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Comments:

It is Orwellian to make exceptions to a roadless rule to allow roads. When roads are built for the sake of coal mining, it defies comprehension.

Roadless areas should be just that, with limited access to large numbers of people. As we have precious little left of our natural heritage, nicking away at what remains while hoping to pass along something of value to the future -our kids and grandchildren- is both foolhardy and arrogant. Any change to such status ought to be in the face of dire emergency and a coal mine could not possibly qualify.

A coal mine -likely an open pit given the region under question- in a roadless area is such a clashing of values as to make the head spin. In an age where we must do everything possible to forestall catastrophic climate change, the last thing an already over-heated planet needs is more coal burning to exacerbate the problem. Sacrificing our health and well-being for the sake of corporate profiteering is shameful. As the native market for coal continues to dwindle, the likelihood that this coal gets shipped overseas looms. Such coal will be burned in plants with far less concern for the environment than even the little oversight that occurs at home. Further, it will return to us in the form of acid rain and deepening global warming.

Clearly, the answer should and must be no. Not now; not ever.