

CASE
STUDY

Hands-on Support to Protect Eastern Joshua Trees

Equinox Gold's Castle Mountain Mine team is supporting critical environmental conservation research to benefit the Eastern Joshua tree.

While the Joshua tree is an iconic image of the southwestern U.S. landscape, it faces numerous threats. For example, the Western Joshua subspecies is at risk from habitat contraction, low germination rates and high mortality levels, and the Eastern Joshua subspecies, found on Castle Mountain Mine lands, faces the emerging risk of habitat loss due to wildfires. In 2023, the York Fire adjacent to the Castle Mountain Mine site resulted in the loss of almost 100,000 acres of pristine Joshua tree habitat.

In recognition of these risks, Equinox Gold welcomed the opportunity to partner with the Desert Research Institute (DRI), the non-profit research arm of the Nevada System of Higher Education, on a research project to benefit the species. As part of the multi-year project, researchers are investigating Joshua tree germination, emergence and establishment – scientific knowledge that is critical to help a species that successfully establishes new seedlings only a few times each decade.

Equinox Gold's Castle Mountain team has collected and preserved Eastern Joshua tree seeds during two seeding events since 2017.

In addition to collecting approximately 500 pounds of seeds, they have worked alongside DRI scientists to safely store and prepare the seeds for planting at the Castle Mountain Mine greenhouse.

This meticulous process continued in 2023, as the team prepared 540 seedling cartons and performed germination treatments. The team will also track the seedlings' growth and survivorship as they are transplanted over the next two years.

Equinox Gold has committed \$150,000 over the course of this three-year research partnership with DRI, in addition to contributing greenhouse facility access and our employees' time. The Castle Mountain team is proud to be part of this important work to ensure the survival of the beautiful Joshua tree.



CASE
STUDY

Evaluating Our Habitat Restoration Work in Mexico

Restoring an ecosystem to its pre-development state can take many years and involves the patient application and testing of both proven and new techniques. Equinox Gold has been monitoring wildlife populations around our Los Filos Mine for the past three years to assess the success of the Company's land remediation projects.

Los Filos Mine is situated in Mexico's Guerrero State, a tropical region with an abundance of bird species that thrive only in the humid Sierra Madre del Sur mountains and the semi-arid Balsas Basin. During 2023, to help assess site rehabilitation work performed since 2017, our environmental team and contract biologists conducted flora and fauna sampling to evaluate wildlife populations on reforested areas of the mine. During the 10-day project, the team reported more than 827 sightings of 83 bird species and evidence of 10 other types of wildlife.

These findings, which complement increased, informal day-to-day wildlife observations by Equinox Gold employees, suggest that wildlife is indeed returning to the area, likely due to the increase in available shelter, water and food created by our habitat restoration work. The growing presence of animal populations is gratifying to the Equinox Gold team, who work diligently

to perform land restoration work. It also bodes well for continued, natural habitat regeneration, since the returning wildlife can further support the seed dispersal needed for native vegetation to spread. We are proud that a helping hand from Equinox Gold is enabling this unique ecosystem to restore itself to a healthy, natural state.

