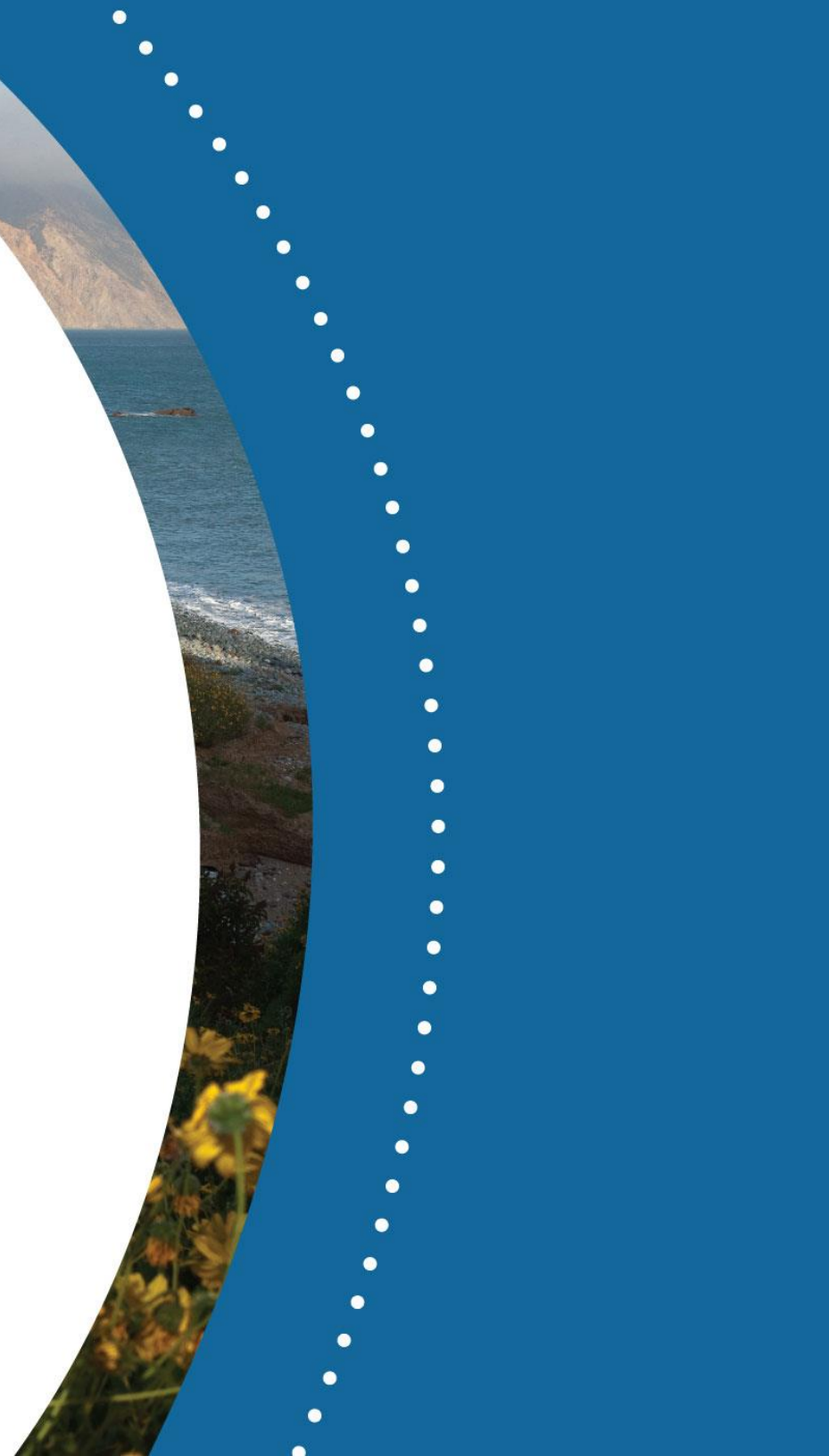




CATALINA ISLAND
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CATALINA
ISLAND
RESTORATION
PROJECT

A graphic illustration of a landscape. It features a large yellow sun partially obscured by two green mountains. The sun is positioned above the mountains, and the mountains are rendered in a simple, stylized manner with white outlines.



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CATALINA ISLAND CONSERVANCY

OUR MISSION

To be an exemplary steward of Island resources through a balance of **conservation, education, and recreation.**





Quick Facts

- Non-profit – private land, but open to the public, founded in 1972
- Ancestral, traditional lands of the Tongva-Gabrielieno
- 4,200 residents; 1 million visitors; 48,000 acres
- No public roads, we maintain roads and trails on our own without taxpayer support
- Hiking
 - 16,000+ permits in 2023
- Biking
 - 967 permits in 2023
- Hunting
 - Average of 200-300 hunters annually



Our Goals

- Build a resilient and safe Catalina Island through an Island Restoration Project that not only protects nature, but safeguards communities
- Reduce fire risk on the Island through proactive restoration efforts that ensures what happened to Lahaina, doesn't happen here
- Preserve the unique ecosystem of the Island which houses rare and endemic species found nowhere else on Earth.





Islands are unique and special places

1. Biodiversity hotspots and home to rare species
2. Conservation frontiers
3. Rest stops and nesting sites for birds
4. Support the human communities
5. Key foundations for marine habitat





The #1 threat to Islands are invasive species

- Islands are 6.7% of land surface
- 20% of Earth's biodiversity
- ~50% of the Earth's threatened species
- 75% of the known extinctions
- Over 1,550 Island eradication events on 998 islands have occurred globally including on 135 inhabited Islands (Fernandez-Palacios et al., 2021; Spatz et al., 2022)

Driving out invasive species on islands has high success rate and big benefits – study

New research finds that eradicating non-native rats, cats, rabbits and goats is 88% effective in restoring biodiversity

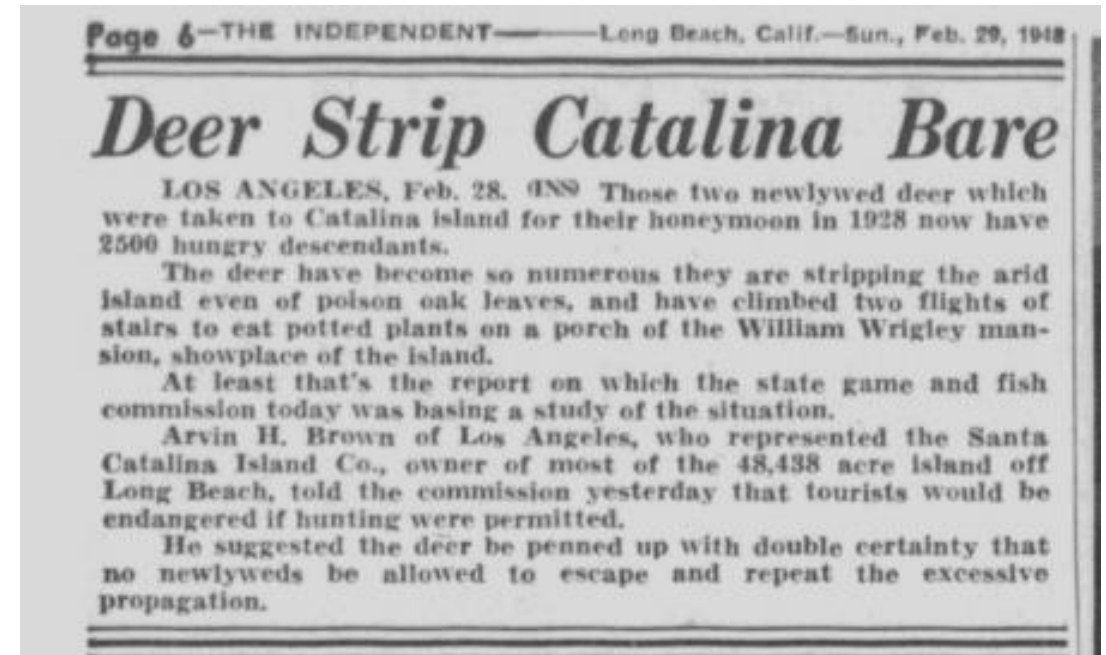


📷 The transformation of Redonda in the Caribbean between 2016 and 2020, before and after black rats and feral goats were eradicated. Photograph: Jenny Daltry and Sophia Steele/FFI



Deer are an invasive species on Catalina Island

- Mule Deer were introduced nearly 100 years ago
- Over the decades, people have hunted them to attempt to reduce populations
- Deer target unique vegetation which evolved without defenses (Bowen et al, 1997)

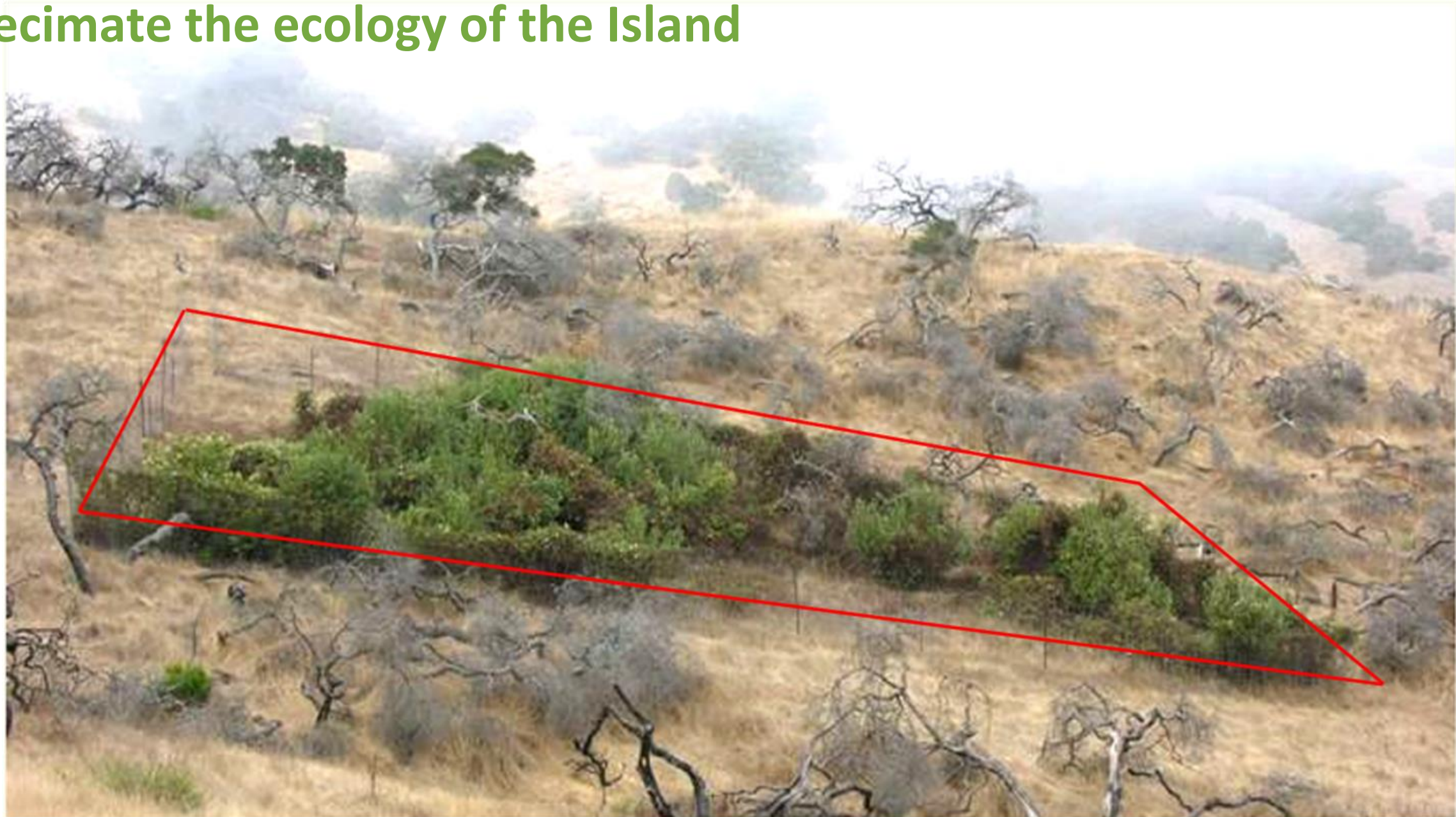


Oh Deer: Catalina Island facing overpopulation of four-legged island dwellers

Devon Warren © July 12, 2018



Deer decimate the ecology of the Island





Deer decimate the ecology of the Island





During drought years, deer starve





Deer prevent restoration efforts on the Island





Deer facilitate conditions that enhance fire risk



- On Maui, fire risk reduction cannot be achieved without the eradication of non-native goats (Rubinoff & Gon III, 2023)
- Invasive grasslands promote more frequent fires in Southern CA & property damage (Cione, Padgett, & Allen, 2002; (Syphard, Keeley, Massada, Brennan, & Radeloff, 2012)
- On Santa Rosa, areas with deer were more frequently invasive annual grasslands (Cloud & Taylor, 2002)
- On Catalina, Deer decreased dominant native shrub species, resulting in a >93% reduction in shrubs (Ramirez et al., 2012)



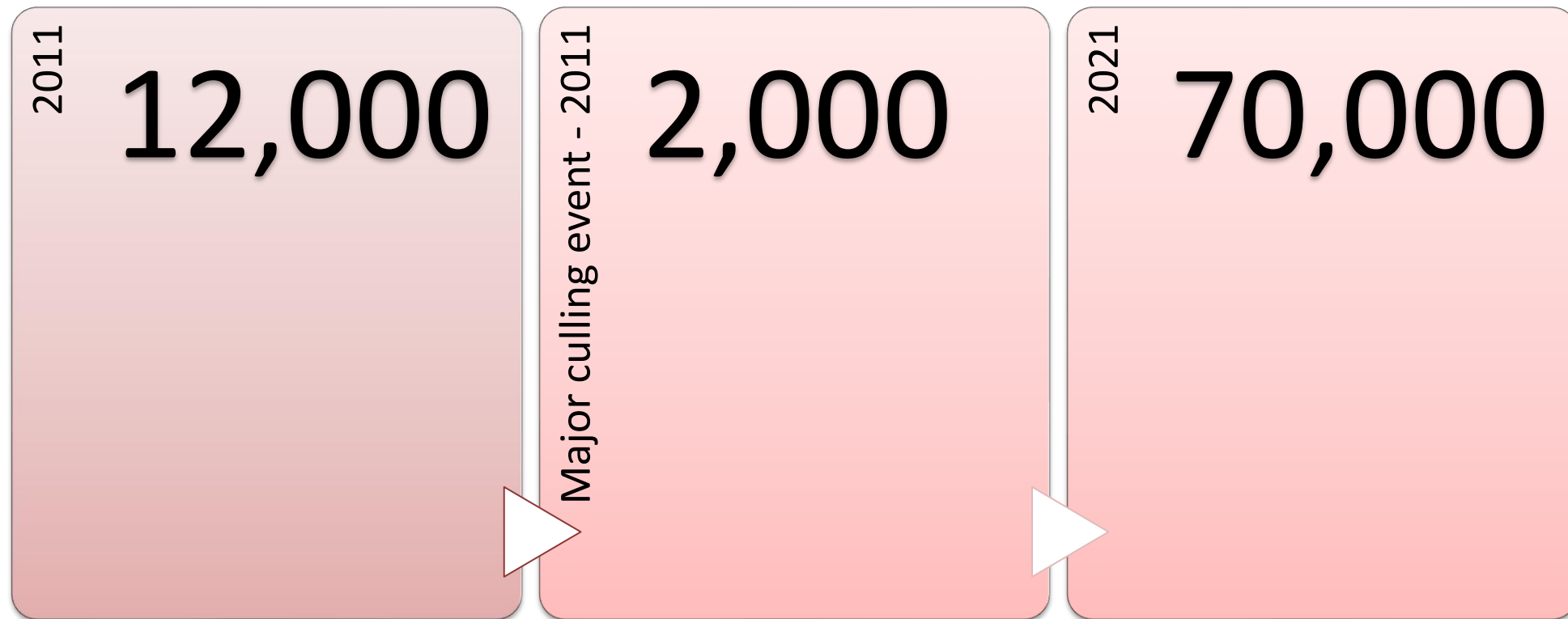
Deer facilitate conditions that enhance fire risk

These invasive grasses can hijack fire to create a self-reinforcing cycle, explains Carla D'Antonio, an ecologist at the University of California, Santa Barbara, who has studied the phenomenon for more than 3 decades in Hawaii and California. Once established, the grasses help fuel blazes that kill and suppress less fire-tolerant native plants, opening up new territory for the invaders to colonize—catalyzing yet more fire. In a short time, land that was once shrubland, savanna, or dry forest is locked into being a grassland. “It’s that trigger of grass and fire that sets the system off in some undesirable direction,” D’Antonio says.

From Science Magazine, Cornwall, 2022.



OTHER ISLANDS - MAUI



(Hawaii Division of Forestry & Wildlife, Maui Nui Branch, 2022)



Frequent fires





An entire ecosystem goes extinct



“Invasive Alien Species eradication and control has generated some of the most notable conservation successes reported to date, particularly on Islands.” –

Langhammer et al, 2024 in a Review of Global Conservation Outcomes published in Science



Groundwater loss





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DECADES OF HUNTING - 1968





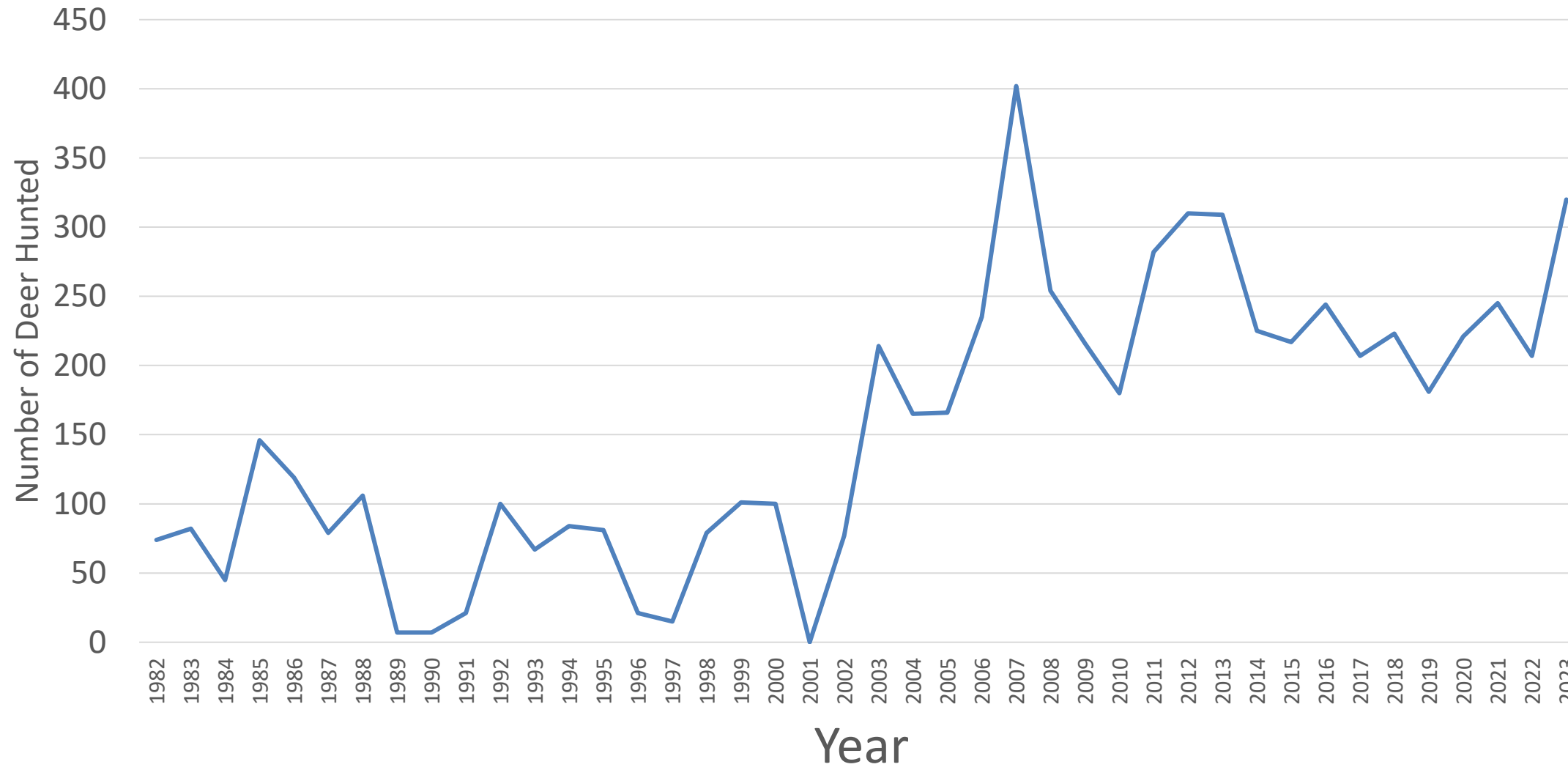
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DECADES OF HUNTING - 2010





Number of Deer Hunted by Year on Catalina



In Total 6,434
Deer Have
Been Hunted
since 1982



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SUPPORT THIS PROJECT

We encourage the LA County Fish and Game Commission to support the Catalina Island Restoration Project for the long-term health and resilience of the Island.



Island Restoration Project





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THANK YOU
