

Site Inspection Report by the CF WL (South)

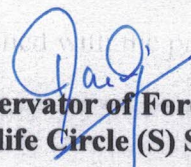
Date of Inspection: 07.06.2024

Sl. No.	Particulars	Inspection Report By CF WL (South) Shimla
1.	Extent in hectares.	20.80 ha.
2.	Location of the forest land proposed for diversion	Starting Point of Proposed Road Name of Place -Dangeway Latitude -31°40'25.47" Longitude -78°00'13.02" Elevation - 3030 Mtrs. Ending Point of Proposed Road Name of Place -Bhaba-Top Latitude -31°46'56.99" Longitude -77°57'30.39" Elevation - 4939 Mtrs.
3.	Legal status of the forest land (Protected Forest, reserved forests, revenue forest lands or any other forest land)	Un-Demarcated Protected Forest (UPF)
4.	Any signs of encroachment.	Nil
5.	Any activity already taken up within the forest land or adjoining non forest land as part of the proposed project by the user agency. Details of action taken against the user agency in case of violation of the FC act and guidelines there under.	Nil
6.	Status of vegetation, site quality, species composition etc.	The proposed road line is situated in the temperate zone and alpine pasture, with a notable diversity of vegetation. The area supports important tree species such as <i>Picea smithiana</i> , <i>Abies pindrow</i> , and <i>Abies spectabilis</i> . Other significant species include <i>Prunus avium</i> , <i>Betula utilis</i> , and <i>Acer pictum</i> . Shrubs like <i>Berberis himalayana</i> and <i>Texas Baccata</i> are also present. The vegetation composition reflects the area's ecological zone, offering a mix of coniferous and broadleaf species. These plant species contribute to the overall biodiversity and ecological health of the region.

7.	<p>Importance of area from wildlife point of view. Status of wildlife (density and abundance of important species, bird life reptiles, butterflies and other scheduled animals any endangered wildlife). Any latest census of wildlife in this area.</p>	<p>The Rupi Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) is a crucial habitat for diverse wildlife, many of which are endangered or critically endangered. It hosts significant bird species like the Bearded Vulture (<i>Lammergeier</i>) and Himalayan Griffon, both classified as <i>Near Threatened</i> by the IUCN. Reptile species such as the Himalayan Keelback and Himalayan Pit Viper, along with the Indian Tortoiseshell butterfly, add to the sanctuary's biodiversity. Mammals like the Snow Leopard, Musk Deer, Himalayan Tahr, Black Bear, Brown Bear, and Goral are key species, all facing threats from poaching and habitat loss. The sanctuary provides vital protection for these species in their natural high-altitude environment. It plays an essential role in maintaining the ecological balance of the region. Regular wildlife surveys help monitor species population and health. The sanctuary's role in preserving the biodiversity of the Himalayan ecosystem is invaluable. Conservation efforts are critical to ensure the survival of these species. The presence of these species underscores the area's significance for wildlife protection.</p>
8.	<p>Current land use. Is this area managed as per prescriptions in the Wildlife Management plan any if not, why?</p>	<p>Area is maintained as per Wildlife Management Plan.</p>
9.	<p>Importance of the area from historical or religious point of view.</p>	<p>The Bhaba Valley holds significant religious importance due to its association with the local deity Bhaba Maheshwar Ji. According to local traditions, the valley is considered sacred, and the local people believe that they cannot enter the area without the prior permission of the deity. This reverence for Bhaba Maheshwar Ji reflects the deep spiritual connection that the local communities have with the land. The valley's religious significance has helped preserve its natural beauty and biodiversity, as the</p>

		local customs and beliefs foster respect for the area.															
10.	Any dependent persons/families on this land.	The entire population of Bhaba Valley depends on this area for religious reasons, tourism, and ancient grazing routes.															
11.	Any displacement of persons proposed.	Nil															
12.	Is there any Rehabilitation and resettlement Plan for the persons to be affected? Is there any dissenting voice among the persons proposed to be displaced?	Nil															
13.	Compensatory afforestation proposed is on forest land or non-forest land. Location of this area, suitability of the area for CA if in the degraded forest land then what is the current working plan prescription for the area? Distance of the non-forest land for CA from the nearest forest area. Number of patches in case the area should be more than 10 Kms.	<p>Compensatory afforestation is on forest land Total CA Area 20.80 ha. –</p> <table><tr><th>Patch No.</th><th>Range</th><th>Compartment No.</th><th>Total Area of Comp (ha.)</th><th>CA Area (ha.)</th></tr><tr><td>2 Nos.</td><td>WL Range Rup</td><td>UPF-27</td><td>230 ha</td><td>42.00</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Total</td><td></td><td>230</td><td>42</td></tr></table> <p>As per current WL Management Plan area is maintained</p>	Patch No.	Range	Compartment No.	Total Area of Comp (ha.)	CA Area (ha.)	2 Nos.	WL Range Rup	UPF-27	230 ha	42.00		Total		230	42
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14.	Proposal area should not be part of any protected area. Also, distance from the boundary of the nearest protected area should be more than 10 Kms.	Proposed area falls within the protected area i.e. Rupi-Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary.															
15.	Dependence of tribal in the area Whether the rights of the tribal have been recognized in this area.	NOC obtained from local FRA committee															
16.	Utility of the project, including the people living in close vicinity of the project.	The project may reduce road distance of Shimla and Spiti by approximately 90-100 km benefitting the local population as this will in turn help in the easy transportation of the farmer products i.e cash crops like peas and apple to and fro. Further from strategic point of view the road will be of help to the security forces.															
17.	In case of renewal whether all the conditions stipulated in the earlier sanction order have complied with.	N/A															
18.	Alternatives examined by the user agency in case of non-site specific projects.	As detailed in proposal															

19.	A certificate by the user agency that the forest land requested for diversion for non-forestry purpose is bare minimum.	Certificate attached with the proposal
20.	Any scope of saving tree growth while ensuring that the purpose for which the forest land is being diverted affected.	Minimum number of trees has been taken into alignment
21.	Any other issue of significance.	As mentioned in point number 16. The road may not prove to be an all-weather road.
22.	Specific recommendations of the CF with reason for approval of the project.	The road will benefit the rural population as well as security forces by shortening the distance between Spiti and Sarahan. However the same shall pass through the ecologically sensitive ecosystem as well. Due measures are required to be taken to cause less damage to the Protected Area.


**Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife Circle (S) Shimla.**

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