

**USDA Forest Service**  
*Cherokee National Forest*

**~Watauga Ranger District~**

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**NEWS**

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**Follow US Forest Service Response to  
National Rainbow Family Gathering on Twitter, InciWeb**

**Unicoi, Tn.** – U.S. Forest Service officials announced today that the public can follow the agency’s response to the 2012 National Rainbow Family of Living Light Gathering on InciWeb at <http://inciweb.org/incident/2950/> and Twitter at:

@inciweb #National\_TNCNF

“It’s important that local communities, the media, cooperating agencies and others following our response to the Rainbow Family Gathering have immediate access to available information,” said Incident Commander, Law Enforcement and Investigations, Scott McCormick. “We’ll be posting daily updates, frequently asked questions, images, maps, news releases, statistics – any information we think the public will find valuable – just as soon as it becomes available.”

The U.S. Forest Service is managing the gathering using a National Incident Management Team consisting of resource managers and specialists, as well as professionals in law enforcement, safety, logistics and community relations. Activities include:

1. Keeping the public informed through the media and daily updates;
2. Assigning safe travel routes, enforcing forest road regulations and minimizing the environmental impacts associated with parking large numbers of vehicles;
3. Protecting resources with guidance in reducing displacement of wildlife, ensuring provision of adequate sanitation and mitigating effects to meadows, riparian areas and cultural resources;
4. Providing a visible law enforcement presence within and around the gathering to ensure the safety of all forest visitors and to protect the forest’s resources;
5. Developing a rehabilitation plan and overseeing the activities of any Rainbow Family volunteers remaining after the gathering to restore and site; and
6. Working with cooperating federal, state and local agencies to provide expertise in law enforcement, health and safety.

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