Modification of the "dozer" blade on a logging tractor in the Lake States has increased the machine's usefulness and efficiency. When changes were made to facilitate bunching of logs at the landing, additional unforeseen advantages also resulted.

The blade was shortened and V-irons attached as shown in figure 1. After the logs were skidded in, unhooked, and the tractor turned around for the return trip, it pushed the logs up onto the pile, thus clearing the landing for the next load. The short blade gave the operator good visibility. The V-irons kept the logs from slipping off the blade, especially when sliding them endwise.

Skidding tractors need a blade for pushing debris from landings and for similar jobs. Generally, however, the blade is used at full capacity such a small percentage of the operating time that a large expensive blade is not justified. The small blade illustrated in figure 1 is proving adequate to meet skidding tractor requirements. In addition, the short blade makes the tractor more maneuverable and enables the operator to see obstacles. This last point is very important because a major source of damage to residual timber in tractor operations has resulted from butt scars on trees frequently struck by "dozer" blades.

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Figure 1.--Skidding tractor with specially designed short "dozer" blade.