

## **Green Diamond purchases new \$550,000 shovel logger built for steep inclines**

**ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY GORDON WEEKS**

**February 6, 2020**

Green Diamond Resource Co. in Shelton sports two powerful new tools — a \$550,000 self-leveling Tigercat shovel logger that allows logging on slopes on up to a 40% grade, and a \$230,000 logging truck that puts the company back in the trucking business for the first time in 24 years.

On Monday, both vehicles were in action under sunny skies between rain bursts on Dayton Peak west of Shelton.

“There is a new tool in the arsenal,” said Patti Case, public affairs/regulatory manager for Green Diamond, said of the Tigercat shovel logger.

“The machine levels itself front and back, side to side,” said Bryan Wilkeson, the company’s logging manager.

The driver “can get on steeper ground, and he can stay there,” he said. Also, “It’s super efficient,” Wilkeson said. “It burns about half as much fuel as a regular shovel.”

The new truck arrived Jan. 13. Case said Green Diamond had two logging trucks when she was hired in 1994. Two years later, the company had none, she said. Now the company sports two, with the rest of the trucking contracted to other companies.

Green Diamond hopes to buy two more long logging trucks and one short logger, so the company will have five, Case said. “We want to make sure we have a way to get our logs to market,” she said.

Steve Jacoby was driving the truck on Monday. His career includes 25 years with Green Diamond’s tree farms. “It’s beautiful, state of the art,” Jacoby said of the truck. He added, “It handles like a pickup, just more weight ... short loggers like to swing and wobble.”

The truck’s typical weight is 96,000 pounds gross. Monday’s load was headed for the Sierra Pacific Industries mill on the downtown Shelton waterfront.

Green Diamond owns about 316,000 acres in Washington, Case said. The trees logged Monday on Dayton Peak are third-growth trees, she said. “The second-growth is all but gone,” she said.

As for the two big purchases, “It’s good for our guys to see the company invest,” Case said. She added, “It’s a very cyclical business, and log prices aren’t great right now.”



**Green Diamond Resource Co.’s new \$550,000 Tigercat shovel logger levels itself, allowing it to work on steep slopes, such as this one Monday on Dayton Peak.**



**Green Diamond spent \$230,000 on a new logging truck, its second. This puts the Shelton-based company back in the log trucking business for the first time in 24 years. The truck is shown being loaded Monday on Dayton Peak.**

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