

Lizard's Remarkable Recovery

The Endangered Species Act Works

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By the time the Endangered Species Act was passed in 1973 Southern California's picturesque Channel Islands had already devolved into an environmental nightmare. Overrun by introduced species, the islands' delicate and highly unique web of life was unraveling toward the point of no return.

Forty years later, the eight-island archipelago stands as testament to the fact that man-made problems have solutions if we're willing to do the work.

The recent announcement that the island night lizard – protected under the



Charles Drost / Island night lizard

Endangered Species Act since 1977 – has met recovery goals and no longer needs federal protection is the culmination of a three-decade effort to reverse a century of habitat and rare species destruction on the islands.