



## MAIDU SUMMIT CONSORTIUM

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6/20/24

Supervisor/Plumas National Forest and Lassen National Forest

Lassen National Forest  
2550 Riverside Drive,  
Susanville, CA. 96130

Plumas National Forest  
159 Lawrence Street  
Quincy, CA. 95971

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**Jack Medici**  
Restoration Specialist

Dear Supervisor's,

Re: Rejection of the 2024 Rainbow Gathering on USFS Lands within Our Ancestral Homelands

We, the Maidu Summit Consortium, Tsi-Akim Maidu, United Maidu Nation, Big Meadows Historical Preservation, Maidu Cultural Development Group, Roundhouse Council, Greenville Rancheria, Susanville Indian Rancheria, are writing to express our deep concerns and strong objections to the proposed 2024 Rainbow gathering on USFS lands within our ancestral homelands. As the traditional stewards of these lands, we have a sacred responsibility to protect and preserve our cultural sites, sensitive areas, and gathering spots for future generations.

Let us be clear that the MSC has not been consulted, nor have we participated in any discussions with anyone connected to the "Rainbow People" concerning their gathering. We have not consented to, nor blessed this event in any form. Any social media posts, to the contrary, are false.

As per the USFS's own regulations, "the agency is committed to protecting and preserving natural and cultural resources for future generations" (36 CFR 219.6). We urge you to uphold this commitment by rejecting this proposal and protecting our cultural sites, sensitive areas, and gathering spots from irreparable harm.

We are deeply troubled by the potential environmental impacts of this gathering, including:

- Widespread camping, driving off-road, and disrupting natural habitats, which will undoubtedly exceed the agency's guidelines for minimal environmental impact (36 CFR 261.50).
- The planned digging of trenches and latrines, which will violate the agency's own regulations regarding cultural resource protection (36 CFR 261.54).
- The risk of fire season being exacerbated by human activity on public lands, which could lead to catastrophic wildfires that would destroy our homes, habitats, and cultural sites.

Furthermore, we are still reeling from the devastating effects of the Dixie Fire, which highlights the importance of protecting our lands from further harm.

We request that the USFS reject the location of the 2024 Rainbow gathering and instead identify alternative sites outside of our homelands. We urge you to consider the following:

1. Conduct a thorough Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the potential impacts of the gathering on cultural resources.
2. Consult with us to ensure that all necessary measures are taken to protect historic properties.
3. Recognize and respect our sacred sites, as designated by Executive Order 13007.
4. Ensure that any human remains, or cultural artifacts found during the gathering are handled in accordance with NAGPRA regulations.
5. Develop a plan to prevent and mitigate fires during the gathering, including providing adequate resources and personnel to monitor and respond to potential fires.


We demand that those responsible for past damages be held accountable for their actions. We have documentation of the harm caused by previous Rainbow gatherings, including but not limited to:

- Trash and debris left behind
- Destruction of cultural sites and artifacts
- Disruption of wildlife habitats
- Contamination of water sources

We will not stand idly by while our lands are desecrated, and our people are further traumatized. We demand justice and reparations for the harm caused by past events.

Failure to comply with these demands will result in immediate legal action and further diplomatic efforts to protect our rights as Indigenous peoples.

Sincerely,

  
Allen Lowry  
Vice-Chairman  
Maidu Summit Consortium