

## Environmental Impact Assessment for Davis Falls, Sittee River Forest Reserve

### **Description:**

Davis Falls is located approximately eight miles from Stann Creek Valley Road at mile 15 in the Stann Creek District. It is an approximately 500 ft. waterfall over granite bedrock. It falls into a 75 ft. deep pool, and then flows through a series of pools that flow into a creek that eventually drains into North Stann Creek after approximately 6 miles. It is fed by several tributaries that converge in a pool at the top of the fall. Another fall above the main fall can potentially be accessed if more trails are cut in the future. The surrounding area is a moist tropical forest with a canopy ecosystem including diverse flora and fauna.

As part of the Sittee River Forest Reserve, Davis Falls is well-suited to be co-managed by “Friends of the Valley” and the Belize Forest Service as a protected area to be accessed only when accompanied by trained guides. Davis Falls should be advertised as a rugged, challenging hike as well as a beautiful view, as well-prepared visitors will cause less impact.

The Cockscomb Jaguar Preserve could be feasibly reached by day-hike from Davis Falls if new trails were cut. This connection could provide more opportunities for hiking and exploring and could be looked into in order to increase tourist traffic to Davis Falls.

### **Geology:**

The Mayan Mountains, which Davis Falls is on the edge of, are formed by a granite intrusive block. The falls runs over exposed granite bedrock, resulting in its dramatic drop. Well-developed soils typical of the moist tropical forest are present in the area surrounding the stream.

### **Water Regime:**

Davis Falls is in a meandering stream flowing over both exposed granite bedrock and alluvium with a series of pools and drops in stream.

### **Rainfall:**

Average annual rainfall in Cockscomb Basin: 100-180 inches

Average annual rainfall in Stann Creek Valley:

The weather pattern in this area is a dry season from February through June. During the rainy season, the area floods, making it nearly impossible to reach Davis Falls, especially by vehicle.

### **Flora:**

Mahogany

Giant redwood

Cahoun palm

Cutting grass

### **Fauna:**

Hawk

