



# **USDA Forest Service & Alaska Railroad Corporation Press Advisory**

DATE: August 23, 2012  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Sen. Begich and Mayor Sullivan Join Forest Service & Alaska Railroad Dignitaries in Ribbon-cutting & Award Ceremony for Renovated Historic Railroad Freight Shed**

*Chugach National Forest, Forest Service Alaska Region State and Private Forestry, and Anchorage Forest Science Laboratory move offices to historic Freight Shed along First Avenue*

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The USDA Forest Service will mark a return to its historic Chugach National Forest roots Monday, August 27, at a 10:30 a.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony at the recently renovated Alaska Railroad historic Freight Shed at 161 East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Anchorage. Additionally, Alaska Railroad Employees and community members who played a large part in the restoration of the Freight Shed will be recognized for their work. Senator Mark Begich and Anchorage Mayor Dan Sullivan are scheduled to participate, along with Forest Service and Alaska Railroad senior officials.

Forest Service units based in Anchorage recently moved into the Freight Shed include the Alaska Region State and Private Forestry office, the Chugach National Forest Supervisor's Office, and the Pacific Northwest Research Station's Anchorage Forest Science Laboratory. All of the units were previously located in the 3300 block of C Street in Anchorage.

Within two years of its inception in 1907, the Chugach National Forest had grown to encompass most of modern day Anchorage, including Ship Creek, site of one of the Forest's early offices. By 1919, the area had been withdrawn from the Forest. The heavy timber-framed, 36,000-square-foot Freight Shed was built 22 years later.

The Freight Shed is Alaska's first historic building designed and reconstructed to the high environmental standards established by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design criteria. Site improvements include a new raised and heated walkway along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, utility upgrades, core-and-shell improvements, as well as upgrades to mechanical and electrical systems. These improvements must meet stringent LEED standards for site sustainability, water efficiency, energy conservation, material reuse and indoor environmental quality.

The ceremony will include remarks from Forest Service Alaska Region Deputy Regional Forester Ruth Monahan, Alaska Railroad President and Chief Executive Officer Christopher Aadnesen, Anchorage Mayor Dan Sullivan and Senator Mark Begich. The Alaska Railroad will also recognize employees and community members who renovated the building with the Frederick Mears Award of Excellence.

Mears was the Commission Chairman/Chief Engineer of the Alaska Engineering Commission and was responsible for completion of the Alaska Railroad. The award recognizes people and projects that move the Alaska Railroad forward and contribute to the greater good of Alaska and railbelt community.

**Who:** US Forest Service & Alaska Railroad  
**What:** Historic Freight Shed Ribbon Cutting & Frederick Mears Award Ceremony  
**When:** Monday, August 27, 2012, at 10:30 a.m.  
**Where:** 161 East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Door #8