



Construction of America's Forest Service Museum is Complete

Freres Engineered Wood and the National Museum of Forest Service History announce the completion of the National Conservation Legacy Center

MISSOULA, Mont., Apr. 14, 2026 – [Freres Engineered Wood](#) and the [National Museum of Forest Service History](#) today announced the completed construction of the new National Conservation Legacy Center in Missoula, Mont., a state-of-the-art museum built with innovative wood products. The mass timber marvel will serve as a learning center for educating the public on the significance of collaborative partnerships in America's forest conservation and collective stewardship of our natural resources through forest management, wood innovation and more.

"This new building is one of our greatest teaching tools to share the conservation history of the United States," says Lisa Tate, executive director of the National Museum of Forest Service History. "We really want this building to be an exhibit in and of itself, reinforcing the Forest Service's philosophy of collaboration and how there are many partners within the entire scope of conservation. It's not about any one group or any one user; it's about the greatest good for all of us, in the long run."

The National Museum of Forest Service History is a nonprofit organization, operating independently of the U.S. Forest Service, that has collected and preserved the history of the U.S. Forest Service since 1988. The new Center will provide a home for more than 55,000 conservation artifacts as well as interactive exhibits and displays. The organization anticipates 80,000 to 100,000 visitors each year.

The building's structure embodies the museum's mission, offering a living demonstration of the power of sustainable forest products and innovative building materials. Freres Engineered Wood is one of the project's largest donors and among more than a dozen wood products companies participating in this project, including [Vaagen Brothers Lumber](#), [FH Stoltze Land & Lumber Co.](#) and [Idaho Forest Group](#). Freres Wood supplied 8,520 cubic feet of Mass Ply Panels to form the building's impressive folded roof structure, exterior decks and staircase treads. The company's laminated veneer lumber serves as framing for the building's exterior shear walls, meeting the engineering criteria for structural stability.

"We're proud to contribute to the National Conservation Legacy Center and help show generations of Americans why forest stewardship matters," says Rob Freres, president of Freres Engineered Wood. "At Freres Wood, we believe sustainably made wood products and resilient forests grow together. We can't think of a better place to tell that story than right here."

The building owners received their preliminary conditional use permit on March 17 and began moving repository items into the building on March 27. The team will begin moving exhibits into the facility on May 1 in preparation for their ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 17.

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About Freres Engineered Wood Products

Freres Lumber Co., Inc., DBA [Freres Engineered Wood](#), has a 100-year history of innovation in the wood products industry, beginning in 1922 when T.G. Freres started a small sawmill in Oregon's Santiam Canyon. Today, Freres' operations include finished plywood, lumber, veneer and structural composite lumber, Mass Ply products, biochar, and a cogeneration facility that supplies renewable power for the local area. Known for being traditionally innovative, Freres is deeply committed to its community and to sustainable forest management practices. The company uses 100 percent of the wood it processes throughout its three operations—Freres Engineered Wood Products, Freres Timber and Evergreen BioPower LLC—and six wood products facilities. Freres provides family wage jobs to nearly 500 employees. For more information, visit www.frereswood.com or call 503-859-2121.

About the National Museum of Forest Service History

The National Museum of Forest Service History was established in 1988 to help save America's conservation history. The Museum has a strong education program, including teacher training workshops and resources available on their web page www.forestservicemuseum.org. The Museum works with other museums and companies coast-to-coast to curate exhibitions and to provide artifacts on loan. A 312 acre campus was opened in 2017 with a visitor center, Forest Discovery Trail and interactive exhibits. The National Conservation Legacy Center will open on July 17th, 2026 in Missoula, Montana and will serve as the Museum's greatest teaching tool for conservation history.

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