MASS GATHERINGS

A BIG MESS..
G.S. 130A-252

Mass Gathering is defined as a congregation of more than 5000 people in an open space or open air for a period of more than 24 hours.
G.S. 130A-253[c]

Requires submission of an Information Report—must submit application 30 days prior to commencement of event.
G.S. 130A 254 [a]

Requires application for mass gathering permit be made to Secretary of DENR and fee not to exceed $100.00
G.S. 130A 254 thru 256

COVERS:

- Additional services such as police, fire and medical services.
- Site inspection and issuance of a provisional permit.
- Bonding of permittee in the amount of $5000 for up to 10,000 people and an additional $1000 for each additional 5000 persons.
Continued

- Proof of insurance in an amount determined by the Secretary to be reasonable.
- Inspection 5 days prior to the event. If conditions are satisfactory permit issued, if not permit revoked.
- By court order, a performance bond may be forfeited and used to pay for cleanup, extra services, etc.
.1404 Activity Area

Activity area of sufficient size to accommodate the estimated number of persons reasonably expected to be in attendance at any one time.
.1405 Distance from Dwellings

Activity and camping areas not within 1500 feet of any residence unless the occupant or owner has signed a written waiver. Notarized copies of any such waivers shall accompany the application.
.1406 Distance from Certain Public Water Supply Sources

Shall not be located within one mile of a class I or class II reservoir, as classified by DENR, or within three miles of a protected watershed which drains into a A-1 stream, as classified by the DEM, and which stream is used as a source of public water supply.
.1407 Camping Area

An area of adequate size to accommodate the provision of safe drinking water and sewage collection and disposal shall be provided and designated for camping.
.1408 Command Post

A command post at a conveniently accessible location approved by the Department shall be provided for use by the Department, law enforcement, and other governmental agencies with regulatory authority for such events.
.1409 Ingress and Egress Roads: Entrances and Exits

The permittee shall provide personnel and arrangements necessary to keep entrances and exits to public highways open to traffic at all times.
.1410 Parking

Parking spaces shall be provided on the basis of one space for every four persons expected to attend.
.1411 Crowd Control and Security Enforcement

A written plan for limiting attendance to the number stated in the application for permit, the exclusion of persons not holding tickets, and a written plan for security enforcement.
Including the number of security guards to be provided for internal and external crowd control and security enforcement. Written statement for the sheriff or chief of police, whichever has jurisdiction over the area, that the plan seems adequate.
1412 Dust Control

written plan for dust control.
.1413 Fire Prevention and Control

Written plan for fire prevention and control
.1414 Plans for Emergencies

The application shall be accompanied by written plans for dealing with emergency situations involving the occurrence of incidents requiring rapid evacuation, including arrangements for use of emergency egress roads.
.1415 Provision of Medical Care

The application for permit shall be accompanied by a written plan for the provision of medical care, such plan having been approved in writing by the local health director.
1416 Water Supply

12 gallons per day and a peak hour demand of six pints per person. (Must be approved by Public Water Supply Section-DENR)
.1417 Toilet Facilities: Sewage Disposal

Sanitary toilet facilities shall be provided at a rate of not more than 100 persons per toilet seat. Chemical toilets should be readily accessible by the service vehicles and shall be serviced as often as necessary.

CONTRACT MUST BE PROVIDED.
.1418 Solid Waste Collection and Disposal

Facilities shall be provided for all solid wastes to be collected and stored in leak-proof, nonabsorbent containers, and all solid wastes shall be removed daily or more often and disposed of in a community solid waste disposal facility or in a sanitary landfill to be constructed in the area.
.1419 Food Dispensing

Must be in compliance with the “Sanitation of Restaurants and Other Foodhandling Establishments”, 15A NCAC 18A .2600
0.1422 Noise Level at Perimeter
The application shall be accompanied by detailed plans for amplifying equipment, which shall be so located and operated as to limit the noise level at the perimeter of the site to no more than 70 decibels on the scale of a sound level meter which meets the specifications of the American National Standards Institute, which are adopted by reference in accordance with GS 150B-14©.
The applicants shall include a signed statement certifying that the noise level limit as here in specified will not be exceeded.
The application shall be accompanied by detailed plans for lighting designed to illuminate the site.
.1424 Signs

Signs showing the locations of toilet facilities, water supply outlets, solid waste receptacles, food stands, first aid facilities and the command post shall be posted throughout area.
Rainbows are coming

They're not the ones associated with the sun's reflection through raindrops.

They are a group of people from all walks of life joining together to form the Rainbow Family.

They will be having their annual Gathering of the Tribes July 1-7 in the Big Fat Gap area in the Cheoah District of the Nantahala National Forest.

The USFS defines the Big Fat Gap area as a general forest area. The 14-day limit for camping pertains to developed areas, not remote ones. They will not be camping in the Slickrock Wilderness area.

The Rainbow Family expect somewhere between 7,000 and 8,000 saying this will not be as large a Gathering as others, since many from the west cannot take the time to

Bunny said they believe in peace and harmony, the understanding and acceptance of all beings which come with love and caring.

Peter Rabbit said the Family did not like drugs, alcohol, and weapons. "Even if the hunting season is open, we would not hunt, since we consider animals sacred," he said.

Wildlife and fishing regulations will be enforced. Peter Rabbit said security comes from within the Family, and he is one of the ones who keeps the peace.

Steve Rickerson, Ranger of the Cheoah District, said USFS personnel will enforce all regulations pertaining to camping on National Forest lands. "We will approve all structures near any wildlife open areas and all areas will be reseded and structures"
Family: Rainbow Member

Rainbow Family Will Care For The Land, Not Abuse It

Leaves Family Camp With Bad Memories

By BOB SCOTT
Eastern Bureau

TAPOCO — State health officials and the Rainbow Family held a congenial council Thursday along the banks of the Cheoah River to prepare for the Family’s Gathering of the Tribes July 1-7.

Last week the state, through the attorney general’s office, issued notice that either Rainbow family members comply with the state’s mass gatherings law by 3 p.m. Thursday or face arrests on misdemeanor charges or a court injunction against the gathering. The deadline passed without any action taken against the Family.

The mass gatherings law is applic-
Forest Service Asks Rainbows To Get Permit

By BOB SCOTT
Western Bureau

The U.S. Forest Service put the Rainbow family on notice Friday that it must obtain a special-use permit before it can hold its annual "Gathering of the Tribes" in Texas.

About 12,500 Rainbow family members gathered last summer on the Chequah District of the Nantahala National Forest near Robbinsville. An estimated 6,000 members contracted a highly contagious form of shigellosis — severe bloody diarrhea accompanied by fever and nausea — from what health officials said was a lack of sanitary facilities.

The outbreak prompted the company potentially affected communities.

"You may expect us, in review of the application, to be particularly interested in sanitation, endangered species, fire protection, impact on other users and our neighbors, and on restoration and cleanup. As you are aware, the impact potential of 10,000 or more people is one of major proportions," Alcock said.

This year, the Forest Service is requiring the Rainbows to tell them exactly where the gathering is to be and the dates. Public hearings on the gathering may be scheduled, the Forest Service warned in the letter.

The Rainbows must also submit