

malheur NATIONAL FOREST

Rainbow Family National Gathering

Information Update # 2 -- June 22, 2017

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The National Rainbow Gathering selected Flagtail Meadow on the Blue Mountain Ranger District of the Malheur National Forest. **The Rainbow Family Gathering is an unauthorized, unsanctioned event.** On Wednesday, an attempt was made to have the users sign a special use permit (SUP), **which is required for groups greater than 75 persons.** The group refused to sign the SUP. Today, the U.S. Forest Service issued an Event Design Criteria document which will require operating conditions that users will abide by.

Approximately, 2000 Rainbow Family members are currently encamped at a gathering site off of Forest Road 24 near Flagtail Meadow. Gathering participants will increase in the coming weeks with 10,000 -- 20,000 likely arriving by July 4th. U.S. Forest Service resource specialists are working to ensure resource protection by making sure that various kitchens, peace circles, water supplies and latrines are located appropriately. Resource specialists have invested energy evaluating and marking off areas sensitive to heritage, plants, and wildlife habitat, and educating Rainbow Family members on avoiding these parts of the forest for protection of these highly valued resources.

On Tuesday June 20th a cooperators meeting was held at the John Day airport. Approximately 40 people attended this meeting from various Federal, State and local agencies as well as elected county officials. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss concerns that each agency has regarding the possible impacts of the gathering. The two and a half hour meeting was very positive and showed a high level of collaboration across all agencies involved.

There will be a public meeting on **Friday June 23rd from 5:00 PM -- 6:30 PM** at the Malheur National Forest Supervisors Office (431 Patterson Bridge Road) in the Juniper Hall Conference Room in John Day.

There will also be a public meeting on **Tuesday June 27th from 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM** at the Harney County Senior Center (17 S Alder Avenue) in the dining hall in Burns.



for the greatest good

Law Enforcement Update:

On June 21, Law Enforcement Officers at the gathering site were able to locate a 13 year old male that had been separated from his family for an undetermined amount of time. The individual’s family was eventually located through the efforts of Forest Service Law Enforcement and he was reunited with them.

Law Enforcement will continue to have a strong presence at the gathering with 24 hour coverage through the duration of the event. In an effort to provide for public safety and the protection of natural resources an Event Design Criteria document will be issued to the Rainbow Family on Thursday, June 22nd. In accordance with this criteria, Law Enforcement Officers will continue to cite individuals who do not comply with the conditions set forth in the document. Currently Law Enforcement is working to mitigate parking and congestion issues at the site.

USFS Law Enforcement Activities to date:

Warning notices	31
Incident Reports	19
Violation notices	3
Arrests	2