

EXHIBIT A

Operating Plan Texas Gap Gathering, 2022

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In the event of an emergency, dial 911. Law Enforcement and emergency services personnel know of the Gathering and are prepared to assist. Cell phones may not work at the location of the Gathering. The nearest public phone is located in the Town of Hancock.

For emergency purposes, your location is in the Towns of Granville and Hancock at Texas Gap on Forest Road 39, north of Texas Falls and north of State Route (SR) 125.

GIFFORD MEDICAL CENTER in Randolph, VT. is the closest hospital. It can be reached by phone at (802) 728-7000. Directions to drive to the hospital are east on SR 125 to SR 100 in Hancock, south on SR 100 to Bethel Mountain Road at the Mobil gas station in the village of Rochester, then east on Bethel Mountain Road to SR 12, and then north on SR 12 to Randolph and the hospital.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Individuals are responsible for their own health and safety. Protocols developed in compliance with the privacy requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act prohibit the disclosure of a person's medical information without their permission.

Town regulations require dog owners to keep their dogs under control at all times.

PARKING AND ROADS

Where possible keep vehicles within the mowed area.

All roads in the area shall be kept open for emergency vehicles and routine traffic.

Vehicles shall not be permitted outside of designated roads and parking areas(mowed area is a parking area).

SANITATION

Those attending the Gathering shall work with State Health officials to maintain adequate on-site sanitation.

Water may be piped to the site and distributed and stored using piping or devices intended for potable water. All water must be treated in accord with approved practice following the advice of State Health Officials.

Adequate handwashing facilities shall be provided at kitchens and latrines.

Compost and gray water pits attached to kitchens shall be covered at all times with 6 mil. polyethylene or similar material and shall be located at least 100-feet from all bodies of water (streams, ponds, wetlands, etc.). Compost pits shall be removed from service and filled with soil when contents are within 15-inches of the surface.

All campsites and kitchens shall be located at least 100 feet from all surface waters.

Latrines shall be constructed at least 100 feet from all bodies of water (streams, ponds, wetlands, etc.). Latrines should be located, to the extent possible, in the driest soils. Latrines shall be at least 36-inches deep and be covered with plywood or other similar material when not in use. Latrines shall be filled in with soil when their contents are within 15-inches of the surface. Buckets of lime and/or wood ash shall be provided at each latrine and shall be spread on waste after each use. The following types of latrines are acceptable:

- Pit style: One hole to collect human waste.
- Trench style: A linear trench that is filled in as needed.

Trash and recyclables shall be removed from the site on a daily basis or as frequently as transfer station schedules allow. Trash and recyclable materials shall not be left at dumpsters at local businesses. There is no transfer station in the area; trash must be removed to Randolph or Bethel to the east or to Middlebury to the west, or other approved facility that may be available. Care should be taken to keep trash in containers while awaiting removal from the site. If dumpsters are used on site, they will be placed in a mutually agreed upon site. Dumpsters shall be emptied prior to becoming overfull and shall be removed by September 6, 2012.

FIRE

Due to concerns over damaging pests such as the Emerald Ash Borer, firewood from outside the Forest boundary may not be brought on to the Forest for use at the Gathering.

Campfires shall be attended at all times. Community fires are to be encouraged over individual fires.

Take suppression action on any escaped fire immediately and notify the Forest Service as soon as possible. 802-767-4261

If weather conditions are excessively dry, the FS shall place an appropriate fire ban at their discretion.

CULTURAL RESOURCES:

The physical remains of several farmsteads established here more than 150 years ago still lend a sense of place to the Gathering; they also have value to historians and archaeologists, and are protected for the public by Federal laws. They may include rock walls, cellar holes, or other works. Therefore:

- (a) do not use or remove the stones from foundations, stone walls, wells or other features for use in fire rings, ovens or other constructions;
- (b) do not camp in or directly next to these historic sites;
- (c) enjoy visiting and examining the sites, but do not dig into them, remove artifacts/objects, or otherwise disturb them.

GENERAL SITE CONCERNS

Only dead and down wood shall be used for fires. Remember some of this material is needed for "naturalizing" bare soil areas during site rehab.

Sensitive resources areas shall be signed and/or flagged by Resource monitors to keep people out. Gatherers shall maintain the flagging and signing. Forest Service personnel shall be notified if there are problems in specific areas. No areas were flagged in 2022.

Wet areas such as seeps, poorly drained soils and wetlands support a variety of sensitive flora and shall be avoided, even if not flagged off by Resource monitors.

The use of soap in the White River and its tributaries shall be discouraged.

GATHERING CLEAN-UP

A clean up crew of Gatherers will be allowed to stay on site up to one week after the completion of the event to perform rehab and cleaning tasks.

Rehabilitation and cleaning tasks include, but are not limited to:

- All rock fire rings, rock piles, and other user-created structures built for this Gathering are to be obliterated and dispersed into the woods to facilitate safe and efficient mowing of the meadows. Some fire rings may already exist on the site, and they should be maintained. Materials brought into the site shall be removed. Sod removed when pits are dug should be set aside to be replaced during site rehab.
- All signs, flagging, paint, waterlines, and trash shall be removed from the Forest.
- All water bars or other erosion control devices shall be cleaned and returned to full utility.
- For all bare soil areas (kitchens, filled in pits, gathering areas, etc.):
 - Using a grub hoe or mattock, scarify the compacted areas deep enough to break up the compacted soil.
 - Add water bars on slopes that could erode.
 - Seed bare areas with an approved seed mix (must not contain non-native invasive species) suited to late summer seeding to protect against erosion. Contact Jeremy Mears if seed is needed.

- Mulch bare soil areas using leaves from nearby. Mulch lightly, covering about 80% of the ground.
 - Anchor mulch on slopes with tree limbs or similar debris.
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