

Field inspection notes of Sri Vineet Kumar, IFS., District Forest Officer, Nandyal on 23-05-2023 for diversion of 0.85 ha.

On 23-05-2023, I along with Forest Range Officer, Dhone Range concerned field staff and representatives from Railway Department have inspected the additional area of 0.85 ha. of forest land in compartment No.238 & 239 of North Dhone Reserve Forest, Dhone Range, Nandyal Division proposed for diversion in lieu of construction of new double line and electrification of track between Guntur and Guntakal stations at Dhone (Rly km 325/4 to km 329/2) in favour of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Guntakal Division, South Central Railway, Guntakal. During the inspection the following points are observed.

The North Dhone Reserve Forest was notified u/s 16 vide G.O.No.15, dated 17-12-1897 as Reserve Forest. The DGPS survey had been taken up in the proposed diversion of forest land and authenticated by the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, AP, Mangalagiri. The forest area proposed for construction of new double line and electrification of track is located in

Compartment Nos.	::	238 & 239
Reserve Forest	::	North Dhone
Beat	::	Dhone
Section	::	Dhone
Range	::	Dhone

Utility of forest area proposed for diversion is for "Construction of new double line and electrification of track over an extent of 2.21 ha. The earlier proposed area is of 1.36 ha. and the present 0.85 ha.

Observations:

Following observations were made during the course of the field inspection:-

- 1) The existing railway line in North Dhone RF existed before 1980
- 2) The proposed diversion area required by the user agency for construction of new double line and electrification of track is situated right side of the existing railway line facing from Guntakal-Guntur.
- 3) The flora existing in the proposed diversion area and surrounding reserve forest is Rela (*Cassia fistula*), Maddi (*Terminalia elliptica*), Thati (*Borassus flabellifer*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Neeruddi (*Dolichandrone crispera*), Narayepi (*Hardwickia binata*), Subabul (*Leucaena leucocephala*), Regu (*Zizyphus jujube*), Chinta (*Tamarindus indica*), Somi (*Soymida febrifuga*), Gotti (*Zizyphus xylopyrus*), Sandra (*Acacia sundra*), Thangedu (*Cassia auriculata*), Paluvareni (*Castanotis indica*) etc.,
- 4) The fauna present in the diversion area and surrounding RF includes Peacock, Wild boar, Rabbits, Black bucks etc.
- 5) The density of the proposed diversion area is open scrub forest.
- 6) There is no impact of the project on the adjoining flora and fauna.

- 7) There are also no endangered forest species in the proposed diversion area.
- 8) The proposed area does not fall in any part of National Park / Wildlife Sanctuary / Eco-sensitive zone / Elephant corridors. The area does not contain any Archaeological or Monumental structures. Further, 58.79 km is the aerial distance from the proposed diversion to nearest ESZ boundary of Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary of WLM Division, Atmakur.
- 9) There are no protected archaeological / heritage sites / defence establishment or any other important monument in the proposed diversion area.
- 10) No violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by user agency is observed during site inspection.
- 11) The requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency is barest minimum for the project.
- 12) An area of 4.79 (effective area 4.42 ha.) has already been identified as degraded forest land for the purpose of the Compensatory Afforestation scheme in compartment No.237 & 238 of Dhone Beat of Dhone Range.



District Forest Officer,
Nandyal.