

# Rainbow Gathering Update

Thursday, June 29, 2017



The Rainbow Gathering is an **unauthorized, unsanctioned** event. The Forest Service will fulfill its responsibility for resource protection and compliance with the law.

Enforcement action will be taken for violations. The Forest Service continues to work closely with cooperators, consisting of various Federal, State and local agencies as well as elected county officials, to provide public health and safety and mitigate natural resource damage.

Forest timber projects and restoration efforts are continuing as normal. The Forest Tribal Liaison is also working closely with the Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederate Tribes of the Umatilla and Confederate Tribes of the Warm Springs to support monitoring efforts and ensure protection of important cultural sites.

We are currently working with the affected permittee. This allotment contains several pastures that the permittee is utilizing to avoid confrontation with the gatherers. It is expected that the pasture that the gathers are occupying will have reduced forage and that the timeframe the livestock could utilize the site will more than likely be reduced. This reduction will result in other pastures being extended, if forage last, or moving off Forest. Fortunately due to our wet winter and spring, forage production is up for the area so options may present themselves to allow the Rancher full term on his permit. We continue to evaluate the site as conditions change.

The Forest Service and Incident Management Team would like to thank Grant and Harney County for their continued support and engagement as the Malheur National Forest continues to work through the unauthorized event. The informational community meeting held in Burns, Oregon Tuesday evening hosted about 75 attendees ranging from local and elected officials, community members, ranchers, emergency services, local and state law enforcement and rainbow attendees. Officials will continue to work closely with county cooperators to minimize resource impacts on National Forest System lands and to ensure the health and safety of all forest visitors.

As the official date of the gatherings beginning nears, we would like to remind the public of a couple things. The large influx of people to this community will be substantial. Be prepared. Stock up on food, fill up gas tanks and keep your belongings secured and lock vehicles and homes when unattended. There will be an increase in traffic. Drive defensively and safely. Expect an increase in pedestrian traffic. Fireworks are prohibited on federal lands.

## Quick Facts Incident Summary

Attendees: 3990

Warning Notices Issued: 233

Violation Notices Issued: 61

Arrests Made: 8

Location: Flag tail Meadow off of Forest Road 24

Public Information: (541) 575-3131