Rocky Mountain
National Park

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

- Reduce the impacts of elk on vegetation

- Restore, to the extent possible, the natural range of variability in elk population size and distribution and affected plant communities

- Provide for continued elk viewing opportunities.

NEED FOR THE PLAN

The elk herd in the vicinity of RMNP and Estes Park is larger, less migratory, and more concentrated than it would be under natural conditions. This has resulted in:

Declining aspen and willow communities and grasslands grazed at high levels.

The herd concentrates in areas of RMNP and Estes Park in the winter, where elk strip vegetation, cause property damage, and pose an increasing threat to tourists and residents.

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PLAN OBJECTIVES

1. Restore and/or maintain the elk population to what would be expected under natural conditions to the extent possible.

2. Restore and/or maintain the natural range of variation in vegetation conditions on the elk range, to the extent possible.

3. Opportunistically collect information to understand chronic wasting disease.

4. Ensure that strategies and objectives of this plan/EIS do not conflict with those of chronic wasting disease management.

5. Continue to provide elk viewing opportunities.

6. Recognize the natural, social, cultural, and economic significance of the elk population.

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Next Steps

Planning Activity	
FALL 2003	Initiate project and conduct scoping on issues and concerns.
WINTER 2003/2004 SUMMER 2004	Develop draft alternatives. Conduct scoping on draft alternatives.
SPRING 2006	Publish the draft plan and EIS. Conduct public meetings.
SUMMER 2006	Review, consolidate, and respond to public comments.
WINTER 2006/2007	Finalize plan and EIS and publish ROD.

YOUR COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 4TH

How to Provide Written Comments	
	Comment forms available here at the meeting
	On the internet at the NPS planning website http://parkplanning.nps.gov/romo
	Send or fax comments to park
	Hand deliver to park headquarters