

R. R.
Randy Davis

Project Summary

SECTOR OF OPERATION: FORESTRY

NAME OF DEVELOPER: RANDY DAVIS

BUSINESS NAME: E-TIMBERS

DEVELOPER'S ADDRESS: LOT 320 'BB' ECCLES, EAST BANK DEMERARA

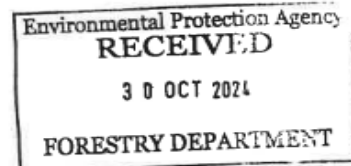
CONTACT DETAILS: 622-2879/667-5855

PROJECT TYPE: LOGGING

PROJECT LOCATION: SFA BCE 06/19, LEFT BANK CORENTYNE RIVER, RIGHT & LEFT BANKS WAURCH RIVER

PREPARED BY:

R. R.



DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2024

Project size and duration

Approximately six (6) are employed to carry out various operational tasks as they relate to the logging activities and these include chainsaw operators, choker-men, operator for the skidder and tractor driver, etc. The expected lifetime of the logging operations is approximately fifteen (15) years but this is dependent on the renewal of the State Forest Authorisations (SFA) Agreement.

Site Description

The SFA Bee 06/19 is situated at Left Bank Corentyne River, Right and Left Banks Wsurch River and can be accessed through Bissaruni at 23 km up the Bissaruni Road or Orealla Road. The total land area of the concession is 7166 hectares (17708 acres). There are no residential communities neighbouring the concession; however, there are similar small scale logging concessions surround the concession. These include N.S Gumani Bee 08/13, Rabindranauth Prasad Bee 09/06, Art Sawmilling Bee 02/21, etc. The soil type of the area is mixed; loam, sand and laterite and the terrain are hilly.

Summary of Project Operation

The project activity is to undertake logging operations only within SFA Bee 06/19 and operations have commenced since in 2021. The primary purpose of the operations is to supply the demand for logs while preserving sustainable forest resources and protecting the environment. Logs are harvested based on the stipulated measures set out in the Guidelines for Forest Operations, 2018 by GFC.

The logs are selected by a tree spotter, which is the chainsaw operator(s). There are approximately two (2) chainsaw operators, three (3) choker-men who assist the chainsaw operators, and one (1) operator for the skidder. The logs are harvested based on the tags issued by the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC). However, the production per month is approximately 250-300 cubic meters of logs and some of the species harvested are Wamara, Kabukalli, Shibidan, Kerati, Dalli, Cow Wood, Bullet Wood, Mora, etc.

A tarpaulin camp of 25 ft L by 20 ft W by 10 ft H in dimensions is established within the concession to house the four (4) workers and solar lights are used at night. The toilet facility entailed one (1) pit latrine (plumb toilet).

Working hours will be from 8:00 hrs. to 4:00 hrs. from Monday to Sunday.

Water for drinking and domestic purposes is sourced from a nearby creek within the concession, and rainwater is collected for drinking too.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is provided to all employees, including long boots, helmets, gloves, and visibility vests. Additionally, a first aid and snake bite kit are present on site at all times.

Environmental Impacts

The following environmental impacts may be generated from the logging operations, but these impacts are not significant for environment:

Particulate Matter (dust)

Sawdust is emitted during log harvesting and the chainsaw milling process, as well as dust generated when vehicles travel along the trail during dry weather.

Hazardous materials/waste

If these materials or wastes are not properly stored, it can result in an accidental spill or discharge may occur, resulting in soil pollution.

Water quality

The removal of trees and disturbance of forest soils can cause increased sedimentation in rivers and streams, which can have detrimental to water quality and the aquatic ecosystems.

Soil erosion and degradation

Logging can disturb the natural structure of forest soils, causing erosion and reduced soil fertility and making it more difficult for new trees to grow. Also, this can have an adverse effect on water quality during rainy weather conditions.

Noise Emissions

The noise emissions emanated from the chainsaws and tractor.

Habitat Loss and Fragmentation

Logging can destroy and fragment habitats for a wide range of species, including animals, birds, insects, and fungi. This can lead to a decrease in biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Carbon dioxide emissions and Climate Change

Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, so logging can increase carbon dioxide emissions, contributing to climate change. In addition, trees play a vital role in managing local and regional climates by cycling water and moderating temperatures.

Solid Waste Generation

Solid waste can contaminate the environment and degrade the aesthetic quality of the surroundings if not managed effectively. The following solid waste is generated onsite:

1. Domestic waste, inclusive of plastic bottles, food scraps, etc. is generated by the workers.
2. Small quantity of sawdust would be generated during the felling process, and damaged/split ends, is removed from time to time, using the chainsaw(s).

Flammable substances such as gas and diesel are stored onsite and if not managed properly, can be ignited if a worker who smokes discards a burning cigarette butt.

Cumulative impacts

There are several other active small-scale logging concessions surrounding this concession, which can collectively have negative impacts on air, water, and land resources.

Mitigation measures

The environmental impacts identified above will be mitigated through the implementation of sustainable forest management and the adherence of best environmental standards and guidelines.

Particulate Matter (dust)

During dry weather conditions, the speed limit of 30 km/hr. is adhered to. The chainsaw operators are provided with the appropriate PPE dust masks to protect them from dust, long boots, visibility vests, hard hats (helmets) and gloves. The technique utilized is selective logging thus leaving the majority of the forest intact and adequate forest cover hence minimizing the dust emissions within the concession.

Hazardous materials/waste

Fuel is stored on site, including 3-45-gallon drums of diesel and 1-45-gallon drum of gasoline, and kept in a designated area located at the campsite. The drums with the respective fuel are tightly covered to avoid any accidental spillage or release.

Waste oil is generated from the servicing of the tractor and chainsaws once per month. The quantity of waste oil generated is 2-3 gallons and is reused on the chainsaws. The waste oil is stored in the 5-gallon tightly closed plastic pail in a designated area at the campsite.

There are no chemicals and/or preservatives stored onsite.

Water quality

Buffer zones along water bodies such as rivers, streams, etc. are maintained to prevent soil erosion and protect water quality and aquatic habitats.

Soil erosion and degradation

Logs are harvested in accordance with Condition 5.1(a)(b) of the State Forest Authorizations (SFA) Agreement as well as GFC's Guidelines for Forest Operations, 2018. Also, vegetative cover is maintained on the edges of the trail to reduce the displacement of soil particles. Buffer zones are maintained, and the harvesting of logs is not done within the buffer zones.

Noise Emissions

The noise levels generated are expected to be insignificant since the tractor and chainsaws are equipped with an exhaust stack. They are serviced and maintained every month so as to reduce emissions into the environment and downtime. Chainsaw blades checked and replaced with sharp ones. Workers will be provided with appropriate PPE, including hearing protection.

Habitat Loss and Fragmentation

Logs are harvested based on Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) techniques, which result in the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Carbon dioxide emissions and Climate Change

Logs are not cleared-fell but are selectively harvested based on a breast height of 1.3 m and a diameter above 35 m. However, if there are more than one (1) tree within an 8-metre radius, only trees over 40cm at breast height will be harvested based on the GFC guidelines. This practice leaves the majority of the forest intact and helps preserve the carbon stored in the trees and soil, thus reducing the release of CO₂ into the atmosphere and also allowing saplings to continue absorbing CO₂ through photosynthesis. Also, it minimizes soil disturbances during logging activities, thus maintaining the integrity of the forest floor and preventing the release of stored carbon from the soil.

Solid Waste Generation

1. The garbage is collected in a garbage receptacle and emptied in a solid waste pit located approximately three hundred (300) meters away from the creek that flows within the concession.
2. The sawdust is left at the tree stumps to decompose while the wood ends are stored onsite to be reused as meat boards, stool and to fill

Fire

Workers are briefed verbally on the importance of fire safety almost quarterly, and a 'No Smoking' sign is placed at the fuel storage area. A sand bucket and a fire extinguisher are placed at the camp site and can be easily accessed should there be a fire emergency. There has been no occurrence of fire onsite since the logging commenced in the concession.

Cumulative Tinpacts

Cumulatively, the impacts on air, land and water will not be significant since the concessionaires have to adhere to the Code of Practices and regulations established by GFC to ensure that logging is done in a sustainable manner and the Environmental Protection Act and its associated regulations for environmental protection.