

**Rainbow Family  
National Gathering  
2000**

**National Incident Management Team**

***Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest  
Wisdom Ranger District***

**FINAL ACTION REPORT**



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Washington  
Office

14<sup>th</sup> and Independence  
P.O. Box 96090  
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File Code: 6300/2700  
Route To:

Date: July 10, 2000

Subject: 2000 Rainbow Family Gathering -- Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

To: Janette Kaiser, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Supervisor

Enclosed is the final report summarizing the incident management activities that took place during the 2000 Rainbow Family Gathering on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest during June and July, 2000.

If you have any questions, please call me at (406) 329-3114. On behalf of the National Incident Management Team, thank you for all the support you and Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest personnel provided during this incident. We enjoyed working with you.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]  
Incident Commander  
National Incident Team

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b7c

National Incident Management Team

[Redacted name]  
Incident Commander

Incident Command Post  
[Redacted]  
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# **2000 NATIONAL RAINBOW FAMILY GATHERING EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**JULY 10, 2000**

The 2000 National Rainbow Family Gathering was held in the Saginaw Creek area on the Wisdom Ranger District of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Beaverhead County, in southwest Montana. The exact site was 10 miles south of Jackson, Montana.

The Incident was managed by the National Incident Management Team, operating from an Incident Command Post (ICP) at the Dillon Middle School in Dillon, Montana. The ICP site was chosen, at the request of county officials, because of its proximity to the incident, county offices, and the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Supervisor's Office.

The National Incident Management Team was formed in late 1997. The Team consists of seven core members structured after an Incident Command System "short" team. The 2000 Rainbow Family National Gathering was the team's third formal assignment as the agency's response to large group events with social issues that differ from wildland fire incidents.

At the end of the 1999 gathering, held on the Allegheny National Forest in western PA, the Rainbow Family indicated their choice of Idaho or Montana for the 2000 Gathering. This information was posted on their internet web site in February, 2000. The selection and exact location of the 2000 Gathering site on Saginaw Creek was not posted on their web site until June 13, 2000.

The Rainbow Family held their Spring Council in early June in the Miner's Creek area of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, only 20 miles from the Saginaw Creek site. The specific site for the National Gathering is traditionally selected during Spring Council. Historically, gathering sites are forested, high altitude areas with large, open meadows.

The team Incident Commander began extensive pre-work with Montana law enforcement agencies, state and county officials, Forest Service managers, and congressional and gubernatorial offices during the fall of 1999 and winter-spring of 2000. Through this extensive pre-work, cooperative relationships formed early and led to successful interagency partnerships to manage the effects of the gathering in the various jurisdictions affected by the incident.

Existing contacts and networks developed by the Forest Service were utilized to inform the public in Montana. Local relationships built by the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Supervisor, the Public Affairs Officer and the Wisdom District Ranger facilitated introductions and meetings. The team's Information office provided daily updates to keep area residents informed about social and resource impacts resulting from the incident. Congressional, media and public interest in the event was high.



Wisdom Ranger District and Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Supervisor's Office resource personnel documented pre-gathering conditions at the site, monitored the resource damage during the event, and developed a rehabilitation plan to restore the area. Potential impacts include displacement of elk during calving/rearing time, riparian damage, removal of vegetation, and compaction from new trails and roads in meadows as well as thousands of dispersed camping areas. There are also potential long-term effects from latrines and accelerated spreading of noxious weeds.

Potable water was a serious health issue during this gathering. Three of the sources used for drinking and cooking water tested positive for coliform bacteria, and one tested high for E. Coli bacteria. A piping system diverted water to various collection points. The Rainbow Family attempted to warn others of the unsafe water, but family members were seen drinking directly from the springs and creeks.

During the Gathering, thirteen participants were taken to medical facilities by ground ambulance. Approximately fifty-one attendees presented at area medical facilities for treatment (includes those transported by ambulance). Observations by incident personnel and health care providers concluded that some participants who had health care problems did not present for proper medical attention. Untreated illnesses observed by medical professionals included hepatitis, cellulitis and drug overdose.

The Forest Service, Montana Highway Patrol, and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks provided law enforcement patrol services in support of the Beaverhead County Sheriff on the incident. All incident officers of these agencies were dispatched through an expanded incident dispatch center established by the Sheriff and staffed by Sheriff's and Forest Service dispatchers. The primary enforcement strategy of all agencies was to use high visibility law enforcement presence to prevent crimes, maintain order, maintain safe traffic movement on all roads, and protect public safety within and associated with the large group event. Total Rainbow-related law enforcement statistics for the one month period of June 3-July 6 included 48 felony arrests, 148 misdemeanor arrests, 48 arrest warrants served, 625 citations and 1017 warnings issued, 25 DUI incidents, 138 drug and alcohol-related incidents, 18 weapons incidents, 52 incidents of disorderly conduct/assault/officer interference, 954 traffic and vehicle incidents, 27 medical assists, 57 juveniles recovered or assisted, and 11 stolen/missing vehicles recovered.

Despite Rainbow Family assurances that alcohol and drugs are discouraged at the Gathering, a large amount of open alcohol and controlled substance exchange and use occurred at this Gathering. Drugs actually encountered at the gathering include marijuana, opium, methamphetamine, heroin, ecstasy (MDMA), hallucinogenic mushrooms, peyote, and ketamine. Far more firearms were discovered within the vehicles of gathering participants, and more were in open view or display, than in any prior National Gathering. These weapons included at least 18 handguns, shotguns, and rifles. Innumerable edged weapons such as large knives, machetes and a full sized sword were observed. Many Rainbow Gathering participants continue to exhibit aggressive and abusive behavior towards law enforcement officers, although this was much less of a problem than in prior years.

Traffic safety, dust and poor road conditions, and the interference with or blocking of Forest Service roads in the area of the Gathering were a significant problem at this year's gathering as in all other years. Between June 18 and July 6, traffic on the one narrow gravel road into the Gathering area varied from a low of about 550 vehicles per day to a high of about 2,900 vehicles per day.

Several attempts to convince Rainbow Family members to apply for the Noncommercial Large Group Use Permit were unsuccessful. Three individuals were cited for unauthorized use of National Forest System lands. An initial court appearance is scheduled on July 14, 2000, before the Federal Magistrate in Great Falls, Montana.

Numbers of gathering participants actually peaked at 23,000 on July 3, 2000. Approximately 1,000 people left the gathering before the main celebration on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Unfavorable weather, the need to return to work on Wednesday, and not what was expected were the most frequently reported reasons for leaving "early." By July 6th, many began leaving the area in earnest. Approximately 1,000 Rainbow Family members were left on the site on July 10, 2000 when the Incident Team returned management of the incident back to the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.



# NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM INFORMATION

## Rainbow Family Background

Since 1972, the Rainbow Family of Living Light has held national and regional gatherings on National Forest System lands. The climax of the national gathering is stated by the group to be a day of honoring Mother Earth and praying for world peace. According to the Rainbows, the first attendees were Vietnam veterans who had a difficult time reentering mainstream society because of their war experiences and people who were part of the 1960's hippie and environmental movements. Early gatherings were much smaller than today's gatherings. An estimate from the 1986 gathering at Queen's Creek/Heart's Content near Warren, Pennsylvania, was 5,000 attendees.

In the Rainbow philosophy, "everyone is a Rainbow, some just don't know it yet" and "anyone with a bellybutton is a Rainbow." They are of all ages and all levels of society. The Rainbows espouse and teach their interpretation of Constitutional rights. The group has stated that their views conflict with the requirement to obtain a permit for a large gathering on public lands. The Rainbows also call their selected national gathering site their church, and oppose law enforcement presence in the area.

Core Rainbow Family members state they are bound together by their common beliefs and desire for peace, love and respect for planet Earth and all its inhabitants. This collection of core members reflects a great deal of diversity. Some are a part of mainstream society and some still live a transient life-style. Some are college or graduate level educated with professional or technical skills, some are high school dropouts who only work sporadically and some are chronically homeless.

The Rainbow Family states they have no formal charter or organization, that all Rainbows are equal, and that no one speaks for the entire family. Rainbow Family decisions are made at council meetings that occur throughout the year at regional and national gatherings. Family issues, decisions and actions are discussed at councils with decisions made only if consensus is reached among those attending council. Even with a decision, no Rainbow will sign a written version of the decision such as a rehabilitation plan. Their decisions can change at any time, even daily, through a council meeting and consensus.

In recent years, however, gathering attendees barely reflect the original founders of 28 years ago. The gatherings appear to have a much younger demographic with the majority of attendees 25 years or younger who come to "party." Some current and former gathering attendees contend the core Rainbow group has "lost control" of and fear this younger crowd. Many participants at this year's gathering told officials they will not return, due to the violence, drugs, and conflict at the Gathering. There is more observable conflict as the core Rainbow group tries to influence the behaviors of these younger gathering participants. Some younger people attracted to the gatherings are juvenile runaways.

In 1999, three long-time members of the Rainbow Family were cited for not obtaining a Noncommercial Group Use permit. This was during the Rainbow Family Gathering held on the Allegheny National Forest in western Pennsylvania. A trial was conducted on October 21, 1999. The

defendants filed motions to dismiss, challenging the constitutionality of the regulation. On March 16, 2000, the court ruled in favor of the Government and upheld the constitutionality of the permit. These individuals were fined, and sentenced to 90 days in jail.

The court decision had an affect on other Rainbow Family members during the 2000 gathering. Some long-time members of the Rainbow Family chose not to attend the gathering, but stay in the small near-by town of Jackson, Montana and meet family members there. Other Rainbow Family members pointed out to employees on the National Incident Management Team that it is probably time to "get a permit." Attendees also indicated that they did not want to pay a fine, and could not afford to go to jail.

Four chemical toilets were rented by a Rainbow Family member and placed in the towns of Jackson and Wisdom, Montana to accommodate large crowds there. A county garbage dumpster was rented by Rainbow Family members, and located near the site. The county had not received payment at the time this report was prepared. There were no chemical toilets located at or within close proximity to the gathering site.

Three Rainbow Family members were cited at the 2,000 gathering for failure to obtain a permit.

Recent gatherings are also attracting more of a criminal element. Rainbows claim to love everyone and criminals are in need of healing. As a result, there are no detrimental consequences to criminal activity at the gathering. Although the Rainbows try to separate physically and philosophically from the use of alcohol, they believe marijuana and mushrooms are healing herbs and the use of hallucinogenic drugs such as LSD, methamphetamine and other substances is common. The separated alcohol users and abusers present a dangerous and erratic presence to the gatherings. Rainbow Family members are approaching Law Enforcement Officers more frequently with complaints about these users.

Significant criminal activity, which has also occurred at past gatherings, includes homicides, sexual assault, theft, stolen vehicles and the distribution and use of controlled substances. Ironically, the Rainbows attempt to self-police using a group called the Shanti Sena (peace keepers), but they become ineffective as the gathering swells in number. The Shanti Sena has turned a few individuals over to authorities in past gatherings, but they selectively enforce rules and laws according to the general beliefs of the Rainbows. More commonly, Shanti Sena members are tasked with monitoring and thwarting activities of enforcement officers in the gathering.

The resource impacts on National Forest System lands presents a conflict within Rainbow philosophy. The Rainbows teach respect for Mother Earth and offer low impact information on their web page. However, they welcome all attendees and resource damage grows as the numbers swell. As one Los Angeles Times reporter wrote: "Within the various camps, signs are posted regarding respect for the streams, forest and grasslands. But, these messages are invariably affixed by nails hammered into trees".<sup>1</sup>

Typical Rainbow Family Gathering resource impacts include large areas of soil compaction from thousands of small camps, parking areas and the development of new trails, large fire pits and makeshift structures built for the camps and kitchens, holes dug for slit trench latrines, degradation of the forest roads accessing the gathering, damage to riparian areas and effects to water quality. Since the national gathering is also held in June and July, fire danger can be an issue at sites in the western United States. Some Rainbows stay behind to help in rehabilitating the site, which generally takes two weeks to a month.



## 2000 Site Selection

During the 1999 national gathering, the Rainbows held a "Vision Council" on July 7<sup>th</sup> and decided that Montana or Idaho would be the location for the 2000 National Gathering. In late April of 2000, Rainbow scouts began their search for a specific site. Generally, the site criteria calls for a forested area with a large meadow for their ceremonies and celebrations, accessible water for drinking and cooking, and fairly easy access by road. Many sites on National Forests in Idaho and Montana meet those criteria. In late May, it appeared the Rainbow Family scouts were looking at potential sites in Broadwater, Meagher, Ravalli, and Missoula Counties.

Traditionally in early June, the Rainbows hold Spring Council where the scouts report of possible sites and a decision is made by consensus on a specific area for the national gathering. The 2000 Spring Council site was in Beaverhead County, on the Wisdom Ranger District of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, in the Miner Creek area.

As the Spring Council broke up, Family members had not reached a decision on a specific site for the gathering, and appeared to be unable to make the consensus process work. Approximately 400 Spring Council attendees migrated to the Saginaw Creek area on June 12<sup>th</sup>, which is approximately 20 miles south of the "Vision Council," site. From the start, there were complaints from Rainbow Family members about the Saginaw Creek site.

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, directions to the selected site at Saginaw Creek were posted on the Rainbow web site and chat room, and recorded onto their national Rainbow phone hotlines. Many Rainbow Family members felt the Saginaw Creek site location was not made by consensus, but rather selected unilaterally by a Rainbow Family member. Rainbow Family members were well-aware of the U.S. District Court decision concerning the Pennsylvania gathering, which sentenced three of the 1999 national gathering organizers to fines, and 90 days in jail.

Some of the long-term Rainbow leaders chose to stay in the near-by town of Jackson, and not attend the national gathering for fear of being cited or arrested. Many long-time Rainbow Family gathering attendees stated that they feel it's time to acquire the Noncommercial Group-Use permits, and work more closely with the Forest Service on future site selection.

## Past Management Approaches

During the 28 years the Rainbow Family has held their national gathering on national forests, many approaches to management of the impacts have been tested. In 1992, the Grand Mesa, Uncompaghre and Gunnison National Forests identified a strategy they believed was effective and consistent with the previous three gatherings: coordinate with the Rainbow Family to minimize impacts, issue closure orders to meet identified management objectives, and work closely with the State and local law enforcement, health and social services agencies. <sup>1</sup> This strategy has been the cornerstone of Forest Service Rainbow gathering management since 1992.

Some forests have attempted to incorporate this strategy with a "good host" or "customer service" concept. This is incompatible with the Rainbows unauthorized use of National Forest System lands and

<sup>1</sup> Final Report of the 1992 Rainbow Gathering: Grand Mesa, Uncompaghre and Gunnison National Forest, Overland Reservoir, Colorado.

the impacts to the community from a criminal or indigent element. In most cases, this service attitude regarding the Rainbow Family's unauthorized gathering and its serious economic, social and resource impacts was quickly dropped.

The permit issue has always been contentious. The Rainbow Family, claiming to have no leaders, has consistently refused to apply for the current Noncommercial Large Group Use Permit claiming that no one speaks for the Rainbow Family and that the permit requirement violates their Constitutional right to assemble. The current permit regulation has been upheld in U.S. District Court in North Carolina, Wisconsin, Oregon, Missouri, and Pennsylvania as not impeding the Rainbow Family's First Amendment rights.

The current strategy regarding permit compliance began in 1997. At the 1997 National Gathering, five individuals from the Rainbow Family were cited for unauthorized use of National Forest System lands. The charges were later dropped after another person came forward representing the Rainbow Family and submitted a permit application. The permit was subsequently granted by the Forest, however the signatory participant left the area after signing and other participants refused to acknowledge the permit.

The Rainbow Family refused to submit an application for a permit for the 1999 gathering. Three individuals were issued citations during the gathering for violation of the group use regulations. The three defendants pleaded not guilty and asserted a defense at trial in U.S. District Court that the regulation was unconstitutional. On March 16, 2000, the court ruled in favor of the government and upheld the constitutionality of the noncommercial group use rule. The court further found that the Rainbow Family was a group and was required under the regulation to apply for a permit for their gatherings. The three defendants were found guilty, fined, and sentenced to 90 days in jail.

Since the Rainbow Family refuses to get a permit and are not physically removed from the site, public perception of management inconsistencies are echoed in the frequent questions such as "why can they get away with not obeying the (permit) law?" or "If I had a large group, I know you'd make me get portable toilets" or "Why did you invite them here" and "Why don't you just kick them out of the National Forest?" These are tough questions with no easy answers.



# Current Management Strategy

## Creating An Organized Response

In 1997, the National Leadership Team developed a strategy for managing the gathering and chose three individuals to serve in Incident Command System roles of Incident Commander, Operations Section Chief for Law Enforcement and Information Officer/Public Affairs. These individuals were to be the consistent, experienced leadership for assisting the affected Forest in managing the Gathering for at least three years. The Washington Office of the Forest Service allocated funding for the team's activities in managing the Gathering thereby eliminating the severe budget impacts incurred by the affected Forest. In 1997, Region 6 activated a Type II Fire Team for the Gathering. The attempt to blend the three individuals in these leadership roles with a previously established team was not productive.

In 1998, the National Leadership Team refined the National Strategy and approved filling positions for a National Incident Team. This is a 'Short Team' consisting of the Incident Commander, Safety Officer, Information Officer, Planning Section Chief, Logistics/Finance Section Chief, Operations Section Chief for Law Enforcement and Communications Section Chief. The team members were chosen for their experience and reputation through an application process. The Communication Unit Leader position was elevated to a general staff section chief position.

These eight individuals are charged with relieving the Forest, District and local LE & I officials of most of the day-to-day management of the Gathering while working closely with the units to meet their unique concerns under a clear Delegation of Authority. The Team works with the Line Officers' and LE & I's concerns and desired outcomes in mind and utilizes existing networks for communications efforts with communities, interest groups and other agencies.

Members of the 2000 National Incident Management Team:

██████████ - Incident Commander  
Gene Smalley - Safety Officer  
Pete Mourtsen - Deputy Safety Officer  
Sharon Sweeney - Public Affairs/Information Officer  
██████████ - Law Enforcement Operations Section Chief  
Debbie Whitman - Planning Section Chief  
Gary Sick - Finance and Logistics Chief  
Royce Shearing - Communications Section Chief

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## Team Contacts

### Pre-work with other Federal/State/County and Local Contacts

The National Incident Management Team recognized the importance of establishing communications with affected communities, agencies and governments long in advance of the incident. Briefing packages were provided and members of the Incident Command Team contacted many people via introductory phone calls. Many meetings were held to inform individuals and groups and establish partnerships. These meetings included:

August 1999 – Incident Commander briefed the Region's Board of Directors on the Rainbow Family's 2000 national gathering, slated to occur in Montana or Idaho.

September 1999 – Incident Commander met with the Montana Sheriff's Association Board of Directors in Libby, Montana to brief them on the possibility of the Rainbow Family holding their national gathering somewhere in Montana or Idaho.

February 2000 – Incident Commander and Team Safety Officer briefed State Directors in Helena, Montana.

February 2000 – Incident Commander briefed Bitterroot National Forest Leadership Team on the possibility that the gathering might occur on the Bitterroot National Forest.

March 2000 – Incident Commander updated the Montana Sheriff's Association Board of Directors on potential Rainbow Family Gathering sites in Montana.

March 2000 – Incident Commander and the Assistant Law Enforcement and Investigations Director briefed Idaho and Montana's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C.

April 2000 – Incident Commander met with the Montana Governor's staff, and the county governments of Beaverhead and Gallatin County.

May 2000 – Incident Commander was scheduled to brief the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, but the meeting was cancelled by the forest.

May 2000 – Incident Commander briefed the U.S. Attorney and her legal staff.

May 2000 – Incident Commander briefed the Idaho Governor's staff and state directors on the possibility of the gathering occurring in Idaho.

June 6, 2000 – Incident Commander briefed the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest Supervisor and staff; Wisdom District Ranger and staff; as well as the local Big Hole Valley community on the gathering occurring in Beaverhead County.

#### **On Scene Arrival of the National Incident Management Team**

During the week of May 22<sup>nd</sup>, indications were that the Rainbow Family would hold their national gathering somewhere in Missoula, Broadwater, or Meagher Counties. This was based on discussions with Rainbow Family members and the location of large scout encampments within these counties.

During the afternoon of June 5, it was determined by the Wisdom Ranger District that the Rainbow Family's "Spring Council" was being held at Miners Creek, just west of Jackson, Montana. According to the District Ranger, approximately 400 Rainbow Family members were on site. The location and directions to the Spring Council were posted on the Rainbow web site.

On June 10, 2000, the National Incident Management Team arrived in Missoula, Montana. On June 13<sup>th</sup>, the team moved to Dillon, Montana. Indications were that the national gathering was going to



occur on the Wisdom Ranger District of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, between Jackson and Dillon.

On the afternoon of June 13, 2000, the Rainbow Family announced on their web site ([www.welcomehome.org](http://www.welcomehome.org)) that the national gathering would be held in the Saginaw Creek area, located on the Wisdom Ranger District, about 10 miles south of Jackson, Montana. On that same date, the National Incident Management Team established an Incident Command Post (ICP) at the Dillon Middle School in Dillon.

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, the team received a Delegation of Authority to manage the incident from the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest Supervisor.

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, the first Unified Command meeting was held at the ICP, with all participating agencies attending.

#### Delegation of Authority

The Delegation of Authority was signed by Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Supervisor Janette Kaiser on June 14, 2000. It contained the following text:

To: [REDACTED] Incident Commander, National Incident Team

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You are delegated authority to manage the 2000 Rainbow Family National Gathering, which will occur on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest during June and July of 2000. You have the authority responsibility to prepare for and manage this event within the framework and guidelines of the law and Forest Service policy and direction set forth in this letter. Additional information will be made available as needed to further clarify your authority and responsibilities. You and your team are authorized to begin working on the event immediately.

Your primary performance objectives and guidelines are as follows:

- 1. Event management** – Manage this event proactively as a noncommercial group use activity under special use authorities and the Noncommercial Group Use regulations. Mobilize the needed resources to manage the event effectively and efficiently. Pursue a Noncommercial Group Use Permit with an operating plan. Internal and external relationships and communications are extremely critical and will have to be established and maintained throughout the course of the event, including key Forest Service personnel, cooperating Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as members of the Rainbow Family. All actions must be well documented and a final report will be required.
- 2. Human Resources** – Ensure that the safety of employees, assigned personnel, the public, and event participants are considered throughout the course of the gathering. Incident personnel will follow established Department of Agriculture guidelines regarding Civil Rights.
- 3. Information** – Provide for internal and external information exchange through the implementation of a communication plan. Ensure that agency cooperators, local officials, and the public are kept informed on the progress of the event. Manage media contacts within the frame of established agency policy.

**4. Community Relations** – Establish and maintain strong community relations. Private landowners, permittees, businesses and the local community are of special concern due to their proximity to the Gathering and their potential for being impacted. I expect your team to work with the community and to identify their potential issues and concerns. You should work with the leaders of the Gathering to minimize social impacts. This event is taking place in a rural sparsely populated area of Montana. Long distances, limited local law enforcement and emergency services pose special challenges. Consider these factors as you plan for the event. Avoid imposing Agency red tape on our neighbors and cooperators whenever possible. Consult with key contacts at the Ranger District and the Supervisor's Office; we have a long-standing relationship with the community and may be able to help in many situations. It is also expected of the Team to cooperate with State, county and local agencies and organizations in managing the event.

**5. Resource Protection** – We will provide your team with the expertise of resource specialists and coordinate with representatives of the Rainbow Family to develop an operating plan and a rehabilitation plan that will provide protection of sensitive sites during the Gathering, and the rehabilitation of the site when it is concluded. I have particular concern for the management of water quality (the Big Hole River is the municipal water supply for Butte), historic resources (Nez Perce National Historic Trail follows the drainage of the Big Hole River), litter, garbage, human waste, fire prevention, fisheries (the Indian Creek drainage contains West Slope Cutthroat Trout) and wildlife resources (spring calving and fawning is underway in the area). Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks have a catch and release order in this drainage. The Big Hole valley on public and private lands has low infestations of a small number of noxious weeds. Special efforts are needed to prevent weed infestations. The gathering is located in an area with a motor vehicle area closure. This closure should be enforced. Plant communities in the Big Hole are relatively pristine due to the lack of farming. Seeding of non-indigenous plants should be prohibited. The soils contain a seed bank and only limited seeding should be contemplated with native seed mixtures. The Forest can provide additional expertise in weed prevention and management and seeding protocols in support of the team. The Forest will gather needed surface water quality samples taken pre, during and post event.

**6. Costs** – Manage the event within the established Program of Work. Any adjustments to the Program of Work will be agreed upon in advance. Ensure that all operations are cost-effective, efficient and justifiable. Forest personnel working in support of the incident will apply charged-as-worked principles and use the Incident NFS job code. Forest personnel assigned to the Incident will require pre-approval by the Incident Commander or the Forest Supervisor before charging to the Incident job code.

The 2000 Rainbow Family National Gathering will likely bring between 15,000 and 25,000 visitors to our general area. It is critical that the Team be proactive working with the Rainbows, other local, State and Federal Agencies, and the local community. The Team's assignment will last until mid-July 2000. During this time period, your Incident Management Team will be unavailable for other assignments. You are not responsible for initial attack fire incidents.

The location of this event at this time is at Saginaw Creek on the Wisdom Ranger District. During the event, you will report directly to me. If I am unavailable, my normal acting schedule will be used for this event. Dennis Havig, District Ranger on the Wisdom Ranger District will be the Forest liaison assigned to the team. The Team's performance rating will be based on adherence to the accomplishment of the direction set forth in this delegation of authority.



## Unified Command

A Unified Command was established to jointly manage the 2000 Rainbow Family Gathering. These cooperating local, state and federal agencies had geographic or functional jurisdiction to jointly manage the incident through a common set of objectives. An organization chart of the Unified Command is included as Appendix 2.

The incident management objectives, as developed and implemented by the Unified Command, are as follows:

- Encourage the health and safety of area residents, Forest employees, gathering attendees, and other visitors.
- Cooperation between local, State and Federal agencies.
- Enforcing applicable laws and regulations inside and outside the perimeter in a fair and consistent manner. Enforcement will be commensurate with law enforcement capability and current standards and thresholds set by the affected judicial district.
- Minimize the impact to natural and community resources by interacting closely with all affected agencies and individuals and by providing information and enlisting cooperation of gathering participants.
- Continually provide information to all interested agencies and the public; respond to the issues and concerns of local and state elected officials and the community; manage media relations in coordination with all cooperating organizations.
- Respect the civil rights of all.
- Control the cost of managing the incident.

The first Unified Command meeting was held on Friday, June 16, 2000. Unified Command meetings were well attended and held three days per week. Population trends were reported, all agencies provided updates on activities, concerns and issues were identified and strategies developed. Participating agencies included:

American Red Cross  
Barrett Memorial Hospital  
Beaverhead County Commission  
Beaverhead County EMS  
Beaverhead County Public Health  
Beaverhead County Sanitation/Disaster & Emergency Services  
Beaverhead County Sheriff's Office  
Beaverhead County Solid Waste  
Western Montana Mental Health  
City of Dillon, Montana  
Dillon Police Department  
Montana Department of Transportation  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Montana Department of Livestock

**Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services:**

-Office of Public Assistance

-Public Health

-EMS

**Montana Disaster & Emergency Services**

**Montana Division of Criminal Investigation**

**Montana Highway Patrol**

**U. S. Forest Service**

**Bureau of Land Management**

On July 7, 2000, the Unified Command held their last official meeting. A substantial portion of the meeting was dedicated to a critique of the overall management of the event. The discussion was very open and honest. Specific suggestions on such things as pre-planning, media and community relations, and meeting dynamics were provided to the National Team for future management of the Rainbow gathering. Many of the members expressed appreciation for the commitment and cooperation shown by all agencies involved. The overall belief was that this event could not have been managed so successfully without the tremendous coordination that took place under the Unified Command approach.



# COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF REPORTS

## **Safety & Health Section**

### Objectives

The primary objective for the Safety and Deputy Safety Officers on the incident was to encourage the health and safety of area residents, forest employees, gathering attendees, and other visitors. This was one of seven objectives agreed upon by the participating agencies in the Unified Command.

### Issues/Concerns

The major health and safety issues and concerns identified for the incident were summarized into six (6) general categories. These included:

- Safety of Incident Personnel
- Public Health - Infectious Disease
- Potable Water Quality
- Solid and Human Waste Disposal
- Food Preparation and Storage
- Environmental Factors

The Health and Safety matrix identified five (5) primary areas of concern to incident personnel. These were:

- Travel issues related to vehicles and driving.
- Health Issues
- Environmental Concerns
- Infectious Diseases
- Emergency Medical Services

The above categories were developed after discussion and consultation with state, county and local officials, input from public meetings, analysis by health and safety personnel and input by local Forest Service resource specialists.

### Strategy

A number of methods were used to mitigate these issues or concerns. These include:

- Efforts to determine key contacts within the Emergency Medical Services, local, state and federal health agencies.
- Use of a matrix system to identify hazards and concerns associated with the event. (See 3 matrices: "Off-Site Impacts", "Incident Personnel", "Rainbow Family" in Appendix 3)

- Frequent briefings with participating agency personnel and health care providers.
- Regular site visits by health & safety personnel to survey, monitor and identify risks or hazards with follow up to propose appropriate mitigation measures.
- Debriefing incident personnel to determine "near misses" or accident reports from previous day.
- Daily safety briefings prior to departure of personnel for their shifts.
- Regular contacts and interaction with personnel from Emergency Medical Services, Montana Department of Public Health and the law enforcement community to determine trends and track medical cases.
- Provide incident personnel and cooperators with in-service or training for special health concerns (e.g... infectious disease by high risk transports).

Appropriate procedures to mitigate or minimize exposure to identified concerns were discussed with personnel at briefings. Other agencies assisted and provided input or suggestions for mitigation measures during the incident as well. Bio Hazard bags were made available to each patrol unit for use in the event potentially infectious material was received or recovered. Sharps containers were provided at the Incident Command Post for disposal of needles or other sharp objects. Three trauma kits were distributed among incident personnel to provide emergency medical supplies in the event of an on-scene medical emergency.

Local Forest Service resource personnel noted that summer storms and thundershowers often track over the area of the main gathering. These storms often exhibit very strong winds (micro bursts), hail and lightning. Tents and kitchens located beneath snags or leaning trees were a concern for visitor safety.

Four helicopter landing sites were identified within, and adjacent to, the gathering site in the event of a medical emergency. Forest resource personnel also identified safety zones and members of the Rainbow Family were instructed to use these areas in the event of a wildfire. Due to the large number of cars, vans and buses, timely evacuation by vehicle on the narrow access road was not possible. These safety zones were large meadow areas.

One important key to the success of the team's Health and Safety program was an effort to pre-plan the event with key public health officials and agencies. In February 2000, a briefing was held in Helena, Montana, to brief state health care personnel about the likelihood of a national Rainbow Family gathering being held during the summer of 2000. Team members with experience from previous gatherings facilitated this briefing and described the possible impacts a gathering might have on a community and the natural resources in the area. Following this meeting, key individuals were identified at the state level and relationships were strengthened as the team members arrived in early June. These relationships were important to establish and resulted in a smooth transition when the team arrived and the Incident Command Post was established.



### Water Quality

There was no safe potable water source within the gathering site. Several water sources were developed by the family and piped through PVC pipe to various locations. These water samples were collected at various sites within the gathering and tested by the Beaverhead County Sanitarian. None met safe drinking water standards. High coliform bacteria counts were found in all samples and one contained E. Coli. All surface water was assumed to contain giardia oysts due to the cattle and wildlife in the area. Early in the incident all gathering attendees contacted were advised that water on the site was non-potable and must be chemically treated or boiled prior to drinking. The Beaverhead County Sanitarian prepared and delivered handouts with instructions for treating water and storing food items. (see "Water & Food" handout in Appendix 3)

### Trash And Human Waste

The accumulation of solid (garbage, paper, cans and bottles) and human waste (feces and urine) was identified in the matrix and various discussions with local residents and health officials. This quickly became a health concern because of possible down stream impacts to the Big Hole River, which is an important area for recreation activities during summer and fall months.

It is estimated that 20,000 plus individuals will produce approximately 12 to 15 tons of feces per day and that several thousand dogs would add to this figure. The long-term effects of these concentrated volumes of human and animal waste have been of concern to public land managers involved with such gatherings.

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest provided a resource team to assist with recommendations for preferred locations to build slit trenches, pit toilets and locate kitchens. The Rainbow Family members followed most, but not all, recommendations.

Lime and ash was used by Rainbow Family members at some latrine locations to breakdown waste and discourage the presence of flies within the pits. Some of the latrine sites were covered by a plywood sheet but many others were uncovered. Once the pit was filled, waste was covered by topsoil and a new pit was dug near the old pit. The depth of topsoil varied and following use some had little if any topsoil covering with toilet tissue left exposed. In other instances, adequate amounts of soil were used to cover all waste and tissue.

Beaverhead County agreed to place two trash dumpsters at the lower parking area for use by gathering participants. A 48 cubic yard receptacle was placed at the site on or about June 20 and as of July 8 had been emptied 5 times. It is estimated the remaining trash will equate to two or three more fills. Using this information, it is estimated the gathering participants generated approximately 350-400 cubic yards of solid waste. The Rainbow Family agreed to reimburse the County for hauling and disposal costs, however, as of July 9 no payment had been received.

Another smaller dumpster (20 cubic yard) was placed alongside the larger one to accommodate recyclable plastic and glass. This dumpster was nearly full on July 8 and will be hauled and likely be refilled an additional time. Beaverhead County agreed to provide the recyclable item dumpster at no cost to the Rainbow Family as the cost of providing this service should be recovered by income from the recycled materials.

### Food Preparation

It was estimated that 20 to 30 kitchens were established at the gathering site. All food preparation areas were under the control of the Rainbow Family. Numerous soup kitchens, coffee kitchens and a bakery were part of the food service facilities constructed on site. In addition, a number of family members prepared their own meals at individual campsites. In order to prevent a major outbreak of illness, Incident personnel, Beaverhead County and Montana State Public Health and Human Services personnel provided educational handouts and advice on food handling, preparation and kitchen utensil sanitation.

### Public Health

Due to the lifestyle and personal hygiene practices of many gathering participants, an outbreak of several communicable diseases was possible. Risk areas include blood borne pathogens, viral hepatitis, acute diarrhea, sexually transmitted diseases, and food borne and animal related diseases. For protection of incident personnel, personal protective equipment such as gloves, CPR facial shields, and chemical barrier products were provided. Several safety alerts also addressed the prevention measures for reducing exposures to these diseases. Biohazard Bags were made available to each patrol unit and arrangements were made for disposal at Barrett Memorial Hospital in Dillon. Some suture items were provided to Rainbow Family members at the start of the gathering by a physician from the Montana Health Department. No further medical supplies were provided. A number of stool test kits were provided to workers at the CALM (Center for Alternative Living Medicine – comprised of people at the gathering who volunteer to provide health care for the participants) units, however none had been returned for examination as of 7/9/00.

### Environmental Factors

Environmental concerns included adverse weather issues, related to thunderstorms accompanied by heavy lighting, high winds and rain. The site was within a known path where high winds and lightning are often seen during the summer months.

### Safety of Incident Personnel

The personal health and safety of personnel assigned to the incident is a high priority for the National Incident Management Team. There were no reported accidents or injuries to incident personnel during this incident. The primary methods used to disseminate information about health and safety concerns were daily briefings, written health and safety alerts and an in-service presentation about infectious disease and blood borne pathogens. Topics addressed in the briefings and alerts included:

Defensive Driving	Hepatitis
Dehydration	Physical Contacts - Assault
Vehicle Maintenance	Animal Bites
Mental Alertness	Threatening - Unsafe Situations
Blood Pathogens	Radio Communication
Lice/Fleas	Heat Exhaustion - Stroke
Stress - Fatigue	Sources of Food & Drink
Lightning	



A separate resource personnel safety list was developed which included the items listed above as well as recommendations for site visit preparation and conduct. An attempt was made to verbally brief all non-law enforcement personnel prior to visits to the gathering site.

In addition, almost daily contacts were made with public health and health care providers at local, county and state levels. Numbers of cases seen and general complaints were monitored for trends and concerns that might provide insight to incident personnel and health and safety cooperators.

### Incident Ambulance

An ambulance with a 3 person Emergency Medical Crew was staged at Jackson, Montana. This unit was available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from June 23 (0600) through July 8 (0600). This unit transported 8 Rainbow Family members to Barrett Memorial Hospital in Dillon. Another ambulance transported 5 Rainbow Family members to medical facilities in either Dillon or Butte. One high-risk pregnant female was sent from Dillon to Missoula by life-flight where she delivered twin babies. A total of 3 "dry runs" were also recorded. These were instances where upon arrival of the ambulance, the patient refused transport.

The cost of the temporary Jackson ambulance unit was paid by Beaverhead County, but was expected to qualify for reimbursement through State of Montana emergency funds.

### Statistical Reporting

During the period from June 4 through July 7, 2000, a minimum of 51 patients attending the 2000 Rainbow Family gathering were known to have presented to regional health care facilities for medical care. Of the 51, 48 were seen at Barrett Memorial Hospital in Dillon and 3 were seen at St. James Hospital in Butte.

The most common medical complaint or diagnosis was infections (12). Miscellaneous and surface wounds were also primary complaint categories. Many of these injuries were caused by instances of aggression and violence. Other complaints included natal, dental, motor vehicle accidents, substance abuse and abdominal pain. (see "Type of Visits" chart and table in Appendix 3)

The number of visits by Rainbow Family members to community health care providers remained relatively low, approximately 1 per day, from June 3 to June 27. On June 28 the number of patients requesting medical treatment began to increase through July 5. A peak was reached on June 28, 29 and 30 when five patients were treated each day. The number of patient visits dropped to virtually none after July 5. (see "Date of Visits" table in Appendix 3)

Demand on community health care facilities were generally as expected based upon the population of individuals attending this years gathering. Requests for public assistance (welfare) were limited to 5 request in Beaverhead County and 13 in Silver Bow County ("Public Assistance" in Appendix 3)

Observations by incident personnel and health care providers were some participants at the Gathering who had health problems did not present for medical attention. It was felt by some that peer pressure from other Gathering attendees might have been one reason these individuals did not seek proper medical help. Trained medical personnel observed individuals at the Gathering with a variety of ailments, such as hepatitis, cellulitis, and drug overdose. An exact number of these cases is not known.

# COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF REPORTS

## **Public Affairs/Information Section**

### Objectives

The objectives of the Rainbow Incident Information Office, generally outlined in the Delegation of Authority, are typical Incident Information tasks. Some of the objectives of the Information Office include:

- Nurture existing relationships within the community by providing information through meetings, updates, media contacts and local agency personnel.
- Manage media air operations in coordination with incident air operations.
- Provide the Incident Commander and/or Forest Supervisor with information on emerging issues and concerns.
- Provide internal agency briefings and communication as the incident progresses.

### Issues

**Information Management** - The Team has to remain focused on the Forest Service role in managing the effects of the event. We can communicate our past experiences when discussing community expectations, but we should not speculate on the impacts of the current gathering.

**Noncommercial Large Group Use Permit, noncompliance and consequences** - The issue of an apparent "double-standard," was raised early in the beginning of the incident. Many Forest Service employees, ranchers and the public expressed concerns that the Rainbow Family was "allowed" to negatively impact natural resources, displace wildlife, and use the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest without a Noncommercial Group Use permit.

The Information Team developed talking points, worked with the media and employees to explain the dilemma. We stressed that it is an illegal gathering; however, because of safety and health concerns, and the upward of 20,000 individuals involved, the Forest Service is not pursuing a policy of forced dispersal at this time. As well, the team pointed to the immediate, progressive actions taken by the Wisdom Ranger District to protect resources and human health by actions such as closing sensitive roads, prohibiting parking on the roadways, designating parking areas, keeping slit trenches out of riparian areas, etc.

Information Officers utilized every opportunity to fully explain the benefits of the permit, and the successes in court to the media, employees, and public.

The Information Unit managed certain information to protect the integrity of upcoming permit litigation.



**Economic and cultural effects to the neighboring communities** - Issues included negative effects of regular customers staying away from stores balanced with positive effects of increased Rainbow related sales, local values clashing with Rainbow philosophy, and conflicts with public land-users who traditionally use the Skinner Meadow area during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. As well, the county commissioners in Beaverhead county passed an emergency 2 mil levy to help cover Rainbow-related expenses.

**Political Interest** - Local residents contacted elected officials of all levels to complain about the effects of the gathering and the 2-mil tax on county residents to defray the costs of the incident. Members of the public also expressed anger at the Forest Service "allowing" the gathering to occur, and that so many law enforcement officers brought in to harass what appeared to be peace-loving individuals.

**Law Enforcement** - The increase in law enforcement presence to deter and respond to criminal activity within area communities impacted some local residents.

The team included arrest reports in the daily updates, managing information to comply with privacy laws. As well, the team coordinated with information representatives of other law enforcement agencies to release facts regarding arrests, citations etc.

Information Team members processed many calls reporting missing people or runaway juveniles, forwarding them to Sheriff's officials.

**Rumor Control** - Encouraging the public and employees to call with any rumors heard so Information Officers can confirm or dispel the rumor. Rumors regarding other agencies were turned over to those agencies for direct contact of the individual reporting the rumor.

A solid relationship was developed amongst many of the townspeople and the Information Team both by the trap-line, which was run everyday, and by encouraging locals to come into the ICP.

## Strategy

### Staffing

The Rainbow Incident Information Office included a Lead Public Affairs/Type I Information Officer, and Type II Information Officer, two Type III Information Officers, one of who was a trainee. The personnel all had varied assignment lengths.

One position was reserved for an Information Officer within Region I to provide some corporate memory, as well as an excellent training opportunity in managing a large group event.

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Public Affairs Officer also provided support by providing media information, calling with a 'heads up' to rumors, providing an overview of Forest issues and giving the team an idea of the climate around Dillon concerning the Forest Service.

## **Internal Communications**

One of the first and most important tasks of the Information Office was to e-mail the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest the daily update for posting on the World Wide Web. This was one of the primary means of accessing the daily update for many members of the public, media, law enforcement, and government.

The lead Information Officer also provided a briefing to the Forest Supervisor's Office front-liners, and the Wisdom Ranger District employees to explain what to expect and provide information on where to get assistance. Many customer calls were referred to the ICP Information Office with the goal of relieving the front-liners of Rainbow-related calls.

The daily updates were e-mailed to an internal mailing list of Beaverhead-Deerlodge personnel, Public Affairs Officers from surrounding Forests, Regional and WO personnel. Daily updates were also faxed to media outlets, interested members of the public, local & state law enforcement contacts, and local businesses. As well, they were delivered by hand on a daily "trap-line" to area merchants, posted on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge internet page, posted on bulletin boards at the Dillon Post Office, and on an information board the team set up in the town of Jackson. Newspaper clippings were faxed to the Regional Public Affairs Office.

The Incident Information Office completed 54 thank-you letters, and 45 certificates of appreciation.

## **External Communications**

After establishing the Incident Information Office at the Dillon Middle School, daily updates were produced to keep the media, public, elected officials, area merchants and law enforcement agencies informed about the Incident. The update included numbers of Rainbow Family members at the site (the most frequently asked question), current health and safety issues, ongoing resource concerns and most recent law enforcement activities. As well, a second page of the update contained statistical information relating to law enforcement operations, and medical information. The strategy was to contact as many people as possible via e-mail to take advantage of new technologies.

The Information office faxed updates to a list of approximately 57 individuals and law enforcement agencies, and e-mailed the update to a list of approximately two-hundred. A community trap-line of about 22 establishments was visited daily until July 7<sup>th</sup>. Those receiving the update included Forest Service employees (Beaverhead-Deerlodge N.F.; Regional Office; Washington Office), media, county, state & federal government employees; health & safety agencies; and local citizens.

Businesses were kept informed through the daily update, which was used to dispel rumors and the keep the community abreast of issues and information about the gathering. Also, 8 other agencies maintained a presence at the ICP, and were kept informed with the daily updates, as well as news clips.

## **Information Office Activity**

The Incident Information phone line was well publicized and well used. Approximately 1,100 phone calls were received between June 16<sup>th</sup> to July 8<sup>th</sup>, peaking on June 30 (the Friday before the gathering with 138 calls. About 10 percent of the calls, 110, were media calls. Because the Incident Command



Post was in the Dillon Middle School at the edge of town, the office received less walk in visitors than in previous years.

To meet the needs of outlying communities, the Information Office also developed a "trap-line" to distribute the daily updates at Jackson, Polaris, Wisdom, and Wise River. This personal contact nurtured relationships and provided valuable feedback.

The Rainbow Family Gathering receives heavy local, regional and national media attention. All national media was managed by the Lead Public Affairs/Information Officer who had clearance from the Forest Service National Media Desk. There was interest both within the Forest Service Washington Office and the Department of Agriculture Communications Office in the management of national media on this incident.

All media that contacted the office were encouraged to come by the Incident Command Post before going to the gathering site. They were given the most recent daily update, a map to the site and a complete safety briefing.

The media were also informed that the Rainbow Family had a media welcome center and that they would be either blatantly or subtly escorted around the gathering by Rainbow Family members who wanted to control the information offered by the media. Information officers also provided live and taped radio interviews to stations regionally and nationally.

<b>Television</b>	<b>Print</b>
KXLF- Butte (10 Total)	Range Magazine (1)
KTVM- Butte (14)	Hustler (1)
KREM- Spokane (3)	Coffee Cup Companion, Wyoming (3)
KECI-Missoula	Reason Magazine (2)
<b>Radio</b>	Bozeman Chronicle (2)
KBEV/KDBM (9)	AP (6)
NPR-High Plains News (6)	Montana Standard (25)
KUFM (MPR) Missoula (34r55)	Dillon Tribune (10)
	Idaho Falls Post Register
	Missoulian
	Lewiston Tribune
	Ravalli Republic
	Great Falls Tribune
	Coeur D'Alene Press
	Salmon Newspaper
	Bitterroot Star
	Helena Independent Record

### VIP Visits

This incident attracts VIP visits every year, usually elected officials and Regional or Washington Office Forest Service personnel. These guests were provided briefing packages by the Information Office.

For the 2000 gathering, contacts included:

<b>State Government Officials</b>
Bill Tash, State Representative
Judy Martz, Lieutenant Governor
Mary Jo Fox, Communications Director, Policy Advisor for Corrections & Human Services
John Prendergast, The Adjutant General, Montana National Guard
Randy Mosley, Assistant Adjutant General, Montana Army National Guard
Frank Tobel, Assistant Adjutant General, Montana Air National Guard
<b>Federal Government Officials</b>
Dale Bosworth, Regional Forester
Kathy McAllister, Deputy Regional Forester
Jake Maciag, Senator Baucus' Office



## COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF REPORTS

# Law Enforcement Operations Section

### Participating Law Enforcement Agencies and Organizations

The incident Unified Command included the Beaverhead County Sheriff's Department, Forest Service, Montana Highway Patrol, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and Dillon Police Department. Other participating agencies included the Montana Department of Justice - Criminal Investigations Bureau, Southwest Montana Drug Task Force, Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service.

In addition to any specific jurisdictional responsibilities, all law enforcement agencies provided support to the Beaverhead County Sheriff as the lead enforcement agency. A cooperative law enforcement agreement and operating plan was established with the Sheriff through which \$35,000 in funding was provided to support patrol and jail functions of the Sheriff, and to also help support an incident dispatch center established by the Sheriff. As the existing law enforcement dispatch centers in Dillon would have been overwhelmed by the incident needs, this center provided the entire incident dispatching for incident personnel of the Sheriff, Forest Service, Highway Patrol, and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The center also served to enhance communication and coordination between all law enforcement officers working in the Dillon and incident area.

Forest Service and Fish, Wildlife and Parks officers predominantly provided for public safety and fish, wildlife and resource protection within and immediately adjacent to the Gathering. The County Sheriff provided overall coverage for public safety within the County and Gathering area and provided incident dispatch and jail services. All juvenile matters, and law enforcement or parental attempts-to-locate or wanted person/vehicle reports were coordinated by the Sheriff. The Montana Highway Patrol provided for traffic safety on the state and county roads leading to the Gathering and coordinated rotation tow truck services.

In addition to regular information flow between the agencies, interagency meetings were held three times a week to discuss strategies and provide information on individual agency activities related to the gathering.

### Strategy

Law enforcement resources on the incident provided support of the overall incident objectives of the Unified Command. Primary law enforcement objectives were to: provide for the safety of area residents, forest employees, gathering attendees, and other visitors; respect the civil rights of all; and enforce applicable laws and regulations inside and outside the perimeter of the Gathering in a fair and consistent manner. Enforcement activities of all agencies were commensurate with their law enforcement capability and current standards and thresholds set by affected judicial districts. Forest Service enforcement actions were also in accordance with the agency's national strategy for the management of large group activities.



The primary enforcement strategy of all agencies was to prevent crimes, maintain order, provide for safe traffic movement and emergency access on all roads, and protect public safety within and associated with this large group event through high visibility law enforcement presence. Emphasis was placed on traffic enforcement and high visibility vehicle patrols on roads leading to and throughout the Gathering area to reduce the occurrence of motor vehicle and pedestrian accidents, identify problem areas, and to provide immediate availability of officers to detect and to respond to incidents and citizen reports of crimes or emergencies. In addition, Forest Service and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks officers conducted law enforcement horse patrols in the populated areas of the Gathering away from roads that also provided support and protection for non-law enforcement incident personnel working within the Gathering itself (e.g. health and resource agency personnel).

### Issues and Concerns

- Rainbow Family of Living Light and Gathering participants continue to refuse to comply with federal regulations governing large non-commercial group use of National Forest System lands. No permit was applied for or obtained for this National Gathering - placing all participants and spectators in violation of federal law. Three Gathering participants were issued Violation Notices by the Forest Service for this offense. Initial court appearances are scheduled for July 14, 2000, and the investigation is continuing.
- Despite Rainbow Family assurances that alcohol and drugs are discouraged at the Gathering, a large amount of open alcohol and controlled substance exchange and use occurred at the Gathering as with all other National Rainbow Family Gatherings on National Forest System lands. Law enforcement personnel documented 138 drug-related incidents during the one-month reporting period. However, more widespread and open use of marijuana throughout the gathering as well as persons under the influence of alcohol and illegal substances were observed by Forest Service and other agency officials. A variety of illegal substances were observed available for sale or exchange in the "Barter Village" area of the main meadow. Drugs actually encountered, seized or observed by officers at the gathering include marijuana, opium, methamphetamine, heroin, ecstasy (MDMA), hallucinogenic mushrooms, peyote, and ketamine. Additional information was received that PCP and nitrous oxide hallucinogenic gas were in use. A wide variety of related drug use paraphernalia was also observed and seized.
- Despite Gathering assurances that weapons are discouraged, weapons were observed within and enroute to and from the Gathering area. Far more firearms were discovered within the vehicles of gathering participants, and more were in open view or display, than in any prior National Gathering. These weapons included a shotgun in the possession of a 15 year-old girl, and a vehicle traveling to the gathering with two loaded Intratec 9mm rifles and a loaded 9mm semi-automatic pistol. Eighteen incidents involving firearms were encountered by officers, and innumerable edged weapons such as large knives, machetes and a full sized sword were observed on the persons of gathering participants. These contacts included a 15 year-old boy riding in a vehicle containing a variety of illegal drugs that possessed a number of knives in his backpack.
- Approximately 90% of Gathering participants contacted by Forest Service officers and who were issued violation notices in the Gathering area between June 20 and June 30 were found to have



criminal histories. These include previous offenses for assault, assaulting peace officers, possession and/or sales of firearms, and possession and/or sales of drugs. Some are fugitives with active warrants - at least 23 arrest warrants were executed by the arrest of Gathering participants. Additional fugitives were encountered whose issuing states were unwilling to extradite from Montana.

- Many Rainbow Gathering participants continue to exhibit aggressive and abusive behavior towards law enforcement officers working within the Gathering area. In the past, this has included assaults on Forest Service officers, and the circling of officers with large numbers of people, the blocking of escape routes for officers with logs, and interference with their actions as they attempt to make law enforcement contacts. However, this behavior was significantly less at this Gathering than at others. Many Gathering participants expressed unhappiness and fear with this behavior and the protection of the criminal element at the Gathering and either attempted to assist officers or left the Gathering. This aggressive and assaultive behavior continues to create officer safety concerns and increases the number of officers and units required to patrol in order to provide for officer safety.
- Local communities near the area of the gathering such as Dillon, Jackson and Wisdom continue to be impacted by the Rainbow Family Gatherings. Incidents handled by law enforcement agencies include theft, refusing to leave business areas, loitering, harassing motorists for rides, abandoned vehicles, vehicle theft and the theft of gas and auto parts from vehicles, gas drive-offs, use of drugs in front of businesses, aggressive panhandling, train jumping, disturbances, bathing in and/or soiling business restrooms, theft of water, traffic congestion and traffic violations, and public nudity.
- Despite signing in the area, and warnings about fire danger, a larger number of incidents of possession or use of fireworks within the Gathering occurred compared to previous years. The legality of more dangerous fireworks in Beaverhead County led to the use of large aerial rockets, explosive M-80's, and other explosive and incendiary versions.
- Traffic safety, dust and poor road conditions, and the interference with or blocking of Forest Service roads in the area of the Gathering were a significant problem at this year's gathering as in all other years. Traffic violations included careless and reckless vehicle operation, vehicle accidents, vehicular assault, speeding, vehicle equipment violations, use of vehicles in closure areas, blocking or interfering with use of roads and gates, parking in violation of posted signs, driving without or on a suspended license, driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, etc. Approximately 20 vehicles were towed by law enforcement agencies over the 2-3 week period of the Gathering related to violations or pursuant to the arrest of the driver or owner.
- The site chosen for the Gathering lay within an area closed by the Forest Service to motorized vehicle traffic except on designated roadways, or within 300' of the roadway. Parking in meadows well outside of the 300' limit, placed thousands of people and cars in violation of these regulations. The Rainbow Family's lack of planned lawful and suitable parking locations and sufficient personnel committed to assist with traffic management and parking these vehicles contributed to this problem, as thousands of participants fended for themselves and parked as they wished. Despite the agreement of several participants to the use of a designated large sage meadow area for parking and repeated pleas of enforcement officers regarding heavy congestion

and resource damage from illegal and damaging parking. Gathering traffic managers sent all Gathering vehicles away from this agreed upon parking area and into already heavily congested roads and meadow areas. Between June 18 and July 6, traffic on the one narrow road into the Gathering area varied from a low of about 550 vehicles per day to a high of about 2,900 vehicles per day. This heavy congestion and the safety hazards it creates also limited the ability of officers to handle offenses.

- Unaccompanied juveniles and juvenile runaways attending Rainbow Family gatherings continue to be a problem. The Sheriff's Office received many requests from parents and out-of-state law enforcement agencies to locate missing persons or runaways and over 50 were recovered or assisted during this Gathering.
- As in 1999, observed participants in this Gathering included members of the KKK and other white supremacist organizations.
- The installation and maintenance of water lines on National Forest System lines requires a special use permit. Several water pipe systems were installed into area seeps, springs or drainages without Forest Service authorization in violation of law. This caused damage to spring areas and diversion of water from natural sources. Agencies were reluctant, however, to shut down these systems due to the thousands of individuals using them as their sole source of water.
- The many aspects of criminal behavior, intoxicated individuals, weapons, volumes of people, and road congestion presented serious safety concerns to the limited number of law enforcement personnel assigned to the incident.

b7c  
[REDACTED] (20-25,000 people).

However, the area was regularly patrolled by Forest Service and Fish, Wildlife and Parks mounted patrol officers from June 23 to July 5. The mounted patrol once again proved to be extremely successful in providing a patrol presence that can cover large areas within large crowds of people safely. These mounted officers were very warmly received by the majority of Gathering participants.

### Aviation

Aviation support to the incident included incident documentation, support to safety operations, and medivac. Aviation support was provided by the Montana Highway Patrol and two area air ambulance helicopter services. All air operations over the incident were coordinated with the Incident Command Team and the National Forest Dispatch Center and Aviation Officer. Due to media interest in the event, the Incident Information Officer advised the media of the recommended protocol for any media flights that might occur over the incident area and incident ground personnel were notified of any flights scheduled to occur. No medivac transports were needed.



## Staffing

Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations personnel provided 24-hour coverage comprising three shifts during the peak period of the event from June 24 through July 6. Daytime coverage was provided as soon as the site was known on June 12 and continued through July 10. Regional LE&I personnel assumed patrol duties in the incident area on June 11 and continued to provide daytime presence in the incident area. [REDACTED] K-9 [REDACTED] provided on each shift. K-9 dogs were officer protection and drug detection dogs. Forest Service Incident Management Team law enforcement staffing consisted of the following:

### **Patrol Officers (\*)**

June 10 through June 15 [REDACTED] officers  
June 16 through June 22 [REDACTED] officers  
June 23 through July 6 [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] officers  
July 7 through July 10 [REDACTED] officers  
(\* includes [REDACTED] K-9 units and [REDACTED] mounted officers)

### **Supervisory Personnel**

[REDACTED] Law Enforcement Operations Section Chief  
[REDACTED] Division Supervisors

### **Investigative Personnel**

[REDACTED] Criminal Investigators

### **Support Personnel**

One Documentation Clerk

Incident staffing provided by other agencies is available from those agencies.

## Statistical Reporting

Statistical reporting for all agencies was coordinated by the Forest Service, who gathered information and assembled information on a daily basis. The incident reporting period was approximately June 4 through July 6, 2000. All statistics shown below are best available information gathered during the incident.

### **U.S. Forest Service**

Natural resources and government property continue to be heavily damaged by the Rainbow Family gatherings. These included theft and damage to roads, gates, fences and locks, cutting of green trees and boughs, digging of large deep holes and trenches, digging in and removal of soil from along streambanks, construction of numerous unauthorized structures such as human shelters, ovens, bridges and waterlines, complete devegetation and compaction of soils along numerous newly established roads and trails, damage to roads, and huge amounts of debris, feces, and trash left in an exposed and unsanitary condition. A few examples of these illegal acts are shown in Appendix 4. These illegal acts were far too numerous to document, and responsible parties were difficult to determine. Therefore, the statistics below represent only a fraction of the overall offenses of this nature.

In addition, due to the extremely limited number of officers vs. the tens of thousands of participants, the hazardous nature of enforcement conditions discussed above, many observed minor violations were not investigated or reported by officers working within the Gathering area. In addition, investigation of many serious violations was thwarted due to direct opposition or interference by Gathering participants in the investigation - in some cases stated by participants as fear of retaliation by Family members toward anyone appearing to cooperate with officers. Examples of these offenses included drug dealing and overdoses, fights, assault with knives, sexual assault and the shooting of guns. Thus, the statistics below do not reflect the full incidence of violations of law within the Gathering.

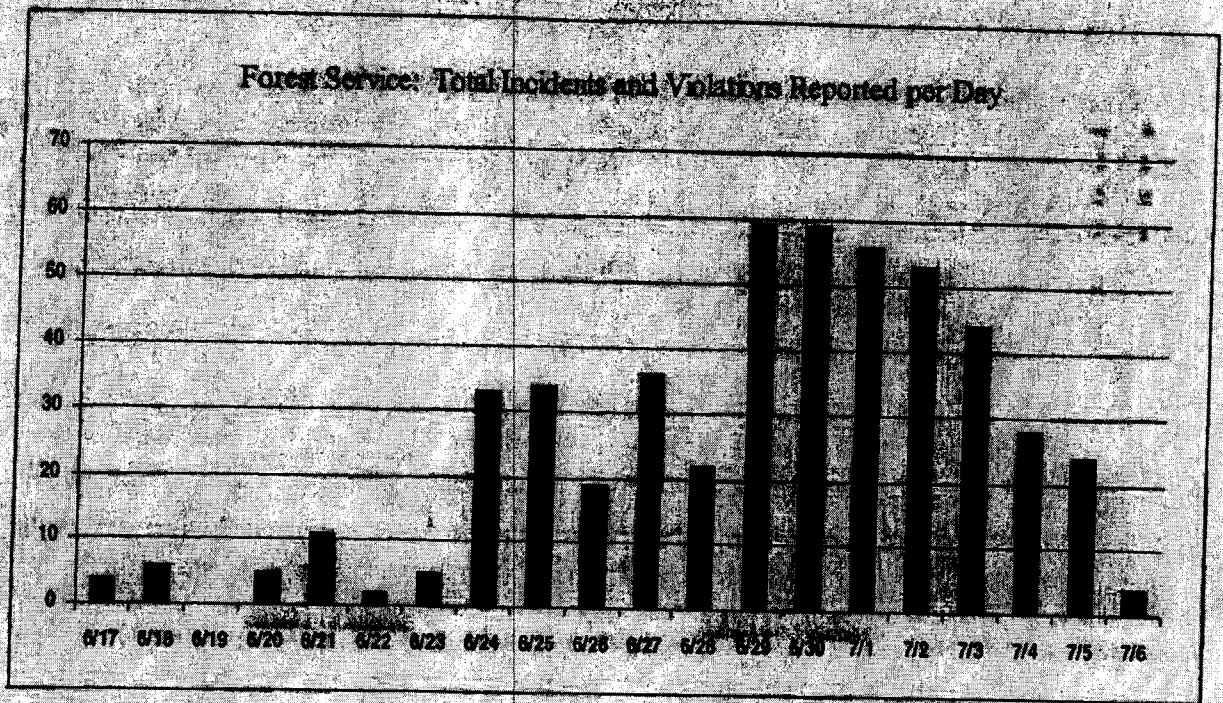
Forest Service officers assisted and referred to state and local officers many incidents (specifics reported under those agency's statistics). Officers issued 294 citations and warnings, and documented over 509 incidents as shown below:

## Forest Service Statistical Information

*(For the period of June 17 to July 6, 2000)*

TYPE	#
Felony arrests	2
Misdemeanor arrests	1
Warrants served	1
Citations issued	106
Warnings issued	188
DUI	1
Other alcohol/drug related	49
Weapons	2
Disorderly Conduct/assault/officer interference	18
Traffic and vehicle	212
Vehicle accidents	0
Medical emergencies and assists	1
Juveniles recovered/assisted	0
Stolen/missing vehicle recovered	1
Stolen/missing private property/shoplifting	0
Loitering/panhandling	0
Nudity	19
Stolen/damaged public property	5
Natural resource damage/Game and fish	9
Public assists and other incidents (includes assists to other agencies, K-9 support to other agencies, fire and fireworks incidents, etc.	193





## Montana Highway Patrol

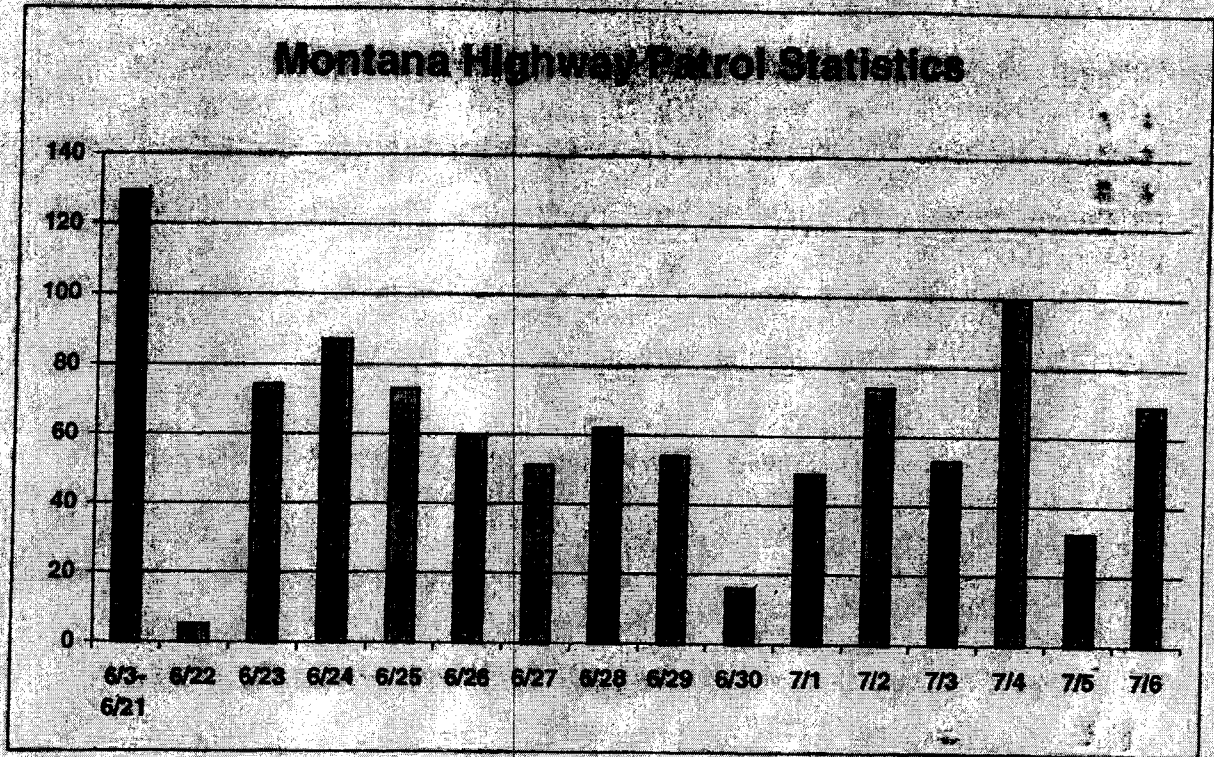
Montana Highway Patrol officers patrolled state and county roads accessing the Gathering area. Officers provided public and motorist assists along the roads and conducted traffic stops where violations of state law were observed. They also conducted joint patrols at night with Forest Service officers to increase officer safety and enhance enforcement services throughout the Gathering area, and assisted the Sheriff's Department in public safety services within the County. The Patrol were involved in 76 arrests, issued over 1,100 citations and warnings and documented over 1,000 incidents during the Gathering as shown below:

**Montana Highway Patrol Statistical Information**  
(For the period of June 3 through July 6, 2000)

TYPE	#
Felony arrests	17
Misdemeanor arrests	59
Warrants served	13
Citations issued	366
Warnings issued	745
<b>DUI</b>	
DUI	10
Other alcohol/drug related	38
Weapons	11
Disorderly Conduct/assault/officer interference	13
Traffic and vehicle	618
Vehicle accidents	6
Medical emergencies and assists	12
Juveniles recovered/assisted	14
Stolen/missing vehicle recovered	3
Stolen/missing private property/shoplifting	6
Loitering/panhandling	7
Nudity	2
Stolen/damaged public property	1
Natural resource damage/Game and fish	1
Public assists, assists to other agencies and other incidents	244



# Montana Highway Patrol Statistics



**Beaverhead County Sheriff's Department and Dillon Police Department**

Dillon Police Department Officers utilized 12-hour officer shifts on a 24-hour basis to patrol within the town of Dillon and assist the Sheriff's Department by patrolling County areas around the town. The Sheriff's Department augmented it's limited permanent officer force with Reserve Deputies and deputized BLM officers in order to continue to provide regular services to County residents while providing dedicated patrols within the Gathering and to the towns of Wisdom and Jackson next to the Gathering.

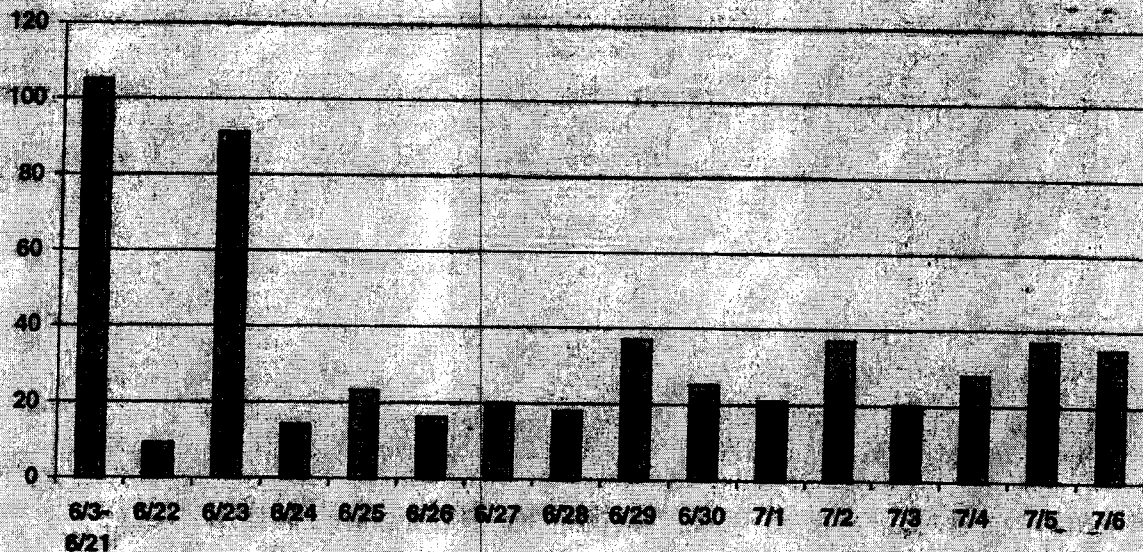
City and County Officers were involved in 117 arrests, issued 237 citations and warnings and documented over 500 incidents as shown below:

**Beaverhead County Sheriff's Office/Dillon Police Department  
Statistical Information  
(For the period of June 3 to July 6, 2000)**

TYPE	#
Felony arrests	29
Misdemeanor arrests	88
Warrants served	10
Citations issued	153
Warnings issued	84
DUI	14
Other alcohol/drug related	51
Weapons	5
Disorderly Conduct/assault/officer interference	21
Traffic and vehicle	124
Vehicle accidents	5
Medical emergencies and assists	14
Juveniles recovered/assisted	43
Stolen/missing vehicle recovered	7
Stolen/missing private property/shoplifting	22
Loitering/panhandling	25
Nudity	0
Stolen/damaged public property	4
Natural resource damage/Game and fish	0
Public assists, assists to other agencies and other incidents	201



### Beaverhead County Sheriff's Office and Dillon Police Department Statistics



**Total Reported Statistics - All Law Enforcement Agencies**  
*(For the period of June 3 to July 6, 2000)*

TYPE	#
Felony arrests	48
Misdemeanor arrests	148
Warrants served	24
Citations issued	625
Warnings issued	1017
DUI	25
Other alcohol/drug related	138
Weapons	18
Disorderly Conduct/assault/officer interference	52
Traffic and vehicle	954
Vehicle accidents	11
Medical emergencies and assists	27
Juveniles recovered/assisted	57
Stolen/missing vehicle recovered	11
Stolen/missing private property/shoplifting	28
Loitering/panhandling	32
Nudity	21
Stolen/damaged public property	10
Natural resource damage/Game and fish	10
Public assists, assists to other agencies and other incidents	638

**Incidents of Interest or Significance Occurring at or Related to the Rainbow Family Gathering**

On June 20, Dillon Police Department officers stopped a vehicle with New Mexico plates being driven by an individual who had reportedly stolen linens and towels from a motel. Seized from the vehicle were small quantities of LSD, marijuana, methamphetamines, psilocybin mushrooms, peyote, and paraphernalia. The driver was subdued as he unsuccessfully attempted to destroy the LSD by drinking it from a small container. A 15 year-old juvenile in the vehicle was in possession of several knives, including a switchblade. County juvenile authorities returned the boy to his parents out-of-state.

On the night of June 21, numerous rounds of small caliber gunfire were heard within the gathering area.

On June 22, a State arrest warrant was executed on a 20 year-old man at the Gathering. After claiming their vehicle was broken down and being invited into the home of a Missoula man for the night, the individual and two others allegedly stole two pistols, ammunition, a valuable antique pipe, food, and a large tarp from their host. The tarp was recovered. The primary suspect, guns and other property were never located.



On the morning of June 23, officers stopped a vehicle on Highway 278 containing Rainbow Family members headed to the gathering. Taken into custody were a semi-automatic pistol and rifle, both loaded, and two loaded, interchangeable magazines. A two-foot long machete was also found.

Local juveniles from Dillon visiting the gathering site in late June told local law enforcement officers that they had observed free use and exchange of the drug "Ecstasy" at the gathering and were offered drugs there.

A Forest Service K9 unit assisted Montana Highway Patrol in the felony arrest of four individuals from New York who were headed to the gathering with marijuana and 18 paraphernalia pipes they were planning to sell. One of the subjects owns a paraphernalia store in NY.

Forest Service officers within the Gathering stopped two vehicles traveling at dangerous speeds through a congested roadway. Occupants of the rear vehicle told officers that Rainbow members were pursuing the front van as its occupants had just been involved in a fight and the brandishing of a sword in "A" camp, and they believed a young child had been kidnapped and was in the van. The child was not in the van, and the parents were directed to the child by officers who had recently seen her wandering alone in another area of the Gathering. A sword was located in the front van, however as state laws did not prohibit its possession and no one involved in the fight would provide information, the sword was returned and the man released.

Forest Service officers within the gathering site recovered an 18 year-old female reported missing, and returned her to her father on-site. The woman had taken LSD and traveled to the gathering with strangers. She was still incapacitated by the drugs when she was recovered.

Eleven vehicles reported as stolen or missing were recovered inside or enroute to the Gathering.

Rainbow participants turned over to FS Officers a Utah man who had committed repeated petty thefts at the gathering. When asked to leave by Family members, he refused and was threatened with bodily harm or forcible action to eject him by participants. The man was cited for the thefts by local law enforcement, and agreed not to return to the Gathering. Family members advised that property theft was an ongoing problem within the gathering and other thieves were "under 24-hour surveillance".

On June 27, Montana Highway Patrol officers recovered a pistol from a car containing juveniles headed to the gathering. During another traffic stop of 20 and 15 year-old sisters near Jackson, a large quantity of marijuana and a shotgun were recovered. The 20 year-old was arrested, and the juvenile returned to her mother, who had authorized the trip.

On June 27, a Montana Highway Patrol officer contacted a vehicle on Highway 278 stopped halfway into the traffic lane. The 19 year-old female driver was arrested for driving under the influence of drugs, and a male passenger was arrested for possession of drugs and paraphernalia and possession of a weapon found next to his seat.

On June 28, Beaverhead County Sheriff's Officers arrested two women entering the Gathering. Charges included possession of drugs and paraphernalia, along with an outstanding warrant related to obstructing a police officer.

On June 29, Beaverhead County Sheriff's Officers arrested a Gathering participant at the Jackson Lodge



Bar next to the Gathering on charges of disorderly conduct and possession of 70 doses of LSD and paraphernalia.

On June 30, a Montana Highway Patrol Officer stopped a U-Haul van for traffic violations. The stop resulted in the arrest of all six occupants on warrants and various charges. The U-Haul had been rented for one day and kept without authorization, and holes had been cut in the roof of the truck. However, the U-Haul company declined to press charges.

On June 30, a man attending the Gathering was arrested by Forest Service officers on a state felony warrant for failing to register in Montana as a convicted sex offender. The warrant was obtained by the Montana Criminal Investigation Bureau after Forest Service officers contacted the man on an unrelated matter earlier in the month.

On June 30, a "rave" party was discovered at the upper end of the gathering after complaints were received from Gathering participants of loud stereo music traveling over ½ mile. Participants, including juveniles, fled when officers arrived. A large amount of amplification equipment and generators were found at the site, along with coupons - believed to be issued after payment for participation. Three adults in their twenties from New York conducting the party were contacted and warned about the illegal commercial activity, presence of juveniles in an area with alcohol and drugs, use of illegal drugs, and unreasonably loud noise. These individuals are believed to be the same as those who conducted a rave party at the 1999 Rainbow Gathering in Pennsylvania. On July 1, the party was again found operating, and was again shut down by officers, and the generator seized and held until the owner's departure from the County. No further activity was observed after this time.

On July 1, an alleged drug dealer was arrested within his RV at the Gathering site at dawn by a joint team of officers from the Beaverhead County Sheriff's Office, Forest Service, and the Southwest Montana Drug Task Force. He had previously sold over 500 doses of LSD at the Gathering at \$1.60-\$1.75 per dose. The man was charged with possession of dangerous drugs with intent to distribute. Among the evidence seized were several hundred doses of LSD and a large amount of cash. The motor home was impounded.

During night hours, Forest Service officers responded to complaints from several victims that one or more individuals riding in the rear of a pickup truck had thrown large objects (a wrench and basketball-sized rocks) at five vehicles, striking one in the windshield with a large rock.

During a traffic stop, Montana Highway Patrol officers made a felony arrest for possession of drugs and paraphernalia. A loaded weapon was also found. The subjects indicated that drugs (including LSD, mushrooms and other hallucinogenic drugs) were openly in use at the gathering.

In the early morning hours of July 5, following a fight in "A" camp, a man drove a vehicle through a populated campfire area, striking and injuring a woman. The driver fled the scene but was stopped and arrested by Montana Highway Patrol officers as he attempted to leave the Gathering area. He was subsequently charged with negligent vehicular assault, DUI, driving while suspended, and leaving the scene of an accident. The woman was transported by ambulance to the hospital. A man who accompanied her to the hospital was later arrested by Beaverhead County Sheriff's deputies on a felony warrant.



Montana Highway Patrol officers arrested a Gathering participant leaving the gathering for drug possession, resisting arrest and obstructing officers. They were charged after they resisted and spit on arresting officers. Two other men in the same vehicle were arrested on an outstanding warrant.

As a result of a traffic stop and citation for driving on a suspended license, Montana Highway Patrol officers recovered a vehicle stolen from the State of Washington within which methamphetamines were found. The driver was attending the Gathering, and is a suspect in both Washington and Pennsylvania for stolen vehicles.

On July 7, Gathering participants brought a man into the Dillon Hospital bound in restraints. The man had taken a mix of drugs including PCP and LSD. He had become a threat to the Gathering due to his extreme irrational behavior, and assaulted an officer and refused to identify himself to Dillon PD officers at the hospital. On 7/8, this same individual had reportedly returned to the gathering.

On July 6, the Forest Service District Ranger was speaking with Gathering participants in the main meadow area regarding rehabilitation of the site. Many people behaved angrily toward him, and one participant angrily discussing the Forest Service's action regarding citing participants for failure to obtain a permit told the employee, "if you give me a ticket, I'll kill you".

A Dillon Police Department officer assisted by Forest Service officers arrested a Dillon, Montana resident traveling to the Gathering. The driver was driving impaired on a suspended license, and was subsequently charged with felony DUI (a fourth offense) and felony tampering with evidence after he obstructed his breath test.

Forest Service officers responded to a man at the Gathering suffering from an anaphylactic reaction causing his throat to swell and obstructing his breathing. Although nearby participants aggressively encouraged the man not to seek medical attention, officers concurred with the patient and intervened to obtain an ambulance for him.

A privately owned cabin on private lands within the Gathering area was broken into and occupied by many Rainbow members. At the time officers discovered the break-in, occupants had left the cabin unattended while a fire burned in the wood stove. Returning occupants were found in possession of a loaded handgun, and were told to vacate the property.

## COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF REPORTS

### Finance Section

#### Strategy:

Management of this year's incident was again funded in advance at the national level. Law Enforcement and Investigations provided \$180,000 for officer overtime and misc. support expenses. National Forest Systems provided \$220,000 for salaries, overtime, and misc. support expenses. This funding is intended to mitigate impacts on the Region and Forest where the incident occurred. The funding is not necessarily intended to cover the entire management expense. It covers the majority of expenses, and the WO, RO and Forest should be able to cover the rest. An additional \$25,000 LE&I funding was provided to cover co-op law enforcement needs, bringing the LE total to \$205,000.

The Team's strategy was to minimize costs by utilizing existing systems such as computers and equipment such as fax machines, telephones and copiers; using local employees as incident personnel; operating from public facilities; utilizing unified command; and routinely re-evaluating the continued need for resources. The team's goal was to control costs and keep them as close as possible to the national funding level to minimize impacts on the Region and Forest.

#### Issues/Concerns:

- The total costs of the incident will be nearly impossible to capture because so many items were borrowed or used at no cost, and many salary costs are not directly charged to the incident. All base salary costs of LE & I employees were charged to home units.
- The job code issues were reasonably resolved this year by holding funds in the WO. Both sources of funds resided in LE&I which made accounting and management much easier.
- The treatment of AUO for law enforcement officers and of maximum pay limitations for National Forest Systems employees was addressed at the national level. The declaration of a non-natural disaster emergency by the Secretary facilitated dealing with many of these issues.
- The Secretary of Agriculture's declaration of emergency for this event allowed flexibility in granting time away from this incident for R & R.



**Financial Summary**

<b>Cost Analysis</b>		
	<b>USDA</b>	<b>NPS</b>
<b>Preliminary Estimates</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>	<b>\$220,000</b>
To Date 6/19	26,300	56,200
To Date 6/26	62,400	99,100
To Date 7/3	108,200	153,500
To Date 7/7	134,600	184,300
Estimate 7/15	160,600	215,100
Plus Co-op Law Enforcement	35,413	
Projected Rehabilitation Costs		**
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>196,013</b>	

\*\*The Forest expects the Rainbow Family to complete rehabilitation of the impacted areas. However, there will be costs associated with rehabilitation, which are unlikely to be covered by the Family. Additionally, once the Family has departed, any failures are likely to be funded by the Forest.

# COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF REPORTS

## **Planning Section**

### Incident Personnel

In addition to the National team, there were several overhead positions assigned to the incident. Some were filled by resource orders from across the National Forest System, and some by local Forest personnel. Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest personnel were assigned to all resource specialist positions.

At maximum staffing, there were [REDACTED] Law Enforcement Officers, three Division Supervisors, [REDACTED] Criminal Investigators, and 27 overhead personnel assigned to the incident. Several interdisciplinary team members, representing a variety of resource specialties, were assigned by the Forest to assess and monitor resource effects.

### Planning Section Staffing

The Planning Section responsibilities include: tracking of incident resources, development of periodic Incident Action Plans, facilitation of briefings and meetings, mapping of the incident to meet a variety of needs, development and dissemination of the Daily Situation Report, support to the forest resource specialists in monitoring and attempted mitigation of environmental effects, and compilation of all incident documentation. The Planning Section Chief (PSC) for the National Team was assisted by the PSC for the Beaverhead County Team, a Documentation Unit Leader, and two Forest GIS specialists on a part-time basis. Most of the focus for the Documentation Unit Leader was the review, summarization, and filing of all law enforcement documentation. The forest assigned a Resource Coordinator, who supervised the interdisciplinary team engaged in monitoring and attempted mitigation of environmental effects.

### Incident Action Plans

The IAPs developed for this incident are very different from those developed for wildland fires. The IAP includes such things as multi-agency shift plans, incident objectives, maps, safety, communication, and attempt-to-locate information, and law enforcement procedures. The IAP is in a binder that is provided to all unified command law enforcement units and updated with new information as needed.

### Environmental Effects

Rainbow family members made no contact with personnel from the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest to discuss site selection for the 2000 gathering. About June 10<sup>th</sup>, a contingent of family members were found camped near the Saginaw Creek area of the Wisdom Ranger District. The Forest immediately began working on a strategy to minimize potential environmental effects. The strategy included:



- 1) Identification of resource issues/concerns in the surrounding area
- 2) Pre-incident surveys to assess the current condition of the site
- 3) Notification of gathering participants of resource concerns and expected mitigations
- 4) Continual monitoring of environmental effects during the event
- 5) Development of a rehabilitation plan to return the site to near pre-gathering conditions
- 6) Post-incident monitoring

### **Resource Issues/Concerns**

During the transition meeting between the Forest and the National Team, which was held on June 14\*, the following environmental issues/concerns for the area surrounding the gathering site were discussed:

*Noxious Weeds:* Due to on-going cooperative efforts between the Forest, private landowners, and other state and federal agencies, the Big Hole Valley has remained relatively noxious weed free. Thousands of vehicles from all over the nation are expected to access the gathering site. There is a high potential for the spread of noxious weeds into areas currently weed-free.

*Wildlife:* There are no documented sightings of threatened or endangered species within the gathering area, but there is potential for lynx, wolf, and bald eagle to inhabit the site. Northern goshawk and western toad, which are sensitive species, are known to inhabit the site; there is potential habitat for wolverine, flammulated owl, and black-backed woodpecker.

The gathering area is very important elk calving and rearing habitat for an interstate elk herd. Peak calving is centered on June 15-20, but can extend into mid-July. The main concern is disturbance and displacement from people and dogs.

A landbird monitoring transect is located in the potential parking area near Van Houten campground. This is an on-going Neotropical bird inventory that has been occurring for 5-6 years, and is scheduled for survey on July 10\*. The transect is marked on-the-ground, and could be impacted by disturbance of the transect points. There is also potential for interference during the actual survey.

*Fisheries:* Two sensitive fish species are known to occur within the gathering area. Grayling inhabit the Big Hole River; small populations of westslope cutthroat trout occupy three small streams within and adjacent to the gathering area. Potential effects include bank trampling (which can lead to a loss of habitat from higher water temperatures and decreased pool depth), and illegal harvest.

*Water Quality/Riparian Protection:* The main gathering area is in the Saginaw Creek drainage. Saginaw Creek is diverted into drainage ditches near its mouth. The Big Hole River, which is the water source for the city of Butte, is adjacent to travel routes and potential parking areas. The potential exists for stream crossings, trail development and use, water system development, trampling of riparian vegetation, the introduction of human and domestic animal waste and petroleum products, and the removal of mud and rocks used for construction purposes to have negative effects on these watercourses.

*Cultural Values:* The Nez Perce National Historic Trail is near the gathering area. The trail, and in particular Skinner Meadows, is very sacred to the Nez Perce. The meadows in the gathering area are utilized by local Native Americans for gathering of culturally significant plants. Disturbance to these areas through camping and vehicular traffic could have significant detrimental effects to these values.

**Impacts to Legitimate Forest Users:** There are two grazing allotments in the immediate vicinity of the gathering. Both permit holders graze their cattle in the area beginning July 1. There is also the potential that range improvements could be damaged during the event. There are a number of fences, spring developments, water tanks, and long-term monitoring sites near the main encampment and gathering site.

There is a sold timber sale and several post and pole sales within the area of the gathering. On-going contractual operations could be impacted.

The area where the gathering will be held is rich with recreational opportunities and is a popular area for summer visitors. South and North Van Houten Lakes campground are in the area of the gathering. These campgrounds are very popular with ATV users all summer long. There are also many dispersed sites along the Skinner Meadows Road. Most are utilized by local folks or residents from Butte, and historically have been occupied by large groups over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend.

There are several private landholdings within and adjacent to the gathering area. There is the potential for private property and improvements to be affected.

**Roads and Access Travel Management:** Thousands of vehicles are expected to traverse the forest roads accessing the gathering site. The roads are narrow and rough and could suffer significant damage from the large increase in traffic; deterioration of the road surface, impacts to ditches and cut and fill slopes are expected.

Parking is very limited close to the main gathering location. The area accessed by the Saginaw road system is closed to all motorized vehicles (vehicles must stay within 300 feet of an existing road; less if resource damage would occur). There is concern about cross-country travel in these closed areas and the pioneering of new unauthorized roads across meadows, sagebrush parks and through timbered areas.

**Litter:** Man-made material (including vehicles) left behind by upwards of 25,000 individuals could be a huge problem if not removed by the participants.

**Fire Risk:** The concentration of this many people in one area significantly increases the potential for human caused ignition. Fuel loading in the timbered stands is heavy; flashy fuels in the meadow areas could ignite very easily. This area is also known for lightning-caused ignitions. In either case, there is a high concern for safety of individuals attending the gathering should a fire occur.

### **Pre-Incident Surveys**

The final site location was not known by Forest personnel until several hundred people were on-site. As a result, some site impacts had occurred before pre-incident surveys could begin. Forest personnel quickly gathered all known information of the surrounding area. Field visits by a variety of resource specialists were conducted to identify resources at risk. An interdisciplinary team meeting was held on June 16<sup>th</sup> to finalize the monitoring strategy. Photo/video documentation and water sampling was scheduled.



### **Notification of Resource Concerns and Monitoring During the Incident**

Once the site was known, the District Ranger and/or resource specialists were on-site nearly every day communicating to family members the resource concerns and expected mitigation measures needed to minimize the environmental effects. Discussions occurred with many different individuals every day on such things as parking issues, latrine locations, soil compaction and disturbance, riparian protection, fire prevention, etc. These contacts were generally received very positively by family members, and were fairly successful while the numbers of participants was fairly low. However, once the numbers increased significantly, violations of previously agreed mitigations were common. Photos were taken regularly to document the increasing effects.

Appendix 5 includes photos of a cross-section of resource effects identified during the gathering. The following is a summary of effects to the site noted through July 6<sup>th</sup>:

*Noxious Weeds:* Family members were repeatedly informed of the potential for the spread of noxious weeds. Pamphlets and posters were disseminated. District personnel recommended setting up a wash station to wash all vehicles coming into the gathering, and provided information on equipment and design. Although the idea was received positively, washing of Rainbow vehicles did not occur. All vehicles utilized by incident personnel were washed. Gates were installed on the roads accessing the Saginaw Mine and the main meadow road to reduce the potential for the spread of noxious weeds. One gate was repeatedly damaged to allow vehicle access in violation of the closure.

*Wildlife:* No short-term effects to threatened, endangered, or sensitive wildlife species are known at this time. There is no information on potential long-term effects.

The elk herd that uses this area for calving and rearing was displaced. Long-term effects are unknown.

The location of the landbird monitoring transect was re-established before the area was used for parking. There should be no impact to the long-term study.

*Fisheries:* Two roads which accessed the streams with populations of westslope cutthroat trout were gated to prevent impact to the species. No illegal harvest of sensitive fish species was noted. A large parking area was located adjacent to the Big Hole River. Water samples to check for petroleum products were taken early in the gathering, during the peak population period, and are planned to be taken after a major storm. The analysis of these samples has not been completed to date.

*Water Quality/Riparian Protection:* The riparian area in the main meadow was impacted by: stream bank and riparian vegetation trampling at numerous stream crossings; spring development and piping of water for human use; vegetation destruction and compaction on trails and other high-use areas; the removal of mud and rocks from the riparian areas to be used in unauthorized improvements (stoves, ovens, etc.). Numerous pits were dug for latrines, community and personal fires, gray water, compost, and liquid medical waste disposal. Some of these pits were eight feet deep and 10-15 feet in diameter. The long-term effects of this amount and concentration of human and animal waste, and liquid medical waste are unknown.

*Cultural Values:* There are no known effects to the Nez Perce National Historic Trail or Skinner Meadows. Many of the meadows in the gathering area were posted for no parking, however, significant parking did occur in these areas. Forest personnel identified a parking area near Van Houten campground with a lower potential for environmental effects. The rainbow family was provided with maps to the area and encouraged repeatedly to focus parking in that area. The area could have handled a significant number of cars, however use by participants was minimal. Damage to the meadows by illegal parking and other use is unknown at this time; effects to culturally significant plants is also unknown.

*Impacts to Legitimate Forest Users:* The permit holders with grazing allotments in the vicinity of the gathering area chose not to utilize the area until after most participants had left. Impacts to these permit holders are unknown at this time. Two local landowners conducted traditional cattle movement activities using corrals on National Forest System lands at a large parking area for the Gathering. Law enforcement officers assisted in both cases for safety.

District personnel contacted the purchasers of the timber sale, and post and pole sales and recommended that operations be postponed until after the gathering. The contractual liability of the Forest Service is unknown at this time.

Potential impacts to regular summer visitors are unknown. South Van Houten campground was completely occupied with Rainbow family members by mid-June, which prevented use of the area by local residents and other visitors. North Van Houten campground was occupied by both ATV users and Rainbow family members. No conflicts were noted.

Trespassing on private property, particularly the pond at the Jackson Cow Camp, was noted regularly. A cabin located on private land at the Saginaw Mine was broken into and occupied by Rainbow Family members until asked to vacate the structure.

*Roads and Access Travel Management:* Thousands of vehicles traversed forest roads and parked in ditches, meadows, cut and fill slopes, and openings in the timber throughout the gathering area. Impacts of these activities are unknown at this time. In addition to potential impacts to the meadows discussed above due to parking and other uses, there was cross-country travel in areas closed to vehicles, and pioneering of new unauthorized roads across meadows, sagebrush parks and timbered areas.

*Litter:* Litter was noted from the early stages of the gathering in all areas accessible by vehicles. In the main meadow, litter did not seem to be an issue throughout most of the event. Several recycling centers were located around the site. The dumpsters installed by the County and located by the lower parking area were heavily used. As the participants departed, litter, large debris, and inoperable vehicles was noted scattered around abandoned campsites.

*Fire Risk:* No known human-caused or lightning-caused fires occurred in the gathering area.

### Site Rehabilitation

Resource specialists from the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest have developed a site and resource rehabilitation plan (See Appendix 6) for both the Saginaw Creek and Miner Creek (spring council meeting) locations. The plan outlines the objectives and expected results of the cleanup and



rehabilitation process. The cover letter to the rehabilitation plan notifies the rainbow family that all activities are to be completed by August 1, 2000 and that if rehabilitation was not completed or not effective, the Forest Service would complete the project and bill the family for all costs incurred by the Government.

The District Ranger of the Wisdom Ranger District presented several copies of the plan to family members during a site visit on July 6. Resource personnel have discussed rehabilitation of the site with family members during nearly all site visits.

### **Post-Incident Monitoring**

The gathering site covered an area of approximately four square miles. Although the rehabilitation plan identifies many of the site-specific rehabilitation needs, additional reconnaissance and design work will be necessary after most of the participants have departed and the actual site impacts can be determined. Resource personnel will continue to work with the family during the rehabilitation process. Upon completion of site cleanup and rehabilitation, the Forest will prepare a final report documenting specifics on pre- and post-incident conditions and all monitoring activities.

# COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF REPORTS

## **Logistics Section**

### Objectives:

The Logistics Section was staffed to provide service and support to all incident personnel and, to some degree, cooperators. The Communications unit was separated from Logistics and made a full staff section. The Medical Unit was administered by the Safety Officer.

### Issues/Concerns:

- Provision of supplemental food and liquids considered length of shift, remote duty location, low humidity, and temperatures.
- The Dillon Middle School served as ICP. Some difficulties were encountered regarding our proposed use. Also, we created some issues with an error in the agreement. Overall the school was the best choice of any of the options reasonably available.
- Dispatch information provided to the forest was efficiently transmitted through the dispatch system. Both mobilization and demobilization were somewhat rough because traveling employees did not always communicate their locations and travel plans. The Northern Rockies Coordination Center provided excellent service early in the incident.
- Cache supply orders were placed early and cache supply items were shipped by ground saving expense.

### Strategy:

The supply unit actually started operations about 2 months before mobilization. Many of the specialty items for law enforcement were procured, then transported with incident personnel. This enabled the team to start work immediately with the required items on hand.

Personnel were mobilized through routine channels, utilizing the dispatch/coordination center network. Law Enforcement Officers and Special Agents were ordered on detail request forms as technical specialists. This system works well, and should be used for future mobilizations.

Lodging rates were paid by the Finance section rather than by individuals. This saved a great deal on total costs through negotiated rates. This procedure also minimizes the personal financial impacts on incident personnel who are on long-term assignment. The overall lodging expense for 2000 was about 8 percent lower per room/night than 1999.



**Results:**

- The ICP facility was well located and suited our needs. Cleaning services were negotiated and the entire facility was cleaned upon exit.
- Operations areas were established at Jackson and Peterson Camps on a small fee agreement.
- The Supply Unit provided for cooperators as well as Forest Service personnel.
- Fruits and liquids were procured on a daily basis to minimize waste.
- Some office supplies were purchased through GSA, and team members brought large stocks of office supplies with them.
- The Northern Rockies cache supplied ice chests, garbage cans, and other items, which were returned for credit after use.
- The National Guard Armory supplied chairs and tables at no charge.

# COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF REPORTS

## Communications Section

### Overview

The Rainbow 2000 Incident required that communications be provided from the Saginaw Creek area, located southwest of Jackson, MT, back to the Dillon Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This required the installation of communications equipment on three different sites. The sites selected provided either coverage of the incident and/or a point-to-point radio path back to the Dillon EOC. The system provided communications for officers of all involved agencies and for the safety of support personnel from all resource, safety and health agency/organizations.

### Objectives

The objectives of the Communications Section were:

1. Design and install a communications system that would provide for safety and meet the operational needs of the unified law enforcement operations.
2. Manage and support an interagency incident dispatch center.
3. Provide internal telephone communications for the Incident Command Post.

### Communications System

The backbone of the communications system utilized equipment from the National Incident Radio Support Cache (NIRSC). Three mountaintops were selected for the installation of NIRSC equipment to provide both operational coverage and a link back to a radio console located in the Dillon Search and Rescue facility. The NIRSC remote base station equipment was interfaced into the SAR console to provide an efficient environment for the incident dispatchers.

The Search And Rescue facility in Dillon was established by the Beaverhead County Sheriff and operated as the incident dispatch center. It was staffed by Beaverhead County Sheriff's office and Forest Service dispatchers on an interagency basis, providing support for all agency law enforcement officers assigned to the incident. The agencies involved were the Montana Highway Patrol, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Beaverhead County Sheriff and the Forest Service. All radio traffic associated with the incident was processed through this center. To lessen the impact on the Beaverhead County/Dillon City 911 center, a law enforcement data link was established in the dispatch center to process the incident law enforcement information. The 911 center then was only used as a back up in the event of a system failure.



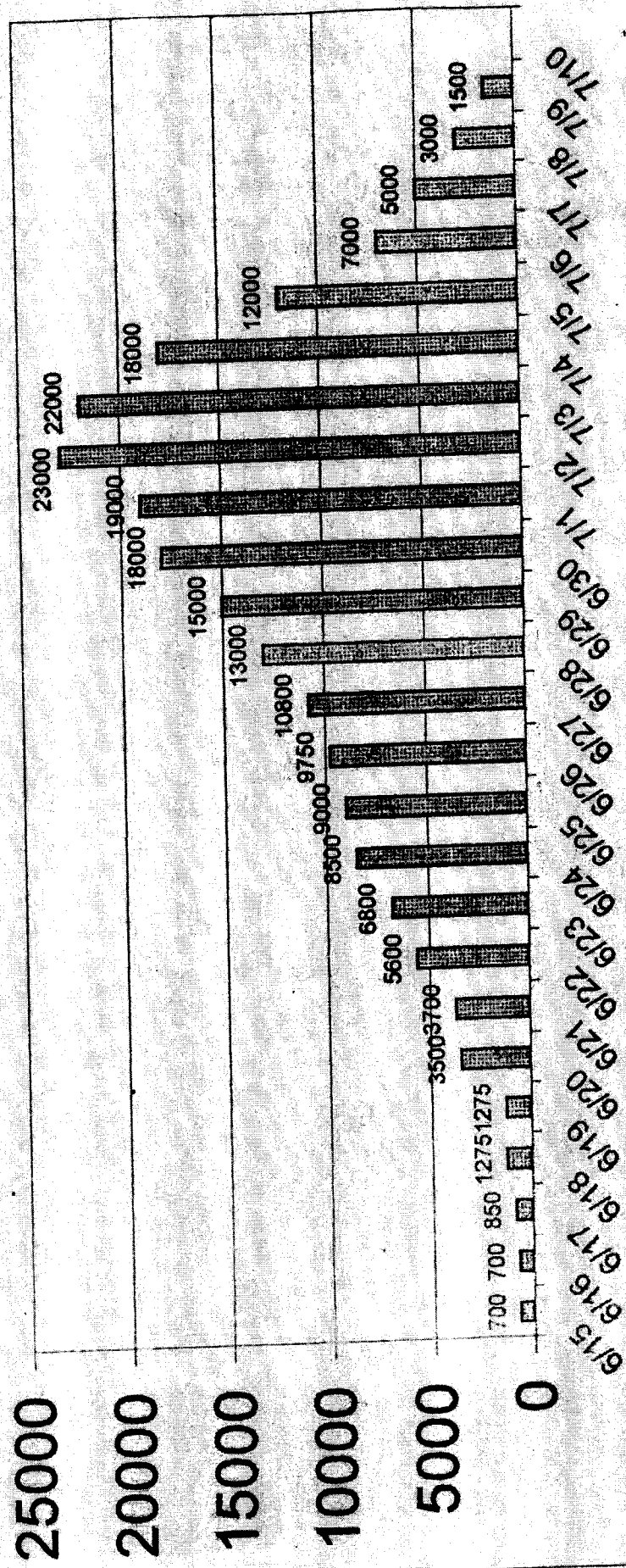
Handheld radios were in good supply including batteries. Most officers had their own handheld radios including re-chargeable batteries. This greatly reduced the need to stock a large quantity of AA batteries. One problem area that was not related to the system was the lack of specific computer software to program the various mobile radios brought by the Forest Service officers. This was not a major problem but did cause some delays. The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest radio technician was a critical resource helping to overcome this problem.

### Summary

The incident communications system functioned very well. Radio coverage at the gathering site was over 90% due to the repeater site selection. However, the coverage for highway 278 between Dillon and Wisdom was reduced due to the extent of the terrain and the distance between the two towns. Even with the reduced coverage there was no apparent compromise of officer safety.

The incident dispatch center functioned very well. As the incident progressed the communications traffic increased but never to a point that caused any problems or that appeared to overwhelm the dispatchers. The key component that made the communications system and dispatch center work so well was the experience and dedication of personnel that were assigned to work at the incident dispatch center.

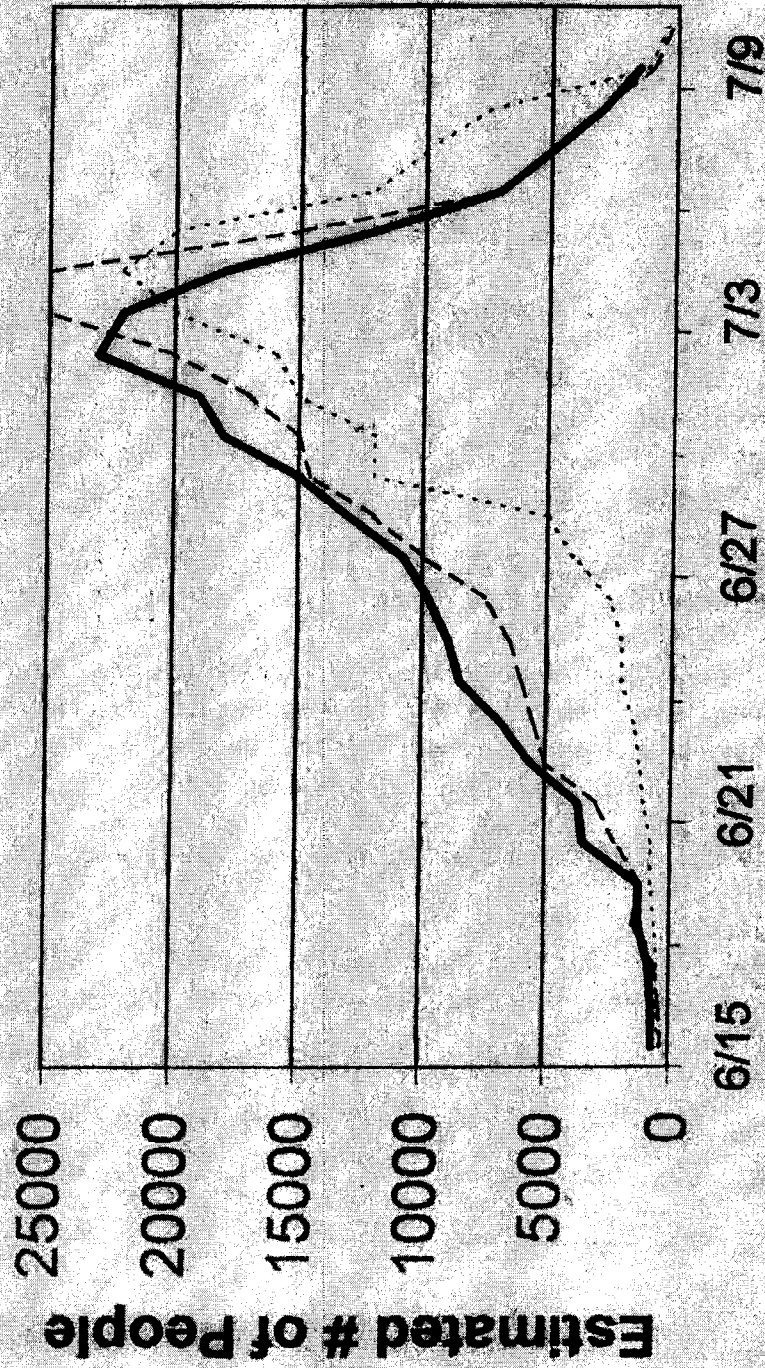
# Rainbow Gathering 2000 Attendance Statistics Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, Beaverhead Co. MT



Estimated # of People



# Demographic Patterns for Rainbow Gatherings



June 15 thru July 9 Revised 7-9-00



# RAINBOW FAMILY

## SAFETY AND HEALTH ISSUES

### *Travel*

#### *-Vehicles*

1. Congestion.
2. Rough roads, and limited visibility.
3. Narrow roads, limited vehicle parking sites.
4. Pedestrians, children playing.
5. Parking on wet meadows.

### **Environmental Issues**

#### *-Dogs, ferrets, and other pets*

1. Bites, diseases and sanitation.

#### *-Black Bears, raccoons*

1. Bites, diseases and sanitation.

#### *-Camp Sanitation*

1. Disposal of gray water.
2. Hand washing facilities.
3. Potable water sources.
4. Preparation and storage of food.

#### *-Garbage and solid-waste*

1. Proper disposal of garbage.
2. Insects, rodents, and animal problems.

#### *-Human waste, hygiene*

1. Failure to develop adequate number of toilet facilities and treatment methods.
2. Failure to use developed toilet facilities, or bury individual human waste.
3. Disposal of feminine hygiene products and condoms.
4. Contamination of downstream water sources.

#### *-Weather*

1. Wind, rain, lightening, hail, and cold temperatures.

### **Health Issues**

1. Exposure to all classes of Communicable Diseases.
2. Food borne illnesses, biological hazards, bacteria, bacteria toxins, viruses, molds, parasites.
3. Ticks.
4. Polluted drinking water, (bacteria, giardia, etc).



## SAFETY – INCIDENT PERSONNEL

<p><b>Travel</b></p> <p><b>-Vehicle</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. County and State Roads.</li> <li>2. Forest Roads.</li> <li>3. Use of seat belts.</li> <li>4. Dust/Visibility.</li> <li>5. Wildlife on, or crossing the roadway.</li> <li>6. Watch for pedestrians and children playing on roadways.</li> <li>7. Abandoned vehicles on or along narrow roadways.</li> <li>8. Limited vehicle parking areas.</li> </ol> <p><b>-Horse</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use of horses around large crowds.</li> <li>2. Care and maintenance of horses and equipment.</li> </ol> <p><b>-Air</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rotary vs. Fixed-wing operations.</li> <li>2. Carded, vs. non-carded.</li> <li>3. Identification of Landing Zones.</li> </ol> <p><b>-Foot</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proper footwear.</li> <li>2. Night travel.</li> <li>3. Hazardous areas:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Dense Brush</li> <li>b. Twigs and Branch Stakes</li> <li>c. Steep Slopes</li> <li>d. Dense Timber Stands</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>Health Issues</b></p> <p><b>-Blood borne Pathogens</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HIV.</li> </ol> <p><b>-Respiratory Disease</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pneumonia.</li> <li>2. Tuberculosis</li> </ol> <p><b>-Bacterial Disease</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shigellosis</li> <li>2. Salmonella</li> </ol> <p><b>-Parasitic</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Giardia</li> <li>2. Head and body lice</li> </ol> <p><b>-Viral</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hepatitis A, B, C (fecal-oral)</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Infectious Hazards</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Disposal of needles</li> <li>2. Contacts with bodily fluids</li> </ol>
<p><b>Emergency Medical Service (EMS)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On and off-site.</li> <li>2. Availability of local EMS services.</li> <li>3. Distance to critical-care facility.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Environmental</b></p> <p><b>-Weather</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Heat vs. Cold</li> <li>2. Rain and Wind</li> <li>3. Lightning</li> </ol> <p><b>-Poisonous</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Insects (spiders, ticks, etc.)</li> </ol> <p><b>-Firearms</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Security</li> <li>2. Storage</li> <li>3. Retention</li> </ol> <p><b>-Dogs</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Failure to control and restrain</li> <li>2. Large amount of feces, fleas, and ticks</li> </ol>

# OFF SITE IMPACTS – SAFETY ISSUES

## Travel

1. Congestion of roadways.
2. Restricted use of road access.
3. Use of roadway for walking, or play areas.
4. Abandoned vehicles on, or along narrow roadways.
5. Oversize vehicles traveling or parking on narrow roads.
6. Narrow roads, loose gravel, and chuck holes.
7. Lack of adequate parking.

## Environmental Issues

### *-Dogs*

1. Stray and abandoned animals.
2. Lack of proper vaccinations.
3. Introductions of diseases into wildlife populations.
4. Introductions of rabies from wildlife population.

### *-Garbage/Refuse*

1. Large volume of garbage / refuse, requiring disposal.
2. Bears feeding on garbage in collection areas, and food storage areas.

## Health Issues

### *-Water*

1. Pollution of streams/lakes on site and downstream.
2. Improper disposal of gray water.

### *-Emergency Medical Services*

1. Impact on local mental health, social services, and welfare agencies.

### *-Communicable Diseases*

1. Possible increase in childhood diseases through exposure by unvaccinated children.
2. Possible increase in sexually transmitted diseases.

## Private Land Inholdings and Developments

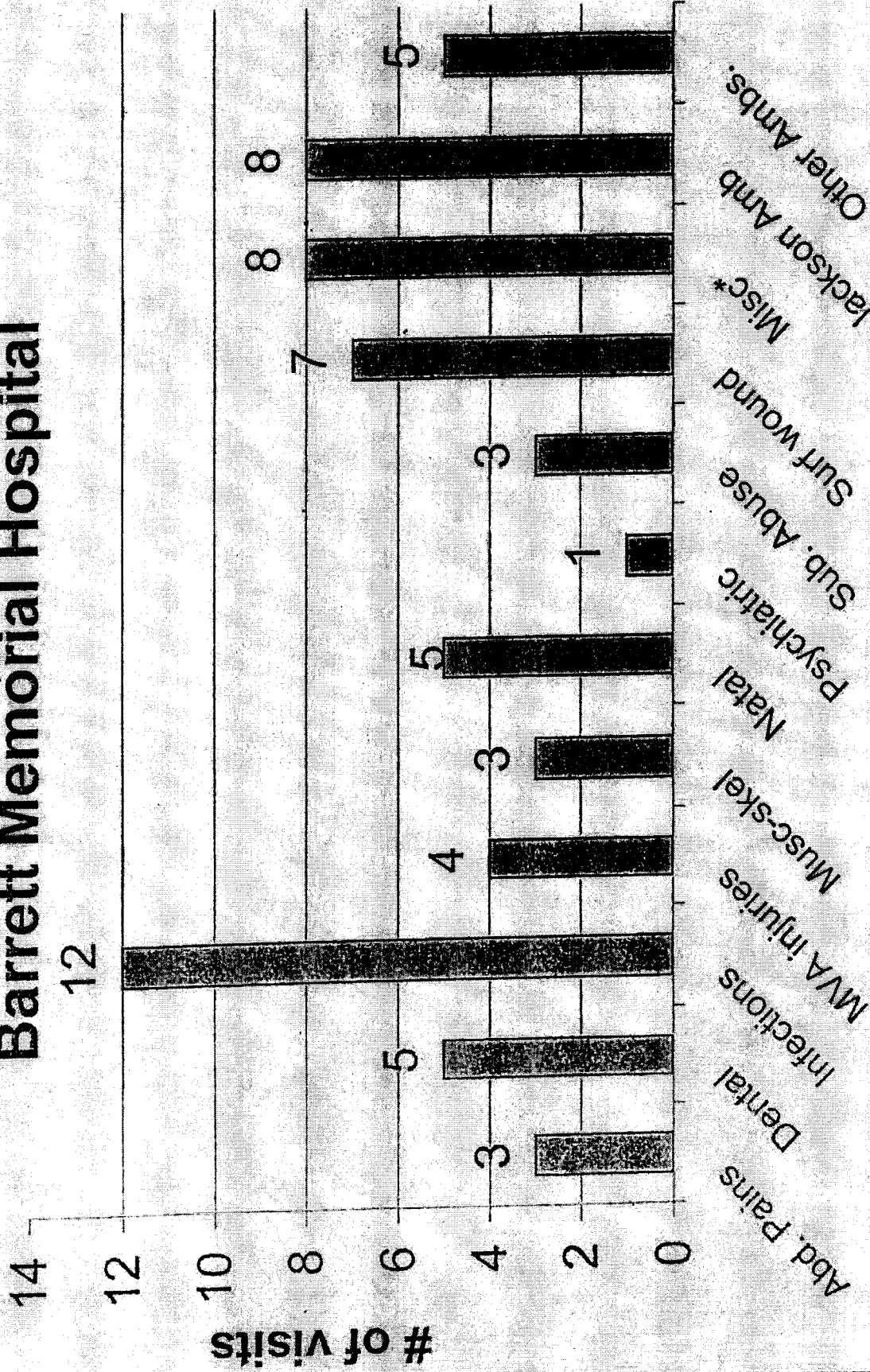
1. Trespass issues.
2. Vandalism/theft.
3. Cultural conflicts.



**TYPE AND FREQUENCY OF VISITS TO MEDICAL FACILITIES BY RAINBOW  
FAMILY GATHERING ATTENDEES, BEAVERHEAD CO., 6/4/00-7/5/00**

Nature of complaint	N
<b>Abdominal pain</b>	3
<b>Dental</b>	5
<b>Infections</b>	12
- otitis media	1
- localized, superficial skin	1
- pharyngeal	5
- cellulitis	3
- pulmonary	2
<b>Motor vehicle accident injuries</b>	4
<b>Musculo-skeletal</b>	3
<b>Natal</b>	5
<b>Psychiatric</b>	1
<b>Substance abuse</b>	3
<b>Surface wounds</b>	7
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	8
- Epileptic seizure	1
- Venous thrombosis	1
- Diabetic ketoacidosis	1
- Outpatient medicine refills	2
- Lymphadenopathy	1
- Chemical exposure to eyes	1
- Sickle cell exacerbation	1
<b>Total</b>	51

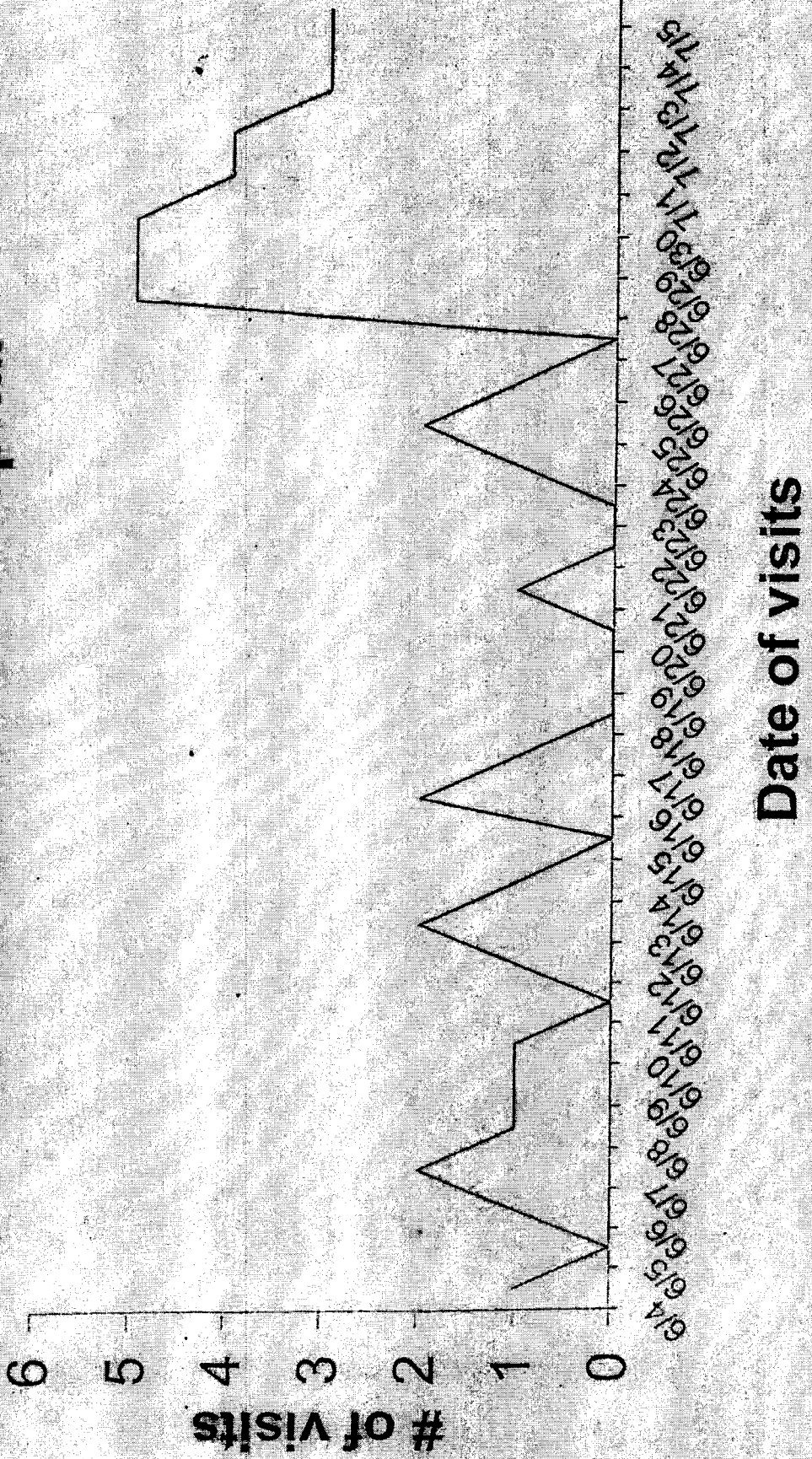
# Rainbow Gathering 2000 Barrett Memorial Hospital



Rev. 7/16/00  
Type of visits by Rainbow Family Gathering Attendees,  
Beaverhead Co., MT 6/4 - 7/5/00



# Rainbow Gathering 2000 Barrett Memorial Hospital



Rainbow Gathering 2000  
Attendee Health Statistics  
Barrett Memorial Hospital  
Revised 7/6/00

	Natal	Dental	Psychiatric	Miscellaneous Skeletal	Surface wounds	MVA Injuries	Substance Abuse	Acrodental Pain	Infections	Misc	Total
6/3 to 6/15/20	3	2	1	1	2				1	1	11
6/16		1							1		2
6/17											1
6/18											0
6/19											0
6/20											0
6/21	1										1
6/22											0
6/23											0
6/24											1
6/25	1			1							2
6/26		1									1
6/27											0
6/28					2				1	2	5
6/29		1			2				1	1	5
6/30							3			4	5
7/1										1	4
7/2								1	2		4
7/3									1		4
7/4					1				1	2	3
7/5						1					3
7/6											0
7/7											0
7/8											0
7/9											0
7/10											0
Totals	5	5	1	3	7	4	3	3	12	8	67

\*\*INFECTIONS - ENT-4, Pharyngeal-3, Cellulitis-3, Pulmonary-2  
\*\*MISCELLANEOUS - Epileptic Seizure; Diabetic Ketoacidosis; Venus Thrombosis; Outpatient medical refills-2; Sores on feet/swollen neck; chemicals in eye; sickle cell exacerbation



HOW  
MUCH  
WATER  
DO  
YOU  
NEED

**ABOUT**

**1**

**GALLON**

**PER**

**DAY**

**PER PERSON**

**DRINKING**

**COOKING**

**HAND WASHING**

(CLIMBING AND HIKING ADD 2-4  
MORE LITERS)

**AVOID  
DEHYDRATION**

*Drink 1 to 2 cups of  
water per hour when  
working hard.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Symptoms of  
DEHYDRATION

FATIGUE  
CHEST PAIN  
IRRITABILITY  
MALAISE  
DIZZINESS  
INDIGESTION  
GRUMPINESS  
FEELING TIRED  
CRAMPS

**FOOD  
SAFETY**

\*\*\*\*\*

**KEEP FOOD COOL  
OR HOT.**

(UNDER 40 DEGREES F'  
OR OVER  
140 DEGREES F')

**BACTERIA AND  
VIRUSES GROW  
BETWEEN 40 DEGREES  
AND 140 DEGREES F'**

**REHEAT FOOD TO 160  
DEGREES TO KILL  
BACTERIA AND VIRUSES.**

**SOME BACTERIA CREATE  
TOXINS THAT ARE NOT  
NEUTRALIZED BY  
HEATING TO ANY  
TEMPERATURE.**

# Water and Food

in  
the  
WILDERNESS

\*\*\*\*\*  
BEAVERHEAD

COUNTY

ENVIRONMENTAL

HEALTH

# WATER IN THE WILDS

\*\*\*\*\*

Should be considered  
unhealthy to drink unless  
it is purified.

Wilderness water can be  
contaminated with:

1. Protozoa- parasites

*Giardia*- onset of  
illness 1-2 weeks.

*Cryptosporidium*-

onset of illness  
1-12 days.

2. Bacteria- coliforms

*E-coli*

3. Viruses-

Many types

# PURIFICATION OF WATER:

\*\*\*\*\*

## BOILING:

20 (10 minutes at this altitude)

Kills:

Protozoa- Giardia

Bacteria- E-coli

Viruses- all types

\*\*\*\*\*

## FILTERING.

(Most filters will extract).

Protozoa- Giardia

Bacteria- E-coli

(Only the most expensive  
filter with chemical

combinations will extract or  
kill- Viruses)

\*\*\*\*\*

## CHEMICAL

(CHLORINE AND  
IODINE)

Normally kills bacteria  
and viruses but may not  
kill parasites like giardia.



## Rainbow Contacts with Office of Public Assistance (Welfare)

		Beaverhead County	Silver Bow County	Other Counties
June	12	0	0	
	13	1	0	
	14	1	0	
	15	1	4	
	16	1	2	
	19	0	0	
	20	0	5	
	21	0	0	
	22	0	0	
	23	0	2	
	26	0	0	
	27	0	0	
	28	0	0	
	29	0	0	
	30	1	0	
July				
	3	0	0	
	5			
	6			
	7			
	10			
	11			
	12			
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	

Refer Questions to Ed Amberg - 406-683-2132 in Dillon or 406-4943 in Butte





Department of Public Health and Human  
Services Environmental Laboratory

Cogswell Building, Rm B219, 1400 Broadway, PO BOX 4388, Helena MT 59604

**- RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS -**

LARRY LAKNAR  
BEAVERHEAD COUNTY SANITARIAN  
2 S PACIFIC ST  
DILLON MT 59725

Lab# W0006-03870

Sample ID: LARRY LAKNAR - RAINBOW #2

PWSID #:



TCPA

Acct# PRIVATE T61422

Report Date 16-JUN-00

Lab# W0006-03870

Collect Date: 6/13/00

Collect Time: 15:00

Collected By: LARRY LAKNAR

Chlorine Residual:

Total Coliform by Presence/Absence : PRESENT

Approved By: 

Questions about results, bills? Call Environmental Laboratory, "Water  
Micro" @ (406) 444-2642 or fax us at (406) 444-2617. For other  
questions, or for technical support please call your county sanitarian,  
or MT Department of Environmental Quality, Community Services  
Bureau, Drinking Water Program @ (406) 444-4400

Department of Public Health and Human  
Services Environmental Laboratory

Cogswell Building, Rm B219, 1400 Broadway, PO BOX 4369, Helena MT 59604

- RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS -

LARRY LAKNAR  
BEAVERHEAD COUNTY SANITARIAN  
2 S PACIFIC ST  
DILLON MT 59725

Acct # PRIVATE T61A22  
Report Date 16-JUN-00  
Lab# W0006-03871

Lab# W0006-03871

Collect Date: 6/13/00

Collect Time: 15:00

Sample ID: LARRY LAKNAR - RAINBOW 13

Collected By: LARRY LAKNAR

Chlorine Residual:

PWSID #

TCPA

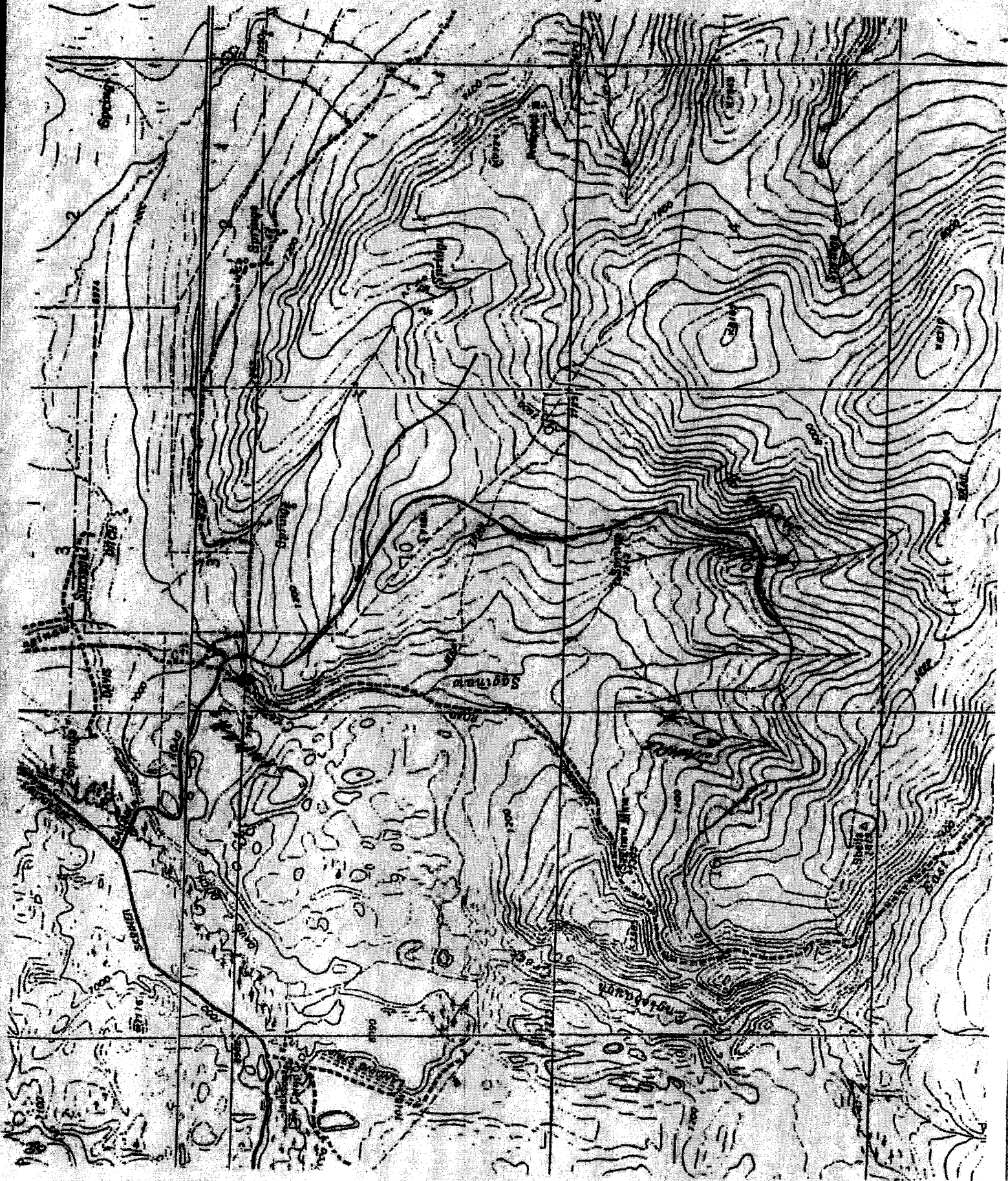
Total Coliform by Presence/Absence : E. COLI PRESENT

Approved By: 

Questions about results, bills? Call Environmental Laboratory, "Water  
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or MT Department of Environmental Quality, Community Services  
Bureau, Drinking Water Program @ (406) 444-4400



# WATER SAMPLE LOCATIONS





***Fig. 1. Heavy Traffic on Dusty, Narrow Access Road***



***Fig. 2. Unauthorized Parking Area at Second Traffic Control Point Adjacent to Working Cattle Corrals -- Example Of Linear Congested Combined Parking/Camping Areas and Off-Road Vehicle Use in Violation of Off-Road Travel Regulations and Early Agreements made by Rainbows***

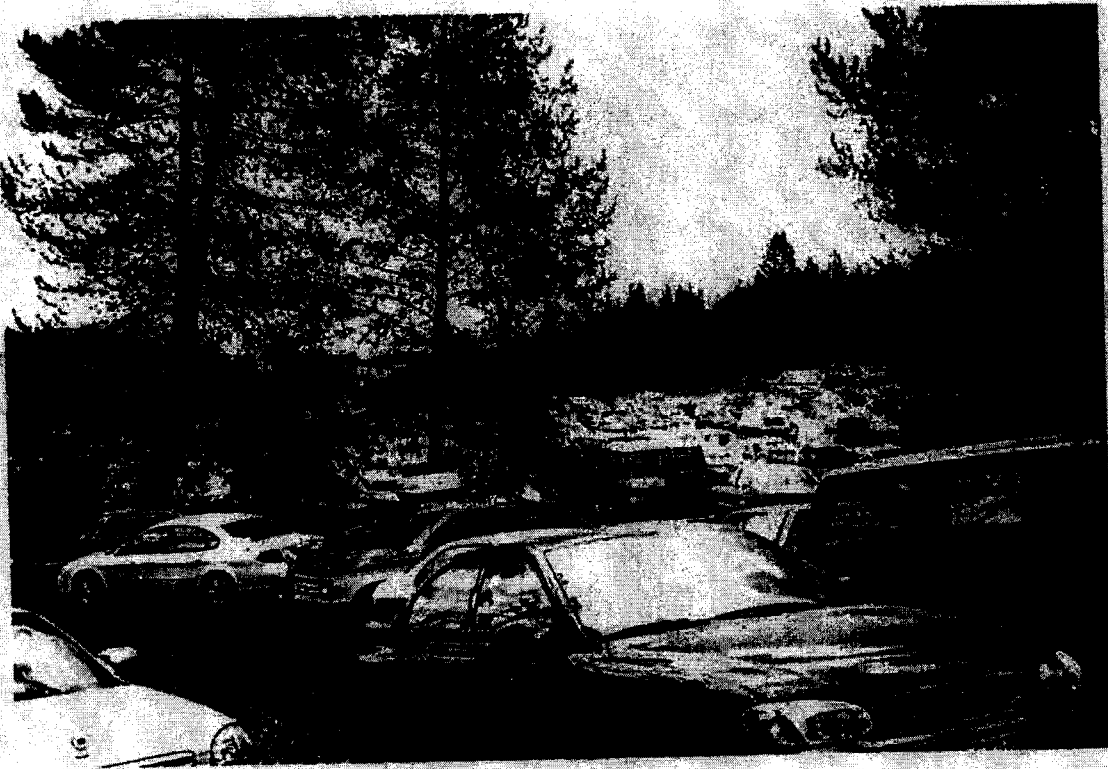




*Fig. 3. Road and Roadside Parking Congestion Caused By Parking Encouraged by Rainbows in Spite of Forest Service Instructions*



*Fig. 4. Road and Roadside Parking Congestion Caused by Parking and Traffic*



***Fig. 5. Congested, Unorganized Parking in Violation of Forest Service Travel Regulations and Requests to Protect Wet Meadow Area and Fencing, and early Rainbow member agreements***



***Fig. 6. Roadside Parking Congestion and Parking in Meadow Areas in Violation of Off-Road Travel Regulations and Rainbow Agreements regarding Parking and Travel***





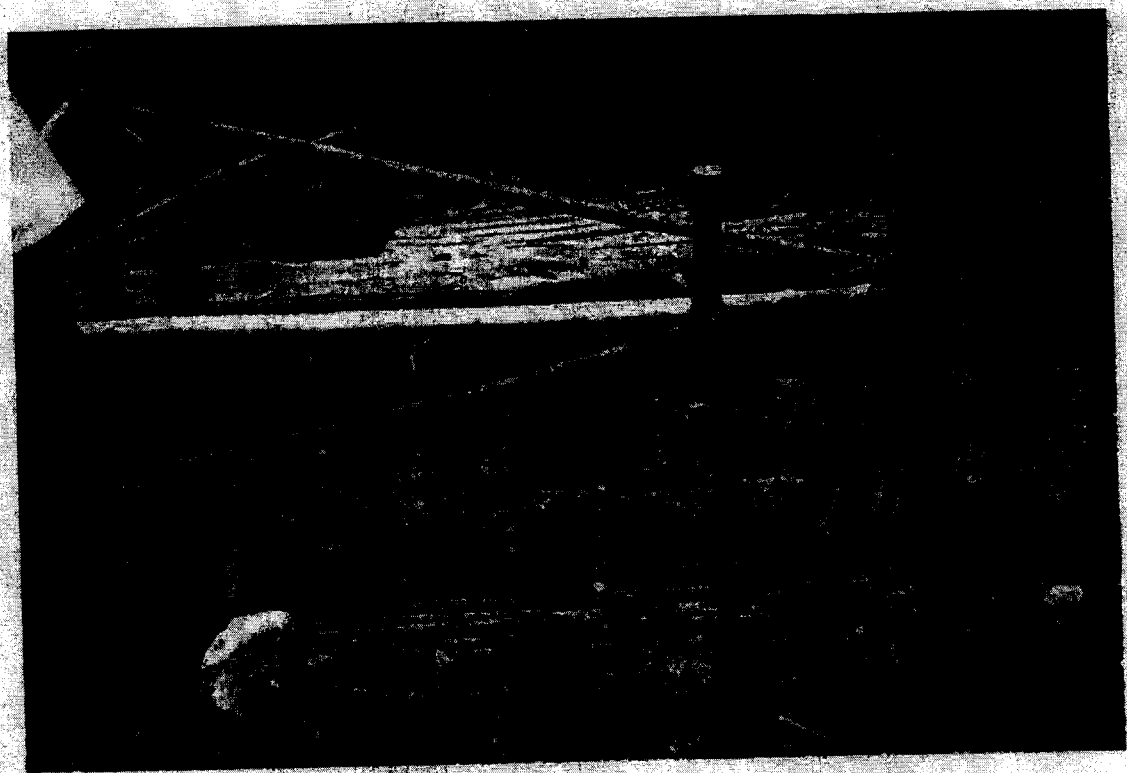
*Fig. 7. Criminal Damage to Natural Resources Caused By Vehicle Travel in Areas Closed to Vehicle Use at Council Site*



*Fig. 8. Criminal Damage to Natural Resources Caused By Vehicle Travel in Area Closed to Vehicle Use at Council Site*



***Fig. 9. Criminal Damage to Natural Resources Caused By Vehicle Travel in Area Closed to Vehicle Use and In Area Agreed to By Rainbow Members that Travel Would Not Occur***

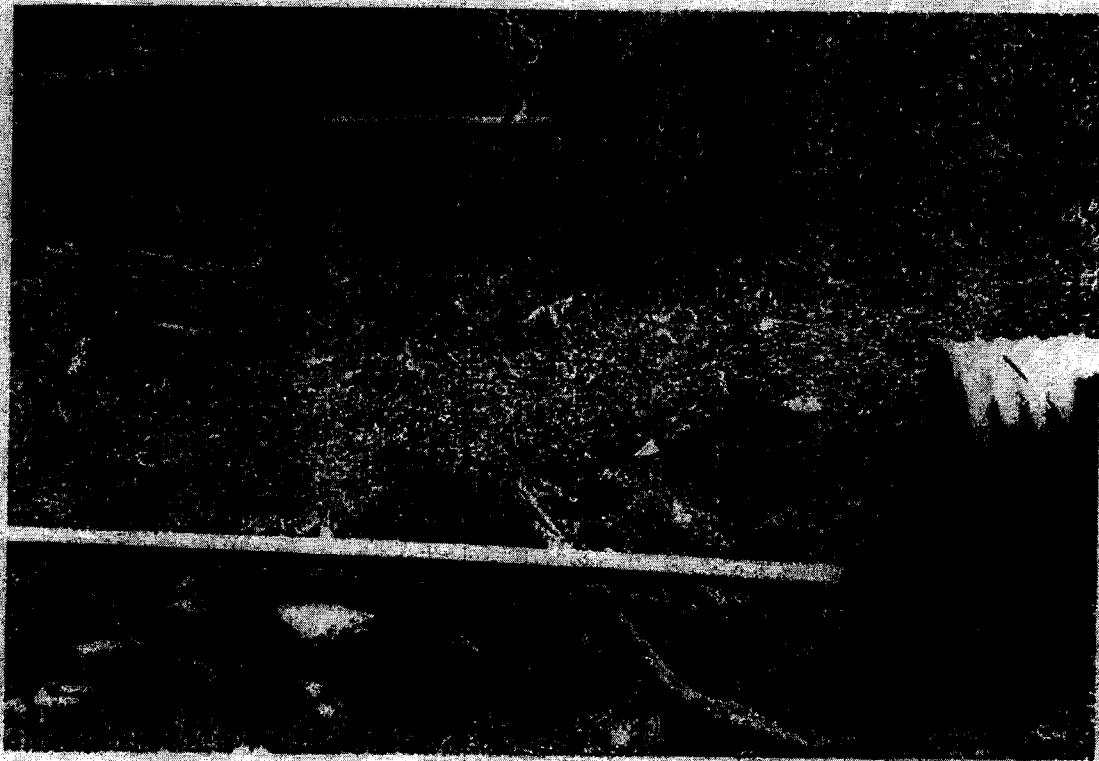


***Fig. 10. Illegal Excavation of Hole and Erection of Structure for Latrine***





*Fig. 11. Illegal Construction of Structure -- Mud Ovens -- With Wet Mud Dug from Streamside Areas Causing Damage to Natural Resources*



*Fig. 12. Waterlines Installed Without Special Use Authorization*



*Fig. 13. Privately Owned Cabin Structure on Mining Operation at Gathering Site that was Broken in to, and occupied by Rainbow Family members and within which a stove fire was left burning unattended.*

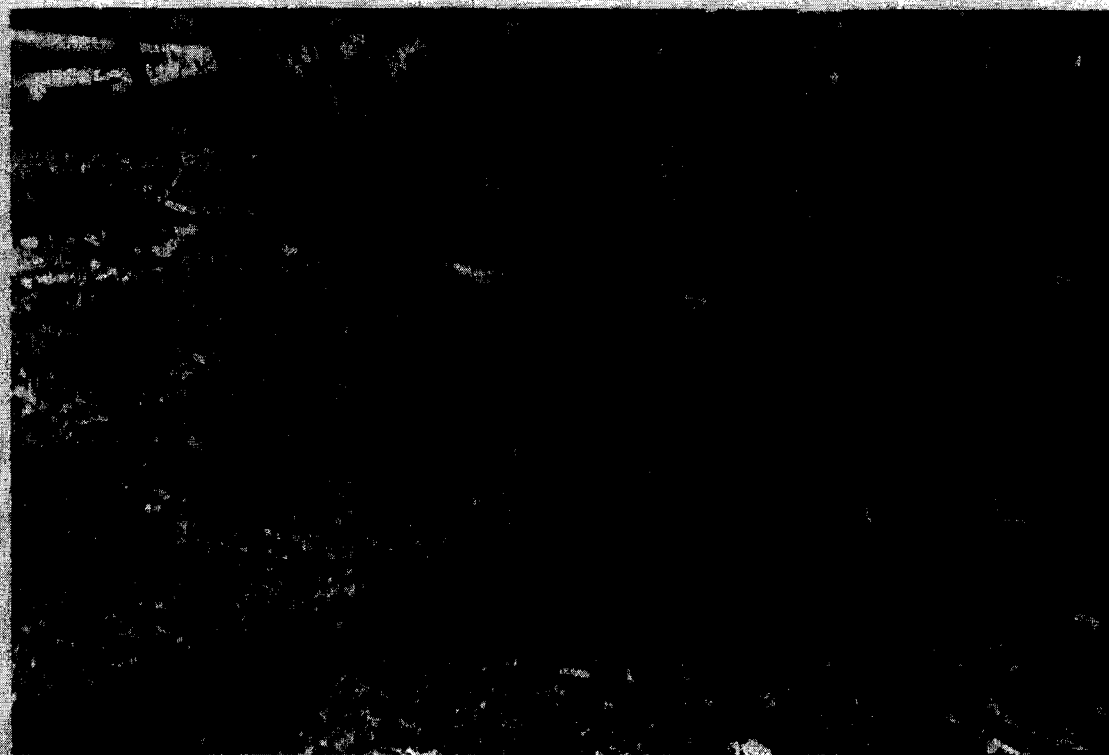


*Fig. 14. RV Parked in "A-Camp" out of which over 500 doses of LSD were sold at \$1.60-\$1.75 per dose.*





*Fig. 15. Cash Seized from LSD Drug Dealer in "A-Camp"*



*Fig. 16. Criminal Excavation and Damage to Natural Resources – Waist-Deep Slit Trench Latrine under Construction*



**Fig. 17. Criminal Damage to Natural Resources -- Large Open Pit Dug for Liquid Waste Disposal**



b6  
b7c

**Fig. 18. Mounted Forest Service Patrol Officers in Main Meadow Area**





*Fig. 19. Trash Left in Violation of Regulations in Open and Unsanitary Condition Adjacent to a Waste Container*



**Fig. 1. Main Meadow Area mid-June 2000**



**Fig. 2. Main Meadow Area mid-June 2000**





*Fig. 3. Parking in Meadow Near "A" Camp*



*Fig. 4. Parking in Meadow Near "A" Camp*



*Fig. 5. Meadow Damage in "Stage Stop" Parking Area*

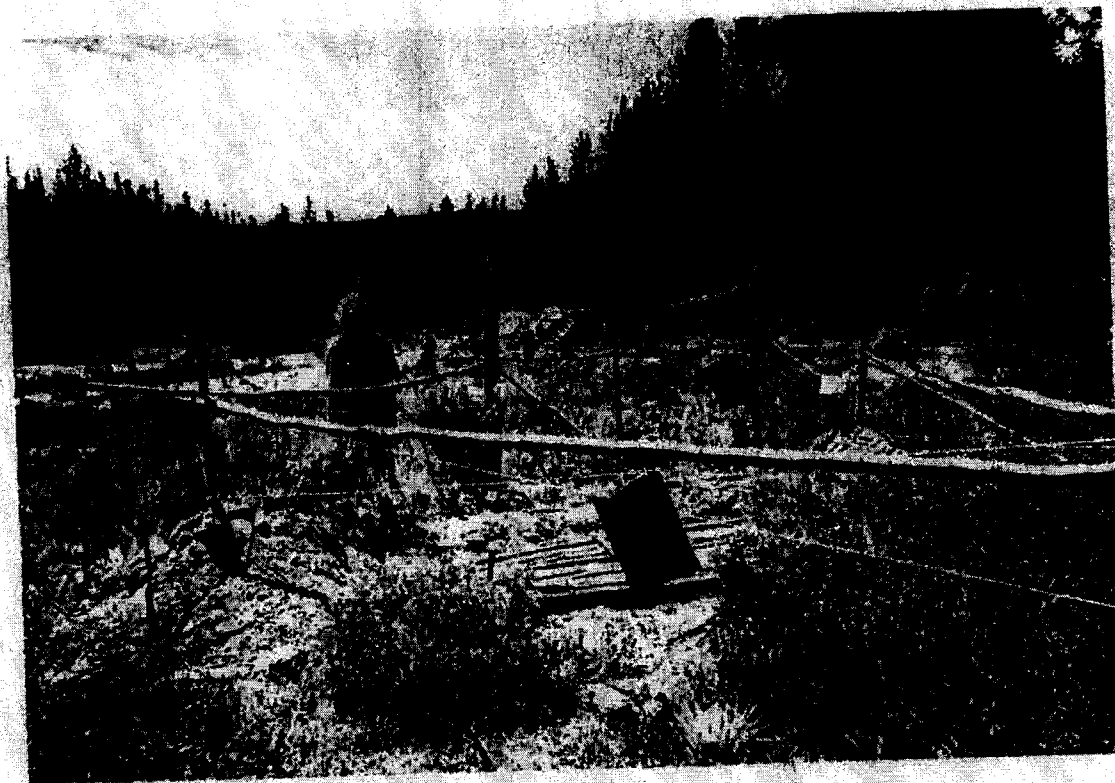


*Fig. 6. Meadow Damage in "Stage Stop" Parking Area*





***Fig. 7. Parking in Wet Meadow***

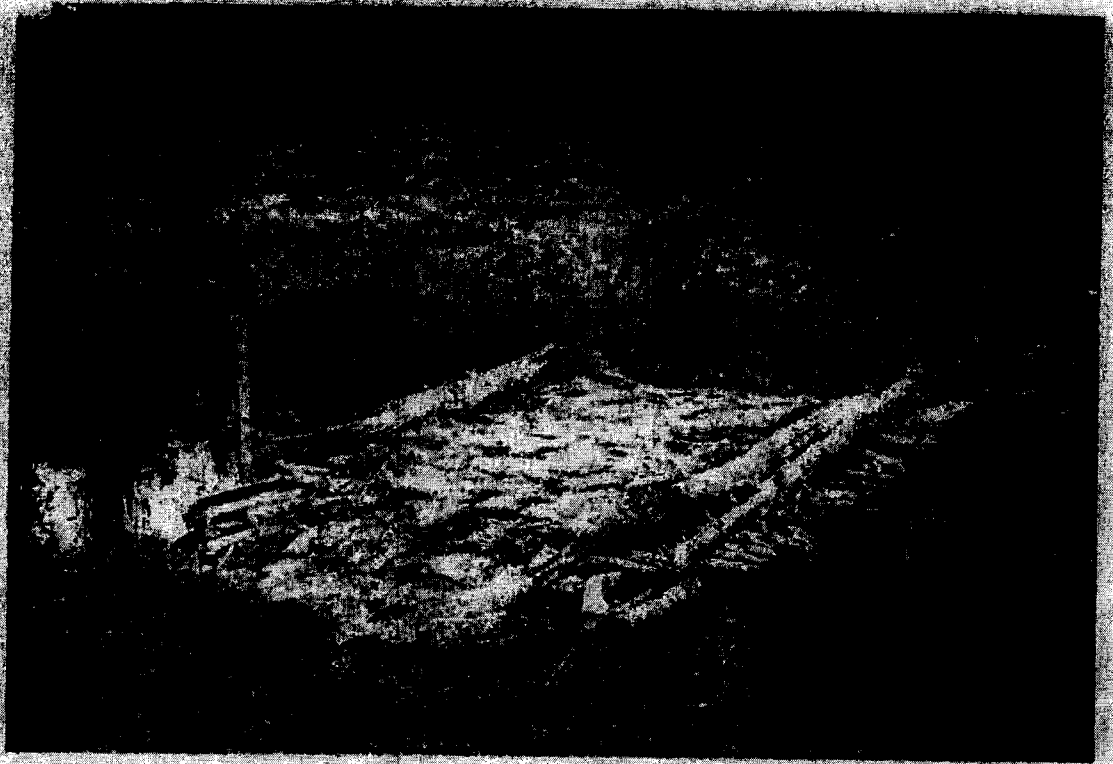


**Fig. 8. Medical Fluid Waste Pit**



**Fig. 9. Medical Fluid Waste Pit**





*Fig. 10. Bridge Development*



*Fig. 11. Bridge Development*

*Fig. 12. Typical Latrine Construction*



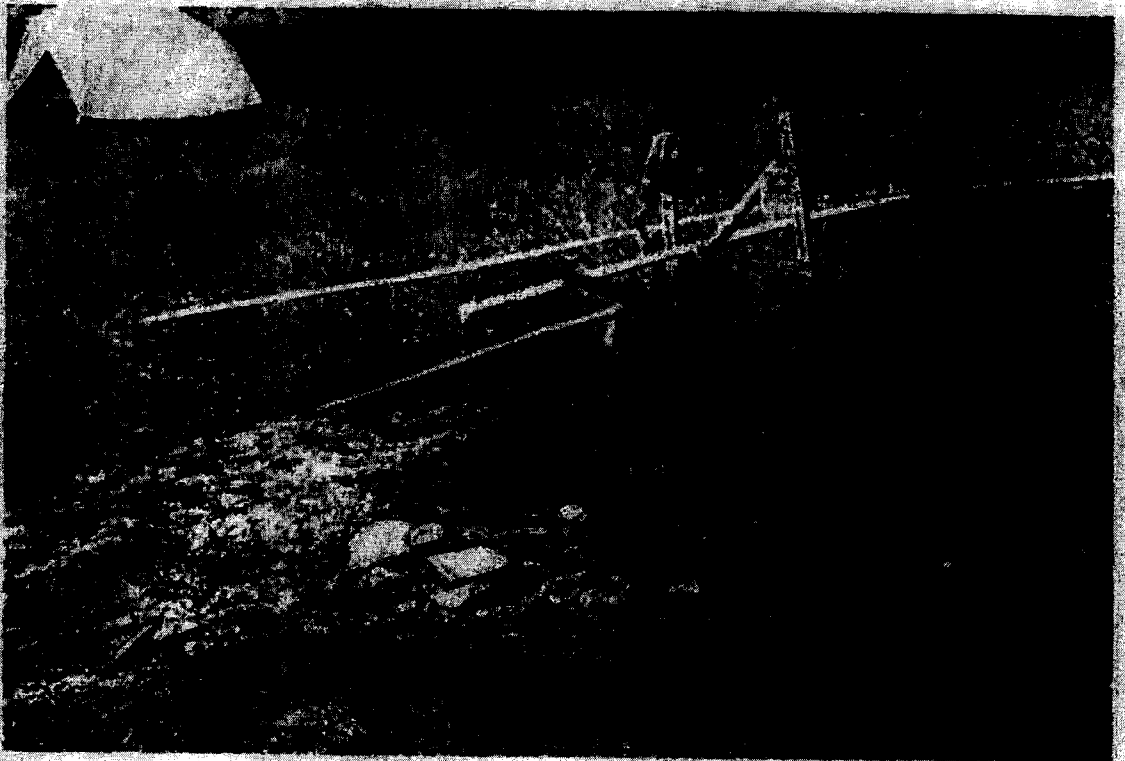
*Fig. 13. Large "Septic Tank" Latrine*







*Fig. 14. Fire Pit*



*Fig. 15. Water System Development*

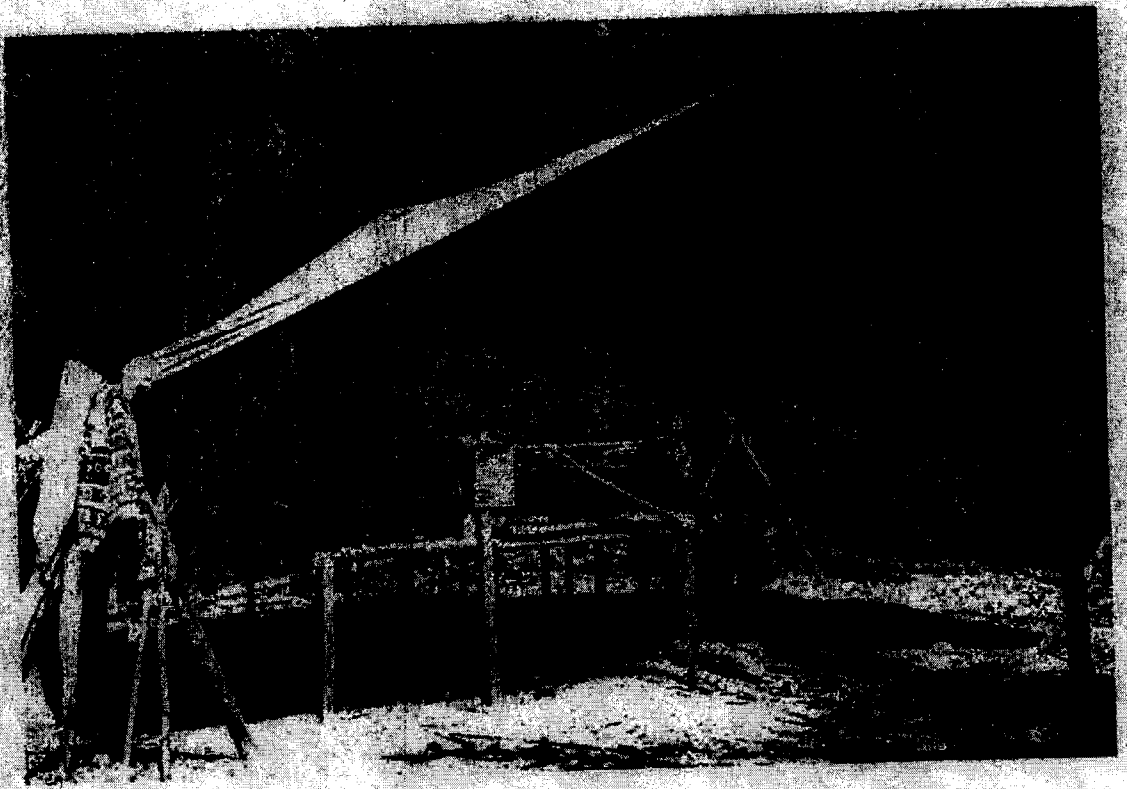


*Fig. 16. Riparian Damage in Main Meadow*

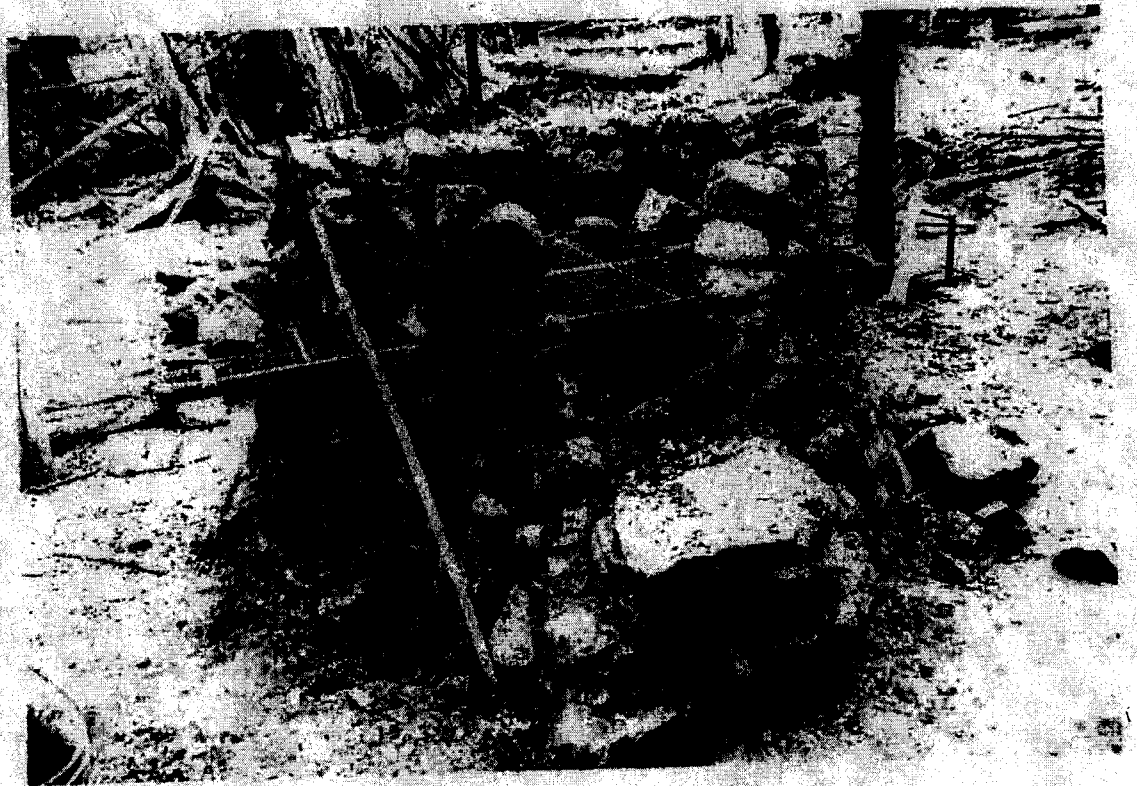


*Fig. 17. Riparian Damage in Main Meadow*

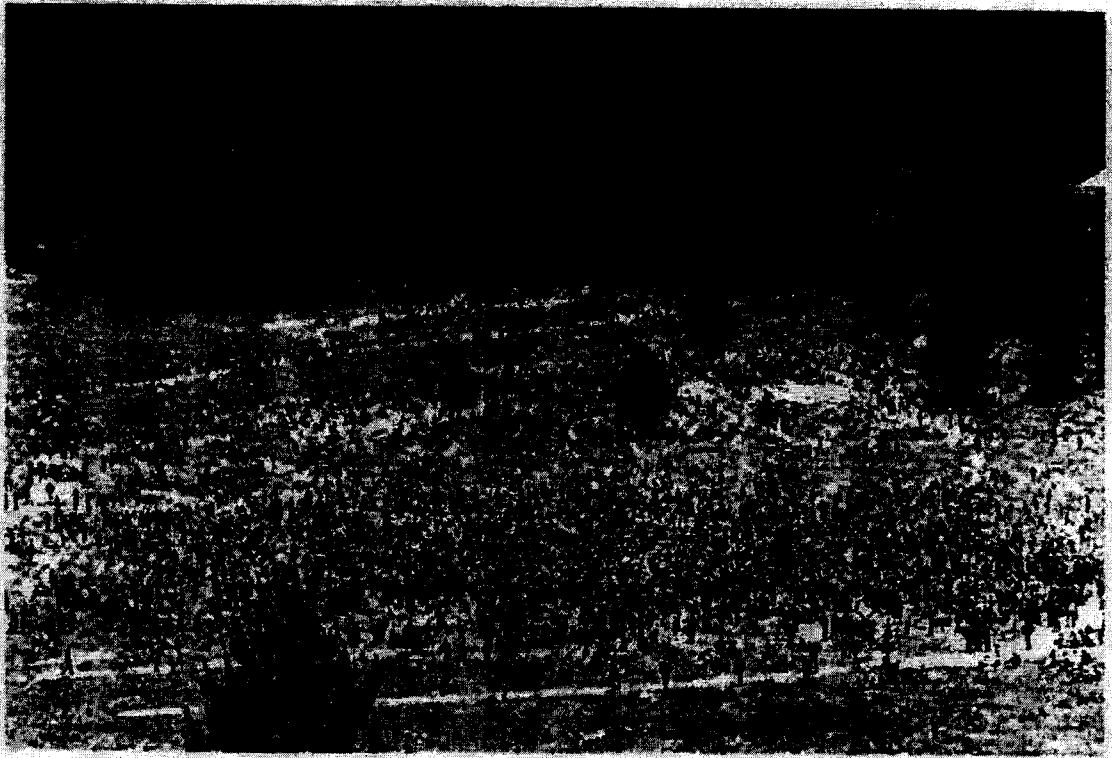




*Fig. 18. Kitchen Development*



*Fig. 19. Stove Development in Popcorn Kitchen*



***Fig. 20. Main Celebration Area in Main Meadow on 7/4/00***

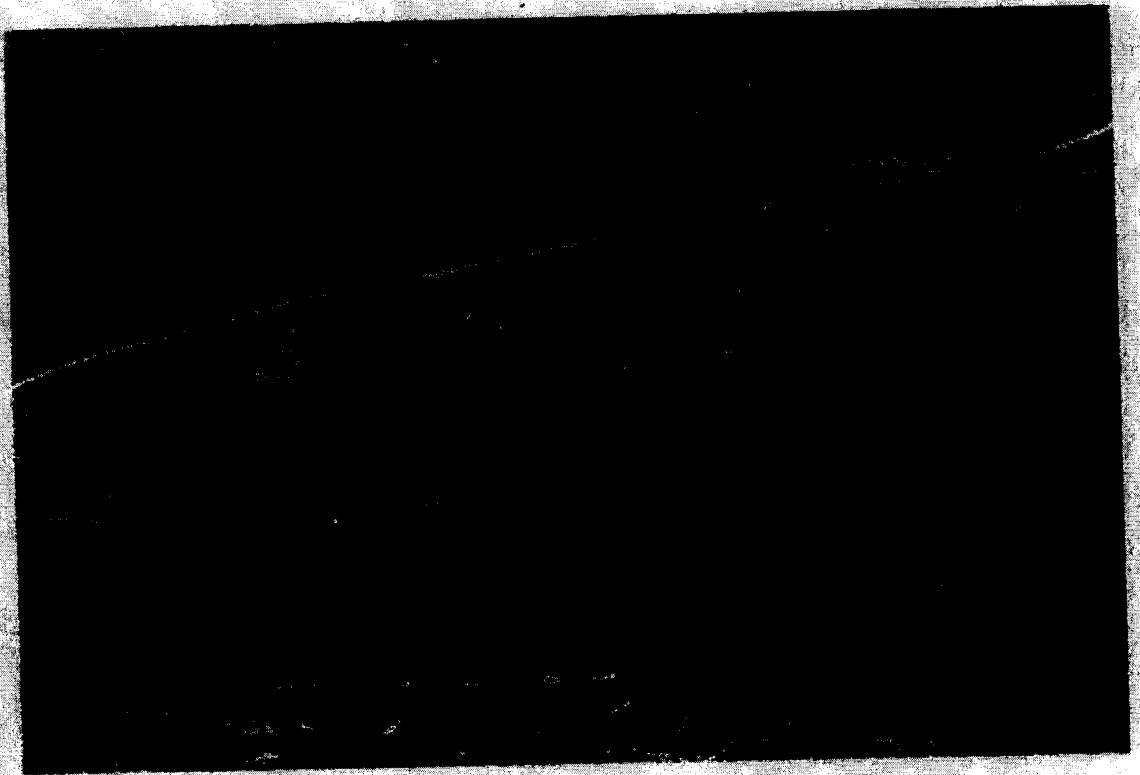


***Fig. 21. Main Celebration Area in Main Meadow on 7/6/00***

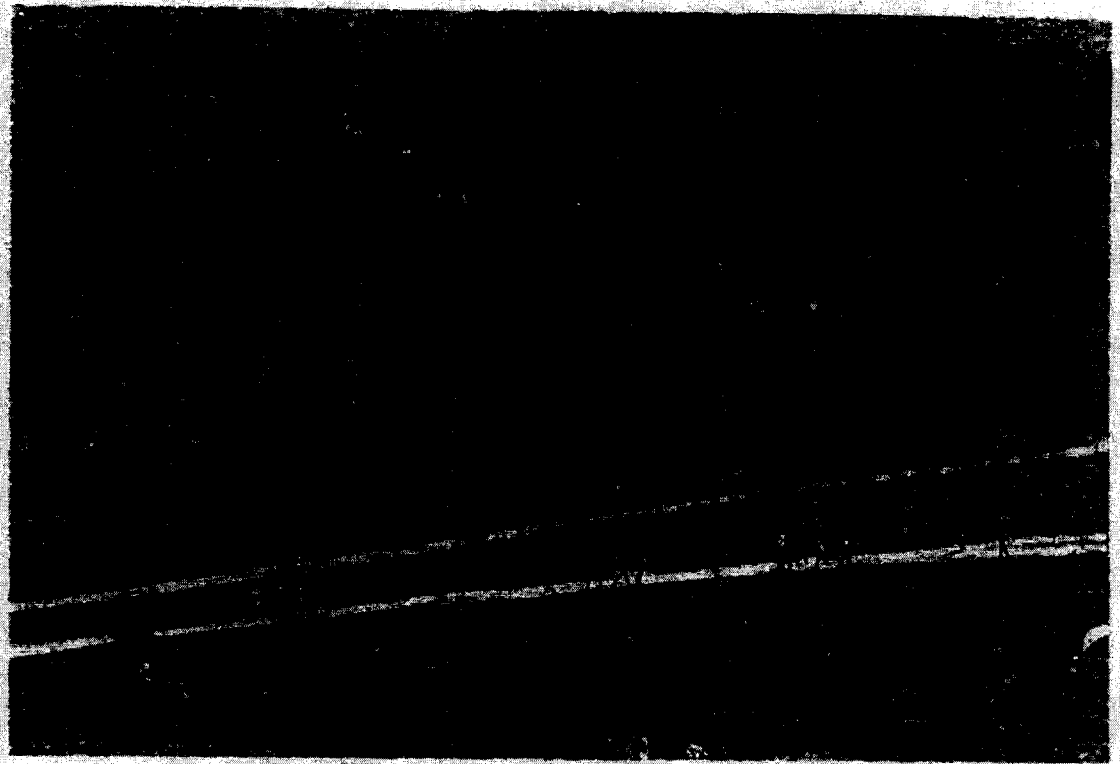




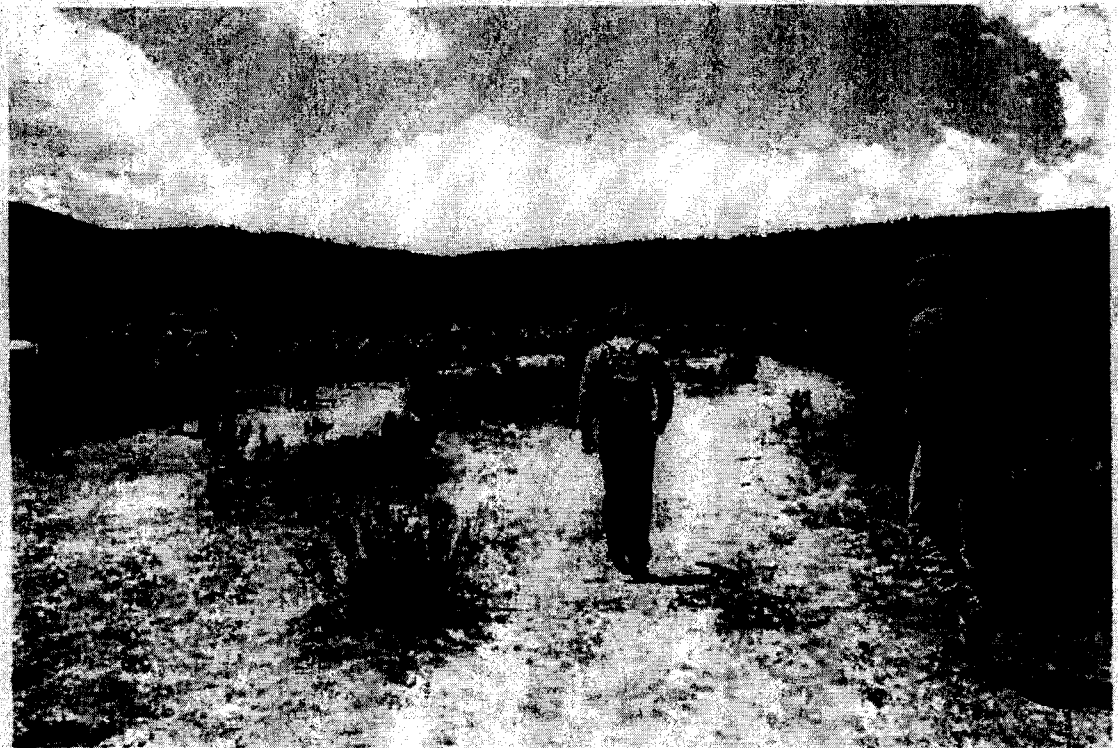
***Fig. 22. Trail Development in Main Meadow***



***Fig. 23. Trail Development in Main Meadow***



*Fig. 24. Trail Development in Main Meadow*

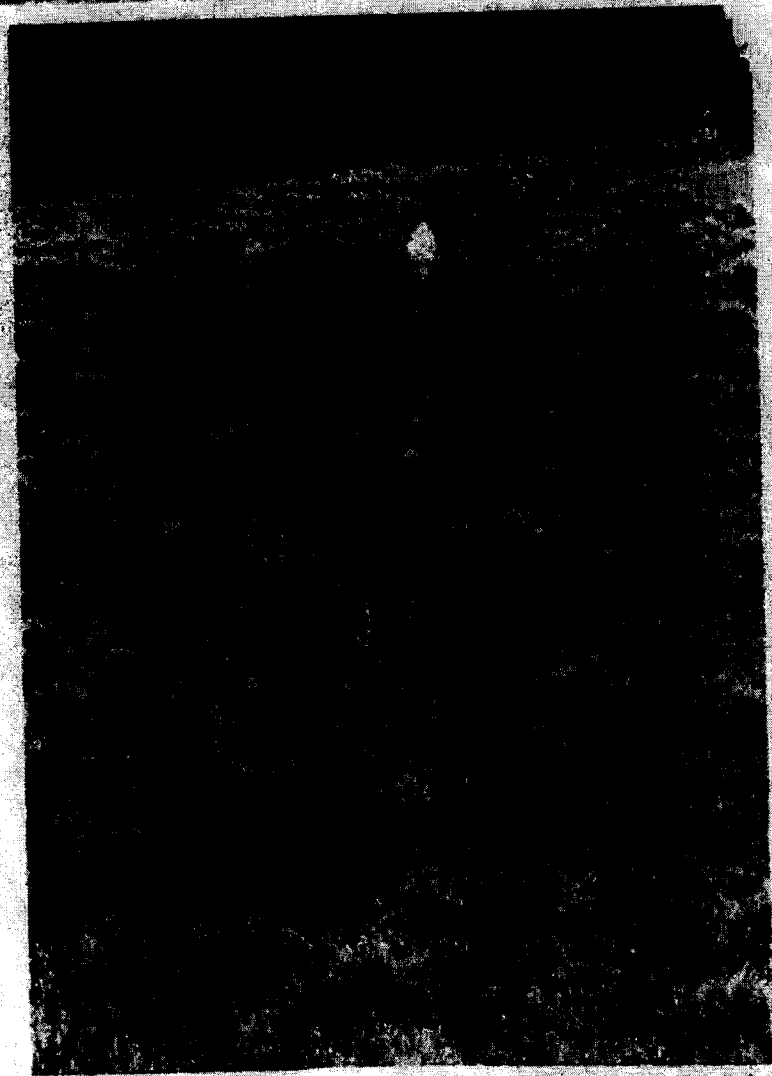


*Fig. 25. Trail Development in Main Meadow*





*Fig. 26. Trail Development in Main Meadow*



*Fig. 27. Trail Development on Slope Above Main Meadow*



*Fig. 28. Trail Development in Camping Area*



*Fig. 29. Trail Development Near Bus Village*





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Beaverhead-Deerlodge  
National Forest  
Wisdom Ranger District

P.O. Box 238  
Wisdom, MT 59761  
(406) 689-3243

File Code: 2720

Date: July 3, 2000

**Rainbow Family Members:**

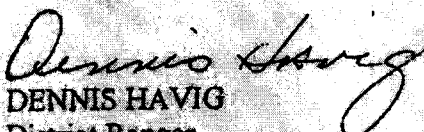
Attached is the site and resource rehabilitation plans for the Miner Creek and Saginaw Creek areas of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. These plans cover all areas impacted by the 2000 Rainbow Family gathering. Although some site specific needs have been included, most of the specific rehabilitation work will be identified after event participants have departed and actual site impacts can be determined.

All materials and supplies and needed to complete rehabilitation of the sites will be purchased by the Rainbow Family. This will include but is not limited to tools, equipment, and seed.

All rehabilitation work must be completed by August 1, 2000. If the rehabilitation is not completed or is not effective the Forest Service will complete the project and bill the Rainbow Family for all costs incurred by the government.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (406) 689-3243.

Sincerely,

  
DENNIS HAVIG  
District Ranger

cc: [REDACTED], IC

Enclosure



**REHABILITATION PLAN- Saginaw Creek  
2000 RAINBOW FAMILY GATHERING  
WISDOM RANGER DISTRICT  
BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST**

The 2000 National Rainbow Family Gathering is taking place on the Wisdom Ranger District of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Members of the Rainbow Family of Living Light (RFL) began gathering and impacting a site near Miner Creek, approximately 9 miles west of Jackson, Montana on June 3, 2000; on June 11, 2000 the gathering moved to a second site on Saginaw Creek approximately 12 miles south of Jackson, Montana where impacts also occurred. It is estimated that between 20,000 and 30,000 Rainbow Family Members gathered on the site on July 4, 2000.

This rehabilitation plan provides general and site-specific methods, specifications, and guidelines to facilitate the clean up and rehabilitation of the areas impacted by the RFL. The plan is intended to be a guide to assist Forest Service and RFL members to better understand the objectives and expected end-results of the clean up and rehabilitation process.

The National Incident Command Team was given a Delegation of Authority by the Forest Supervisor to manage the effects of the 2000 Gathering on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest (BDNF). BDNF resource specialists have been assigned to work with the National Team in identification of significant forest resources that may be impacted, and in the development of strategies to provide for their protection and post-event rehabilitation.

Forest resource specialists will advise the RFL as you complete your rehabilitation of the two sites. It is the responsibility of the RFL to leave the sites in a satisfactory condition. Cleanup, damage repair, and mitigation of impacts to the land are your responsibility and should be accomplished by you or your agents at no cost to the United States. All tools, safety equipment, supervision, and training to accomplish your restoration work is your responsibility.

Some of the site-specific rehabilitation needs have already been identified. However, additional design work will be necessary after most of the event participants have departed and the actual site impacts can be determined.

**It is expected that all rehabilitation work will be completed by August 1, 2000.**

The following are rehabilitation objectives designed to return the site to near pre-gathering conditions:

1. Clean up and rehabilitation includes all areas impacted by the RFL.



2. Physical evidence of human presence created by the RBF will be removed from the site, or rearranged to present a natural appearance.
3. All refuse, litter, and foreign material will be removed and disposed of at a recognized sanitary landfill or recycling center in accordance with county and State regulations. Biohazards will be transported to Barrett Memorial Hospital.
4. All structures and facilities will be totally dismantled. Man-made material will be removed from the site. Other material will be scattered to achieve a natural appearance.
5. All water lines will be removed. Rehabilitation of the springs will be done as per methods identified by the Forest Service.
6. All string, rope, wire, twine, and flagging utilized by the RBF will be removed from the vegetation and disposed of properly. Do not remove any Forest Service property.
7. All abandoned dogs, cats, and other domestic animals will be removed by the RBF.
8. All abandoned vehicles will be moved to county specified facilities at the expense of the RBF. RBF will contact the county prior to moving any abandoned vehicles.
9. All pre-existing improvements damaged by the participants will be repaired or replaced by the RBF. These could include but not limited to range allotment and Forest Boundary fences, signs, cattle guard wings, gates or gate posts.
10. Any new roads or tracks caused by vehicles will be closed by methods designated by the Forest Service. This will include but not limited to the road out by RBF off of Road C by Jesus camp.
11. Areas of exposed mineral soil, as designated by the Forest Service, MAY be seeded or fertilized and mulched to help rejuvenate existing perennial ground cover. This will be a site by site evaluation by the Forest Service. If seeding is to be done then seed specifications and seed rate shall be determined by the Forest Service at the end of the Gathering. Seeds must be weed free. Certification tags will be provided to Forest Service resource personnel prior to any placement of seeds. A proper seedbed will be prepared by scarification of the soil using appropriate tools such as rakes. The seed should be spread and worked into the soil by raking. The Forest Service will also designate fertilizer type and quantity.
12. Trails that were created or enlarged by gathering participants will be obliterated and restored following on-site instructions by Forest Service personnel.

13. To minimize erosion, all trail segments and disturbed areas on slopes will have erosion control structures in place prior to August 1, 2000. Erosion control design will be specified by the Forest Service.
14. Fire pits will be cleaned of all garbage and then filled with the native material that was removed from the pit. Rocks will be scattered to appear natural to the surrounding area.
15. All latrines will be covered with native material originally removed from the pit and mounded with excess material to allow for settling. All fecal material will be completely covered with ash or lime before covering with soil. Locations of all latrines must be flagged as well as the trail leading up to the latrine. The flagging will be removed by Forest Service personnel once the rehab. work on the latrines has been approved.
16. Compost pits will only include natural decomposable material. Compost pits and gray water pits will be covered with dirt and mounded with excess material to allow for settling.
17. All creek crossings and stream banks will be returned to pre-gathering condition. Erosion control measures will be designated by the Forest Service. All of the wood structures constructed by RBF to cross the creek will be taken apart and scattered under the tree canopy to achieve a natural appearance. Twine, string or rope used to tie the wood poles together will be removed and disposed of properly. Stream crossings will be the last areas rehabilitated prior to leaving the site. This will ensure that no further damage will occur to the creek and riparian areas.
18. Parking areas will be restored as designated by the Forest Service.
19. No green timber will be cut unless approved by the Forest Service.
20. Road and Road-Right-of-Way repairs will be restored as designated by the Forest Service.
21. Any concentrations of leaked automotive fluids should be removed from the site as designated by the Forest Service and in accordance with State and county regulations.
22. Severely compacted soil will be identified by the Forest Service and restored to 8 inches deep.



## REHABILITATION PLAN - Miner Creek

This rehabilitation plan provides general and site-specific methods, specifications, and guidelines to facilitate the clean up and rehabilitation of the areas impacted by the RBF. The plan is intended to be a guide to assist Forest Service and RBF members to better understand the objectives and expected end-results of the clean up and rehabilitation.

It is expected that all rehabilitation work will be completed by August 1, 2000.

The following are rehabilitation objectives designed to return the site to near pre-gathering conditions:

1. Clean up and rehabilitation includes all areas impacted by the RBF.
2. Physical evidence of human presence created by the RBF will be removed from the site, or rearranged to present a natural appearance.
3. Fix the irrigation ditch ford (see map) that crosses the main road so that water stays in the ditch. This can be done by hand by several workers. Fine soil can be gathered adjacent the ditch, but reinforcing rock will have to be collected from around the meadow and/or the road. When finished, the ditch banks should look similar to those up or down stream but not be too high. A pick-up truck should be able to cross the ditch without problem.
4. Any new roads or tracks caused by vehicles will be closed by methods designated by the Forest Service.
5. Rip (with winged subsoiler) the user created tracks paralleling the existing road. This work requires tracked equipment, probably the equivalent to a D-4 cat or larger. The ripper used must have wings or the soil will not be substantially restored. This piece of equipment is commercially available, though maybe not in the Big Hole valley. Any equipment used must first be washed and inspected by a Forest Service representative prior to entering the National Forest.
6. The wide-outs around the wet holes in the main road need to be reduced to one vehicle width. This is hand work. With rakes or hoes, pull the ridges into the ruts, but if the ridges have good vegetative cover just leave them.
7. The shallower ruts need to be raked over with hand tools, except where vegetation occurs on the ground between ruts. These should not be disturbed any further.
8. All refuse, litter, and foreign material will be removed and disposed of at a recognized sanitary landfill or recycling center in accordance with county and State regulations. Biohazards will be transported to Barrett Memorial Hospital.
9. All structures and facilities will be totally dismantled. Man-made material will be removed from the site. Other material will be scattered to achieve a natural appearance.

10. All string, rope, wire, twine, and flagging utilized by the RBF will be removed from the vegetation and disposed of properly. Do not remove any Forest Service property.
11. All pre-existing improvements damaged by the participants will be repaired or replaced by the RBF. These could include but not limited to range allotment and Forest Boundary fences, signs, cattle guard wings, gates or gate posts.
12. Fire pits will be cleaned of all garbage and then filled with the native material that was removed from the pit. Rocks will be scattered to appear natural to the surrounding area.
13. All latrines will be covered with native material originally removed from the pit and mounded with excess material to allow for settling. All fecal material will be completely covered with ash or lime before covering with soil. Locations of all latrines must be flagged as well as the trail leading up to the latrine. The flagging will be removed by Forest Service personnel once the rehab. work on the latrines has been approved.
14. Compost pits will only include natural decomposable material. Compost pits and gray water pits will be covered with dirt and mounded with excess material to allow for settling.
15. No green timber will be cut unless approved by the Forest Service.
16. Any concentrations of leaked automotive fluids should be removed from the site as designated by the Forest Service and in accordance with State and county regulations.
17. Severely compacted soil will be identified by the Forest Service and restored to 8 inches deep.



INCIDENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN		1. Incident Name Rainbow 2000	2. Date/Time Prepared July 7, 2000	3. Operational Renewal Date/Time
Radio Type/Cache	Channel	Function	4. Basic Radio Channel Utilization	
			Frequency/Tone	Assignment
				Remarks
King NIFC	Ch 1	LE TAC 1		LE Operations
King NIFC	Ch 2	LE TAC 2		LE Operations
King NIFC	Ch 3	LE TAC 3		LE Operations
King NIFC	Ch 4	LE TAC 4		LE Operations
King NIFC	Ch 5	Areawide Command		EOC Dispatch Ops Area North
King NIFC	Ch 6	Areawide Command		EOC Dispatch Ops Area South
King NIFC	Ch 7	Wisdom Link		Beaverhead County Sheriff
King NIFC	Ch 8	Highway Patrol Direct		Montana Highway Patrol
King NIFC	Ch 9	State Law Mutual Aid (Silver)		State Law Enforcement Operations
King NIFC	Ch 10	National Law Mutual Aid- (Blue)		National Law Enforcement Operations

5. Prepared by (Communications Unit)







1:50,000 Scale

# 2000 NATIONAL RAINBOW FAMILY GATHERING EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

JULY 10, 2000

The 2000 National Rainbow Family Gathering was held in the Saginaw Creek area on the Wisdom Ranger District of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Beaverhead County, in southwest Montana. The exact site was 10 miles south of Jackson, Montana.

The incident was managed by the National Incident Management Team, operating from an Incident Command Post (ICP) at the Dillon Middle School in Dillon, Montana. The ICP site was chosen, at the request of county officials, because of its proximity to the incident, county offices, and the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Supervisor's Office.

The National Incident Management Team was formed in late 1997. The Team consists of seven core members structured after an Incident Command System "short" team. The 2000 Rainbow Family National Gathering was the team's third formal assignment as the agency's response to large group events with social issues that differ from wildland fire incidents.

At the end of the 1999 gathering, held on the Allegheny National Forest in western PA, the Rainbow Family indicated their choice of Idaho or Montana for the 2000 Gathering. This information was posted on their internet web site in February, 2000. The selection and exact location of the 2000 Gathering site on Saginaw Creek was not posted on their web site until June 13, 2000.

The Rainbow Family held their Spring Council in early June in the Miner's Creek area of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, only 20 miles from the Saginaw Creek site. The specific site for the National Gathering is traditionally selected during Spring Council. Historically, gathering sites are forested, high altitude areas with large, open meadows.

The team Incident Commander began extensive pre-work with Montana law enforcement agencies, state and county officials, Forest Service managers, and congressional and gubernatorial offices during the fall of 1999 and winter-spring of 2000. Through this extensive pre-work, cooperative relationships formed early and led to successful interagency partnerships to manage the effects of the gathering in the various jurisdictions affected by the incident.

Existing contacts and networks developed by the Forest Service were utilized to inform the public in Montana. Local relationships built by the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Supervisor, the Public Affairs Officer and the Wisdom District Ranger facilitated introductions and meetings. The team's information office provided daily updates to keep area residents informed about social and resource impacts resulting from the incident. Congressional, media and public interest in the event was high.



Several attempts to convince Rainbow Family members to apply for the Noncommercial Large Group Use Permit were unsuccessful. Three individuals were cited for unauthorized use of National Forest System lands. An initial court appearance is scheduled on July 14, 2000, before the Federal Magistrate in Great Falls, Montana.

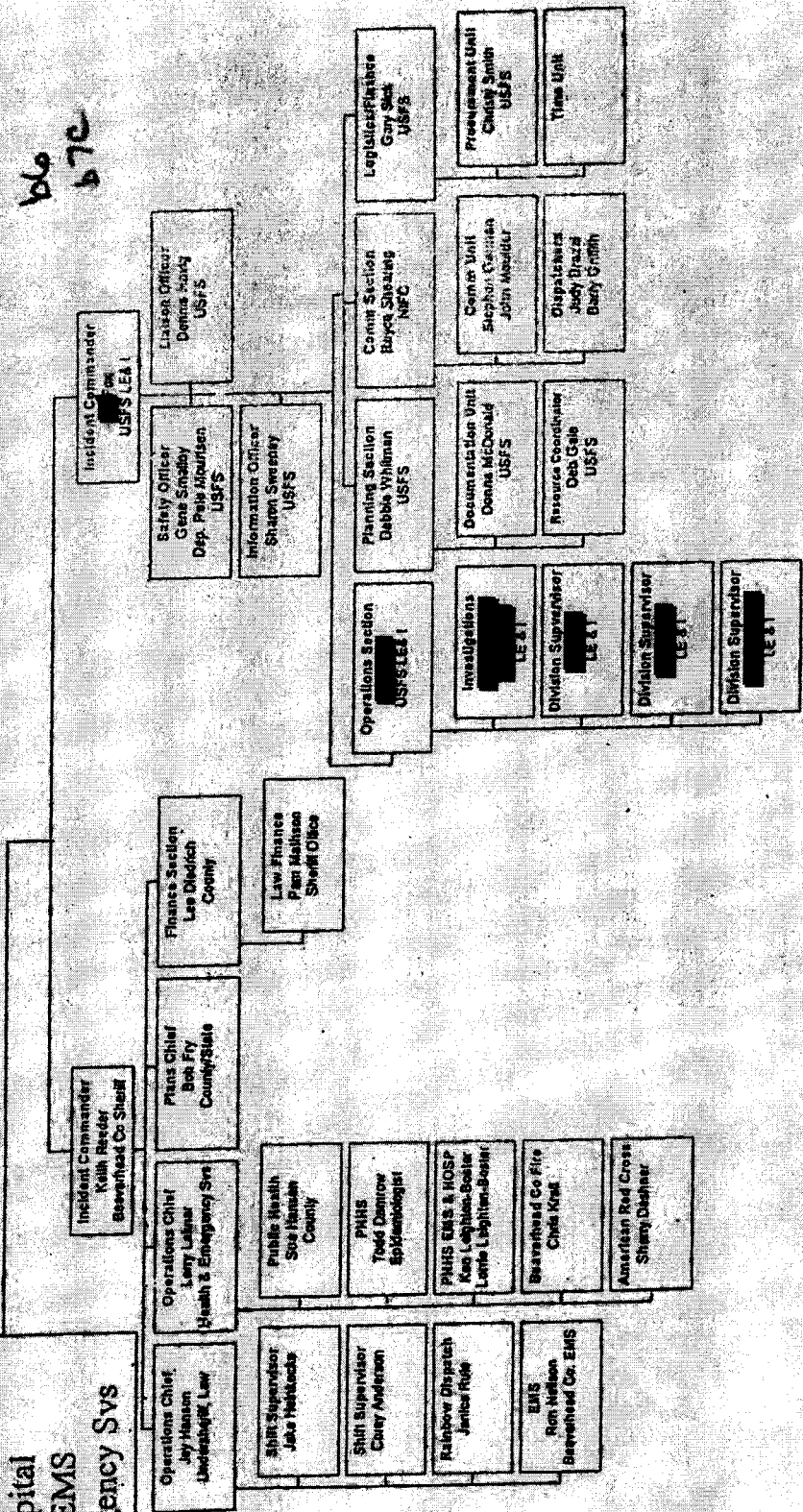
Numbers of gathering participants actually peaked at 23,000 on July 3, 2000. Approximately 1,000 people left the gathering before the main celebration on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Unfavorable weather, the need to return to work on Wednesday, and not what was expected were the most frequently reported reasons for leaving "early." By July 6<sup>th</sup>, many began leaving the area in earnest. Approximately 1,000 Rainbow Family members were left on the site on July 10, 2000 when the Incident Team returned management of the incident back to the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

**UNIFIED COMMAND**  
 Beaverhead County  
 City of Dillon  
 Montana Highway Patrol  
 MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 US Forest Service  
 MT Public Health & Human Svcs  
 Barrett Memorial Hospital  
 Beaverhead Co. Vol. EMS  
 MT Disaster & Emergency Svcs

# 2000 Rainbow Family Gathering

## Unified Command

### Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Beaverhead County, Montana



Revised 6-23-00  
 Incident Command Post 406-683-9050  
 Rainbow Dispatch 406-683-8733



**Unified Command**

USDA-Forest Service  
PA State Police

**Participating Agencies**

Elk County Sheriff's Office	Forest County Sheriff's Office
Elk County Emergency Services	Johnsonburg Police Department
Kane Community Hospital	Kate Police Department
Ridgway Ambulance Service	McKean County Sheriff's Office
PA Dept. of Agriculture	Ridgway Police Dept.
PA Dept. of Health	Sheffield Township Police
PA Fish & Boat Commission	St. Marys Police Department
PA Game Commission	Warren City Police
PA Dept. of Envir. Protection	Warren County Sheriff's Office
Dickinson Mental Health	

**Incident Commander**

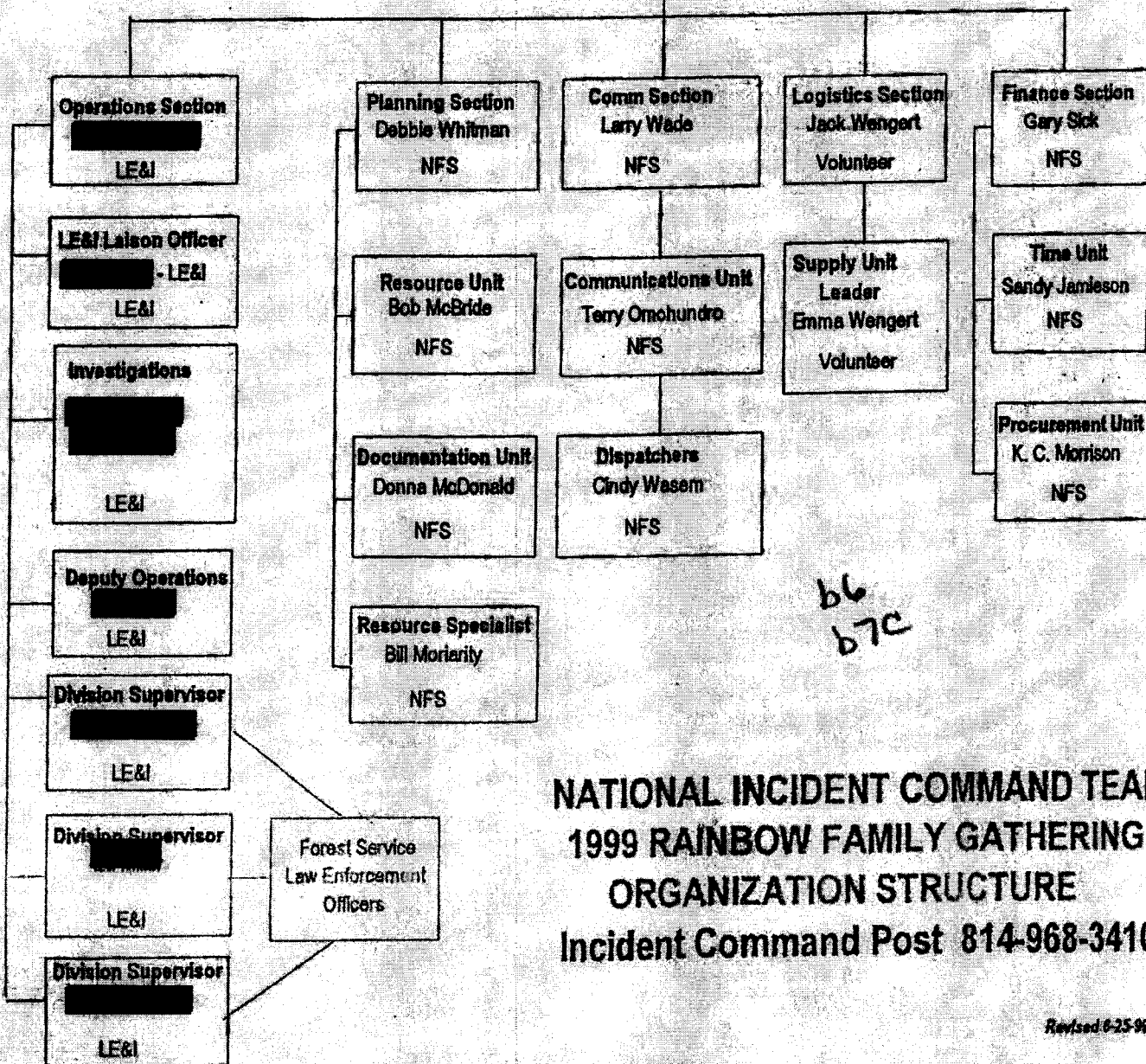
LE&I

**Safety Officer**  
Gene Smalley - NFS

**Deputy**  
Hank Walters

**Liaison Officer**  
Leon Blashock - NFS

**Information Officer**  
Rose Davis - NFS



b6  
b7c

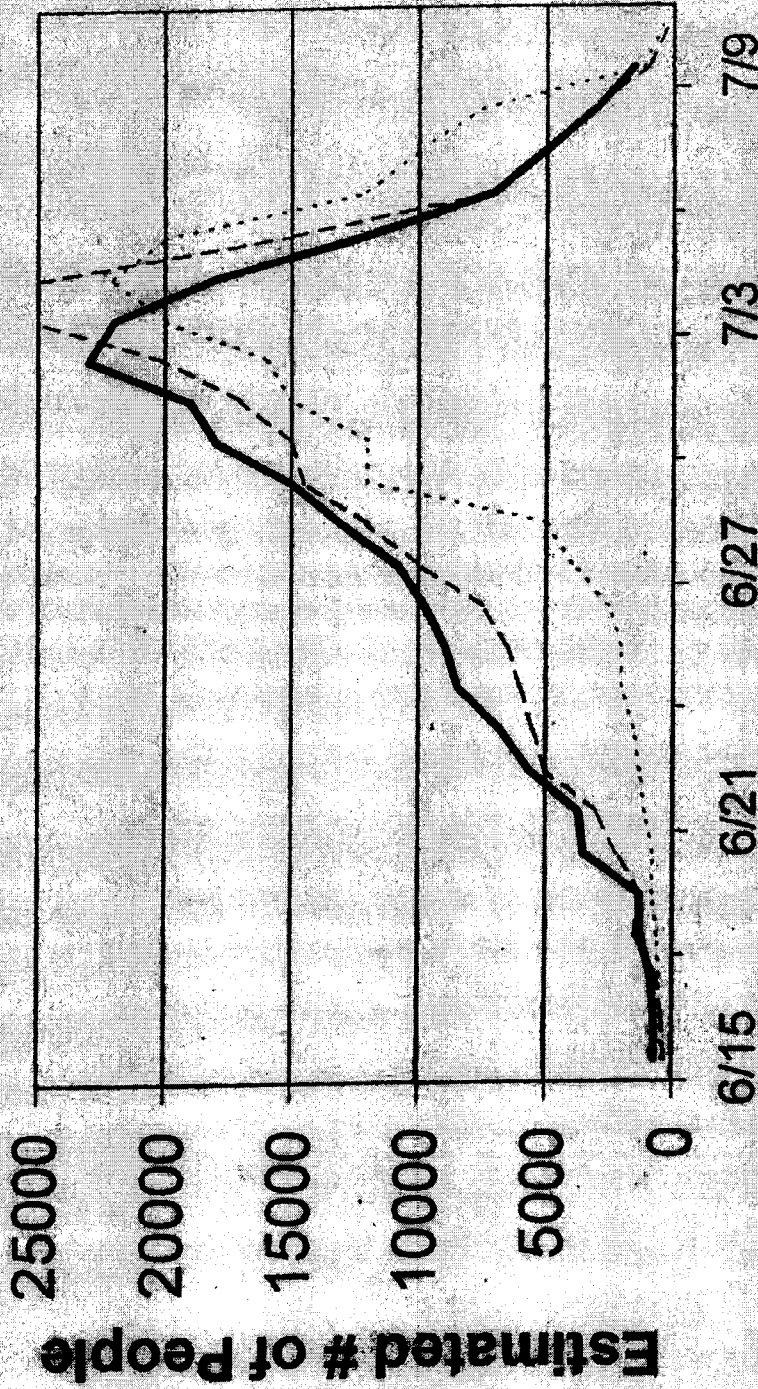
**NATIONAL INCIDENT COMMAND TEAM  
1999 RAINBOW FAMILY GATHERING  
ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE  
Incident Command Post 814-968-3410**

**Total Reported Statistics - All Law Enforcement Agencies**  
*(For the period of June 3 to July 6, 2000)*

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>#</b>
Felony arrests	48
Misdemeanor arrests	148
Warrants served	24
Citations issued	625
Warnings issued	1017
DUI	25
Other alcohol/drug related	138
Weapons	18
Disorderly Conduct/assault/officer interference	52
Traffic and vehicle	954
Vehicle accidents	11
Medical emergencies and assists	27
Juveniles recovered/assisted	57
Stolen/missing vehicle recovered	11
Stolen/missing private property/shoplifting	28
Loitering/panhandling	32
Nudity	21
Stolen/damaged public property	10
Natural resource damage/Game and fish	10
Public assists, assists to other agencies and other incidents	638



# Demographic Patterns for Rainbow Gatherings



June 15 thru July 9 Revised 7-9-00

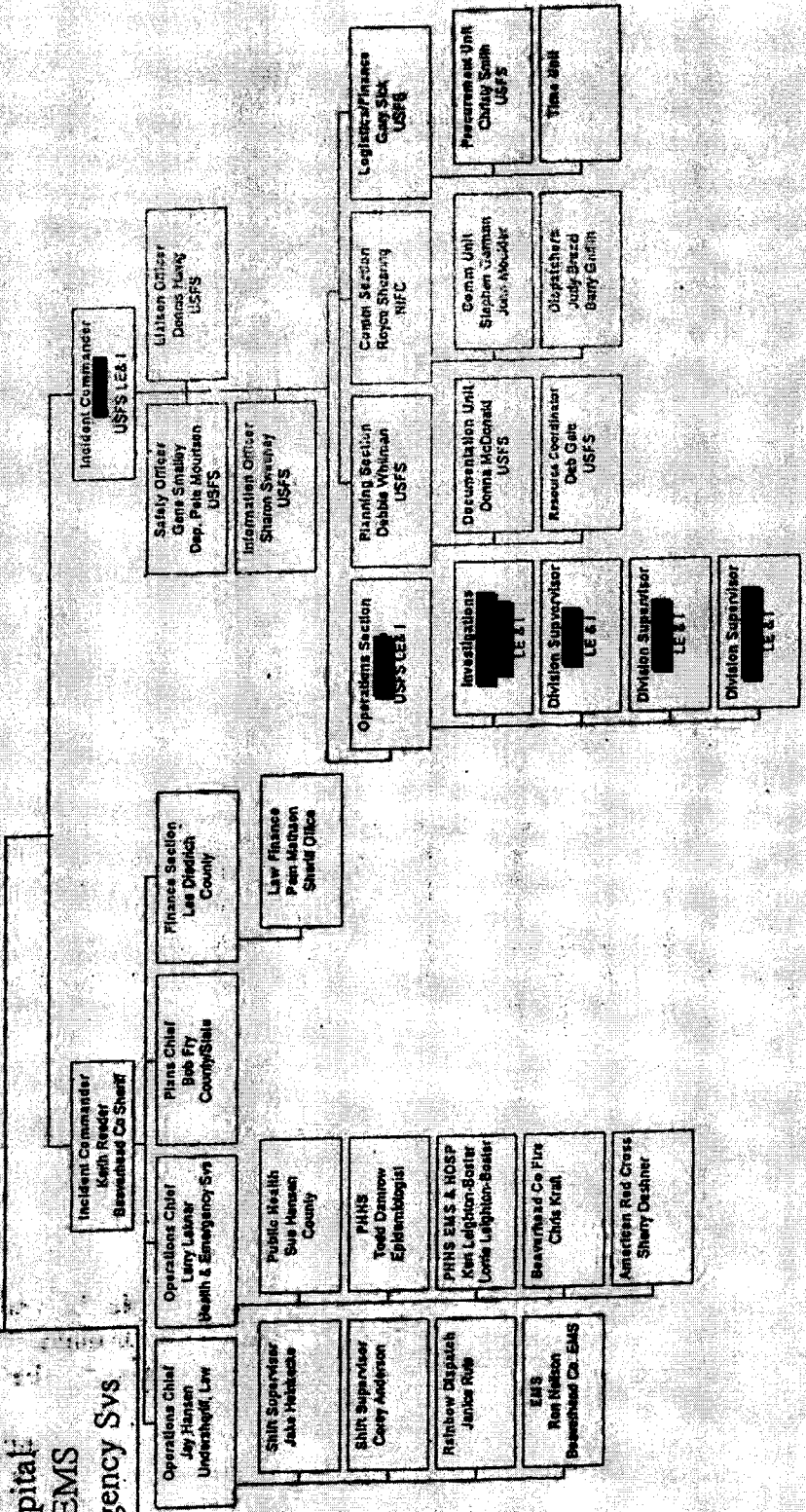
— 2000 Beaverhead Co. MT    ····· 1999 Eik Co. PA  
- - - 1998 Apache Co. AZ

# 2000 Rainbow Family Gathering

## Unified Command

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest  
Beaverhead County, Montana

- UNIFIED COMMAND
- Beaverhead County
- City of Dillon
- Montana Highway Patrol
- MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- MT Public Health & Human Svcs
- Barrett Memorial Hospital
- Beaverhead Co. Vol. EMS
- MT Disaster & Emergency Svcs



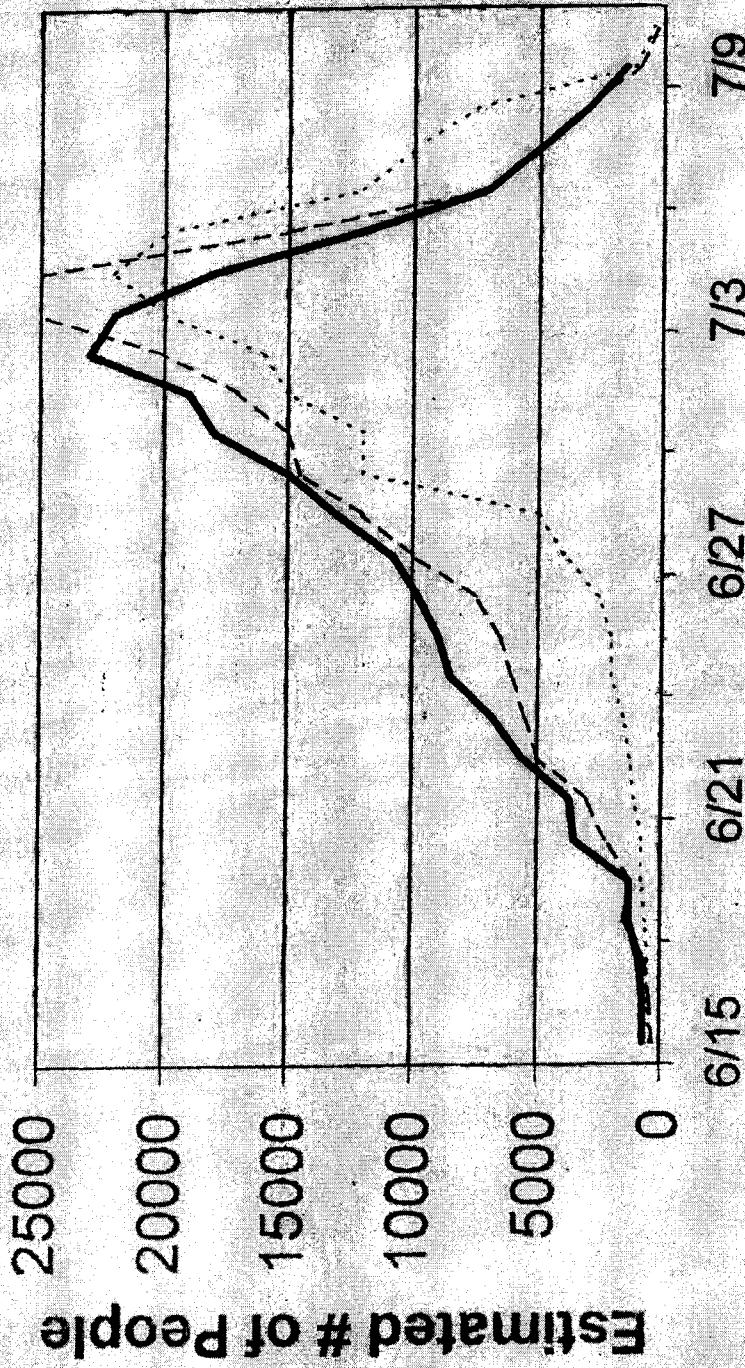
Revised 6-23-00  
Incident Command Post 406-683-9050  
Rainbow Dispatch 406-683-8733



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# Demographic Patterns for Rainbow Gatherings



June 15 thru July 9 Revised 7-9-00





# Rainbow Incident Fire Suppression Plan

The following plan is jointly prepared between the Rainbow Incident Commander and the Wisdom District Ranger to coordinate and facilitate fire suppression activities within the designated area of the Rainbow Gathering incident. It is mutually agreed that suppression activities will be the responsibility of the Ranger District and associated public safety, crowd control and fire restriction enforcement will be the responsibility of the Rainbow Incident Commander. Any suppression incident within the designated area will be managed as a unified fire command of the District and Rainbow Incident. The following operational guidelines are established to facilitate the establishment of such unified command.

## **Current conditions**

The Saginaw Creek drainage is currently in greenup stage in all the meadows. Based on satellite imagery greenness maps and historical information greenup is expected to last until mid-July. Meadows at this time will not carry a fire. Large dead fuel moistures measured on site ranged from 9-14% and are drying. Typically these 1,000 hour fuels are 22% this time of year. Fuel loads in and around the gathering average 30 tons per acre and are capable of carrying a moderate intensity ground fire with some torching. The prevailing winds for this part of the District are from the southwest. On occasions the jet stream will come down close to the ground and cause severe wind conditions. Be aware of any red flag warnings for airshed 10. General rule of thumb for these fuel models 8 and 10 are that crown fires are short lived unless the relative humidity is 20% or less and winds are 20 mph and higher. Rainfall for June averages 2 inches; to date the Wise River weather station has received .31 inches of rain.

## **Prevention**

A fire safety map and message has been prepared and distributed throughout the rainbow camp showing safety zones, helispots and identifying procedures to follow in the event of a wildfire. Fire staff have been sharing the fire message with folks at the gathering every few days in addition to checking kitchens and fire rings for water and shovels. A fire message is posted in camp at welcome home and main supply and campfire safety brochures distributed at the main entrance and information center. Additional actions are identified in the chart on page 4 for specific fire danger rating levels; these include prepositioning engines and additional patrols.

## **Forest-Wide/Area Fire Restrictions**

As fire season progresses, there is a possibility that forest-wide campfire and smoking restrictions may be put in to affect and will remain in effect until wetting rain is received.

If restrictions are ordered, the Rainbow IC will be notified in advance and will enforce the restrictions within the designated area. Consideration for permitted designated campfires will be coordinated with the District FMO and Incident Command Operations Chief. The Forest Law Enforcement Officer is taking the lead in preparing the closure order.

## **Detection**

Field units or aerial reconnaissance will do primary fire detection after lightning storms. Aerial reconnaissance will use established procedures to contact Dillon Dispatch. Field units can report to Dillon Dispatch on Beaverhead Direct 171.425 or use the Deadhorse repeater. Field units who cannot contact Dillon Dispatch may report fires to Rainbow Communications. Rainbow Communications will advise Dillon Dispatch.

## **Initial Attack Response**

The standard "closest resource" dispatch response will be initiated by Dillon Dispatch using pre-planned dispatch which will include: Two engines, a District Duty Officer and status of closest aerial resources and notification to the two closest brush crews of the response. Rainbow Communications will be advised of all suppression responses in the gathering area and will contact law enforcement to clear all roads and escort fire personnel into the area. Law enforcement will designate a lead or shift supervisor to coordinate with the initial attack IC. Law enforcement responsibilities include: 1) Keep roads open. 2) Notification of non-fire personnel of the situation and direct to safe areas. 3) Roving units to move folks into safety zones. 4) Protect firefighters and equipment.

Contingency, should access become impossible or the situation unsafe crews will stage outside of the immediate area. Contact Dillon Dispatch for combination to Jackson Cow Camp. The bridge into the cow camp is limited to light trucks and cars only. Road number 7335 provides a back route out of the area without going through the main gathering and ties into the Selway Road. Helicopters, four/six-wheelers, jumpers or rappel crews may be used if roads are impassable and deemed safe by the IC. Only Type VI engines will be dispatched into the gathering area. Larger engines and water tenders will be staged on the main road.

No aerial dropping operations will be conducted until a fire IC is in control of the scene and safe drop zones are identified. Should the area be congested retardant may be used to pretreat out ahead of the fire head.



## **Rainbow Communications**

Rainbow Communications will clear the airways and dispatch LEO units for crowd control, public safety, fire investigation, and coordination. The Law Enforcement Division Supervisor will evaluate the need for any additional Law Enforcement Support.

## **Communications**

Radio communications for fire mobilization will be conducted on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge forest Frequency (171.425 TX and RX) thru Dillon Dispatch. On scene communications will take place on the tactical channel Red (154.070), air to air on the Dillon Zone pre-assigned Frequency (126.475), air to ground on Orange (151.400). Dillon Dispatch can be reached in the main meadow on a hand held radio using the deadhorse repeater. See attached communications plan.

## **Public/Firefighter Safety**

The Fire IC and Law Enforcement IC will jointly assess the threat to public safety. Rainbow Communications will notify Beaverhead County Sheriff's Department of the incident at (406)683-2383. Firefighters will be briefed on health and safety issues associated with the gathering. See attached briefings and job hazard analysis.

## **Extended Attack**

Fires will be managed under unified command with each authority maintaining an appropriately skilled Incident commander and each mobilizing resources as necessary to fulfill their responsibilities.

## **Car Fires**

Car fires will be reported to Rainbow Dispatch and a trained hazmat Dillon Unit will be dispatched. Wildland crews will assist with controlling spread to adjacent forest and grasslands.

## **Aviation**

See attached aviation plan.

## PREVENTION/DETECTION/INITIAL ATTACK PLAN RAINBOW GATHERING 2000

PREVENTION/DETECTION	HIGH/GREEN	VERY HIGH/GREEN	EXTREME/GREEN
Prevention contacts by Prevention Techs.	X	X	X
Pre-position engine at location of gathering.			X
PREVENTION/DETECTION	HIGH/CURED	VERY HIGH/CURED	EXTREME/CURED
Open fire and smoking restriction.	X	X	X
Daily restriction compliance checks, by LEO and Prevention Techs/engine.	X	X	X
News release to media and Rainbow information center.	X	X	X
Ground patrol using Type VI engine.	X	X	X
INITIAL ATTACK	HIGH/GREEN	VERY HIGH/GREEN	EXTREME/GREEN
Contact LEO to clear roadway for LA engines (Dillon Dispatch is contacted).	X	X	X
FMO or AFMO in contact within 24 hours.	X	X	X
Engine personnel on duty from 0930 to 1800 hours, seven days a week.		X	X
INITIAL ATTACK	HIGH/CURED	VERY HIGH/CURED	EXTREME/CURED
During periods of high traffic 6x6, ATV's and helicopter will be used for access to fire, i.e. 7/3-7/7	X	X	X
Engines use Ore Creek access from Selway side during periods of high traffic, i.e. 7/3-7/7	X	X	X
Engine position at Jackson until dusk.		X	X
Additional engine on zone and positioned at incident.		X	X
Two engines will be dispatched and will have a five-person crew.		X	X



**Project  
Air Operations Plan  
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest**

**Rainbow Incident**

**Wisdom Ranger District**

## RAINBOW INCIDENT AVIATION COORDINATION

- A. Incident Aviation Coordinator is \_\_\_\_\_  
Coordinator shall be aware of all mission flights.
1. Unified command planning of scheduled flights.
  2. Prior notification of unscheduled flights by flying agency.
- B. Establish method to track mission aircraft over incident area.
1. Mission aircraft contact Dillon Dispatch on 171.425.
  2. Dillon Dispatch will advise ICP and Rainbow Dispatch of aircraft in area
- C. Establish method to assure that Forest and Incident are advised of aircraft use in area.
1. ICP or Rainbow Dispatch will advise Dillon Dispatch of any planned reconnaissance or media flights in the area.
  2. Dillon Dispatch will advise ICP and Rainbow Dispatch of any forest flights in the area.
  3. Cross notification of unidentified aircraft.
- D. Establish system to coordinate with media aircraft in the area.
1. Incident aviation coordinator will work with the Incident PIO to provide Needed aviation information to media with aircraft.
  2. Incident PIO to provide Incident aviation coordinator with flight plans from the media.
- E. Multiple aircraft coordination.
1. Try to maintain single aircraft operation over the incident.
  2. If flight coordination (media/agency) becomes a problem consider TFR  
And more formal flight control (air attack/helicopter coordinator)



## 1. Project Description and Objectives

The project for the purpose of this plan is the 2000 Rainbow gathering. The Gathering is a group of 20,000 to 25,000 people camping in primitive manner. Under these conditions the likelihood of medical emergencies or escaped campfires is high. Aerial resources may be used for fire suppression or medical evacuations.

The objective of this plan is to provide of safe and effective air operations. Information sharing and a focal point for air operations will be key to making this plan a success. Dillon Dispatch will be the focal point for all aircraft entering the project area, Beaverhead County will make the initial contact with the private vendors for medi-vac and advise Dillon Dispatch who will contact the vendor with frequency and latitude and longitude and establish flight following procedures.

Private vendors will handle medical evacuations with aircraft and personnel who are trained to handle this type of emergency. Agency exclusive use or call-when-needed aircraft with the proper carding will be used for fire suppression activities.

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge exclusive use aircraft N25MM C-185 will be available for use as a reconnaissance aircraft or Air Tactical platform.

This aircraft will work out of Dillon Flying Service in Dillon.

Montana Highway Patrol may operate a fixed-wing or helicopter over the incident or over highways leading to the incident. MHP dispatch will advise Dillon Dispatch of flight routes and approximate times that aircraft will be in the area.

### Personnel and Aircraft

#### Aviation Coordinators:

Incident Team  
Beaverhead-Deerlodge  
Wisdom District

Gene Smalley  
Judy Crandall  
Diane Hutton

Fixed-Wing N25MM C-185 Dillon Flying Service

Fixed-Wing N1664 C-182 Montana Highway Patrol

Helicopter O-58 Montana Highway Patrol

INCIDENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN		1. INCIDENT NAME	2. DATE/TIME PREPARED	3. OPERATIONAL PERIOD DATE/TIME	
		RAINBOW	6/27/00	6/27/00 - 7/10/00	
4. BASIC RADIO CHANNEL UTILIZATION					
SYSTEM/CACHE	CHANNEL	FUNCTION	FREQUENCY/TONE	ASSIGNMENT	REMARKS
		Fire Tactical on Ground	154.070	State Red Mutual Aid	
		Air to Ground	151.400	State Orange	
		Air to Air	126.475	Victor Channel for Aircraft	
		Command	171.425	Dillon Dispatch	
Incident Radios	5/6	Rainbow Dispatch		Law Enforcement	
		Command Ground Resources to Dillon Dispatch	TX 172.325 RX 171.425 Tone 167.9	Deadhorse Repeater	
5. PREPARED BY COMMUNICATIONS UNIT					
205 TCS 9/86 MFES 1330					



**2000 RAINBOW GATHERING  
PERSONAL SAFETY ITEMS FOR RESOURCE PERSONNEL**

**CHECK IN @ ICP (Dillon Middle School):**

**OBTAIN incident radio or clone,  
communications information and briefing,  
safety briefing and updates,  
Incident Action Plan and map**

**STANDARDS AND SITE CONDUCT:**

- Work in pairs.
- Communicate with dispatch and LE shift commander. Check in and out.
- Bring own food and water. Do not accept on site.
- Use antiseptic hand wash or gloves.
- Wear appropriate footwear. No sandals or open toed shoes.
- Have insect repellent and sunscreen.
- Recommend wearing long sleeved shirt or jacket.
- No shorts.
- Be in uniform or otherwise identifiable (name tags).
- Stay aware of your surroundings - recognize dangerous situations.
- Make sure someone knows where you are and when you will return.
- Use common sense.
- Be friendly but professional.
- Know where you will go if a problem develops.
- Don't take photographs of participants without asking permission.
- Do not take law enforcement action or role.
- Drive defensively at reasonable speed and use headlights.
- Don't discuss or speculate on subjects not in your field of expertise.
- Lock vehicles and take keys.

Prepared by *[Signature]* b6  
b7c  
 Reviewed by *[Signature]*  
 Approved by *[Signature]* "On Site!"

**RAINBOW GATHERING EVENT  
SCENE VISITATION GUIDELINES FOR NON-LAW ENFORCEMENT INCIDENT WORKERS**


**GOAL:** Provide for safe visits by any non-law enforcement incident workers. Provide a check-in and out process for non-law enforcement workers so they can be tracked in a timely and effective manner.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Check in at Incident Command Post. You will be provided a Health and Safety briefing. You will be assigned a portable radio. Any guidelines for radio use or special instructions for scene visits for the day will be given.
  - Contact Rainbow Dispatch before leaving Dillon and give them the names of your party and advise them you are leaving Dillon enroute to Jackson.
  - When you arrive in Jackson contact the law enforcement Division Supervisor and advise them you are ready to proceed to the event location and they will provide you with any special instructions. Tell law enforcement the expected duration of your visit.
  - When you are at the site and are out of your vehicle, contact Rainbow Dispatch and advise them how long you expect to be out on foot. Periodically check in with Rainbow Dispatch at approximately 60 minute intervals unless you feel the need to shorten the interval for safety reasons. In the event Rainbow Dispatch needs to send someone to check on your party, the last known location will be where the search is initiated.
  - Advise Rainbow Dispatch and law enforcement of any variations from the expected duration of your visit.
  - Advise Rainbow Dispatch and the Division Supervisor when you return to your vehicle. Advise Rainbow Dispatch when you return to Dillon.
  - Check your assigned radio back into the ICP.
- **BE AWARE THAT TRAFFIC CONGESTION MAY PRESENT MAJOR PROBLEMS PROCEEDING INTO AND OUT OF THE EVENT AREA!! BE ESPECIALLY CAUTIOUS IF IT INVOLVES A FIRE OR OTHER HAZARD WHICH MAY GENERATE AN EVACUATION!**

b6  
b7c

Approved by:

  
Kurt G. Redden

Title

Incident Commander  
Sheriff - DC

Prepared by

[Signature]

County Plans

Reviewed by

[Signature]

Safety Officer

Revised 6-20-00



1. WORK PROJECT/ACTIVITY

**Firefighting**  
4. NAME OF ANALYST  
L. Kirkpatrick

2. LOCATION

Wise River/Wisdom  
5. JOB TITLE  
Forestry Tech

3. UNIT

6. DATE PREPARED  
03/02/2000

JOB HAZARD ANALYSIS (JHA)  
References: FSH 6709.11 and -12  
(Instructions on Reverse)

7. TASKS/PROCEDURES

\*Firefighting

8. HAZARDS

6. ABATEMENT ACTIONS

Engineering Controls, Substitution, Administrative Controls, PPE

Ensure that all firefighters understand and know how to implement the 10 Standard Fire Orders, and can recognize the 18 situations that shout "Watchout." LCES, Lookouts, Communications, Escapes Routes and Safety Zones are elements of a safety system routinely used by firefighters.

\*Fireshelter

Fire shelter training is mandatory for all firefighters. Always inspect your fire shelter when it is issued to you. Carry the fire shelter in its original case or in an external pocket of a pack. Ensure that removal can be accomplished with one hand while walking at a brisk pace.

\*Communications

Attend briefings, ask fire boss about potential hazards, weather, safety zones, etc., making sure that everything is covered and UNDERSTOOD. Carry extra batteries for radios. Obtain current radio frequencies for project area.

\*Travel/Walking/Tools

Choose travel route carefully, Use tool guards, watch spacing of crew. Carry tool on downhill side. Never carry tool over your shoulder, grip tool just below head.

\*Steep Terrain

Ensure footing. Have crew working on the same contour, stay alert for rolling debris.

**\*Firefighter Welfare**

**Monitor fluid intake. Minimize exposure to smoke concentrations, periodically rotate workers. Set a reasonable work pace and allow rest breaks.**

**10. LINE OFFICER SIGNATURE**

**11. TITLE**

**12. DATE**

Previous edition is obsolete

(over)



## Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest Resources

E-221 Wise River	B-D Crew 5 person + 5 Fuels crew
E-231 Wisdom	B-D Crew 5 person + 5 Fuels crew
E-211 Dillon	B-D Crew 10 person
Can staff E-212	If necessary
E-291	Philipsburg B-D Crew 5 person
E-292	Philipsburg
E-293	Philipsburg
E-272	Whitehall B-D Crew 10
E-241	Butte
E-271	Boulder
E-261	Ennis
E-262	Shearidan

## AIRCRAFT SUPPRESSION

Bitterroot No Aircraft Unitl 7/12

Salmon/Challis 6/19 is first Day

East Idaho 6/23 Airtanker  
One Helo in late June

Helena Type II / Type III with in 30 min.

## AIRCRAFT MEDI-VAC

Air Idaho 800-247-4324  
Missoula 800-991-7363

# Fire Procedure / Fire Watch

## Fire watch council meets daily.

In Arizona in 1998 a voluntary fireban kept the risk of forest fires to a safe level, until the rains came, and came, and came... For many days kitchens were 100% propane or gas stoves, or not at all. It was a beautiful thing to see a fire free Gathering until it was safe to do so.

Here is a consensus from New Mexico in 1995 (the year after the forest fire in Wyoming). A consensus is not a rule, because a council is not a "rule making" body of the Rainbow Family. But these words, like any other consensus, are usually the effort of many good folks, attempting to pass down their ideas on Firewatch, as a guide for later gatherings. I was in Wyoming during the forest fire, and it is well worth all efforts to prevent accidental fires.

## Community Agreement

- Everyone, BE FIREWATCH, please.
- PLEASE use community fires only. These are fun meeting places where people are always on hand to watch fires.
- Community fires are fires shared by 20 or more people and open to community.
- Discourage personal fires.
- Every community fire needs a deep / lined fire pit away from trees, a five-gallon bucket of water and shovel on hand at all times, with someone watching at all times.
- Know your safe zone.
- Check in at nearest kitchen to find fire evacuation plan and safe area in your camping area.

## Roving Firewatch

- Volunteers are needed to walk through the Gathering and ask / encourage folks to use community fires and to spread the word on fire safety.
- If you find an untended fire, ask around for responsible watchers, If no one responds, put out fire.
- Get trained, carry bucket & shovel.

## Community Response Teams / Crews

- Every kitchen needs a fire response team to evacuate and form fire crews in its area.
- Response crews should have a designated coordinator at all times who is an experienced / trained firefighter.
- Firefighting training is available through firewatch council.
- Know where your fire tools are at all times -- buckets, shovels, saws, etc.
- Know fire call Watchword! Come to council.
- Fire crew people need good shoes, long pants, long sleeves, bandanas.
- In case of evacuation, watchers should stay to prevent theft.

## FIRE PLAN

- In case of fire call, Don't Panic, organize, form crews.
- Evacuate camping areas around your kitchen. Send folks to safe zones in large meadows away from trees.
- Crews gather tools and proceed to appropriate staging area.
- Coordinate firefighting effort with other crews at staging area to form waterlines, etc.
- Kitchens in safe areas, upwind / remote from fire send food and drinking water to fire fighters.

For general information about the Rainbow Family and regional events, please first look around the web site. You can find most info you'd want by going back to the top level and searching again. Good spots to start are the Info page on the annual gathering in July, the North American Calendar of Events, or the





# Intelligence Bulletin

## Montana Division of Criminal Investigation

Volume 1, Issue 4  
December 1999

### Good News!

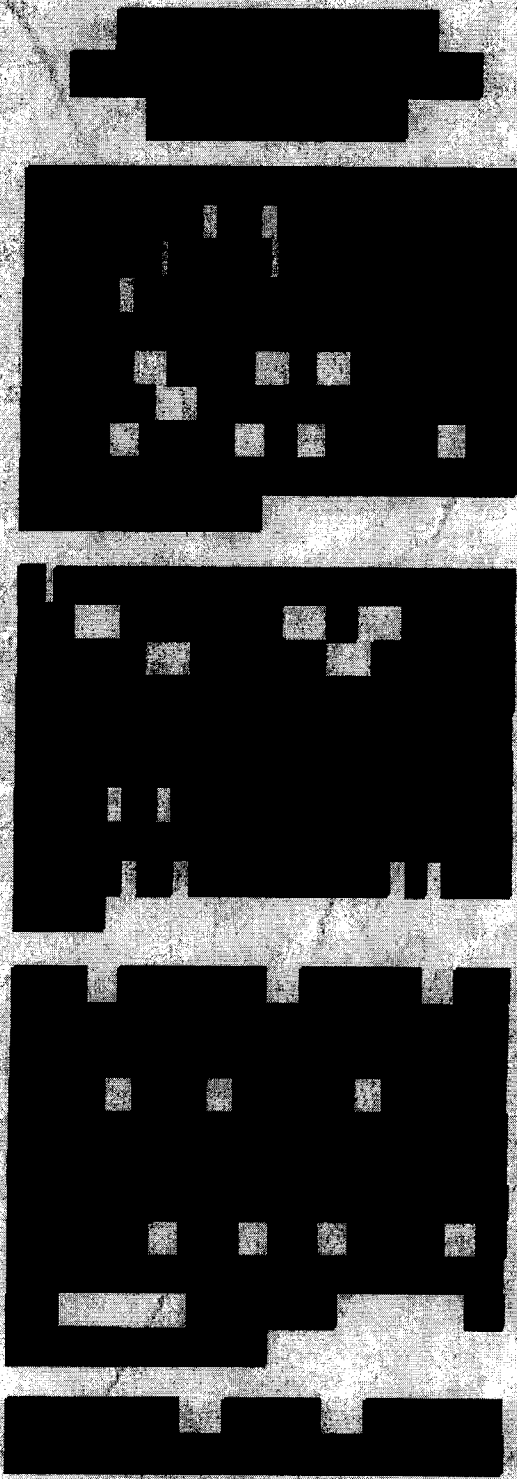
The DCI was recently awarded a grant to develop an interactive web sight for Montana's Sex and Violent Offender Registry. The sight when complete will provide local law enforcement agencies an effective vehicle to disseminate information to the public. The offender information listed on the web sight will conform with the legal requirements for public notification. We are also exploring options for the posting of additional information such as the conditions and restrictions imposed on offenders who are on probation or parole. Anyone wanting to assist us with the development of the web sight please contact me or Shelley McKenna at 444-3874.

For the past seven years, I have had the pleasure of serving on the Rocky Mountain Information Network (RMIN) board, the past three as chairman. Montana law enforcement, I believe has benefited greatly from many of the resources provided by RMIN including financial support of our regional training efforts. The chart below is one example of how RMIN's efforts have helped Montana. As you can see Montana has received substantially more financial resources for training than any of the other RMIN states. If you get the opportunity to thank RMIN for their support please do so. Montana's RMIN Field Coordinator Dean Mahlum has obviously served Montana well. Thanks should also go to Montana's other RMIN board member Custer County Sheriff Tony Harbaugh for his continued support of RMIN in Montana.

Arizona	\$34,739.40
Colorado	\$25,718.72
Idaho	\$33,357.00
<b>Montana</b>	<b>\$61,794.12</b>
New Mexico	\$30,185.77
Nevada	\$12,886.50
Utah	\$32,171.54
Wyoming	\$37,664.77

Happy Holidays,  
Mike Batista

NR



## **Rainbow Family To Gather In Montana**

Since 1972, the Rainbow Family of Living Light has held national and regional gatherings on National Forest System lands. The climax of the national gathering is a day of honoring Mother Earth and praying for world peace. According to the Rainbows, the first attendees were Vietnam veterans who had a difficult time reentering mainstream society

because of their war experiences and people who were part of the 1960s hippie and environmental movements.

Early gatherings were much smaller; an estimate from

the 1986 gathering at Queen's Creek/Heart's Content near Warren, Pennsylvania was 5,000 attendees. At more recent gatherings attendance has been estimated high as 24,000 for the 5-week event.

**Information has indicated that the 2000 Gathering will take place in Montana with as many as 25,000 individuals attending. Traditionally the Rainbows have picked a location on National Forest in a sparsely populated county. The Rainbows have expressed an interest in the southwestern and northwestern parts of the state. They do not announce the exact location of**

**the Gathering until two weeks before the start. As additional information becomes available it will be forwarded to the appropriate agencies.**

In the Rainbow philosophy, "everyone is a Rainbow, some just don't know it yet" and "anyone with a bellybutton can be a Rainbow". They are of all ages and from all parts of society. The Rainbows espouse and teach their concept of

Constitutional rights. It is anti-authoritarian and conflicts with the requirement to obtain a permit for a large gathering on public lands and enforcement of federal, state and local laws. The Rainbows also

call their selected national gathering site their church and resent law enforcement presence in the area.

Core Rainbow Family members state they are bound together by their common belief and desire for peace, love and respect for planet Earth and all its inhabitants. This collection of core members reflect a great deal of diversity. Some members are regularly a part of mainstream society and some still live the hippie life-style. Some are college or graduate level and educated with professional or technical skills. Some are high school dropouts who only





work sporadically, and some are chronically homeless.

The Rainbow Family states they have no formal charter or organization, all Rainbows are equal and no one speaks for the entire family. Rainbow family decisions are made at council meetings which occur throughout the year at regional and national gatherings. Family issues, decisions and actions are discussed at councils with decisions made only if consensus is reached among those attending council. Even with a decision, no Rainbow will sign a written version of the decision such as a rehabilitation plan. Their decisions can change at any time through a council meeting and consensus.

In recent years, however, gathering attendees barely reflect the original founders of 27 years ago. The gatherings appear to have a much younger demographic with the majority of attendees 25 years or younger who come to "party." Some present and former gathering attendees contend the core Rainbow group has lost control of this younger crowd. There was more garbage such as foodstuffs, trash and clothing left behind at the 1999 gathering, ostensibly for the clean up crew of Rainbow Family members to address. This incident to support the lack of "pack it out" ethics in these younger attendees. There is more observable conflict as the core Rainbow group tries to influence the behaviors of these younger gathering participants. Some

younger people attracted to the gatherings are juvenile runaways.

Recent gatherings are also attracting more of a criminal element. Rainbows claim to love everyone, and criminals are in need of healing. As a result, there are no detrimental consequences to criminal activity outside the gathering. Although the Rainbows try to separate themselves physically and philosophically from the use of alcohol, they believe marijuana and mushrooms are healing herbs and the use of hallucinogenic drugs such as LSD, methamphetamine and others is common. The separation of alcohol users and abusers adds a dangerous and erratic presence to the gatherings. Rainbow Family members are approaching law enforcement officers more frequently with complaints about "A-Camp," but seem unwilling to approach the alcohol users themselves.

Significant criminal activity, which has occurred at past gatherings, includes homicides, sexual assault, theft, stolen vehicles and the distribution and use of controlled substances. Ironically, the Rainbows attempt to self-police using a group called the Shanti Sena (peacekeepers), but they become ineffective as the gathering swells in number. The Shanti Sena has turned individuals over to authorities in past gatherings, but they selectively enforce rules and laws according to the general beliefs of the Rainbows. In 1999, two fugitives from other states were

recovered with no involvement by the Shanti Sena.

The resource impacts on National Forest lands also presents an interesting conflict within Rainbow philosophy. The Rainbows teach respect for Mother Earth and offer low impact information on their web page. However, they welcome all attendees, and resource damage grows as the numbers swell. As one *Los Angeles Times* reporter wrote, "Within the various camps, signs are posted regarding respect for the streams, forest and grasslands. But, these messages are invariably affixed by nails hammered into trees".<sup>1</sup>

Typical Rainbow Family Gathering resource impacts include large areas of soil compaction from thousands of small camps, parking areas and the development of new trails, large fire pits and makeshift structures built for the camps and kitchens, holes dug for slit trench latrines, degradation of the forest roads accessing the gathering, damage to riparian areas and effects to water quality. Since the national gathering is also held in June and July, fire danger can be an issue at sites in the western United States. Some Rainbows stay behind to help in rehabilitating the site, which generally takes two weeks to a month.

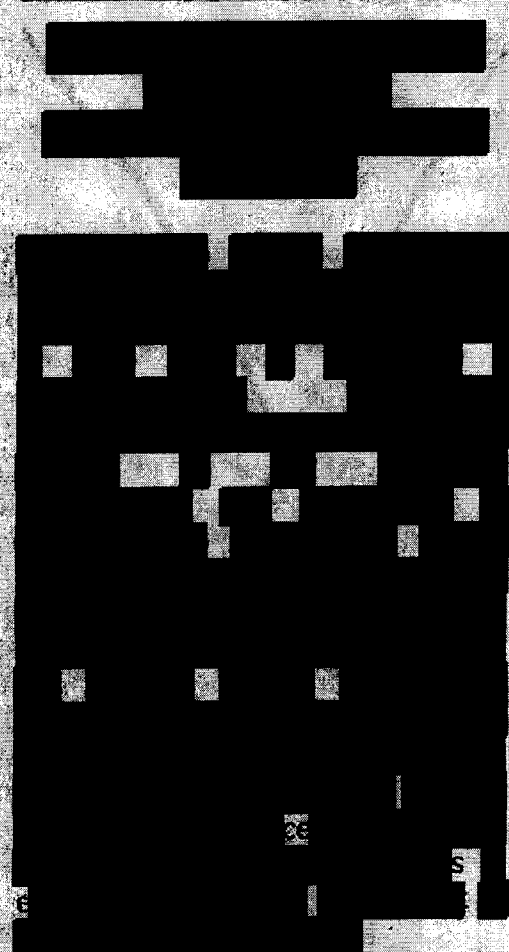
The Forest Service, as lead agency, is working with various state and local agencies to plan for this event. Special Agent [redacted] will be the

Incident Commander for the Forest Service. If you have any information regarding the Rainbows and their plans, please contact S/A [redacted] at (406) 329-[redacted] or Agent [redacted] at (406) 444-[redacted].

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Additional information about the Rainbows can be found at their homepage at: [www.welcomehome.org](http://www.welcomehome.org).

<sup>1</sup> Rainbow Family Encampment Tests Meaning of 'Public Lands,' *Los Angeles Times*, July 4, 1998.\*

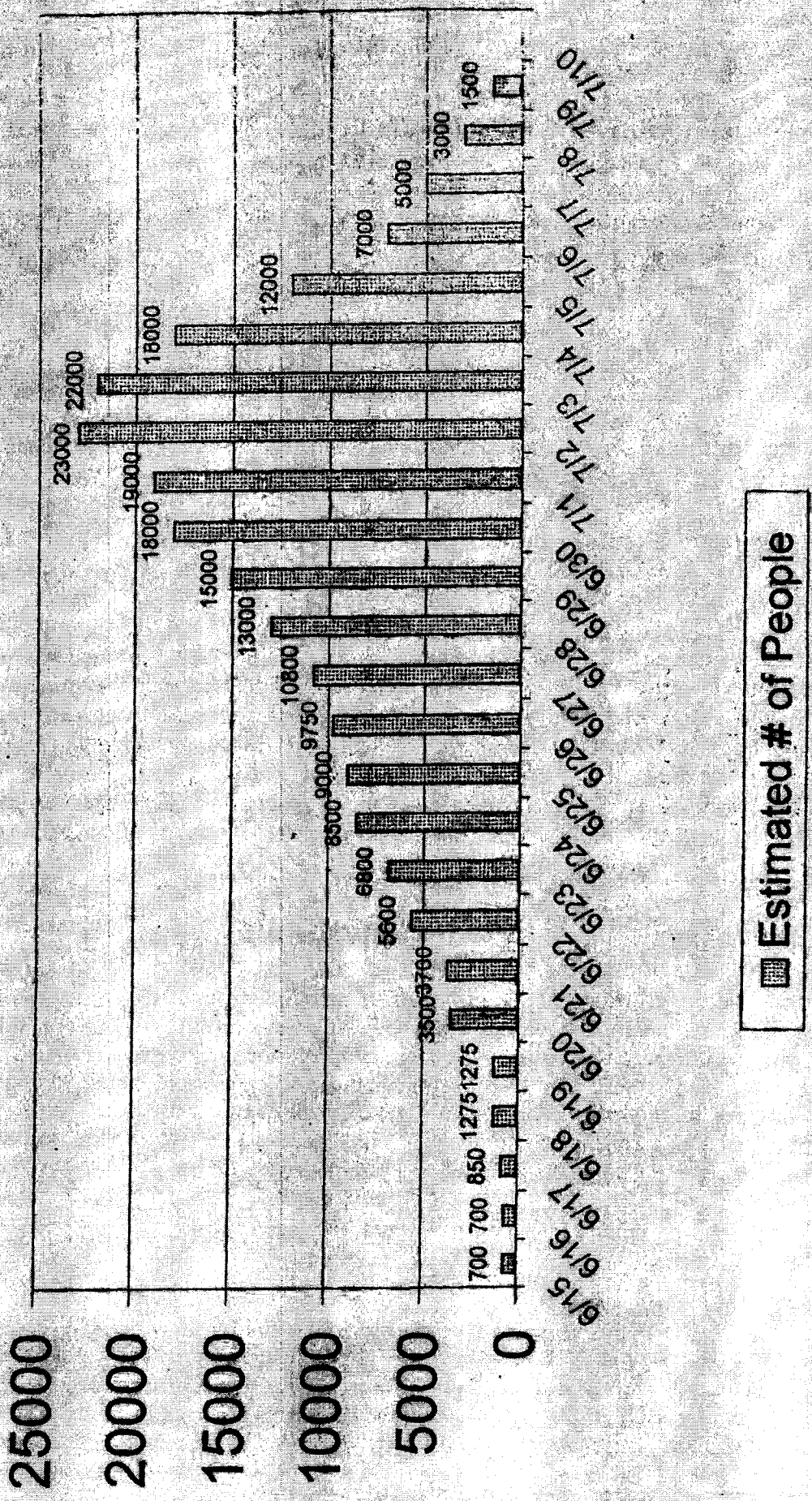


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# Rainbow Gathering 2000 Attendance Statistics Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, Beaverhead Co. MT



## Welcome Home!

When the earth is ravaged and the animals are dying, a new tribe of people shall come unto the earth from many colors, classes, creeds, and who by their actions and deeds shall make the earth green again. They will be known as the warriors of the Rainbow -- *Old Native American Prophecy*



If this site is too slow (pretty common lately), you can now access one of the mirror sites that may have a closer or faster connection to you.

- [EagleNet, Nederland, CO](#)
- [Star's Server \(New Haven, CT\)](#)
- [Rose's Server \(CT\)](#)

It is longstanding Rainbow Family consensus that nobody has ever, or ever will represent the Rainbow Family. This is an unofficial collection of information on the Rainbow Family and the Rainbow Gatherings, and in no way should anyone who works on this web site be considered to be representing the Rainbow Family. For the rest of the disclaimer, [Go to the Bottom](#).

Since various Law Enforcement agencies and the Forest Service can't seem to understand the preceding paragraph, [go to this link](#) for a more verbose and simplified version especially for you.

## What is the Rainbow Family ?

Some say we're the largest non-organization of non-members in the world. We have no leaders, and no organization. To be honest, the Rainbow Family means different things to different people. I think it's safe to say we're into intentional community building, non-violence, and alternative lifestyles. We also believe that Peace and Love are a great thing, and there isn't enough of that in this world. Many of our traditions are based on Native American traditions, and we have a strong orientation to take care of the the Earth. We gather in the National Forests yearly to pray for peace on this planet. For another viewpoint, [Try Carla's much better explanation](#).

## More Information

### Info on this years Gathering

The 2001 Rainbow Gathering will be in the Washington/Idaho part of North America. This link contains all the information I have on the 2000 Rainbow Gathering Vision Council Consensus from Montana. Just as a note, directions won't be announced until early June, after Spring Council. So check here for directions then.