

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Forest, Environment & Ecology Department
Civil Secretariat, Jammu

Notification

Jammu, the 10th December, 2019

S.O 30 . - Whereas, the areas specified in Annexure "A" to this notification has adequate fauna, floral, geomorphology and natural significance for the purpose of protecting, propagating and developing wildlife and its environment.

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 18 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, the Government hereby declares its intention to constitute the said area as **Bani Wildlife Sanctuary.**

By order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Sd/-

(Manoj Kumar Dwivedi) IAS
Commissioner/ Secretary to Government
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department.

No.:- FST/WL/PA/2019

Dated:- 10-12-2019

Copy to the:

1. Secretary to Government of India, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
2. Pr. Secretary to lieutenant Governor.
3. Secretary to Government General Administration Department.
4. Secretary to Government, Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs.
5. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests, J&K, Jammu.
6. Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K, Jammu.
7. Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu.
8. Divisional Commissioner, Jammu.
9. General Manager, Government Press, Jammu for publication of the S.O in next Government Gazette
10. Pvt. Secy. To the Chief Secretary J&K.
11. Pvt. Secy to Commissioner/ Secretary to Government, Forests, Environment & Ecology Department.
12. PS to Secretary (Technical) Forests, Environment & Ecology Department.
13. Stock file.

Under Secretary to Government
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department.

[Handwritten signature and date]
10/12/2019

Name	Bani Wildlife Sanctuary
District	Kathua
Forest Division	Basholi Forest Division
Tehsil	Bani
Forest Range	Bani
Area	9976 Hectares or 99.76 SqKm
Compartments	32/Bani, 35/Bani of Block Roulka; compartments 36/Bani, 37/Bani, 38/Bani, 39/Bani, 40/Bani, 41/Bani, 42A/Bani, 42B/Bani, 43/Bani, 44/Bani, 45A/Bani, 45B/Bani, 46/Bani, 47/Bani, 48/Bani, 49/Bani, 50/Bani, 51/Bani, 52/Bani of Sarthal Block and compartments 55/Bani, 56/Bani, 57/Bani, 58/Bani, 59/Bani, 60/Bani of Block Lowang of Bani Range Basholi Forest Division
Map	Annexed as annexure "B"

The proposed protected area shall be named as Bani Wildlife Sanctuary after the name of town Bani which is Sub-Division of District Kathua and Range of Forest Division of Basholi. The aesthetic, ecological, faunal and floral significance of the area makes it fit for declaring Wildlife Sanctuary.

The proposed area is about 37 Km from the Bani town. It fall in Sub-Division Bani, District Kathua. The proposed sanctuary is situated at a distance of 200 Km via Mahanpur from nearest District Headquarter, Kathua. The proposed area is about 43 km from Bhaderwah town.

The proposed area is spread over an area of 99.76 SqKm and is situated between the Chatter Gala ridge and Sunbain glaciers in North, State boundary with Himachal Pradesh in Northeast, kunsun da Naal in Southwest, boundaries of compartments 59/Bani, 55/Bani, 52/Bani, 51/Bani, 46/Bani, 43/Bani, 44/Bani, 42b/Bani, 40/Bani, 39/Bani, 37/Bani, 36/Bani, 35/Bani, 32/Bani, and 31/Bani in South and Southeast, Spur starting from Kaplash Kund towards South upto Nukunwal in west and Chatter Gala ridge towards Kaplash Kund Northwest.

B. Boundaries:

North:	Chatter Gala ridge and Sunbain glaciers
North-East:	State boundary with Himachal Pradesh
North-West:	Chatter Gala ridge towards Kaplash Kund
Southwest:	Kunsun da Naal
South:	Boundaries of compartments 59/Bani, 55/Bani, 52/Bani, 51/Bani, 46/Bani, 43/Bani, 44/Bani, 42b/Bani, 40/Bani, 39/Bani, 37/Bani, 36/Bani, 35/Bani, 32/Bani, and 31/Bani
West:	Spur starting from Kaplash Kund towards south upto Nukunwal

The proposed area lies between
32°47'16.654"N to 32°53'33.524": North Latitude
74°41'1.92" E to 75°52'4.455" East Latitude

C. A brief account of the Flora, Fauna, of the proposed area is as follow:

(i) Flora:

Banj oak forests, Moru oak Forests, Kharsu oak forest, Deodar forest, Deodar Kail forests, Fir/Spruce forests. The common species found in the area are Deodar, Fir, Spruce, Kharsu oak, Banj oak, Moru oak, Kail etc.

(ii) Fauna:-Prominent species of mammals are found within the limits of the proposed and adjoining area and their status as per IUCN and Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act 1978 (amended upto 2002) is as under:-

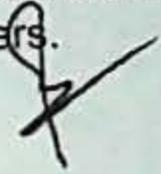
1. **Himalayan Tahr (Karth) *Hemitragus jemlabicus*** (Near Threatened category species/Schedule-I) occurs in steep and rocky slopes with mode rate forest cover. It is key species of the area. A small population of the animal inhabits the area especially in compartments 36/Bani, 38/ Bani, 42A/Bani and 42B/Bani.
2. **Musk Deer (Kastura/Rauns) *Moschus moschifera*** (Endangered/Schedule I) occurs in steep and dense forested areas.
3. **The Grey Himalayan Goral (Pijjar), *Nemorhaedus goral*** (Near Threatened category species/Schedule-III) occurs in open rugged grassy hills or rocky ground from 1000m to 3000m.
4. **Serow (Urred) *Nemorhaedus sumatrensis*** (Vulnerable/Schedule I) occurs in open kail forests with good grass cover and steep patches.
5. **The Barking Deer (Kakkar) *Montiacus montjak*** (Vulnerable/Schedule I) occurs in thick forest upto 2500m.
6. **The Hog Deer (Parra) *Axis porcinus*** (Endangered/Schedule IV) found in all tracks.
7. **Brown Bear (Lal Bhalu or reech), *Ursos arctos*** (Least Concern/Schedule I) occurs in open peaks high above the tree line.
8. **Black Bear (Kala Bhalu or reech), *Ursos thibetanus*** (Least Concern/Schedule I) occurs in variety of forested habitats in lower to mid elevations (3000-3500m).
9. **Common Leopard (Chitra), *Panthera pardus*** (Vulnerable/ Schedule I) occurs in all areas of the valley but rare.
10. **Red fox *Vulpus vulpus montana*** (Least Concern/ Schedule IV) occurs in upper temperate and sub-temperate area.
11. **Snow leopard *Panthera uncia uncia*** (Vulnerable/Schedule I) As per working plan, the animal is probably found in Sarthal and Lowang area in upper regions from 3500m to 4000m.

(iii) **Birds:-** Some species of birds are found within the limits of the proposed and adjoining area and their status as per IUCN and Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978 (amended upto 2002) is as under:-:-

- **Himalayan Monal Pheasant (Neel)** *Lophophorus impejanus* (Least Concern/Schedule I) occurs in moderate forest cover, mid to higher elevations.
- **Koklass pheasants** (*Cerionis macrolophus*) found in upper parts.
- **Western Tragopan (Mancheer)**, *Tragopan melanocephalus* (Vulnerable/Schedule I) occurs in moderate forest cover, mid to higher elevations.
- **White-crested Khaleej Pheasant (Chamman)** *Lophura leucomelanos* (Least Concern/Schedule I) occurs in oak forests upto 3000m.
- **Himalayan Snow Cock (Ram Chakor/Gur Kakkoo)** *Tetrao galus himalayensis* (Least Concern) occurs on topmost portion of the Bani area.
- **Himalayan Griffon Vulture** *Gyps himalayensis* (Near Threatened) found on higher zone.
- **Himalayan Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos dephanea* (Least Concern/Schedule I)
- **Cheer Pheasant** *Catreus wallaichi* (Vulnerable/Schedule I) found on broken hill sides of ravines, covered with tall grass, scrub and oak forests.

Climate:

The proposed area experiences temperate climate. Severe winter and moist summer are the main climatic phenomenon of this area. There is also heavy snowfall during the winters.





3. Secretary to the Government, ARI & Trainings Department.
4. Mr. Shafiq Ahmad Raina, IAS (Retired).

Copy also to the:-

1. All Financial Commissioners.
2. Director General of Police, J&K.
3. Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor, J&K.
4. All Principal Secretaries to the Government.
5. Chief Electoral Officer, J&K.
6. Principal Resident Commissioner, J&K Government, New Delhi.

7. All Commissioners/Secretaries to the Government.
8. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu.
9. Chairperson, J&K Special Tribunal.
10. All Heads of Departments/Managing Directors.
11. All Deputy Commissioners.
12. Director Information, J&K.
13. Secretary, J&K Public Service Commission.
14. Director Estates, J&K.
15. Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums.
16. Secretary, J&K Legislative Assembly.
17. Secretary, J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examination.
18. Secretary, J&K Services Selection Board.
19. General Manager, Government Press, Srinagar/Jammu.
20. Private Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, J&K.
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24. Private Secretary to Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department.
25. Incharge website, GAD.
26. Government Order file/Stock file.