

254

Grazing Rules for the  
Maharashtra State

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA  
Revenue and Forests Department.  
Resolution No.MFP-1371/237035-Z.  
Sachivalaya, Bombay-400 032, 3rd November 1973.

READ:- (i) Government Resolution, Revenue and Forests Department, No.MFP-1365/132211-Y, dated 6th December 1968.

(ii) Letter No.D/GRS/47(70.71)/5010 of 71-72, dated 17th November 1971 from the Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra State, Poona.

RESOLUTION:- In order to remove the disparity in regard to the procedure of cattle grazing with forest in the various regions of the State, a uniform grazing policy was evolved as laid down in Government Resolution referred to in the preamble. The grazing settlement work has been completed in some districts and the same is in progress in other districts. On completion of the work pertaining to the grazing settlement it would be necessary to have uniform procedure in regard to grazing. Government is accordingly pleased to prescribe grazing rules as printed in the \*accompaniment to this Resolution. The various forms which are to be used in connection with grazing are also appended to this Resolution.

2. The Director of Publicity should be requested to give wide publicity to the rules by issuing suitable press note.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra,

D. V. DAMLE,  
Under Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra,  
Revenue and Forests Department.

Accompaniment: Grazing Rules and Forms.

To

The Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra State, Poona,  
All Conservators,  
All Divisional Forests Officers and Sub-Divisional Forests Officers in charge of independent sub-divisions,  
All Commissioners,  
All Collectors,  
The Dairy Development Commissioner, Bombay,  
The Director of Animal Husbandry, Poona,

ACCOMPANIMENTS TO GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION, REVENUE AND FORESTS  
DEPARTMENT, No.MFP-1371/237035-Z, DATED THE 3rd NOVEMBER 1973.

GRAZING RULES FOR THE MAHARASHTRA STATE

I. GRAZING LICENCES

1. Grazing Policy: - Grazing Policy for the Maharashtra State is laid down in Government Resolution No.MFP-1365/132211-Y, dated 6th December 1968 given in Appendix A.

2. Grazing Division Grazing Units: - Each Forest Division will be a grazing Division. It shall be divided into grazing units under the orders of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra State, Poona.

3. Validity and duration of licences: - Grazing licences shall be valid for the grazing unit only, and shall cover a period not exceeding one forest year. All licences shall lapse on the last day, i.e. the 30th June of the Forest year for which they are issued.

Note: - In exceptional circumstances the Divisional Forest Officer may permit cattle for which a pass has been taken for one unit to graze in another on the same licence without a fresh fee.

4. Licences to whom given and for what areas available: -

(i) All grazing in the forest (whether free or otherwise) should be on permit granted by the Forest Department.

Grazing licences at prescribed rates will be issued to excess cattle of cultivator family and others and may be taken out for any grazing unit in a grazing division provided there is room in the grazing unit.

Note: - The issue of licence is subject to such definite allotment of villages to particular grazing unit, to such limitation on the number of cattle to be grazed in any such unit as may have been ordered by Government after special enquiry, and also to such closure to grazing as may be enforced in accordance with the prescriptions of sanctioned Working Plans.

(ii) Grazing licences for free grazing of cattle of cultivator family and others will be issued during the period 15th June to 31st July only. From August 1st no grazing licence for free grazing will be issued; licences at prescribed rates only then be available and they will be issued by Round Officers and Range Forest

Provided that if the issue of licences for free grazing cannot be completed by the end of July, and the Divisional Forest Officer is satisfied that there is good and sufficient reason, he may extend the period of issue to a date not later than August 20th. This power is to be exercised only in exceptional cases.

(iii) A grazing licence may be refused over a period of one year to any individual who has been guilty of persistent illicit grazing, on the order of the Conservator of Forests. Grazing Licences may be refused over a like period in the case of communities whose members have been guilty of persistent illicit grazing, on the order of the Government.

5. The Divisional Forest Officer may from time to time, fix and alter sites for cattle camps in the forests. While fixing the sites the suggestions made by Grazing Settlement Officer will be taken into account. If such a site has been fixed in any forest, licences wishing to keep their cattle in such camps shall utilize the site selected.

6. Cattle Units:- The cattle units should be computed as follows:

(a) Adult buffalo	... ..	2 units.
(b) Adult cow, bull or bullock	... ..	1 unit.
(c) Buffalo calf under three years of age at the commencement of the grazing year	... ..	1 unit.
(d) Cow calf	... ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ unit.

7. Grazing concessions and rates of Grazing fee:- Grazing units should be formed where in specified number of animals should be permitted to graze.

Essential cattle, subject to a maximum of two plough units per cultivator family should be allowed free grazing in forests. Plough unit shall mean four cattle units computed in accordance with rule 6 above.

8. Grazing Fees:- Essential cattle exceeding the aforesaid limit for free grazing and all non-essential cattle should be charged grazing fees at the following rates:-

(a) Adult buffalo	Fees per annum	Rs.2/-
(b) Adult cow, bull or bullock	"	Re.1/-
(c) Buffalo calf (less than 3 years but more than 6 months old)	"	Re.1/-
(d) Cow calf (less than 3 years but more than 6 months old)	"	Re.0.50

Calves upto the age of 6 months should be exempted from the payment of grazing fees.

9. Condition as to ownership when free and ordinary rates are allowed:- In all cases the concession of grazing cattle free is subject to the condition that the animals to be so grazed are actually owned by the cultivator family.

10. Certificate to be obtained from Patwari:- Any person who wishes to obtain a licence for free grazing must obtain a certificate from the Patwari, Talathi, Gramsevak as provided for in rule 19.

11. Admission of buffaloes at free rates:- Buffaloes may be included in the number of animals allowed by rule 7 to be grazed free only to the condition that the bulls, bullocks and cows owned by the cultivator family concerned shall be counted first against that number.

12. Ordinary rates:- For all cattle, other than those admissible for free grazing, licences shall be taken out at prescribed rates but no cattle owner is required to take out a licence for more than the actual number of cattle he desires to graze in Government forests.

If a cattle owner wishes to graze his cattle in different herds, he shall be given separate licences for each herd. The licence issuer should not compel cattle owners to obtain licences for all the cattle owned by them as shown in the columns 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of Patwari certificate but should, as soon as possible after the last August, report to the Range Officer the name of any person who takes out a pass for a smaller number than the total owned.

13. Calves:- Calves less than six months old on 1st July of the Grazing year may graze free when accompanying other cattle which are being grazed under licence.

14. Free Transit within grazing Division:- Except in the case mentioned in the rule next following, holders of licences are allowed a reasonable time for the passage of their cattle, free of charge, through every unit within the grazing division in which the owner resides, which they are obliged to traverse in order to reach that for which they have taken out grazing licences.

Note:- No transit pass, as described below, is required for cattle subject to this rule.

15. Transit:- A transit pass is required to be taken out for all cattle proceeding to graze in a Government forest outside the grazing division in which their owner resides, if on the way there, they are obliged to pass through Government forest and if owner has not previously taken out a licence for the grazing division to which he is proceeding, If he has taken out a licence before proceeding to the selected unit with his cattle the licence can be produced as authority for passing through Government Forest in lieu of a transit pass.

Note:-1 All cattle proceeding to graze in a Government forest outside the grazing division in which their owner resides, are charged for at prescribed rates (See rule 8). If the owner has not previously taken out a licence for the grazing division to which he is proceeding, he must do as soon as the cattle reach the grazing division in which they are to be grazed.

Note:-2 When a cultivator (family) who has not taken out a grazing licence wishes to graze his cattle in areas, other than Government forest while to reach such areas he is obliged to pass through Government forest he may be allowed transit passes at the discretion of the Divisional Forest Officer. In these cases the transit passes shall not be issued by licenced vendors, but by Range Officers, and only on the definite order of the Divisional Forest Officer.

16. Issue of transit passes:- Transit passes shall be issued in the form of Appendix-C and at the rate of ten paise per animal for a period not exceeding one month, excluding calves (vide rule 13), and shall be subject to the condition that the cattle covered by the pass shall not stay more than a reasonable time in each grazing unit through which they are obliged to pass, and while passing through any such unit shall be halted only at recognized forest paraos, at any one of which they shall not ordinarily halt for more than two nights. Transit passes (other than annual transit passes, vide rule 18) are valid only for the journey specified on the pass and must be given up on reaching destination.

Note:- Should the journey occupy more than one month a further monthly fee must be paid.

17. No transit pass shall be required for animals accompanying ordinary travellers, including cartmen.

18. Transit passes for professional carriers and cattle dealers:- Professional carriers and cattle dealers, such as Banjaras, Hasdeva, Kathewaris, Thelaris and Gawalis are allowed to take out transit passes under the conditions, detailed in rule 16, when journeying through Government forests, But persons of this description, if they prefer, may take out annual transit passes in the form given in Appendix-D on payment of Rs.2/- per buffalo, Re.1/- per bull, bullock, cow, horse or pony. Such annual passes, in addition to being transit passes, shall cover the grazing of the animals entered therein in any one grazing unit while the pass holders are resident at their homes during the rainy season. The name and situation of such unit shall be specified on the pass.

