Acknowledgement

I take this opportunity to express my sincerest gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Kuldeep Mathur. He has been my mentor, guide and sheet anchor to this thesis. I feel indebted for his able and active guidance without which this work would have not been possible. His flexibility in approach encouraged me to experiment with new ideas.

I am extremely grateful to Mr. R.K. Banerjee, D.F.O. KSCII and ADFO Mr. A.K. Chakraborty, who made my stay in the division a pleasant one. Same should be said for Mr. N. C. Das., R.O. Barabazar and Mr. D.K. Das, R.O. Kuilapal. I am also thankful to Mr. K. Joshi, D.F.O. Almora West Forest Division, Mr. S.P. Kushwala, S.D.O. in the same division, Mr. B. S Nayal, R.O. Someshwar and Mr. T.R. Arya, R.O. Ranikhet range. Beat officers in all the four ranges were very helpful. All these people gave me time whenever needed and provided me material, the most valuable element of this study. I must also thank many other officials, with whom I came in contact during my fieldwork for their always-ready and willing help and assistance.

I am also thankful to various non-officials and people who were integral part of this study and who off and on shed light on forestry problems or added some valuable points.

Friends at J.N.U and Lucknow have been ever-so-much needed inspiration and help that could never have been dispensed with. I can not express my feelings in words for Atul, Amit, Mithilesh, Birendra, Jayati, Nivedita, Vibha, Debu, Raju, Manoj, Shamsi, Shiv, Abhay, Indarani, Sangeeta, Jayant, Sona, Keshav, Navneet, Sabir, Sohel, Debdutt, Navneet Anand, Rajendra, Champia, Trilok, Aseem, Neeraj, Balle, Rajmani, Manoj Saxena, Jawaid, Vineet, Amit, Seema, Deepali, Sanjay, Deepu, Ajju, Guddu and Sujay. Without whose moral support and active participation my finishing this task would have become difficult. Besides evincing keen interest in my work, they provided me some useful inputs as well.

I troubled many friends in completing this work. Viajay, Subuddhi, Dheeraj, Kishan, Subir Kole, Sarfaraz, Pramod, Shahnavaz, Madhup, Partho and Girish stood by me in my difficult hours and helped in completing this work. I should not thank them, as it would be an insult to them, but their help was important.
During my stay at JNU, I earned the friendship of some fabulous persons like Sujeet, Bhup, Shah Alam, Zubair, Maqsood, Imis, Thakur, Amit, Sanjay, Pramod, Murari, Upadhyay, Sujay, Gufran, Pradeep Sharma, Atique, Shubhojit, Rajesh, Manoj Mishra, Ranjay, Aiok Das, Indrajeet, Aiok, Nalin and Ahrari, and many more. I would never forget them, for the kind of encouragement they gave.

Must I say this work is a product of a long journey – my childhood, my adulthood, and shaping of a ground for this endeavour. And all this, is what my family has provided. I am extremely grateful to my parents and my uncle and aunty, who all have stood strongly behind me to complete this work.

Pankaj dada, Deep dada, Sajal dada, Saral dada and Paritosh, Anju didi, Jijaji, Shekhar, Gudia, Kirti, Gauri, Mahima, Appu, Charu, Anvi, Vudu, all my Bhabhis, Mickey, Chickey and Bhuvan gave me all the blessings and love, which always boosted my energies.

I am also thankful to the Librarians of Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi, Society for Promotion of Wasteland Development, New Delhi and my own university for helping in finding material in their respective libraries.

The financial assistance rendered by University Grants Commission is greatly acknowledged.

Date: 21.07.1999

(SACHIN CHOWDHRY)