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Comments:

I live in Iowa. However, I have a strong affinity for Alaska. That connection has been due to the wild and rugged aspect of what I think of as "Our Last Frontier." It saddens me as I see that frontier being chipped. In 1965, my parents asked me if I would drive for them for their 40th wedding anniversary trip. I said, "Sure. Where are you going?" The reply, "Alaska." So My wife and I drove there for them on the graveled and rolling Alaska Highway, including the graveled, vehicle access from the east to Mt. McKinley National Park staying at the Susitna Lodge along the way. My wife and daughter returned in 1990 and learned that the Alaska Highway was to be paved. So, in 1992, as both the Alaska Highway and myself turned 50, I led a five-week, camping trip to Alaska by old school bus and van for 26 youth and 4 adults. what an adventure! In 2005, I returned again with four friends and we backpacked in both Denali and Gates of the Arctic National Parks. Since that trip, due to a side trip to visit a great aunt in Wasilla of one of my friends, I have become a follower of the Iditarod Dog Sled Race. Anything done to maintain the wild and natural character of Alaska's unique warehouse of what real life is all about will get my support. To WEAKEN protections now in place within the Chugach National Forest would NOT get my support as a share-holder in our NATIONAL responsibilities.