

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
CIVIL SECRET: FOREST DEPARTMENT  
(WILDLIFE PROTECTION)

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NOTIFICATION

JAMMU, JKS

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SID [2/1] :- Whereas, it appears to the Government that the area specified in Annexure "A" to this Notification, has adequate ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological significance for purposes of protecting, propagating and developing wildlife of its environment.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 17 of the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife (protection) Act, 1978, the Government hereby ~~declare~~ the said area as a sanctuary.

By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

sd/-  
(N. R. Gupta)

Secretary to Government.

*Concurrence*

NO: 464/114/San/1987

Dated: 19.3.1987

Copy for information and necessary action: to the-

1. Secretary to Government, Law Department.
2. Secretary to Government, Revenue Department
3. Chief Wildlife Warden, Srinagar
4. Deputy Commissioner of the concerned District
5. Manager Government press for favour of Publication in Government Gazette.
6. Stock file.

(1913)  
Secretary to Government  
Forest Department

STATUS SURVEY REPORT OF THE PROPOSED  
GULMARG WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

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DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION  
J&K GOVERNMENT SRINAGAR -KASHMIR.

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STATUS SURVEY REPORT OF THE PROPOSED  
GULMARG WILDLIFE SANCTUARY,

Nomenclature:-

The famous health resort Gulmarg is located in the heart of the proposed Wildlife Sanctuary, therefore named after the resort.

Situation:-

The area is situated to the south-west of the Srinagar at a distance of about 50 Kms. it encompasses the top catchment of Farazpora nalla and forests surrounding the Gulmarg bowl.

Boundaries:-

North ..... Jehlum Valley Forest Division  
South ..... Forest Divisions of Poonch and Pirpanjal ~~Range~~  
East  $\rightarrow$  ~~village~~ Drang. Forest Divisions of Jehlum valley  
West ..... Forest Division and Poonch.

Area:-

The proposed tract comprises of the area roughly 180 sq.Kms. and involves the top catchment of Farazpora nalla and forests surrounding the Gulmarg bowl. The proposed area is roughly rectangular, located between 33-55' to 34-60' north latitude and 74-17' to 74-79' east longitude and the altitude ranges between 2,400 metres to 4,300 metres.

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Rights and Concessions:-

The area is devoid of any human settlement. But is under tremendous pressure of summer grazing both local and non-local. Besides, the locals bordering the area, including the tourist traffic in Gulmarg entirely depend upon the fire-wood in the area.

Geology, Rock and Soil:-

The topography is generally rugged and the ranges from moderate in the lower areas to rocky precipitous in the upper reaches. The terrain comprises a part of the main ~~pir~~ pirpanjal mountain range on the northern aspect. The geology of the area consists mainly of panjal volcanics, whose acidic lava flows are well exposed. In addition shales lime-stone, agglomeratic slates and quartzites also occur through out the tract, towards the higher reaches, large boulders of panjal trap are strewn

Climat:-

The main precipitation generally due to winter snow fall, the winter is extremely cold and experiences heavy snow fall in winter while summer is pleasant.

Flora:-

A large proportion of the area in the tract is blank, consisting of rocky mountain sides. The main flora of the area consists of conifers, the dominant species being Abies Pandora, Pinus griffithii Cedrus deodara. Some broad leaved species like Aesculus Indica, Acer spp; Fraxinus hooteri, Populus ciliata, padus compta, etc occur in moist nullas and depressions. The under growth consists mainly of Viburnum spp; Skimmia Laureola, Sambucus Verginata Verbascum thapsus etc. The herbacious ground cover predominantly consists of Viola odorata, Fragaria Vesca , Lolygonum simplexcaule, Rumex Patientia, primula Spp, Clatha spp; etc.

The Betula utilis, Salix prostrata etc; occur in the higher alpine belts.

Fauna:-

The tract harbours a rich wealth of wildlife. The principal wild animals found in the area include the Himalayan Musk deer, Yellow-throated Marten, Himalayan Black Bear, Grey langur and also some ~~at~~ leopard and Himalayan Brown Bear etc.

Avi-Fauna :-

Wild life of the area is rich and varied. The common species are cinamon's sparrow, Kashmir pied wood pecker, Jungle ~~xx~~ crow, Large spotted Nutcracker, Himalayan whistling thrush, ~~xxxxxx~~ greytit, Meadow Bunting, Black-eared kite, pale Bush Warbler etc. The proposed wildlife sanctuary is also richly endowed with rich and multitude of game birds viz; Himalayan Snow-Cock, Monal, Koklass and western Tragopan.

Recommendation:-

The area has a natural setting of extraordinary beauty and is a typical representative of high altitude mountaineous environment. The flora and fauna harboured by it is luxuriant, rich and varied. The proposed wildlife sanctuary has a sizable area under green grassy pastures and meadows which though uncommercial from forestry ~~xxx~~ point, are equally essential for the fauna which is mostly herbivorous. The characteristic, topography and inaccessibility of Major part has accorded to the tract a natural protection against biotic influences.

In view of the above facts the area was declared as Man and Biosphere reserve in the year 1981. But in order to ensure better protection to the entire ecosystem in general and to conserve, protect and multiply the endangered Himalayan Musk deer in particular alongwith his associates the said reserve is recommended to be upgraded as wildlife sanctuary under section 17.I of Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife (protection) Act of 1973.

Climat:-

The main precipitation generally due to winter snow fall, the winter is extremely cold and experiences heavy snow fall in winter while summer is pleasant.

Flora:-

A large proportion of the area in the tract is blank, consisting of rocky mountain sides. The main flora of the area consists of conifers, the dominant species being Abies Pandrow, Pinus griffithii Cedrus deodara. Some broad leaved species like Ulmus Indica, Acor spp; Fraxinus hooteri, Populus Ciliata, Padus cornuta, etc occur in moist nullas and depressions. The under growth consists mainly of Viburnum spp; Skimmia Laureola, Sambucus Virginata Verbascum thapsus etc. The herbacious ground cover predominantly consists of Viola odorata, Fragaria Vesca, Polygonum amplexicaule, Ranex Patientia, Primula Spp, Clatha spp; etc.

The Betula utilis, Salix prostrata etc; occur in the higher alpine belts.

Fauna:-

The tract harbours a rich wealth of wildlife. The principal wild animals found in the area include the Himalayan Musk deer, Yellow-throated Marten, Himalayan Black Bear, Grey langur and also some ~~at~~ leopard and Himalayan Brown Bear etc.

Avi-Fauna :-

Bird life of the area is rich and varied. The common species are cinnamon's sparrow, Kashmir pied wood pecker, Jungle ~~xx~~ crow, Large spotted Nut cracker, Himalayan whistling thrush, ~~xxxxxx~~ greytit, Meadow Bunting, Black-eared Kite, pale Bush Warbler etc. The proposed Wildlife Sanctuary is also richly endowed with rich and multitude of rare birds viz; Himalayan Snow-Ock, Monal, Koklass and western Tragopan.

Recommendation:-

The area has a natural setting of extraordinary beauty and is a typical representative of high altitude mountaineous environment. The flora and fauna harboured by it is luxuriant, rich and varied. The proposed wildlife sanctuary has a sizable area under green grassy pastures and meadows which though uncommercial from forestry ~~xxx~~ point <sup>view</sup>, are equally essential for the fauna which is mostly herbivorous. The characteristic, topography and inaccessibility of Major part has accorded to the tract a natural protection against biotic influences.

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