



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

School of Medicine

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To whom it concerns,

I am writing to express my support for the removal of deer from Catalina island.

As an invasive species, deer cause incontrovertible damage to natural ecosystems. Many dozens of studies across the globe – including quite a few from various islands – have documented the damage. Vegetation disturbance ranges from the architecture of individual plants to the functioning of entire ecosystems, and often affects rare plant species, forest regeneration and structure, understory volume and diversity, and nutrient cycling. Invasive deer also impact animals, including invertebrates, amphibians, small mammals, and songbirds, either directly or through cascading effects. Ample well-designed studies from Catalina Island support some of these findings as well. Collectively, the literature leaves no room for doubt.

If I may say so, the presence of deer on Catalina serves only the self-indulgent interests of humans at the expense of many other organisms.

I have full confidence that the Catalina Conservancy personnel fully understand the ramifications of a non-native deer population. Thus, I encourage thoughtful consideration of their advice.

Sincerely,

William K. Hayes, Ph.D.  
Professor of Biology

*A Seventh-day Adventist Organization*