



| Plumas National Forest 2024 Unauthorized Group Use Incident July 4, 2024 | |
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| Situation or Background | <p>On June 29, the Rainbow Family moved to a new location on the Beckwourth Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest approximately 12 miles north of Beckwourth, CA. The new location is near the intersection of Forest Road 28N01 and 26N70 in an area that has been used as a fire camp in the past.</p> <p>Current attendance at the new site is estimated at 1756 people.</p> <p>The previous location of the Unauthorized Non-Commercial Group Use Incident was on the Mount Hough Ranger District approximately 5 miles north of Antelope Lake Recreation Area in Plumas County.</p> <p>The Indian Creek Headwaters Road and Area Closure Order, Forest Order 05-11-02-24-05, remains in effect for the protection of natural, Tribal, and cultural resources, concerns about fire danger, public health and sanitation, and upholding permitted special use where the unauthorized noncommercial group use was occurring.</p> <p>The initial gathering site falls within this closure area. The Forest Order is being evaluated daily to determine the appropriate time to lift the order to resume general public use of the area. Current attendance remains at approximately 75 individuals.</p> <p>Many of the attendees at the initial gathering site have left although some were given additional time to remove their belongings. The Forest Service will work with local Tribes, resource staff, affected stakeholders, and the community to assess and restore the damage that occurred there.</p> <p>For a map and additional information on the Rainbow Gathering Incident please visit http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/rainbowgathering.</p> |
| Closures | <p>For public safety, the Forest has issued Forest Order 05-11-01-24-01 on June 30, 2024, to reduce the speed on Forest Road 28N01 to 15 mph from where Forest Road 28N01 intersects with Forest Road 26N70 to where Forest Roads 28N01 intersects with 25N31 on the Beckwourth Ranger District. The order went into effect July 1, 2024.</p> <p>For the protection of natural resources, the following closure order remains in effect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Order 05-11-02-24-05 prohibiting anyone from being in any portion of the Indian Creek Headwaters Area and Road Closure Order on the Mount Hough Ranger District. <p>In addition, Stage 1 Fire Restriction went into effect Monday June 24, 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Order Number 05-11-24-01. |

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| <p>Weather Beckwourth, CA</p> | <p>Friday: Sunny, with a high near 95. Calm wind becoming west around 5 mph in the afternoon.</p> <p>Friday night: Widespread haze after 1am. Mostly clear, with a low around 54. West wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.</p> <p>Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 98. Calm wind becoming northeast around 5 mph in the afternoon.</p> <p>Saturday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 55. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.</p> |
| <p>Safety</p> | <p>Please, remember that fireworks are prohibited on all National Forest System lands, including the White Mountain National Forest (Code of Federal Regulations 261.52 (b and f)).</p> <p>Please keep the following in mind while driving through the woods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for and obey posted speed limits. Forest Service roads can be narrow, rocky, and are not meant for high speeds. • Beware of rocks, road washouts, downed trees and brush on the roadway. • Use appropriate tires for the terrain and conditions you'll be traveling. Remember to stay on authorized roads. • Carry a car kit, equipment, tools, and supplies, in case of an emergency. • Always let someone know your plans and stick to those plans. |
| <p>Fire Restrictions</p> | <p>Stage 1 fire restrictions went into effect at 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 23, based on data confirming the Energy Release Component (ERC) is above the 60th percentile and increasing, combined with drying fuels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under Stage 1 restrictions, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove fire, except in a designated recreation site is prohibited. • The order also prohibits welding, using an acetylene torch or operating any torch with an open flame within the boundaries of the Plumas National Forest. • Possession of a valid California Campfire Permit is not an exemption from the prohibitions. However, California Campfire Permit holders can use portable campfire pits, stoves or lanterns that use gas, kerosene, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel as long as it has a working shut-off valve and is used in an area that is at least 3 feet from any flammable materials. <p>Forest visitors are asked to use extreme caution when fire restrictions are in place. Violations are punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations and/or by imprisonment for not more than six months. Fire prevention and law enforcement will be patrolling, and anyone who violates Stage 1 restrictions will be ticketed. There will be zero tolerance for violations of fire restrictions.</p> |

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| Information | <p>Public Information Line at 530-638-2214 or email SM.FS.RainbowIMT@usda.gov</p> <p>Additional Rainbow Gathering Incident information can be found at http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/rainbowgathering.</p> <p>Plumas County Sheriff Department Dial 911 for emergencies. Non-emergencies: (530) 283-6375</p> <p>For more information on the Plumas National Forest, visit www.fs.usda.gov/plumas, or follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/USFSPlumas.</p> |
| Protected Sites | <p>The Forest Service protects many sensitive resource sites. Sensitive resource areas include wildlife areas, cultural sites, riparian areas and wetlands. Restricting access to such areas provides protection for several threatened wildlife species and other aquatic and wildlife species. Excavation and/or removal of prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resources, structures, sites, artifacts, or property is prohibited.</p> |