

Podcast Script
USFS "Alaska Forest Reflections"
Topic: "Sen. Mark Begich" - 1 June 2011
TRT: 3:00

NARRATOR: "FOREST REFLECTIONS, A SERIES OF STORIES BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIVED, WORKED AND PLAYED IN ALASKA'S NATIONAL FORESTS, SHARING THEIR MEMORIES OF FAVORITE FOREST PLACES FOR THIS 2011 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS."

"This is Mark Begich, Senator from Alaska. And one of my favorite places to go in the National Forest is the Begich-Boggs Center. This is an incredible place, you drive down along the coast from Anchorage, and you see some great scenery on the way where, and you enter into the park area, and as you drive through you're still seeing some great scenery and sounds and you feel...and are clearly in the National Forest. And as you get out, you're right there. And you can see, at the right time of the year, the glacier and the impact, and you can go into the Center, and you get the history...not only of the last few years, but for generations of the history of Portage Glacier.

"It's also very special to me and my family because it's named after my father, but it's also very unique in a way that Alaskans can view a glacier so close an urban area, that they get to be literally...out in nowhere...and yet still have an ability to get back into town if you want to...but see an incredible glacier and be able to experience Alaska first hand. It's a beautiful place.

"And obviously it's one of the places that many, many Alaskans go to...I know I took my son there, very early, about four or five years old, and actually took him out to the place where I had a photo of me almost 40 years with my brothers and sisters...and kind of put him in the same place, took the same photo, just to kind of comparison, and you can actually see...not only...you know...has it changed, the environment out there, climate change has made an impact on the glacier and you can actually see it between the two photos. But more interesting is it still has this unbelievable natural state out there that people can enjoy, even after 40 years of many, many, many visitors that have gone through there."

NARRATOR: "FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR NATIONAL FORESTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS, PLEASE VISIT THE LINKS PROVIDED AT WWW.MYALASKAFOREST.COM."

ALASKA FOREST REFLECTIONS IS PRODUCED FOR THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE, ALASKA REGION, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE.

IN JUNEAU, I'M BOB BELONGIE FOR THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE.