

PCU // Free Assembly Project

St. Louis, Missouri

WWW.FREE-ASSEMBLY.ORG

~ an Association of Volunteers

10 June 2020

Leanne Marten, Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service – Northern Region [R1]
26 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, Montana 59804

FAX: (406) 329-3411

Re: **Rainbow Gathering 2020 Deferred**

Ms. Marten & Staff:

You are probably well aware that the consensed location for the 2020 Rainbow Gathering included National Forests in the USFS Northern Region. Potential sites in Idaho were scouted last fall, and preparations were set to resume in early spring when the Covid-19 epidemic beset the nation, altering our lives and awakening our mutual care as citizens.

In an extraordinary chain of events, gathering stalwarts & sustainers have been conferencing on various media channels, to discuss this public health crisis and what must be done.

Out of heartfelt concern for the wellbeing of friends & pilgrims, and for the safety of the people & host communities of Idaho, they have widely circulated the appended public statement and pulled in endorsements from around the country:

"An Agreement Not to Gather – 2020"

www.omfromhome.org/

The Rainbow Gatherings have gone forward with peace prayers every July 4th since 1972, regardless of adversity or animus. As a true public assembly, this event is enacted upon the voluntary consensus and cooperation of participants, and in fact it is defined by this trust.

In this unprecedented situation, the vast majority of people and crews who create and serve its infrastructure have withdrawn consensus for any large National Forest assembly now.

On this test, there can be no *bona fide* 'Rainbow Gathering' in Idaho this year.

However it's evident that a number of travelers are converging on Idaho to gather in the 'Rainbow' creed. It is hoped that they will form safe small encampments and abide by applicable health regulations. Concerned stakeholders are monitoring these events, trying to encourage good practices in compliance, and to mitigate possible impacts. There is also fear that mishaps will get escalated and misused against future gatherings... that's what Incident Command always does.

It should be understood that the "*individuals, kitchens, and camps*" who join in this historic Agreement do so conscientiously, honoring higher public interests, waiving no First Amendment rights and standing in solidarity for a strong responsible Rainbow Gathering in 2021.

Thanks for your consideration...

Respectfully,



Coordinator: 314.____.____



Gathering Participants Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic

While we recognize and highly value our first amendment rights, we, the undersigned individuals, kitchens, and camps, having weighed the benefits and risks feel that, in light of the global Covid-19 pandemic, it would be unsafe to come together for our annual gathering at this time. Out of enormous concern and respect for the health and safety of the individuals who attend Rainbow Gatherings, the people of Idaho, and the local communities, as well as the people and the health care resources that may be impacted by those traveling to and from a Gathering, we agree:

- not to attend any Rainbow Gathering in Idaho this summer, to #OmFromHome, or to find safer ways to pray for peace.
- to send our prayers around the world to those who have lost loved ones and to those who are suffering.

We, the undersigned, invite you to join us in supporting this vision by adding your name to this agreement and by choosing not to gather in large groups at this time.

Please Join Us By Adding Your Signature Here...

****The following individuals, camps, kitchens, and/or affinity groups have signed this agreement.***

Please note: Those who attend Rainbow Gatherings are autonomous individuals with myriad reasons for gathering or not; therefore, none of the undersigned speak for the Rainbow Family or represent it as a whole.

As of June 10, 2020, at 6:00 pm EST, there are 392 signatures.

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