



Dolores Maese/R3/USDAFS

06/04/2009 04:54 PM

To Derek J Padilla/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: More interesting Rainbow pics

FYI

Note: Office Phone Number has changed

DOLORES MAESE
Public Affairs Officer
Santa Fe National Forest
(505) 438-5320 office; (505) 470-0368 cell

----- Forwarded by Dolores Maese/R3/USDAFS on 06/04/2009 04:54 PM -----



**Denise
Ottaviano/VO/USDAFS**

06/03/2009 04:32 PM

To Karen M Carter/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Cathie
Schmidlin/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES, James W
Payne/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Andrea G
Martinez/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Dolores
Maese/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Kathy
DeLucas/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES

cc

Subject More interesting Rainbow pics

(again I apologize for the large email but these photos are worth seeing)

Continuing with the Rainbows claim that they "leave the forest better than when they found it," here are some "after" photos of the main meadow circle and surrounding forested area at the 2006 National Gathering in Colorado north of Steamboat Springs.

Image a large, lush, undisturbed green meadow thick with tall grasses and healthy vegetation.

Now view some photos taken around July 4th at the main meadow area.



main meadow.jpg meadow closeup.jpg

Here are a few that show the complex web of foot trails made throughout the entire site which resulted in heavily compacted soil and destroyed vegetation.



trail system.jpg more trails.jpg

Although many of the Rainbow Family members practice living light on the land and make a sincere effort to lessen their impacts on the land, the sheer magnitude of holding an event where up to 20,000 people are camped in the forest in one area for up to a month causes massive natural resource damage,

sanitation issues and safety problems galore.

Denise Ottaviano
Writer/Editor
Albuquerque Service Center
Budget and Finance
Albuquerque, NM
505-563-7906
dottaviano@fs.fed.us




Dolores Maese/R3/USDAFS

07/31/2009 02:05 PM

To Teresa_Woodfill@pmsnet.org

cc Erin Connelly/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Lawrence M Lujan/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES,
Derek J Padilla/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Daniel Jiron/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES

bcc

Subject Re: Rainbow Family Successfully Completes Cleanup of Parque Venado Area—Santa
Fe N.F. 

Teresa, thanks for your note and all you did to make the Rainbow Gathering "successful". I know you spent a lot of time out there!

DOLORES MAESE

Public Affairs Officer

Santa Fe National Forest

(505) 438-5320 office; (505) 470-0368 cell

Teresa_Woodfill@pmsnet.org



Teresa_Woodfill@pmsnet.org

07/31/2009 01:42 PM

To Dolores Maese <dmaese@fs.fed.us>

cc

Subject Re: Rainbow Family Successfully Completes Cleanup of Parque Venado Area—Santa
Fe N.F.

Nice wrap up article! Congratulations to you all for a great job!

Teresa Woodfill

PMS/Checkerboard Area Health System

Administrator

(575)289-3291

From: Dolores Maese <dmaese@fs.fed.us>
To:
Date: 07/31/2009 01:12 PM
Subject: Rainbow Family Successfully Completes Cleanup of Parque Venado Area--Santa Fe N.F.

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Santa Fe National Forest**

For Immediate Release:

July 31, 2009

(505) 438-5320

LAWRENCE LUJAN

CONTACT:

DOLORES MAESE

(505) 438-5321

RAINBOW FAMILY SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES CLEANUP WORK OF PARQUE VENADO AREA

(Cuba, NM)— Rainbow Family rehabilitation (rehab) crew has successfully completed the cleanup and rehabilitation work in the Parque Venado area, site of the 38th Annual Rainbow Family of Living Light Gathering. This year's gathering drew up to 10, 500 participants at the peak of the event on July 4th. "The 60 Rainbow rehab workers who stayed behind were true to their word," said Derek Padilla, Cuba District Ranger, "They did a good job and their work was completed before the July 31st (the agreed upon

deadline). The site is recovering well at this early stage and time and nature will complete the healing process, we refer to as “rehab”.”

On July 7th, immediately following the Gathering, the crew worked steadily up until July 27th to breakdown the 79 sites (trails, camps, kitchens, and other structures) that were built. Specific cleanup and rehabilitation work for the 8,880-acre permitted area was outlined in the agreed upon Gathering Rehabilitation Plan. The Plan provided specifications, methods, guidelines, and objectives for returning the Gathering site to the way the area looked, as close as possible, before the Gathering. During the cleanup and rehab period, the crew worked to restore, riparian areas (areas adjacent to streams), minimize erosion, remove trash, dismantle structures, and more.

Cleanup and Rehabilitation work entailed:

- Removing all hardware, such as hoses and PVC pipes. from water collection points;
- Removing all soil, rock, and vegetation that were used to divert water;
- Restoring all creek and stream crossings to their natural state;
- Placing erosion control measures in stream crossings;
- Constructing water bars on trails to minimize erosion;
- Blocking-off newly created trails that entered a water source such as a river;
- Obliterating and blocking trails and roads;
- Removing all signs, markers, and rock cairns (landmark mounds);
- Collecting and separating trash. Trash and recyclables were transported to several separate facilities, which helped to reduce the impact to any one facility;
- Covering up all fire rings, gray water pits, compost pits, and latrines. Covered areas were mixed with native dirt and scattered with rocks to achieve a natural look;
- Dismantling, scattering or removing all structures including kitchens, ovens, pole frames, sweat lodges, and shrines;
- Scarifying (scraping or raking top soil layer) to allow for moisture to penetrate, encouraging grasses and plants to re-establish;
- Mulching, and water-barring all highly compacted areas such as kitchens, trails, and other heavily compacted areas;
- Removing all string , rope, wire, twine, from trees;
- Removing all abandoned animals and vehicles. As of July 27, 2009 two abandoned vehicles still remain onsite, however, arrangements are being made for removal.

In general, the site is recovering well; however, the work conducted by the rehab crew was the first step in the process. The next step is to allow the area to heal naturally over time. Grass and other vegetation have begun to grow back in most areas. “Some wildlife, such as elk and deer that were displaced because of the Gathering are all already starting to return to the area,” said Ranger Padilla, “In time, more will return.” Seeding was not necessary at the site due to the natural re-vegetation that is occurring. Several of the

areas most heavily impacted will continue to be monitored by Forest Service into next spring and beyond to ensure that they completely recover.

The completion of the cleanup and rehab work draws an end to the 38th Annual Rainbow Family of Living Light Gathering. Despite minor issues this year, the event was deemed a success by participants and cooperators. "This year's event built and strengthened relationships between the Rainbow Family the Forest Service and the various local, county and state agencies that came together to create a safe and peaceful event for all," said Deputy Forest Supervisor, Erin Connelly. "We worked together with respect and stepped forward in a positive direction to achieve success. We are grateful for everyone's contribution," added Connelly.

###

Before and After Photos (jpg files available upon request)

Photo Tag Line: Community fire pit located right off the Main Meadow during the Gathering and after cleanup and rehab. New grass is already visible. This community fire pit was a main attraction during the Gathering, drawing up to 100 participants each night.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
DOLORES MAESE
Public Affairs Officer
Santa Fe National Forest
(505) 438-5320 office; (505) 470-0368 cell



~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 09-07-31--Rainbow Cleanup Complete.doc