

Fall 2023 Whooping Crane Monitoring

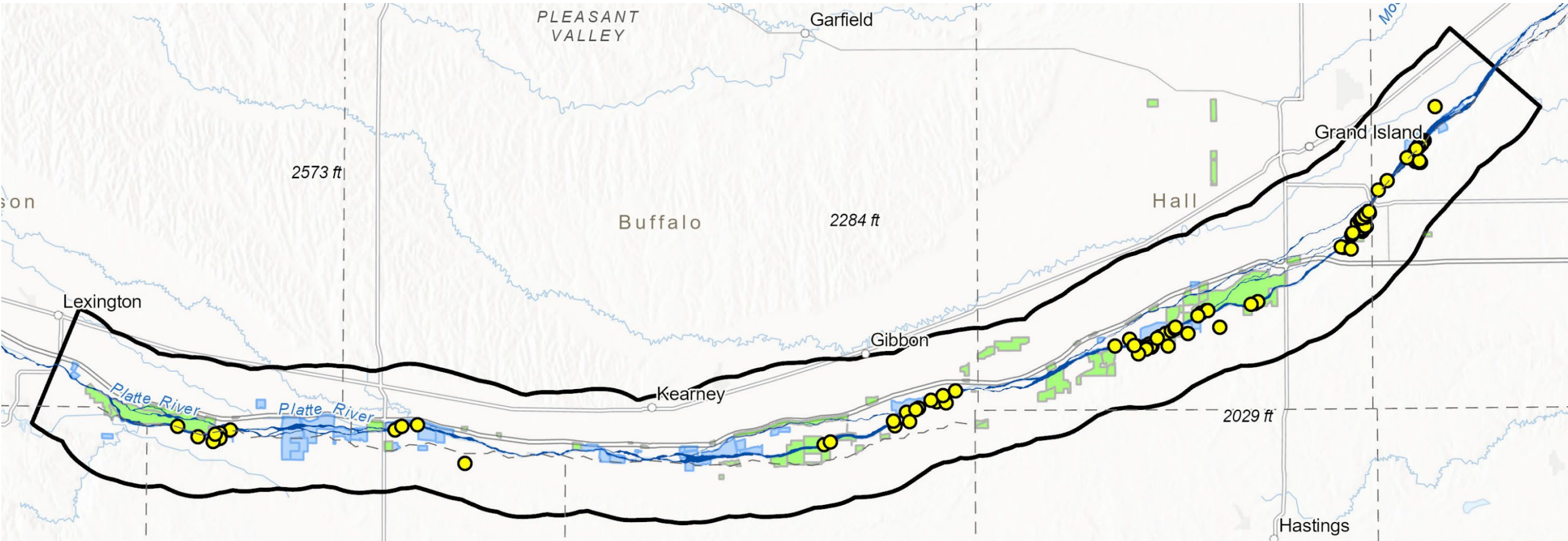


Jason Bruggeman, PRRIP EDO

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, May 8, 2024

PRRIP Fall 2023 Monitoring

- 43 individual whooping cranes
- 13 unique groups
- October 29 – January 10
- 173 group locations

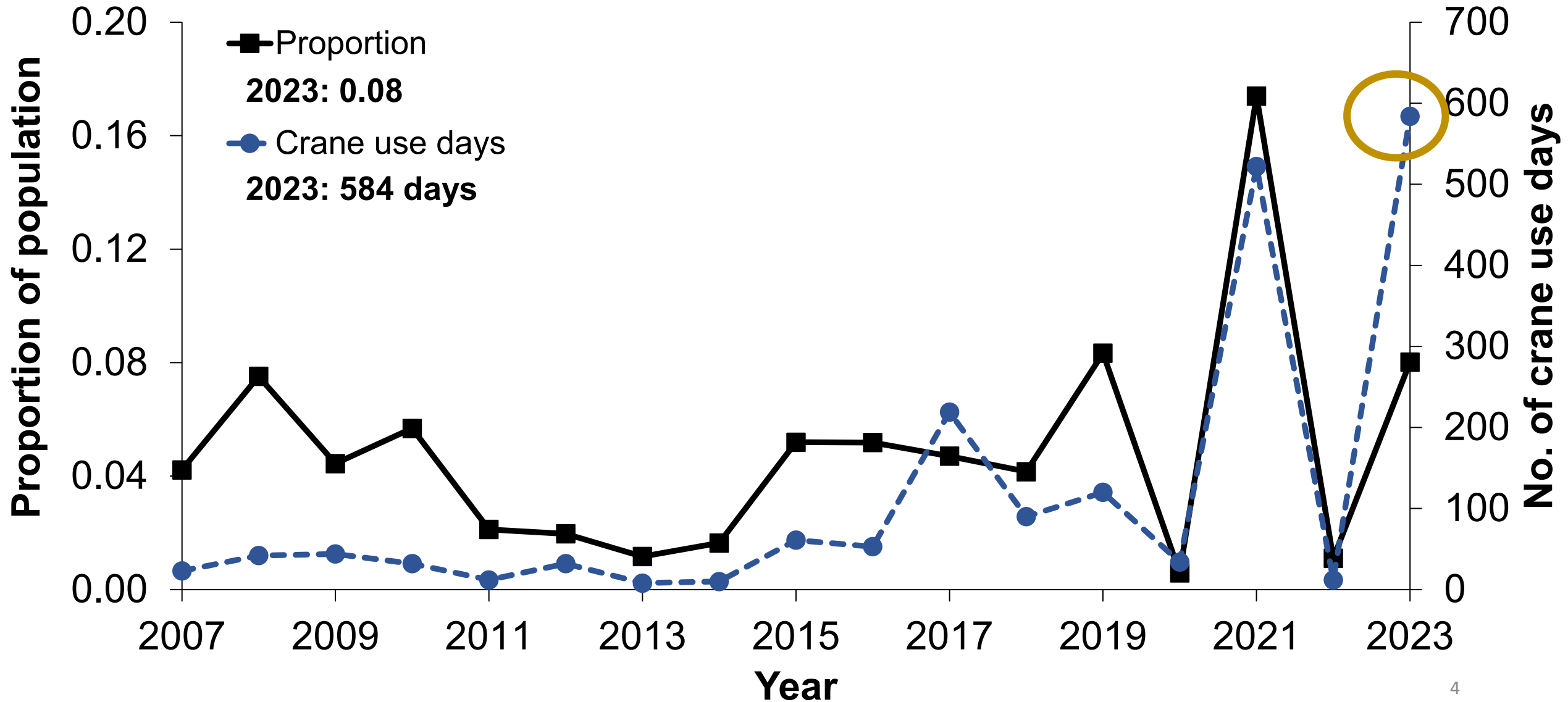


PRRIP Fall 2023 Monitoring Effort

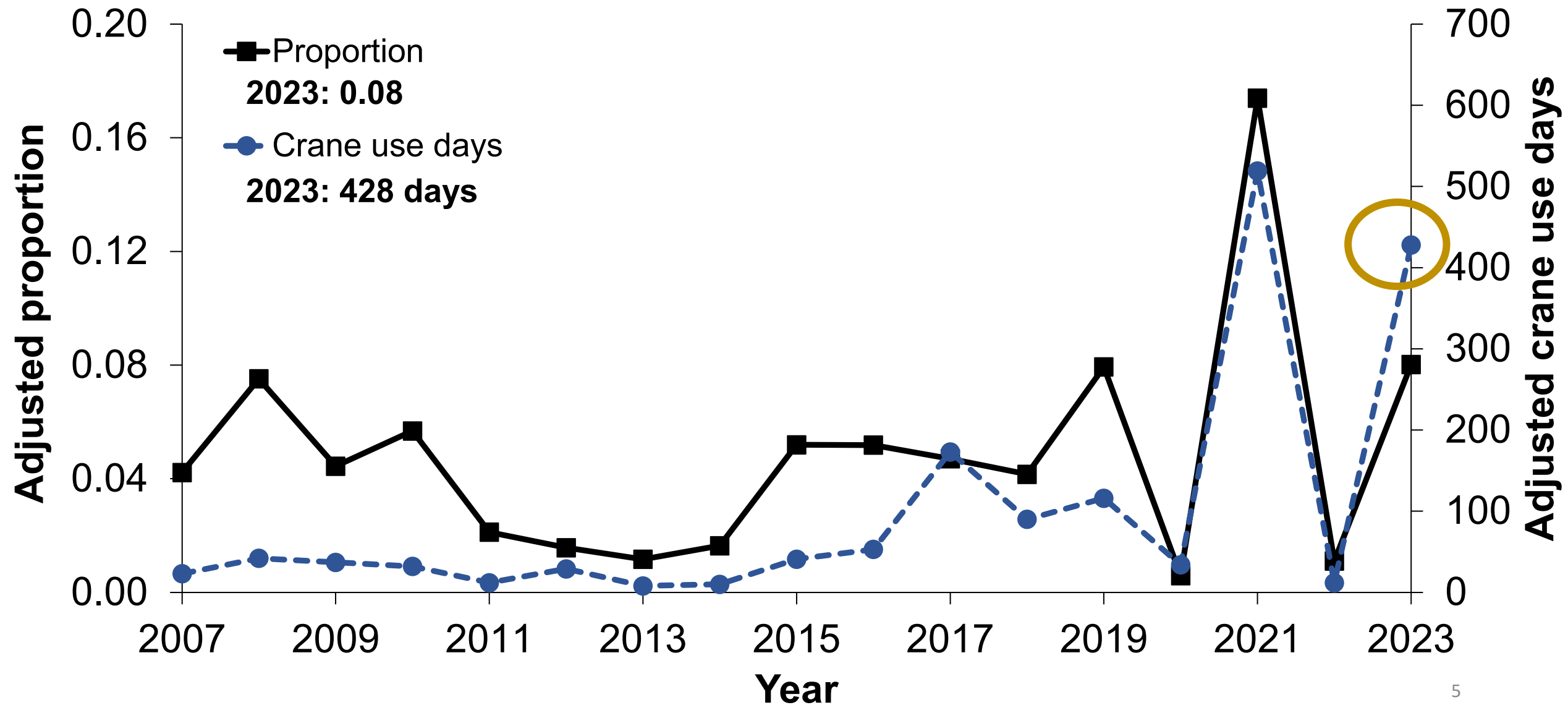
- Systematic aerial surveys
 - 58 of 76 flights completed (October 9–November 15)
 - 50 of 78 flights completed (November 16–January 20)
- Ground monitoring
 - 158 miles
 - 12 hours
 - 25 group locations



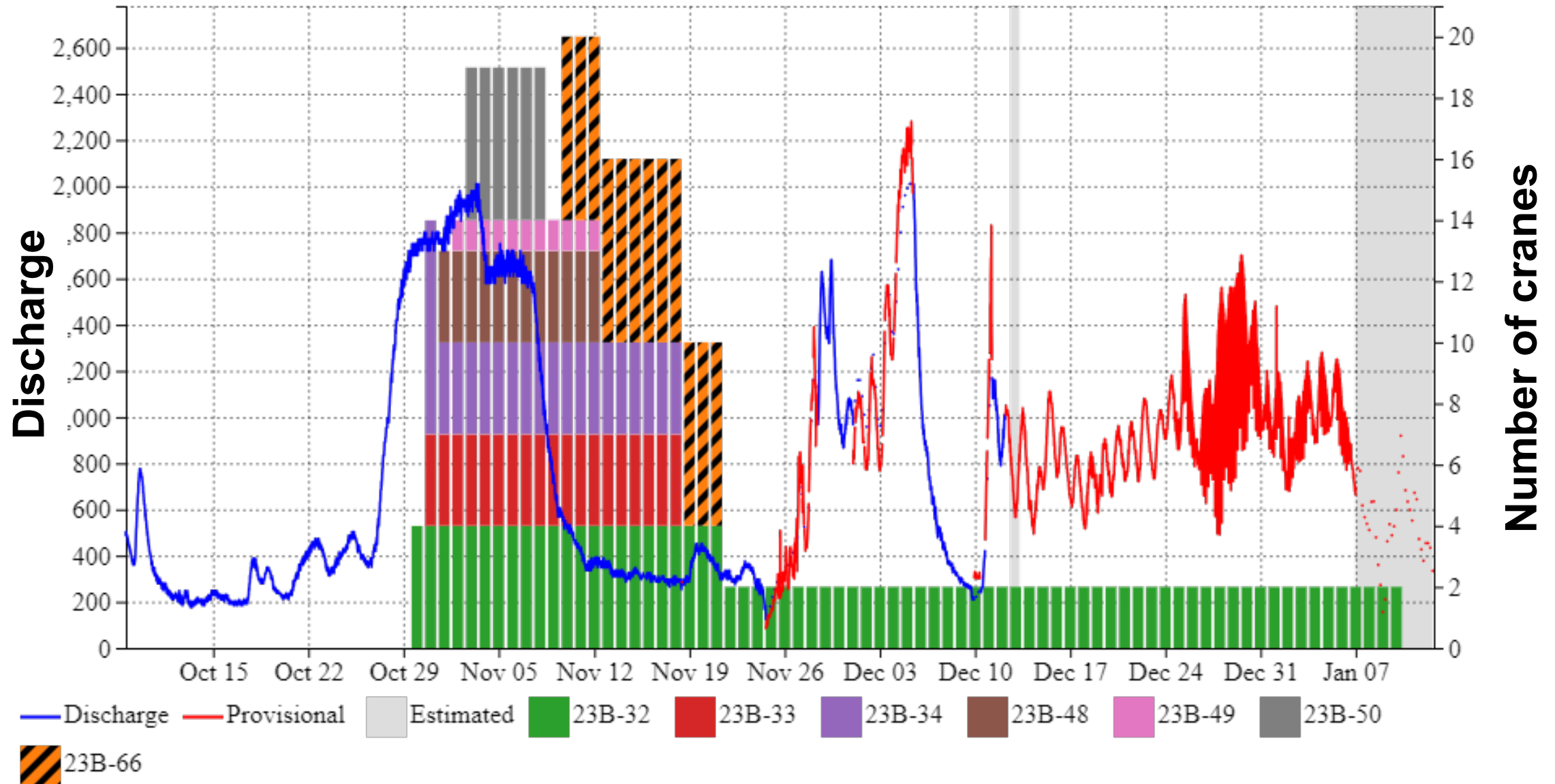
Fall Whooping Crane Metrics—Unadjusted



Fall Whooping Crane Metrics—Adjusted

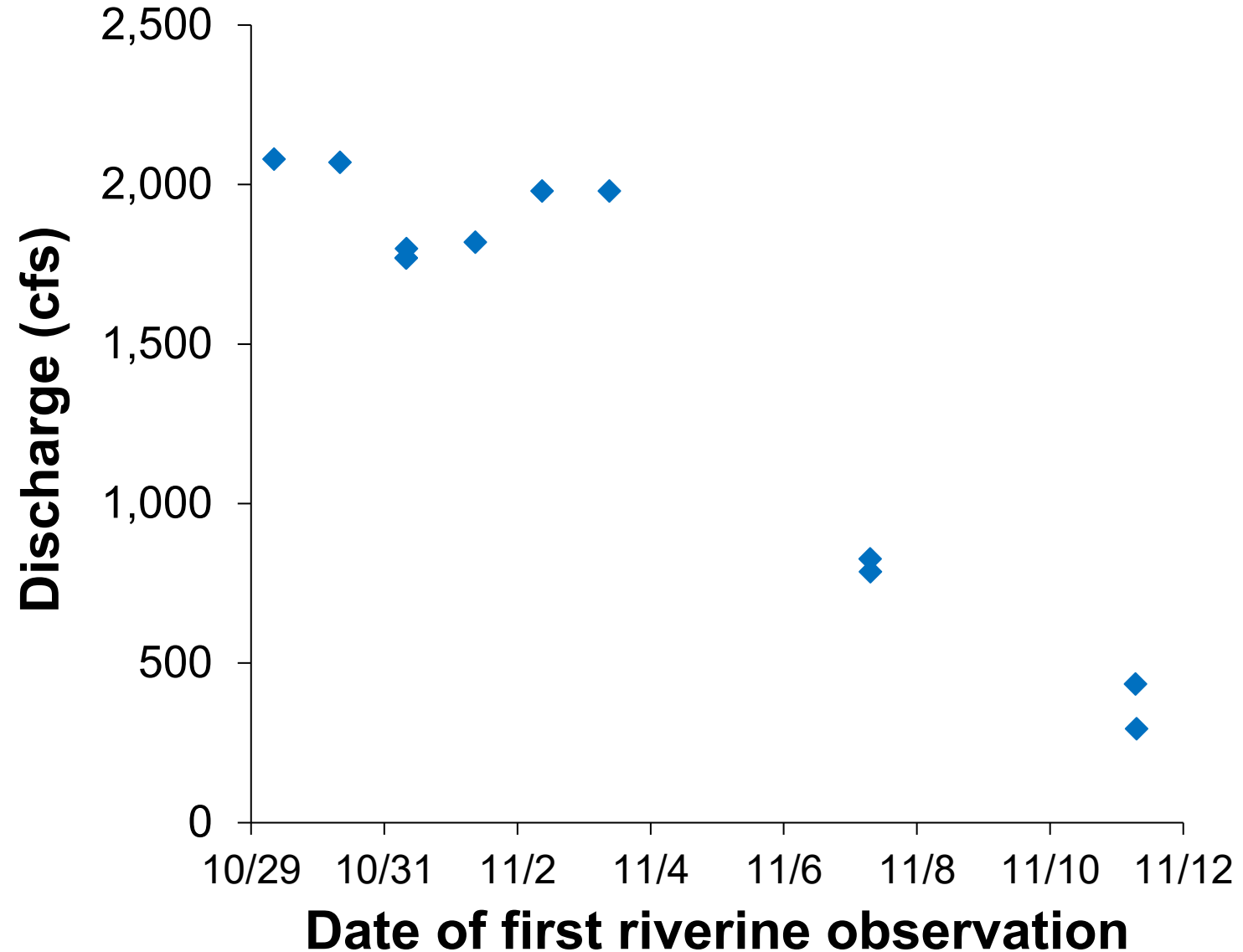


Platte River Discharge at Grand Island



Discharge for Riverine Locations

- 12 initial riverine locations
 - 295 cfs to 2,080 cfs
 - Mean = 1,468 cfs
 - Median = 1,785 cfs



Habitat Metrics at Riverine Locations

- Unobstructed Channel Width
 - 116 locations
 - Range: 310 ft to 1,580 ft
 - Mean = 992 ft
 - Median = 963 ft



Habitat Metrics at Riverine Locations

- Distance to Nearest Forest
 - 116 locations
 - Range: 136 ft to 1,371 ft
 - Mean = 489 ft
 - Median = 432 ft



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

