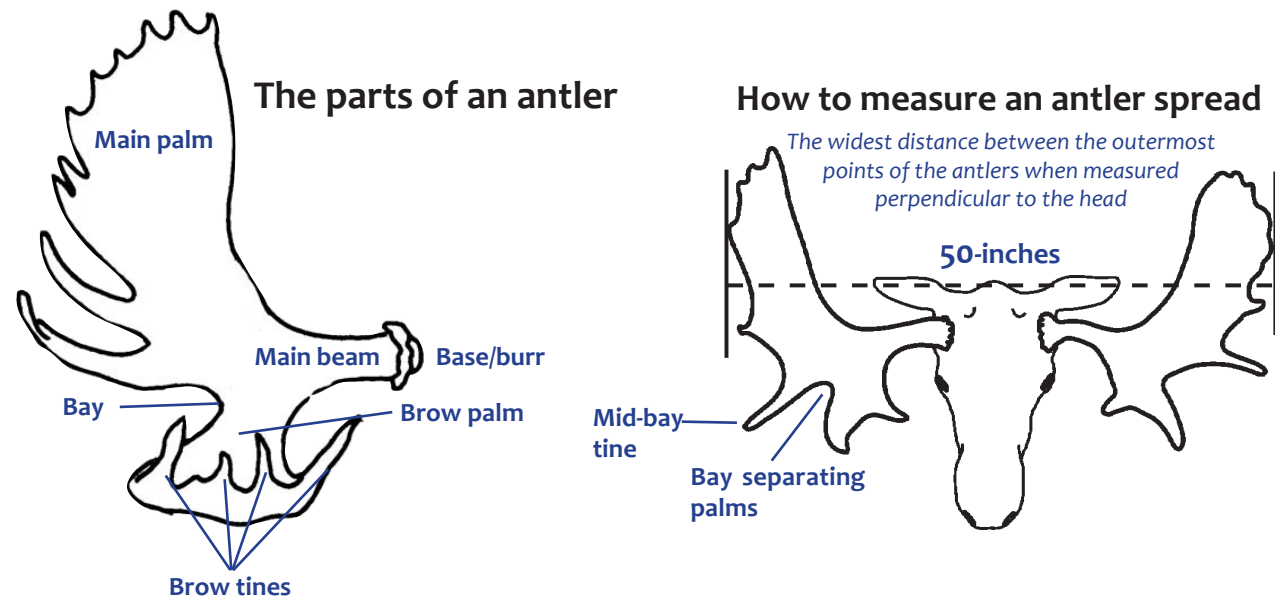


Moose Antler Terminology and Definitions



Antler spread- is the widest distance between the outermost points of the antlers when measured perpendicular to the head. The spread increases with age for the first 5-8 years, then changes little after that.

Base/burr- a raised bony rim of the main beam closest to the skull.

Main beam- grows out from the base and supports the brow palm and the main palm.

Palm- the flat areas of the antler extending from the beam.

Main palm- the outermost and usually widest portion of the antler located beyond the brow palm.

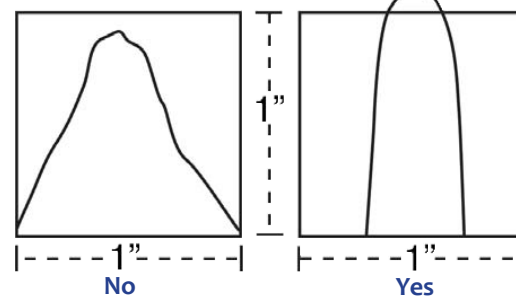
Brow palm- usually the first antler appendage on the main beam which extends forward.

Bay- wide indentation in the antler often separating the brow palm from the main palm.

Tine/point- an antler projection at least 1 inch long, and longer than it is wide, with the width measured 1 inch or more from the tip.

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.

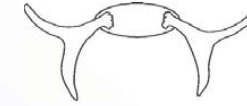
What is a tine? A tine, also called a point, must be at least 1 inch long, and longer than it is wide.



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Think before you shoot! Are the antlers small or large?

If small...



- Some male calves have a small amount of antler growth (1-2 inches) covered with hair. Moose calves are **NOT** legal under spike-fork regulations.
- Do the antlers have a spike (1 point) or a fork (2 points) on at least one side?

If large...



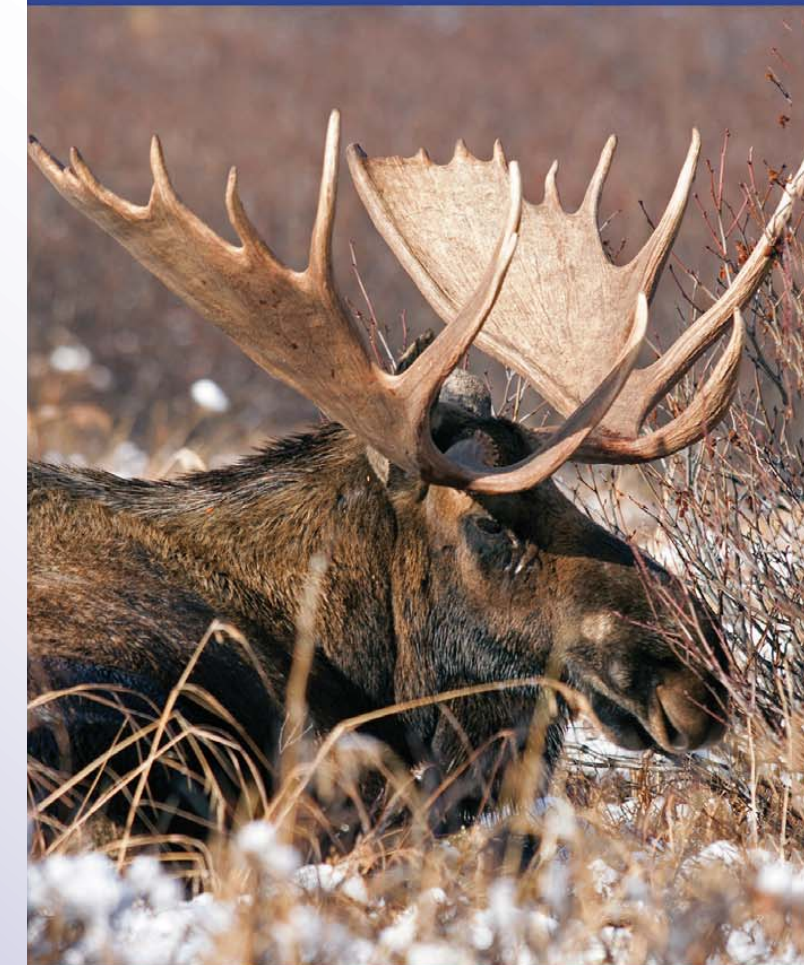
- Is the antler spread clearly over 50 inches? 50-inch antlers means a spread of 50 inches or more measured in a straight line perpendicular to the center line of the skull.
- How many brow tines or points are on each antler? In some areas of the state, bulls with antlers less than 50 inches wide are legal if they have at least 3 brow tines on either side. In other areas, bulls must have at least 4 brow tines on either side to be legal. Be sure to check the regulations for the minimum brow tine requirement in the area you are hunting.
- Are the brow palms clearly separate from the main palm? If not, **don't shoot!**
- Does one tine on either side emerge from within or after the bay separating the brow palm from the main palm? If so, this is a mid-antler/mid-bay tine and NOT a brow tine.

When in doubt, don't shoot!

We need your help in sustaining healthy moose populations. Take your time to be certain you are shooting a legal moose. Not all moose fit neatly into a single category. It is up to you, as the hunter, to shoot only moose that fit the legal description. Review this brochure and check out the video, "Is This Moose Legal?" at your nearest ADF&G office or online at hunt.alaska.gov.

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 are not present.

Moose Hunting in Antler Restricted Areas



Know what's legal and think before you shoot



What are antler restricted hunts?

Many Alaska game management units employ selective harvest strategies to manage moose populations. Antler restricted hunts are one such strategy. 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 the identification of moose antlers. It must be emphasized that moose antlers vary considerably. Each hunter is responsible for determining if a moose is legal before attempting to take it.

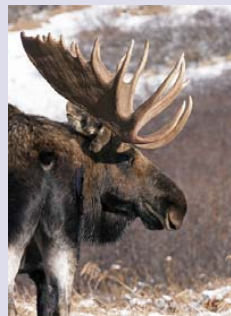
Antler restrictions are defined by restrictions to the number of points, width of the antler spread, and number of brow tines. Estimating a 50-inch antler spread can be extremely difficult. The brow tine portion of the 50-inch antler restriction is intended to help verify a legal moose if the hunter is uncertain about antler spread. If uncertain about the number of brow tines or spread size, don't shoot!

Check the regulations to see which, if any, antler restrictions apply in the area you are hunting. The way moose antlers develop varies from region to region and antler restrictions may vary from one hunt area to the next.

How does it work?

Antler restrictions protect a portion of the bull population by allowing hunters to select younger and older bulls. This strategy allows for maximum hunt participation while at the same time protects a sufficient number of bulls for breeding.

While there are regional differences, typically about one-half of bull moose in their second year of life (yearlings) have a spiked or forked antler making them legal for harvest in areas restricted by spike or spike-fork rules. The remainder of yearling bulls are NOT legal under this selective strategy and are allowed to remain in the population for breeding and to become larger bulls in future years. For larger bulls, the



50-inch antler spread and/or the brow tine requirement allows the harvest of some large bulls.

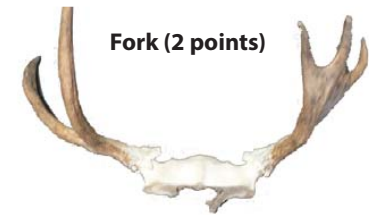
The spike, spike-fork, or 50-inch moose regulations benefit hunters by allowing large numbers of hunters to participate in a long hunting season while assuring that a significant number of bull moose will remain after the season to breed.

Is this moose legal for your hunting unit? Check the regulations.



Spike-fork (1x2)

This moose's right spike is legal under both spike and spike-fork regulations, regardless of the configuration on the other side. The fork on the moose's left side is legal under the spike-fork regulations, regardless of the configuration on the other side.



Fork (2 points)

This moose's right antler has 2 points (fork) making it legal under spike-fork regulations but not under spike regulations. The moose's left antler is palmated and both sides lack brow palms.



2x3 Brow Tine

The brow palms extend forward and are separate from the main palms. This 2 x 3 antler is legal in 3 brow tine restricted areas as it has 3 brow tines on the left side. *However, it would be illegal in a 4 brow tine area.*



4x2 Brow Tine

This moose would be legal in areas restricted by 2, 3, or 4 brow tines.



3 Point, not 50" spread

The antler has three points on both sides, and the antler spread does NOT measure at least 50 inches making this an illegal moose in antler-restricted hunt areas.



2x2 Brow Tine

This is a 2 x 2 brow tine bull. The 3rd point on the moose's left antler (see arrow) is not a brow tine; it is a mid-antler/mid-bay tine. This moose is legal in 2 brow tine areas, but not legal in areas restricted by 3 or 4 brow tines.



2x2 Brow Tine

The points (see arrows) are not part of the brow palm, and therefore are not considered brow tines. There are only 2 brow tines on each palm, making it legal only in hunts restricted by 2 brow tines.



3x3 Brow Tine

This 3 x 3 brow tine moose would be legal in an area restricted by 3 (but not 4) brow tines. Note that these brow tines are separate from and have a different orientation to the rest of the antler.

What should I look for?

Spike and Fork

- Be certain there is NOT a second or third point emerging from the main beams. These can be difficult to see when located close to the head. Look at the antlers from several angles before you shoot.
- Remember, any antler projection that is at least 1 inch long and longer than it is wide, will count as a point/tine.
- Young bulls with small palmated antlers are seldom legal under spike or fork regulations. Hunters who shoot these bulls risk shooting an illegal moose.

Brow Palm

- A brow palm is typically the first appendage off the main beam and is usually separated from the main palm by a distinct bay. It stands alone as a separate projection.
- A brow palm projects forward at a different angle than the main beam.

Brow Tines

- The brow tines are separated from and have a different orientation than the rest of the antler.
- Brow tines must originate from a brow palm.
- Mid-antler/mid-bay tines are common and do NOT originate from the brow palm.
- To accurately identify and count brow tines, view bulls from front. Viewing only from the side runs a risk of counting other antler points as brow tines.

Palmated Antlers

- A fully palmated antler does not have an obvious separate brow palm. Be very careful determining the number of brow tines present.