

Final Operating Plan
Rainbow Family “Peaceful Assembly and Free Speech Gathering”
Green Mountain National Forest

June 18, 2016

Copies of the operating plan will be available at the peaceful assembly information center and at other locations.

This operating plan has been developed to mitigate potential resource impacts associated with the 2016 peaceful assembly and free speech gathering on the Green Mountain National Forest. This plan is designed to follow the standards and guidelines of the Forest Plan and the Code of Federal Regulation applicable to National Forest System lands.

The primary goals of this operating plan are:

- health & safety of all;
- minimize impacts to the resource and leave the site at or near pre-gathering conditions, or better;
- adherence to laws protecting natural and cultural resources;
- respect the rights and privacy of local landowners, communities, local indigenous communities, and all National Forest recreational users.

The Rainbow Family will maintain a counsel for administrative agreement matters and resource concerns between the Forest Service and the Rainbow Family.

GENERAL SITE CONCERNS

Due to concerns over invasive forest insects, firewood from outside the Forest boundary may not be brought on to the Forest. Furthermore, the State of Vermont has effected a statewide firewood quarantine as of May 1, 2016; it is not legal to bring untreated firewood into the state.

Sensitive resource areas may be signed and/or flagged by Forest Service personnel to keep people out. Gatherers shall not remove, damage or otherwise deface the flagging and signage. Forest Service personnel shall be notified if there are problems in specific areas.

If areas are identified by flagging as being a designated natural area, a recognized natural area, or a significant natural community feature, these areas should be protected from large gatherings, large group camping, kitchens, and slit trenches or other means of waste disposal.

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 streams shall be discouraged and is unacceptable.

HEALTH and SAFETY

For emergency purposes, your location is in the town of Mount Tabor along Forest Road 10 which is off Vermont Route 7.

- Participants are responsible for their own health and safety.
- Participants need to learn to identify and avoid wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*). It can cause skin burns (photodermatitis).
- The Forest Service and CALM will be notified of any contagious outbreaks.
- Biological hazards generated at the CALM tent or elsewhere, will be disposed of at an appropriate medical waste disposal facility. No biological waste will be buried, remain on the site, or disposed of with other trash.
- Participants of the gathering will establish contacts with local agencies, businesses, and organizations to arrange services (i.e., garbage, recycling, medical and supplies) as needed.
- Participants of the gathering will be responsible for emergency medical coordination and evacuation with area medical facilities.

GENERAL SANITATION

Those attending the Gathering shall cooperate 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 should be treated in accordance with approved practice following the advice of State Health Officials.

Adequate handwashing facilities shall be provided at kitchens and latrines.

PARK/TRAVEL

Parking areas will be designated by the Forest Service. Vehicles shall not be permitted outside of the designated roads or parking areas.

Vehicle parking shall be along the side of Forest Road (FR) 10 facing West towards Route 7; along the side of FR60 facing South towards FR10; along FR30 (do not block the gate at the end of FR30) facing North towards FR10; and along FR279 facing West towards FR10. Buses may also be parked in areas designated for vehicle parking to the extent they are parked in a manner that does not interfere with ingress/egress of normal vehicle traffic flow, Forest Service vehicles, or emergency vehicles. The Forest Service will place No Parking signs along the side of the road parking is prohibited or along both sides of a roadway to maintain other public safety. Overflow and bus parking (which cannot comply with the prior parking standards) is available on the baseball field in the town of Mt. Tabor along Brooklyn Rd / Mt Tabor Rd.

Participants of the gathering are responsible to provide personnel to organize vehicles within the designated parking locations to ensure safe movement of vehicles and pedestrians into and out of parking areas, direct traffic, and provide security for the parking area(s). It shall be the responsibility of the Gathering parking/vehicle staff to ensure parking regulations are adhered to. It is the responsibility of Gathering parking/vehicle staff to coordinate shuttle pickup sites and supply routes. The Forest Service reserves the right to open or close roads as needed. Vehicles parked in areas specifically closed for parking, or parked in a manner that interferes with ingress/egress of normal vehicle traffic flow, Forest Service vehicles, or emergency vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense. It will be the responsibility of the Gathering to determine which vehicles will be allowed at a Rainbow Family designated Handicap parking area (to the extent the area had been defined by the Forest Service as a designated roads or parking area in the above paragraph.) If the Forest Service chooses to administratively designate a Handicap parking area, any vehicle parked at such location would be required to display a government issued placard.

Administrative parking areas will be designated by the Forest Service. These areas will be signed and marked. Any vehicles or other items deemed unauthorized by the Forest Service will be removed and impounded following Forest Service and / or State regulations. It is the responsibility of the Gathering parking/vehicle staff to insure those areas remain clear of person(s) attending the gathering, assisting with the functions of the gathering, or in any other manner providing assistance to attendees while ensuring that the area remains accessible to the Forest Service.

Participants should use caution along all roads to avoid the spread of Non-Native Invasive Plants. Parking should be avoided in areas with known infestations of wild chervil or garlic mustard.

CAMPING

Sensitive areas (wetlands, sensitive species, archeological sites, etc.) may be flagged by the Forest Service at their discretion. Participants at the gathering are prohibited from camping, walking, or congregating within these sensitive areas. In addition, participants are prohibited from removing items from sensitive areas whether identified or not by the Forest Service (plants, items over 50 years old, such as bottles, cans, etc.).

Forest Service regulations state there will be no camping within 100 feet of surface water, or where posted, however, it is recognized that numerous water sources exist and that it may be difficult to achieve the 100 feet goal. Thus camps must be on dry or hardened sites that are not creating resource damage such as mud bogs or trampling of plants, particularly in riparian zones.

Where possible, camping and general gathering areas should be focused to previously disturbed ground. June and July is the peak of the breeding season for a number of ground- and shrub-nesting birds. Nests of these species are highly susceptible to being trampled by people or harassed by pets.

KITCHENS

Grey water from kitchen preparation areas and dishwashing areas shall be discharged into a dug pit. If these are hand dug pits, they shall be at least 12-18 inches wide and least 18 inches deep. The pit shall

not be located within 300 feet of surface water, any well, or any surfacing spring. The pit shall not be located in sandy soils or in a location that has bedrock within 5 ft of the ground surface. The pits shall be covered with soil once they are filled to within 12 inches of the ground's surface.

Compost pits attached to kitchens shall be covered at all times with 6 mil. polyethylene or similar material and shall also be located at least 300-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.

If ground water appears while digging any holes (slit trenches, gray water, compost pits, bliss pits, etc) the site shall be immediately refilled, abandoned, and moved to a different location, generally uphill.

Participants of the gathering will monitor all activities to ensure that soap, disinfectants, medical waste, or any other foreign material will not be introduced into lakes, streams, or other surface waters.

It is prohibited to excavate or dig out around drinking water sources. Use temporary collection techniques, such as rocks, logs, or tarps, to collect drinking water at the source.

It is prohibited to dismantle any archaeological or historic feature (such as cellar holes, stone walls, and barn foundations) to utilize for camping/kitchen operations.

Kitchen washing procedures are recommended to be a three bucket system. A hand washing station is recommended for each kitchen area.

Drinking water should be filtered, boiled and/or treated.

SLIT TRENCHES

Participants of the gathering are advised to maintain approximately one functioning latrine per 100 people. The treatment of human waste is dependent upon numerous factors. Therefore, to assure health and safety of visitors to the peaceful assembly, the following actions should be followed:

Slit trenches or earth pit privies are allowed for temporary use. If these are hand dug trenches, they shall be at least 18 inches deep. They should be located on upland, dry sites. No trench shall exceed 3 feet in depth.

The trenches shall be located at least 300 feet from surface water and kitchens, and bodies of water (streams, ponds, wetlands, etc.) The trenches shall not be located in sandy soils or ground that has bedrock within 5 feet of the ground surface.

Trenches should be approximately 12-18 inches wide (i.e. shovel width or better) and of adequate length for the anticipated number of people. Buckets of lime or wood ash shall be available for all trenches or privy sites. A daily layer of lime or wood ash shall be applied to the wastewater to control odors and reduce insect attraction. The pits shall be closed by covering with soil when they fill to approximately 12

inches of the ground's surface. A hand washing station draining into the trench shall be provided at each location.

It is prohibited to damage any archaeological or historic feature (i.e., large sawdust piles) to utilize for trenches or privy operations.

If ground water appears while digging any holes (slit trenches, grey water, etc.), the site shall be immediately refilled, abandoned, and moved to a different location, generally uphill.

If Forest Service resource staff determine a slit trench or privy site or proposed site contain or may contain buried archaeological deposits the site shall be immediately refilled, abandoned, and moved to a different location.

In locations where the above standards cannot be met to maintain approximately one functioning latrine per 100 people, the Gathering may consider portable toilets at their expense or relocate to a site where the above conditions can be met.

TRASH

Trash will be removed from the site. Trash and recycle materials shall not be left at dumpsters at local businesses.

Only paper and wood trash will be burned on site if Forest Service burning regulations allow; all unburned trash and nails shall be removed from fire pits.

Provide trash receptacles onsite, with periodic trash removal at the Rainbow Family's expense; Participants should be encouraged to remove trash and recyclables from the site as frequently as the local transfer station schedules allow.

CAMPFIRES

Due to concerns over invasive forest insects, firewood from outside the Forest boundary may not be brought on to the Forest. Furthermore, the State of Vermont has effected a statewide firewood quarantine as of May 1, 2016; it is not legal to bring untreated firewood into the state.

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.

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.

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

DOMESTIC AND WILD ANIMALS

In order to ensure wildlife safety, protect natural resources and minimize negative impacts to public health, animals must be under a maximum of a 6 foot leash control at all times. Domestic animals shall be leashed at all times when outside of tents and temporary residences as defined by current case law.

Animal waste will be cleaned up immediately and disposed of in latrines, compost pits or in another environmentally responsible manner.

All abandoned animals will be removed by participants of the peaceful assembly.

The Green Mountain National Forest provides habitat for bat species that are protected by the Endangered Species Act. To ensure bats are protected, no standing trees, either dead or alive, should be felled or removed. Where possible, camping and general gathering areas should be focused to previously disturbed ground. June and July is the peak of the breeding season for a number of ground- and shrub-nesting birds. Nests of these species are highly susceptible to being trampled by people or harassed by pets.

Vermont is home to the many rare dragonfly species. Larva often inhabit clear, cold streams with intermittent sections of rock and rapids. Larva are typically found in the sand and gravel that accumulates in pools below rapids. Gathering participants should be discouraged from bathing or swimming in such stream pools.

SITE REHABILITATION

Site specific rehabilitation needs will be identified at a walk through with gathering participants and the Forest Service resource advisors no later than, July 15, 2016 at a time to be predetermined.

Unless areas are identified and excluded by the Forest Service resource advisors, all parking areas, bus villages, trails, and areas of concentrated use will be scarified to a depth of 2-4 inches and will be seeded with a native seed mix approved by the Forest Service resource advisors. Seeding will be accomplished by the end of site rehabilitation. Seeding and scarification will be done as needed and as determined during the site specific walk through describe above.

Slit trenches and latrines will be filled and covered with native material from the surrounding area or native material originally removed from the pit and mounded with excess material to allow for settling.

All trash will be removed and disposed of at recognized sanitary landfill, transfer stations, or local trash hauling companies. Trash and recycle materials shall not be left at dumpsters at local businesses.

All human made structures not previously existing at the gathering location will be dismantled, removed, or scattered to achieve a natural appearance. No non-natural material shall be left on-site.

Any user created trails will be obliterated. Existing trails will be returned to a width specified by the Forest Service, with the appropriate water controls to avoid concentrations of water and prevent erosion and gully formation.

All water lines will be removed from the gathering site.

All vehicles abandoned by the gathering participants will be removed from the National Forest at the owner's expense and at no cost to the Forest Service.

Fire/bliss pits will be filled with native material from the surrounding area or material originally removed, and mounded with excess material to allow for settling. Rocks will be scattered to give a natural appearance to the landscape.

I have read and understand the terms and conditions of this Operating Plan. This Operating Plan will go into effect the date and time signed by the Responsible Party or no later than 1200, June 20, 2016.

Signature of Responsible Party



John A. Sinclair
Forest Supervisor
Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests

Printed Name: _____

Date: 6/18/16

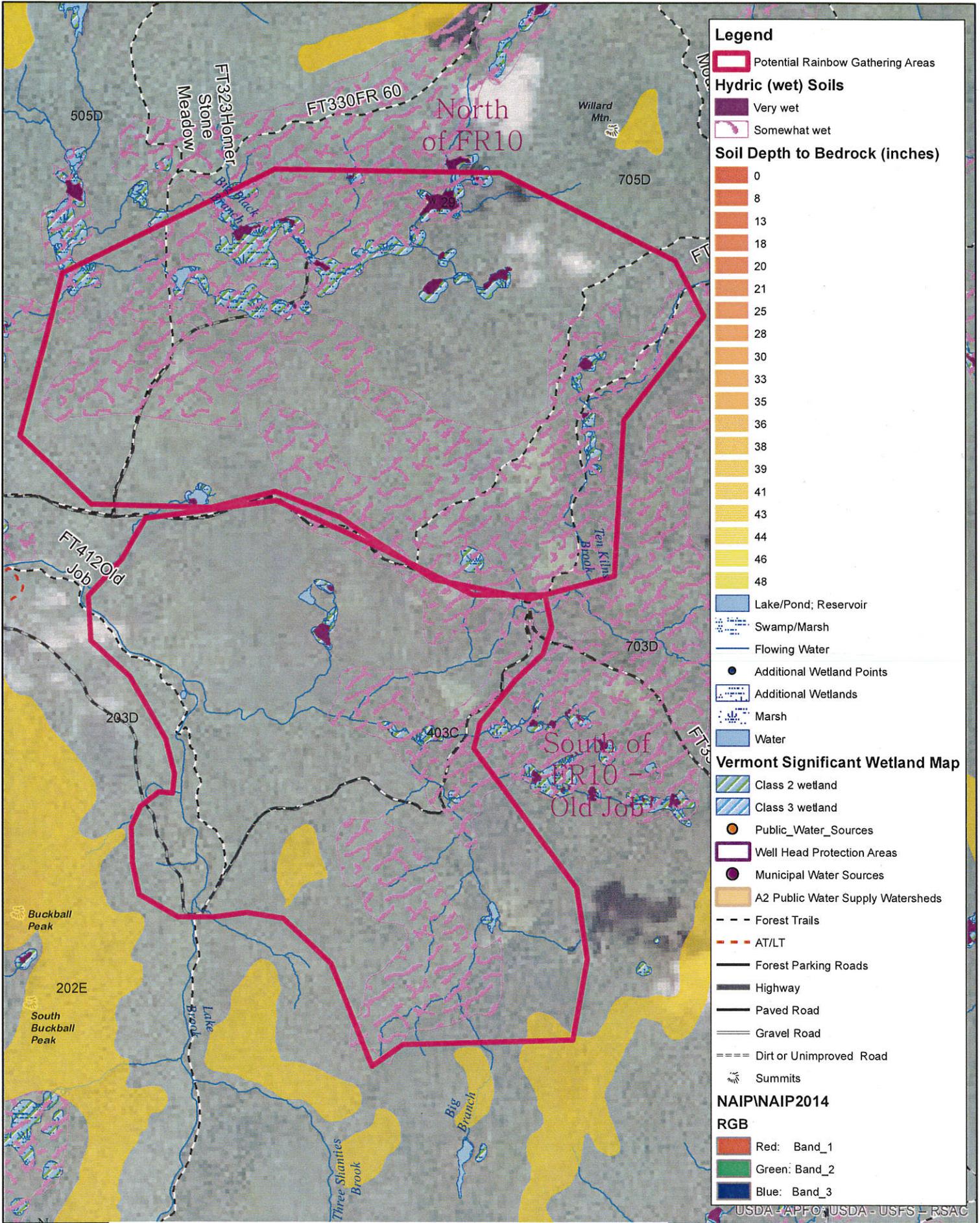
Address: _____

Time: 1455

Date: _____

Time: _____

Potential Rainbow Gathering Soil and Water Concerns
 Areas where camping, slit trenches, and other digging should be avoided



USDA - APFO, USDA - USFS - RSAC



Possible Rainbow Gathering Site

FR10 North & South

