

Forest fires on the west coast of the United States have been getting more dangerous and common. For people living there, it is a big problem because of the destruction these fires can cause. Forest fires can burn down entire forests, endanger animals, and harm people who get caught in the fires. While the destruction can cause a great amount of damage, there are ways to help the cause.

One of my ideas of spreading awareness on different social media platforms is to use my mom's social media accounts. Since she is an entrepreneur and owns a business, many people will come across the posts/tweets. I would include a special discount code when buying something from my mom's business that is located in the posts. This would attract customers and spread awareness.

I would take many steps to reach the goal of spreading awareness. For my other idea, I would combine the information I have gathered from different websites that inform people about forest fires and make a presentation or slideshow. This would help me remember the information better because practicing things over and over again helps strengthen the neurons in the human brain, so this would become an easy topic to talk about for me. After that, I would have to ask to send out a morning announcement on the Monday morning news show at Stone Hill asking for volunteers to help spread the word of forest fires on the western side of the United States. With the volunteers, we would use social media accounts to spread information about this problem. With the information we put out on social media, we will also link a GoFundMe account to raise money to give people who have lost their homes to the fires.

Some pros to these ideas are the amount of people who use social media. 82% of people in the United States use social media. This number will gradually go up because many younger generations are getting phones and access to social media at young ages. Another pro is just simply helping people in need. Studies have shown that when you are doing something kind or helpful, chemicals called endorphins are released in your brain that makes you feel good. This would higher happiness levels and lower the chance of depression. It can also just simply put you in a good mood, which is healthy for the brain.

Some cons to social media is the audience the post's/tweets are reaching. Places like Twitter have a reputation of having people who cyberbully, troll, and like to cause drama for absolutely no reason. If the posts reach these types of people, we would get a bunch of hate. A solution would be turning off the replies and comments to these posts. This would help stop arguments that could potentially happen on these posts.

Another idea I have is to create a robot that can help firefighters extinguish fires. I have some experience with creating and programming robots because the elementary school I was in was a coding school. We did projects about coding every quarter and programmed robots to move objects around, detect things in front of them, and more. In addition to my coding school, I took a robotics after school class for one quarter that helped lengthen my understanding of programming and coding. To make this idea come true, I would have to build and code the robot to detect smoke, grab a hose or water bucket, and extinguish the fire.

The pro's for this idea is limiting the destruction that the forest fires will cause. Before the forest fires get too big, the robot I have designed would take care of the fire and put it out. This would protect the environment and the habitats of many of the animals who are native to the forest. With this idea, we could potentially save people's lives from putting out the fires before they get big enough to obliterate homes and neighborhoods.

A con is that the robot also may become damaged or be engulfed in the flames it is trying to extinguish if it is too big. This is a big setback for this idea, but there are ways to make it better.

Instead of creating a singular robot, I could create multiple. With multiple programmed robots working together to douse a fire, it would get rid of the fire quicker. Having multiple robots is also great if one of the robots is not working because of damage from a fire or because something is wrong with the code or program. On top of that, it wouldn't be as much of a loss if I lost one or two of the robots to the fire since we would have multiple to extinguish the remaining flames.

Forest fires especially near the western side of the United States have recently been getting more common and dangerous for the people living there. I would gather information about this problem by connecting with organizations that help people who have recently been hit with a forest fire near their home. Information I have gathered from them and websites they have (if they have one) would help me contribute and use my skills to help this problem. I would know that the information they are telling me are accurate because I would be using the information I have received and compared it with other info I have gathered from other organizations and knowledge I already have from forest fire destruction. Together, with friends and people who want to help, we would use our social media accounts to help people notice the destruction that forest fire are creating, and link GoFundMe accounts to help people who have lost their homes.