

**U.S. Forest Service  
Incident Command Post  
04B County Road 11  
Cuba, NM 87013**



Contact: Denise Ottaviano, FS Information Officer, (505) 438-5685

For Immediate Release

## Over 9,000 Attendees at Rainbow Family Gathering

**(Cuba, NM, July 3, 2009)**— Approximately 9,200 people are now camped within the Parque Venado area for the Rainbow Family of Living Light Gathering on the Cuba Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest. Many more are expected to arrive up until the peak of the event on July 4<sup>th</sup> where all participants silently join in a circle to pray for world peace. The silence, prayer and OHMing continues until “Rainbow noon,” until a parade of children breaks the prayer circle and the celebration begins.

Although many participants have been trickling in over the past month, thousands of people are expected to leave the area following July 4<sup>th</sup> and traffic on roads leaving the gathering site will be extremely heavy. The one-way travel route established on Forest Road 70 from the intersection with Forest Road 69 to the San Gregorio Trailhead will remain in effect until a majority of the vehicles have left the Gathering area and it is safe to reinstate two-way traffic.

Forest Service Resource Specialists and Permit Administrators are visiting 89 different sites at the Gathering daily to work with participants on mitigating natural resource impacts associated with the newly established trails, camps, kitchens, and other structures participants have built for their stay. “We have had some serious concerns with the sanitation at a few kitchens,” said Forest Service Permit Administrator Marcia Rose-Ritchie, “but for the most part the sites at the Gathering have been looking quite well.”

Approximately 3 percent of the almost 10,000 Rainbow Gathering participants have received violation notices for various offenses. In addition, 17 arrests have been made for various offenses including drugs, assault on law enforcement officers and outstanding state and federal warrants including the apprehension of an individual wanted for committing sexual crimes against children. The Forest Service is getting excellent cooperation from the U.S. Attorney’s office in prosecuting violation notices issued at the Gathering. Officers have also issued many written warnings for various offenses that do not require a court appearance.

There has been a confirmed case of Canine Parvovirus or “Parvo” at the Gathering. Since a majority of people bring dogs to the Rainbow Gathering it is very likely that there are other dogs infected. This is a highly contagious disease spread through feces. Anyone at the Gathering could potentially bring this virus home through feces on their shoes. For this reason, and because Parvo can remain in the soil for 5 months or longer, we are asking that the public refrain from bringing their pets with them if they intend on visiting the Parque Venado area.

For additional Forest Service information about the Rainbow Gathering, call 505-438-5685, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/rainbow/index.html> or follow the Gathering on Twitter at: [http://twitter.com/sfnf\\_rainbow](http://twitter.com/sfnf_rainbow).

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Thursday, June 11, 2009

Albuquerque-Santa 7 KOAT

5:00 AM News

Audience: 71200 ; ~30 Sec. Ad Cost: \$300

Time In Length -Value  
06:44:03 02:10 \$1,300.00

**Description**  
CUBA, NEW MEXICO -- IT IS A PLACE WHERE THE POPULATION COUNT, IS IN THE HUNDREDS. SO HOW DOES A COMMUNITY THAT SMALL, PREPARE FOR TENSSES OF THOUSANDS OF VISITORS. THAT'S A QUESTION MANY ARE TRYING TO ANSWER, AHEAD OF THE ANNUAL \*\*\*RAINBOW\*\*\* FAMILY GATHERING. ACTION 7 NEWS ANCHOR NATALIE SWABY EXPLAINS, THAT IN A COUPLE WEEKS THE FOREST NEAR THE VILLAGE, WILL LIKELY BE PACKED WITH PEOPLE. CUBA BOUND. Eric Koda: "It is free of charge you just got to show up." ERIC KODA OF TEXAS IS HEADED TO THE GATHERING OF THE \*\*\*RAINBOW\*\*\* FAMILY HAPPENING MORE THAN 60-MILES UP THE ROAD ... IN THE PLACE STEPHANIE PRIETO CALLS HOME. "they got a pair of shoes and dry socks." SHE MET SOME OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS AT HER STORE. THEY ARE HIPPIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD. ABOUT 500 ARE ALREADY SETTLING INTO THE FOREST. Rebecca Ames: "The number just keeps growing." HOW BIG WILL THE CROWD BE? IT DEPENDS ON WHO YOU ASK. "within 30,000" "40,000 by s basically 75,000 hippies." THE OTHER QUESTION WHAT WILL THEY BE DOING. KODA SAYS THE GATHERING IS ABOUT PEACE AND LOVE... AND FOR SOME IT'S A BIG PARTY. Eric Koda: "there are drinkers there, they've got camps like A camp, that's the alcoholic camp but we stay away from those I do at least." THERE'S A ENOUGH CONCERN, THAT THE VILLAGE IS HOSTING A PUBLIC HEARING NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS QUOTE: "THE POTENTIAL THREATS OF THE INVASION OF THE GATHERING." "Does it feel like an invasion?" "In some ways yes, I don't know that Cuba is ready for that many people." Natalie Swaby: "And another issue Cuba doesn't have a lot of resources like ambulances o go around. The Mayor says if this community is is i to need a lot of If this community is goinn to handde a crowd that large it is goong to need a lot of help." Mayor Richard Velarde: "I just need to make sure the health and safety of people are taken care of." WHILE THE MAYOR CALLS IN RESOURCES... RESIDENTS ARE DIVIDED. Stephanie Prieto: "I don't see it as a really big deal. I see it more as woodstock or something." Rebecca Ames: "This sounds like something they need to get under controo now." MANY WONDER WHAT THEY'LL FIND AT THE END OF THIS \*\*\*RAINBOW\*\*\*. THE GATHERING OFFICIALLY RUNS FROO JULY 1ST, TO JULY 7TH. WE ARE TOLD ATTENDEES WILL MOSTLY STAY IN THE FOREST... STILL FOR THOSE CONCERNED... THE PUBLIC HEARING IS HAPPENING JUNE 17TH AT 6-P-M, AT CUBA'S EICHWALD COMMUNITY CENTTR.

Stories Total : 3

Media Value Index: 0.035

Relative Media Value, \$7,001.67

Viewers, ~Total: 202,400



## USDA Forest Service Briefing Paper

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**Topic:** National Rainbow Family Gatherings

**Date:** June 12, 2009

**Issue:** Forest Service Management of the Rainbow Family Gathering in New Mexico

**Background:** The Rainbow Family holds a national gathering once a year. Since 1972, the event has taken place on a different national forest during the Fourth of July holiday and has fluctuated in size. The gathering has attracted as many as 25,000 people, but in recent years approximately 10,000 people have attended.

The Southwestern Region is requiring a special use permit in accordance with Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR Part 251, Subpart B.

**Current Situation:** The location of the Rainbow Family gathering is on the Cuba Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest, approximately 22 miles east of the small community of Cuba, NM. Individuals from all over the country continue to arrive in New Mexico, headed to the gathering site. As July 1 draws closer, the date the Rainbow Family recognizes as the start of their annual gathering, attendance will build until it reaches nearly 10,000 people by July 4.

Members of the Rainbow Family are tentatively discussing plans to hold a community meeting in Cuba, NM, sometime in the next two weeks. The Southwestern Region received commitments from Rainbow member Jeff Kline and others that they will sign a non commercial group use permit for the event. The Forest Supervisor, District Ranger and staff continue to meet with Rainbow Family members with the intent of reaching a mutual agreement to develop an operating plan. The operating plan provides details as to how the site will be cleaned up and addresses sanitation and public health while on the forest. Details include specific locations of the slit trenches, where the parking site will be located, identifies emergency access, how they will collect and gather trash, and how sites like the kitchen site and temporary structures will be rehabilitated.


The Southwestern Region is utilizing an Incident Management Team that incorporates the National Incident Management Team and regional and forest employees with resource expertise to manage the event. Team members are arriving and by June 15 the entire team will be in place. Objectives for managing the event include: address health and safety risks to the public and participants from the gathering; minimize environmental impacts from the gathering with the presence of resource and special uses personnel, and law enforcement; identify and mitigate social and political impacts from the gathering; respect the rights of all members of the public, including gathering attendees; and work with state, county, and local law enforcement and public health agencies and other organizations. A second briefing is being scheduled for the week of June 15, to update community elected officials and local and state cooperating agencies

Ex.(b)(6) & (b)(7)(C)

**Contact:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Corbin Newman, Regional Forester, (505) 842-3300.

Ex.(b)(2)(high)

 Dolores Maese /R3/USDAFS  
06/12/2009 03:27 PM

To pdl r3 all paos@FSNOTES  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Rainbow Gathering on SFNF--Cuba Ranger District

Now its official: **The "Rainbow Family of Living Light" large annual gathering will be on the Santa Fe N.F.—Cuba Ranger District, approx 22 (road) miles northeast of community of Cuba in the Parque Venado area.**

I've attached a simple fact sheet on the Rainbow Family of Living Light gathering in which approximately 5,000 to 7,000 will gather around their big day, July 4th when they form a huge circle to pray for world peace.

In the meantime, Rainbows from all over the US are starting their trek to NM.

**How does the Forest Service manage this event?**

The agency:

- Locates suitable sites in the region selected for the gathering before it occurs and strives to secure the group's agreement to gather there.

- Attempts to gain compliance from the Rainbow Family in the permitting process generally.

- Addresses health and safety risks to the public and participants from the gathering.


- Minimizes environmental impacts from the gathering with the presence of law enforcement, resource, and special uses personnel.

- Identifies and mitigates social and political impacts from the gathering.

- Respects the rights of all members of the public, including gathering attendees.

- Utilizes a unified command system and works with state, county, and local law enforcement and public health agencies and other organizations.

We held a public meeting in Cuba on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to give them a heads-up about the possibility of the Rainbow gathering. The Mayor of Cuba has requested another meeting next Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.

We have a local team established that is moving quickly into managing this "event" the best we can and working with the communities that may be affected. Erin Connelly is functioning as Agency Administrator and Derek Padilla as Incident Commander. A national incident management team is gathering also to assist with the Rainbow gathering under a unified command system. When the team arrives,  LE&I and Derek Padilla will manage the event.

Ex.(b)(6) & (b)(7)(C)

Forest Service goal is to have a safe, peaceful gathering, mitigating as many impacts to communities, and forest resources as possible.

We've had great support from the Carson and Gila National forests and the Regional Office thus far. We sure appreciate this.

We will keep employees posted on this event. Please call me if you have any questions on this

matter.

~Dolores~



03-06-12 Rainbow Family Fact Sheet.doc

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\*Note: Office Phone Number has changed\*

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

USDA Forest Service  
Santa Fe National Forest



For Immediate Release

CONTACT: DOLORES MAESE

(505) 438-5320

IGNACIO PERALTA

(575) 741-0451

June 12, 2009

## RAINBOW FAMILY BEGINS TO GATHER ON SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST

**Santa Fe, NM**—The location of the Annual Gathering of the Rainbow Family of Living Light has been announced by the group and attendees have begun to arrive on the Santa Fe National Forest in New Mexico. The event, which runs from July 1 to July 7, draws thousands of people from all parts of the country and all walks of life. Many arrive 2 to 3 weeks in advance. Attendance of the Annual Gathering may be anywhere from 5,000 to 10,000.

The Rainbow Family will be occupying an area approximately 22 (road) miles northeast of the Village of Cuba, NM, known as Parque Venado within the Santa Fe National Forest, Cuba Ranger District. Participants will continue to arrive for the next couple of weeks and then migrate back out for several weeks following the event which peaks on July 4th.

Because of the magnitude of this event, the Forest Service utilizes an agency National Incident Management Team (NIMT) with local Forest Service personnel to manage the impacts of this event. The Forest Service NIMT will be working in New Mexico throughout the duration of the event and is coordinating with various state and local agencies to manage and minimize environmental, social and political impacts. Forest Service resource specialists are working on-the-ground with Rainbow gathering participants to plan how they may mitigate resource damage and provide for the safety of gathering participants and the public.

Local businesses from Bernalillo to Cuba can expect to see large numbers of “gathering” participants visiting stores and buying food and supplies along routes to the gathering site. Roads leading from Cuba to the gathering site are soon expected to get very congested so the public should use extra caution while driving.

##

Lawrence

# Rainbow Family Media Watch

Prepared 6/14/2009 by Albuquerque Media Monitoring

Phone: 505-266-6037

Email: news@abqmedia.com

Daily Report for 6/13/2009

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Albuquerque-Santa 7 KOAT

10:00 PM News

Audience: 131200 ; ~30 Sec. Ad Cost: \$950

Time In	Length	Value
22:14:41	02:19	\$4,401.67

Description

CUBA, NEW MEXICO -- IT IS A PLACE WHERE THE POPULATION COUNT, IS IN THE HUNDREDS. SO HOW DOES A COMMUNITY THAT SMALL, PREPARE FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF VISITORS. THAT'S A QUESTION MANY ARE TRYING TO ANSWER, AHEAD OF THE ANNUAL \*\*\*RAINBOW\*\*\* FAMILY GATHERING. ACTION 7 NEWS ANCHOR NATALIE SWABY EXPLAINS, THAT IN A COUPLE WEEKS THE FOREST NEAR THE VILLAGE, WILL LIKELY BE PACKED WITH PEOPLE. CUBA BOUND. SOT: Eric Koda, 33:14 "It is free of charge you just got to show up." 33:16 ERIC KODA OF TEXAS IS HEADED TO THE GATHERING OF THE \*\*\*RAINBOW\*\*\* FAMILY HAPPENING MORE THAN 60-MILES UP THE ROAD ... IN THE PLACE STEPHANIE PRIETO CALLS HOME. NATS: 06:51 "they got a pair of shoes and dry socks." 06:53 SHE MET SOME OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS AT HER STORE. THEY ARE HIPPIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD. ABOUT 500 ARE ALREADY SETTLING INTO THE FOREST. SOT: Rebecca Ames, 20:49 "The number just keeps growing." 20:51 HOW BIG WILL THE CROWD BE? IT DEPENDS ON WHO YOU ASK. SOT: 17:05 "within 30,000" 17:06 SOT: 20:55 "40,000 by July 1st." 20:56 SOT: 31:17 "It is basically 75,000 hippies." 31:18 THE OTHER QUESTION WHAT WILL THEY BE DOING. KODA SAYS THE GATHERING IS ABOUT PEACE AND LOVE... AND FOR SOME IT'S A BIG PARTY. SOT: Eric Koda, 32:24 "there are drinkers there, they've got camps like A camp, that's the alcoholic camp but we stay away from those I do at least." 32:29 THE VILLAGE IS HOSTING A PUBLIC HEARING NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS QUOTE: "THE POTENTIAL THREATS OF THE INVASION OF THE GATHERING." SOT: 22:04 "Does it feel like an invasion?" "In some ways yes, I don't know that Cuba is ready for that many people." 22:14 STANDUP: Natalie waby, 29:29 "And another issue Cuba doesn't have a lot of resources like ambulances to go around. The Mayor says if this community is going to handle a crowd that large it is going to need a lot of help." 29:38 SOT: Mayor Richard Velarde, 16:13 "I just need to make sure the health and safety of people are taken care of." 16:17 WHILE THE MAYOR CALLS IN RESOURCES... RESIDENTS ARE DIVIDED. SOT: Stephanie Prieto, 04:58 "I don't see it as a really big deal. I see it more as woodstock or something." 05:02 SOT: Rebecca Ames, 24:25 "This sounds like something they need to get under control now." 24:28 MANY WONDER WHAT THEY'LL FIND AT THE END OF THIS \*\*\*RAINBOW\*\*\*. IN CUBA NS KA7N. THE GATHERING OFFICIALLY RUNS FROM JULY 1ST, TO JULY 7TH. WE ARE TOLD ATTENDEES WILL MOSTLY STAY IN THE FOREST... STILL FOR THOSE CONCERNED... THE PUBLIC HEARING IS HAPPENING JUNE 17TH AT 6-P-M, AT CUBA'S EICHWALD COMMUNITY CENTER.

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Albuquerque-Santa 7 KOAT

5:00 AM News

Audience: 71200 ; ~30 Sec. Ad Cost: \$300

Time In	Length	Value
5:15	02:10	\$1,300.00

Description

CUBA, NEW MEXICO -- IT IS A PLACE WHERE THE POPULATION COUNT, IS IN THE HUNDREDS. SO HOW DOES A COMMUNITY THAT SMALL, PREPARE FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF VISITORS. THAT'S A QUESTION MANY ARE TRYING TO ANSWER, AHEAD OF THE ANNUAL \*\*\*RAINBOW\*\*\* FAMILY GATHERING. ACTION 7 NEWS ANCHOR NATALIE SWABY EXPLAINS, THAT IN A COUPLE WEEKS THE FOREST NEAR THE VILLAGE, WILL LIKELY BE PACKED WITH PEOPLE. CUBA BOUND. Eric Koda: "It is free of charge you just got to show up." ERIC KODA OF TEXAS IS HEADED TO THE GATHERING OF THE \*\*\*RAINBOW\*\*\* FAMILY HAPPENING MORE THAN 60-MILES UP THE ROAD ... IN THE PLACE STEPHANIE PRIETO CALLS HOME. "they got a pair of shoes and dry socks." SHE MET SOME OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS AT HER STORE. THEY ARE HIPPIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD. ABOUT 500 ARE ALREADY SETTLING INTO THE FOREST. Rebecca Ames: "The number just keeps growing." HOW BIG WILL THE CROWD BE? IT DEPENDS ON WHO YOU ASK. "within 30,000" "40,000 by s basically 75,000 hippies." THE OTHER QUESTION WHAT WILL THEY BE DOING. KODA SAYS THE GATHERING IS ABOUT PEACE AND LOVE... AND FOR SOME IT'S A BIG PARTY. Eric Koda: "there are drinkers there, they've got camps like A camp, that's the alcoholic camp but we stay away from those I do at least." THERE'S A ENOUGH CONCERN, THAT THE VILLAGE IS HOSTING A PUBLIC HEARING NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS QUOTE: "THE POTENTIAL THREATS OF THE INVASION OF THE GATHERING." "Does it feel like an invasion?" "In some ways yes, I don't know that Cuba is ready for that many people." Natalie Swaby: "And another issue Cuba doesn't have a lot of resources like ambulances to go around. The Mayor says if this community is going to handle a crowd that large it is going to need a lot of help." Mayor Richard Velarde: "I just need to make sure the health and safety of people are taken care of." WHILE THE MAYOR CALLS IN RESOURCES... RESIDENTS ARE DIVIDED. Stephanie Prieto: "I don't see it as a really big deal. I see it more as woodstock or something." Rebecca Ames: "This sounds like something they need to get under control now." MANY WONDER WHAT THEY'LL FIND AT THE END OF THIS \*\*\*RAINBOW\*\*\*. THE GATHERING OFFICIALLY RUNS FROM JULY 1ST, TO JULY 7TH. WE ARE TOLD ATTENDEES WILL MOSTLY STAY IN THE FOREST... STILL FOR THOSE CONCERNED... THE PUBLIC HEARING IS HAPPENING JUNE 17TH AT 6-P-M, AT CUBA'S EICHWALD COMMUNITY CENTER.

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Albuquerque-Santa 7 KOAT

5:00 AM News

Audience: 71200 ; -30 Sec. Ad Cost: \$300

Time In Length -Value

06:44:03 02:10 \$1,300.00

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Stories Total : 3

Media Value Index: 0.035

Relative Media Value, \$7,001.67

Viewers, ~Total: 202,400



# NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

Santa Fe National Forest

For Immediate Release



June 14, 2009

CONTACT: DOLORES MAESE

(505) 438-5320

IGNACIO PERALTA

(575) 741-0451

## GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOREST SERVICE AND RAINBOW FAMILY

**Santa Fe, NM--** An estimated 300 Rainbow Family participants have gathered at the Parque Venado site, Santa Fe National Forest, Cuba Ranger District. Incident Commander (IC) Derek Padilla is pleased with the team's communications and coordination efforts with the Rainbow Family thus far. "We have established a good working relationship, effective communications, and mutual respect with Rainbow Family participants," says IC Padilla.

Team members are also working closely with Village of Cuba elected officials, county, state, and other sister agencies including local law enforcement and other organizations.

A good dialogue has been established in striving toward the overall objectives of promoting health and safety for the public and Gathering participants. With the assistance of resource specialists, and law enforcement, other objectives include minimizing environmental impacts at the site and promoting a safe, enjoyable, and peaceful gathering.

Because of the number of Rainbow Family gatherers, a National Incident Management Team will oversee the management of the gathering in terms of protection of natural and cultural resources and public health and safety. The Team consists of personnel, facilities, equipment, and communications, all operating within an organizational structure designed to aid in domestic incident management activities. This same type of organization is used in managing fires, floods, and other types of incidents.

For further information on the Rainbow Family Gathering, please contact:

**Ignacio Peralta, (575) 741-0451   Lawrence Lujan, (505) 660-5232   Andrea Martinez (575) 574-2590**

- End -

Lawrence M  
Lujan/R3/USDAFS  
06/22/2009 10:41 AM

To Dolores Maese/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Karen M  
Carter/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Erin  
Connelly/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES  
cc  
bcc  
Subject News Release from the Rainbows Issued Yesterday

Good Morning!

Below you will find a news release that was sent out yesterday by the Rainbow's (Garrick Beck sent it out) regarding today's courts proceedings. We are working to issue a news release to provide factual information, and our side of the story. KOBTV-CH 4 reported on some of this information this morning.

## **PRESS RELEASE: Rainbow Gatherers Ordered to Albuquerque for Ticket Hearings Monday**

(by friends of Rainbow press crew)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 21, 2009**

### **Rainbow Gatherers Ordered to Albuquerque for Ticket Hearings Monday**

Contact: Garrick Beck, volunteer, (505) 660-8800  
John McCall, Attorney at Law, (505) 256-1998

On Monday, over 75 attendees from the Rainbow Gathering are expected to appear in New Mexico Federal Magistrates Court in Albuquerque for mandatory hearings on tickets issued by Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers. The 75 tickets are primarily for minor traffic and forest use violations.

The imposition of mandatory hearings for minor tickets like “dog off leash” and “failure to use turn signal” (on unpaved roads), is unusual. In most cases, these types of tickets can be remitted by mail when someone is traveling from out of state. The requirement of hearings imposes a special burden on gatherers and appears to single them out for harsher treatment under the law than other citizens. Individuals who receive tickets at or near the gathering not only face potential fines, but are additionally forced to leave an expressive assembly and travel nearly 120 miles from the gathering site near Cuba, NM to appear in court or face possible contempt charges.

According to gatherers, this comes as a slap in the face after several months of successful

cooperation between Gathering volunteers and Forest Service resource officials to assure a safe and legal event. Resource personnel have been extremely positive about the behavior of most gatherers and issued a permit for the event last week. Then, shortly after the permit was announced, a separate "Incident Command Team" of Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers arrived at the site and began random searches of vehicles and tents and issuing tickets for a variety of alleged violations.

According to gatherers, the Incident Command Team appears to be acting independently to disrupt and intimidate gathering attendees. Law Enforcement Officers have set-up daily roadblocks on forest roads around the gatherings, conducted random searches of cars and tents, abruptly ordered camps to move after they were approved by Forest Service resource rangers, raided camps at night with dogs, and generally exhibited hostile behavior towards attendees and volunteers.

The Rainbow Gathering is an annual expressive assembly that draws thousands of people to National Forests each year to join together in prayer and celebration to promote peace and harmony on Earth. Gatherings have occurred since 1972 and have developed a solid reputation for cleaning up gathering sites before they leave. The Gathering is free and open to all who come in peace.

A group of volunteer lawyers are gathering to assist the gatherers in dealing with these tickets and to raise protest with the court regarding the oppressive nature of Law Enforcement actions towards the gatherers. American citizens are being needlessly harassed at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars simply because they are exercising their First Amendment right to gather in the woods and pray for world peace and celebrate humanity.

This press release being forwarded as a service of the Rainbow press crew, a completely unofficial affiliation of volunteers who – like all the other volunteers who work to make the gathering happen in a peaceful manner- have not been authorized by anyone to speak for any Rainbow-related entities or events. Additional press releases are on the Rainbow press crew's website, [www.rpcnews.us](http://www.rpcnews.us).

Please forward

-30-

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Lawrence M. Lujan  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Santa Fe National Forest  
Ph: (505) 438-5321  
Fx: (505) 438-5390  
E-mail: [lmLujan@fs.fed.us](mailto:lmLujan@fs.fed.us)



National Incident Management Team

U.S. Forest Service  
Incident Command Post  
04B County Road 11  
Cuba, NM 87013



Contact: Denise Ottaviano, FS Information Officer, (505) 438-5685

For Immediate Release

### U.S. Federal Court to Process Additional Citations for Rainbow Gathering Participants

(Cuba, NM, June 28, 2009)—The number of people flocking to the Rainbow Family of Living Light Annual Gathering on the Santa Fe National Forest east of Cuba, NM, is steadily increasing. Forest Service personnel helping to manage the impacts of the event estimate that approximately 3,500 have already arrived in the Parque Venado area of the forest. It is possible that 10,000 or more participants could occupy the site by July 4th.

As the attendance grows, so does the traffic congestion and the reports of criminal activity. "As with any activity where large numbers of individuals gather, there will be an element that chooses to break laws, defy law enforcement, commit violent acts and abuse drugs," says Forest Service Incident Commander (IC) for Law Enforcement Gene Smithson. The Forest Service has issued 182 violation notices to Rainbow Gathering participants as of June 28th, mostly for drug and alcohol related offenses and traffic and vehicle violations. In addition, 14 arrests have been made for various offenses including drugs, assault on law enforcement officers and outstanding state and federal warrants. The Forest Service is getting excellent cooperation from the U.S. Attorney's office in prosecuting violation notices issued at the Gathering. Officers have also issued over 200 written warnings for various offenses that do not require a court appearance in an attempt to gain compliance.

"These citations are incidents where the general safety and health of participants could be easily compromised," says IC Smithson. "Our responsibility in law enforcement is to help prevent these situations from escalating and aggressively promote for public safety and health," adds IC Smithson.

The first court date for people who received violation notices at the Rainbow Gathering was held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Pete V. Domenici Federal Courthouse in Albuquerque, NM. Of the 76 cases on that docket, there were 35 Forfeitures of Collateral, 12 Dismissals, 1 Trial that resulted in a guilty verdict, and 5 cases that had to be continued. There were 17 Failures to Appear (FTA) and warrants were issued for their arrest. The next court date is Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Maintaining safe roadways and providing for the health and safety of Gathering participants has been emphasized by Forest Service personnel and people attending the Gathering. Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) are enforcing state motor vehicles laws, including: valid insurance, valid license plate, valid registration, workable safety equipment and safety restraint requirements. LEOs are enforcing federal and state laws throughout the area with assistance from the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Marshals, New Mexico Game and Fish, Sandoval County, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico State Police and the Cuba Police Department. Officers will be patrolling the area around the clock but, to date, have not established any checkpoints or roadblocks.

Forest Service LEOs have also provided assistance to Gathering participants who needed a medical transport due to a stabbing that occurred at the Gathering last week and a several drug overdoses.

Since the onset of the Gathering, Law Enforcement has been communicating with Rainbow representatives and sharing information on incidents where public health and safety is compromised. We continue to focus on ensuring the Gathering is a safe and peaceful event for all those involved and to work closely with Gathering participants in good faith," IC Smithson adds.

###



Contact: Denise Ottaviano, FS Information Officer, (505) 438-5685

For Immediate Release

## Rainbow Gathering Exceeds 5,000 Participants

(Cuba, NM, July 1, 2009)— Over 5,000 people are now camped within the Parque Venado area for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Rainbow Family of Living Light Gathering on the Cuba Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest. Many more are expected to arrive over the next few days before the peak of the event on July 4<sup>th</sup> where all participants silently join in a circle to pray for world peace.

As more people gather, the Forest Service's National Incident Management Team (NIMT) and local Forest Service personnel continue to coordinate with various local, county and state agencies to manage and minimize natural resource, social and political impacts. Forest Service Resource Specialists and Permit Administrators are visiting the Gathering site daily to work with participants on mitigating natural resource impacts associated with the newly established trails, camps, kitchens, and other structures participants have built for their stay. "The Resource Specialists and Permit Administrators have a pivotal role in the operation," said Forest Service Incident Commander (IC) Derek Padilla. "They are the stewards of the land, they work with Gathering participants to ensure that they are complying with the terms and conditions of the Operating Plan," further explained Padilla.

The Operating Plan, which is consistent with applicable laws and the Santa Fe National Forest Plan, was developed in cooperation between the Forest Service and Gathering participants to address public health and safety concerns and ultimately protect National Forest System resources. The plan identifies four areas: Health and Safety, Resource Protection, Site Rehabilitation, and Space Allocation (parking and travel). Focusing on resource protection and site rehabilitation, both parties work together to ensure the following:

- Previously identified sensitive areas that have been flagged such as wetlands, sensitive species, and archeological sites are being avoided.
- No camping is occurring within 300 feet of any streams, lakes, or ponds to prevent disturbance to wildlife that utilize water sources in the area.
- Soap, disinfectants, medical waste, or any other foreign materials are not being introduced into lakes, streams, or other surface waters;
- Log and/or rock crossings are being constructed to minimize impacts to stream banks and will be removed at the end of the Gathering;
- Campfires are completely contained and attended to at all times. Campfires must serve as community fires; individual campfires are not allowed. A shovel and at least one five-gallon container of water are available at each campfire location.

Gathering participants have done a good job of complying with the Operating Plan and protecting the forest, to date. Resource Specialists and Permit Administrators patrolling the Gathering site are on the look-out for participants who are misusing the forest (i.e. illegal campfires and campsites). When faced with a noncompliance issue, Resource Specialists and Permit Administrators first try to work with participants to gain compliance. "If we come across a campsite or structure that is near a natural water source, we weigh the impacts to land, and work with participants to move their campsite or structure if they need to; we use our discretion," explained Permit Administrator, Marcia J. Rose-Ritchie.

-more-

-add one-

Resource Specialists and Permit Administrators failing to gain compliance from participants will call upon Law Enforcement Officers for assistance as a last resort. Since June 14, 2009, there have been 35 incidents regarding improper forest use. Of the 35, 4 people received written warnings, and 10 received violation notices.

The Gathering officially ends on July 7<sup>th</sup>, although some participants, who are dedicated to rehabilitating the area, will stay behind to do that work. Rehabilitation work is outlined in the Operating Plan, and Rainbow participants will work with Forest Service to complete that work by August. Some rehabilitation work includes:

- breaking up the surfaces (scarifying) of parking areas, trails and concentrated areas in the Gathering site, and if deemed necessary, the areas will be seeded with an approved native seed mix;
- filling and covering slit trenches and latrines with the native material originally removed from the pit and from the surrounding area, and mounded with excess material to allow for settling.
- removing surface waste from the area;
- properly removing and disposing of recyclables and trash;
- removing any abandoned vehicles;
- dismantling or scattering all structures and trails not previously existing at the Gathering site to achieve a natural appearance;
- filling and covering fire pits with native material originally removed and mounded with excess material to allow for settling; also scattering rocks to achieve a natural appearance to the landscape.

Due to the Gathering, local recreationists and wildlife are being temporarily displaced from the Parque Venado area. Although the Parque Venado area is open, the area is very congested. Alternative recreation opportunities nearby at Clear Creek Campground, Rio De Las Vacas Campground, Church Meadow and the area north of the Chaparral Girl Scout Camp off of Forest Road 20 are available for people to come out to enjoy their public lands this holiday weekend.

Regarding wildlife displacement, although there may have been impacts to elk calving and deer fawning this season, the impacts are short term. Wildlife is instinctive and the four habitat requirements (food, water, space and cover) can be found throughout the area and in nearby San Pedro Parks Wilderness. The wilderness is comprised of several large meadows, intermixed with forest, and has plenty of good forage and nursery habitat (open meadows) for displaced wildlife. In past years, elk and deer were seen again in areas impacted by the Gathering as early as one month after the Gathering ended. Normal distribution of wildlife, however, may not be seen until next summer.

For additional Forest Service information about the Rainbow Gathering, call 505-438-5685, visit:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/rainbow/index.html> or follow the Gathering on Twitter at: [http://twitter.com/sfnf\\_rainbow](http://twitter.com/sfnf_rainbow).

###



National Incident Management Team

U.S. Forest Service  
Incident Command Post  
04B County Road 11  
Cuba, NM 87013



Contact: Denise Ottaviano, FS Information Officer, (505) 438-5685 (thru 7709)

For Immediate Release

## Rainbow Family Gathering Peaks at 10,500 ~ Participants Begin to Leave

(Cuba, NM, July 6, 2009)—At the peak of the Rainbow Family of Living Light Gathering on July 4, 2009, approximately 10,500 people were camped within the Parque Venado area of the Cuba Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest. Although the Gathering officially ends on July 7th, over half of the participants have left the area with thousands more exiting within the next few days.

As participants begin to leave the area, vehicle and foot traffic is expected to be heavy along Forest Road 70, Highway 126 and 550, primarily within the Village of Cuba. Travelers are encouraged to use extra caution while driving. The one-way travel route from the junction of Forest Road (FR) 69 and FR 70 west to the San Gregorio trailhead will remain in place until traffic flow decreases within the area.

The Forest Service's National Incident Management Team (NIMT) and local Forest Service personnel who have been managing the impacts of the Gathering will also be scaling down their organization. When the NIMT leaves, the Santa Fe National Forest will oversee rehabilitation operations.

Forest Service resource specialists have begun discussing the Rehabilitation Plan with Rainbow volunteers. Approximately 40-50 Rainbow volunteers are expected to stay behind and work with local Forest Service personnel to rehabilitate the area. The rehabilitation work should be completed by August, with nature completing the actual rehabilitation process over time.

Approximately 3 percent of the 10,500 Rainbow Gathering participants received violation notices, mostly for drug and alcohol related offenses and for violating New Mexico motor vehicle laws. In addition, 19 arrests have been made for various offenses. Officers have also issued many written warnings for various offenses that do not require a court appearance. Participants receiving violation notices at the Gathering were required to make a mandatory appearance in Federal court in downtown Albuquerque. Today was the fourth and final day of court.

There have been over 20 medical transports from the Rainbow Gathering for conditions such as burns, overdoses, stab wounds, and severe back pain.

There have been several confirmed cases of Canine Parvovirus or "Parvo" at the Gathering. Parvo is a highly contagious disease spread through dog feces. Anyone at the Gathering could potentially spread the virus through feces on their shoes. To eliminate the spread, and since Parvo can remain in the soil for 5 months or longer, it is recommended that the public refrain from bringing their pets with them if they intend on visiting the Parque Venado area in the near future. Visitors hiking through the area should disinfect their shoes with disinfectant spray or bleached water before entering their vehicles and returning home.

Starting July 8<sup>th</sup>, please call the Cuba Ranger District at 575-289-3264 for Forest Service information related to the Rainbow Gathering. You can also visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/rainbow/index.html> or follow the Gathering on Twitter at: [http://twitter.com/sfnf\\_rainbow](http://twitter.com/sfnf_rainbow).

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# Rainbow Family Media Watch

Prepared 6/29/2009 by Albuquerque Media Monitoring

Phone: 505-266-6037  
Email: news@abqmedia.com

Daily Report for 6/26/2009 thru 6/28/2009

## Saturday, June 27, 2009

buquerque-Santa 7 KOAT	6:00 PM	6psat	Audience: 158400 ;	-30 Sec. Ad Cost: \$375
<u>Time In</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>-Value</u>	<u>Description</u>	
18:03:14	00:25	\$312.50	STATE POLICE HAVE ARRESTED A MAN FOR A STABBING AT THE ***RAINBOW*** GATHERING NEAR CUBA. STATE POLICE SAY SHAMUS LEE WOODS OF SAN DIEGO STABBED ANOTHER MAN IN THE BACK MONDAY. THE VICTIM IS BEING TREATED FOR A COLLAPSED LUNG. WOODS WAS BOOKED INTO THE TIERRA AMARILLA DETENTION FACILITY. HE IS CHARGED WITH AGGRAVATED BATTERY WITH A DEADLY WEAPON. AUTHORITIES SAYS THEY'VE RESPONDED TO HUNDREDS OF CALLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE GATHERING IN THE FOREST NEAR CUBA.	

## Sunday, June 28, 2009

Albuquerque-Santa 7 KOAT	6:00 AM	sunam	Audience: 71200 ;	-30 Sec. Ad Cost: \$100
<u>Time In</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>-Value</u>	<u>Description</u>	
08:03:23	00:25	\$83.33	THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT PEACE AND LOVE... BUT THE ***RAINBOW*** FAMILY OF LIVING LIGHT IS ALREADY ASSOCIATED WITH VIOLENCE AND THE GATHERING HASN'T EVEN BEGUN. STATE PPLICE HAVE ARRESTED A MAN FOR A STABBING AT THE GATHERING NEAR CUBA. STATE POLICE SAY SHAMUS WOODS OF SAN DIEGO STABBED ANOTHER MAN IN THE BACK MONDAY. THAT GUY IS NOW BEING TREATED FOR A COLLAPSED LUNG. WOODS IS CHARGED WITH AGGRAVATED BATTERY WITH A DEADLY WEAPON.	

**Stories Total : 2**  
**Media Value Index: 0.002**

**Relative Media Value, \$395.83**  
**Viewers, ~Total: 229,600**



Lawrence M  
Lujan/R3/USDAFS  
06/22/2009 10:41 AM

To Dolores Maese/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Karen M  
Carter/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Erin  
Connelly/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES  
cc  
bcc  
Subject News Release from the Rainbows Issued Yesterday

Good Morning!

Below you will find a news release that was sent out yesterday by the Rainbow's (Garrick Beck sent it out) regarding today's courts proceedings. We are working to issue a news release to provide factual information, and our side of the story. KOBTV-CH 4 reported on some of this information this morning.

## **PRESS RELEASE: Rainbow Gatherers Ordered to Albuquerque for Ticket Hearings Monday**

(by friends of Rainbow press crew)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 21, 2009**

### **Rainbow Gatherers Ordered to Albuquerque for Ticket Hearings Monday**

Contact: Garrick Beck, volunteer, (505) 660-8800  
John McCall, Attorney at Law, (505) 256-1998

On Monday, over 75 attendees from the Rainbow Gathering are expected to appear in New Mexico Federal Magistrates Court in Albuquerque for mandatory hearings on tickets issued by Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers. The 75 tickets are primarily for minor traffic and forest use violations.

The imposition of mandatory hearings for minor tickets like “dog off leash” and “failure to use turn signal” (on unpaved roads), is unusual. In most cases, these types of tickets can be remitted by mail when someone is traveling from out of state. The requirement of hearings imposes a special burden on gatherers and appears to single them out for harsher treatment under the law than other citizens. Individuals who receive tickets at or near the gathering not only face potential fines, but are additionally forced to leave an expressive assembly and travel nearly 120 miles from the gathering site near Cuba, NM to appear in court or face possible contempt charges.

According to gatherers, this comes as a slap in the face after several months of successful

cooperation between Gathering volunteers and Forest Service resource officials to assure a safe and legal event. Resource personnel have been extremely positive about the behavior of most gatherers and issued a permit for the event last week. Then, shortly after the permit was announced, a separate "Incident Command Team" of Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers arrived at the site and began random searches of vehicles and tents and issuing tickets for a variety of alleged violations.

According to gatherers, the Incident Command Team appears to be acting independently to disrupt and intimidate gathering attendees. Law Enforcement Officers have set-up daily roadblocks on forest roads around the gatherings, conducted random searches of cars and tents, abruptly ordered camps to move after they were approved by Forest Service resource rangers, raided camps at night with dogs, and generally exhibited hostile behavior towards attendees and volunteers.

The Rainbow Gathering is an annual expressive assembly that draws thousands of people to National Forests each year to join together in prayer and celebration to promote peace and harmony on Earth. Gatherings have occurred since 1972 and have developed a solid reputation for cleaning up gathering sites before they leave. The Gathering is free and open to all who come in peace.

A group of volunteer lawyers are gathering to assist the gatherers in dealing with these tickets and to raise protest with the court regarding the oppressive nature of Law Enforcement actions towards the gatherers. American citizens are being needlessly harassed at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars simply because they are exercising their First Amendment right to gather in the woods and pray for world peace and celebrate humanity.

This press release being forwarded as a service of the Rainbow press crew, a completely unofficial affiliation of volunteers who -- like all the other volunteers who work to make the gathering happen in a peaceful manner- have not been authorized by anyone to speak for any Rainbow-related entities or events. Additional press releases are on the Rainbow press crew's website, [www.rpcnews.us](http://www.rpcnews.us).

Please forward

-30-

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Lawrence M. Lujan  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Santa Fe National Forest  
Ph: (505) 438-5321  
Fx: (505) 438-5390  
E-mail: [lmLujan@fs.fed.us](mailto:lmLujan@fs.fed.us)

Ex. (b)(6) & (b)(7)(C)

 Dolores Maese/R3/USDAFS

06/12/2009 04:55 PM

To pdl r3 santafe all@FSNOTES, pdl r3 all paos@FSNOTES,  
[REDACTED] WO/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Denise  
Ottaviano/WO/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Karen M

cc

bcc

Subject Rainbow Family to Gather on Santa Fe N.F.—News  
Release-6/12/09



09-06-12 Rainbow News Release.doc

**NEWS**

**RELEASE**

**USDA Forest Service  
Santa Fe National Forest**

**For Immediate Release  
(505) 438-5320  
June 12, 2009  
PERALTA, (575) 741-0451**

**CONTACT: DOLORES MAESE,**

**IGN**

**Rainbow Family Begins to Gather on Santa Fe National Forest**

**Santa Fe, NM**—The location of the Annual Gathering of the Rainbow Family of Living Light has been announced by the group and attendees have begun to arrive on the Santa Fe National Forest in New Mexico. The event, which runs from July 1 to July 7, draws thousands of people from all parts of the country and all walks of life. Many arrive 2 to 3 weeks in advance. Attendance of the Annual Gathering may be anywhere from 5,000 to 10,000.

The Rainbow Family will be occupying an area approximately 22 (road) miles northeast of the Village of Cuba, NM, known as Parque Venado within

the Santa Fe National Forest, Cuba Ranger District. Participants will continue to arrive for the next couple of weeks and then migrate back out for several weeks following the event which peaks on July 4th.

Because of the magnitude of this event, the Forest Service utilizes an agency National Incident Management Team (NIMT) with local Forest Service personnel to manage the impacts of this event. The Forest Service NIMT will be working in New Mexico throughout the duration of the event and is coordinating with various state and local agencies to manage and minimize environmental, social and political impacts. Forest Service resource specialists are working on-the-ground with Rainbow gathering participants to plan how they may mitigate resource damage and provide for the safety of gathering participants and the public.

Local businesses from Bernalillo to Cuba can expect to see large numbers of "gathering" participants visiting stores and buying food and supplies along routes to the gathering site. Roads leading from Cuba to the gathering site are soon expected to get very congested so the public should use extra caution while driving.

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\*Note: Office Phone Number has changed\*

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

 Dolores Maese/R3/USDAFS

07/01/2009 01:35 PM

To

cc

bcc Derek J Padilla/R3/USDAFS

Subject Rainbow Family—News Release—Participation exceeds  
5,000—7/01/09



09-07-01--Rainbow - Resources\_NR.doc

Contact: Denise Ottaviano, FS Information Officer, (505) 438-5685  
For Immediate Release

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