

Fall 2023 Whooping Crane Monitoring



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Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, January 16, 2024

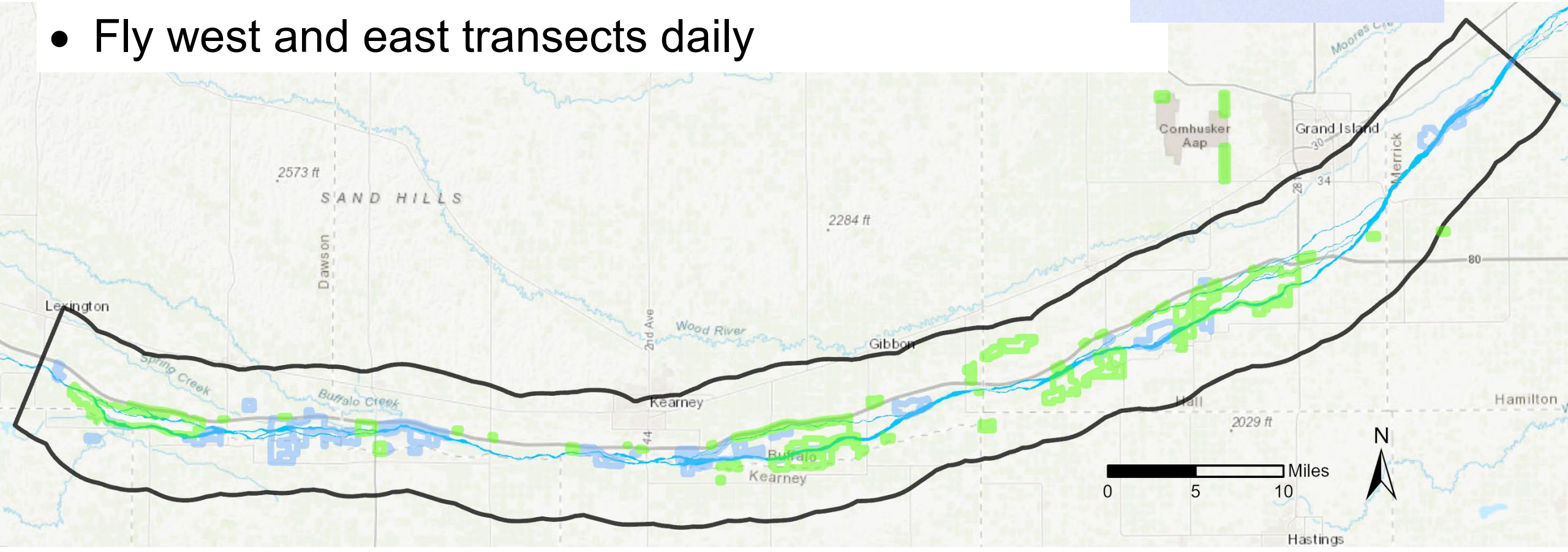
PRRIP Whooping Crane Monitoring

- Assess success of PRRIP management objective
- Collect systematic data
- Evaluate stopover metrics
- Address Extension Big Questions



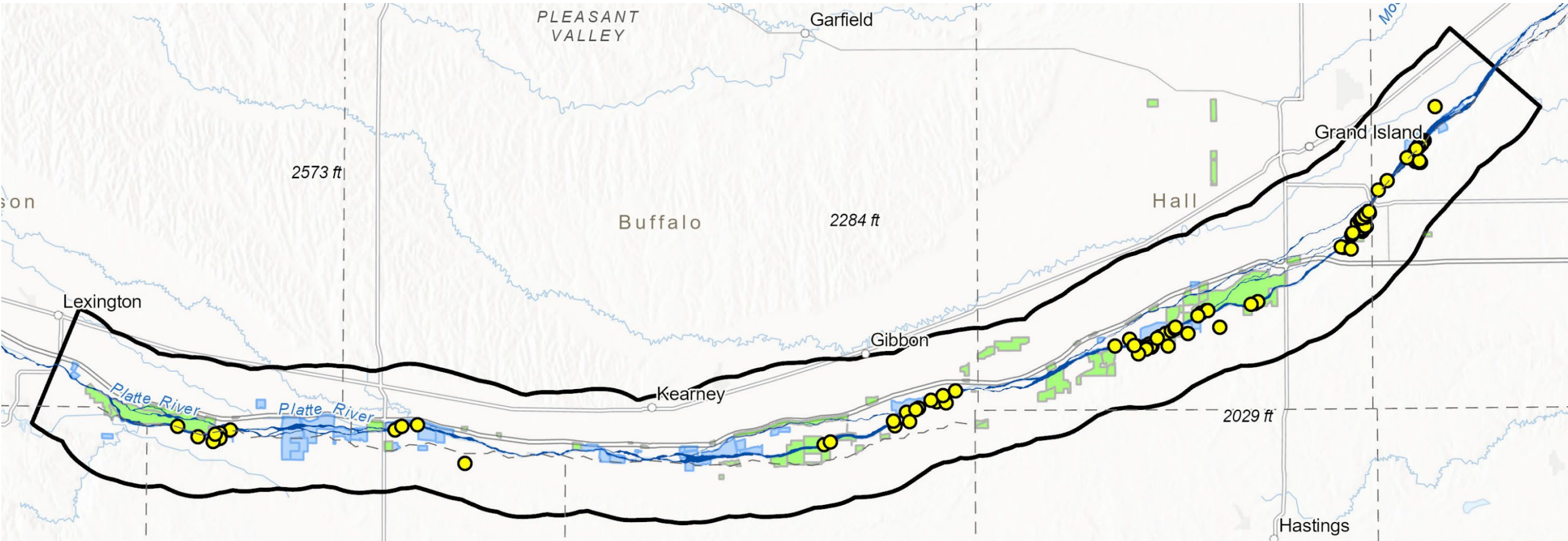
PRRIP Monitoring Methods

- Systematic aerial surveys and ground monitoring
- October 9 – November 15
 - Extended this fall
- Fly west and east transects daily



PRRIP Fall 2023 Monitoring

- 43 individual whooping cranes
- 13 unique groups
- October 29 – ?
- 168 group locations

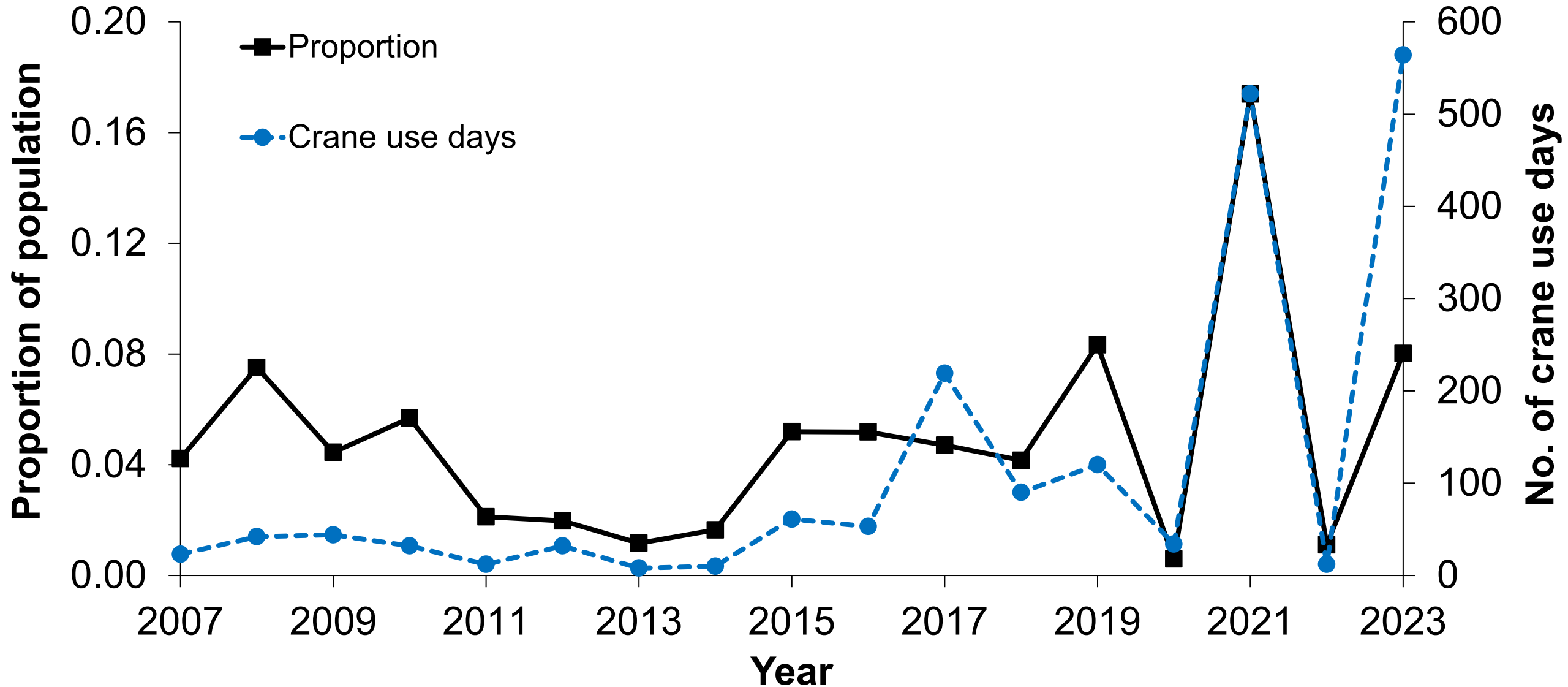


PRRIP Fall 2023 Monitoring Effort

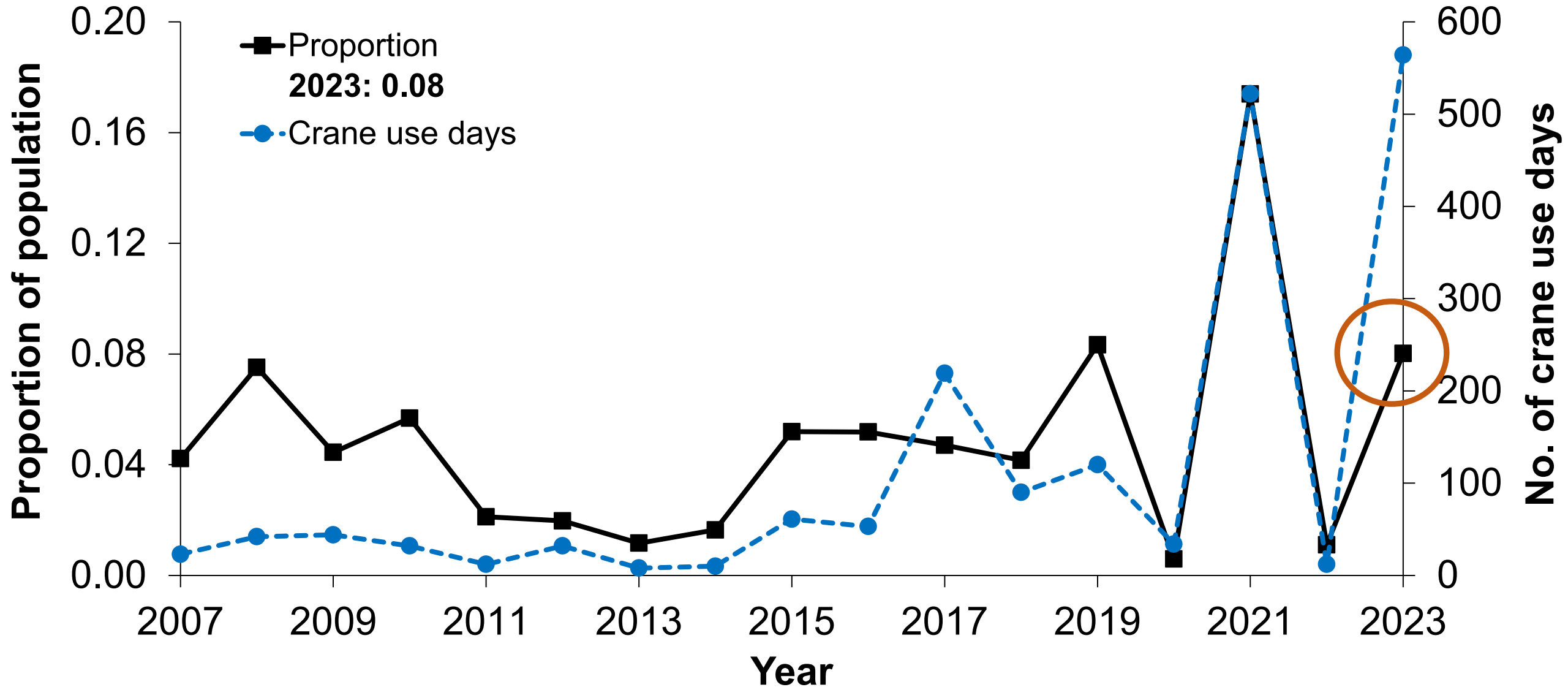
- Systematic aerial surveys
 - 58 of 76 flights completed (October 9–November 15)
 - 45 of 59 flights completed (November 16–December 31)
- Ground monitoring
 - 154 miles
 - 11 hours
 - 24 group locations



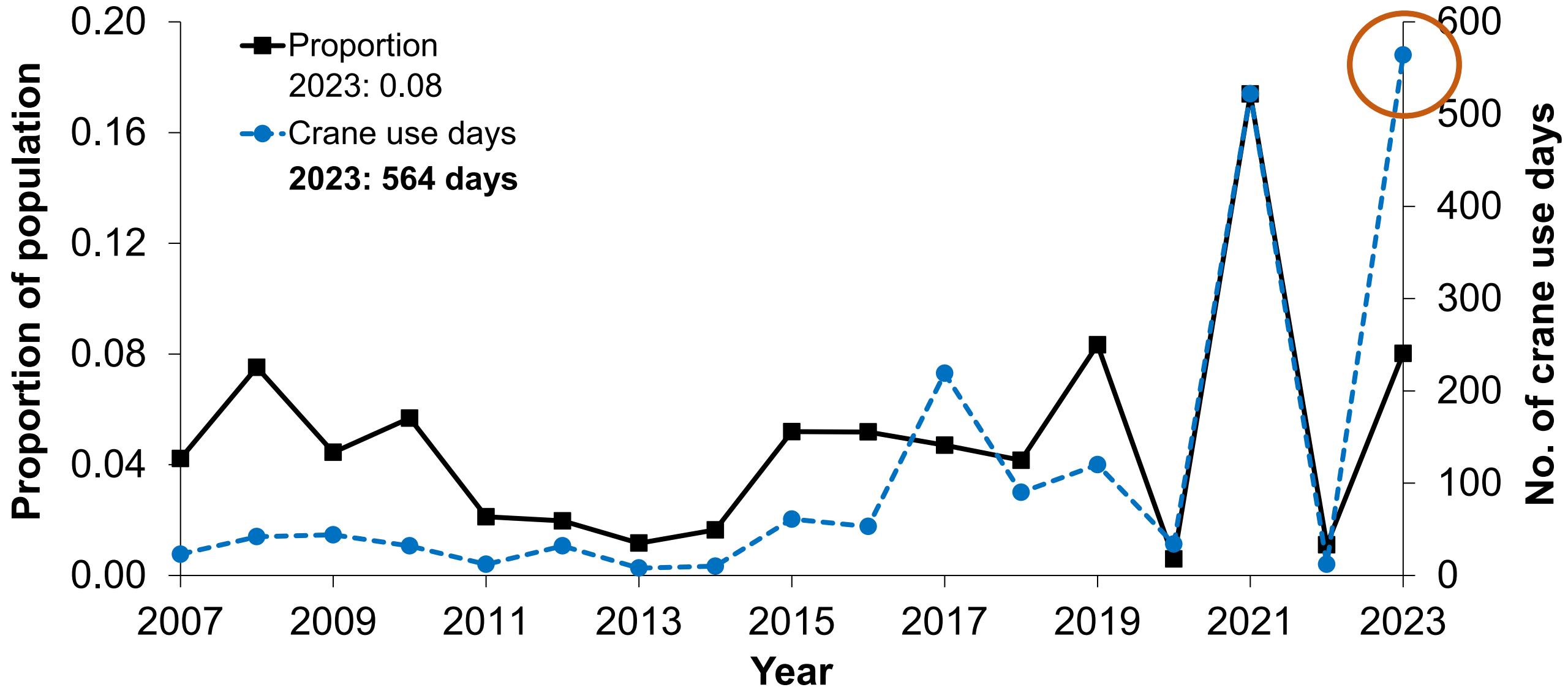
Fall Whooping Crane Metrics



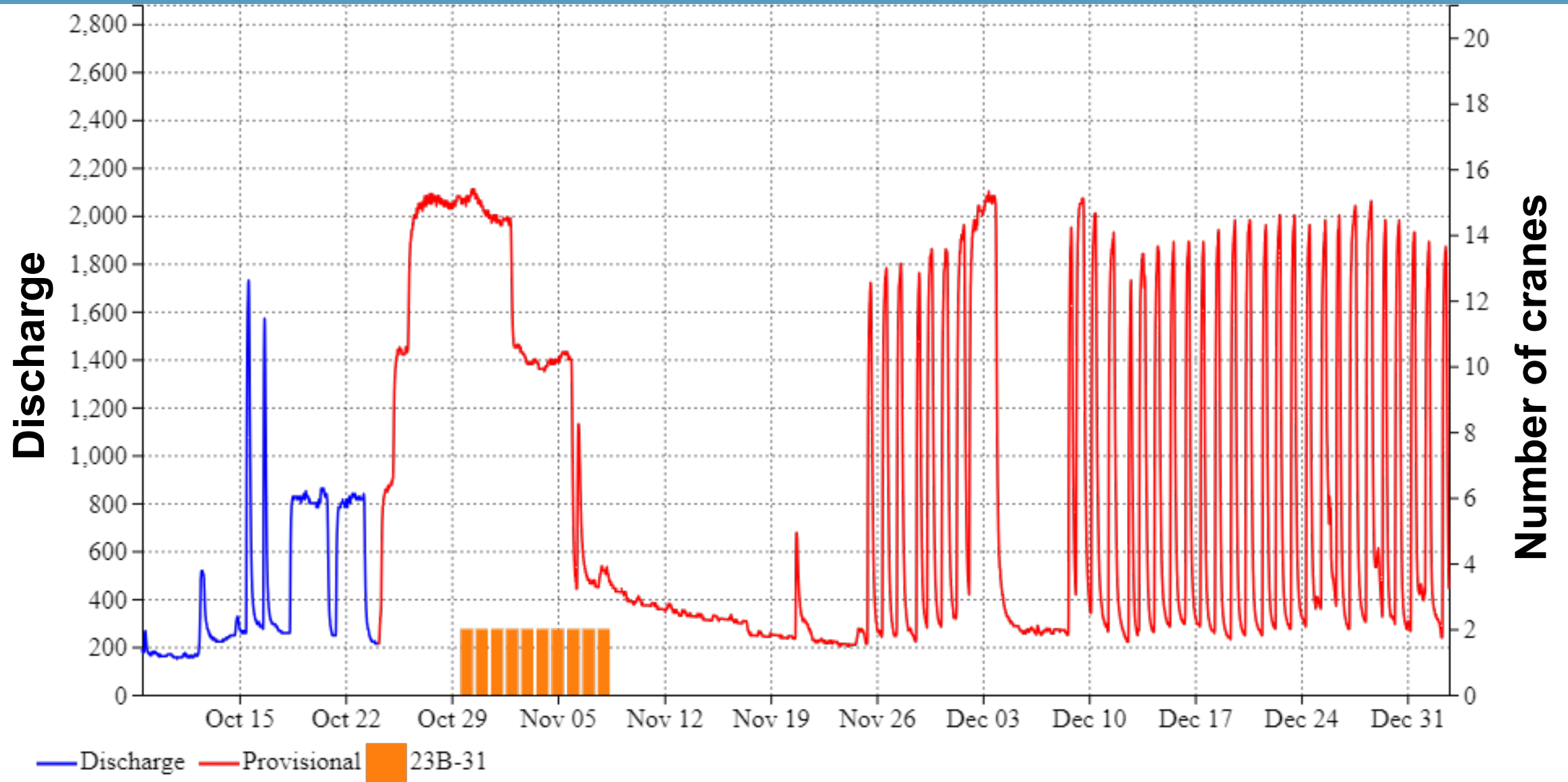
Fall Whooping Crane Metrics



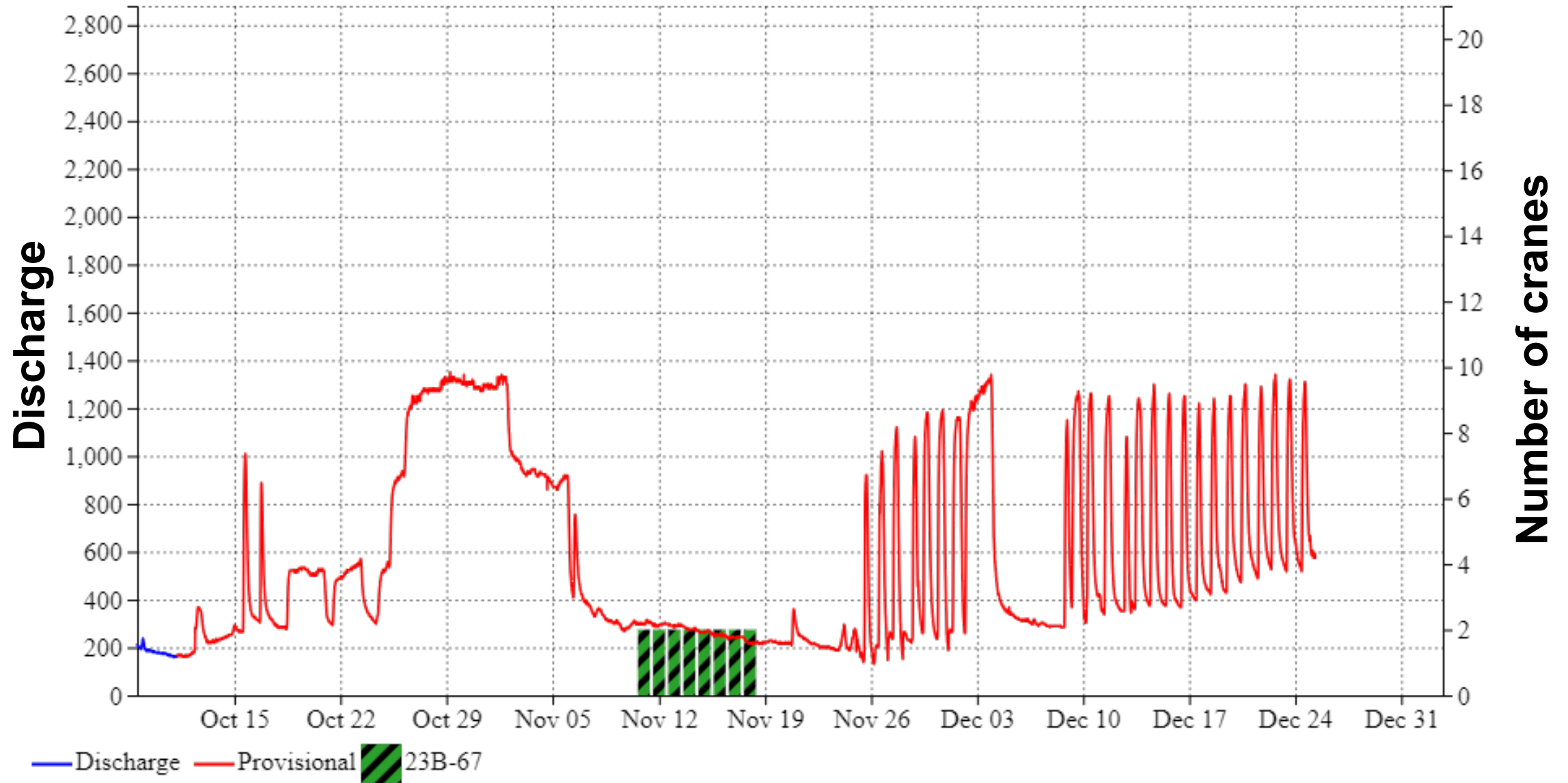
Fall Whooping Crane Metrics



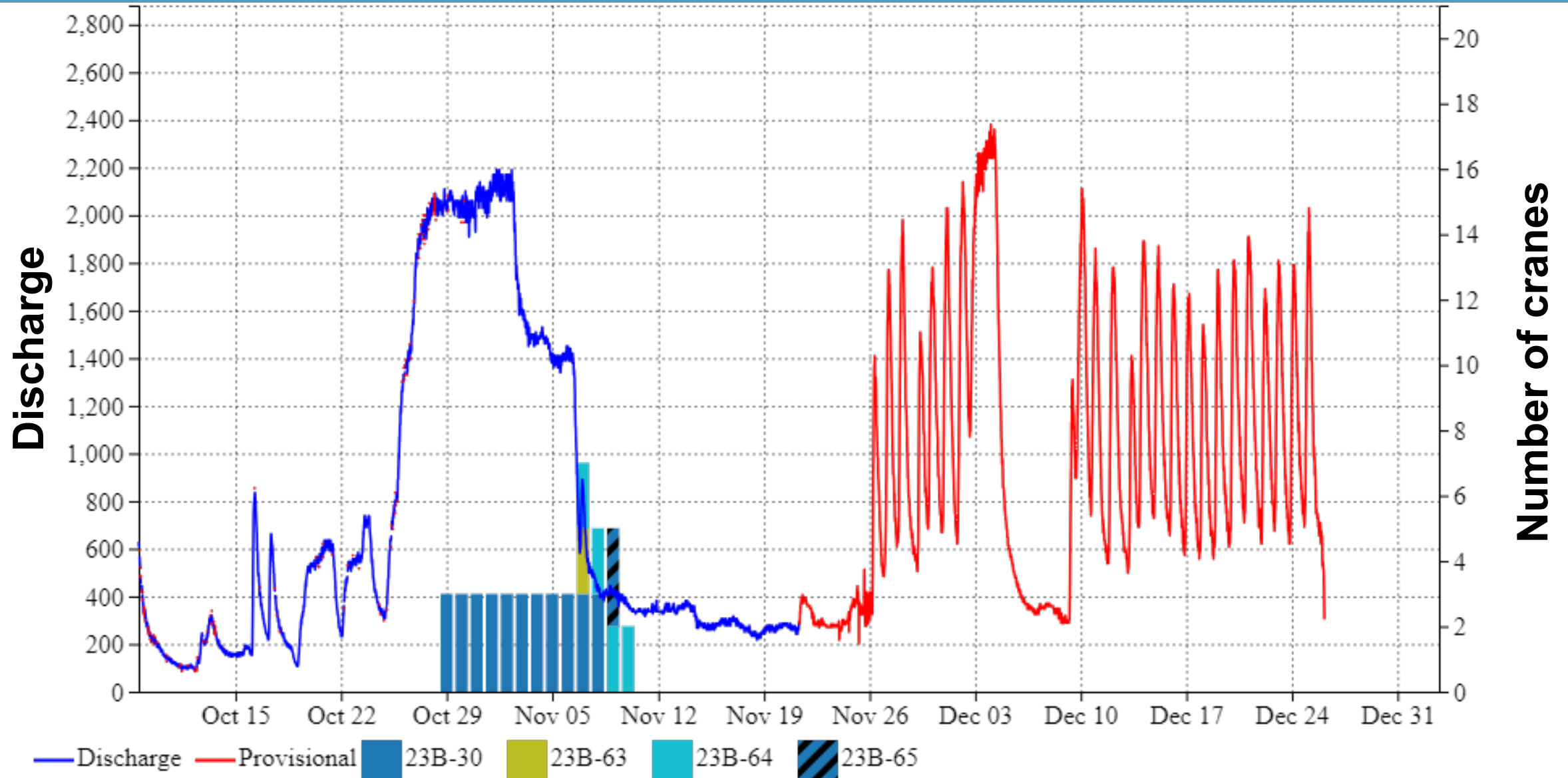
Platte River Discharge at Overton



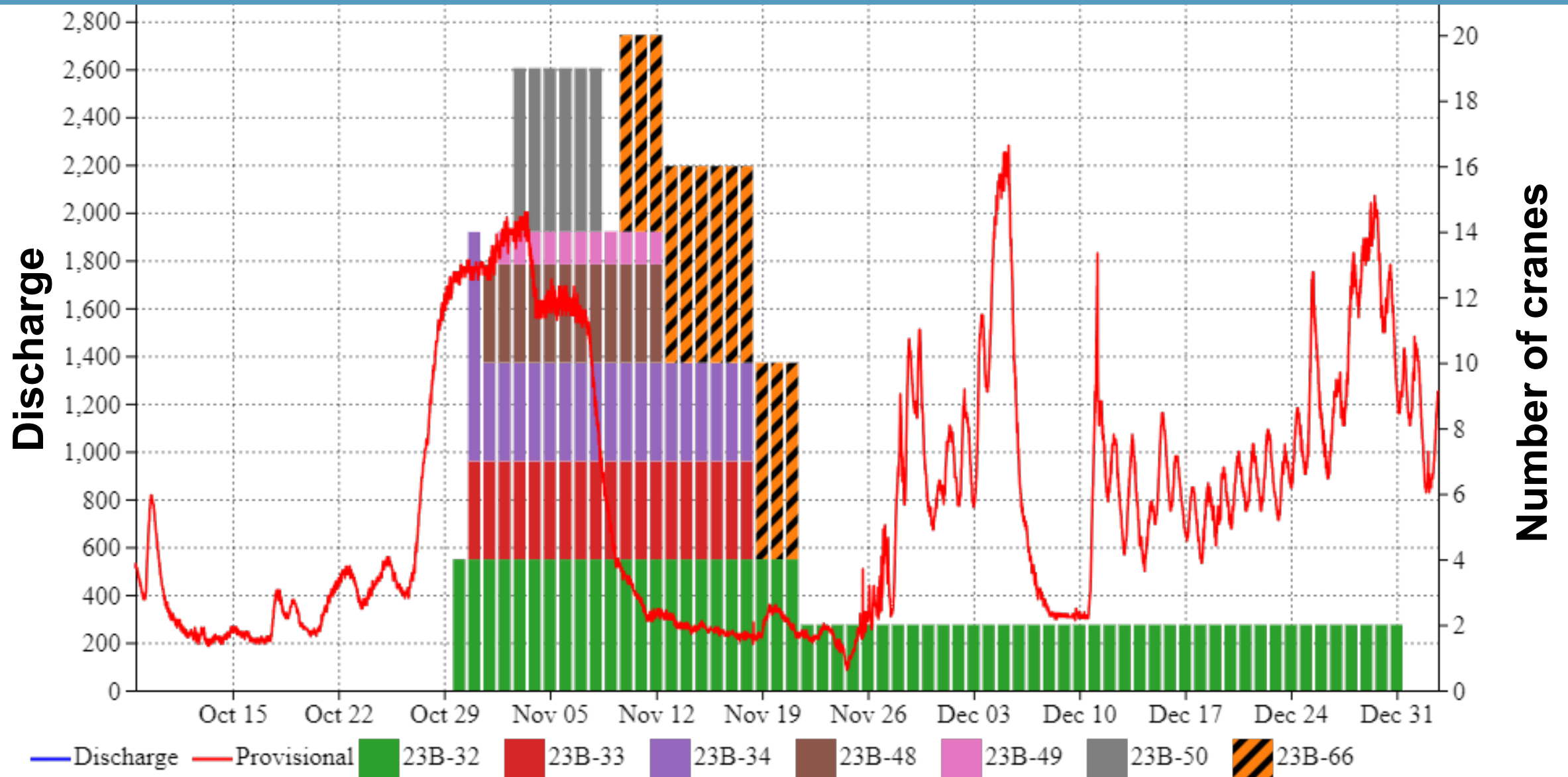
Platte River Discharge at Cottonwood



Platte River Discharge at Kearney

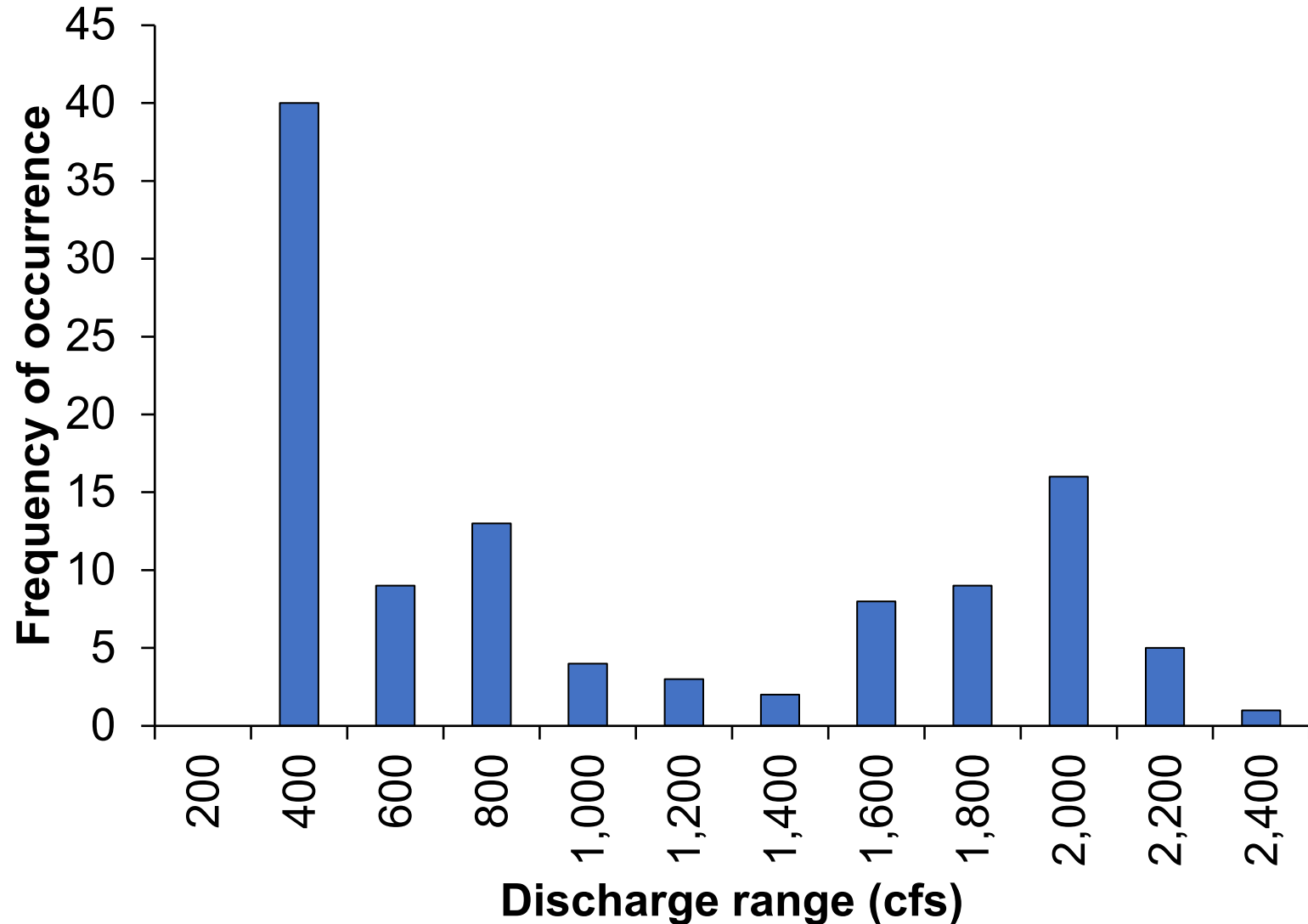


Platte River Discharge at Grand Island



Riverine Locations

- 110 riverine locations
 - 219 cfs to 2,220 cfs
 - Mean = 962 cfs
 - Median = 715 cfs

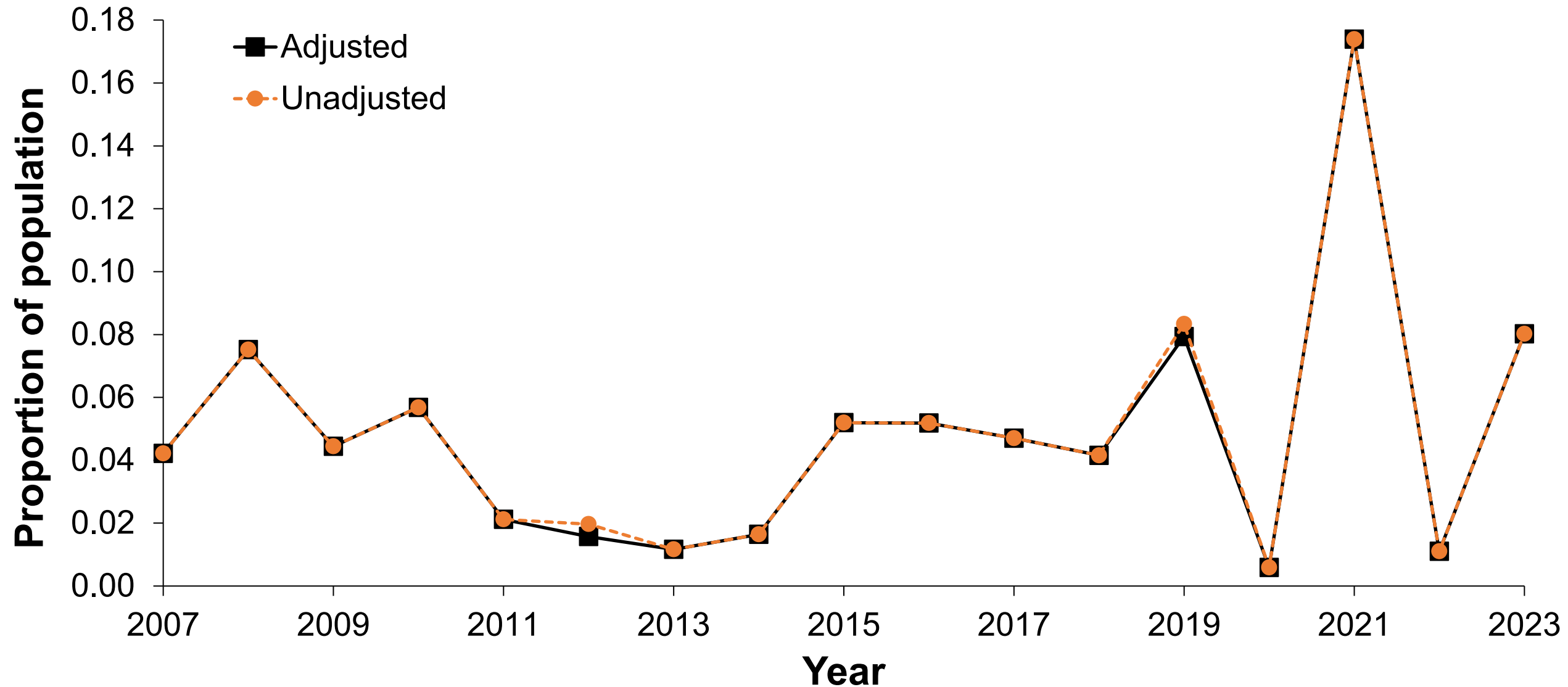


Comparing Metrics Across Years

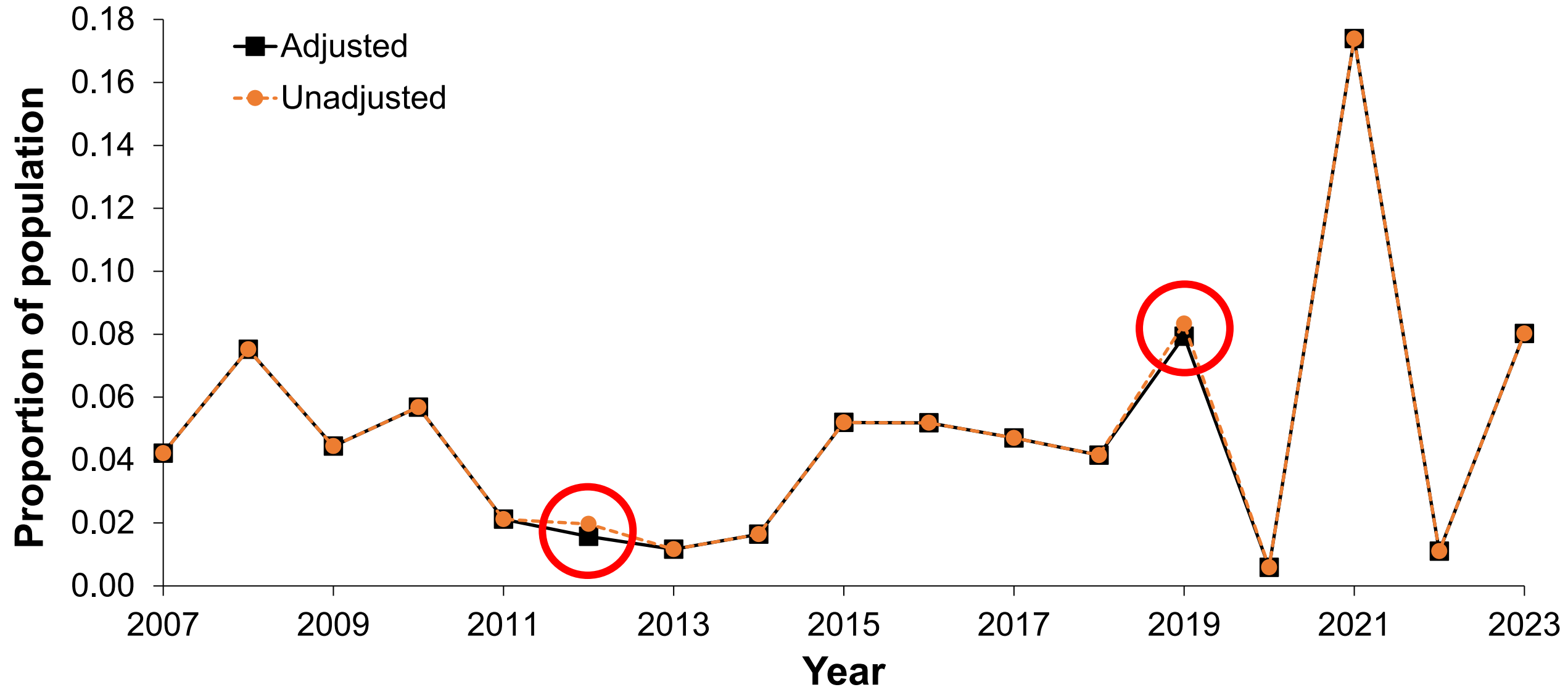
1. Calculate 5th and 95th percentiles of initial dates of group observations in Nebraska
 - 10-year periods
2. Calculate adjusted metrics as those observed within dates from 5th through 95th percentiles



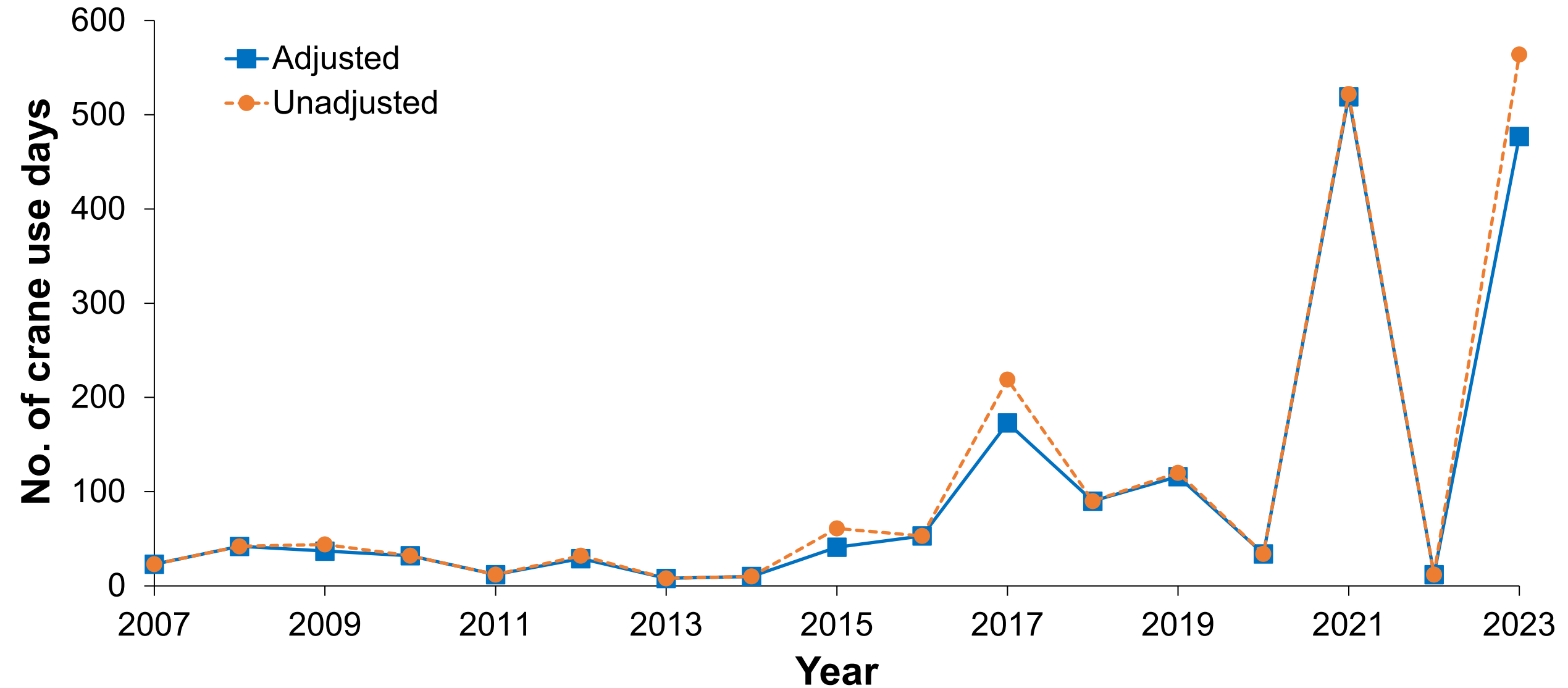
Adjusted Fall Proportion of Population



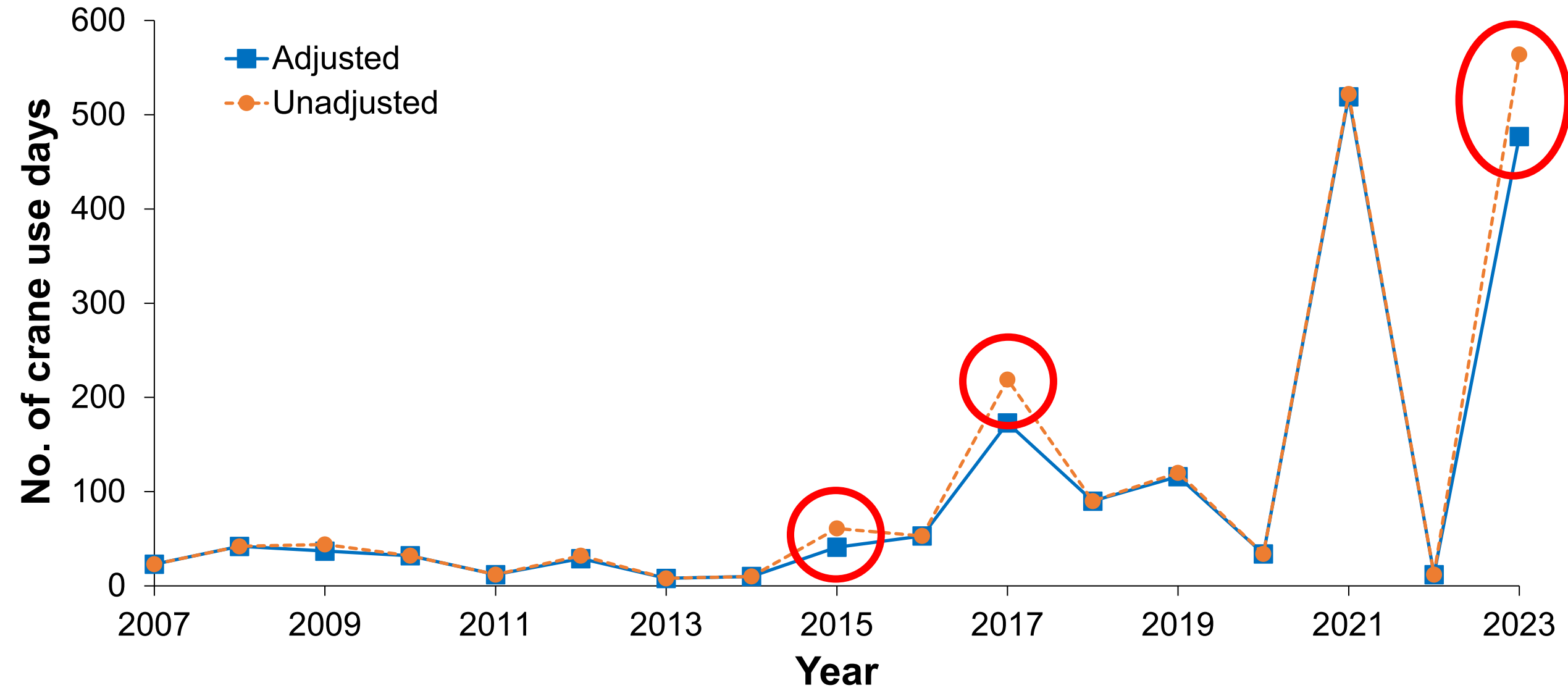
Adjusted Fall Proportion of Population



Adjusted Fall Crane Use Days



Adjusted Fall Crane Use Days



Fall 2023 Summary

- Record fall for stay length and use days
- High annual variability in stopover metrics
- Majority of locations in eastern half of AHR
- Stopovers during range of flow





Fall Report Questions and Feedback

- TAC approval?
- How to handle winter locations?