

## **Executive Summary 2023 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.

### **2023:**

Harvest objective for 2023 was 7 deer after showing a slight increase in the deer population over the past several years.

- Actual harvest in 2023 in Town was three deer.

No safety issues or conflicts within the community

New recruits participating in the program resulted in a “learning curve” for 2023:

- 3 of 6 program participants were new to the program
- Changes in deer movement patterns challenged participants

### **2024:**

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

Proposed harvest of 7 animals in 2023.