

DEVELOPMENT



200,000
Caribou

roam throughout
this region

0
Roads

in this remarkable
wilderness

KOBUK WILD & SCENIC RIVER

Congress designated the Kobuk River as a "Wild River" due to its remote and undeveloped condition, clean water, exceptional opportunities for float trips, winter habitat for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (population 200,000) and its large population of sheefish, a subsistence resource of high importance for local villages. The Ambler Road would cross the Kobuk Wild & Scenic River and Gates of the Arctic National Preserve.



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Gates of the Arctic: No Place for a Mining Road

The proposed Ambler Mining Road threatens wilderness recreation, rural lifestyles and the fragile ecosystem of our country's premier wilderness park.

AMBLER MINING ROAD: PROJECT OVERVIEW

The state of Alaska proposes building a 220-mile industrial access road along the southern Brooks Range to transport ore from open pit copper mines planned in the northwest region of the state. The road would cross 20 miles of Gates of the Arctic National Preserve and the Kobuk Wild River. Congress established Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve to maintain its "wild and undeveloped character" and provide "opportunities for visitors to experience solitude." If this industrial road is built, the area will experience heavy truck traffic that will create noise pollution and dust, impact wilderness recreation, disturb wildlife, damage wetlands and permanently alter rural lifestyles dependent on traditional food resources like salmon and caribou.

THE WILDEST PARK IN AMERICA

Gates of the Arctic is widely acknowledged as the premier wilderness park in the national park system. Visitors from across the globe travel here for challenging wilderness adventures not readily found elsewhere. Popular activities include river rafting, backpacking, rock climbing, dog mushing, fishing and sport hunting. These visitors come because Gates of the Arctic is wild, remote and roadless. For many, it is the experience of a lifetime.

A PLACE WHERE TRADITIONAL LIFESTYLES STILL EXIST

Gates of the Arctic protects resources critical to traditional subsistence hunting and fishing: clean water, healthy populations of fish and an intact ecosystem that supports the annual migration of three major caribou herds. Local, rural residents practice subsistence hunting and fishing inside the park and preserve, as well as in the surrounding region. Caribou, salmon, whitefish and sheefish are the primary foods, all of which depend on a healthy ecosystem to thrive.

DEVELOPMENT

ROADS CHANGE EVERYTHING

A Vast Caribou Migration

Disrupted: A study of the nearby Red Dog Mine Road shows caribou are reluctant to cross roads, often reversing direction and delaying migration for several weeks or more. The Ambler Mining Road bisects prime caribou habitat and is four times as long as the Red Dog Mine Road. The large caribou herds of the arctic enchant wilderness visitors and are essential to rural subsistence hunters who rely on predictable migration patterns to feed their families.

Wetlands and Fish Habitat

Degraded: Roads frequently change or block the natural flow of surface water, which can prevent fish from reaching habitat necessary for finding food, cover and for spawning. The Ambler Mining Road would cross more than a dozen major rivers, over 100 smaller rivers and streams, and countless acres of wetlands, all of which provide



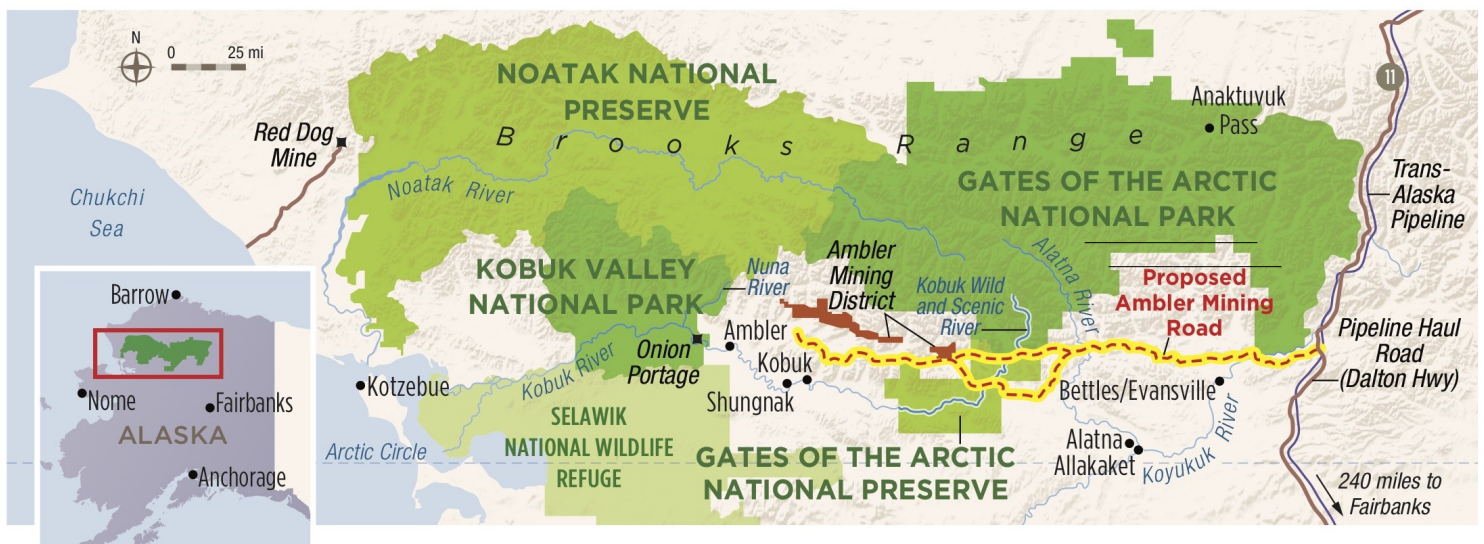
habitat for a variety of fish important to both the ecosystem and local subsistence users. Roads also assist the introduction of invasive weeds, many of which spread aggressively along riverbanks and have the ability to degrade habitat, clog waterways and change ecosystems.

Dust, Noise and Pollution: Up to 400 vehicles per day are expected to travel the Ambler Road, affecting the natural quiet and wild character of this remote region, though that number could grow dramatically in

the long-term. Additional concerns include the spread of fugitive dust (blown off ore trucks) that's laden with toxic heavy metals, and the release of asbestos, a carcinogenic mineral that is commonly found in local gravel needed for road construction.

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve is one of the wildest places on earth. **Let's keep it that way.**

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Above: Both the landscape and local lifestyles would be irreversibly changed by the Ambler Mining Road. © Karen Minot