CCF'S RECOMMENDATION REPORT ON PROPOSAL FOR THE DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND LAYING OPTICAL FIBER CABLE BY TRENCHING/HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILLING METHOD AND INSTALLATION OF MANHOLE FOR CONNECTING KATTIKULAM TO KUTTA BORDER AND THETTUROAD TO APPAPARA

The proposal for diversion of 0.5949 Ha of forest land for laying optical fiber cable by Trenching/Horizontal Directional Drilling method and installation of manhole for connecting Kattikulam to Kutta border and Thetturoad to Appapara falls under 2 divisions, Wayanad North and Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary. Out of the total extent of 0.5949 Ha of forest land requested for diversion, the extent 0.1338 Ha is passing through North Wayanad Division under Northern circle Kannur and remaining is through Wayanad Wildlife Division under Palakkad Wildlife Circle.

The above mentioned proposal for diversion of 0.1338 Ha forest land under North Wayanad Division in Northern Circle, Kannur is recommended by the undersigned on the following grounds and conditions.

Grounds

- 1. Optical fiber will be helpful in providing better internet connectivity to the remote villages and also to the various camps of Forest Department.
- 2. The required land is barest minimum
- 3. No displacement of families is required due to this project
- 4. There will not be any disturbance to the flora and fauna during the time of laying the Optical Fiber Cable.
- 5. Tree felling is not required.
- 6. The proposed area does not form part of any protected area/heritage site/site of archaeological importance/defence establishments.

Conditions

- 1. Required NPV and CA shall be borne by User Agency.
- 2. The User Agency should cover up the trench and restore the forest land to avoid any casualty.
- 3. User agency shall provide connectivity to the forest department offices and tribal colonies under the North Wayanad and Wayanad Wildlife Division.

4. OFC passes through the forest area which has 2 forest offices- Begur Section and Thirunelly Forest Station, which are facing high Man-animal conflict issues and Left wing extremism issues. It is recommended that the User Agency shall provide for two 4x4 vehicles along with maintenance for 2 years for conflict mitigation measures (RRT) and patrolling purpose.

Chief Conservator of Forests,

Northern Circle