

Newsline

USDA Forest Service in Alaska – February 1, 2011

Topic: Three trails enhance recreation opportunities on the Tongass National Forest

A stairway connecting three trail systems in the Tongass National Forest has opened new opportunities for skiers and hikers. Forest Service District Recreation Manager, Ed Grossman, says the new link between the Trail of Time, Power Line and Under Thunder trails will create a better recreational experience for locals and visitors alike.

“The Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area here in Juneau is the premier attraction for the capitol city, and now we’re seeing as many as half a million visitors here each year.”

The project generated local jobs thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Contractor Dave Hanna with Alaska Concrete Casting says that the stairs are designed to mitigate the steep, twisting rocky terrain making it easier to traverse in all kinds of weather conditions.

“The slabs are 30 inches deep, four feet wide, seven inches thick and they weight about 900 pounds.”

Grossman and Hanna both call the project a win-win for the Juneau economy and a great benefit for visitors to the national forest for years to come.

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