

Antlerless, Antlered & Antler-Point Restrictions for Elk



ANTLERLESS (COW):

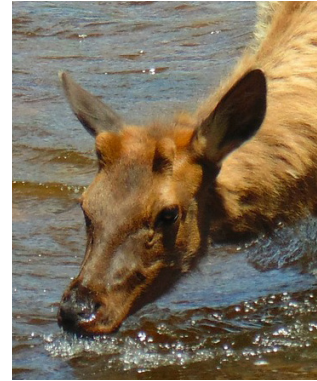
A female animal with no antlers. Antlerless can also mean a young male with no antlers or antlers less than 5 inches long. Any of these would be a legal harvest on an ANTLERLESS (cow) license:



Cow



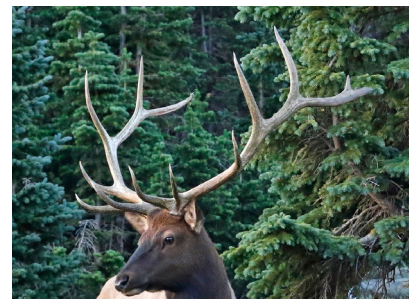
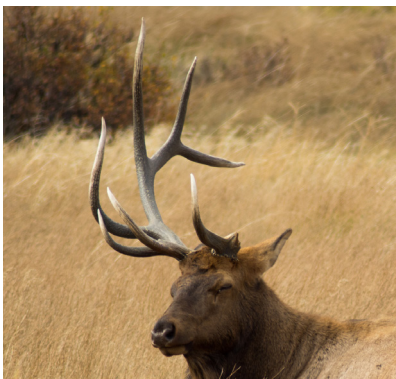
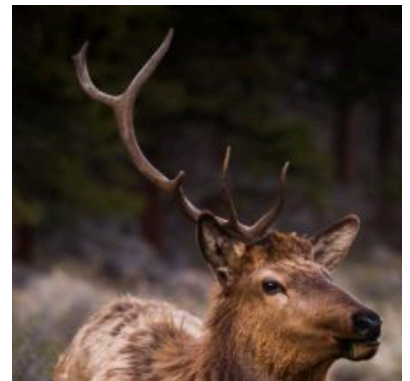
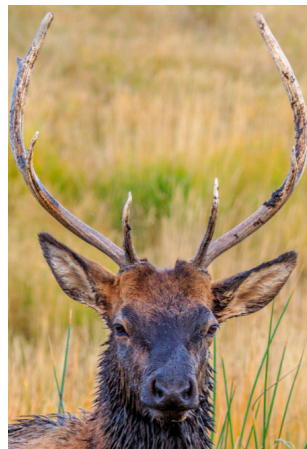
*Calf elk
Unknown sex, but too young
for antler growth yet.*



*Yearling bull
New antler growth less
than 5 inches.*

ANTLERED (BULL):

A male animal with antler(s) at least 5 inches long. Any of the bulls below are considered ANTLERED and would not be legal to harvest on an ANTLERLESS (cow) elk license. However, not all of the bulls below would meet antler-point restrictions that most game management units (GMUs) have for ANTLERED (bull) elk. *See the current Big Game brochure for a list of GMUs with antler-point restrictions.*

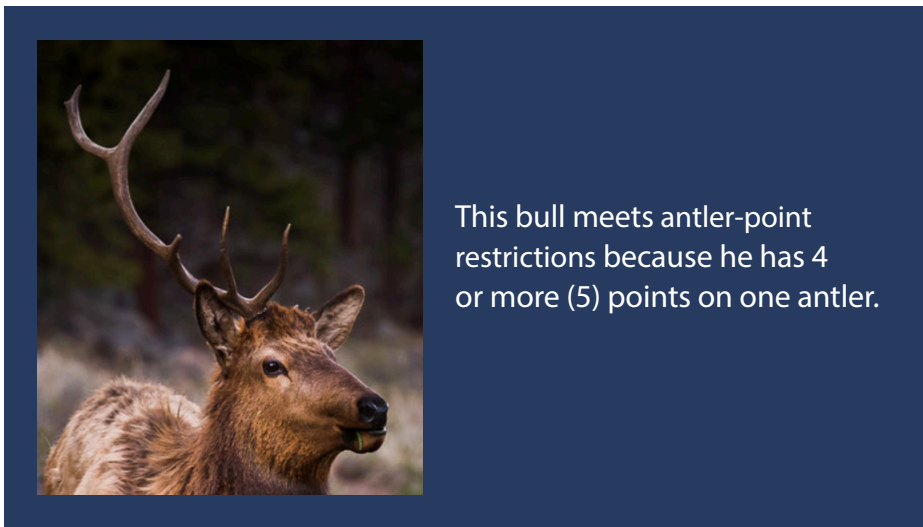


ANTLER-POINT RESTRICTIONS:

In most units, bull elk taken must have 4 points* or more on 1 antler OR must have a brow tine** at least 5 inches long. The intent of the antler-point restriction is to increase the number of branch-antlered bulls reaching two or more years of age.

***Antler point** is a projection of antler at least 1 inch long and which is longer than the width of its base.

****Brow tine** means a projection of the antler at least 5 inches long located on the lower half of the antler.



COMMON QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS

EITHER-SEX LICENSES

Either-sex licenses: a cow or legal bull

- ▶ If you have an either-sex elk license in a GMU that does not have antler-point restrictions, then any elk is legal. See the current Big Game brochure for a list of GMUs with antler-point restrictions.
- ▶ If you have an either-sex elk license in a GMU that **does** have antler-point restrictions, then you can harvest an **antlerless** elk or any bull elk that meets the antler-point restrictions. See the current Big Game brochure for a list of GMUs with antler-point restrictions.

CARCASS TAGS

Don't forget to void your carcass tag immediately upon taking your animal. Tags should be attached to the carcass (**not the head or antlers**) immediately prior to and during transporting in any vehicle or while in camp, residence or place of storage.

EVIDENCE OF SEX REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Evidence of sex must be naturally attached to the carcass after you harvest. Refer to the current Big Game brochure for more details.
- ▶ **Evidence of sex on cows (antlerless):** Attached head. If the head is separated from the carcass, then leave udder (mammary) or vulva attached to the carcass.
- ▶ **Evidence of sex on calves or young of the year (antlerless):** If you harvest a young bull on an antlerless license and they had no antlers or the antlers were less than 5 inches, **it is a legal antlerless harvest.** If the head is separated from the carcass, leave the testicle, scrotum or penis attached to the carcass. The head or skull plate must accompany the carcass to prove it meets the antlerless requirement.
- ▶ **Evidence of sex on bulls (antlered):** Attached head with skull plate and antlers. If the head is separated from the carcass, then leave testicle, scrotum or penis attached to the carcass.
- ▶ **Evidence of sex on bulls (antlered) harvested in a GMU with antler-point restrictions:** Attached head with skull plate and antlers. If the head is separated from the carcass, then leave testicle, scrotum or penis attached to the carcass. The head or skull cap with antlers attached must accompany the carcass to show antler-point restriction compliance.

NOTICE: This document is intended to provide additional resources and information for elk hunters. It is not a legal notice or a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. Copies of statutes and regulations can be obtained from a CPW region or area office, or at: cpw.state.co.us/regulations

For questions, call CPW at 303-297-1192.

Hunting brochures can be found online: cpw.state.co.us/brochures