Dolores Maese/R3/USDAFS
06/09/2009 11:48 AM

To pdl r3 santafe all@FSNOTES, Ignacio D Peralta/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Denise Ottaviano/WO/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Andrea G Martinez/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Kathy DeLucas/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Daniel Rael/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES,
cc
bcc
Subject Rainbow Family Gathering on Santa Fe N.F.????? Not sure yet...

What's the buzz? **The "Rainbow Famil Living Light" will be gathering on Santa Fe N.F.**---Well, that's partly true---beginning tomorrow, June 10th a group of Rainbow Family individuals will be attending their Spring Council meeting on the Cuba Ranger District somewhere near Rio las Vacas and Clear Creek area off of State Hwy 126. At this Spring Council Meeting they will decide where their large annual gathering (July 4th) will be.

You may have heard that they are looking at either the Carson N.F. near Tres Piedras or the Santa Fe N.F. near Cuba. They also were considering the Gila N.F. We'll know more at the end of this week or early next week. I've attached a simple fact sheet on the Rainbow Family of Living Light gathering in which thousands 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. They will start to gather quickly when the announcement about the large annual gathering is made.

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 last Wednesday to give them a heads-up about the possibility of the Rainbow gathering. The Mayor of Cuba has requested another meeting next Wednesday also. We understand that members of the Rainbows are holding a

public meeting in Taos next week to talk with community. They may also be holding one in Cuba too. We'll know that when their announcement on their large gathering is made.

There are a lot of unknowns right now, but we have a team together that will be able to move quickly into managing this "event" the best we can and working with the communities that may be affected most by the thousands traveling through.

If a decision is made to have the large gathering on the Santa Fe N.F., all employees will be notified via e-mail with updates and information provided on our fsweb homepage. Please call me if you have any questions on this matter.

09-06-05--Rainbow Fact Sheet.doc

~ ~

Note: Office Phone Number has changed

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

~ ~