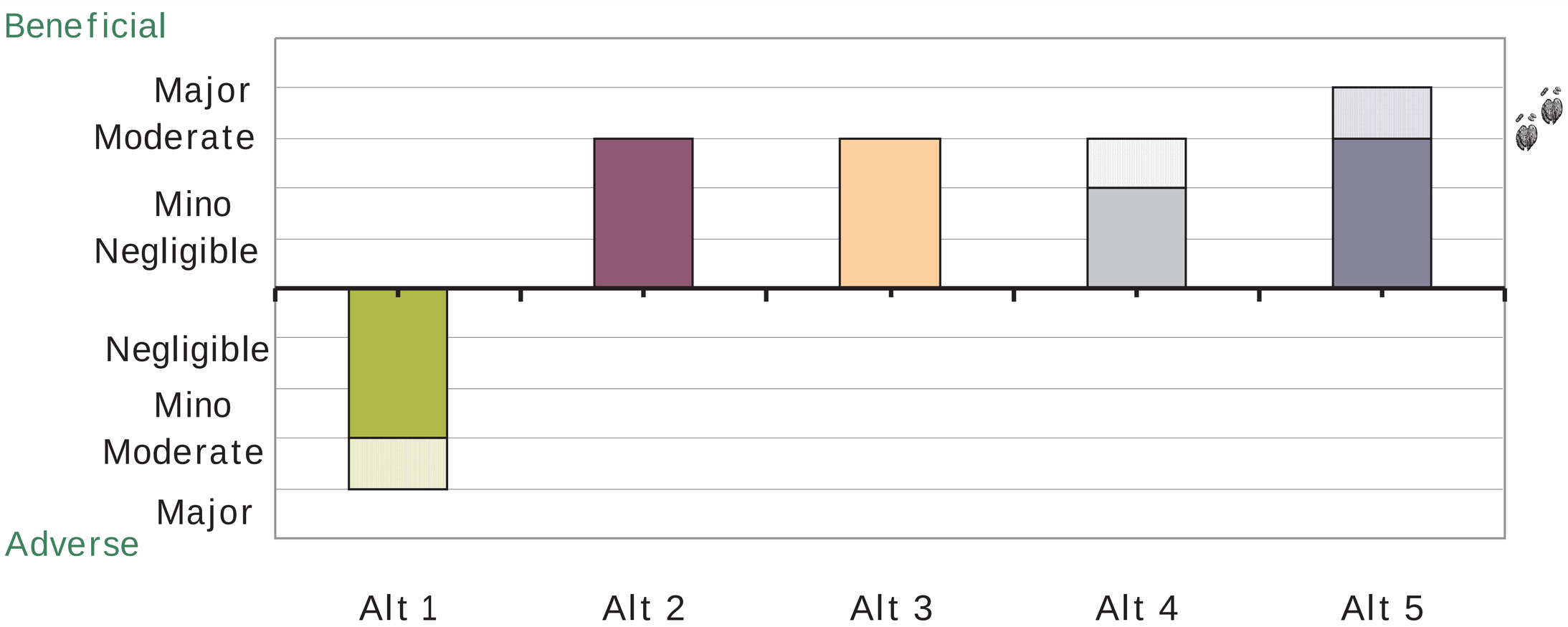
Rocky Mountain National Park

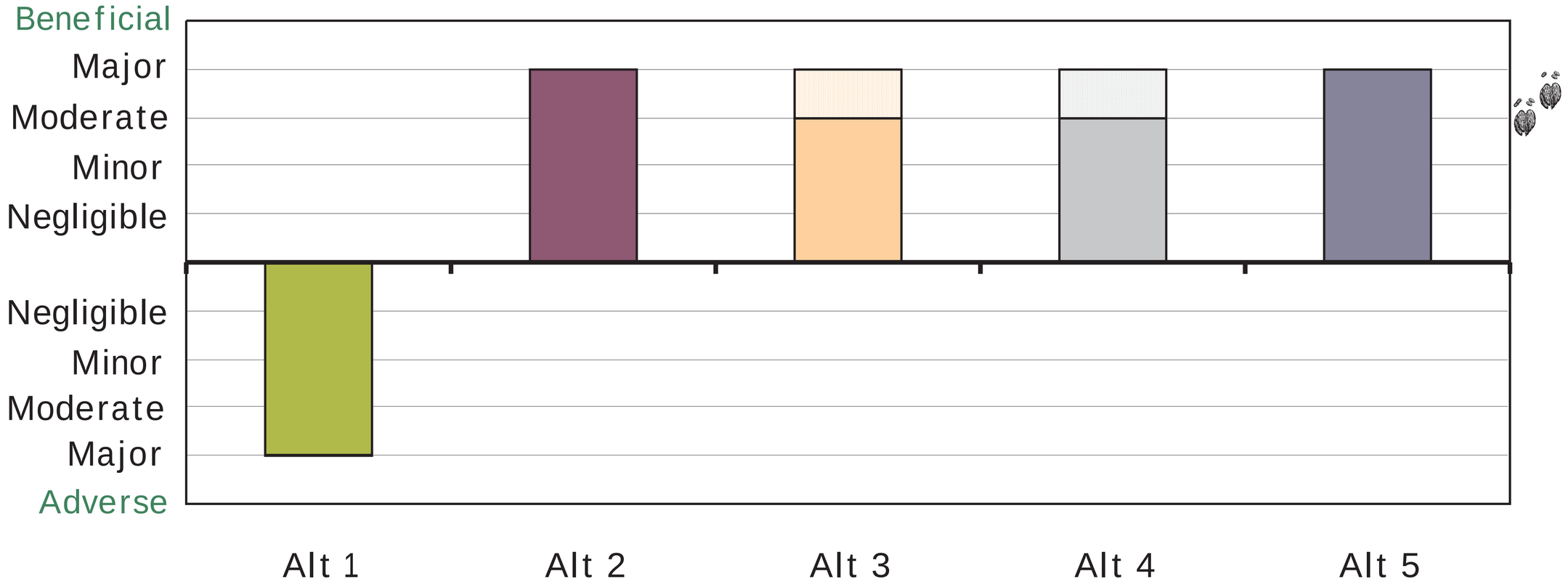
Impacts on Elk Population



Alternative 1	• Size and density fluctuate outside natural range of variation • Less migratory, more sedentary, less vigilant • Overall, moderate to major, long-term, adverse effects
Alternative 2	• Rapidly achieve population size and density within the natural range of variation • More migratory, less sedentary, and more vigilant • Overall moderate, long-term, benefit • Short-term adverse effects from stress caused by management activities
Alternative 3	• Slowly achieve population size and density to the natural range of variation • More migratory, less sedentary, and more vigilant • Overall moderate, long-term, benefit • Short-term adverse effects from stress caused by management activities
Alternative 4	• Slowly achieve population size and density to the natural range of variation • More migratory, less sedentary, and more vigilant • Population less wild due to fertility control • Minor to moderate, long-term, benefit • Short-term adverse effects from stress caused by management activities
Alternative 5	• Rapidly achieve population size and density within the natural range of variation • More migratory, less sedentary, and more vigilant • Increased wildness, most reflective of natural conditions • Overall moderate to major, long-term, benefit • Short-term adverse effects from stress caused by management activities

Rocky Mountain National Park

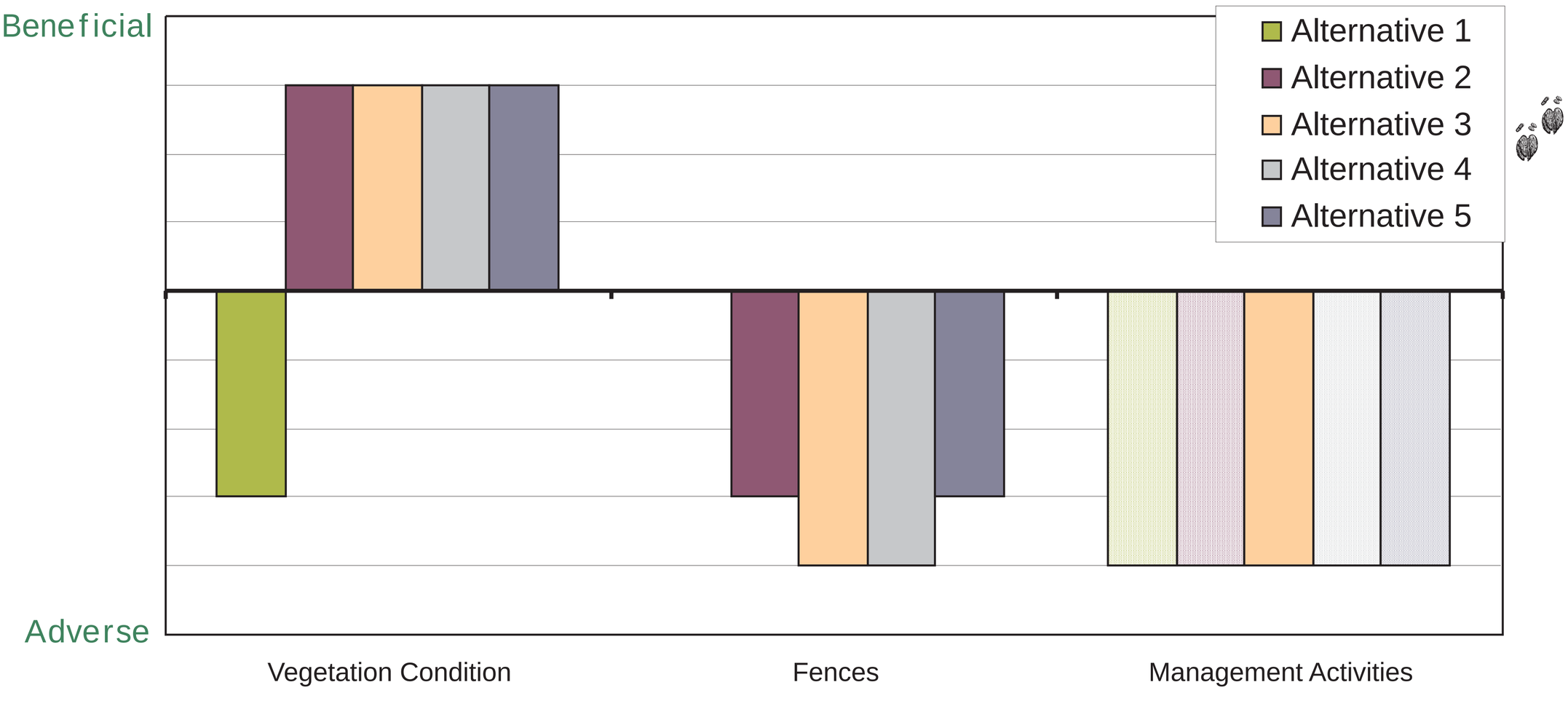
Impacts on Vegetation



Alternative 1	• Aspen clone may be permanently lost • Riparian willow would continue to convert to grassland with reduced coverage, stand size, and complexity • Grasslands continued to be grazed at high levels • Overall, long-term major adverse effect, resulting in impairment of vegetation resources
Alternative 2	• Prevention of loss aspen clones in elk concentration areas Increased regeneration, cover, and stand complexity • Riparian willow increase in cover, height, and complexity; reversed conversion of willow to grassland • Increased diversity in the levels of grazing in grasslands across the landscape (some areas grazed heavier; some areas grazed lighter) • More reflective of natural conditions; overall, long-term major, benefit
Alternative 3	• Prevention of loss aspen clones in elk concentration areas Increased regeneration, cover, and stand complexity • Riparian willow increase in cover, height, and complexity; reversed conversion of willow to grassland • Increased diversity in the levels of grazing in grasslands across the landscape (some areas grazed heavier; some areas grazed lighter) • Benefits inside fenced areas would be greater and evident faster than outside fenced areas • Less reflective of natural conditions; long-term moderate to major, benefit
Alternative 4	• Prevention of loss aspen clones in elk concentration areas Increased regeneration, cover, and stand complexity • Riparian willow increase in cover, height, and complexity; reversed conversion of willow to grassland • Increased diversity in the levels of grazing in grasslands across the landscape (some areas grazed heavier; some areas grazed lighter) • Benefits inside fenced areas would be greater and evident faster than outside fenced areas • Less reflective of natural conditions; long-term moderate to major, benefit
Alternative 5	• Prevention of loss aspen clones in elk concentration areas Increased regeneration, cover, and stand complexity • Riparian willow increase in cover, height, and complexity; reversed conversion of willow to grassland • Increased diversity in the levels of grazing in grasslands across the landscape (some areas grazed heavier; some areas grazed lighter) • Most reflective of natural conditions; overall, long-term major, benefit

Rocky Mountain National Park

Impacts on Wilderness



Recovery of Vegetation and Ecosystem	• Alternative 1 - Continued degradation of vegetation in wilderness - moderate adverse effects • Alternatives 2 through 5 - Recovery of willow and aspen and restoration of fire to the area – long-term, moderate benefit • Alternatives 2 and 5, recovery would be most reflective of natural conditions • Alternative 5 – The release of wolves into the park, an element of the natural ecosystem, major long-term benefit
Fences	• Alternatives 2 and 5 - Long-term, moderate, adverse effects from fences installed around aspen in wilderness • Alternatives 3 and 4 - Long-term, major, adverse effects from increased level of fencing installed around willow and aspen in wilderness
Management Activities Including Use of Helicopters	• Alternative 1 - Monitoring of elk on foot and with helicopters – negligible to major adverse effects • Alternatives 2 through 5 – Helicopter and management actions, short-term negligible to major, adverse effects; level of impact decreases with increased distance from source of noise - Use of helicopters for transporting fencing materials and elk monitoring - Removal of elk using suppressed and unsuppressed 'noisy' weapons and darts Redistribution activities to reduce elk densities - Alternative 4 – Management activities to treat elk with fertility control - Alternative 5 – Additional use of helicopters for monitoring wolf movements and activities