

Location: Modoc National Forest, R-5
Date: July 6, 2004
Internal Update: 15
Contact: Donna Wilson, (530) 233-2141


National Incident Management

Situation Report: 2004 Rainbow Gathering

Situation:

The Rainbow Family of Living Light has selected the Bearcamp Flat area, 25 miles east of Likely, CA, on the South Warner Mountains, Warner Mountain Ranger District, and Modoc National Forest (MDF) for the national 2004 gathering.

Background:

Each year for over 30 years, the Rainbow Family has held an event on public lands they call the National Gathering. This is a very loosely structured event that attracts anywhere from 8,000 to 20,000 people. National Gatherings are held in rural areas, usually some distance from the nearest town. The climax of the Gathering is on July 4, when participants gather in one place to pray for world peace and mother earth. A non-commercial use permit for the event was signed on June 21, 2004.

Tuesday, 6/15, 0900, Forest Supervisor Stan Sylva delegated to Tim Lynn, IC, authority to manage the Rainbow Gathering event. The ICP is located at the Modoc High School Library; Information phone number is 530-233-2141. Fax 530-233-2157.

Current Situation:

- Approximately 19,000 were at the gathering site on Sunday. Again, based on vehicle counts, these total numbers may be low due to people arriving using different modes of transportation such as bicycles, on foot, or in shuttles.
- There was a significant amount of nudity noted in Kiddie Village on July 4.
- In addition to dogs left on site, abandoned vehicles have been identified as an issue. The Forest Service will be using the abandoned property avenue to deal with them. The California Highway Patrol stated that they could assist on a case-by-case basis if the vehicle were on a road or a visual hazard.
- The Special Use Administration (SUA) Team is down to one person on site with a continuing focus on compliance with the permit and needed rehab. Lynn Bidlack is working on a notice of noncompliance using the latest statistics. Most people will be leaving the site over the next several days although a number will be remaining on site to do rehabilitation (rehab) over the next several weeks.
- Some significant impact in an aspen grove occurred that will take 5-10 years to recover. The Forest Service will be meeting with the Rainbow participants about rehab in the grove and in the entire gathering area.
- Temporary Forest Orders are being amended to accommodate rehab efforts and to reduce camping sites to one area.
- The Ranger will be going out on the site used by the Gathering with several range permittees Friday, July 9. Cows and sheep will be going on the allotments shortly.

Location: Modoc National Forest, R-5
Date: July 5, 2004
Internal Update: 14
Contact: Donna Wilson, (530) 233-2141



Situation Report: 2004 Rainbow Gathering

Situation:

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Background:

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Current Situation:

- Approximately 19,000 were at the gathering site on Sunday. Again, based on vehicle counts, these total numbers are low due to people arriving using different modes of transportation such as bicycles, on foot, or in shuttles.
- The main celebration was yesterday, when numerous participants gathered to pray for world peace and mother Earth. The day passed without major incident.
- The Special Use Administration (SUA) Team is down to two on site with a continuing focus on compliance with the permit.
- A Forest Service soil scientist began measuring soil compaction as preliminary rehab efforts are set to begin. Studies indicate that compaction in the heavily traveled kitchen and trail areas was fairly minimal with little disturbance at lower levels of soil. The rehab proposed for these areas will focus on raking the top 1" of soil to break it up and then by spreading nearby woody forest debris known as "litter" or "duff" to protect the soil. All dug out areas will be filled in. Some trail areas will need water "bars" to divert water off the trail at various intervals. Participants of the gathering have indicated that the Rainbows will purchase any native seed needed to re-vegetate the site. Rainbow volunteers, supervised by Forest Service resource specialists, will accomplish the bulk of the rehab. Other rehab activities are being designed as well.
- Members of the Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council and the Pit River Tribe have requested to go out on site with the Forest Supervisor later this week. David Ferrell, WO Assistant Director of Law Enforcement, is meeting with Tribal Chair Francis Bennally in Reno today, regarding tribal concerns.
- The AP wire from Don Thompson was picked up by The Independent in the U.K.

Location: Modoc National Forest, R-5
Date : July 3 & 4, 2004
Internal Update: 13
Contact: Donna Wilson, (530) 233-2141


National Incident Management

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Current Situation:

- The conservative estimate of the number of people at the Gathering was 15,992 as of noon on July 3, in contrast to the 13,200 estimated at noon on the 2nd. Based on vehicle counts, these total numbers are low due to people arriving using different modes of transportation such as bicycles, on foot, or in shuttles, which make numerous trips a day. License plates reflect visitors from 40 states; and 8 countries. Parking areas are filled and overflow areas are being used. There was some confusion on the 3rd with parking areas by Gathering parking monitors which resulted in cars being parked outside of permitted areas.
- The Special Use Administration (SUA) Team continues to work on some noncompliance issues with kitchens, campsites, and garbage removal. New campers, many arriving at night, are continuing to camp within 150' of water. The accumulating amounts of garbage are now being bagged and are being slowly disposed of.
- As a result of Tribal concerns, sensitive areas have been designated and all use in those areas has been moved by Gathering participants. As background, members of the Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council, Cedarville, Alturas, and Susanville Rancherias and Pit River Tribe met with the Rainbow Council yesterday to discuss their concerns with the Gathering. Stan Sylva, Forest Supervisor, Tim Lynn, IC, Dan Meza, Forest Tribal Relations Program Manager, and Gerry Gates, Forest Archaeologist and law enforcement escorts attended for the Forest Service. Members of the tribes delivered passionate messages about the need for respect for people and the land, the need for advance notice, expectations of reasonable dialogue, and that Rainbow Leadership needed to observe regulations and lead by example. Tribal members were appreciative of the support received from the Forest and also expressed their support of law enforcement efforts both at the meeting and on the site.
- Mark Rey, Undersecretary of the US Department of Agriculture, was on site yesterday as was Region 5 Deputy Regional Forester Kent Connaughton, [REDACTED], Region 5,

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b7C

Location: Modoc National Forest, R-5
Date : July 2, 2004
Internal Update: 12
Contact: Donna Wilson, (530) 233-2141



National Incident Management

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Current Situation:

- The Special Use Administration (SUA) Team continues to work on some noncompliance issues with kitchens and campsites. New campers, many arriving at night, are camping within 150' of water.
- A formal notice of non-compliance was sent to the permit point of contact. The cover letter noted improved communications as a result of the addition of a larger special uses team and the Special Use Administration/Law Enforcement pairs that were put in place for this event as well as the cooperation of most gathering participants to achieve compliance with the terms of the permit. It also noted that the application for the noncommercial group use had not met the required 72-hour advance requirement (we accepted the application) and that not being able to communicate directly with the permit point of contact made it difficult to present our concerns. (Copies are available upon request.)
- Piles of garbage are an issue and Resource Advisors will be working with the Rainbows to have it removed more regularly. Rainbows have been notified and reports indicate that some work is happening.
- Members of the Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council, Cedarville, Alturas, and Susanville Rancherias and Pit River Tribe have requested a meeting with the Rainbow Council today at 2:00 pm to discuss their concerns with the Gathering. Stan Sylva, Forest Supervisor, Tim Lynn, IC, Dan Meza, Forest Tribal Relations Program Manager, and Gerry Gates, Forest Archaeologist are attending for the Forest Service.
- As a result of tribal concerns, sensitive areas were designated and a Forest amendment to the Special Use Permit was put in place. The amendment states that: in designated sensitive areas, no new digging is allowed and campfires can only be placed on the surface of the ground. No digging of new fire pits is allowed. Sensitive areas are being flagged today.

Location: Modoc National Forest, R-5
Date : July 1, 2004
Internal Update: 11
Contact: Donna Wilson, (530) 233-2141


National Incident Management

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Current Situation:

- The Special Use Administration (SUA) Team continues to work on some noncompliance issues with kitchens and campsites. Yesterday, Forest Service LEO's and Resource Advisors coordinated with some Gathering participants and they (Gathering participants) voluntarily moved the Crystal kitchen to an approved location. The operator of Crystal kitchen had previously been cited and a notice of noncompliance was posted at his kitchen after daily requests to move his operation. He was reported to have not been present at the time of relocation. Several other kitchens are also out of compliance and Resource Advisors are continuing to work with them.
- Piles of garbage are becoming an issue and Resource Advisors will be working with the Rainbows to have it removed more regularly.
- U.S. Magistrate Court was held yesterday in Likely. Cutting a green tree received a fine of \$250, the largest of the day, and an order not to enter federal land for 1 year and 15 days. Nineteen people did not appear at this or last week's session and warrants will be or have been issued.
- Stan Sylva, Modoc Forest Supervisor, Tim Lynn, IC, Dan Meza, Forest Tribal Relations Program Manager, and others met with the Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council yesterday to continue discussions about the Gathering. Tribal representatives indicated they want to meet with the Rainbow Council tomorrow at 2:00 pm to discuss their concerns. Resource Advisors will be working with the Tribe and Gathering participants to lesson impacts of slit trenches both in sensitive locations and in depth. The Pit River Tribe was not in attendance and is invited to attend tomorrow's session.
- On June 28, 2004, The Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council sent a formal protest letter (dated June 25, 2004) by FAX to Chief Bosworth regarding their concerns with the Gathering, following a field trip to the site several days ago. A detailed cover letter dated June 28, 2004, was attached to the formal protest. In addition to impacts to cultural

Location: Modoc National Forest, R-5
Date : June 30, 2004
Internal Update: 10
Contact: Donna Wilson, (530) 233-2141



National Incident Management

Situation Report: 2004 Rainbow Gathering

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Current Situation:

- The SUA Team continues to work on some noncompliance issues with kitchens and campsites. The operator of Crystal kitchen was cited and a notice of noncompliance was posted at the kitchen and given to the Rainbow Information Center. He has been asked to move his kitchen on a daily basis since the permit was signed. The Forest Service will take action as needed to ensure resources are protected.
- Parking is becoming crowded and the team is working on overflow parking in Lassen County near Camp 1.
- U.S. Magistrate Court will be held today in Likely at 10:00. The kitchen operator that was cited has a mandatory appearance.
- On June 28, 2004, The Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council sent a formal protest letter (dated June 25, 2004) by FAX to Chief Bosworth regarding their concerns with the Gathering, following a field trip to the site several days ago. A detailed cover letter dated June 28, 2004, was attached to the formal protest. In addition to impacts to cultural resources they are extremely concerned about "failure to consult with the Tribe" prior to issuing a permit to the Rainbows. The Modoc Forest Supervisor Stan Sylva is in contact with the Tribe and the R5 Deputy Regional Forester.
- Stan Sylva, Modoc Forest Supervisor, and others members of the team are meeting with the Pit River Tribe and the Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council today at 5:00 pm to continue discussions about their concerns with the Gathering.
- The Rainbows have requested that if tribes come back to the Gathering site they can go to the "Indigenous Camp" at the Gathering site or contact brother Markam at the Information Center at the site.

Location: Modoc National Forest, R-5
Date : June 29, 2004
Internal Update: 9
Contact: Donna Wilson, (530) 233-2141


National Incident Management

Situation Report: 2004 Rainbow Gathering

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Current Situation:

- It has been reported by a Rainbow member that the Point of Contact for the SUP is on site.
- The SUA Team is still working on some noncompliance issues with kitchens and campsites. There is one kitchen that refuses to come into compliance with the permit in reference to distance from water source. The operator was given a notice of noncompliance. His kitchen was put into place prior to the permit being signed. He has been asked to move his kitchen on a daily basis since the permit was signed. He was issued a warning notice to have the kitchen moved by 5:15 pm yesterday (June 28). The formal notice of noncompliance gave the kitchen operator until noon on June 29th to relocate. Some Rainbow participants are also asking the kitchen operator to come in compliance. The Team is communicating with legal council on this issue. All kitchens have been resurveyed for consistency in permit compliance.
- On June 27, two Rainbow individuals incited other participants to circle several LEOs. The LEOs were there on a low key safety issue. Our LEOs disengaged and left. One of the Rainbow individuals had a large sword. On June 28, law enforcement cited the two individuals who were inciting the crowd. They are scheduled to appear in court tomorrow at 10:00 in Likely.
- More resource members for the SUA team are arriving so that the size of permit administration zones can be reduced.
- On June 28, 2004, The Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council sent a formal protest letter (dated June 25, 2004) by FAX to Chief Bosworth regarding their concerns with the Gathering, following a field trip to the site several days ago. A detailed cover letter dated June 28, 2004, was attached to the formal protest. In addition to impacts to cultural resources they are extremely concerned about "failure to consult with the Tribe" prior to

Location: Modoc National Forest, R-5
Date : June 28, 2004, 0800 hrs
Internal Update: 8
Contact: Donna Wilson, (530) 233-2141


National Incident Management

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Current Situation:

- The Point of Contact for the SUP is at the site. She has expressed concern about her reception from other Rainbows that disagree with the need for a permit.
- Tonight we will start 24-hour coverage.
- The Team has  mounted horse units and  K-9 units. b7e
- Foot and horse patrols will be increased in the area in order to reduce vehicular traffic to ensure the safety of pedestrians and to reduce heavy dust.
- Information about the natural resource protection regulations and other Forest Orders will also be posted at the Information Center at the Gathering site as requested by Rainbow Gathering participants.
- A fire prevention technician continues to be on site daily from 10-2 issuing campfire permits.
- The SUA Team is still working on some noncompliance issues with kitchen and campsites. Garbage pick up is also becoming a problem. There is one kitchen that refuses to come into compliance with the permit in reference to distance from water source. The Special Use Section Chief is trying to locate the point of contact on the permit to deliver the noncompliance letter. A truck used by the Gathering to transport food and garbage to and from the site was warned in Alturas by the CHP for having expired tags. The next day, the same vehicle was warned by FS LEO's for having expired tags. On the third day, the driver received a violation notice and citation and was told not to operate the vehicle while still in violation.

Location: Modoc National Forest, R-5
Date : June 27, 2004, 0800 hrs
Internal Update: 7
Contact: Donna Wilson, (530) 233-2141


National Incident Management

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Current Situation:

- The Point of Contact for the SUP is expected to arrive soon. She has expressed concern about her reception from other Rainbows that disagree with the need for a permit.
- The team is adding [redacted] BLM law enforcement officers who will be partnered with Forest Service LEO's to achieve 24-hour coverage [redacted] shifts. b7e
- Currently the Team has [redacted] mounted horse units and are considering more.
- The Team and Gathering participants met yesterday and resolved the road issue. Access to the area for emergency vehicles will remain. Foot and horse patrols will be increased in the area in order to reduce vehicular traffic to ensure the safety of pedestrians and to reduce heavy dust.
- Information about the natural resource protection regulations and other Forest Orders will also be posted at the Information Center at the Gathering site as requested by Rainbow Gathering participants. The main sign is now located at the entrance of "Welcome Home" where the Alcohol "A" camp is located. We were told that not many of the gathering participants will go there because of the type of behavior in "A" camp.
- A fire prevention technician continues to be on site daily from 10-2 issuing campfire permits.
- The entire area is ancestral grounds of the Paiute and Pit River Indians. Representatives from the NIMT and the Forest conducted a field trip yesterday with the Pit River Tribe representatives. They appeared to be impressed with the law enforcement presence at the site, recognized the effort of the team, and will be observing our management throughout the event.

Location: Modoc National Forest, R-5
Date : June 26, 2004, 0800 hrs
Internal Update: 6
Contact: Donna Wilson, (530) 233-2141



Situation Report: 2004 Rainbow Gathering

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Current Situation:

- The Point of Contact for the SUP should be arriving today. She has expressed concern about her reception from other Rainbows that disagree with the need for a permit.
- The Team and Gathering participants are meeting today to work towards resolution of a road issue. The Team is concerned about safety and emergency vehicle access to the area as a whole. Gathering participants have placed boulders and trees in certain sections of the road that traverses the site. Participants are concerned about the number of vehicle patrols that occur on the road because numerous campsites are located immediately next to the road and foot traffic from children and elders is growing as the camp expands. If not resolved today, a notice of non-compliance may be issued to the permit point of contact very soon.
- Information about the natural resource protection regulations and other Forest Orders will also be posted at the Information Center at the Gathering site as requested by Rainbow Gathering participants. The main sign is now located at the entrance of "Welcome Home" where the Alcohol "A" camp is located. We were told that not many of the gathering participants will go there because of the type of behavior in "A" camp. A fire prevention technician is on site daily from 10-2 issuing campfire permits. The system is working well.
- Forest Service address information was provided to a Cultural Committee member from the Fort Bidwell Community Council (Paiute), at their request. They have expressed an interest in writing a letter voicing their concerns about the Rainbow Gathering, following a visit to the site on Thursday. The entire area is ancestral grounds of the Paiute and Pit River Indians.
- Representatives from the NIMT and the Forest will be doing a field trip with the Pit River Tribe representatives this morning.

Location: Modoc National Forest, R-5
Date : June 25, 2004, 0800 hrs
Internal Update: 5
Contact: Donna Wilson, (530) 233-2141



National Incident Management

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Current Situation:

- The Team and Gathering participants continued to work together regarding a section of road. This issue has not been resolved and is the primary issue at this point in time. The Team is concerned about safety and emergency vehicle access to the area as a whole. Gathering participants have placed boulders and trees in certain sections of the road that traverses the site. Participants are concerned about the number of vehicle patrols that occur on the road because numerous campsites are located immediately next to the road and foot traffic from children and elders is growing as the camp expands. A notice of non-compliance may be issued to the permit point of contact in the near future.
- One more horse unit has been added.
- Two county nurses who are frequently on site questioned the need for the amount of law enforcement at the gathering. They also stated that the water samples taken tested negative.
- Due to a recent incident, the Safety Officer said that all employees working in the gathering need to contact law enforcement when they receive threats.
- There was a concern that we need an information sign within the gathering with FS regulations. The main sign is now located at the entrance of "Welcome Home" where the Alcohol "A" camp is located. We were told that not many of the gathering participants will go there because of the type of behavior in "A" camp. Information will be posted at the Gathering's Information Center with FS regulations that apply to the area.
- A fire prevention technician is on site daily from 10-2 issuing campfire permits. The system is working well.
- Senator Doolittle was contacted by a Modoc County Supervisor regarding a concern of a permittee about "water rights." In fact, the grazing permittee does not have "water rights" on the site.
- The County Supervisor is also concerned about the cost to the county. Doolittle's staffer mentioned petitioning Congress to repay the county.
- Paiute representatives were on the site yesterday and expressed concern because this is a traditional plant gathering area. They had major concern about the digging of slit trenches and compost pits and disturbance of archaeological artifacts. They said it was

Location: Modoc National Forest, R-5
Date : June 24, 2004, 0800 hrs
Internal Update: 4
Contact: Donna Wilson, (530) 233-2141


National Incident Management

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Current Situation:

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- The ICP is located at the Modoc High School Library; Information phone number is 530-233-2141.
- A Unified Command Briefing is set for 1100 today.
- Permit Administrators spent yesterday on the site. They received an orientation and began mapping significant infrastructure such as camps, kitchens, slit trenches, bathing areas, trails, stream crossings, etc. 67e permit administrators are paired with LEO's as a team. Members are feeling comfortable working with this arrangement.
- The Team and Gathering participants continued to work together regarding a section of road. This issue has not been resolved and is the primary issue at this point in time. The Team is concerned about safety and emergency vehicle access to the area as a whole. Gathering participants have placed boulders and trees in certain sections of the road that traverses the site. Participants are concerned about the number of patrols that occur on the road because numerous campsites are located immediately next to the road and foot traffic from children and elders is growing as the camp expands. A notice of non-compliance may be issued to the permit point of contact in the near future.
- Team is carefully designing a process for issuing the Notice of Noncompliance and any subsequent actions involved in opening the road.
- The Crystal Kitchen remains in non-compliance and may be issued a notice following resolution of the road issue. We expect a challenge from the kitchen operator.
- A request has been received from a Rainbow participant to obtain a water truck for dust abatement. Water would be obtained from the quarry lake. Water truck would need to meet state requirements.
- A fire prevention technician is on site daily from 10-2 issuing campfire permits. The system is working well.
- A radio communication indicated that "Smokey" would be on site. This may have been a reference to the FPT issuing campfire permits. As clarification, the Team wants to make sure that the costumed Smokey Bear does not go on site.
- Law Enforcement is trying to close a gap of coverage in the early morning hours.

Location: Modoc National Forest, R-5
Date : June 23, 2004, 1145 hrs
Internal Update: 3
Contact: Donna Wilson, (540) 797-6241



Situation Report: 2004 Rainbow Gathering

Situation:

The Rainbow Family of Living Light has selected the Bearcamp Flat area, 25 miles east of Likely, CA, on the South Warner Mountains, Warner Mountain Ranger District, and Modoc National Forest (MDF) for the 2004 gathering.

Background:

Each year for over thirty years, the Rainbow Family has held an event on public lands they call the Gathering. This is a very loosely structured event that attracts anywhere from 8,000 to 20,000 people. Gatherings are held in rural areas, usually some distance from the nearest town. The climax of the Gathering is on July 4, when participants gather in one place to pray for world peace and mother earth. A non-commercial use permit for the event was signed on June 21, 2004.

Current Situation:

- Tuesday, 6/15, 0900, Forest Supervisor Stan Sylva delegated to Tim Lynn, IC, authority to manage the Rainbow Gathering event.
- The ICP is located at the Modoc High School Library; Information phone number is 530-233-2141.
- A Unified Command Briefing is set for 1100 on Thursday, June 25.
- Monday 6/21 the forest issued a noncommercial large group Special Use Permit. The Forest met with Gathering participants for 3.5 hours late yesterday to discuss the operation and maintenance plan, among other issues, for the SUP.
- Today is the first day Permit Administrators will spend on the site. They are going through an orientation and will begin to map significant infrastructure such as camps, kitchens, slit trenches, bathing areas, trails, stream crossings, etc.
- Boulders and trees placed in certain sections of the road that traverses the site continues to be one of the more pressing issues. Participants are concerned about the number of patrols that occur on the road because numerous campsites are located immediately next to the road and foot traffic from children and elders is growing as the camp expands. The Team is concerned about safety and emergency vehicle access to the area as a whole. The Team and Gathering participants are continuing to work together to address each other's concerns.
- Stan Sylva, Forest Supervisor and Tim Lynn, Incident Commander, and Dan Meza, Forest Tribal Relations Specialist met with representatives of the Pit River Tribe yesterday in Burney. Overall, the meeting was congenial once the Tribe learned that a Special Use Permit had been signed. Several tribal representatives are going to the site for a field trip on Saturday. The Tribe expressed their opinion of opposing the Gathering in general and is drafting a resolution to be sent to Washington, DC.
- Representatives from the Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council are meeting with Edie Asrow on Thursday. They have expressed a desire for a fieldtrip as well.
- The conservative estimate of the number of people at the Gathering is 1,150 based on vehicle counts. Figures being used are 3.5 people/vehicle and 4 people/bus or van. This is conservative as people are arriving using different modes of transportation such as bicycles, on foot, or in shuttles.

Location: Modoc National Forest, R-5
Date : June 20, 2004, 1000 hrs
Internal Update: 1
Contact: Donna Wilson, (540) 797-6241


National Incident Management

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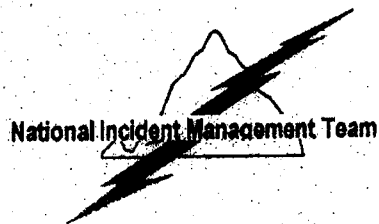
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Current Situation:

- Tuesday, 6/15, 0900, Forest Supervisor Stan Sylva delegated to Tim Lynn, IC, authority to manage the Rainbow Gathering event.
- The ICP is set at the Modoc High School Library; Information phone number is 530-233-2141.
- Wednesday, 6/16, Land Use Restriction Orders were signed regarding the headwaters of East Creek for 1.6 miles; camping, nudity, parking within the South Warner Closure Area; and OHV closure in Bear Camp Flat Area. Copies are posted at all three entrances to the area affected by the gathering and public has been notified.
- Friday, 6/18, 1500, the MDF received an application for a Special Use Permit; the forest expects to issue a permit Monday afternoon, 6/21.
- Saturday, 6/19, LEO orientation included Assistant Director LE&I Ann Melle, Regional Forester's liaison Tom Contreras, the National Incident Management Team (NIMT) and LEO's.
- Saturday, 6/19, the Fire Suppression Plan was completed.
- Sunday, 6/20, the forest is conducting an environmental analysis of the affected area.
- A medical and safety plan is complete and was prepared as a unified effort among Forest Service, Lassen and Modoc County Public Health Departments and IMT Safety Officer.
- The Unified Command will meet at 11 am every Tuesday and Thursday at the Incident Command Post.
- Tom Contreras stated that the Region is prepared to commit a group of special use permit administrators to assist with permit administration, and a National Fire Prevention Team is on stand-by for deployment to assist with education for fire prevention in coordination with the National Team.
- NIMT is emphasizing public information and community relations. Community relation's team is active in the communities of Likely, Alturas and Davis Creek. Information boards have been setup in coordination with local storeowners and residents. Personal contacts are made daily.

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Rainbow Family National Gathering Great Basin Region



U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Thursday July 8, 2004

Contact: Donna Wilson, Incident Information Officer, (540) 797-6241

Local Agencies Key to Rainbow Coordination

Alturas - Using a "Unified Command" system, local, state, and federal agencies worked successfully together during the annual 'Rainbow Family of the Living Light' Gathering held in Modoc County this June and July.

"My job was made a lot easier because of the expertise of the people involved and their commitment to make things work here," said Tim Lynn, head of the National Incident Management Team, charged with assisting the Modoc National Forest during the gathering. He continued, "It was a real pleasure serving the community."

In addition to the Forest Service, representatives to the Unified Command group included: Modoc County Supervisors, County Administrator, local & state Office of Emergency Services, Modoc Medical Center, Modoc Ambulance, County Public & Environmental Health, Surprise Valley HCD, County Social Services, Modoc & Lassen County Sheriff, Alturas Rural Fire Department, Likely Fire Chief, CA Highway Patrol, CA Department of Fish & Game, CA Department of Forestry, City Police Department, Modoc District Attorney's office, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Speaking to the Unified Command effort, Modoc County Sheriff Bruce Mix said, "This is the right way to go about it...the cooperation has been tremendous."

"We worked hard as a group to limit the impact to communities said Lynn, and we feel that we largely met our goals, with one exception." Both Lynn and Stan Sylva, Modoc National Forest Supervisor, along with other members of the community, expressed their disappointment that cultural sites, sacred to local tribes, were impacted by the gathering. According to Sylva, the Forest is continuing to work with local tribal representatives with a goal of helping others avoid the same scenario in future years.

-more-



NEWS RELEASE

Date: Thursday, June 17, 2004

Contact: Donna Wilson, Incident Information Officer, (540) 797-6241

Temporary Land Use Restriction Orders

A large group of up to 20,000 individuals is expected to be on the Warner Mountain Ranger District by July 1. At this point no noncommercial large group use permit has been issued. However, U.S. Forest Service officials are working on the compliance with the permit requirements.

At the present time to protect natural resources and public uses for the large number of visitors associated with the Rainbow Family Gathering, the Modoc National Forest has approved Temporary Land Use Restrictions within the impacted area of the South Warner Mountains. The area runs from the Forest boundary at the entrance of West Valley northeast to Mill Creek Falls then follows the South Warner Wilderness boundary.

The following restrictions apply to all forest users of the impacted area and are effective from June 17 through August 1, 2004.

1. Camping within 150 feet of any running stream or body of water.
 - To protect streams, other bodies of water and riparian areas.
2. Being publicly nude.
 - Nudity is offensive to some members of the public who could be traveling through the regulated area.
3. Possessing a dog not on a leash or otherwise confined.
 - To provide for the health and safety of visitors.
4. Placing kitchen facilities (including food preparation areas), gray water pits, or slit trenches within 300 feet of any running stream or body of water.
 - Where large quantities of food are prepared over multiple days, 300 feet is necessary to prevent pollution from entering water. This distance is also required for slit trenches to manage human waste away from water sources.
5. Parking or leaving a vehicle in violation of posted instructions.
 - Parked or abandoned vehicles can create a variety of hazards.