



# Alternative 5

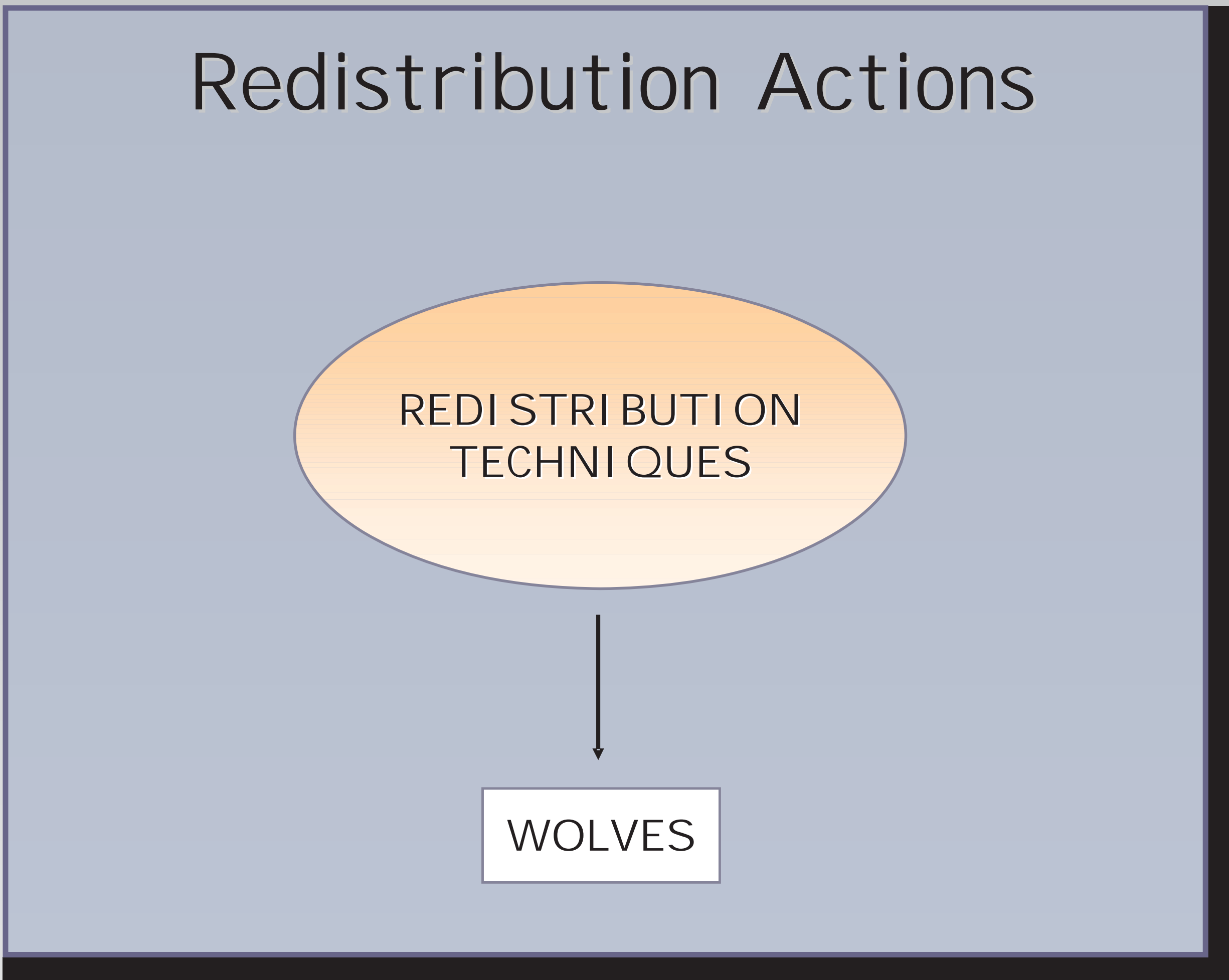
Reduction of the elk population by lethal reduction and redistribution by wolves

## Elk Population Management

- Population target - 1,200 to 2,100 elk
- Lethal reduction by NPS staff or contractors
  - Year 1 – 4: 50 to 500 elk lethally removed per year to reach population size of 1,600 to 2,100
  - Year 5 – 20: 0 to 100 elk lethally removed per year

## Vegetation Management

- No fencing of suitable willow habitat due to the effectiveness of wolves in redistributing elk



## Redistribution with Wolves

- NPS will use a phased adaptive approach
- Release 2 pairs of wolves into park (Phase 1)
- Behavior and movements of wolves intensively managed
- Wolf population allowed to increase to a maximum of 14 (Phase 2)

## Management Criteria To Use Wolves

- Wolves would be restricted to within park boundaries
- Wolves must find and kill elk as a primary food source
- Wolves must effectively redistribute elk

Due to the uncertainty of this alternative, if criteria are not met, management of elk and vegetation would rely on lethal reduction actions as described in Alternative 2.



## Actions Common to All Action Alternatives

### Elk Population Management

- All management actions would occur within the park
- Manage elk within natural range 1,200 to 2,100 animals
- Distribution of elk would increase using various combination of methods
- Lethal reduction would occur under all alternatives to some degree
  - Carcass disposal

Some calf carcasses will be left in the field

Meat will be donated to the extent possible

Remainder will be properly disposed

### Vegetation Management

- Temporary fencing could be used to protect up to 545 acres of aspen clones
- Restorative techniques would be applied when vegetation is adequately protected from elk herbivory
  - Prescribed fire
  - Mechanical thinning
  - Planting willow cuttings
- Beaver would be reintroduced if needed

### Additional Management Actions

- Adaptive management
- Monitor conditions
- Opportunistically collect CWD prevalence data
- Enhance public education



## Alternatives Eliminated from Further Consideration

- **Special Hunts**
- **Maximum Habitat Manipulation**
- **Translocation of Elk**
- **Shipment to Euthanizing Facility**
- **Self-sustaining Wolf Population**