Forest Service Statement on Incident involving Dog

On the morning of June 27th, a Forest Service law enforcement officer was conducting the routine daily car count in the Rainbow Gathering parking lot, which is done each morning to estimate the number of attendees at the unauthorized gathering. As the officer turned a corner, he saw two dogs sitting approximately 15 feet away. The officer stopped and scanned the scene. The dogs were not leashed and no people were present in the area. One dog, a pit bull mix, got up and began moving towards the officer. The officer stepped back and the dog began to run towards him. The officer un-holstered his firearm and fired one shot at the charging dog, which fell approximately two feet from the officer. As this was a routine daily duty, the officer did not have his video recording device activated. After the use of force, the dog's owners and numerous other individuals arrived, and began crowding and yelling at the officers. In spite of the hostile crowd, a K9 law enforcement officer administered first aid to the dog. After obtaining consent from the dog's owners, law enforcement officers transported the dog to an animal hospital in Canyon City where, after resuscitative efforts failed, it was humanely euthanized. The dog's remains were returned to its owner. To date at this year's Rainbow Gathering, there have been at least 15 warnings and 6 citations issued for dogs that are a public nuisance, as authorized by state law. The Forest Service wants to remind attendees and spectators that the 2017 operating plan (Resource Design Criteria) states that dogs must be leashed at all times during the Rainbow Gathering event (36 CFR 261.8(d) and ORS 609.095), and these rules are also included in the Rainbow Gathering's own guidance to attendees (RAP 107). Local and federal agencies remind visitors to keep dogs leashed for public and animal safety. This incident is still under investigation by an independent investigator, and further details will be made public when available.