

Newsline
USDA Forest Service in Alaska – February 1, 2011
Topic: First All-Electric Truck at Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center

The U.S. Forest Service is continuing to reduce its environmental footprint on the Tongass National Forest, thanks to a new zero-emissions vehicle.

According to Ron Marvin, Director at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center, the Electric Truck replaces an older gasoline powered pickup:

“It’s really going to provide better utility for us because we can actually park it out here, the other truck we couldn’t park out here and leave, but this one we can park inside a tunnel that we have. “

The Low Speed Vehicle comes with lights, turn signals and even a defroster. It has a top speed of 25 miles an hour with a maximum range of 40 miles before recharging.

Marvin says that’s not a problem and when it’s not hauling personnel or supplies the truck will serve as an exhibit that will be viewed by some 400-thousand visitors to the Center each year:

“Of course what better place to talk about climate change than across the lake from a rapidly receding glacier. One of the messages we try to convey is that we, human beings, need to look at opportunities to reduce our contribution to greenhouse gases. “

In Juneau, I’m Bob Belongie for the USDA Forest Service.