

Rainbow Gathering Update

Friday, July 7, 2017



The Rainbow Family Gathering attendees are gradually leaving the Malheur National Forest's Flagtail Meadow, with numbers dropping yesterday to below 5,000. A contingent of attendees is staying behind as the clean-up and repair crew to meet the expectations of the forest's Resource Design Criteria. Grant County residents can expect to see a large number of vehicles continuing to exit the area over the next few days. Forest officials remind drivers to stay alert and drive cautiously through the area.

Yesterday, the Department of Justice and the USFS Office of General Council conducted the third mobile court near the event site. The session lasted 2.5 hours and more than half of 51 individuals showed up to address their tickets. The mobile court not only helps with alleviating the large work load of processing violations through the local community's court system but also helps ensure individuals will make the court appearance. In the two previous mobile courts, 38 out of 56 people came to address their charges. None of the cases in yesterday's court required a trial in front of federal judge.

While only time will tell the true impacts, next week resource specialists will conduct site visits to assess and document damage to natural resources. The Forest natural resource staff has completed the Repair Plan defined by the Resource Design Criteria to assist the Forest Service and cooperating agencies in returning the site to as close to original conditions as possible in the shortest amount of time.

A small incident management team is working with the Forest to oversee post-gathering efforts. The U.S. Forest Service continues to work closely with cooperators and collaborators consisting of federal, state and local agencies, as well as tribal representatives and elected county officials, to provide public health and safety and minimize natural resource damage throughout the duration of this unauthorized, unsanctioned event taking place on National Forest System lands.

To inquire about missing persons, please contact Grant County Dispatch at 541-575-0030. The incident information number (541-575-3131) is no longer staffed.

This is the last update that will be posted around town. For future updates, please go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur> or <https://www.facebook.com/MalheurNationalForest/>.

Quick Facts Incident Summary

Attendees: 4,945 (July 6 count)

Warning Notices Issued: 447

Violation Notices Issued: 117

Arrests Made: 15

Location: Flagtail Meadow off of Forest Road 24

Future updates at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur>

<https://www.facebook.com/MalheurNationalForest/>