

Dolores Maese/R3/USDAFS
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To Erin Connelly/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Karen M
Carter/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Lawrence M
Lujan/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Denise
cc
bcc
Subject Blogs--Rainbow

From the New Mexico Independent:
By Jim Baca, Governor Richardson's Natural Resource Trustee

[maybe we should invite him out--dmaese]

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Flower vs. Power

The US Forest Service needs to chill out. So far they have handed out 200 citations to only 1500 people who have showed up at the annual Rainbow gathering of aging hippies and new agers in New Mexico's forests. The encampment site near Cuba will supposedly host 10,000 Flower children over the next week. The Forest Service has made sport out of hassling these folks by bringing in law enforcement personnel from all over the country. Last year the situation nearly got out of hand with heavily armed squads with drawn weapons in the midst of crowds with children present. It is ridiculous. Hopefully the new Chief of the Forest Service will take stop this unnecessary provocation next year.

Posted by Jim Baca at Tuesday, June 23, 2009

<http://onlyinnewmexico.blogspot.com/2009/06/flower-vs-power.html>

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Hassling the Rainbow

Hippies at the Rainbow Gathering - who if they played golf would be considered tourists - are getting citations for minor infractions like cracked windshields and loose dogs and are having to appear in federal court in Albuquerque 120 miles away. Way to harsh the mellow.

The Albuquerque Journal and the Santa Fe New Mexican cover the story that morphs into a tale of law enforcement overkill - 50 officers, 370 "incidents" and 120 citations among the 1500 gathered. And the event hasn't even started yet.

From the **New Mexican**:

Garrick Beck, a Santa Fe business owner and public-information volunteer for the Rainbows, said the citations were an excuse for the officers to search Rainbow family vehicles and "harass them." The Rainbow family has no official spokesperson or leader. Instead, it manages its gatherings through volunteers.

Beck said the tickets were handed out by a "rogue" group of Forest Service law-enforcement officers. According to some gatherers, he said, "this comes as a slap in the face after several months of successful cooperation between (Rainbow) volunteers and Forest Service resource officials to assure

a safe and legal event."

I drove through Cuba twice this weekend. Nary a hippy in sight but multiple law enforcement vehicles zooming up and down 550. Rest assured that young men with guns in overpowered SUVs are protecting you with near maniacal fervor from people who talk about peace and sleep in the woods.

Posted by Coco la Boca on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 in **Current Affairs** | **Permalink**

<http://cocoposts.typepad.com/cocoposts/2009/06/hassling-the-rainbow.html>

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