Unauthorized Group Use Incident July 21, 2023	
<p>Situation or Background</p>	<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 18 and found that most of the garbage has been removed and some areas have been rehabbed. Rehabilitation efforts are continuing and are anticipated to be wrapped up next week.</p> <p>Rehabilitation efforts are the responsibility of the unauthorized users with the goal of rehabbing to the site to pre-incident conditions.</p> <p>Once rehab efforts are complete, individuals associated with the unauthorized group use incident will vacate the site.</p> <p>As of July 18, attendance was estimated to be around 50.</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>
<p>Safety Concerns and/or Advisories</p>	<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>Closures</p>	<p>Closure order R9-22-23-04 for Bog Dam Road/Forest Road 15 restricting the traffic flow to one-way and reducing the speed limit to 25 mph is no longer in effect.</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 The Order is in effect through October 31, 2023, or until rescinded, whichever occurs first.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>Information</p>	<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. Non-emergencies: (603) 752-3131</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> .
Protected Sites	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.