



# Valles Caldera National Preserve Management Strategies

August 27, 2015

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

Santa Fe, NM

A photograph of a herd of elk in a field. The elk are of various sizes and colors, some with large antlers. They are standing in a line across a field of dry, golden-brown grass. The background is a vast, open landscape under a clear sky.

# NPS Transition

- December 19, 2014 Congress established VCNP as a unit of the National Park System
- 3 year to complete management plan
- Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping **Shall** be permitted
- Any limitations **Shall** be in consultation with the Department

A photograph of a herd of elk in a dry, golden-brown field. The elk are scattered across the frame, with some facing left and some facing right. One elk in the center has large, dark antlers. The background is a vast, open field under a clear sky.

# NPS Transition: Elk Hunting

- NPS takes over management of VCNP on Oct. 1, 2015
- This year elk hunts will be the same
- Worked with NPS to determine 2016-2018 proposals
  - Licenses to be administered through Big Game Draw
- Consistency of regulations on and off Preserve
  - Fewer individual hunts w/same number of licenses

# Public comment on elk hunting

7 public comments received to date

- opposed to putting VCNP into NMDGF Big Game Draw



## Elk Season Structure: Current & Proposed

- Currently 235 licenses; Proposed 245 (increase of 10 ES Archery)
  - Current: 50 MB Licenses  
35 ES Archery licenses  
155 A Licenses
  - Proposed: 50 MB Licenses  
45 ES Archery Licenses  
155 A Licenses
- Currently 15 different hunts; Proposed 10



# NPS Transition: Turkey Hunting

- Eliminate over-the-counter spring turkey hunt
- Add 20 draw licenses for 6B: 4/15-4/30



**Questions?**

# Elk Season Structure: Current & Proposed

Current Season Structure					Proposed Season Structure				
	2015-2016	Wpn	# Lic			2016-2017	Wpn	# Lic	
6B:VCNP	9/2-9/8	2	15	ES	6B:VCNP	9/1-9/14	2	20	ES
6B:VCNP	9/12-9/18	2	15	ES	6B:VCNP	9/15-9/24	2	20	ES
6B:VCNP mzl only	10/3-10/7	3	15	MB	6B:VCNP mzl only	10/8-10/12	3	15	MB
6B:VCNP mzl only	10/3-10/7	3	10	A					
6B:VCNP	10/10-10/14	1	15	MB	6B:VCNP	10/15-10/19	1	15	MB
6B:VCNP YO	10/10-10/14	1	10	A	6B:VCNP YO	11/26-11/30	1	35	A
6B:VCNP	10/17-10/21	1	11	MB	6B:VCNP	10/22-10/26	1	20	MB
6B:VCNP	10/17-10/21	1	9	MB					
6B:VCNP MI	10/23-10/26	1	15	A	6B:VCNP MI	10/29-11/2	1	15	A
6B:VCNP M/Y	10/30-11/2	1	20	A					
6B:VCNP veterans only	11/6-11/9	1	20	A					
6B:VCNP	11/13-11/16	1	20	A	6B:VCNP	11/5-11/9	1	35	A
6B:VCNP	11/20-11/23	1	20	A	6B:VCNP	11/19-11/23	1	35	A
6B:VCNP	11/27-11/30	1	20	A	6B:VCNP	12/3-12/7	1	35	A
6B:VCNP	12/4-12/7	1	20	A					
<b>TOTAL LICENSES</b>			<b>235</b>					<b>245</b>	