

Identifying a legal moose in antler restricted hunts

In many units regulations restrict the harvest of bull moose to a specific antler size or configuration. The accompanying illustrations provide general assistance to hunters in field identification of moose antler size and configuration. It must be emphasized, however, that moose antlers vary considerably. Each hunter is responsible for determining if a moose is legal before attempting to take it.

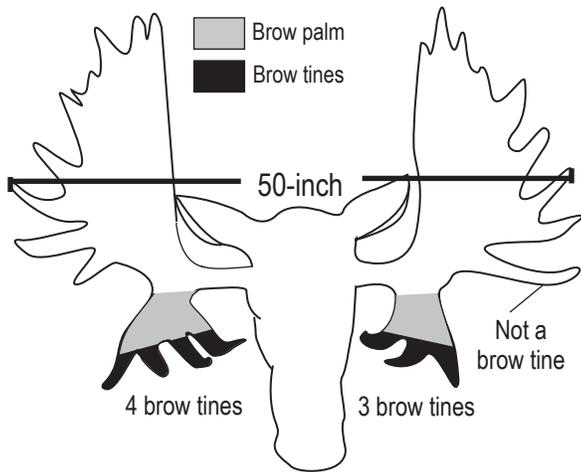
Legal bull moose in areas with a 50-inch antler OR number of brow tines restriction:

Antler restrictions are defined by both an antler spread and a brow tine restriction. The brow tine portion of the 50-inch antler restriction is intended to help verify a legal moose if the hunter is uncertain about antler spread. If uncertain about the antler spread, count brow tines. If uncertain about the number of brow tines, don't shoot!

50-inch antlers means the antlers of a bull moose with a spread of 50 inches or more measured in a straight line perpendicular to the center line of the skull. (See figure 1 below.)

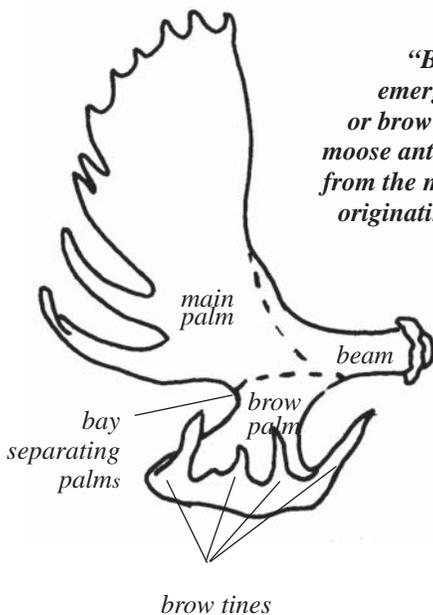
In some areas of the state, bulls with antlers less than 50 inches wide are legal if they have at least 3 brow tines on EITHER side. In other areas, bulls with antlers less than 50 inches wide must have at least 4 brow tines on EITHER side to be legal. Be sure to check the regulations for the brow tine minimum requirement in the area you are hunting.

However, if the antlers are 50 or more inches wide, it doesn't matter how many brow tines are present, the moose is legal. Likewise, if the moose has the required number of brow tines, it is legal regardless of the antler spread.



To accurately identify and count brow tines, bulls must be viewed from the front; viewing from the side runs a risk of counting main palm points as brow tines. On bulls with substantially less than 50-inch antler spreads, distinguishing legal brow tines can be difficult. Brow tines emerge from the brow palm or from near the base of the antler and typically project forward.

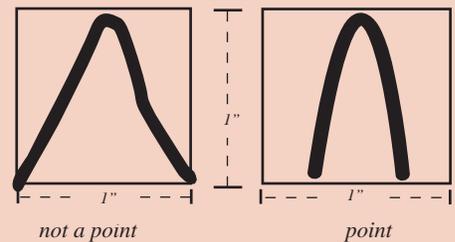
Antlers must be salvaged where there are antler restrictions; such antlers must remain naturally attached to the unbroken or uncut skull plate if the required number of brow tines aren't present. If antlers must be salvaged, they may not be altered prior to completion of all salvage requirements.



“Brow tine” means a tine emerging from the first branch or brow palm on the main beam of a moose antler; the brow palm is separated from the main palm by a wide bay; a tine originating in or after this bay is not a brow tine.

Figure 1.

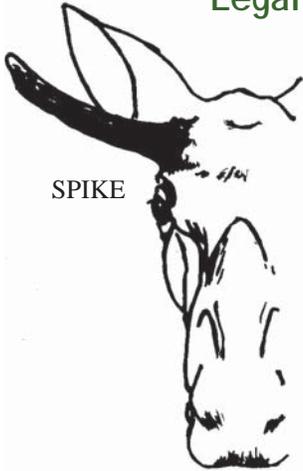
Identifying a point or tine:



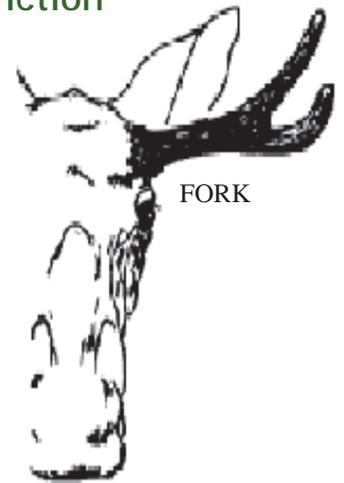
A point or tine is an antler projection at least one inch long, and longer than it is wide, with the width measured one inch or more from the tip.

To better understand the spike-fork 50-inch antler restriction, check out the video *‘Is This Moose Legal?’* at your nearest ADF&G office. For some hunts, viewing of this video is required prior to hunting.

Legal bull moose in areas with a spike-fork restriction

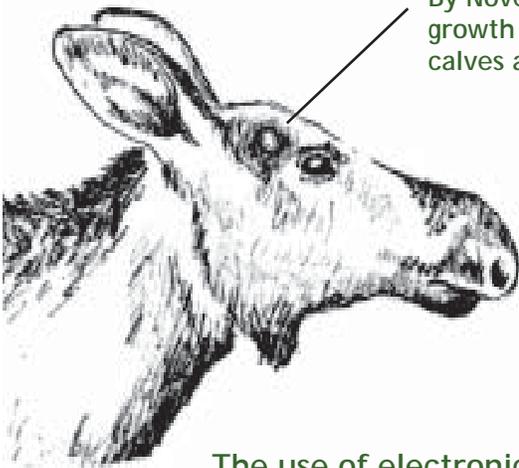


A bull is legal if it has one antler on either side that is a SPIKE (1 point) or a FORK (2 points). The antler on the other side can be any configuration. Bulls with palmated antlers (paddles) seldom are legal under the “spike or fork” requirement.



If antlers must be salvaged, they may not be altered prior to completion of all salvage requirements. A damaged, broken or altered antler is not considered a spike-fork antler in units 1B, that portion of 1C south of Port Hobart, including all Port Hobart drainages, and 3.

By November, some male calves have a small amount of antler growth (1-2 inches) covered with hair and skin. These are still calves and are not legal in a spike-fork hunt.



Special meat salvage requirements:

Edible meat must be salvaged. In addition, moose 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, and Unit 19B, 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 Units 13, 21, 23 and 24, the edible meat of the ribs also must remain naturally attached to the bone. (See *Salvage*, page 21.)

The use of electronic moose calls for hunting is prohibited



David Smothers harvested this 68" moose near Stephan Lake.

Hunters: You can help fight hunger in Alaska

Hunters have donated thousands of pounds of wild meat to charitable organizations in recent years. Such donations of unprocessed meat are legal and can represent a significant contribution to their programs. Hunters are encouraged to consider donating surplus or unneeded moose, caribou, or deer carcasses to Food Bank of Alaska. With prior notification, some air carriers will fly donated carcasses to Anchorage at no cost to the hunter. Check with air carrier(s) in your hunt area before taking the carcass to an airport for flight information and other details. Food Bank of Alaska will pay for processing costs in Anchorage. The finished product will be donated to shelters, soup kitchens and more than 250 other agencies serving the needy statewide. Use the Transfer of Possession form on the inside back cover of this publication or create your own to donate the meat to Food Bank of Alaska. For further information on donating unprocessed game, call 907-272-3663.