

INTRODUCTION

The Catalina Island Restoration Project, undertaken by the Catalina Conservancy, is a comprehensive initiative aimed at reviving and safeguarding the natural ecosystem of Catalina Island. With a focus on three key pillars—habitat restoration, plant restoration, and species management—the project seeks to protect the island’s biodiversity, mitigate erosion, prevent wildfires, and create a sustainable environment for both wildlife and humans to thrive.

HABITAT RESTORATION

The Catalina Conservancy recognizes the urgent need to restore Catalina Island’s habitats. By implementing strategic measures, the project aims to combat soil erosion, preserve endangered native species, minimize the risk of wildfires, and foster a healthy ecosystem. This will ensure that the soil is stabilized, that unique plant and animal species don’t go extinct, there’s more water capture, and both animals and humans can thrive. Through habitat restoration, the Conservancy aims to create a harmonious balance where the island’s natural beauty can flourish.

PLANT RESTORATION

To revive the delicate ecological balance on Catalina Island, the Conservancy has established a seed farm dedicated to growing endemic plant species. These plants play a vital role in the restoration process, and their seeds are harvested to create specialized seed mixes for restoration projects. By reintroducing and propagating native plants, the Conservancy ensures the preservation of Catalina Island’s unique flora, which is crucial for maintaining a resilient ecosystem.

NON-NATIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Over time, the introduction of non-native plant and animal species, such as *Genista linifolia* (flax-leaf broom) and mule deer, has inflicted considerable harm on the island’s ecosystem. Consequently, the Catalina Restoration Project encompasses the development of a comprehensive plan for removing both deer and invasive plant species.

The objective of this plan is to alleviate the detrimental impact of these species on native plants and animals and restore ecological balance. By eliminating the deer population and addressing the presence of habitat-modifying plants such as *Genista*, the

Conservancy strives to protect the island’s biodiversity and prevent further ecological disruption.

The Catalina Island Restoration Project serves as a beacon of hope for the preservation and restoration of our natural heritage. Through its focus on habitat restoration, plant restoration, and the management of plants and animals, the Catalina Conservancy aims to safeguard the Island’s ecosystems, ensure the survival of native species, and combat erosion. These dedicated efforts will allow Catalina Island to thrive as a precious ecological treasure for generations to come.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Catalina Island is home to over 60 plant and animal species found ONLY on Catalina Island. Plant species include St. Catherine’s Lace, Catalina Manzanita, Catalina nightshade, Malva rosa and Catalina Island Mountain-mahogany, of which there are only seven left on Island. Animal species include the tiny Catalina Island fox, giant California ground squirrel, Catalina Island shrew, Catalina California quail and Catalina Hutton’s vireo (bird).