## Alaska Sheep Hunter Survey

#### Resident Sheep Hunter Responses



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Group	Subgroup	Population	Sampled <sup>2</sup>	Valid Responses	Response Rate	Survey Sampling En	rror
Hunted in last 5 years	Res	5,901	1,889	698	37%	±3.5	
	Nonres	1,941	522	269	52%	±5.5	
	Total	7,842	2,411	967	40%	±3.0	
Did not hunt in last 5 years <sup>1</sup>	Res & Nonres	21,177	960	88	9%	±10.4	
Total		29,019	3,371	1055	31%	±3.0	

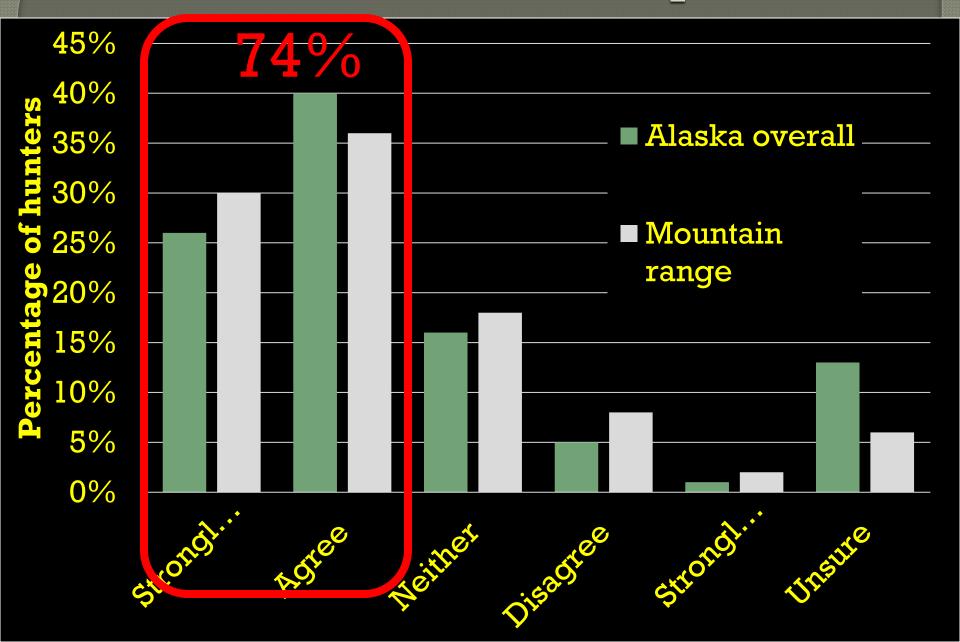
### Today's Results

- 3 separate analysis required
  - Resident hunters
  - Nonresident hunters
  - Commercial operators
    - Guides
    - Transporters & Air taxis

## Part 1

Is there a sheep hunter problem?

#### Is there a problem?



# Part 2

•Why is there a sheep hunter problem?

### Why is there a problem?

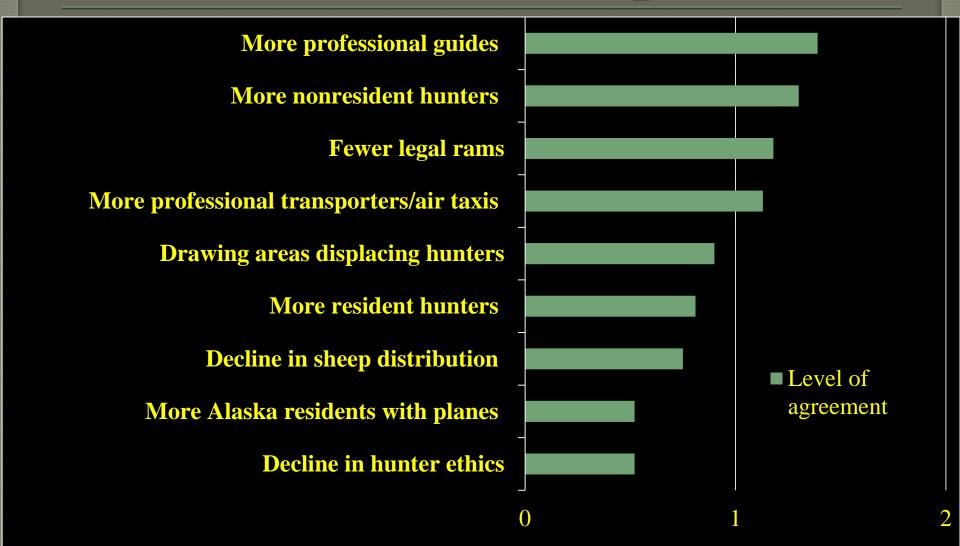
- Explore differences in hunter characteristics among groups
  - 1. Problem Group: Hunters that agreed or strongly agreed sheep hunter competition and crowding is a problem



2. No Problem Group: Hunters that neither agreed or disagreed, disagreed, strongly disagreed, or were unsure if sheep hunter competition and crowding is a problem



## Cause of problem?



### Hunting, Harvest, and Demographic Characteristics?

	Problem	No problem			
Number of times hunted during the last 5 years*	1.8 years	1.5 years			
Number of sheep harvested during last 5 years	0.7 sheep	0.6 sheep			

0.33 0.35

Harvest success rate during last 5 years 1998 1999

Year started sheep hunting Number of years sheep 10 yrs 7 yrs

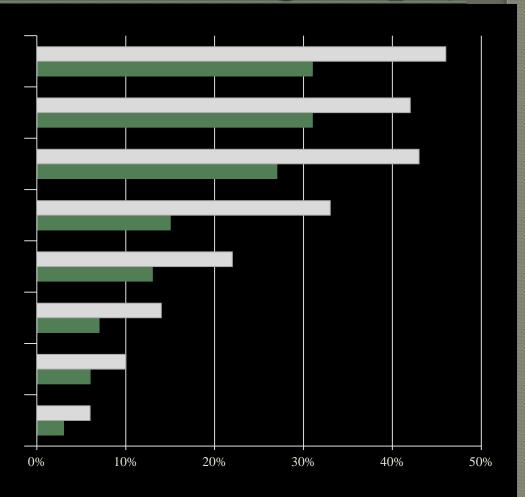
hunted\*

Age of respondent\* 46 yrs old Length of Alaska residency 26 years

49 yrs old 26 years Household income in 2013 \$75-\$100K \$75-\$100K

# Mountain range hunted? (same between groups)

Alaska Range **Brooks Range** Wrangell Mountains **Chugach Mountains** Talkeetna Mountains Kenai Mountains Tanana Hills White Mountains



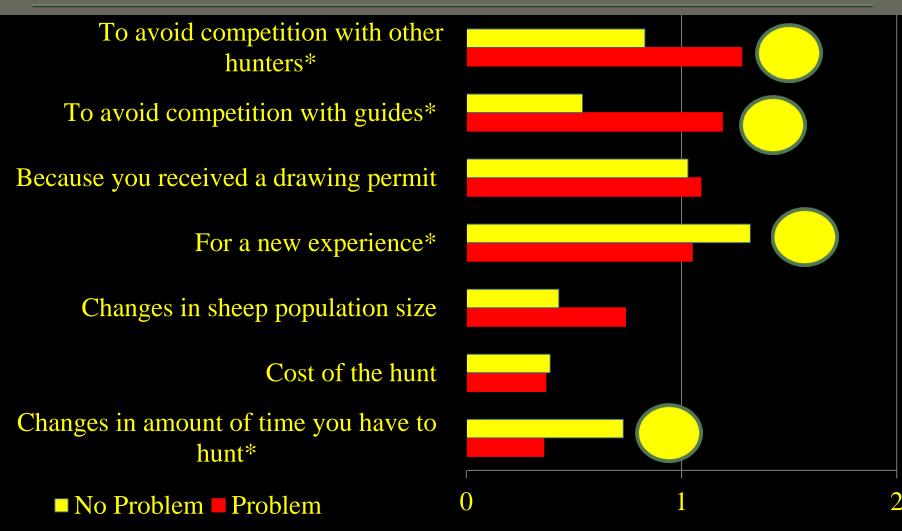
■ During lifetime

■ Last 5 years

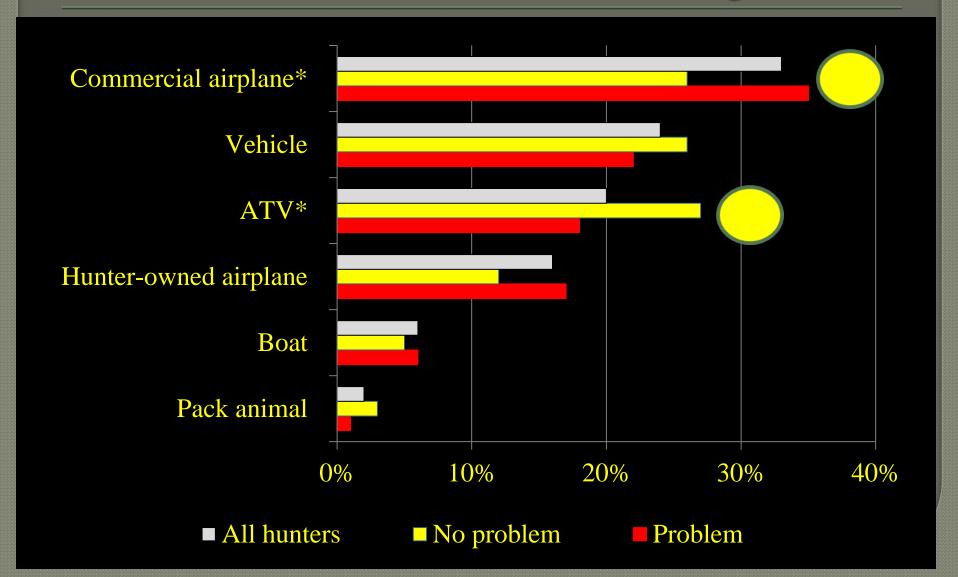
# Switch mountain ranges for sheep hunting?



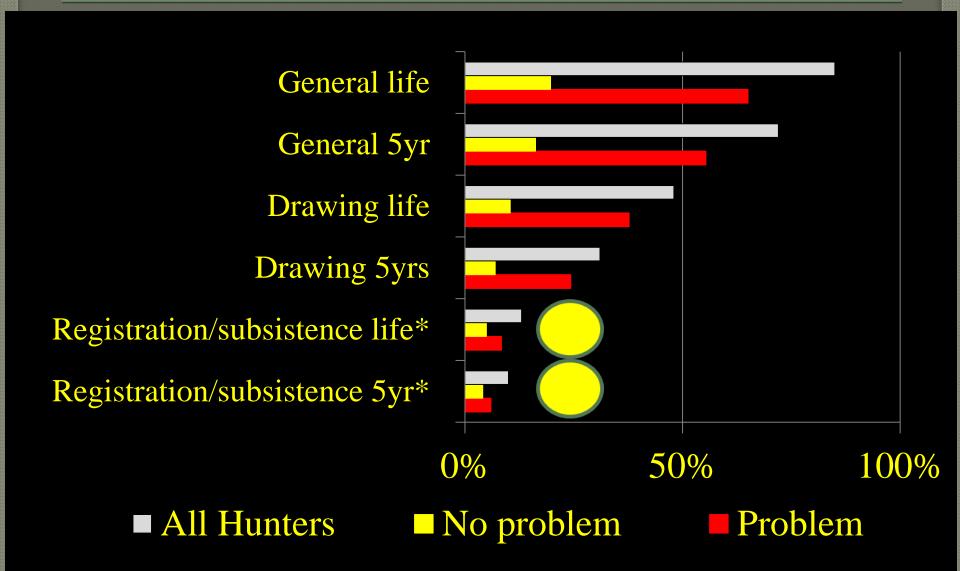
## Why switch mountain ranges?



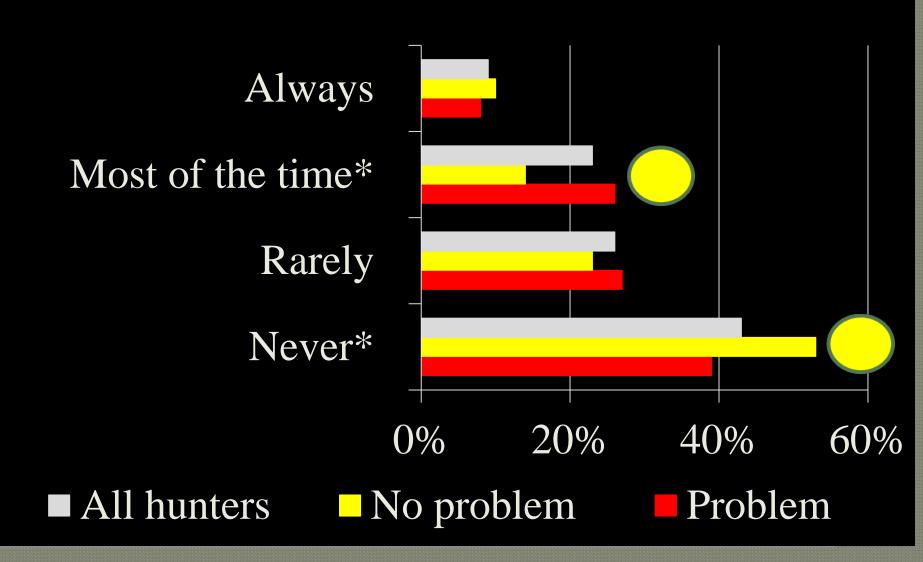
# Mode of transportation to hunting area?



## Type of permit?



### Transporter & air taxi use?



#### Crowding tolerance levels?

Other hunters interrupt my stalk on a sheep\*

I can't get away from other hunters\*

I see multiple hunters and camps while hunting\*

I have to change where I hunt to avoid other hunters\*

I see a small plane searching for sheep in the area I'm hunting\*

I see a small plane on the ground in the area I'm hunting\*

I see another hunter camp while hunting\*

I see another hunter while hunting\*

I see a small plane in the air passing over the area I'm hunting\*

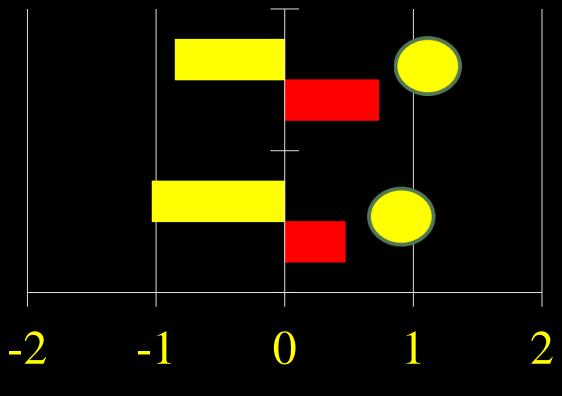


■ No problem

# Too much harvest pressure on sheep populations

In the range most important to you\*

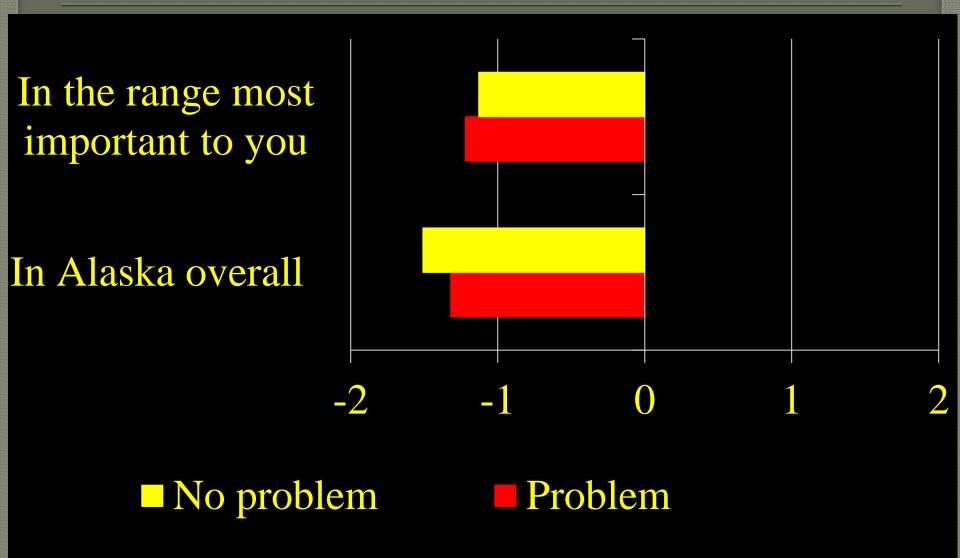
In Alaska overall\*



■ No problem

Problem

# Perceptions of sheep population change



# What is right or wrong with the current hunting system?

Statute requiring nonresidents to hire guides\*

Length of sheep hunting season (Aug. 10 – Sep. 20)

Full-curl regulation

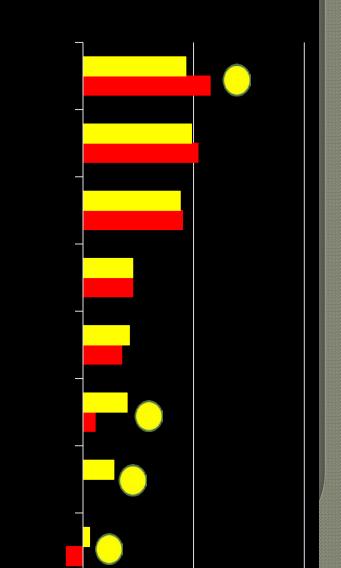
Horn sealing requirements

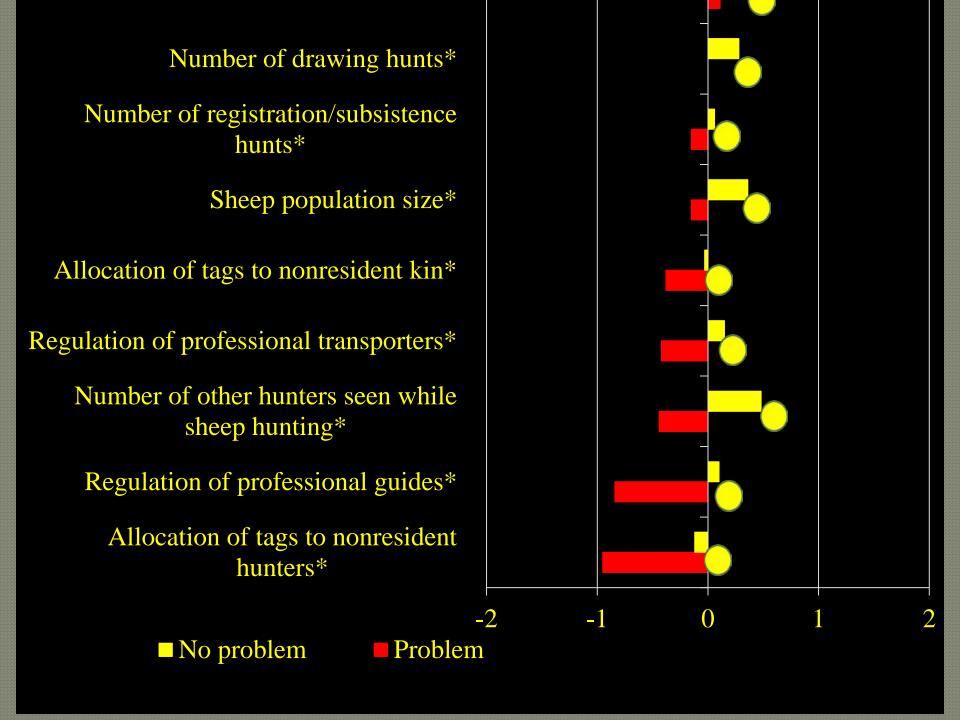
Number of general harvest hunts

Level of enforcement in the field\*

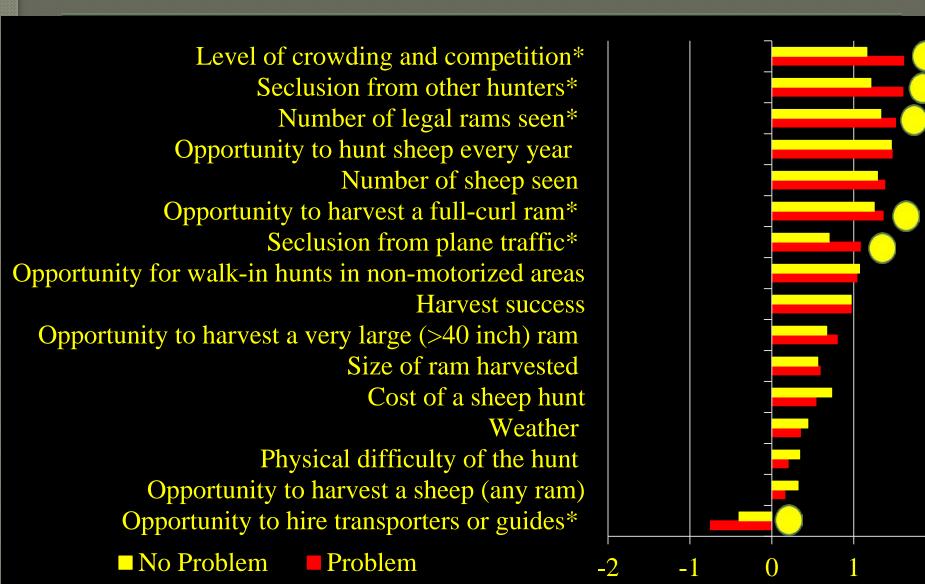
Number of drawing hunts\*

Number of registration/subsistence hunts\*





# Most important to sheep hunter satisfaction?



## Part 3

How might sheep hunting be improved?

# Hunters where asked about approval or disapproval of potential changes to:

- Timing and length of the sheep hunting season
- Same-day airborne regulation
- Special hunts
  - Non-motorized, youth, trophy, etc...
- Characteristics of drawing hunts
- Permit allocation and tag fees

#### Timing of sheep season

Start a week later for non-residents only\*

Seasons should stay the same

Start a week sooner for residents only\*

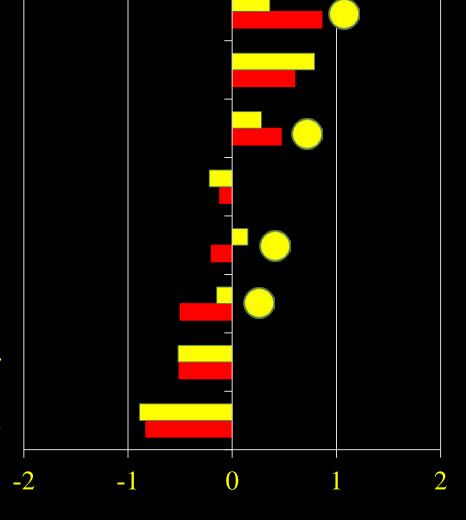
Divide into early and late seasons

Lengthen overall season\*

Start a week sooner\*

Start a week later

Shorten overall season



■ No problem

Problem

#### Same-day airborne

No plane-spotting sheep during the hunting season\*

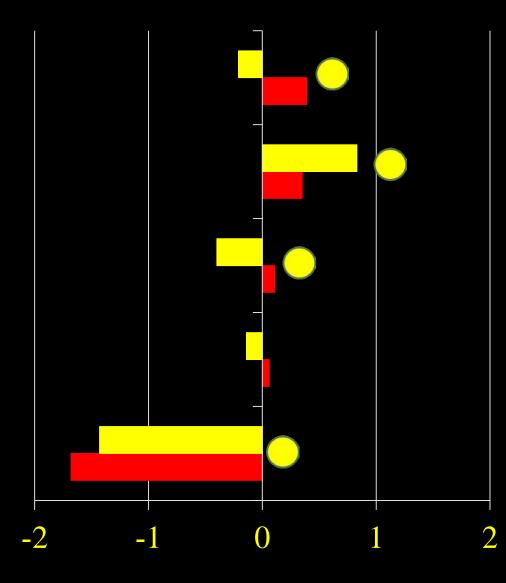
Regulation should stay the same\*

No hunting until 24 hours after day flown\*

No hunting until 12 hours after day flown

Remove same day airborne regulation\*

■ No problem ■ Problem



#### Special hunts

More non-motorized hunts\*

More trophy (large full-curls) hunts

Sheep hunts should stay the same\*

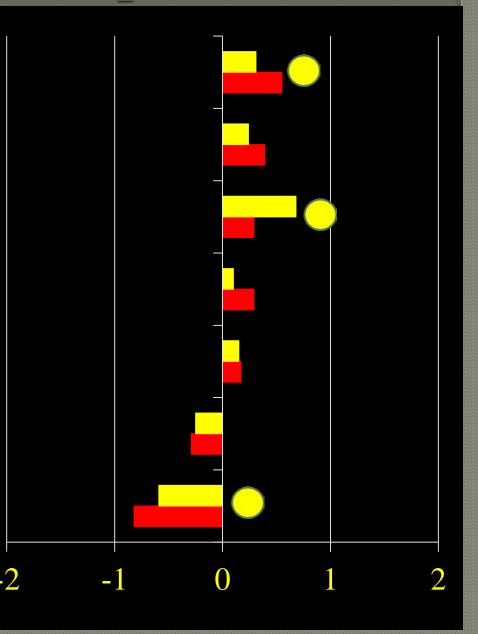
More youth only hunts

More archery only hunts

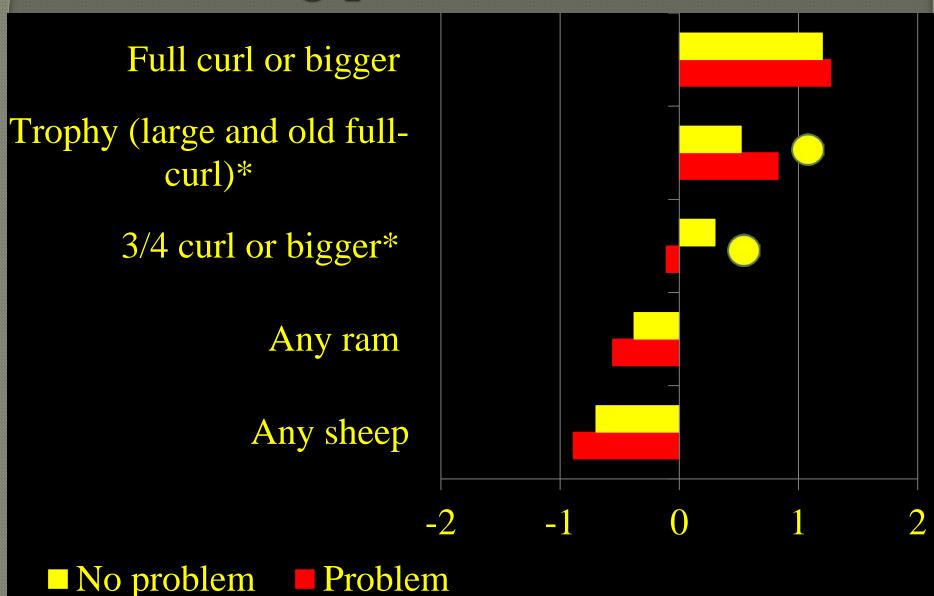
More muzzleloader only hunts

More subsistence hunts\*





#### Drawing permit characteristics



#### Permit allocation and tag fees

Problem No

Question		problem
Should limits be placed on allocation of sheep tags to nonresidents*	Yes 93%	Yes 73%
If yes, what percentage of total allocation should nonresidents receive*	10%	15%
Should Alaska residents pay for a sheep tag	Yes 45%	Yes 25%
If yes, how much should a resident pay for a sheep tag (median)	\$50	\$38
Should the price of a nonresident sheep tag change*	77%	49%
If yes, how much should a nonresident pay for a sheep tag (median)*	\$1000	\$750

#### Approval of potential changes

Reduce tag allocation to guided nonresidents\*

Increase nonresident tag fees\*

Reduce tag allocation to nonresident kin\*

Prohibit plane-spotting sheep during hunting season\*

Reduce motorized access\*

More drawing hunts\*

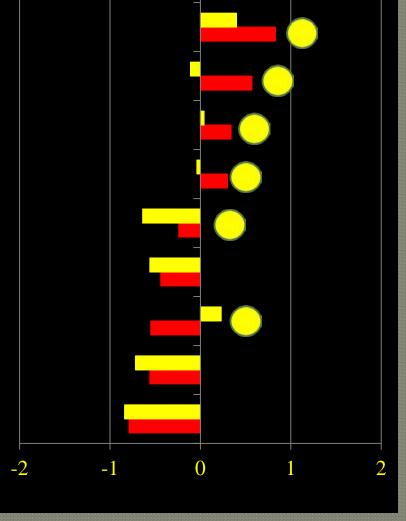
Increase resident tag fees\*

After harvest, must wait 3 years to hunt sheep again

No changes should be made\*

Limit hunters to 1 sheep tag every 3 years

Reduce hunting season length



■ No problem

**■** Problem

### Resident results summary

- Majority of resident sheep hunters perceive a crowding and competition problem
- Roughly half of hunters feel there is too much pressure on the resource
  - Nearly all hunters felt the sheep population has decreased since they began hunting.
- Levels of crowding and sheep numbers are two of the most important issues hunters
- Reduced allocation to nonresidents and more regulation of commercial operators were the most popular solution