

Proposal 121

5 AAC 92.150. Evidence of sex and identity.

Change salvage rules for antlers with a spread of 55" or more as follows:

What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?

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In hunts with antler/horn restrictions, antlers/horns must be salvaged and may not be altered unless required by permit conditions. Antlers must remain naturally attached to the unbroken/uncut skull plate if the required number of brow tines **are not** [AREN'T] present **unless the animal has a spread of 55" or more.**

Page 30 (in bold)

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 **unless antler spread is 55" or more.** If antlers must be salvaged, they may not be altered prior to completion of all salvage requirements **unless antler spread is 55" or more.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

A moose which is clearly legal by spread should not be subject to brow tine restrictions or skull plate/antler alterations.

Justification:

Safety: Large sets of antlers can be very difficult to transport particularly in small planes where they often become dangerous external loads by necessity.

Economics: Large sets of antlers have negative economic impacts on transportation costs to the hunter due to bulk, particularly in aviation.

Taxidermy: Current industry standards can reconstruct animals skull/antlers to their natural state.

Regulations: Page 30 of current regulations state: "However, if the antlers are 50 or more inches wide, it doesn't matter how many brow tines are present, the moose is legal."

The intent of the current 50"/brow tine restriction regulations exist to assess moose antler spread BELOW 50", NOT over 50". It is reasonable to believe the field reconstruction of an altered skull plate and/or antlers of a bull moose 55" or greater would be sufficient to justify a legal moose by spread alone.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

Yes. Several discussions with a former Fish and Wildlife employee and also a former Board of Game member through Michael Litzen of Litzen Guide Service.

Lastly, though I have applied this to 19C/Interior-Arctic regions it may well need to be considered state wide.

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