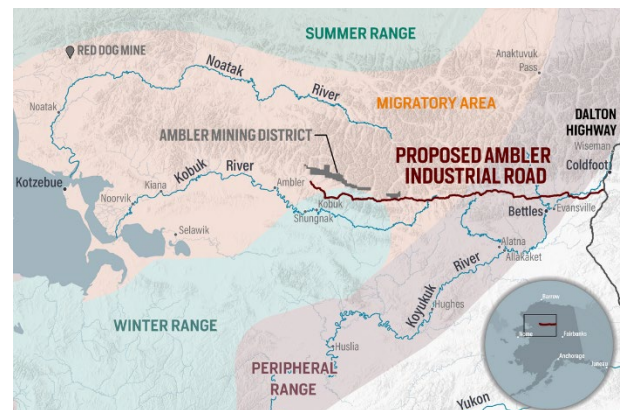




Located above the Arctic Circle, the Brooks Range is one of the most remote landscapes in North America. Accessing this place—at the northernmost extent of the Rocky Mountains—requires a bush plane and two days’ travel, yet the outdoor experiences are world-renowned. Despite its unparalleled appeal, the Brooks Range’s character and values could be permanently changed if the 211-mile Ambler Industrial Road is built. The purpose of this road is to access economically uncertain mineral deposits far from existing infrastructure—primarily for the benefit of foreign companies and overseas markets.

### The Ambler Industrial Road and Mining

- The proposed 211-mile private industrial road would cross the southern Brooks Range, linking the Dalton Highway to mineral rights currently controlled by foreign companies (Trilogy Metals of Canada and South32 of Australia). While still in exploratory stages, companies have touted that deposits expect to yield primarily copper, zinc, and lead, along with silver and gold.
- The road would be financed by the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA), a publicly funded development bank. In theory, the project’s estimated cost of \$2 billion would be repaid through tolls by the mining companies, but this proposition appears risky at best, with no guarantee of return. The economic feasibility of the area’s mineral resources remains uncertain due to the high (and likely rising) cost of development, the quality and quantity of the deposits, and the evolving trade policies and volatile markets that affect overseas processing.
- Ore concentrates would be trucked from the potential mining district over 700 miles to the Port of Alaska in Anchorage and then transported to smelters and refineries in Asia (most likely China).



### The Ambler Road Project Conflicts with the Trump Admin’s America First Agenda

President Trump has made it clear that the United States must reduce dependence on foreign processing and supply of minerals—especially by adversarial nations like China. Yet according to a 2023 feasibility study by Trilogy Metals, “it was assumed that delivery of all concentrates would be to a smelter in the Asia Pacific region,” adding that “the significance of the Chinese market for concentrate cannot be understated.”

Development of these mines would likely perpetuate America’s dependence on foreign-controlled supply chains while benefitting our rivals—directly contradicting the Administration’s efforts to eliminate such vulnerabilities.

- **Executive Order 14272:** Emphasizes the national security risks of relying on foreign nations for critical mineral processing and initiated a Section 232 investigation into the national security implications of importing processed critical minerals.
- **Executive Order 14153:** Focuses on “guarding against foreign powers weaponizing energy supplies in theaters of geopolitical conflict,” reinforcing the importance of American control over mineral processing.
- **Executive Order 14241:** States that “our national and economic security are now acutely threatened by our reliance upon hostile foreign powers’ mineral production.”

### **Impacts on Alaska’s Fish, Wildlife, and Outdoor Heritage**

- The Brooks Range supports world class hunting opportunities for caribou, moose, grizzly bear, and Dall sheep, plus fishing for trophy Sheefish (known as Tarpon of the north) and Dolly Varden.
- The Ambler Road would cross 11 major rivers, require nearly 3,000 stream crossings, and impact over 1,400 acres of wetlands.
- This private industrial road would bisect the migration routes of three caribou herds—including the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, one of Alaska’s largest, which has already declined by 41 percent since 2017. This herd is a critical food resource for more than 60 rural communities.
- Industrial traffic could reach 168 trips per day, forever altering the remote and rugged character of one of the world’s premier hunting and fishing destinations.

### **Position**

Sportsmen support responsible mineral development that aligns with the strategic interests of the United States. We believe that mineral production should be prioritized closer to existing infrastructure, away from irreplaceable habitats, and in areas where ecological impacts can be minimized. Most importantly, mining on American soil should advance U.S. interests, not those of foreign adversaries.

Concerns about the Ambler Road are shared by 74 Yukon River watershed tribes, 37 Tanana Chiefs Conference member tribes, and several tribes closest to the proposed route, including the Evansville, Tanana, Alatna, Allakaket, and Huslia Tribal Councils.

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