

# Louisiana Coastwide Nutria Control Program



Catherine Normand

Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

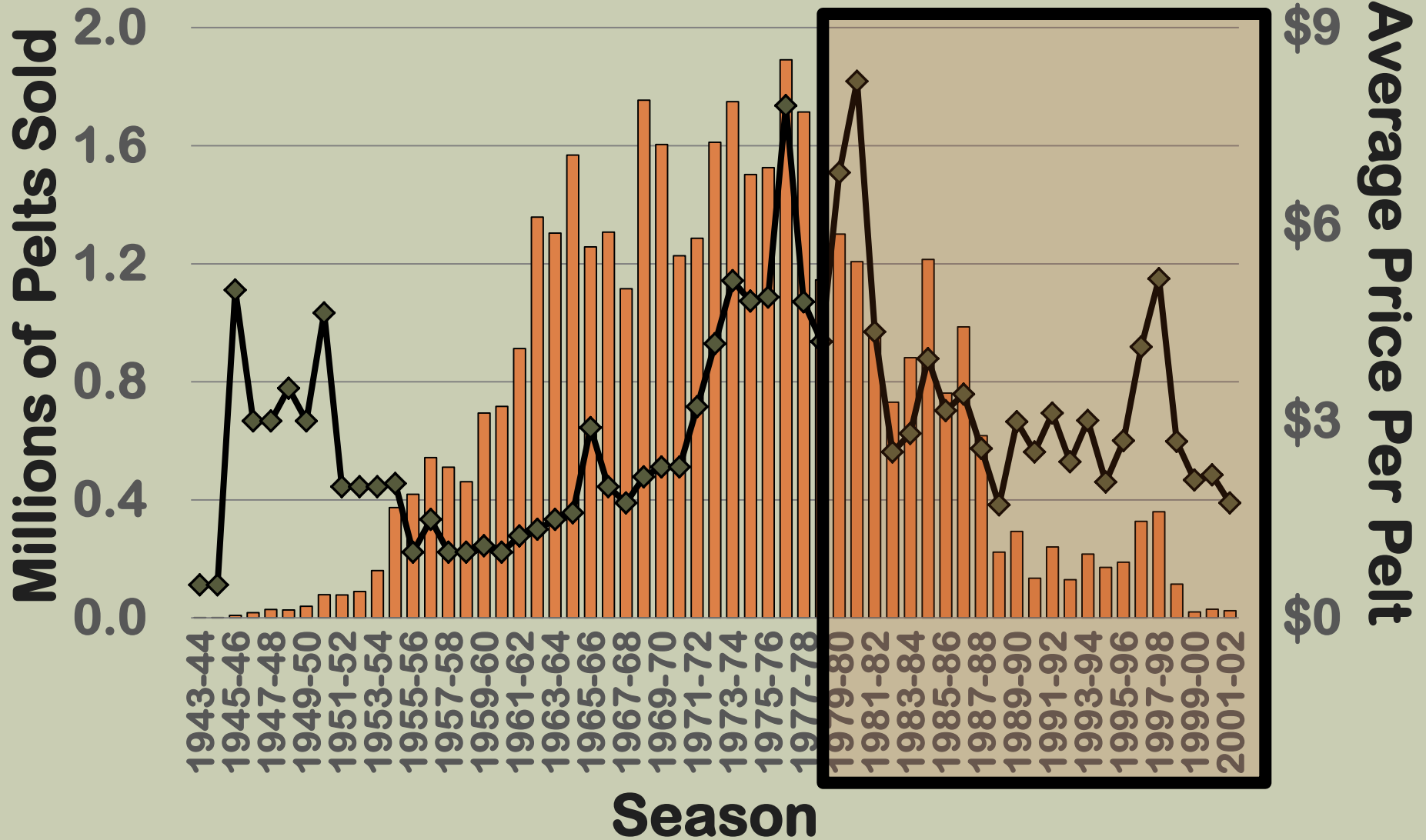


Coastal Environments, Inc.  
Baton Rouge, LA

# Program Funding

- ➔ **Coastal Wetlands, Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)**
  - ➔ **USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**
  - ➔ **Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)**
- ➔ **Implemented by La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and Coastal Environments Inc. (CEI)**

# Louisiana Nutria Fur Market



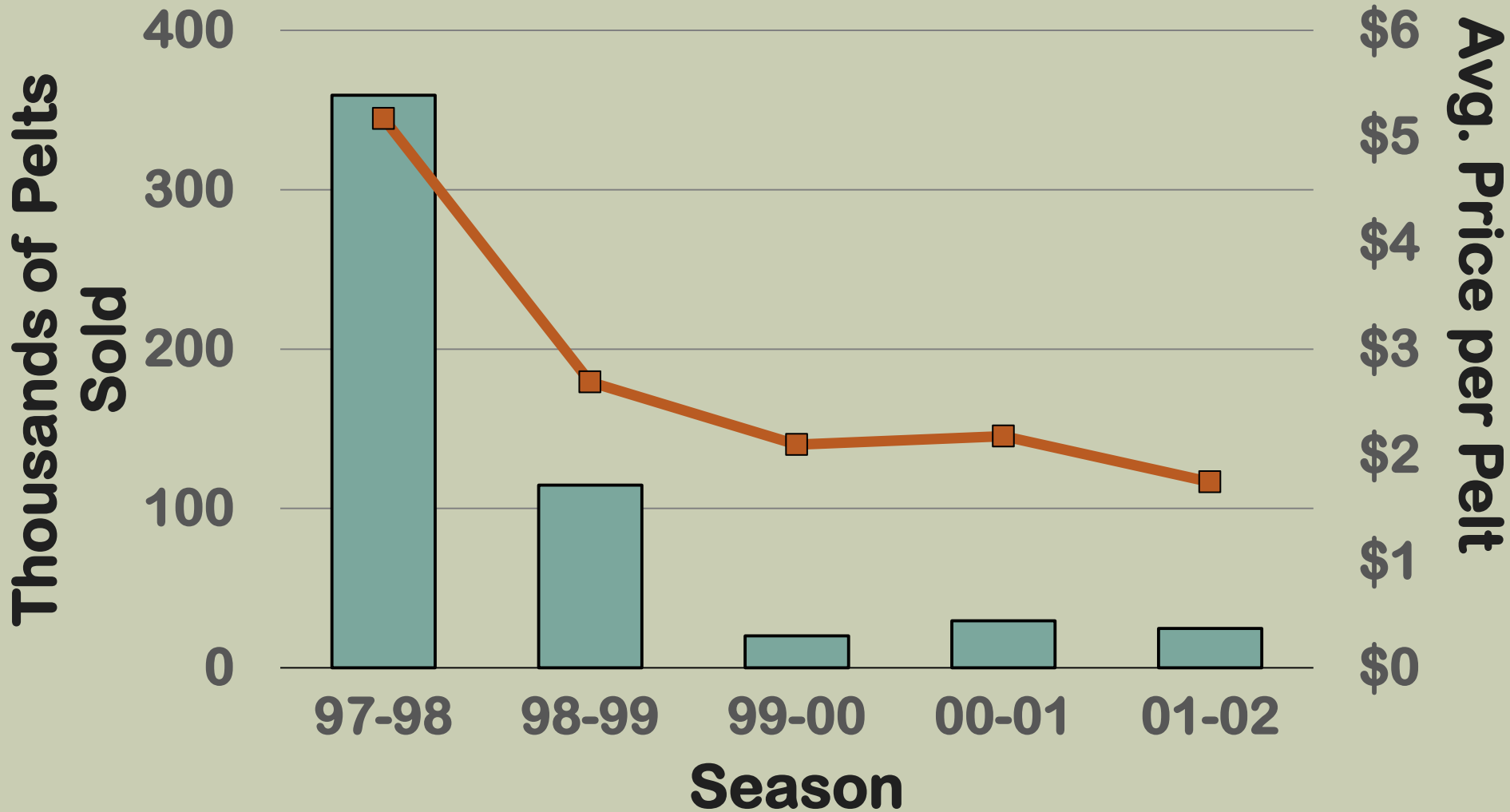
- Millions of Nutria Pelts sold to fur dealers
- Average Price Per Pelt

# Nutria Harvest & Wetland Demonstration Program

- ➔ **Assess impact of nutria & explore solutions**
- ➔ **5 seasons (97-98 through 01-02)**



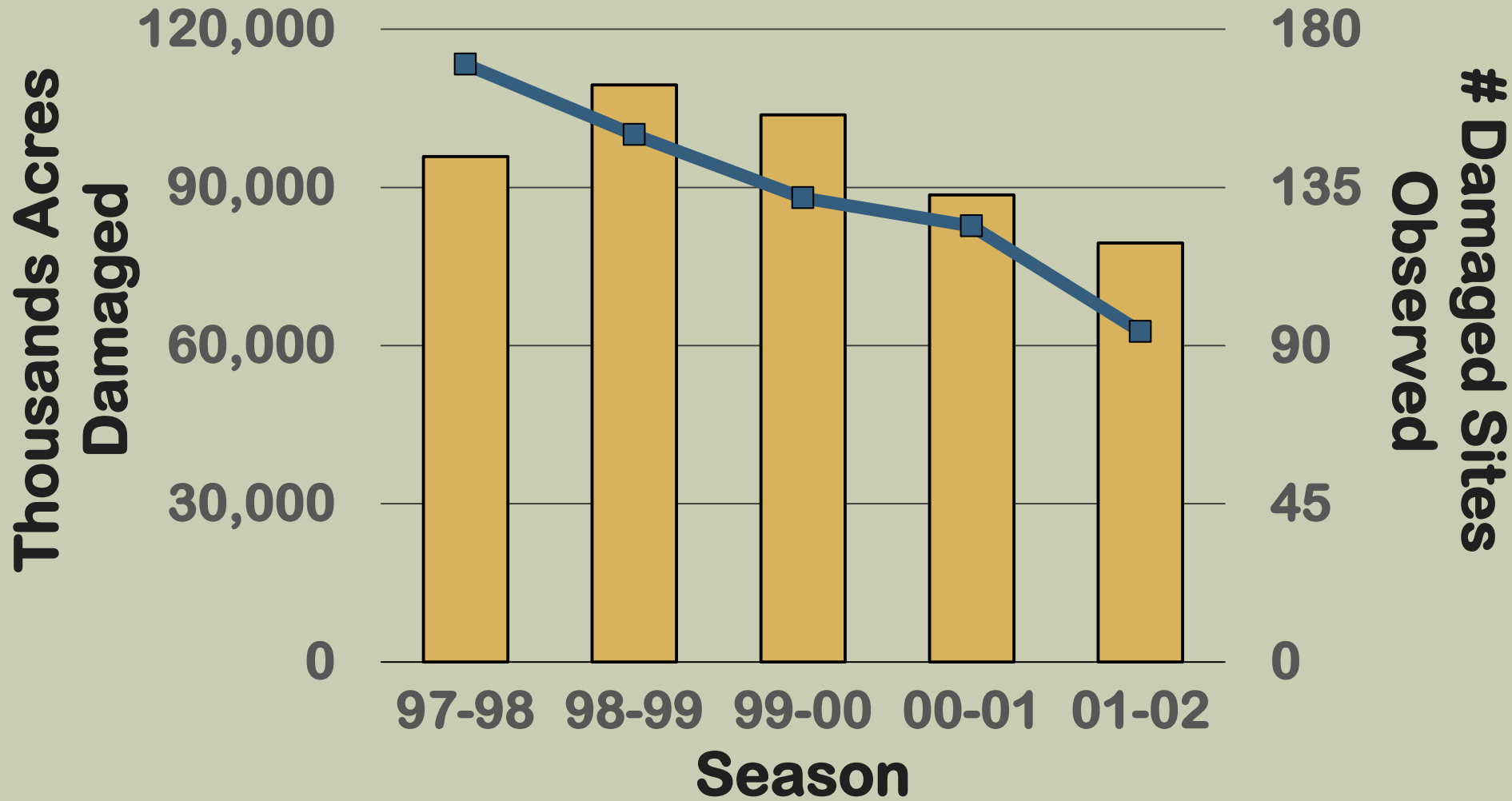
# Nutria Harvest & Wetland Demonstration Program



Thousands of nutria pelts

Avg. Price per Pelt

# Nutria Harvest & Wetland Demonstration Program



 Nutria Herbivory Damage

 # Damaged Sites

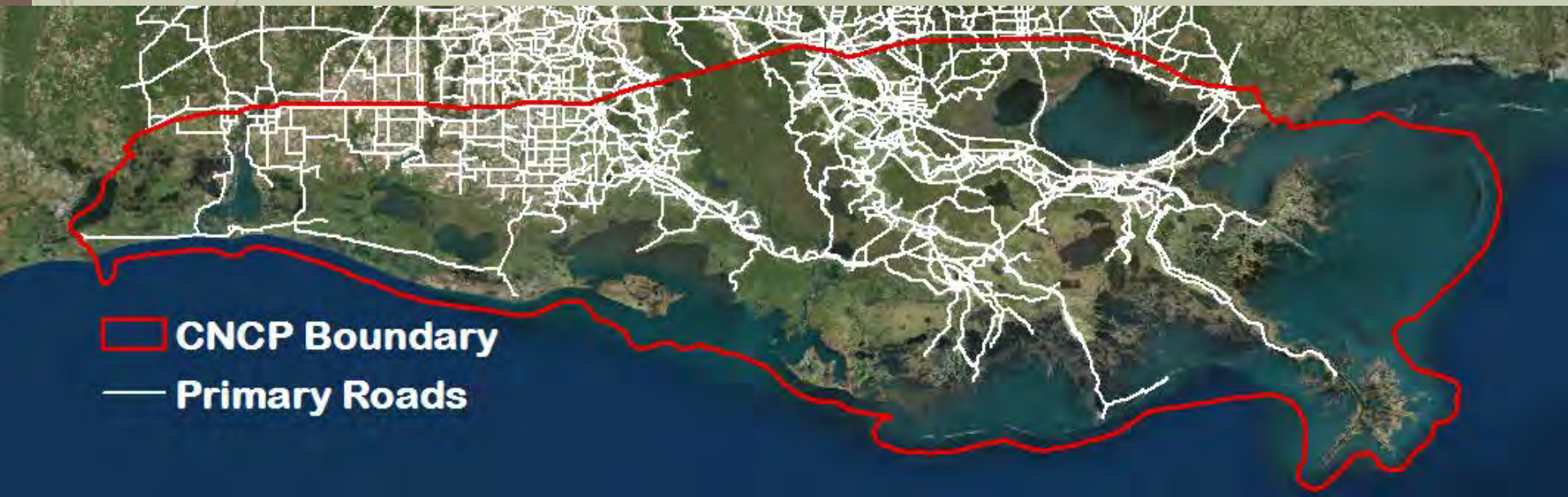
# Genesis Laboratories Report

- **Extensive review of nutria in LA**
  - **Biology & Natural History**
  - **Socioeconomic & Cultural Analysis**
  - **Nutria Control**
    - **Extent**
    - **Methods**



# Extent of Control

- **Eradication in MD & Great Britain**
  - **Incentive-Bonus Program**
  - **Not feasible in LA**
    - **Climate**
    - **Landscape**
    - **Scale**





# Control Methods

~~➔ Incentive-bonus~~

~~➔ Toxicants~~

~~➔ Induced infertility~~

➔ Trapping

➔ Controlled hunting

➔ Incentive payment



# Coastwide Nutria Control Program

- ➔ **Goal: reduce marsh damage from nutria herbivory by removing 400,000 nutria per season**
- ➔ **Method: incentive payments to registered hunters/trappers**
  - ➔ **\$4/tail 2002-2005**
  - ➔ **\$5/tail 2006-present**
  - ➔ **Harvest season:  
Nov 20 – Mar 31**



# Program Boundary



# Enrollment Process

LA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Application  
Submitted to LDWF



Application Reviewed  
by LDWF



Application Sent to  
CEI for  
Database Entry



**COASTWIDE NUTRIA CONTROL PROGRAM**  
PARTICIPANT APPLICATION FORM (2016-2017)  
Registration Period: September 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017

SSN: \_\_\_\_\_ TRAPPING LICENSE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
BIRTH DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DRIVER'S LICENSE NO: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously participated in the program? **YES** **NO** (Please circle answer)  
If yes, were you a **PARTICIPANT** or an **ASSISTANT**?  
What was the last season you participated? \_\_\_\_\_  
Will you be trapping/hunting the same property? **YES** **NO**

I WISH TO TAKE NUTRIA ON PROPERTY OWNED OR MANAGED BY:

COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
REPRESENTATIVE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LANDOWNER or LAND MANAGER (circle one)  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_


*To be completed by Landowner/Manager ONLY.* Signature of Landowner / Manager \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
If Trapping Lease, Date of Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIPTION OF AREA TO BE TRAPPED / HUNTED**  
WITH THIS APPLICATION YOU MUST SUBMIT: 1) COPY OF COMPLETE PROPERTY TAX RECEIPT OR 2) A LEGAL TRAPPING LEASE. EITHER OF THESE MUST CONTAIN TOWNSHIP, RANGE AND SECTION INFORMATION. YOU MUST ALSO INCLUDE A MAP OUTLINING THE PROPERTY TO BE TRAPPED / HUNTED. THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER FOR YOUR APPLICATION TO BE PROCESSED.

PARISH: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ACRES TO BE TRAPPED / HUNTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
TOWNSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ RANGE: \_\_\_\_\_ SECTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_  
TOWNSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ RANGE: \_\_\_\_\_ SECTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE\*\*\*\*\*

NUTRIA CONTROL PROGRAM REGISTRATION # ISSUED TO THIS APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_



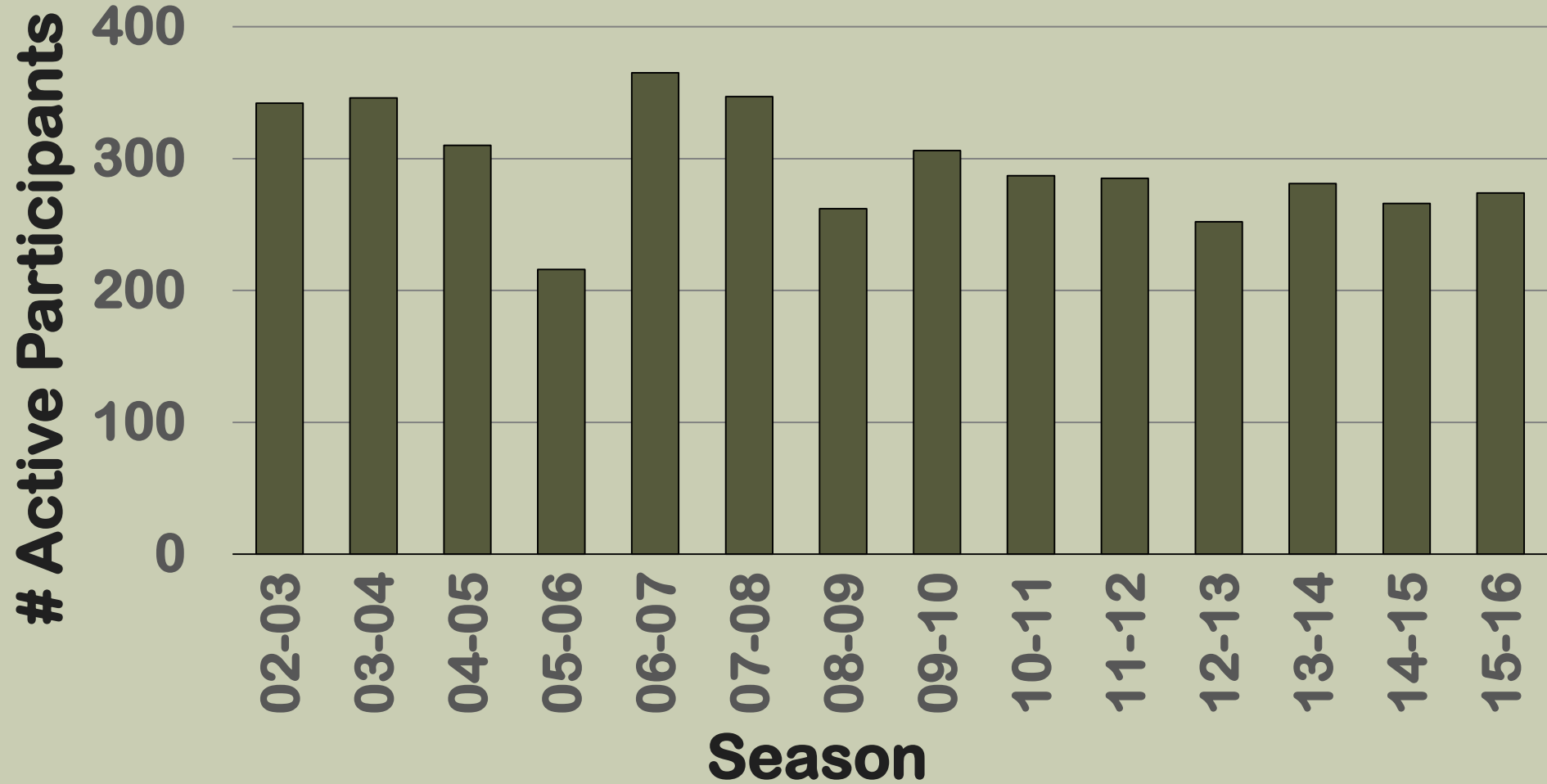
and Locations)

# Tail Collections



- **CEI mobile collection station**
- **Map harvest locations**
- **Survey participants**

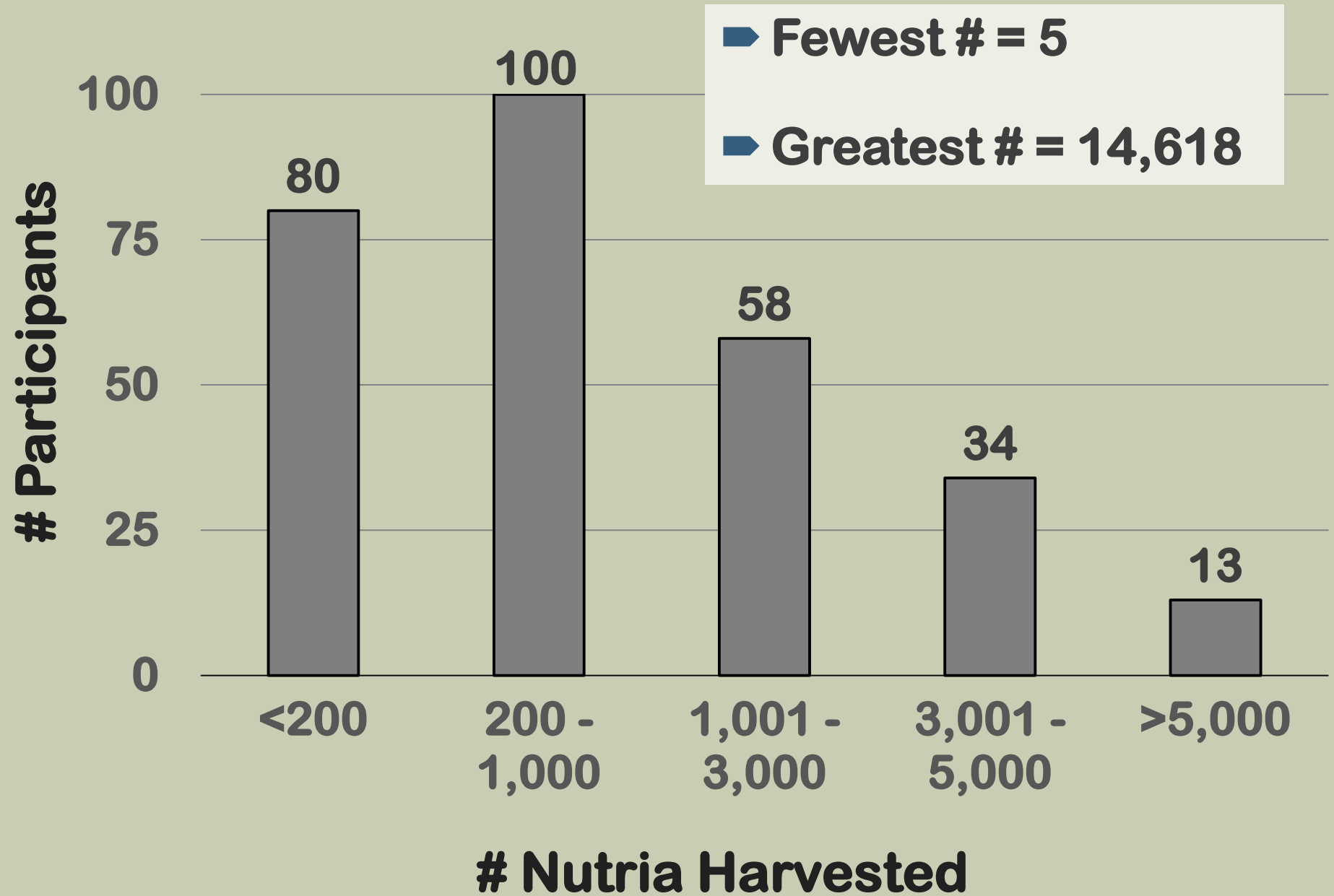
# Participants



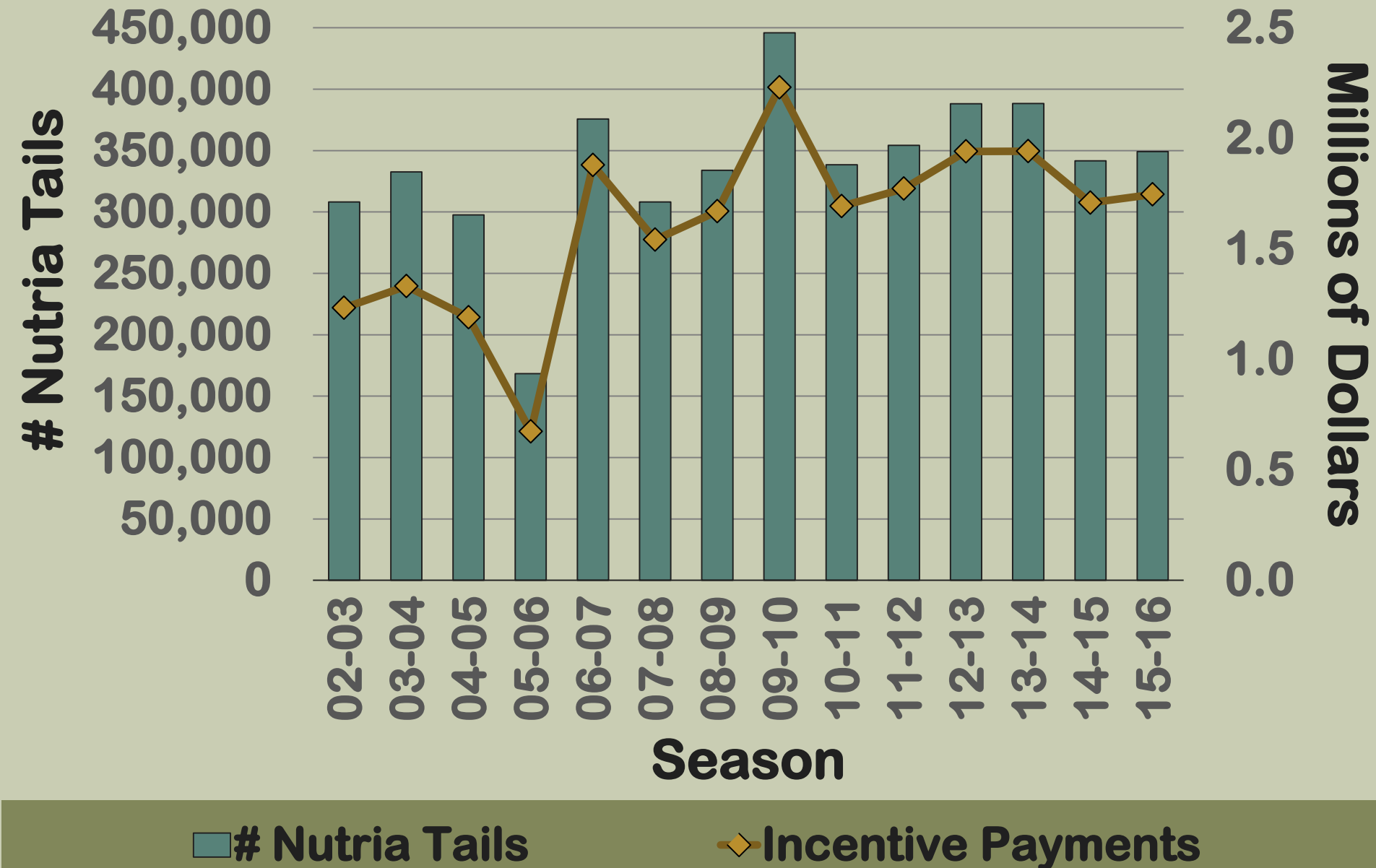
➤ Avg. 296 active participants / season

➤ ~36% registered enrollees don't participate

# 2015-2016 Harvest by Participants

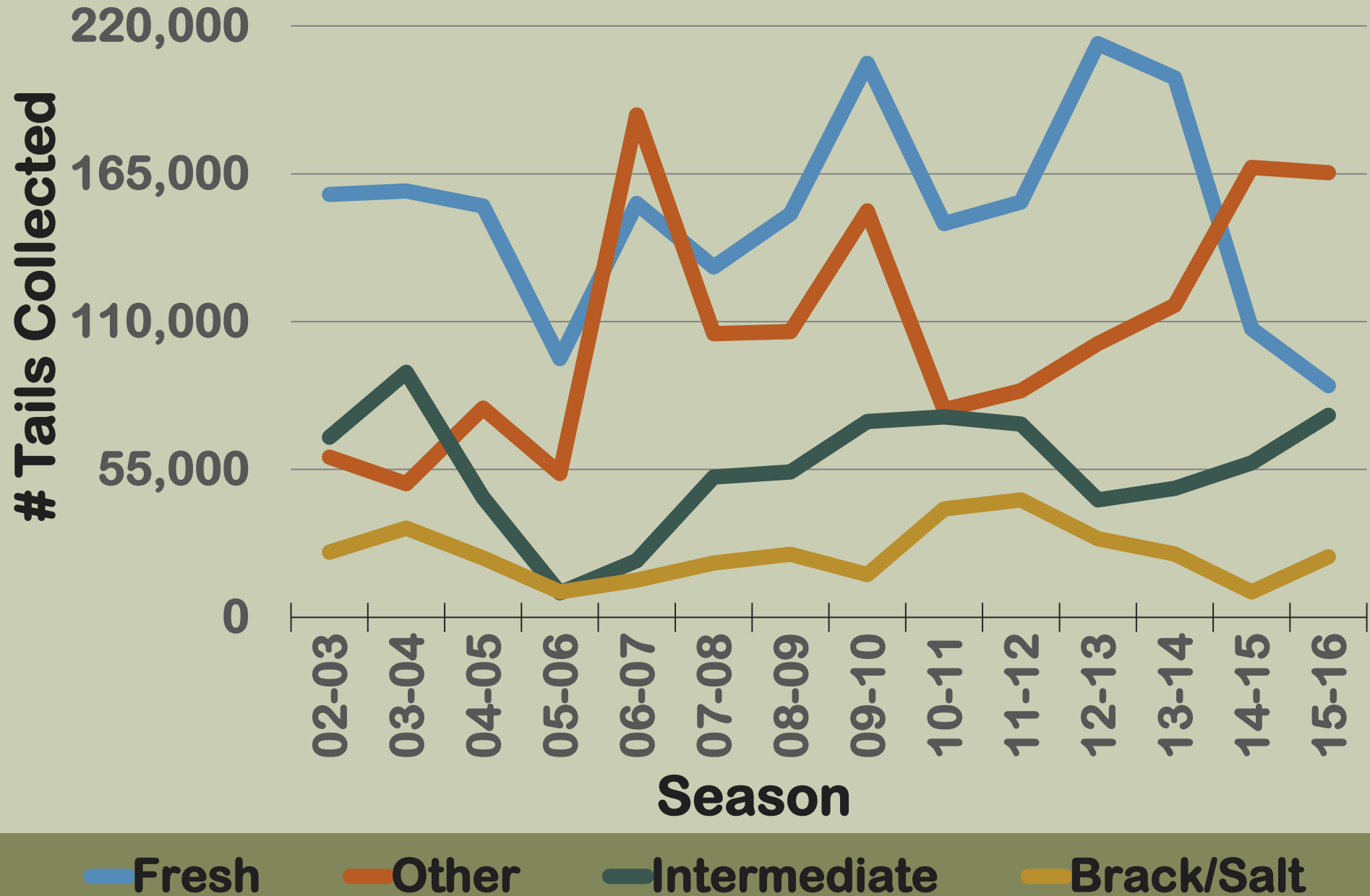


# Harvest & Payments

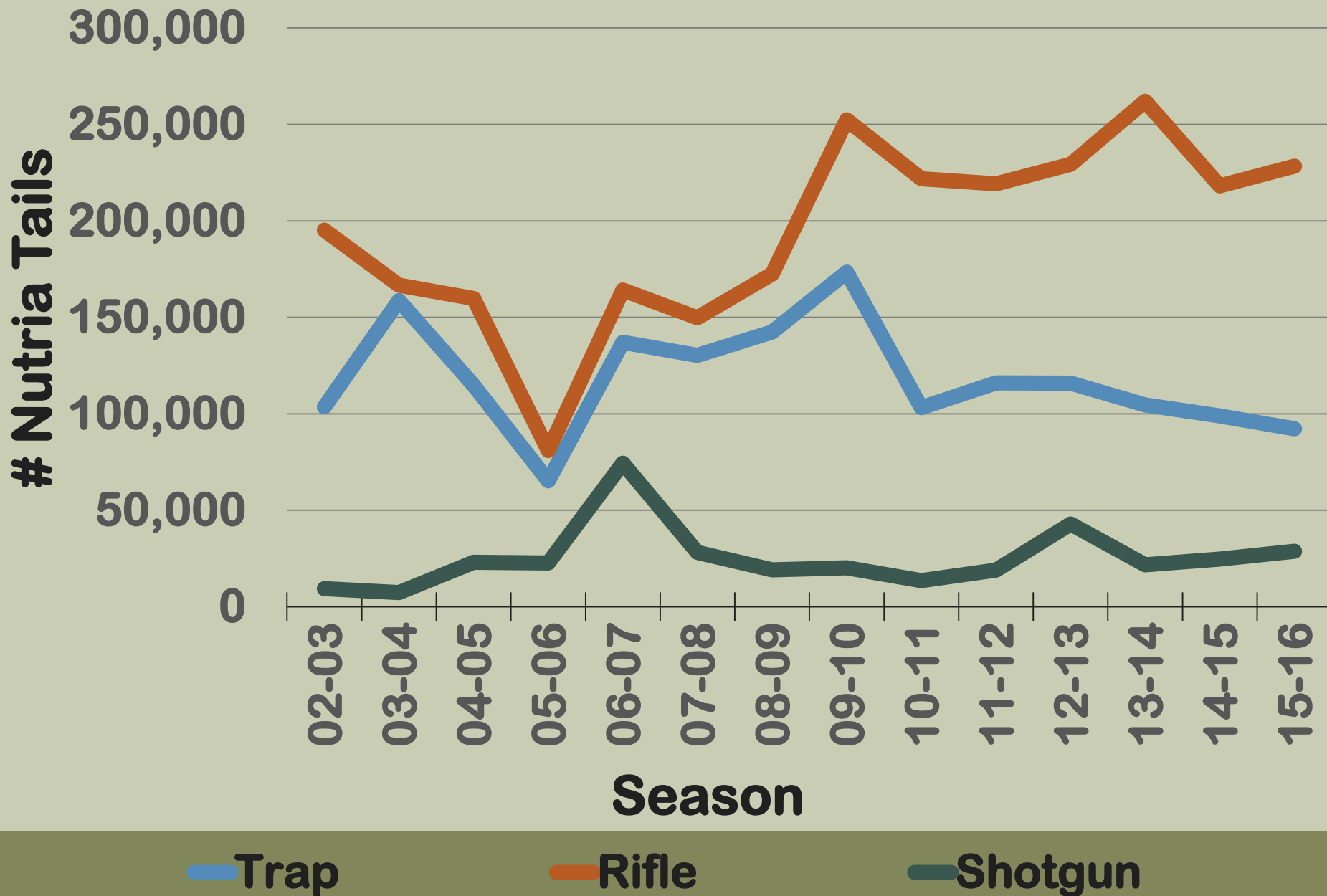




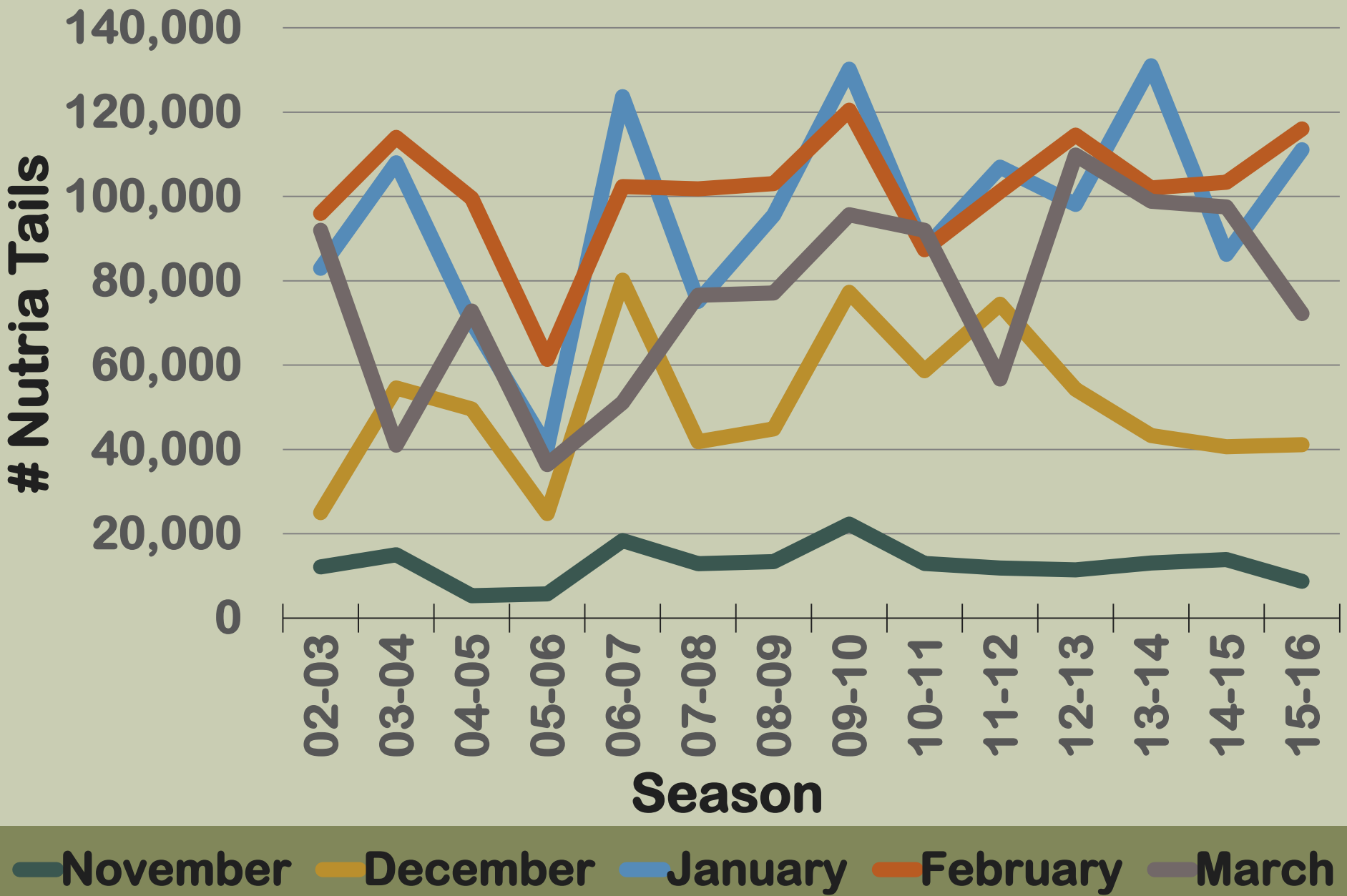
# Harvest by Marsh Type



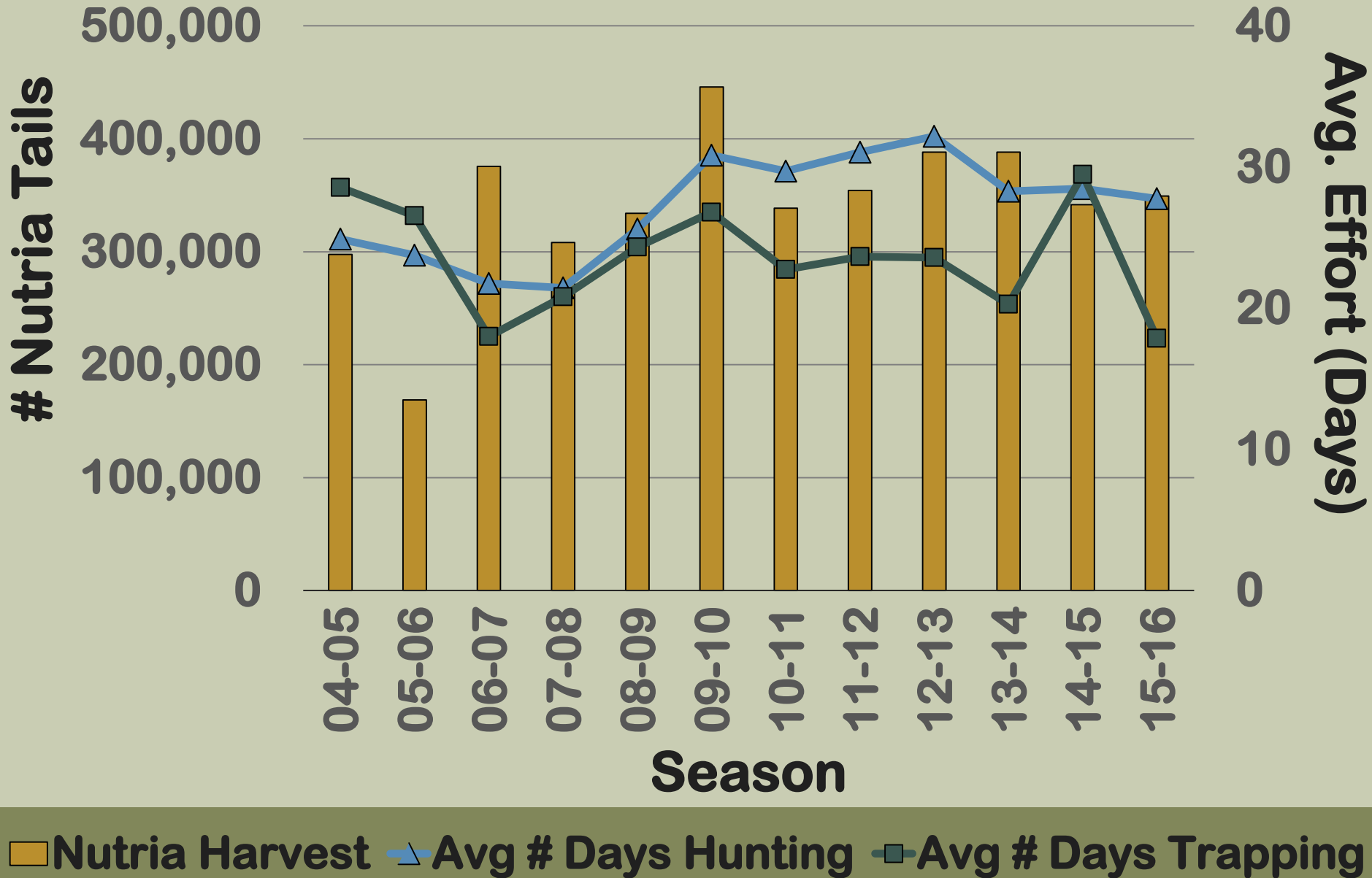
# Method of Take



# Monthly Nutria Harvest



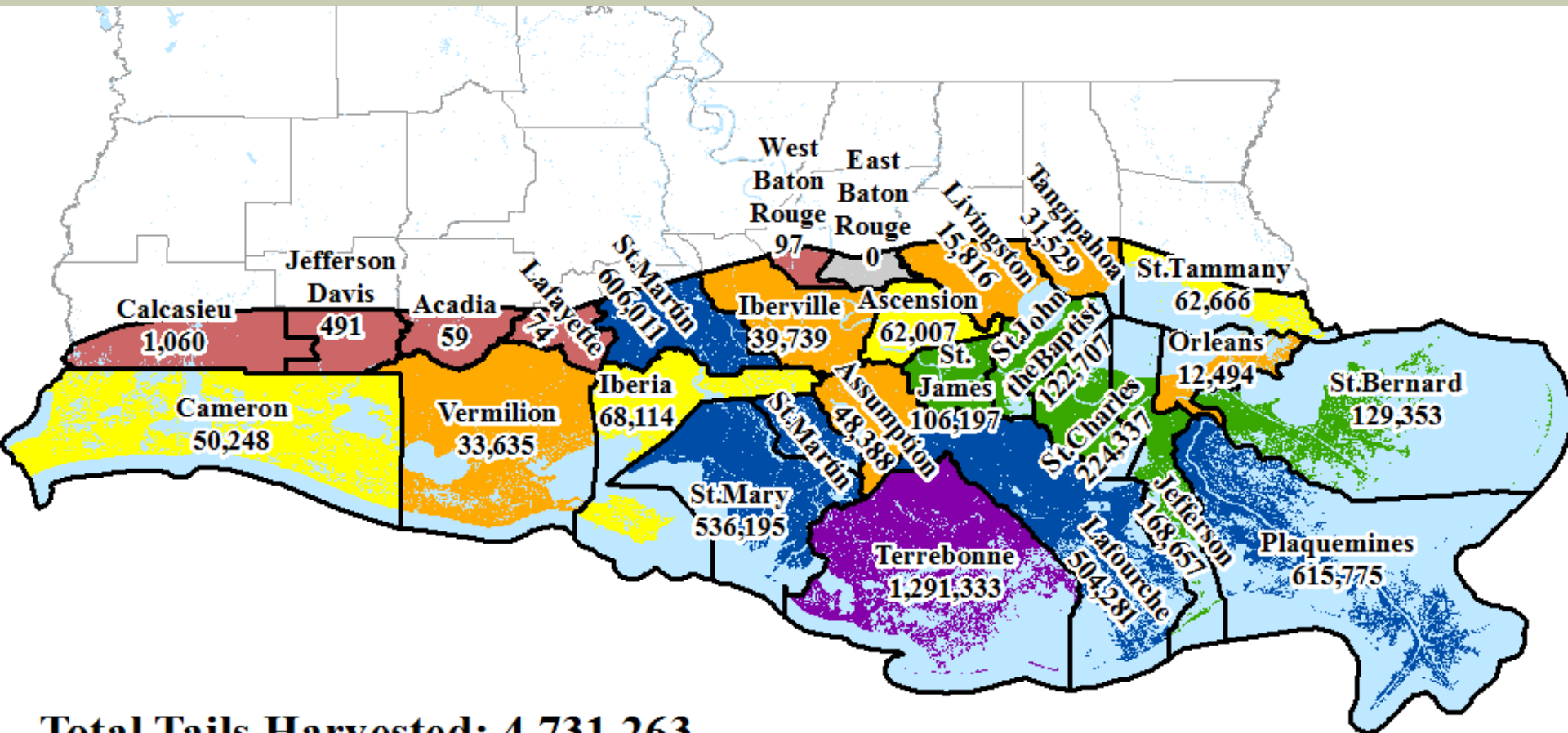
# Harvest Effort



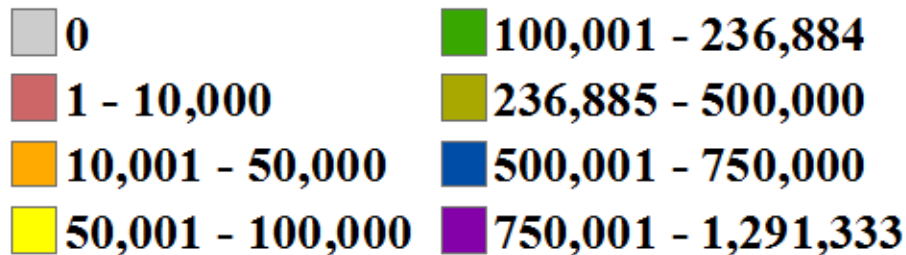
# Night Time Hunting



# CNCP 2002 – 2016: Tails by Parish



**Total Tails Harvested: 4,731,263**



0 10 20 40 60 80 Miles

0 15 30 60 90 120 Kilometers

# Herbivory Survey

## 206-B Bell Jet Ranger

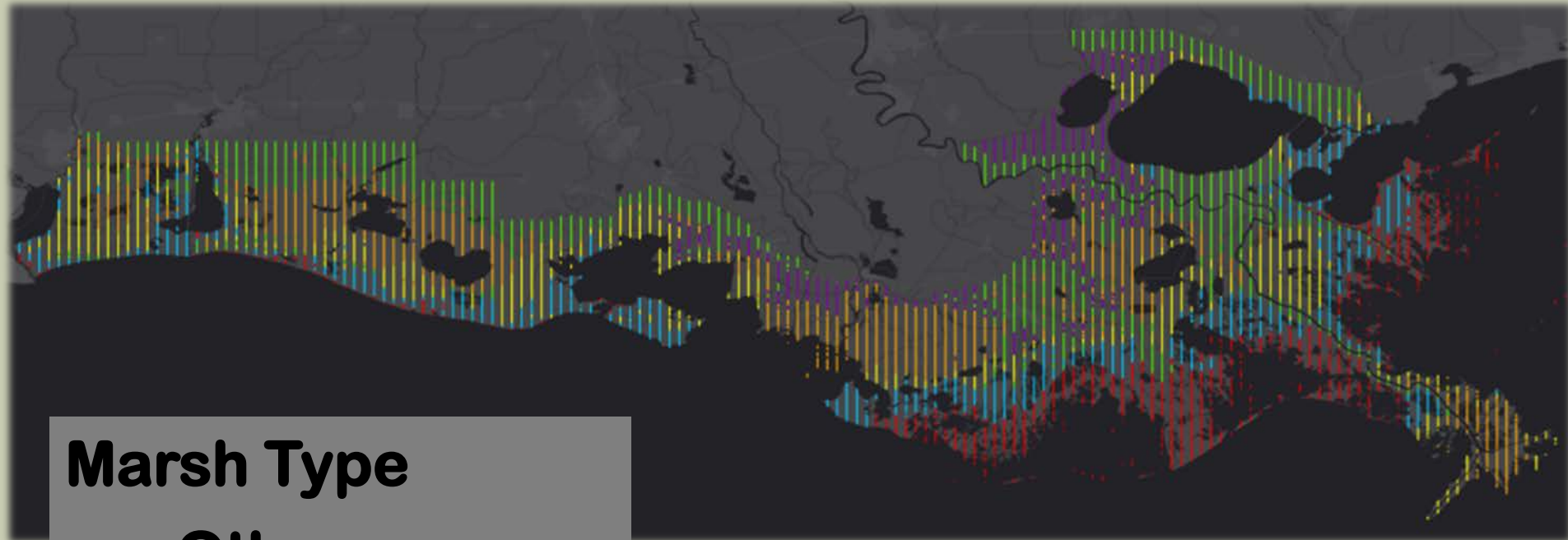


➤ **Two Observers**

➤ **1 navigates along transects**

➤ **1 records data**

# Transect Lines



## Marsh Type

- Other
- Swamp
- Fresh
- Intermediate
- Brackish
- Salt

➤ 155 transect lines

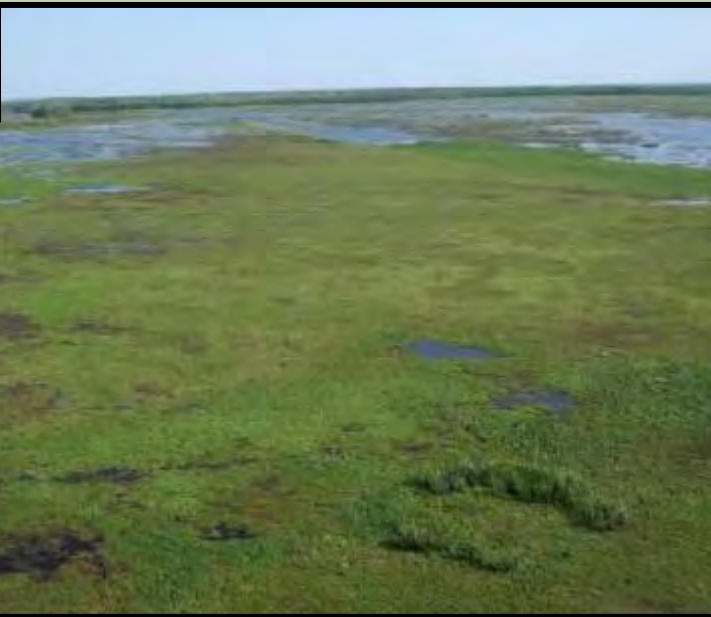
➤ 2,355 miles

➤ Transect width =  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile



# Damage Assessment

**Minor**



**Moderate**



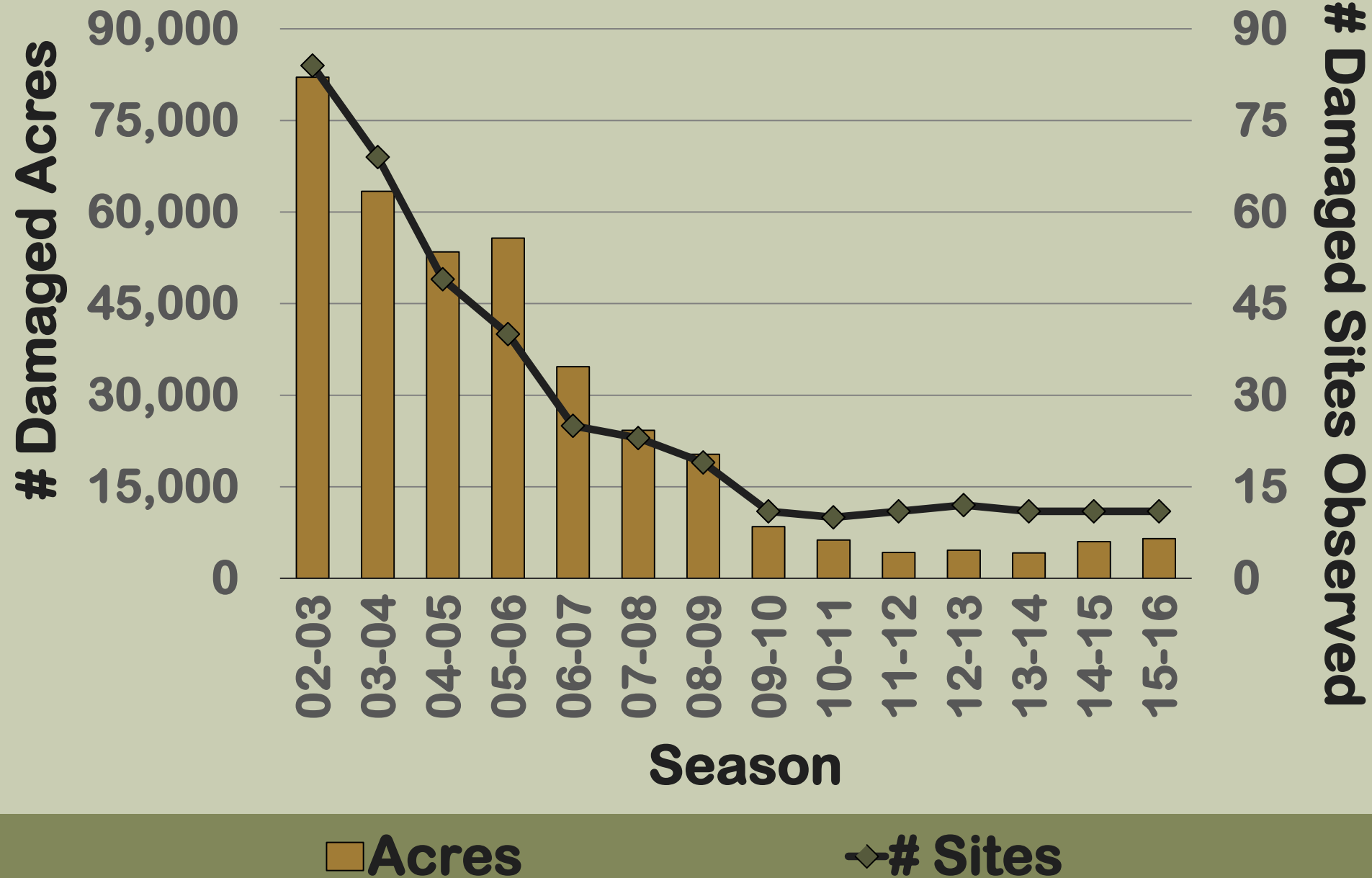
**Severe**



**Converted to Open Water**

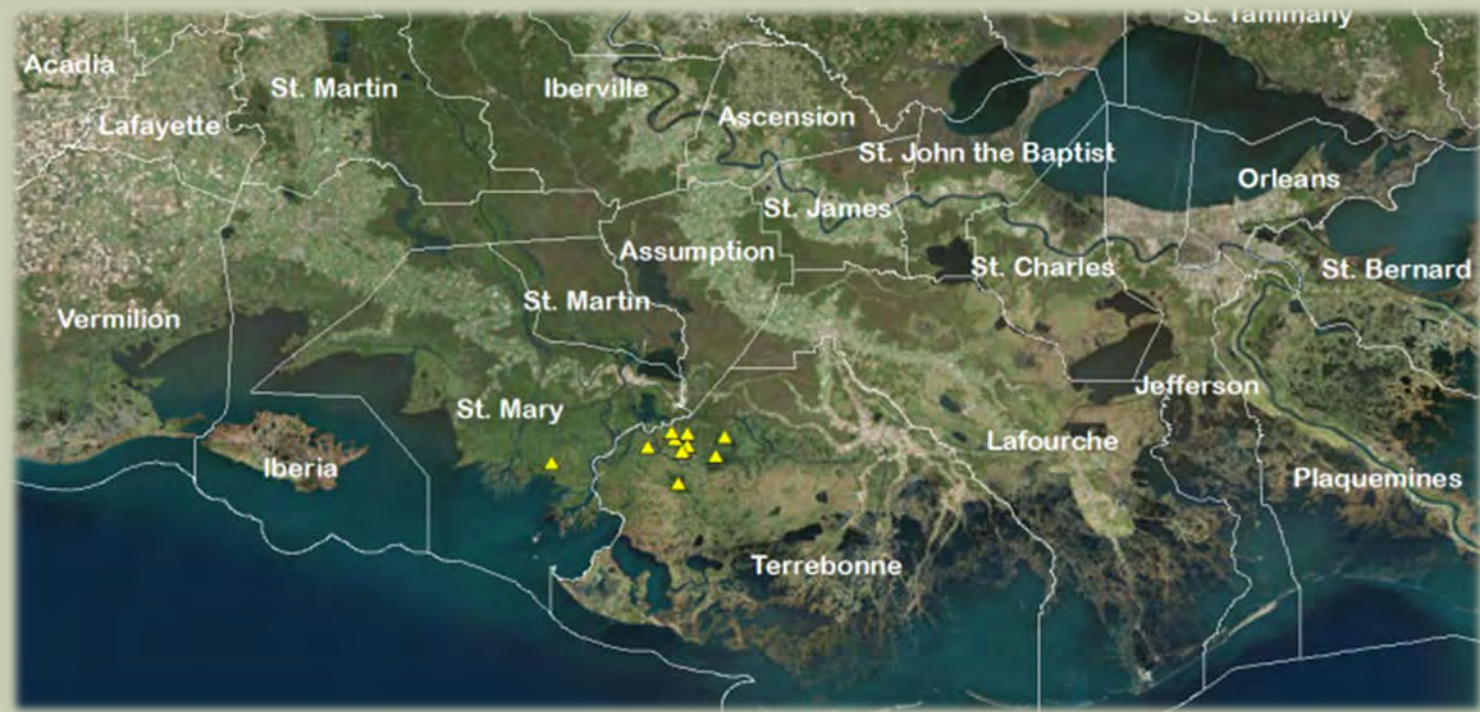


# Nutria Herbivory Damage





**2003  
Nutria  
Damage  
Centers**

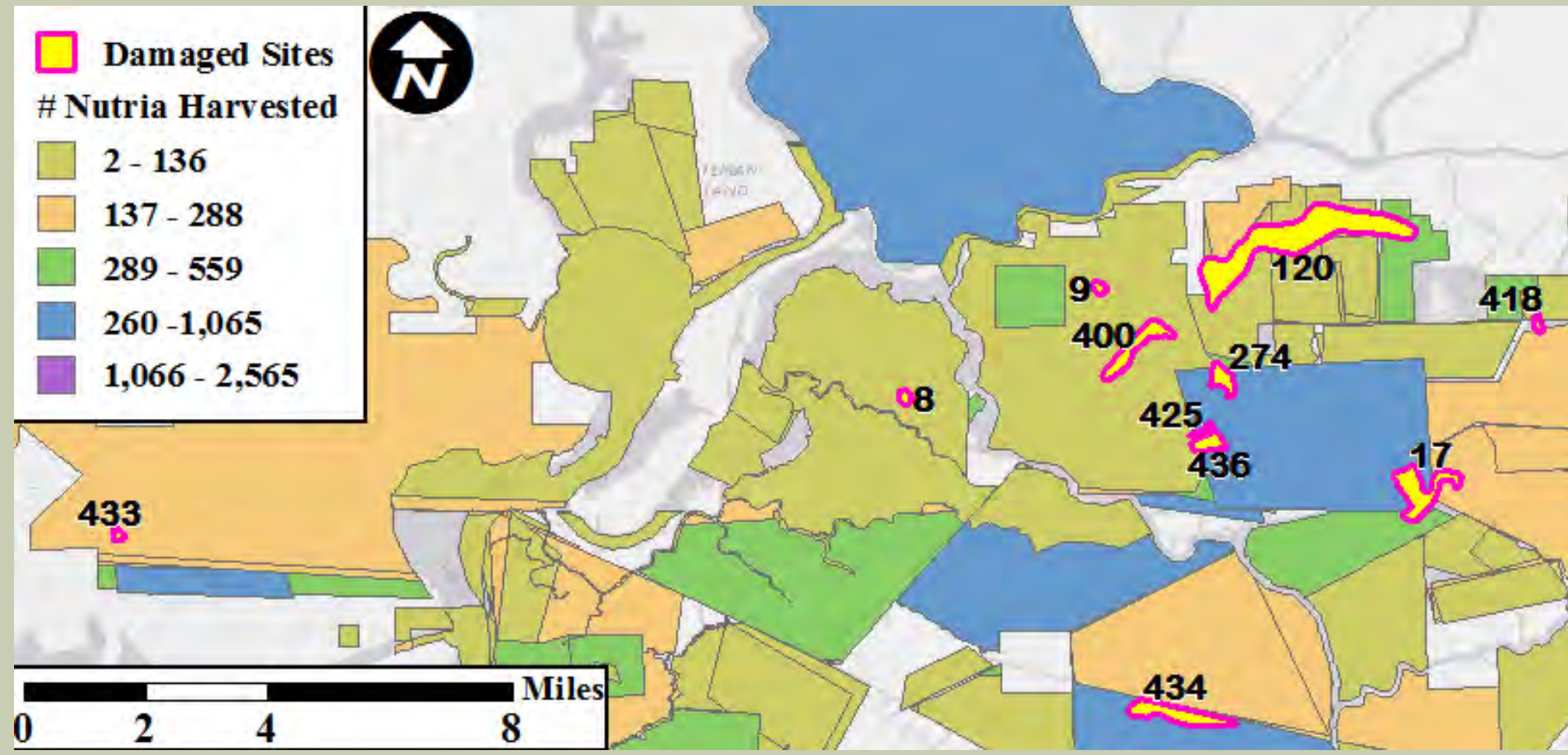


**2016  
Nutria  
Damage  
Centers**










# 2016 Damaged Sites

► 11 total nutria damage sites

► 1,732 acres damaged along transects



# 2016 Damaged Sites

Site ID	Acres	Change in Acres from 2015	Vegetative Damage Rating	Age of Damage & Condition
8	24	8 	Minor	Old Recovering
9	21	-8 	Moderate	Old Not Recovering
17	236	29 	Moderate	Old Not Recovering
120	897	95 	Severe	Old Not Recovering
274	74	-129 	Severe	Old Not Recovering
400	164	-45 	Severe	Old Not Recovering
418	18	2 	Moderate	Old Not Recovering
425	17	0	Moderate	Old Not Recovering
433	16	0	Minor	Old Recovering
434	198	172 	Moderate	Old Not Recovering
436	69	8 	Moderate	Old Recovering

# Conclusion

- Effectively reduced marsh damage caused by nutria herbivory
- CNCP driving nutria harvest
  - 2015-16: 81 pelts sold @ avg. \$2
- Program participation stable
- Cost effective
- Continue 3+ more seasons



Questions?  
[www.nutria.com](http://www.nutria.com)



**Catherine Normand: [cnormand@wlf.la.gov](mailto:cnormand@wlf.la.gov)**

**Jennifer Hogue Manuel: [jhogue@wlf.la.gov](mailto:jhogue@wlf.la.gov)**

**Edmond Mouton: [emouton@wlf.la.gov](mailto:emouton@wlf.la.gov)**