

**MINUTES OF THE FORTNIGHTLY REGIONAL COORDINATION MEETING  
HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup>JANUARY, 2023**

The Fortnightly Regional Coordination Meeting (FRCM) was held on 24<sup>th</sup>January2023 at 11:00 AM in the conference room of the Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Dehradun under the Chairmanship of Shri Pankaj Agrawal, IFS, Addl. PCCF, Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun to discuss the pending proposals.

Following officers were present in the meeting either in person or through video conferencing: -

<b>Sl.No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
01	Shri. Pankaj Agrawal, IFS	Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, IRO, Dehradun (through VC)
02	Dr. Yogesh Gairola	Technical Officer, IRO, Dehradun
03	Shri. Sunny Goel	Technical Officer, IRO, Dehradun
Following invitees joined the meeting		
04	Shri. S.S.Rasaily, IFS	APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer, Uttarakhand
05	DFO, Tons Purola Forest Division (through VC)	
06	DFO, Haldwani Forest Division (through VC)	
07	DFO, Lansdowne Forest Division (through VC)	
08	DFO, Chakrata Forest Division (through VC)	
09	DFO, Mussoorie Forest Division (through VC)	
10	DFO, Bageshwar Forest Division (through VC)	
11	DFO, Nainital Forest Division (through VC)	
12	DFO, Soil Conservation Forest Division, Kalsi (through VC)	
13	Representative of the User Agency (PWD, NHAI, PMGSY)	

At the outset, APCCF, IRO, MoEFCC, Dehradun welcomed all the members for the meeting and following proposals which were identified by the IRO were discussed in the meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 01: Diversion of 4.791 ha of forest Land for construction of Karda Shikaru Motor Road in favour of PWD within the jurisdiction of Tons Forest Division, Purola, District Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/36162/2018)**

The proposal was discussed in detail in the meeting. The user agency represented the proposal in the meeting along with the concerned DFO who joined through video conference. It was apprised that the Stage I approval has already been granted in the proposal vide letter dt. 28.09.2021 with tree felling permission of not more than 119 trees and 143 saplings. It was noted that total 262 trees was allowed to be felled in the proposal. Now, State Government has asked for permission for felling additional 110 trees in additional 1 Km length which was not uploaded at the time of uploading the proposal at Parivesh portal. An observation seeking few information in this regard was also made by this office vide letter dt. 26.12.2022. It was informed by the User Agency and DFO that initially the administrative approval for this proposal was received for 4 Km length of road and tree counting was done in that stretch. But, after ground verification, the actual length of road was found to be 5 Km and accordingly proposal uploaded for 5 km after getting the revised administrative approval. However, tree counting was not done in additional 1 km length. Therefore, now the permission for felling of 110 more tree is required in the proposal.

*After detailed discussion, it was decided that the State Government may submit the species-wise and girth-wise list of trees actually proposed to be affected in the proposal in excel sheet so that the same could be sent to the NIC cell in the Ministry to make the necessary changes in the para 4, Part II of the proposal.*

**Agenda Item No. 02: Diversion of 0.613 ha of forest Land for construction of Pora to Rama Motor Road, in favour of PWD within the jurisdiction of Tons Forest Division, Purola, District Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/38778/2019)**

The proposal was discussed in the meeting with the project proponent who presented the proposal in the meeting along with the concerned DFO who joined through video conference. It was seen from the KML file of the proposed road that the proposed road is passing through the dense forest just to connect two villages viz. Pora and Rama. However, it was also seen that there is considerable open area which can be used for

connectivity of these two villages even if the connectivity is required. The user agency submitted in the meeting that proposed road is saving 8 KM travel distance. The justification for the proposal road does not seem to be acceptable and therefore the necessity of the proposed road is not justified.

*After discussion, it was decided that the State Government may assess the necessity of the proposal and if the connectivity is essential then it may direct the user agency to revise the proposal by using available open area.*

**Agenda Item No. 03: Diversion of 0.252 ha of forest Land for construction of Dwarikhal Barsuri Motor Marg (KM 0.00 TO KM 0.500) in favour of PMGSY within the jurisdiction of Lansdowne Forest Division, District Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/145560/2021).**

The user agency along with the DFO presented the proposal in the meeting through video conferencing. The proposed road is for 500 meter length to connect two existing road with felling permission of 24 trees that are proposed to be affected. The KML file of the proposed road was observed in the meeting and it was seen that there is an existing motor road on the proposed alignment. It was appraised that the observation in this regard was also conveyed to the State Government vide letter dt. 30.12.2022 reply to which is awaited. However, the user agency informed that the existing road was built prior to 1980 and there is no other motorable road which can be used for this connectivity.

*After detailed discussion, it was decided that the State Government may be requested to submit justification/ clarification/ documents on following points:*

1. Reply to observation made by this office vide EDS letter dt.30.12.2022 is required to be submitted covering observations as follows:
  - i. It was submitted that existing road is kachha marg. However, inspection report of DFO had not been submitted in this regard as it appears to have been properly constructed. A clarification in this regard is required to be submitted.
  - ii. Dwarikhal to Barsudi road has already been sanctioned and is shown as 'Existing Road' with purple colour. Therefore, it is not clear why an additional proposal has been submitted. State Government is requested to submit a justification in this regard.
  - iii. Villages to be benefitted not mentioned in the KML file, which is required

to be done.

- iv. NPV sheet as per new rates is required to be uploaded in part II.
  - v. A list mentioning total number of trees has now been uploaded but the same is not segregated on the basis of species wise and girth wise. It is requested to upload species wise and girth wise list of trees in part II duly authenticated by DFO.
  - vi. It was submitted that the area is less than 1 ha and thus plantation scheme of 100 trees is submitted. It is again requested to upload the plantation scheme of 504 trees along with digital map of plantation area.
2. It is required to reassess the KML file in view of any shift in the alignment.
  3. The location of the proposed alignment and the existing road is required to be marked in the KML file with different colors.

**Agenda Item No. 04: Diversion of 7.32 ha of forest Land for Strengthening and Widening work of by Paved shoulder of Roorkee Laksar Balawali Road State Highway No. 26 in Km. 01 to 19 under CRF in favour of PWD, within the jurisdiction of Haridwar Forest Division, District Haridwar, Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/153125/2022).**

The proposal was discussed in detail with the project proponent. An observation in the proposal was made vide letter dt. 09.01.2023. It was informed by the project proponent in the meeting that the proposal is for construction of drainage along sides of the road. It was also informed that the area in which the road is constructed comes under the non-forest land and the land outside the road was declared as forest land. On being asked as to why this drainage is required, the user agency informed that as per the new technical guidelines for the construction of the highway road, it is mandatory to have proper drainage on the both sides of the road. It was also informed that the width around 4 m is required for around 18 KM length of the road.

*After detailed discussion, it was decided that the State Government may be requested to submit justification/ clarification/ documents on following points:*

1. Project proponent is requested to re-assess the technical requirement of drainage at specific sites in view of the width and diversion area of the road.
2. Forest Department is requested to inspect the site in view of point no. 1 and submit the actual no. of trees to be cut.

3. Reply to observation made by this office vide EDS letter dt. 09.01.2023 is required to be submitted covering observations as follows:
- i. It was submitted that total Non-Forest Land is 40.71 ha. State Govt. is requested to provide information at para B in Part I.
  - ii. Density is mentioned as 0.2 for 984 trees in 7.32 ha area which appears less. It is requested to provide clarification in this regard and provide correct information.
  - iii. It is requested to provide NPV calculation sheet mentioning Eco class and density.
  - iv. It is requested to fill the correct information regarding working plan prescription.
  - v. Details of tree are not found uploaded at para 13 in part II. However, Tree Enumeration List found uploaded in part I but the girth size detail is not matching with the details filled at para 4 in part II. A clarification in this regard is required to be submitted and discrepancy is requested to be removed.

**Agenda Item No. 05: Diversion of 3.9 ha of forest Land for construction of Lokhandi Budher Van Marg to Village Udawa Motor Road in favour of PWD, within the jurisdiction of Chakrata Forest Division, District Dehradun, Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/48173/2020).**

The proposal was discussed in detail in the meeting with the concerned DFO. It was apprised that an observation in the proposal was raised by this office previously regarding exploring the alternative to connect the village from the other side. In reply to which it was submitted that the proposed area is examined by DFO and found that it is not possible to connect village from any other forest road. However, land schedule taking 9 meters width is submitted with the proposal. It was also submitted that minimum requirement as per norms is 5.95 meters and road cannot be proposed in 3 to 4 meters. The KML file of the proposal was seen in the meeting in this view. It was also noted in the meeting that 33 trees in this long stretch of road doesn't appear to be correct.

*After detailed discussion, it was decided that the State Government may be requested to submit justification/ clarification/ documents on following points:*

1. The user agency is requested to restrict the width in 3-4 meter as the proposed road is just connecting an isolated village where volume of traffic is expected to be very low and 9 meter width cannot be justified.

**Agenda Item No. 06: Diversion of 2.34 ha of forest Land for construction of Dhanchula Motor Road, in favour of PWD within the jurisdiction of Mussoorie Forest Division, District Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/9419/2015).**

The proposal was discussed in detail in the meeting with user agency along with the concerned DFO. The KML file of the proposal was seen in the meeting and it was noted that the proposal is for connecting two villages which are already situated on motorable road. It was also apprised that the proposed area was inspected by the then DIGF Shri T.C. Nautiyal, IFS on 16.03.2022 and suggested two alternates to reduce the number of Oak trees. In reply to which it was informed that both the alignments are not possible due to habitation area and steep slope. It was seen from the KML file that the villages can be individually and separately connected with existing roads from the nearer sides taking minimum width of the road for LVR.

*After detailed discussion, it was decided that the State Government may be requested to ask user agency to explore and propose LVR for connectivity for both villages individually from existing roads.*

Further, the user agency will explore the possibilities to restrict the width in 3-4 meter as the proposed road is passing through dense forest of Oak and 9 meter width cannot be permitted

**Agenda Item No. 07: Diversion of 0.99 ha of forest Land for construction of Border Out Post Thapliyalkhera with link road, in favour of 57TH BN SSB Sitarganj within the jurisdiction of Haldwani Forest Division, District Champawat, Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/Others/148721/2021).**

The proposal was discussed in detail in the meeting with the concerned DFO. It was apprised that an observation in the proposal regarding the revision of the CA scheme has already been made vide EDS letter dt. 19.01.2023, reply to which is awaited. It was noted that as per the DSS analysis of the CA area, entire area comes in MDF. However, the DFO informed in the meeting the area is lantana infested and therefore the DSS shows it to be in MDF. On being asked about the higher rates of CA in the CA scheme, it was informed by the DFO that a concrete boundary shall be constructed, but this justification appear



irrelevant for the CA area that is proposed in forest area and it is not expected that a 2 ha. patch inside forest would need to be enclosed by boundary walls.

*After detailed discussion, it was decided that the State Government may be requested to submit justification/ clarification/ documents on following points:*

1. DFO is required to visit the proposed CA area and submit a site inspection report mentioning if the area is suitable for plantation or not.
2. Revised CA scheme as per the prescribed rates for the raising CA plantation is required to be submitted.

**Agenda Item No. 08: Diversion of 2.03 ha of forest Land for construction of motor road from Wheel Kulwan to Sakuna-Gwaldam Nag Link, in favour of PWD within the jurisdiction of Bageshwar Forest Division, District Bageshwar, Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/12810/2015).**

The proposal was discussed in detail in the meeting with the concerned User Agency. It was apprised that an EDS letter dt. 12.01.2023 was issued by this office raising few observations in the proposal, reply to which is awaited. The KML file of the proposal was observed in the meeting, it was seen that the proposed road is to connect an isolated village. Further, as informed by the user agency the width is taken as per the PMGSY norms. It was seen that the width of the road is taken as 7 mtr which appear too much to connect only one isolated village.

*After discussion, it was decided that the DFO shall visit the site in view of the discussion made in the meeting and if required, can propose a LVR (having width of road 3-4 mtr).*

**Agenda Item No. 09: Diversion of 2.97 ha of forest Land for construction of Nanibend to Tirchakhet Motor Road Km. 2 to Ari Mandir Near Mount Valley University Motor (Length 4.00 Km), in favour of PWD within the jurisdiction of Nainital Forest Division, District Nainital, Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/150906/2022).**

The proposal was discussed in detail in the meeting with the concerned DFO. It was apprised that an EDS letter dt. 02.01.2023 was issued by this office raising a few observations regarding inspecting the proposed area and submit a document certifying that the area proposed for university comes under the provisions of FCA, 1980 or not as per the directions given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the proposal, reply to which is awaited.

The KML file of the proposal was observed in the meeting, it was seen that non-forest area being utilized for the construction of university looks like forest and may attract the provision of FCA, 1980. The concerned DFO informed that the tree counting in the alternate alignment comes to around 1000 trees and in the proposed alignment, number of trees proposed to be affected are around 450 (367 trees in Part II). It was informed by the DFO that this piece of land falls under the category of Government land/ non-forest land.

*After detailed discussion, it was decided that the State Government may be requested to submit justification/ clarification/ documents on following points:*

1. It was seen that the land for university is partly a Government land/civil land and partly a private land that is owned by the university. Following documents are required to be submitted:
  - (i) The DFO is requested to verify the status of both parts of land for university and submit the supportive documents in this regard.
  - (ii) Species wise and girth wise list of trees for both parts (Government / private) separately is required to be submitted.
2. Alternate alignment from the existing path is also required to be explored.

**Agenda Item No. 10: Diversion of 0.637 ha of forest Land for construction of Swan Nayakhil Motor Road in favour of PWD within the jurisdiction of Soil Conservation Forest Division, Kalsi, District Dehradun, Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/127459/2021).**

The proposal was discussed in the meeting with the concerned DFO along with the user agency. KML file of the proposal was observed in detail in the meeting and it was seen that the beneficiary villages Swan and Nayakhil are already on the existing motor roads and the proposed road is just for connecting these two villages with each other. It was apprised that a few observations in the proposal were also raised by this office vide EDS letter dated 31.12.2021 reply to which has been received and examined. Further informed that the proposed road will also reduce the distance of village Nayakhil to Vikasnagar by 17 km. This is evident from the alignment on KML file that Vikasnagar is quite far from village Nayakhil. The user agency informed that the proposal is 9 years old and need to be approved. But this justification was not acceptable. No other justification for the requirement of the road was provided.



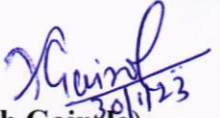
*After detailed discussion, the proposal is decided to be rejected on merit.*

**Agenda Item No. 11: Diversion of 1.5232 ha of forest Land for construction of Pasta to KhiwanDharda Motor Road in favour of PWD within the jurisdiction of Soil Conservation Forest Division, Kalsi, District Dehradun, Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/127426/2021).**

The proposal was discussed in the meeting with the concerned DFO along with the user agency. KML file of the proposal was observed in detail in the meeting and it was seen that the beneficiary villages Pasta, Khewan and Dharda are already on the existing motor roads and the proposed road is just for connecting these villages with each other. It was apprised that a few observations in the proposal were also raised by this office vide EDS letter dated 27.12.2021 and reply to only one point has been received. It was submitted that both villages are already connected and the proposed road will reduce the distance of village Dharada to Vikasnagar. The user agency couldn't justify the proposal in the meeting.

*After detailed discussion, the proposal is decided to be rejected.*

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

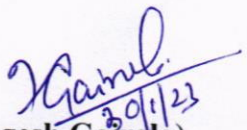
  
(Dr. Yogesh Gairola)  
Technical Officer (Forestry)

**File No.:** IRO-DDN/FRCM/01/2022/1457

**Dated:** 30/01/2023

**Distribution:**

1. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests), Government of Uttarakhand, 4-Subhash Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
2. The APCCF & Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Indira Nagar Forest Colony, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

  
(Dr. Yogesh Gairola)  
Technical Officer (Forestry)