

6/12/09

USDA Forest Service
Rainbow Family Gathering

FACT SHEET

June 12, 2009

2009 Rainbow Family Gathering Near Cuba, New Mexico

What is the Rainbow Family of Living Light?

The Rainbow Family is a loose-knit group of people who pursue alternative lifestyles. They gather on National Forest System lands to discuss political and environmental issues, pray for world peace, and celebrate life. They describe themselves as having no leaders and no organization.

What is the national gathering?

The Rainbow Family holds a national gathering once a year. Since 1972, the event has taken place on a different national forest during the Fourth of July holiday and has fluctuated in size. The gathering has attracted as many as 25,000 people, but in recent years approximately 5,000 to 10,000 people have attended. Smaller local and regional gatherings occur during other times of the year.

How and when is the site for the national gathering selected?

The specific location for the large annual gathering was announced by the Rainbow Family today, June 12, 2009. The annual gathering will be held on the Cuba Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest in the Parque Venado area northwest of Cuba, NM. Rainbow Family groups have been in the area for a couple of weeks looking for a suitable site according to their standards.

When does the national gathering begin?

Within one week of the Spring Council, attendees will begin arriving at the designated site. Attendance continually builds, until it reaches 5,000 to 10,000 people by July 4.

What social impacts occur from the national gathering?

As with any large group, a certain percentage of gathering participants engage in illegal or socially unacceptable behavior. These activities have included public nudity, civil disobedience, drug, and alcohol abuse, and confrontations between attendees and members of the local community.

What resource impacts may occur?

Typical resource impacts include compacted soil, water quality degradation, sanitation concerns, potential damage to sensitive archaeological sites and threatened and endangered plant and animal species, and potential fire damage.

How does the Forest Service regulate this event?

The Forest Service requires a free special use permit for every noncommercial group of 75 or more people that gathers on National Forest System lands. The three rationales for the permit requirement are protection of National Forest System lands and resources, addressing concerns of public health and safety, and allocation of space among competing uses.

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cc

bcc

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Subject Rainbow Fact Sheet

History:

✉ This message has been forwarded.

Iggie,

Attached is the Fact Sheet you can share with whomever is making community contacts.

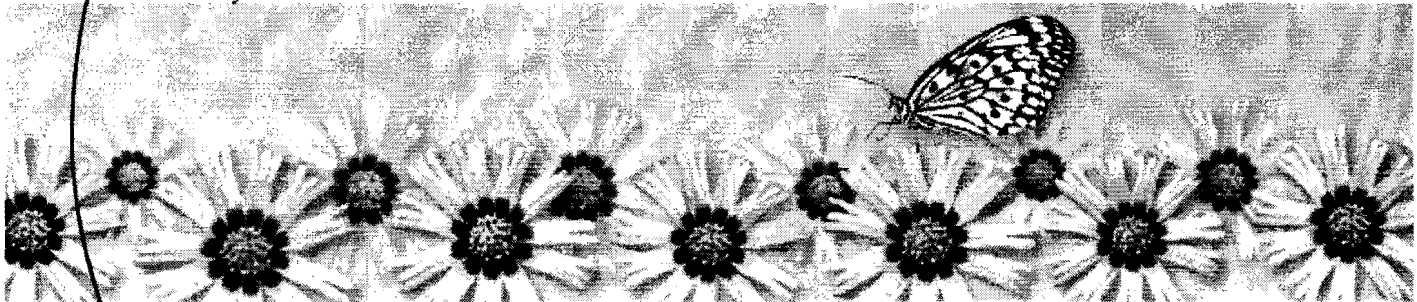
Call me if you have any questions. I didn't put exact directions for the gathering because I didn't think this was the proper place to do it. I don't want community people to think we're encouraging people from the community to go there.

Please let the Mayor's office know that we will be giving out directions to the site to Rainbows coming through town to minimize disturbance to Ranger Station office and other businesses.

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09-06-12 Rainbow Family Fact Sheet.doc



✓ Asked Jared to use w/other
Talking Points
Lggy