I think this has been my 5th trip up to Alaska and it feels like the first time I’ve really taken in the scale of the entire place. When you only go through and explore the cities of Juneau, you get a sense of some of the scale. The entire city being built between hills that stretch higher then the empite state building. But as you get outside of those civilized areas, it dawns on you more just how much the scale increases. Now growing up in Washington State, I’m familiar with trails. I’m familiar with going on hikes up through mountains and the vast sites you can see through them. But Alaska has this scale to all the mountains that’s something even mote extreme. It’s a scale of nature that you don’t normally get to see. For instance, when you look at something such as the grand canyon, it’s hard to get a sense of the scale when you’re looking at it. With Alaska, that scale is almost everything you see. all the mountains and glaciers and lakes. They all span such sizes that it hurts your brain to fully wrap around. At this 8 day mark. I feel exhausted of this all. My brain is reaching the limit of just being able to take in all this sensory information. All these wild animals that I’ve never been able to really see just here in such abundance it’s tiring. Sea otters, bears, whales, fish, ravens, bald eagles. I’ve never been exposed to so many of these iconic animals and seeing them everywhere is insane. I’m not sure if this tells me that I’m enclosed too much to my city life but it does tell me that there’s a lot more wild life out there then I’d expect from the man made culture that I surround myself with. Maybe one day, I might settle down in Alaska. I doubt it through, the weather here is nice in the summer but it’s the typical Seattle drab that I could do without. I like the animals but they’re kind of a novelty and the presence of them wears out from being exciting to being a nuisance. The large mountains are grand but I have no intention to hike up them and I don’t feel like me in 50 years will have near the same conviction as I do now. I think that this will be a place I’ll hold dear as truly meaning the final frontier. While it’s a place not to end on, it’s a place where the outreaches of the nature around me come to life.