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From: Conservator of Forests,
Chamba-176 310. To Nodal Officer-Cum-APCCF(FCA)
O/o Pr. CCF, H.P. Shimla.

Subject:- Diversion of 1.8086 Ha. of forest land in favour of HPPWD for the construction of link road from Gahar da Gathu to Lanoh Km 0/0 to 3/510 Km within the jurisdiction of Dalhousie Forest Division Distt. Chamba H.P.

Memo:-

Kindly refer to GoI, Integrated Regional Office, MOEF, Shimla letter No. FC/HPB/06/59/2021 dated 23.09.2022 on the subject cited above.

2. In this connection, it is submitted that the observation as raised vide letter under reference have been attended by User Agency as well as DFO Dalhousie. The point wise reply to the EDS is given as under: -

S. No.	Observation	Reply
1	In reply to point no. 1, it has been submitted that existing road which is visible in the KML file was constructed in year 2007-08 under scheme RSBY for forestry purpose. In this regard, documentary proof of construction of road by Forest Department duly authenticated by DFO concerned may be provided.	DFO Dalhousie has submitted that the road was constructed by the Forest Department during the year 2004-06 under scheme RSVY for forestry purpose, he informed that the record of these expenditure/other relevant has been weeded out by DFO Dalhousie vide his office order No. 159/2016-17 dated 04.08.2016, copy of same has been uploaded on the portal by DFO in online Part-II.
2	Large number no. of important trees (152 No.) are proposed for felling. Therefore, possibility of reducing the numbers of trees to be affected may be explored or rationalization to be done in the layout of the proposal to reduce green felling. Further, a list of trees which are required to be felled and retained may be provided. The detail of length and width of existing road and proposed road may be provided in tabulated form	User Agency has submitted that all possible efforts to reduce the number of trees for felling shall be made by them during the

I/382852/2024

3	Reply to the observation no.-4 of EDS letter dated 12.01.2022 has not been satisfactorily complied. Comments of Conservator of Forest regarding the violation, due to contradictory statements in the Detailed note of project and JIR (Joint Inspection Report) with SIR (Site Inspection report) was required to be submit. However, comments of Conservator of Forest have not been submitted. Therefore, Conservator of Forest concerned may submit the comments in this regard	Site Inspection reports/Comments of undersigned regarding the proposed road are attached herewith.
4	It has been observed from the KML file that, diversion area is having slightly steep and prone to erosion. Therefore, State Govt. may provide details of the mitigation measures to be adopted to arrest the accelerated soil erosion/land slide during/after execution of project. Additionally, the State Govt. may submit Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan along with detail cost of its implementation as per MoEF & CC vide letter No. FC11/43/2021-FC dated 07.06.2022.	The Soil Moisture Conservation Plan is not yet prepared. Hence, the undertaking regarding soil Moisture Conservation Plan has been uploaded on the portal by the User Agency in online Part-I.
5.	The documents regarding the length and width of road is uploaded on the PARIVESH portal. However, it is not in downloadable form. Therefore, legible copy of the same may be provided and uploaded on PARIVESH portal.	Legible copy regarding length and width of road has been uploaded in online Part-I against additional information.
6.	The State Govt may upload the revised KML file/Layout/Line plan showing (Forest, Non-Forest, Violated and Non-violated part) on the PARIVESH portal.	The revised KML file has been uploaded by the user agency in online Part-I against the appropriate column.

This is submitted for favour of your information and further necessary action please.

**Conservator of Forests,
Chamba Forest Circle, Chamba.**

Copy to:

DFO Dalhousie for favour of information and necessary action please.

Site Inspection report of Gahar da Ghatta – Lanoh road forest land diversion

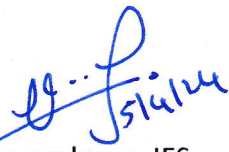
A site inspection of Gahar da Ghatta – Lanoh road forest land diversion was done by the undersigned Conservator of Forests, Chamba (T) Forest Circle on 5th April 2024. Inspection was done from running kilometer 0/00 km to the end point at 3/510 km.

The said road has already been constructed passing through Makolsu UPF and Parwat VII DPF of Lahru Beat, Chowari Range, Dalhousie Forest Division. As per records of DFO Dalhousie, the said jeepable kacha road was constructed during the years 2004 to 2006 under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. The total length of the road passing through forest land is 2.681 km having an area of 1.8086 hectares. Currently, the road is kacha and jeepable serving a population of more than 1000 individuals across different villages.

Two muck dumping sites were also inspected at 0/00 and 1/700 kms and were found to be suitable for dumping the much generated in widening of the jeepable road, provided appropriate retaining walls are put in place and the muck is stabilized by planting trees, shrubs and grasses. There are at least three spots one in the beginning and two around 1/500 km where widening by cutting of slope can cause moderate erosion. This can be mitigated by meticulous slope cutting and ensuring retaining walls on upper slope of the road. Similarly, sufficient retaining walls need to be established on the lower slope along the road to prevent soil erosion and protect the forests.

Makolsu UPF falls under Chil (*Pinus roxburghii*) Working Circle and Parwat VII DPF comes under Protection Working Circle as per Working Plan of Dalhousie Forest Division. The vegetation comprises of chir pine trees and few broad leaved tree species. Endangered species of flora was not seen during the inspection. Interaction with field staff indicated the presence of fauna like Indian porcupine, barking deer and wild pig are seen occasionally in the region over a wider area.

Now, the H.P. Public Works Department intends to widen the road followed by metaling and tarring. There is no alternative road reaching Lanoh other than the instant kacha road. The road will also act as a barrier / break for forest fire in the chir pine forests of Makolsu UPF and provide access to afforestation sites near Lanoh.


Abhilash Damodaran, IFS
Conservator of Forests
Chamba (T) Circle