

MINUTES OF THE 40th MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE (REC) HELD ON 17th and 18th June, 2021 AT INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE, CHANDIGARH

Agenda item no.9 (Jammu & Kashmir)

| File No. | Name of proposal | Online Proposal No. | Forest Land | User Agency |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 9-JKC056/ 2021- Jammu | Diversion of 6.938 ha of Forest land for construction of road from Malhar to Marhoon (part-I) District Reasi, U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir. | FP/JK/Road/ 47637/2020 | 6.938 ha | PMGSY Billawar |

The proposal was placed before the 40th Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of IRO Chandigarh in its meeting held on 18.06.2021 for consideration and the REC noted the salient features of the proposal as under:

- (i) This is the proposal for widening/improvement of road from **Malhar to Marhoon**
- (ii) The legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion (6.938 ha) is Reserved Forests;
- (iii) Total length of the road is 9.730 km;
- (iv) There are 11 muck dumping points in forest area measuring area of 1.10 ha. Rest area is for road construction.
- (v) The proposed alignment is not passing through any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Elephant /Tiger Reserve;
- (vi) The requirement of land is unavoidable and barest minimum;
- (vii) No violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as per DFO's site inspection report;
- (viii) No rare /endangered/vulnerable and endemic species of flora and fauna have been found/ recorded in the area;
- (ix) No sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exists on the site and the forest land proposed for diversion is not having any socio-cultural/religious value;
- (x) There is no Protected Archeological/Heritage site/Defence establishment in the proposed area for diversion.
- (xi) The proposal involves felling of 1007trees;
- (xii) Compensatory Afforestation (CA) has been proposed on 13.90ha at **one** site namely Comp No. 26a/Blr, Bhalai, Billawar Range.



(xiii) This proposal was examined in the Regional Office & following observations were raised on 03.06.2021, which were replied by UT administration. The point wise details are given below:

| S.No | EDS raised by IRO Jammu | Reply submitted by UT |
|------|--|--|
| 1 | Rationalization of routes as per inspection report of DFO Billawar to be done. All efforts to be made to minimize damage to pristine patches of forest as mentioned in DFO inspection note | Compiled. UA have curtailed the length of the road from 18.433 Km to 12.975 Km in order to save the pristine Deodarforest. |
| 2 | Alternate route maps examined by UA to be furnished to establish inescapability of the final route recommended by UT Govt. | Compiled. UA replied that their is no alternate route examined due to the topography of the area is very tough. |
| 3 | Biological component of Muck Disposal Plan with financial implications to be submitted | Compiled and provided in a site specific manner. |
| 4 | Soil and Moisture Conservation work component in CA estimate to be increased due to precipitous terrain | Compiled, in which it is observed that the SMC work has been raised by 0.77 lakh thou the Total Financial Outlay of CA mentioned under column 13 (i) of Part II is 19.92 lacs which does match with amount mentioned under technical approval of CA scheme i.e. 16.92 lacs. |

2. After detailed deliberations, the REC approved the proposal and authorized the chairman REC and Regional Officer IRO Chandigarh to accord Stage-I approval with standard conditions after the receipt of the following information:
- Revised NPV calculation to be submitted.
 - Permanent and temporary employment figures to be uploaded correctly.
 - Addl. Area of 0.41 ha to be increased on the same CA site and to be submitted.
 - Nodal Officer to change his recommendations in Part-IV stating that the earlier SIR of DFO Billawar not recommending the proposal to be considered null and void in light of the revised SIR of DFO Billawar wherein the proposal has been recommended by DFO after necessary changes in area/alignment resulting in saving of large number of deodar trees.