



2025 Unauthorized Large Group Use Incident

June 25, 2025

Current Situation

The Forest Service is responding to an Unauthorized Noncommercial Large Group Use Incident (Rainbow Family Gathering) on the Mark Twain National Forest, Eleven Point/Doniphan Ranger District. The incident is approximately 6 miles northeast of Thomasville, Missouri, in Oregon County along County Road 430 (Banner Road).

The Forest Service has mobilized a National Incident Management Team with experience managing these types of incidents. The team works closely with the local community, including law enforcement agencies, throughout the incident to protect the health and safety of everyone involved, and to lessen environmental impacts to the site by providing information and enforcing laws.

The highest concentration of participants is expected during the first week of July with the peak occurring on July 4.

As of yesterday afternoon, the estimated attendance was around 237 participants.

An incident of this size can have significant impacts on traffic, communities, local resources, residents, and visitors. Local businesses can expect to see large numbers of Rainbow Family participants visiting stores and buying food and supplies along routes to the incident location. Forest and local roads in the vicinity may become congested during the incident and road closures and/or traffic detours may occur.

The Rainbow Family of Living Light is a loose-knit group of people from throughout the United States and other countries who gather annually on a national forest. Since the first gathering near Strawberry Lake on the Arapaho National Forest in Colorado in 1972, the incident has taken place on a different national forest each year. The incident is expected to draw around 2-5,000 participants.

Forest Orders and Closure Information

The Mark Twain National Forest issued Forest Order 09-05-25-03 closing Forest Roads 4155 and 4155A on June 24, 2025, beginning at 1600 hrs. This closure will be in effect through July 14, 2025, at 0800 hrs.

Information on Forest Orders and Closures can be found on the [Forest's website](#) under Alerts and Fire Danger Status at the top of the webpage.

Information

For questions, concerns and information please call the Public Information Line at 479-388-0872 or email SM.FS.NIMTLrgGrpUse@usda.gov.

Additional incident information can be found on the [website](#). Please visit the [Mark Twain National Forest website](#) for additional Forest information.