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Comments:

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned we are on the brink of a catastrophic increase in global temperatures. A contributing factor is the wholesale destruction of wilderness areas, logging old growth forests, eliminating buffer zones to combat extreme weather, decimating endangered species, opening lands and waters to fossil fuel development and mining. The recent and violent events of Harvey, Maria, Irma and Michael should register alarm of what our environmental assaults have contributed to thus far! These hurricanes and storms did billions in damage to Texas, Louisiana, Nicaragua, Belize, Honduras, Florida, Puerto Rico, North Carolina and US Virgin Islands. Sea level surges and resulting flooding, and landslides, will continue to increase in frequency and intensity unless we stop new logging, fossil fuel extraction. The Tongass National Forest took thousands of years to grow, and cannot be replaced. There is a reason every attempt to modify the Roadless Rule thus far has been met with years of litigation! The forest is one of the last natural places, providing not only habitat and beauty, but it works overtime to offset polluted air. The devastation of our planet leaves us all vulnerable to these continuing threats and pondering the question "What could we have done to prevent this?" Stated in economic terms, our national budget (FEMA) and relief agencies cannot keep up with the onslaught of these destructive weather events. Corporate interests or raising money for the State of Alaska is no excuse to plunder this sacred wilderness area.