

**Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Forest**

File No. FFE-B-G(6)-2/2025

Dated: Shimla-2, the

02.07.2026

NOTIFICATION

The Governor, Himachal Pradesh is pleased to notify the "Grazing Policy, 2026 of Himachal Pradesh " as per enclosed **Annexure-A** in the public interest, with immediate effect.

By Order

(Kamlesh Kumar Pant)
Additional Chief Secretary (Forest) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Endst No. As above

Dated:

Shimla, the

02.07.2026

Copy forwarded to following for information:-

1. All the Administrative Secretaries to Govt. of HP.
2. All Head of Departments, HP .
3. All Deputy Commissioners, HP.
4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) HP. Shimla -171001 with request to circulate this notification to all the CCFs/ CCFs/CFs/DFOs (T) & (WL) in HP.
5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) HP. Shimla-1.
6. The Managing Director, HPSFDC, Shimla-9
7. The Joint Secretary (GAD) to the Govt. of HP w.r.t. the Cabinet item No 36 dated 10.06.2026.
8. The Pvt. Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister H.P.
9. The Pvt. Secretary to the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of HP.



(Vijay Kumar, IAS)
Special Secretary (Forest) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Annexure-A



**Grazing Policy, 2026.
Of
Himachal Pradesh**

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GRAZING POLICY, 2026 OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

1. INTRODUCTION & JUSTIFICATION

1.1 Pastoralism has historically shaped the alpine and sub-alpine landscapes of Himachal Pradesh, contributing significantly to rural livelihoods, cultural continuity, and the ecological functioning of grasslands and forest-grassland mosaics. In 1970, the Grazing Advisory Committee acknowledged that existing permit numbers lacked ecological justification and explicitly recommended that a scientific assessment of pasture carrying capacity be undertaken. Pending such an assessment, a temporary freeze on permits was implemented as a precautionary measure. Grazing governance in the State continues to operate under a regulatory framework frozen since 1970, wherein grazing permits and livestock numbers were capped without any supporting scientific assessment of pasture dynamics or ecological resilience. More than five decades later, the absence of systematic reassessment despite explicit policy recommendations has resulted in administrative ambiguity, ecological misinterpretation, and socio-economic stress among genuine pastoralists. Contemporary ecological research from Himachal Pradesh, supported by global rangeland science, demonstrates that static, carrying-capacity-based regulation is ill-suited to highly variable mountain ecosystems. Evidence increasingly supports adaptive, resilience-based grazing management, where regulated and monitored grazing sustains grassland productivity, biodiversity, and long-term soil carbon stocks.

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1.2 The persistence of pastoral grazing in Himachal Pradesh for over five decades, even under administratively rigid frameworks, strongly suggests that these grasslands operate within resilient regimes. Issuance of grazing permits without real-time adjustments is therefore scientifically untenable and administratively counter-productive. The Government of Himachal Pradesh intends to reform the grazing permit regime in the state by proposing the reforms mentioned in this Memorandum to improve the livelihoods of graziers and to strengthen the rural economy of the state. The Government of Himachal Pradesh, therefore, proposes a comprehensive reform of pastoral grazing governance grounded in scientific evidence, administrative feasibility, and long-term ecological sustainability.

2. SALIENT FEATURES OF THE POLICY

2.1 The Forest Department will work with the Department of Animal Husbandry to develop a portal where each migratory grazer will register and enter details regarding the name and address of the grazier, the year when the permit was given (or declaration that the grazier does not hold permit), year from when the grazing is done by the grazier, the number of animals grazed, forests where grazing is allowed as per the permit or where grazing is done without permit, etc., within the next 6 months. The graziers who do not have permits may also register alongwith their details and further action on their status including issuance of new permits will be decided by local grazing advisory committee notified by

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Conservator of Forest following codal formalities. This will be a real-time, state and division-level database of pastoralists, livestock numbers, migratory routes, halting grounds, and pastures. This database can be easily linked with Aadhaar and Him Pariwar details of the grazier and the Bharat Pashudhan portal of the Government of India in order to verify the details of each grazier. The database will also be integrated with the Working Plans and Management Plans of the Forest Department.

2.2 Grant of new permit shall be based on following criteria:

- i) Assessment of available pasture land for grazing;
- ii) Carrying capacity of forest area from which grazing permit has been applied.
- iii) Estimation of live stock comprising Buffaloes, mule, sheep, goat etc.
- iv) Assessment of Wild Life species dependent on grazing.
- v) Assessment of live stock of local people having grazing rights in the concerned forests.
- vi) Recommendations of Grazing Committee regarding grant of permits on rotational basis in the forest compartments so that regeneration of forest areas is ensured.

2.3A local grazing advisory committee comprising representatives from migratory and local graziers, panchayats, and representatives from universities and departments such as Forest, Animal Husbandry, Agriculture, Wool Federation, etc., will be notified in each division by the Conservator, with the DFO as the nodal officer. In case of variation in the number of livestock or new allotment, this committee will recommend to the DFO the number



of grazing animals to be allowed in forests based on resilience-, adaptive-, and seasonality-based metrics of availability. The concerned DFO can issue a permit after getting the requisite recommendation from the advisory committee. There should be a periodic assessment of permits once every 5 years. Permits may be renewed either in the native Forest Division or the grazing Division, removing jurisdictional ambiguity.

2.4 Issuance and renewal of permits only to active pastoralists dependent on grazing for livelihood; exclusion of absentee permit holders (unused permits) after following due field inspection and inquiry involving the Animal Husbandry Department and local self-government institutions. While estimating grazing availability, the requirements of prey/herbivores (wildlife) should also be kept in view. The system of Pohals, hired by the main permit holder, will be mainstreamed and recognized in the permit system and in the database portal to ensure safety and business-like operations of the grazing enterprise. Based on rationalization of permits, record of rights (wajib ul arj) in working plan and other government records will be updated.

2.5 Explicit protection of migratory routes, halting grounds, and watering points, including the prohibition of tree planting and infrastructure obstruction. In case of any diversion of these areas, forest officials will explore alternative pastures and grazing grounds for the migratory herders so that their livelihoods are not disturbed. All traditional migratory routes, halting grounds, and watering points shall be geo-tagged and protected as critical pastoral infrastructure. Animal Husbandry Department has already

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initiated a project for "Thematic Mapping of Migratory Routes of Sheep Breeders in H.P." Forest Department shall co-operate in implementation of this project. Plantations older than seven years will be opened for controlled grazing after field verification.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'H. S. Singh', located in the bottom right corner of the page.