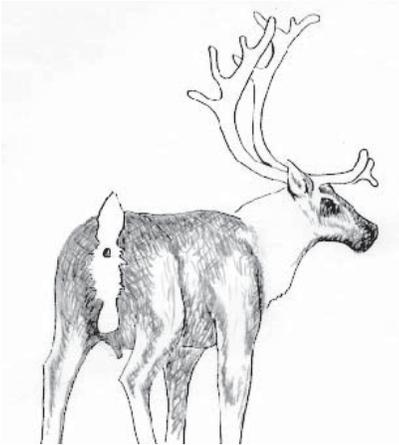


Identifying a legal caribou

The caribou bag limit is restricted to one sex for at least a portion of the season in part or all of Units 9, 12, 13, and Units 15 through 26.

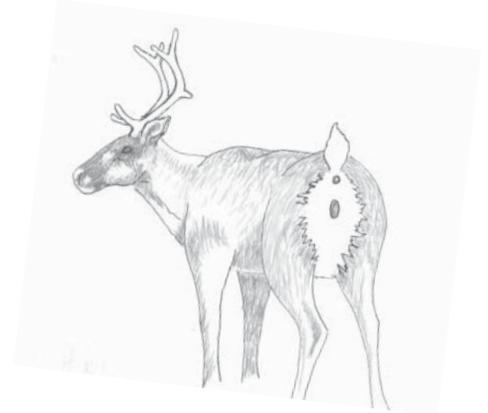


Bull

1. The best method to identify bulls is to determine the presence of a penis sheath. On young bulls (one to three years old) the sex organs are less apparent. The white rump patch is narrower on bulls than cows.
2. Antlers are well developed (3+ feet) in mature bulls. Young bulls typically have smaller antlers with relatively small brow tine/shovel development, and often cannot be distinguished from a cow using antler development alone.

Caribou Hunters:

Know Your Targets
Cows and young bulls may look alike when their tails are down.



Cow

1. The vaginal opening (the lower and larger of two dark oval areas) is apparent when viewed carefully from the rear. The white rump patch is wider on cows than bulls.
2. The antlers of cows are smaller than those of most bulls, with the exception of many yearling bulls and a small percentage of 2-year-old bulls.

Most cow caribou have antlers from June through April of the following year. Bull caribou have antlers from May through part of the winter. The oldest bulls drop antlers first, sometimes as early as November, while young bulls (yearlings and 2-year-olds) may not drop their antlers until April.

Special meat salvage requirements:

Edible meat must be salvaged. In addition, caribou taken before October 1 in Unit 9B, Unit 13, Unit 17, Unit 18, those portions of Unit 19A within the Holitna/Hoholitna Controlled Use Area, Unit 19B, and Unit 21A the edible meat of the front quarters and hindquarters must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat has been transported from the field or is processed for human consumption, and in Unit 13, Unit 23 and Unit 24, the edible meat of the ribs also must remain naturally attached to the bone. (See *Salvage*, page 21.)

Approximate Weights of Some Alaska Big Game Species

This table is an estimate of the maximum weight that the hunter might expect to handle and transport from the field for Alaska big game animals. Actual weights will vary.

species	live adult weight (lbs)	carcass weight (lbs.) ^a	boned-out carcass (lbs.) ^b
moose	1650	990	564
caribou	500	300	171
bison	2000	1200	684
elk	1350	810	462
mt. goat	280	168	96
Dall sheep	230	138	79
muskox	800	480	274
Sitka black-tailed deer	200	120	68
black bear	350	210	120
brown bear	1250	750	428

^a Weight following removal of viscera, head, hide, and lower legs.

^b Weight of carcass meat after all bones are removed.

