

**GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB  
FORESTRY, WILDLIFE & FISHERIES  
DEPARTMENT  
Dated Lahore, the 18.03.2013**

**NOTIFICATION**

**No.SOFT(Ext)IV-2/99-V.-** In exercise of the powers conferred under section 76 of the Forest Act 1927 (XVI of 1927), Governor of the Punjab is pleased to make the following rules:

**1. Short title and commencement.**— (1) These rules may be cited as the Punjab Compounding of Forest Offences and Grant of Reward Rules 2013.

(2) They shall come into force at once.

**2. Definitions:**— In these rules:

- (a) "Act" means the Forest Act, 1927 (XVI of 1927);
- (b) "Block Officer" means a Forest Officer incharge of a forest block or any other Forest Officer directed by the Government to perform the functions of the Block Officer under these rules;
- (c) "Chief Conservator of Forests" means a Forest Officer incharge of a forest zone or any other Forest Officer directed by the Government to perform the functions of the Chief Conservator of Forests under these rules;
- (d) "Conservator of Forests" means a Forest Officer incharge of a forest circle or any other Forest Officer directed by the Government to perform the functions of the Conservator under these rules;
- (e) "Divisional Forest Officer" means a Forest Officer incharge of a forest division or any other Forest Officer directed by the Government to perform the functions of the Divisional Forest Officer under these rules;
- (f) "Forest Guard" means a forest official incharge of a forest beat or any other forest official directed by the Government to perform the functions of the Forest Guard under these rules;
- (g) "Range Forest Officer" means a Forest Officer incharge of a forest range or any other Forest Officer directed by the Government to perform the functions of the Range Forest Officer under these rules;
- (h) "Schedule" means the schedule of value and compensation notified by the Government; and
- (i) "Sub-Divisional Forest Officer" means a Forest Officer incharge of a forest sub-division or any other Forest Officer directed by the Government to perform the functions of the Sub-Divisional Forest Officer under these rules.

**3. Cognizance.**— (1) When a forest offence is committed, the nearest Forest Officer shall arrest the accused, if permissible and if the accused is not known, trace the accused and arrest him.

(2) The Forest Officer shall incorporate a report in the damage report book, giving details of the offence, name or names of the accused persons, name or names of person or persons arrested and details of any tool or equipment including boat, vehicle, weapon, cart or cattle or animal used for the import or transportation and detail forest produce seized.

**4. Action by Forest Guard.**— When the arresting officer is a Forest Guard he shall forward the damage report and the statements of the accused and witnesses, if any, and the application to pay value and compensation to his Range Forest Officer or Sub-Divisional Forest Officer through the Block Officer.

**5. Offer to compound.**— (1) Subject to the approval of the Sub-Divisional Forest Officer/Range Forest Officer, the Forest Officer, not below the rank of Block Officer, may convey the offer to compound the offence in accordance with the Schedule to the accused person.

(2) Where the accused desires to pay the value and compensation in accordance with the Schedule, the accused shall make a written request to this effect on the back of the damage report.

**6. Receipt of compensation and value.**— (1) If the offence is admitted and the accused person is willing to pay the value and compensation, the Block Officer, Range Forest Officer or Sub-Divisional Forest Officer shall realize from the accused, the amount of the compensation and value according to the notified Schedule.

(2) A Forest Officer may receive the value and compensation from the person accused of a forest offence in the following manner:

- (a) where the value and compensation of damage done amounts to five hundred thousand rupees or less, the Block Officer may realize the amount from the accused and issue the receipt;
- (b) a Forest Guard, unless incharge of a Block, shall not realize the value and compensation;
- (c) where the value and compensation of damage done amounts to more than five hundred thousand rupees; the Range Forest Officer or Sub-Divisional Forest Officer may realize the amount from the accused and issue the receipt.

(3) The value and compensation recovered by any Forest Officer on any one day shall be shown in the daily diary maintained by him.

**7. Non-compoundable forest offences.**— The offences under section 62<sup>1\*\*\*</sup> and 63 of the Act are not compoundable.

**8. Money receipts.**— (1) The money receipts for value and compensation of any forest offence, when recovered, shall be issued from the receipt book.

(2) One copy of the money receipt shall be given to the accused person who made the payment and one copy of the money receipt alongwith bank challan

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<sup>1</sup> The words "and section 62" omitted being printed repeatedly in the Notification.

shall be forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer through proper channel with the accounts.

**9. Release of property seized.**— When the case is compounded, the property of Forest Department seized from the accused person shall not be handed over to him.

**10. Remittance.**— (1) The Forest Officer shall soon after he has made a round of a forest, remit the amount of value and compensation recovered by him and make over all damage reports along with the treasury challans to the Range Forest Officer or Sub-Divisional Forest Officer.

(2) All money receipts shall be deposited into Government treasury by the Forest Officer at the earliest but not later than seven days of actual receipt and in case of delayed deposit, interest at bank rate exceeding grace period shall be charged from the Forest Officer besides initiation of the disciplinary proceedings against him.

**11. Compensation cases register.**— (1) All cases compounded shall be entered in the compensation cases register maintained in the range or Sub-Divisional office as soon as the cases are compounded.

(2) The serial numbers shall commence with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July annually.

**12. Entry in cash book.**— The Range Forest Officer or Sub-Divisional Forest Officer shall immediately enter all cases compounded by a Block Officer or by himself, in anticipation of the formal approval of the Divisional Forest Officer in his cash book.

**13. Sanction of reward.**— (1) The following Forest Officers shall be authorized to sanction reward in favour of a subordinate Forest Officer from the amount realized or recovered by such subordinate Forest Officer which amount shall not exceed three fourth of the compensation recovered from the accused person:

- (a) Divisional Forest Officer. upto Rs 2,00,000;
- (b) Conservator of Forests. upto Rs. 5,00,000;
- (c) Chief Conservator of Forests. full powers;

(2) The above Forest Officers shall be authorized to sanction reward subject to the following conditions:

- (a) reward shall not be admissible to any Forest Officer if the damage detected belongs to area of his jurisdiction except in cases where extra ordinary efforts have been made by the Forest Officer to recover the Government loss at the cost of imminent danger to his life;
- (b) reward shall not be sanctioned unless the entire amount of compensation and proceeds of confiscated property is realized from the accused person and deposited into the Government treasury; and.
- (c) the balance amount shall be deposited into the Government treasury within 2 days of the sanction of the reward.

(3) Where the amount of proposed reward exceeds Rs.1,00,000, it may be sanctioned on the recommendations of the following scrutiny committee:

- (a) Conservator of Forests (Respective Circle) Convener
  - (b) Divisional Forest Officer (Respective Division) Member
  - (c) Divisional Forest Officer (Adjoining Division) Member
- (4) In case the amount of reward exceeds Rs.1,00,000, but less than Rs.200,000, a scrutiny committee shall be made to scrutinize the case of reward as under:

- (a) Chief Conservator of Forests (Respective Zone) Convener
- (b) Conservator of Forests (Respective Circle) Member
- (c) Divisional Forest Officer (Respective Division) Member

(5) In case the amount of reward exceeds Rs.200,000, the Secretary to the Government of Punjab, Forest Department shall sanction the reward after taking into consideration the recommendations received from the following scrutiny committee:

- (a) Chief Conservator of Forests (Respective Zone) Convener
- (b) Conservator of Forests (Respective Circle) Member
- (c) Divisional Forest Officer (Respective Division) Member

By Order of the governor of the Punjab

Dr. Aamer Ahmed  
Secretary  
Government of the Punjab  
FW & F Department