



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Monongahela National Forest

200 Sycamore Street  
Elkins, WV 26241  
304-636-1800

File Code: 1230  
Route To:

Date: June 9, 2005

Subject: Rainbow Family Gathering

To: Tim Lynn, Incident Commander of the 2005 National Rainbow Family Gathering

You are hereby authorized to exercise the full range of delegated authority required to manage the 2005 Rainbow Family National Gathering, which will occur on the Monongahela National Forest during June and July of 2005. You have the authority and responsibility to prepare for and manage this event within the framework and guidelines of the law and Forest Service policy and direction set forth in this letter. Additional information will be made available as needed to further clarify your authority and responsibilities. You and your team are authorized to begin working on the event immediately.

Your primary performance objectives and guidelines are as follows:

#### **Event management**

- Manage this event proactively as a noncommercial group use activity under special use authorities and the Noncommercial Group Use regulations.
- Mobilize the needed resources to manage the event effectively, efficiently and safely.
- Pursue a Noncommercial Group Use permit with an operating plan.

Internal and external relationships and communications are extremely critical and will have to be established and maintained throughout the course of the event, including key Forest Service personnel, cooperating Federal, State, and local agencies, and members of the Rainbow Family. All actions must be well documented and a final report will be required.

#### **Human Resource Management and Safety**

- Ensure that the safety of employees, assigned personnel, the public, and event participants are considered throughout the course of the event.

Incident personnel will follow established Department of Agriculture guidelines regarding civil rights, and other Forest Service policies, practices, and procedures.

#### **Information**

- Provide for internal and external information exchange through the implementation of a communication plan



- Ensure that agency cooperators, local officials, and the public are kept informed on the progress of the event.
- Manage media contacts within the framework of established agency policy.

### **Community Relations**

- Establish and maintain strong community relations.

Private landowners, permittees, businesses, and the local community are of special concern due to their proximity to the Gathering and their potential for being impacted. I expect your team to work with the community and to identify their potential issues and concerns.

- Work with the leaders of the Gathering to minimize social impacts.

*Because this event is taking place in a rural, sparsely populated area, travel distances, limited law enforcement and emergency services pose special challenges. These factors will need special consideration as you plan for the event.*

- Avoid imposing agency "red tape" on our neighbors and cooperators whenever possible.
- Consult with key contacts at the Ranger District and the Supervisor's Office; we have a long-standing relationship with the communities and may be able to help in many situations.
- Cooperate fully with State, county, and local agencies and organizations in managing the event.

### **Resource Protection**

The Forest has stewardship responsibility for the full range of natural resource values in the Gathering area. The Forest will provide your team with the expertise of resource specialists and coordinate with representatives of the Rainbow Family to develop an operating and a rehabilitation plan that is intended to provide protection of sensitive sites during the Gathering, and the rehabilitation of the site when the Gathering is concluded.

- Latrines, kitchens, and other features and activities that could affect water quality will be located in areas that will pose the least probability of degrading water quality.
- Prevent loss of large woody debris recruitment along streams.
- If any populations of rare plants, animals, or salamanders are found within the Gathering area they must be flagged off and protected from harm.
- If any cultural heritage sites are found within the Gathering area they, too must be flagged off and protected from harm.
- Protection of any existing permitted structures or facilities in the area must be provided.
- Non-native and invasive plants are of particular concern as they may dominate the site following the Gathering. The Forest can provide additional expertise in seeding protocols during the rehabilitation process.

**Costs**

- Manage the event within the established Program of Work. Any adjustments to the POW will be agreed upon in advance.
- Ensure that all operations are cost-effective, efficient, and justifiable.
- Forest personnel working in support of the incident will apply charge-as-worked principles and the job code set up by the Regional office.
- Forest personnel assigned to the Incident will require pre-approval by the Incident Commander or the Forest Supervisor before charging to the Incident job code.

The 2005 Rainbow Family Gathering will likely bring 10,000-12,000 visitors to our general area. It is critical that the Team be proactive in working with all involved.

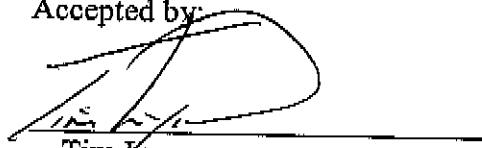
The Team's assignment will last until mid-July.

Once the actual location of the Gathering has been identified your primary point of contact will be the District Ranger during the duration of the event. You will report directly to that Ranger and include them in all of your briefings and decisions. Additionally I would like to be kept informed. If I am unavailable you may contact Mike Baines, Resources Staff Officer, and/or Kate Goodrich-Arling, Public and Legislative Affairs Officer.

The Team's performance rating will be based on the accomplishment of the directions set forth in this delegation of authority.

  
CLYDE N. THOMPSON  
Forest Supervisor

Accepted by:

  
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Tim Lynn  
Incident Commander

Date: 6/9/05