

# Roadless and loving it

Upset by the prospects of increased traffic on the Dalton Highway and its impact on vulnerable subsistence economies, several villages have joined the fight to block funding for Dalton Highway improvements.

The Coalition for Roadless Alaskan Lands is seeking new members and enlisting their efforts not only on the Dalton issue, but also in the quest to stave off a Republican-led frenzy to "open up the country."

As if the country needed opening.

So much of this nation's shameful history of relations with indigenous peoples is based on exactly this kind of mentality. So much of the very strength and vitality of Native communities derives from the ability to function without access or direct interference by large numbers of outsiders. Roadless may seem radical to some, but in a clammering, shrinking world, it may also be righteous.

For more information about the coalition, call (907) 274-3621.

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