

SPIKE ELK

502.104 and 502.1045

**REDUCES CONFUSION, MEETS
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

- Reduces likelihood for inadvertent error
- Misidentification has resulted in citation and confiscation
- Increases efficacy of harvest objectives and hunt
- Better manage bull to cow ratios, consistent with management objectives

EXISTING SPIKE DEFINITION

Spike elk means any elk without branching on either antler.



PROPOSED DEFINITION

Spike elk means any elk having at least one antler without branching above the ears.



FEEDBACK FROM UTAH

- Spike bull means a bull elk which has at least one antler beam with no branching above the ears. Branched means a projection on an antler longer than one inch, measured from base to tip.
- Seems to work fairly well although we still have some issues with small branches at the top that a hunter may not see...
- Some biologists don't necessarily like it that a 6 x 1 (not a yearling) can be legally taken on a spike permit...
- ...we have not been able to come up with a better definition that is enforceable.

AN ALTERNATE DEFINITION

Spike elk means any elk having no more than two points above the top of the ear on either antler.



BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES

Department Proposal

- Liberalizes definition and likely to reduce inadvertent errors.
- Meets agency's biological and enforcement objectives.
- Already reviewed by LCB, Commission, and CABs.
- No immediate obstacles to implementation before fall.

Alternate Proposal

- Liberalizes definition and likely to reduce inadvertent errors.
- Meets agency's biological and enforcement objectives.
- Limits take of older bulls with a single broken antler.
- Could be a 3-point bull.
- Has not been reviewed by CABs.
- LCB may require further review if deemed to be substantive change, and may not be in effect by fall.

RECOMMENDATION

Department's proposal remains viable, yet the alternate proposal meets Department objectives as well.

BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES

Department Proposal



Alternate Proposal

