

# Alaska Sheep Hunter Survey

## Resident Sheep Hunter Responses



Credit: Steve Arthur

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<b>Group</b>	<b>Subgroup</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Sampled<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Valid Responses</b>	<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Survey Sampling Error at 95% CI</b>
<b>Hunted in last 5 years</b>	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
<b>Did not hunt in last 5 years<sup>1</sup></b>	Res & Nonres	21,177	960	88	9%	±10.4
<b>Total</b>		29,019	3,371	1055	31%	±3.0

# Today's Results

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● 3 separate analysis required

• Resident hunters

• Nonresident hunters

• Commercial operators

• *Guides*

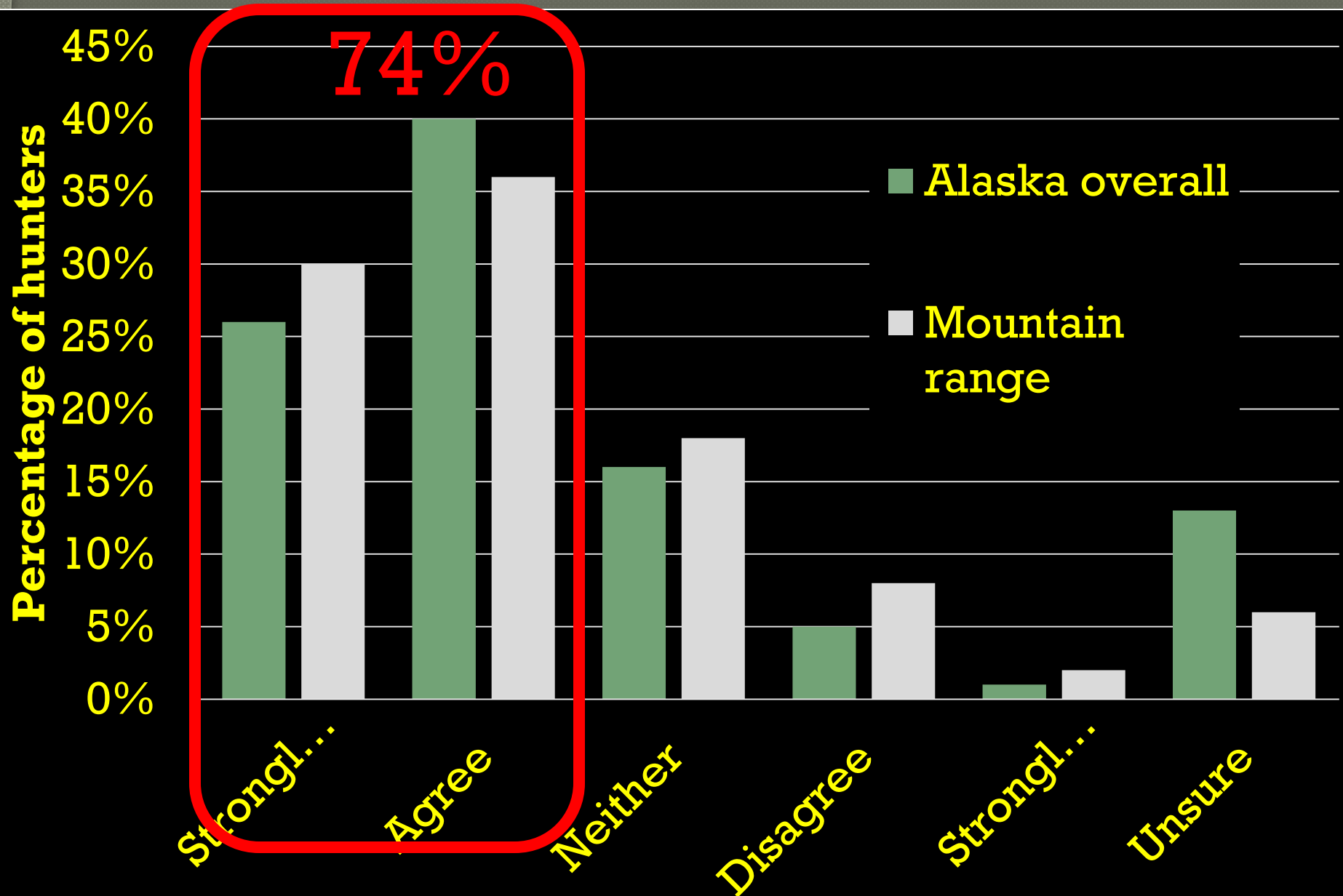
• *Transporters & Air taxis*

# Part 1

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● Is there a sheep  
hunter problem?

# Is there a problem?



# Part 2

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- Why is there a sheep hunter problem?

# Why is there a problem?

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- 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?



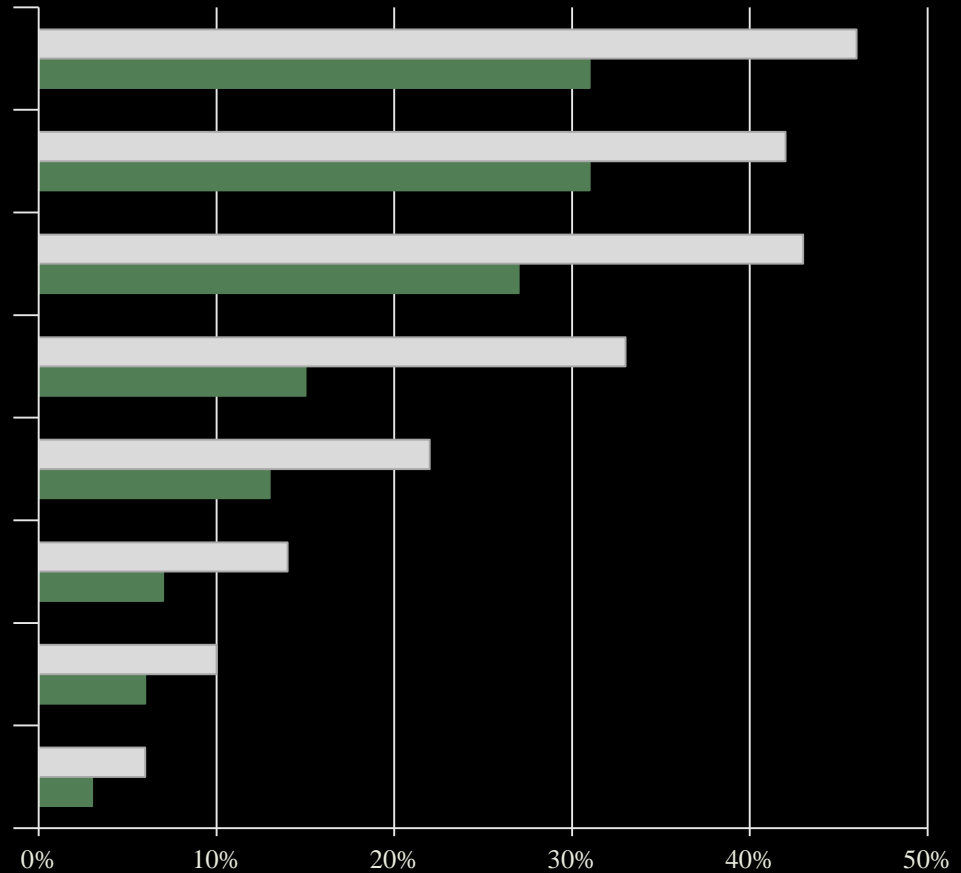


# Hunting, Harvest, and Demographic Characteristics?

	<b>Problem</b>	<b>No problem</b>
<b>Number of times hunted during the last 5 years*</b>	1.8 years	1.5 years 
<b>Number of sheep harvested during last 5 years</b>	0.7 sheep	0.6 sheep
<b>Harvest success rate during last 5 years</b>	0.35	0.33
<b>Year started sheep hunting</b>	1998	1999
<b>Number of years sheep hunted*</b>	10 yrs	7 yrs 
<b>Age of respondent*</b>	46 yrs old	49 yrs old 
<b>Length of Alaska residency</b>	26 years	26 years
<b>Household income in 2013</b>	\$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

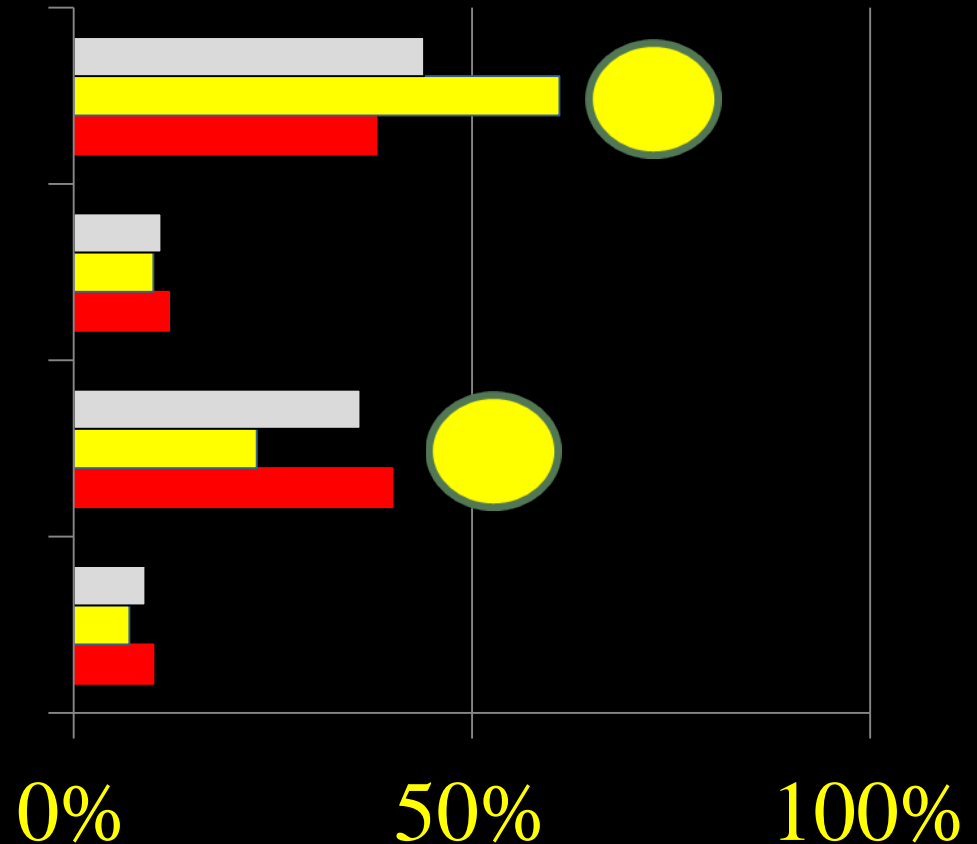
# Switch mountain ranges for sheep hunting?

Only hunted one range\*

Every 6-10 times

Every 2-5 times\*

Every time

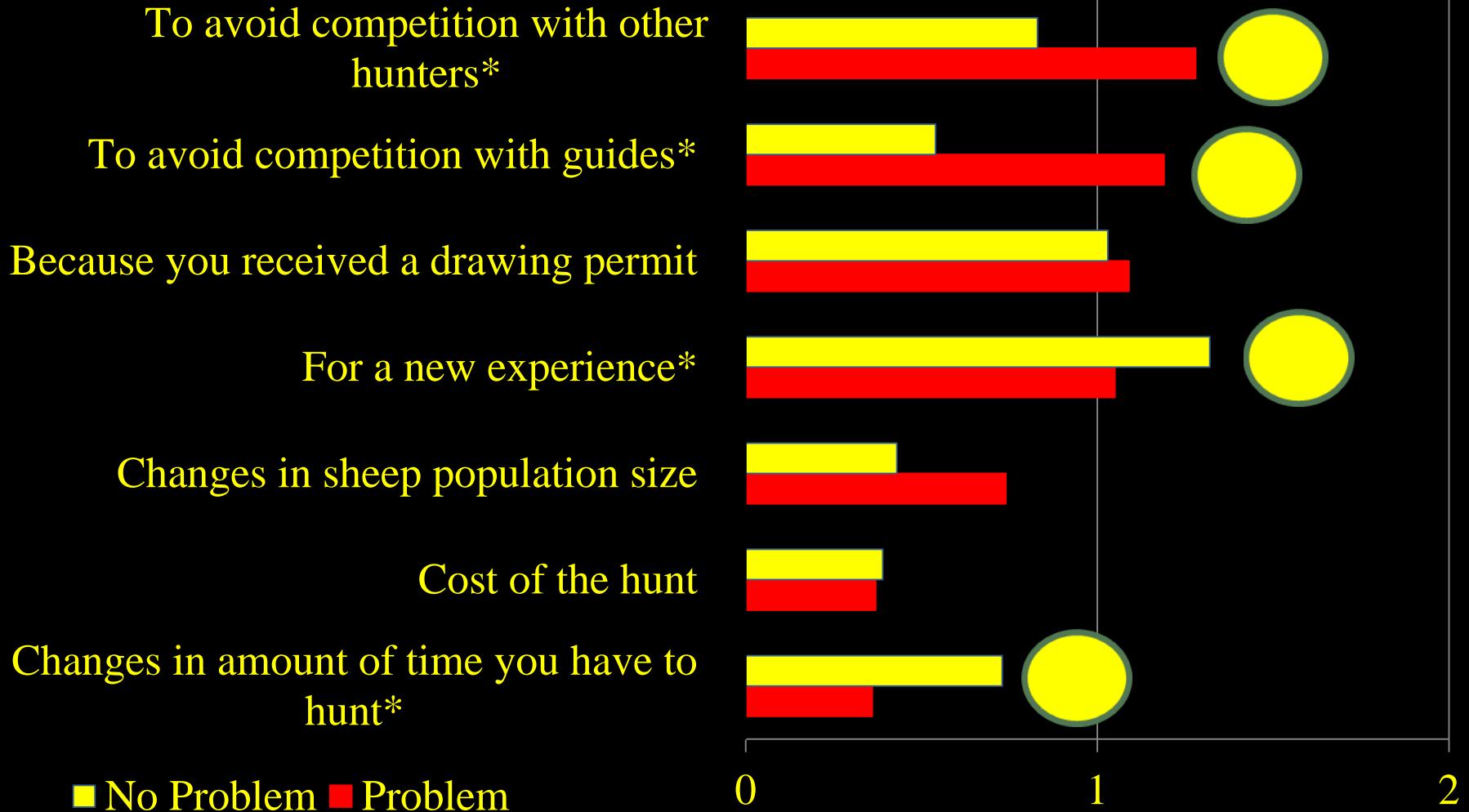


■ All hunters

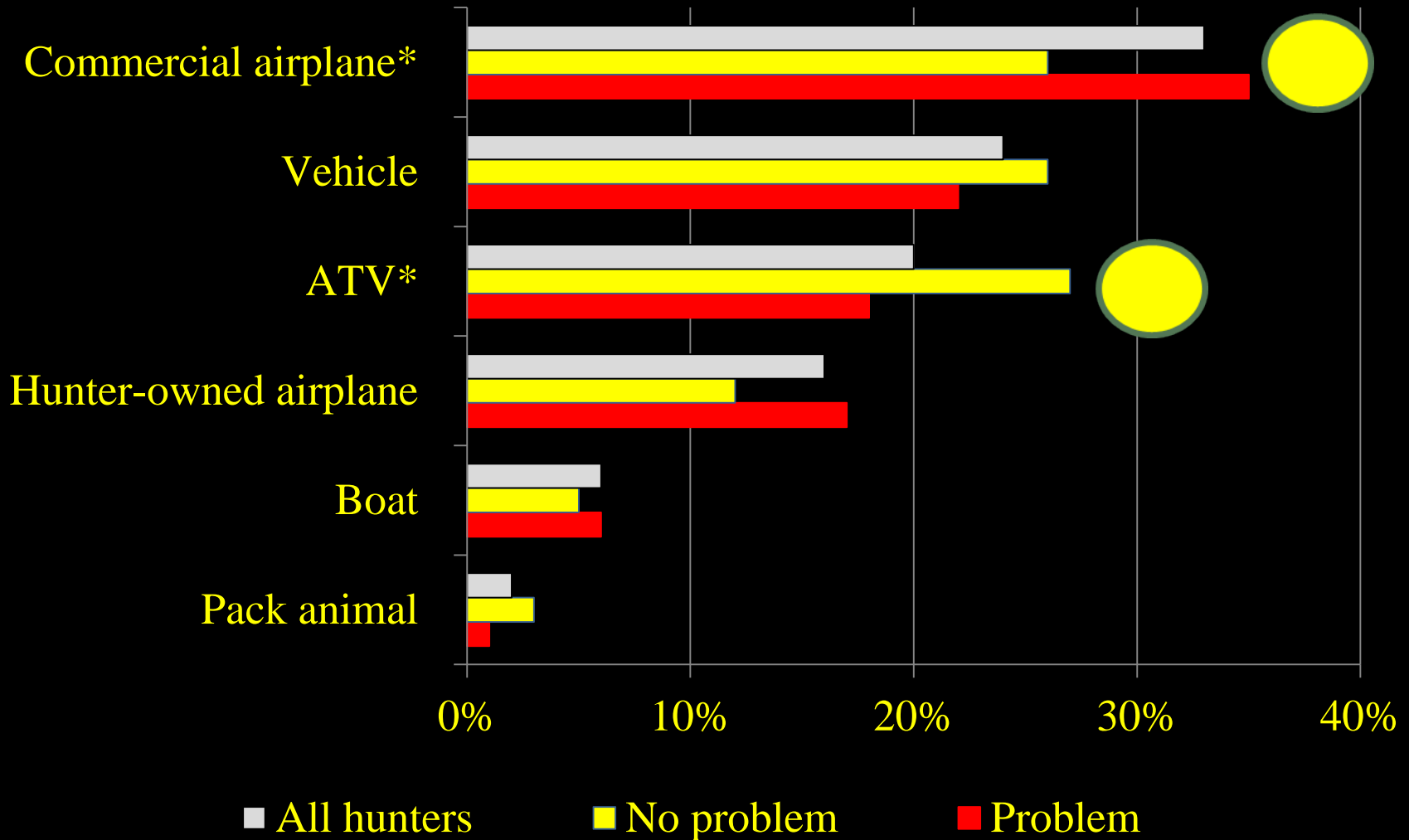
■ No Problem

■ Problem

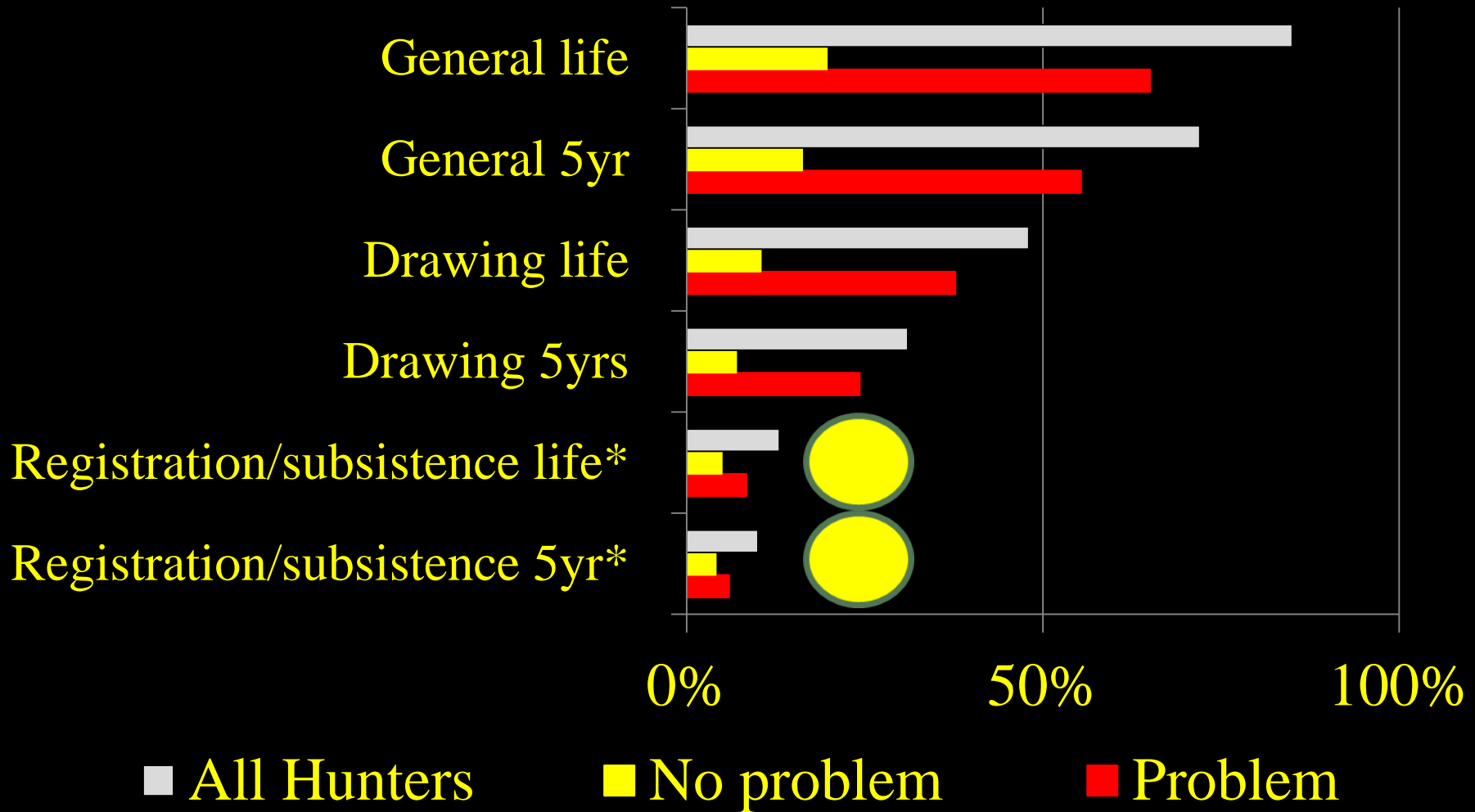
# Why switch mountain ranges?



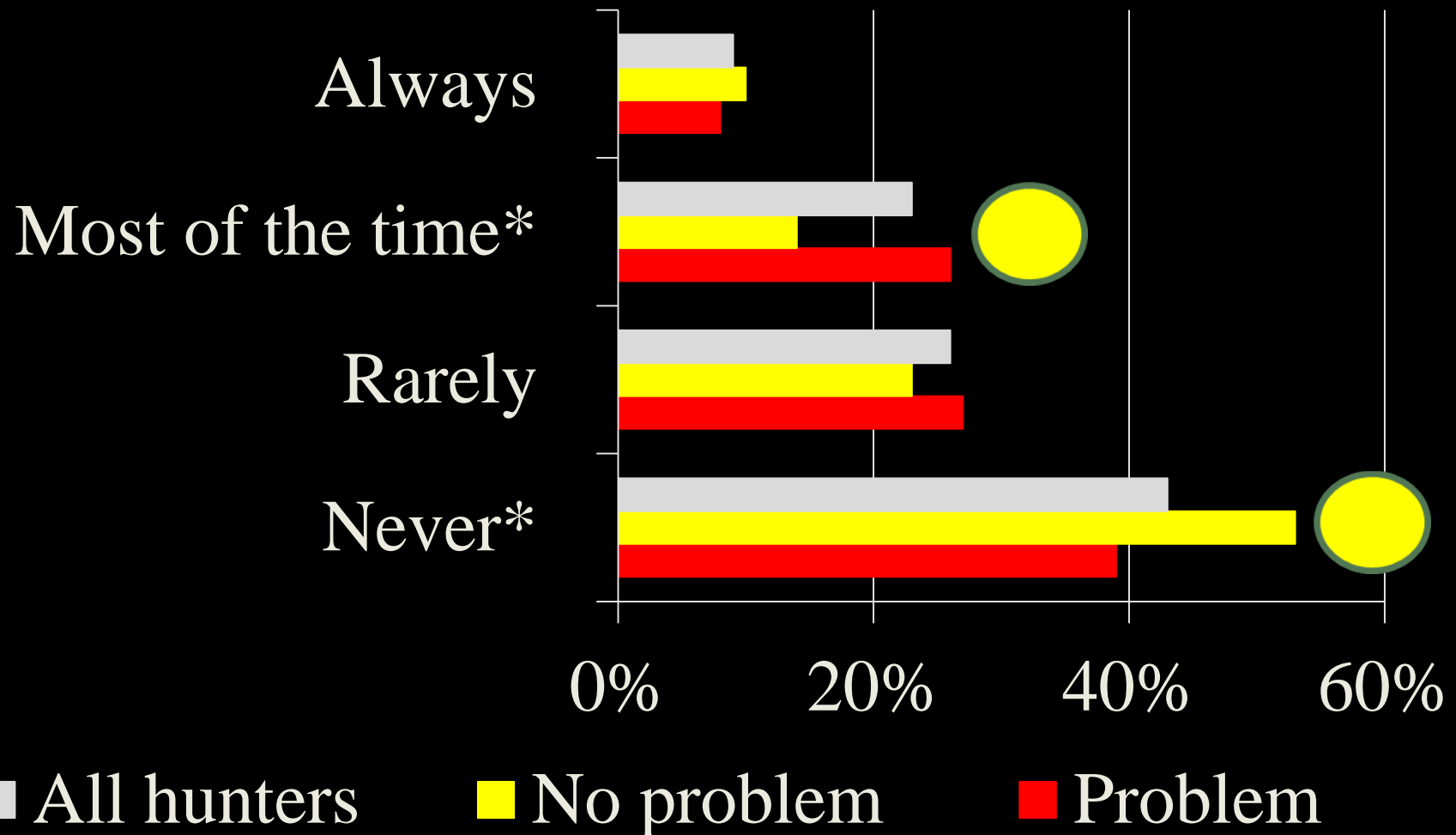
# Mode of transportation to hunting area?



# 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\*

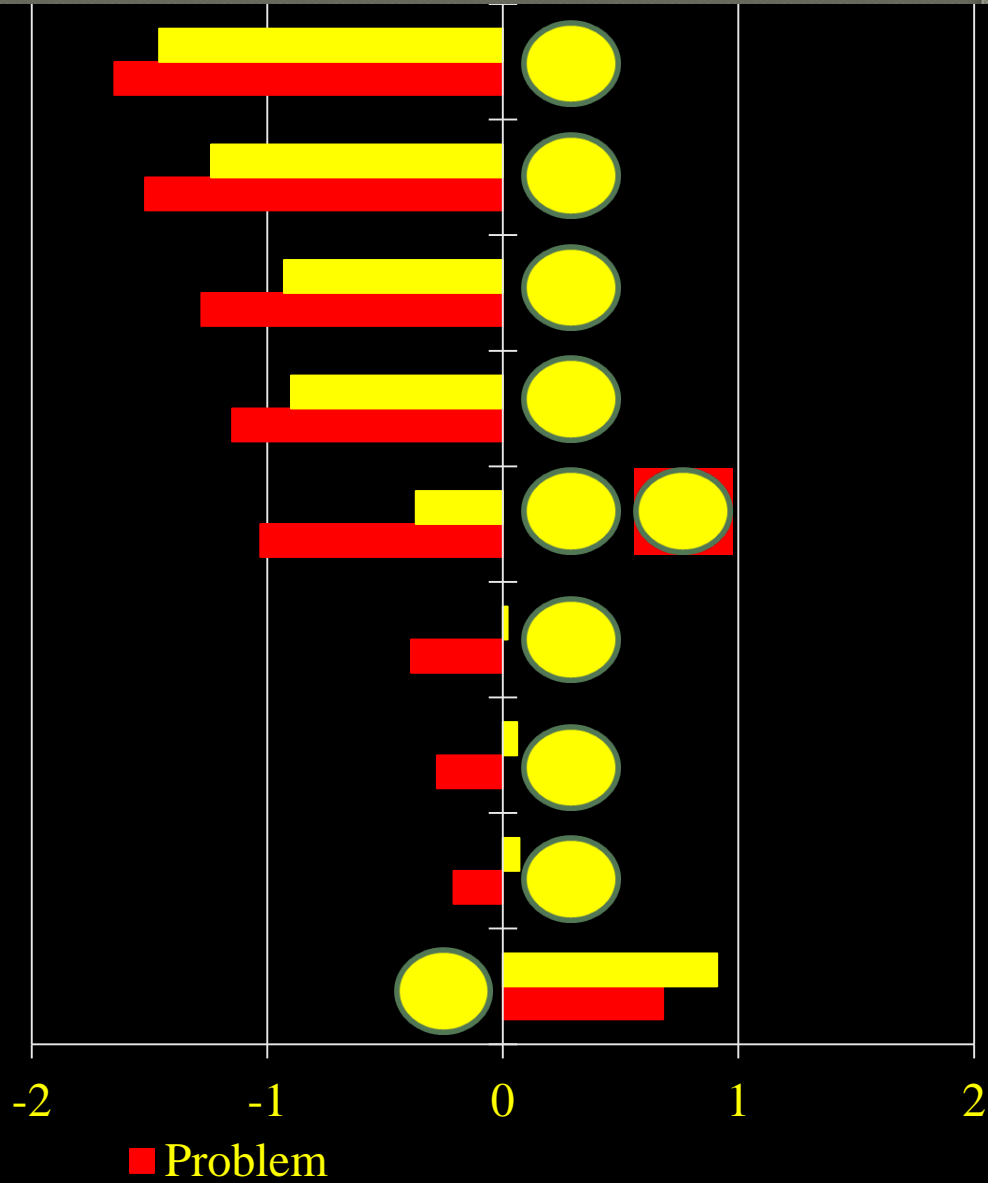
I see a small plane searching for sheep in the area I'm hunting\*

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\*

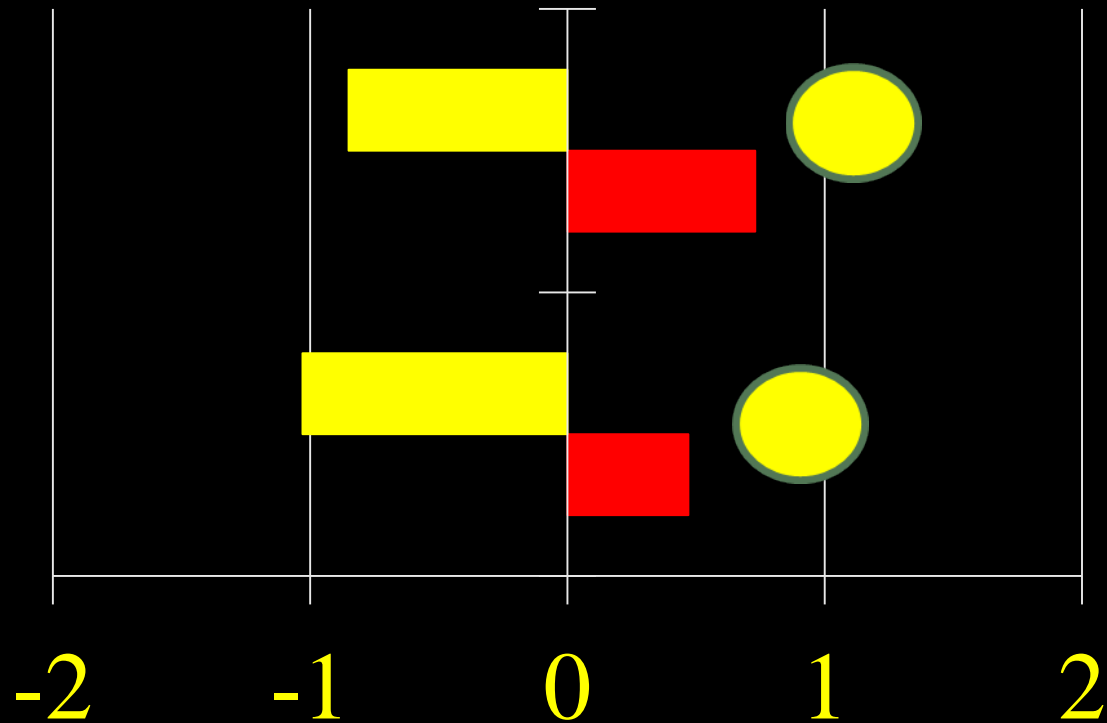




# Too much harvest pressure on sheep populations

In the range most important to you\*

In Alaska overall\*



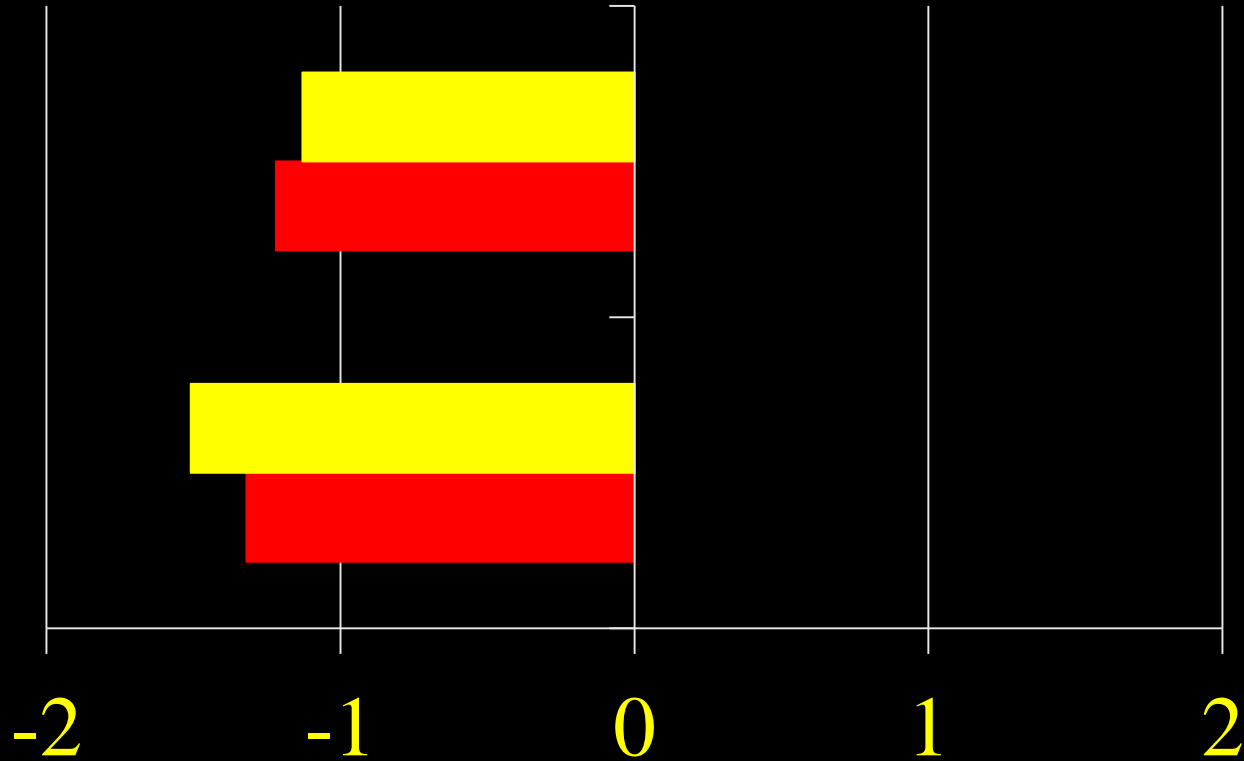
■ No problem

■ Problem

# Perceptions of sheep population change

In the range most important to you

In Alaska overall



■ 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

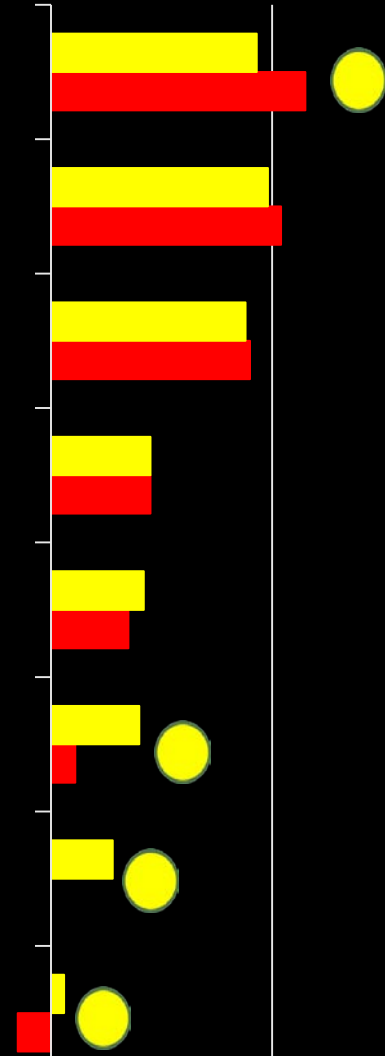
Horn sealing requirements

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\*

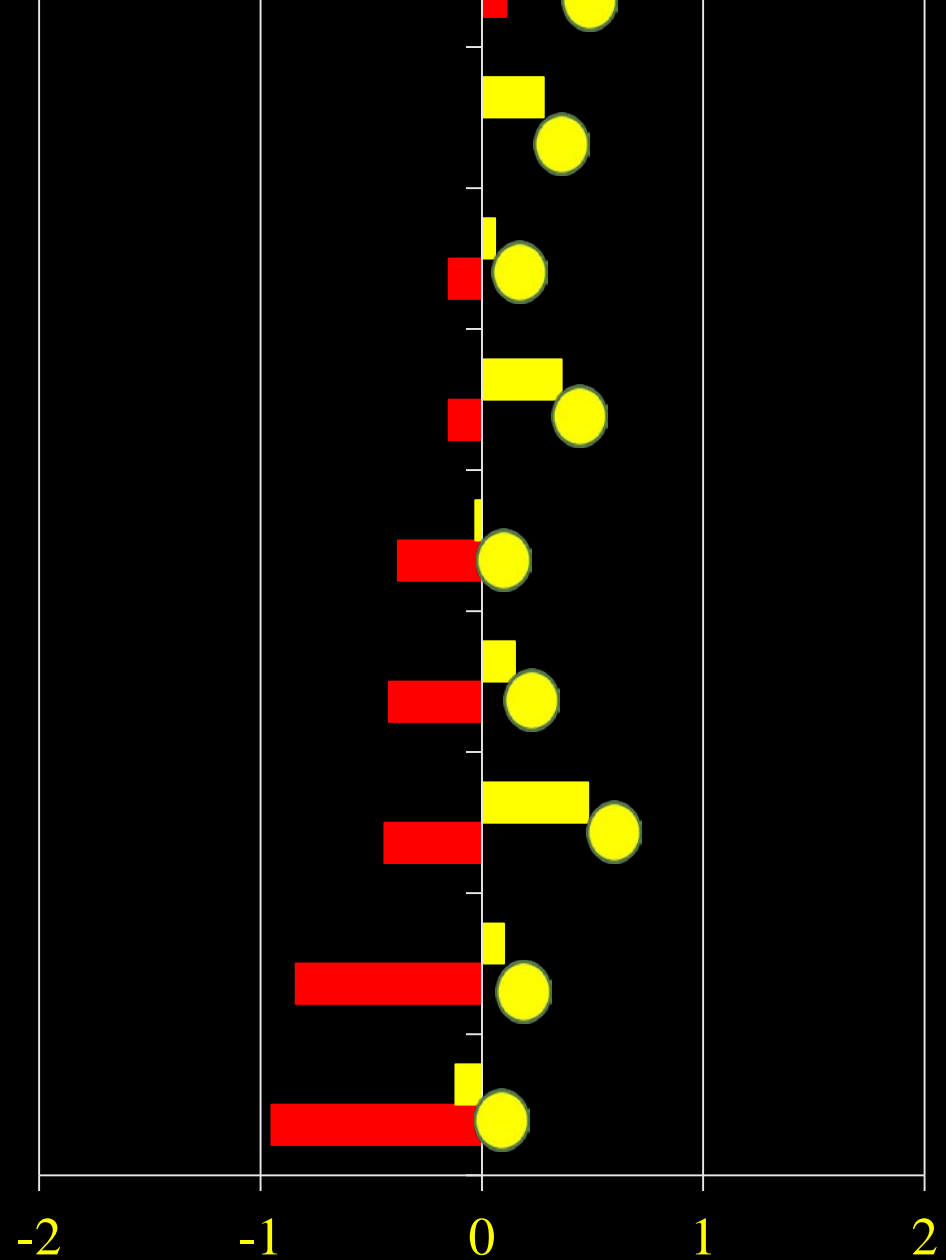
Allocation of tags to nonresident kin\*

Regulation of professional transporters\*

Number of other hunters seen while  
sheep hunting\*

Regulation of professional guides\*

Allocation of tags to nonresident  
hunters\*



■ No problem

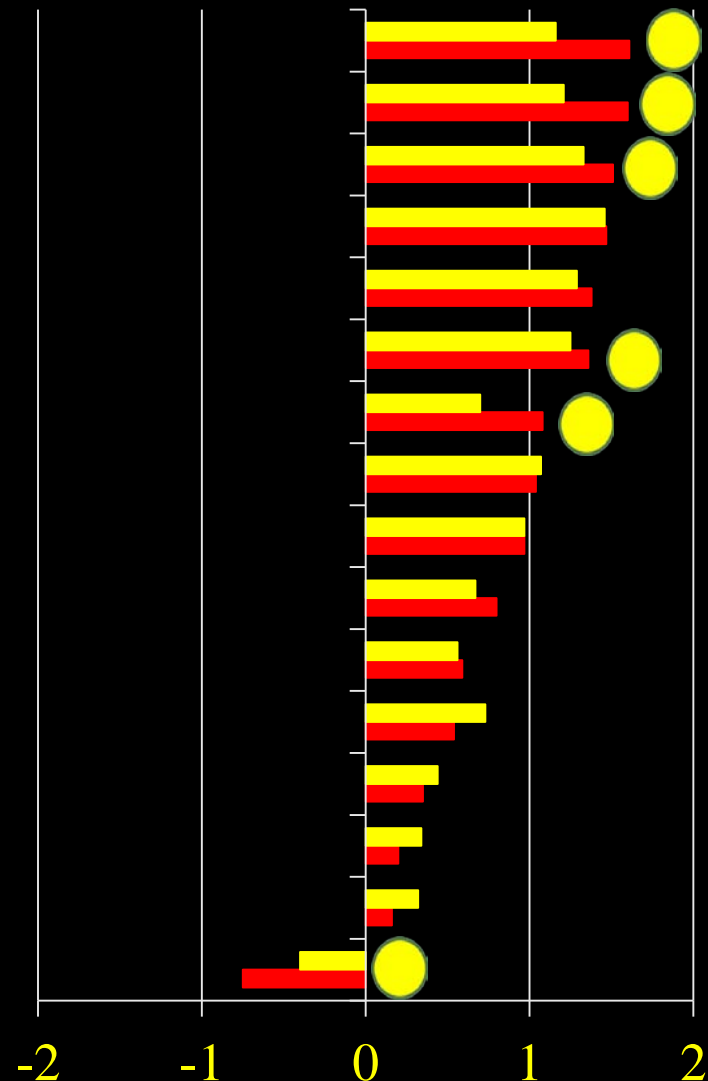
■ Problem

# Most important to sheep hunter satisfaction?

- 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\*

■ No Problem

■ Problem



# Part 3

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● How might sheep hunting be improved?

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

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- 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\*

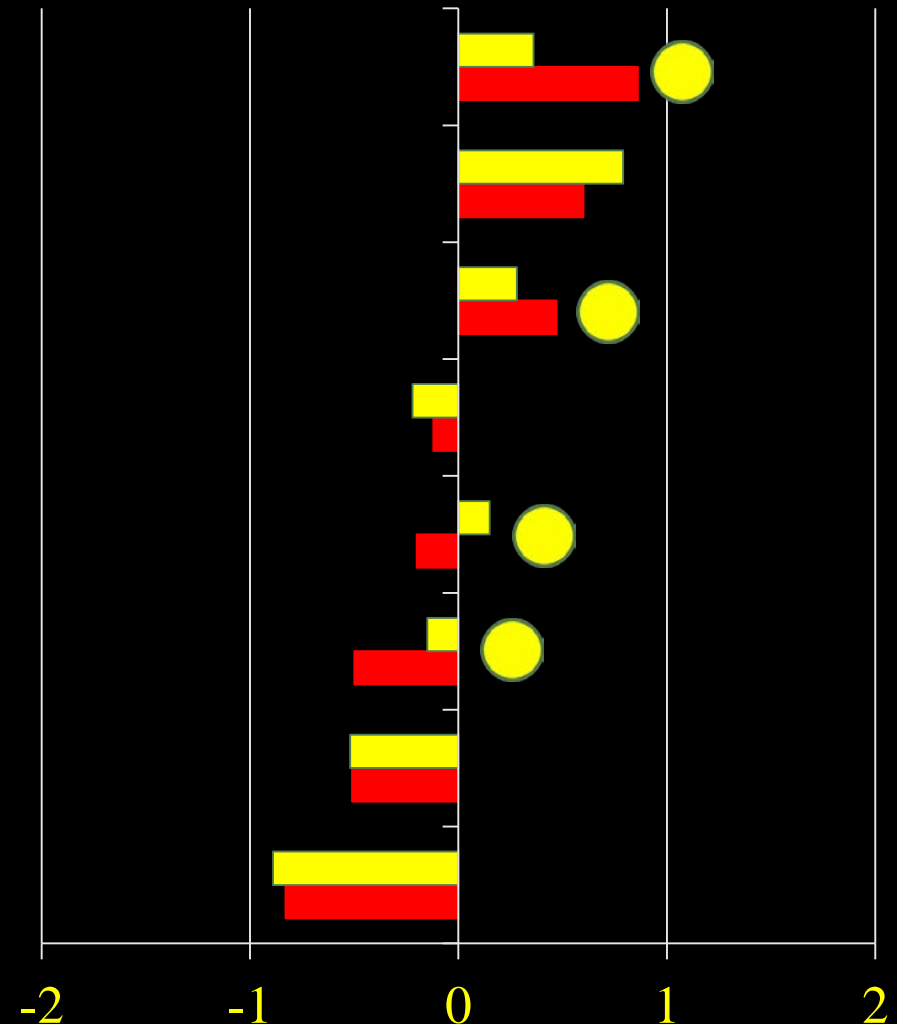
Start a week sooner\*

Start a week later

Shorten overall season

■ No problem

■ Problem





# Same-day airborne

No plane-spotting sheep during the hunting season\*

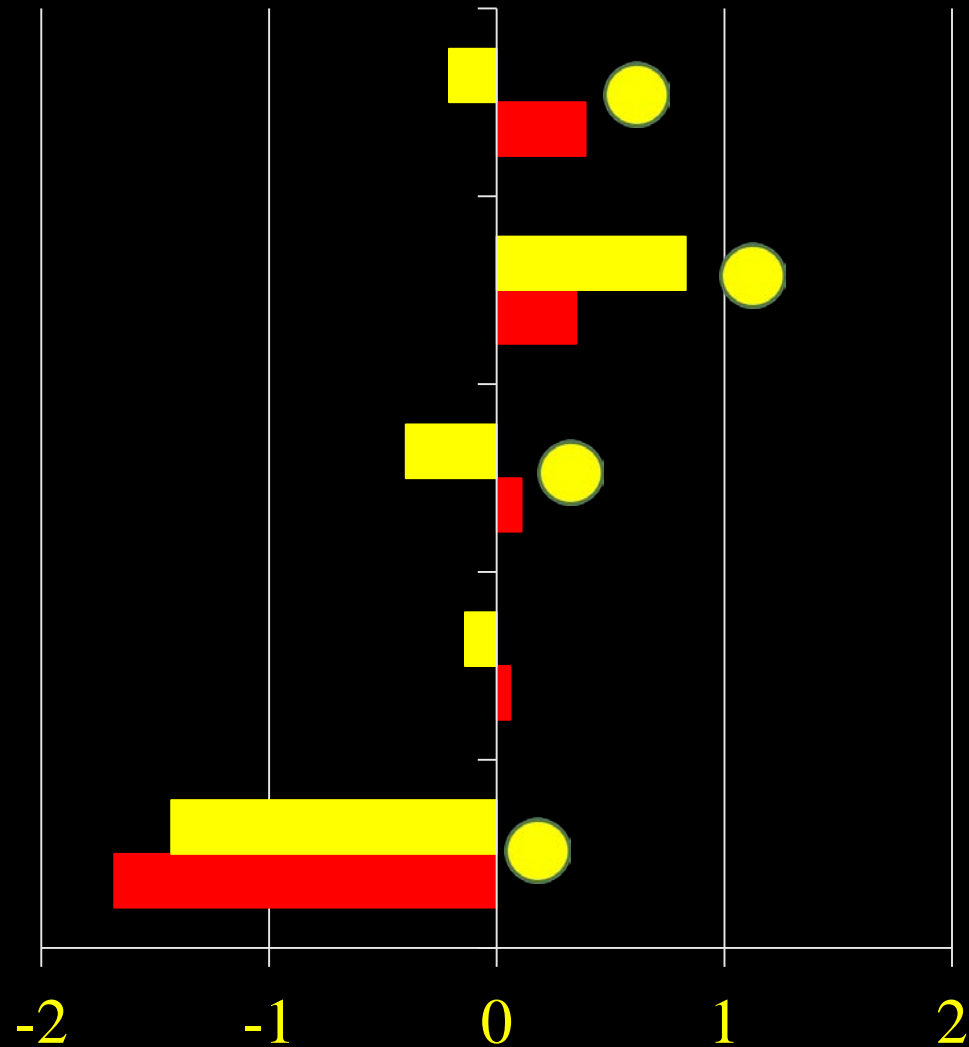
Regulation should stay the same\*

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\*

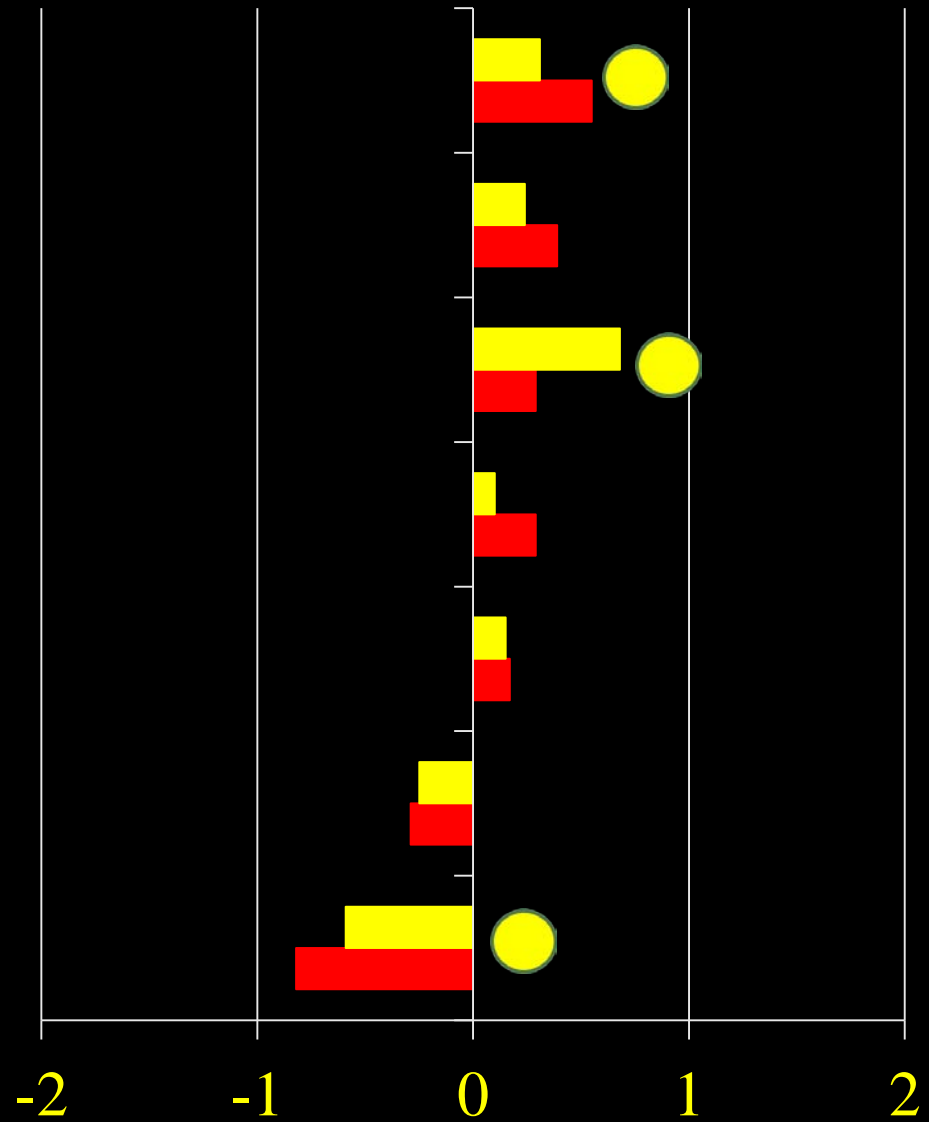
More youth only hunts

More archery only hunts

More muzzleloader only hunts

More subsistence hunts\*

■ No problem ■ Problem



# Drawing permit characteristics

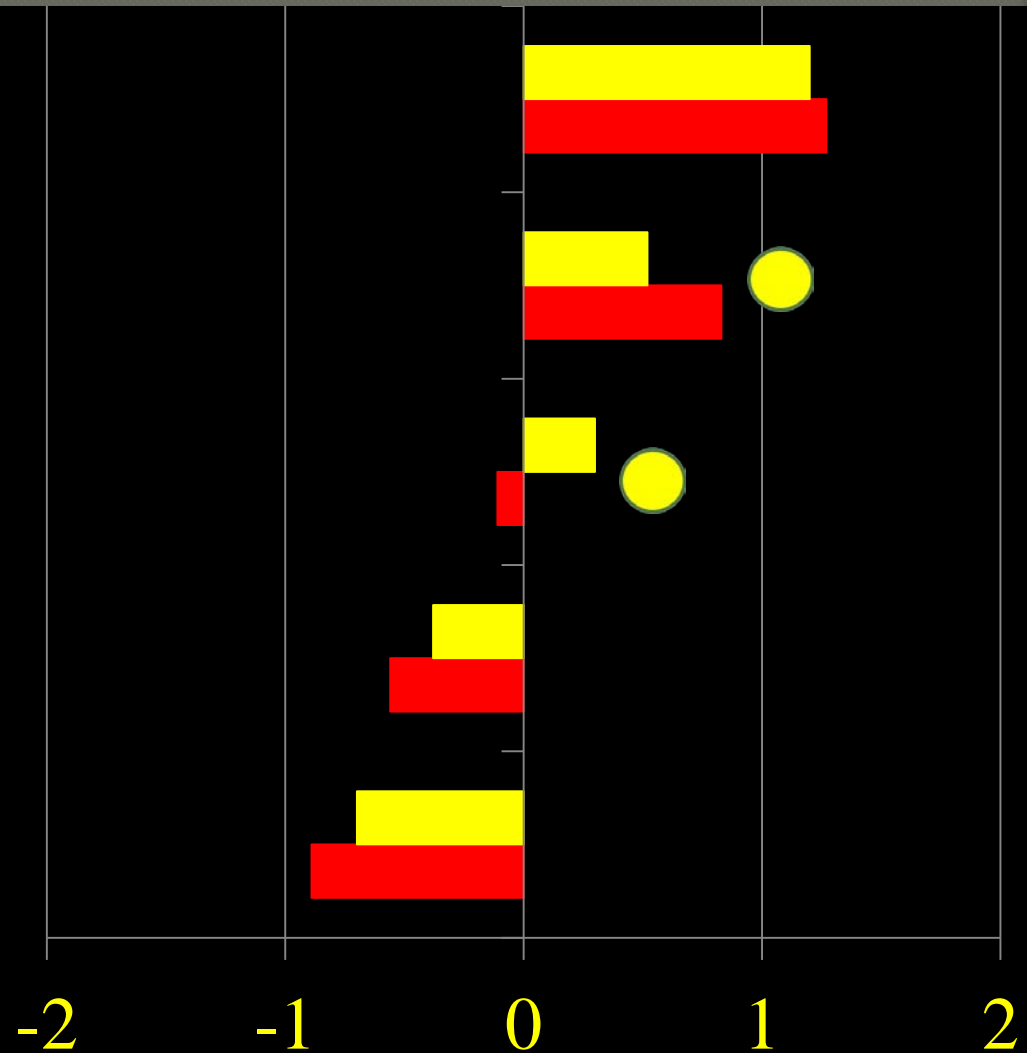
Full curl or bigger

Trophy (large and old full-curl)\*

3/4 curl or bigger\*

Any ram

Any sheep



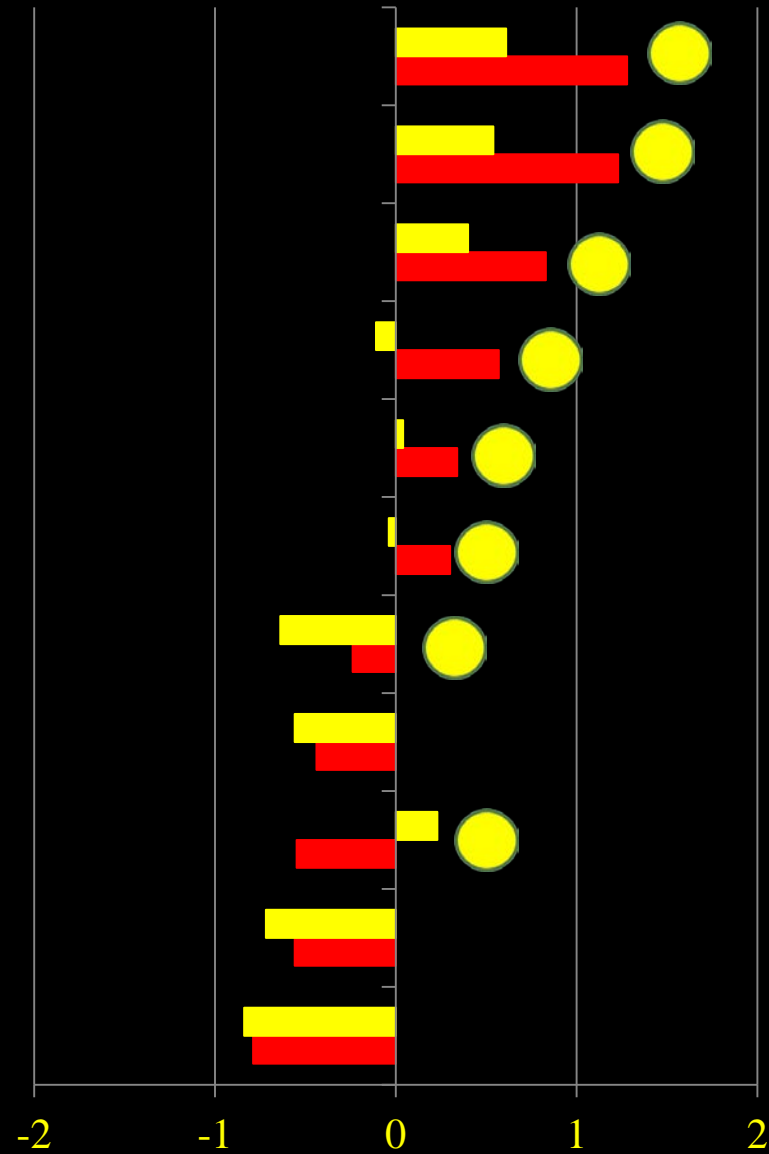
■ No problem ■ Problem

# Permit allocation and tag fees

Question	Problem	No 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

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- 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