Alaska Sheep Hunter Survey

Resident Sheep Hunter Responses

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Subgroup</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Sampled</th>
<th>Valid Responses</th>
<th>Response Rate</th>
<th>Survey Sampling Error at 95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hunted in last 5 years</td>
<td>Res</td>
<td>5,901</td>
<td>1,889</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>±3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nonres</td>
<td>1,941</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>±5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,842</td>
<td>2,411</td>
<td>967</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>±3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not hunt in last 5 years</td>
<td>Res &amp; Nonres</td>
<td>21,177</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>±10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>29,019</td>
<td>3,371</td>
<td>1055</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>±3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Today’s Results

3 separate analysis required

- Resident hunters
- Nonresident hunters
- Commercial operators
  - Guides
  - Transporters & Air taxis
Is there a sheep hunter problem?
Is there a problem?

Percentage of hunters in Alaska overall: 74%

- Strongly Agree: 35%
- Agree: 45%
- Neither: 35%
- Disagree: 10%
- Strongly Disagree: 5%
- Unsure: 5%
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*
More professional guides
More nonresident hunters
Fewer legal rams
More professional transporters/air taxis
Drawing areas displacing hunters
More resident hunters
Decline in sheep distribution
More Alaska residents with planes
Decline in hunter ethics

Level of agreement
## Hunting, Harvest, and Demographic Characteristics?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>No problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of times hunted during the last 5 years</strong>*</td>
<td>1.8 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of sheep harvested during last 5 years</strong></td>
<td>0.7 sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Harvest success rate during last 5 years</strong></td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year started sheep hunting</strong></td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of years sheep hunted</strong>*</td>
<td>10 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age of respondent</strong>*</td>
<td>46 yrs old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Length of Alaska residency</strong></td>
<td>26 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Household income in 2013</strong></td>
<td>$75-$100K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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?

Only hunted one range*

Every 6-10 times

Every 2-5 times*

Every time

0% 50% 100%

All hunters  No Problem  Problem
Why switch mountain ranges?

- To avoid competition with other hunters*
- To avoid competition with guides*
- Because you received a drawing permit
- For a new experience*
- Changes in sheep population size
- Cost of the hunt
- Changes in amount of time you have to hunt*

---

No Problem  |  Problem
0  |  1  |  2
Mode of transportation to hunting area?

- Commercial airplane*: 30%
- Vehicle: 20%
- ATV*: 25%
- Hunter-owned airplane: 15%
- Boat: 5%
- Pack animal: 1%

All hunters: 0%
No problem: 10%
Problem: 30%
Type of permit?

- General life
- General 5yr
- Drawing life
- Drawing 5yr
- Registration/subsistence life*
- Registration/subsistence 5yr*

- All Hunters
- No problem
- Problem
Transporter & air taxi use?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>All hunters</th>
<th>No problem</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Never*</td>
<td></td>
<td>All</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most of the time*</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>No problem</td>
<td>Problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarely</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>No problem</td>
<td>Problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Always</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>No problem</td>
<td>Problem</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

0% 20% 40% 60%
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*

Yellow: No problem
Red: Problem
In Alaska overall*

In the range most important to you*

-2 -1 0 1 2

No problem

Problem
Perceptions of sheep population change

In the range most important to you

In Alaska overall

-2 -1 0 1 2

No problem

Problem
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*
Number of drawing hunts*
Number of registration/subsistence hunts*
Sheep population size*
Allocation of tags to nonresident kin*
Regulation of professional transporters*
Number of other hunters seen while sheep hunting*
Regulation of professional guides*
Allocation of tags to nonresident hunters*

-2 -1 0 1 2
No problem Problem
Level of crowding and competition*
Seclusion from other hunters*
Number of legal rams seen*
Opportunity to hunt sheep every year
Number of sheep seen
Opportunity to harvest a full-curl ram*
Seclusion from plane traffic*
Opportunity for walk-in hunts in non-motorized areas
Harvest success
Opportunity to harvest a very large (>40 inch) ram
Size of ram harvested
Cost of a sheep hunt
Weather
Physical difficulty of the hunt
Opportunity to harvest a sheep (any ram)
Opportunity to hire transporters or guides*
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

Legend:
- No problem
- Problem
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
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*

No problem  Problem
Drawing permit characteristics

- Full curl or bigger
- Trophy (large and old full-curl)*
- 3/4 curl or bigger*
- Any ram
- Any sheep

- No problem
- Problem
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>No problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Should limits be placed on allocation of sheep tags to nonresidents*</td>
<td>Yes 93%</td>
<td>Yes 73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If yes, what percentage of total allocation should nonresidents receive*</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should Alaska residents pay for a sheep tag*</td>
<td>Yes 45%</td>
<td>Yes 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If yes, how much should a resident pay for a sheep tag (median)</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should the price of a nonresident sheep tag change*</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If yes, how much should a nonresident pay for a sheep tag (median)*</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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