



# JOE COTTA

*Passion for Liberty*

Septembers aren't as comfortable as they used to be, due to wildfires causing unhealthy air quality and increased allergic reactions from the air pollutants. The problem is not climate change, as temperatures over the last 20 years have not considerably changed. [Washington - State Climate Summaries 2022 \(ncics.org\)](https://www.ncics.org/2022/09/01/washington-state-climate-summaries-2022/).

This link above also models where we're going if we don't immediately hit the brakes on carbon emissions. The problem is, we've seen these models come and go, never being accurate regarding the doomsday forecast, if greenhouse gasses are not reduced. [The great failure of the climate models | Washington Examiner](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/great-failure-of-the-climate-models/).

Since the models have been wildly inaccurate and temperatures have not significantly changed, perhaps wildfires are not the result of climate change, but poor forest management.

The forest fires of the last 7 years have not only created hardship for communities but have devastated ecosystems. It seems that every living thing would benefit from forest management policy that would reduce forest fires. Only the climate change bureaucrats would benefit, if we continue to ignore our forests.

The catastrophic wildfires achieve 100% tree mortality over vast areas, destroy the soil, and require decades for the landscape to reestablish.

Good fire fuel management starts with less understory vegetation, less trees, and bigger trees. When there are too many trees competing for light and water, they die. Insect damage is also a factor. This leaves a landscape of match sticks.

Large, hydrated trees with space allow for fire resistance, as understory fuel and competition are reduced. It also encourages wildlife, as high-density vegetation can prevent entry for larger animals. [Save a forest, spread some knowledge on Arbor Day » Publications » Washington Policy Center](https://www.washingtonpolicycenter.org/publications/save-a-forest-spread-some-knowledge-on-arbor-day/)

Fuel abatement through livestock grazing is another strategy that involves utilizing cattle, sheep, and goats to remove understory. The animals aerate the soil, enhance the habitat, and encourage native vegetation. [Wildfire needs holistic approaches to be extinguished before it begins - Pacific Research Institute](#)

Timber harvests are necessary to reduce the number of fire-prone, unhealthy forests and controlled burns allow for minimal soil damage, no damage to the overstory, and faster recovery of the landscape. Timber harvests reduce our building costs, boost the state economy, and preserve natural resources.

Of course, controlled burns are a key tool for minimizing fire fuel. Controlled burns mean the allowance of some smoke in the spring and fall to minimize risk of more catastrophic fires. Some controlled burns will get out of hand, but it will guard from the risk of a much greater wildfire that could devastate rural communities and industry, as we've seen in California over the last number of years.

Money can be raised through commercial harvests from the forest. This has been done in Washington State in the past for managing fish coverts. Tribes also utilize this strategy to fund projects. We need to employ this self-funding system before it shows up in the next "build back better" bill and we all pay for a 90% growth in bureaucracy to manage 10% of the problem.

Can we get back to fall sports practices without worrying about the health of our kids. Can we get back to a harvest season that doesn't strain our agricultural work force? Can we stop limiting the production that comes from all outdoor jobs and activities that will help restabilize our state economy? You, the voter, will determine that outcome.

Please share this email, donate, volunteer, and encourage your friends to vote. Our future depends on your involvement.

Thank you!

Joe Cotta

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