

IMPROVED HARVESTING METHODS

EQUIPMENT SURVEY NOTES

COMBINATION SKIDDER-LOADER

INFORMATION

REVIEWED AND REAFFIRMED
1980

Multiple-purpose equipment is well suited and often essential for harvesting scattered tracts of timber. In order to conduct such operations profitably, costs of moving equipment must be kept to a minimum. Use of a machine that performs several operations reduces the number of machines that must be moved. Equipment that can be moved rapidly under its own power has many advantages, especially for scattered operations.

These conditions induced an Illinois logger to build a combination skidder-loader several years ago. This machine is shown in skidding position in figure 1. When used as a loader, the rear end of the boom is pulled down by the cable, thus raising the opposite end.

A new combination machine has been developed on the West Coast, and it is now commercially available. It also uses a movable boom for skidding and loading. The boom is controlled by hydraulic cylinders, and it serves as a live arch in the skidding position shown in figure 2. A telescoping section is extended by a hydraulic cylinder to lengthen the boom for loading, as shown in figure 3.

Additional features include a bulldozer blade, four-wheel drive, and four-wheel power steering. The transmission provides 10 speeds up to 30 miles per hour.



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Figure 1. --Locally built skidder-loader with raisable boom.

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Figure 2. --Skidder-loader skidding tree-length logs.



Figure 3. --Skidder-loader with boom extended and raised for loading logs.