



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Lowman  
Ranger  
District

7359 Highway 21  
Lowman, ID 83637

Date: July 3, 2001

**Rainbow Family Members:**

Attached is the site and resource rehabilitation plans for the Cache and Sack Creek Meadows areas of the Boise National Forest. These plans cover areas impacted by the 2001 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 15, 2001. 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 (208) 259-3361.

Sincerely,

WALTER B. ROGERS  
District Ranger

Enclosure



# **2001 RAINBOW FAMILY GATHERING REHABILITATION PLAN for CACHE and SACK CREEK MEADOWS**

July 3, 2001

## **LOWMAN RANGER DISTRICT BOISE NATIONAL FOREST**

**Background:** The 2001 National Rainbow Family Gathering is taking place on the Lowman Ranger District of the Boise National Forest. Members of the Rainbow Family of Living Light (RFL) began gathering and impacting a site near Cache Creek Meadows, approximately 30 miles northeast of Lowman, Idaho on June 4, 2001. It is estimated that approximately 15,000 Rainbow Family Members will gather on the site on July 4, 2001. The Gathering site and parking areas encompass both Sack and Cache Creek meadows, for a combined area of approximately 400 acres.

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 2001 Gathering on the Boise National Forest (BNF). BNF 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 Gathering site. 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.

**Timeline:** It is expected that all rehabilitation work will be completed by August 15, 2001, except seeding which will be done by the BNF by October 1 to allow for maximum effectiveness.

**Rehabilitation Objectives and Plan:** This rehabilitation plan follows two main objectives, designed to return the site to near pre-gathering conditions:

- Clean up and rehabilitate all areas Impacted by the RBF.
- Physical evidence of human presence created by the RBF will be removed from the site, or rearranged to present a natural appearance.
- Rehabilitation techniques and materials should allow for as quick and as effective a recovery as possible:

The following is a list of methods and guidelines for achieving rehabilitation objectives:

### General

1. No seeding (grass/forbs) will be implemented until the fall of 2001 (on or about October 1, 2001) to allow for additional moisture and greater seeding success. All seed will be native, noxious weed-free seed, approved by the Forest Service.
2. No green timber will be cut for rehabilitation purposes, unless approved by the Forest Service.

### Trash

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. Valley County will set up dumpsters in the area from July 4<sup>th</sup> through July 7<sup>th</sup>.
4. Biohazards will be transported to an appropriate medical facility away from the Gathering site.

### Structures, Signs, and Flagging

5. All structures and facilities will be totally dismantled. All man-made material will be removed from the site. Native materials will be scattered to achieve a natural appearance.
6. All string, rope, wire, twine, flagging, and signs utilized by the RBF will be removed and disposed of properly. Do not remove any Forest Service property. The Forest Service will work with the RBF to remove flagging and signs along creeks. Stakes along meadows should be collected and burned.
7. 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, gates or gate posts. In addition, the historic

cabin in lower Sack meadow will be inspected by Forest Service archaeologist for damage.

## Water Lines and Springs

8. All water lines, PVC pipe, hose, and plastic will be removed.
9. Rehabilitation of the springs will include filling all constructed water collection holes with original material. Material should be placed plant-side up and root-side down to allow for faster recovery. Any ditches will be refilled with original material. Natural material will be scattered at disturbed sites to mimic pre-Gathering conditions.

## Campsites, Kitchens, Gathering Areas

10. All camps and kitchens will be dismantled, returning each site to near pre-Gathering conditions.
11. Areas of bare soil will be treated (with rakes, shovels or picks) to break-up the compacted surface, then natural materials (duff, logs, twigs, needles, limbs) will be scattered over impacted areas to speed revegetation. These areas should look like the surrounding un-impacted areas as much as possible.
12. All man-made materials will be removed from the campsites, kitchens and gathering areas.
13. Kitchen and community 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. In areas where rocks were hauled in from other sites, rocks should be placed back into original holes or general location as much as possible. This is to prevent piles of rocks where there were no rocks pre-Gathering.
14. 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.
15. 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.

## Animals

16. All abandoned dogs, cats, and other domestic animals will be removed by the RBF.

## Vehicles

17. 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.

## Parking Areas and Roads

18. All trash will be removed from parking areas and disposed of either in dumpsters (July 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>) or transported to nearest landfill.
19. Camping areas (i.e. Bus Village, Back Door) within Cache Creek meadows will be rehabilitated as other campsites (see Campsites, Kitchens and Gathering Areas).
20. Any new roads or tracks caused by vehicles will be closed by methods 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. Areas of bare soil will be raked and natural material scattered as much as possible to speed revegetation.
23. Road repairs will be implemented as designated by the Forest Service.
24. The main Cache Creek Meadows entrance road will be rehabilitated to as close as pre-Gathering conditions as possible. This will include; reducing compaction and seeding areas where road was widened beyond a two-track road. The Forest Service will implement this road rehabilitation in October to allow for effectiveness of seeding.

## Trails

25. Trails that were created or enlarged by gathering participants will be obliterated and restored. The intent is to restore trails to pre-Gathering widths. This will include treatment (with rakes, shovels, or picks) to break-up compacted soils, seeding and scattering natural materials (duff, sod, needles, and limbs/logs where appropriate) on widened trails. Only native, weed-free seed will be used. The seed mix will be designated by the Forest Service and seeding will be implemented in the fall (October 1, 2001).
26. To minimize erosion, all trail segments and disturbed areas on slopes over 30% grade will have erosion control structures in place prior to August 15, 2001. Erosion control design will be specified by the Forest Service.

## Stream Crossings

- 27. 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.**
- 28. All stream crossings and stream banks will be returned to pre-gathering condition.**
- 29. 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.**
- 30. Twine, string or rope used to tie the wood poles together will be removed and disposed of properly.**
- 31. Areas of bare soil on or near streambanks (i.e Cache Creek crossing) will be covered with organic material (duff, native grass seed, weed-free straw, native wood mulch) to speed vegetation recovery and reduce potential sediment inputs to the stream. Any seed placed in these areas will be weed-free, native seed, approved by the Forest Service and sown in the fall.**
- 32. The Forest Service will remove filter cloth placed in the stream to collect sediment.**

## Monitoring

- 1. The BNF will monitor the Gathering site for implementation of the Rehabilitation Plan in the August 2001.**
- 2. The BNF will monitor vegetative and stream recovery via photo points through 2003.**
- 3. The BNF will monitor the Gathering site for introduction of noxious weeds through 2003.**
- 4. The BNF will produce interim and final monitoring reports.**