Skidding Encyclopedia Article

Skidding

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Skidding

A technique in forest harvesting by which logs or whole trees are dragged over the ground, as opposed to being lifted in the air, to a landing, where they are loaded on trucks for transport to a mill. The logs may be dragged by mechanical means, such as a crawler tractor or rubber-tired skidder, or by draft animals. Skidding normally disturbs the ground surface and forms "skid trails" which may be used once or reused in subsequent harvests. **Soil** in skid trails, especially on steep land, may channel water flow during rainfall and snow melt and be susceptible to **erosion**.