

Executive Summary 2024 Elizabeth Deer Management Plan:

Program History:

This program was developed in direct response to a long-term history of ongoing human safety, conflict, and deer herd health concerns in Town. Prior to 2014 the Town and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) had taken an education only approach toward deer management. In approximately 2011 the Town found it necessary to institute an ordinance to prohibit the intentional feeding of deer. Human safety issues resulting from deer, mostly traffic accidents continued to occur as did nuisance conflicts. CPW also began to assess the health of the herd based upon population counts, reproductive rates, animal size / weights, and overall appearance.

Given the trends seen this Deer Management Program was developed in 2014 and has been in place annually ever since. The past decade of active deer management has shown improvements in the metrics used to monitor the program and have generally been seen as a positive for the community.

2024:

Harvest objective for 2023 was 10 deer after showing a slight increase in the deer population over the past several years.

- Actual program harvest in 2024 in Town was zero deer.
- Number of deer put down by CPW increased noticeably in 2024.

No safety issues or conflicts within the community

New recruits participating in the program resulted in a “learning curve” for 2024:

- 3 of 6 program participants were new to the program
- Changes in deer movement patterns and recreational activity within the Town challenged participants

5 year Mandatory CWD monitoring showed possible increase in CWD within Elbert county. Deer feeding is an increasing problem and is closely associated with CWD prevalence.

2025:

Recommend to continue the program to meet population maintenance and herd health goals.

Proposed harvest of 10 animals in 2025.