

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please mark the corresponding letter for each item on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

Just off the coast of Southern California sits Santa Cruz Island, where a magical creature called the island fox 26 . A decade ago, this island's ecosystem was in 27 . Wild pigs attracted golden eagles from the mainland, and those flying 28 crashed the fox population. So the Nature Conservancy launched a 29 war against the pigs, complete with helicopters and sharp shooters.

And it worked. Today, federal agencies are pulling the island fox from the Endangered Species List. It's the fastest-ever recovery of a mammal, joining peers like the Louisiana black bear as glowing successes in the history of the Endangered Species Act.

But the recovery of Santa Cruz Island isn't just about the fox. The Nature Conservancy has 30 war on a multitude of invasive species here, from sheep to plants to the 31 Argentine ant. "Our philosophy with the island has always been, 'OK, 32 the threats and let the island go back to what it was,'" says ecologist Christina Boser. And it appears to be working. Native plants are coming back, and the fox once again bounds about carefree.

But keeping those foxes from harm will occupy Boser and her colleagues for years to come. You see, humans are still allowed on Santa Cruz Island, and they bring dogs. So Boser has to vaccinate her foxes against various diseases. "We're obligated to keep a pulse on the population for at least five years after the foxes are delisted," says Boser. That includes tagging the foxes and 33 their numbers to ensure nothing goes wrong.

This is the story of the little fox that has come back, and the people who have 34 their lives to protecting it. This is the story of wildlife conservation in the age of mass 35 .

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| A) aggressive | I) hinders |
| B) chaos | J) mammal |
| C) configuration | K) monitoring |
| D) declared | L) predators |
| E) dedicated | M) remove |
| F) dwells | N) tempt |
| G) extinction | O) underlying |
| H) fierce | |