

Documenting and Quantifying Feral Hog Damage in Louisiana's Southern Marshes

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Acknowledgements



Types of Damage

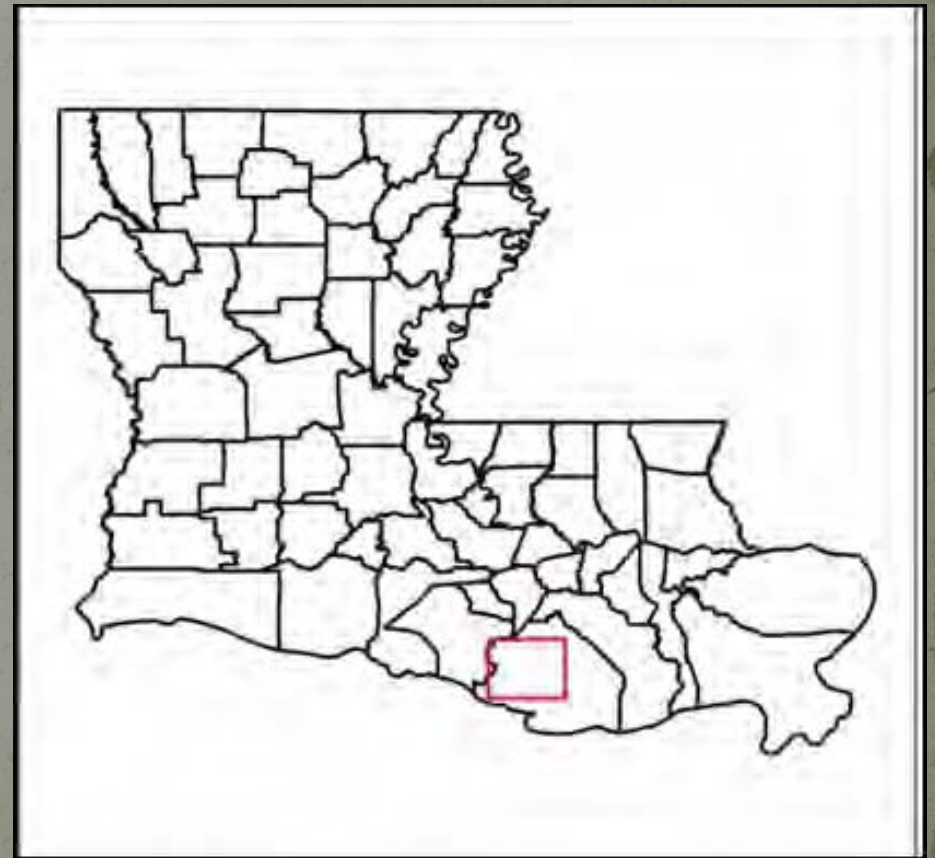
- **Ground nesting birds**
- **Invertebrate assemblages**
- **Water quality degradation**
- **Spread of disease to wildlife, domestic stock, or humans**
- **Alligator nest depredation**

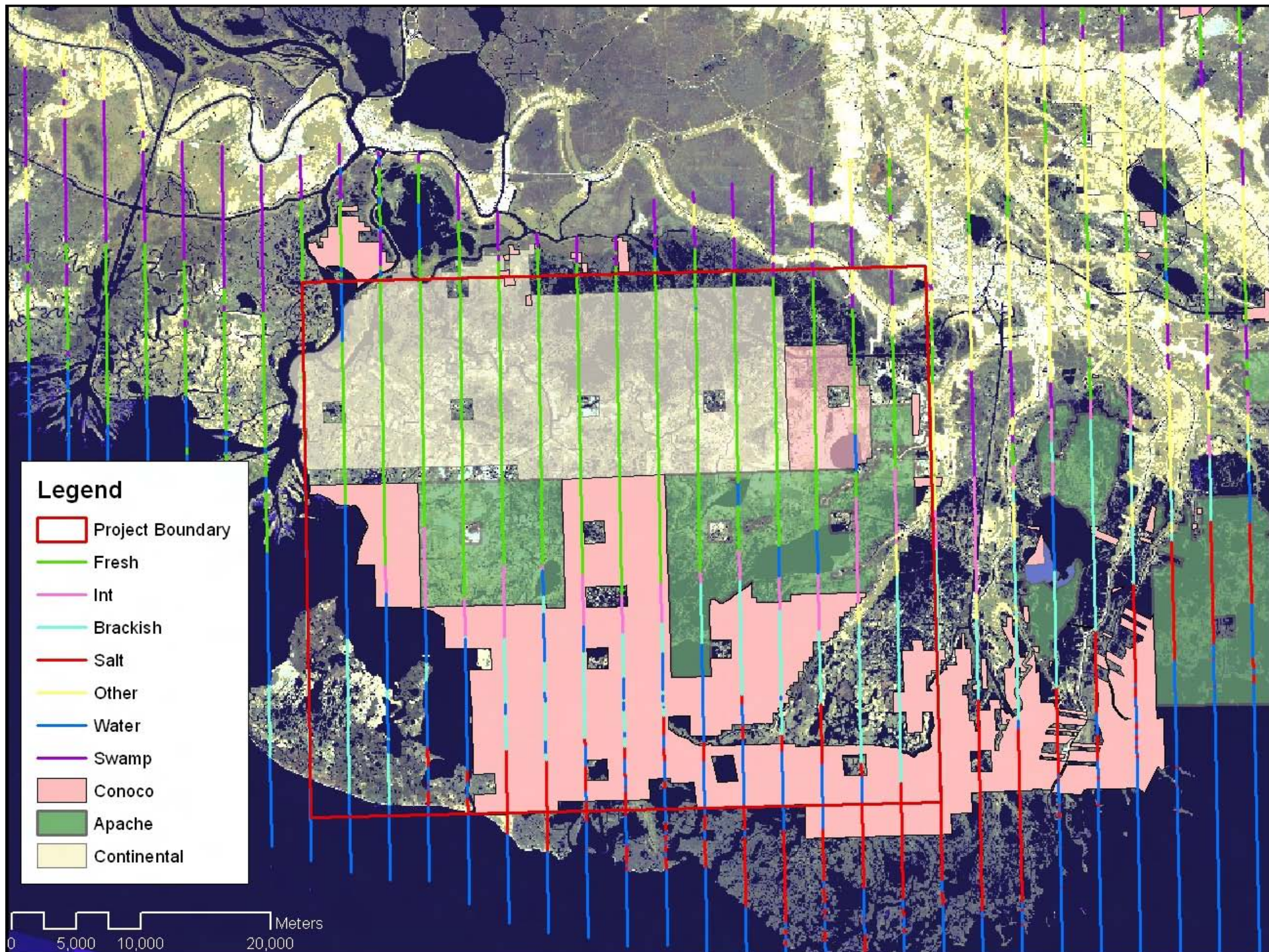
Aims and Objectives

- Document and quantify feral hog damage
- Determine drivers of habitat selection and patterns of hog damage
- Inform landowners and public
- Form program or legislation to help control feral hogs

Project Description

- 500K acres project area in Terrebonne Parish
- 17 North-South transects
- All four marsh types present within project boundary
- Aerial surveillance by helicopter





Materials and Methods

- In early spring, seventeen transects flown by helicopter 1.77 mi. apart
- Polygons drawn in real time with Arcmap GIS software and damage percentages estimated
- Subcategories of damage (mild, moderate, severe, bare ground)
- Vegetation data gathered
- Transect, marsh type, acreage, and aerial photo of damage site recorded

Damage Sites



W: 091° 13' 47.14"
N: 029° 31' 24.19"

Damage Synopsis

- 17 total damage sites
- Damage sites were concentrated in the northwestern quadrant of the study area and usually followed waterways
- Constrained to freshwater marsh only
- Calculations and extrapolation to estimate total damage

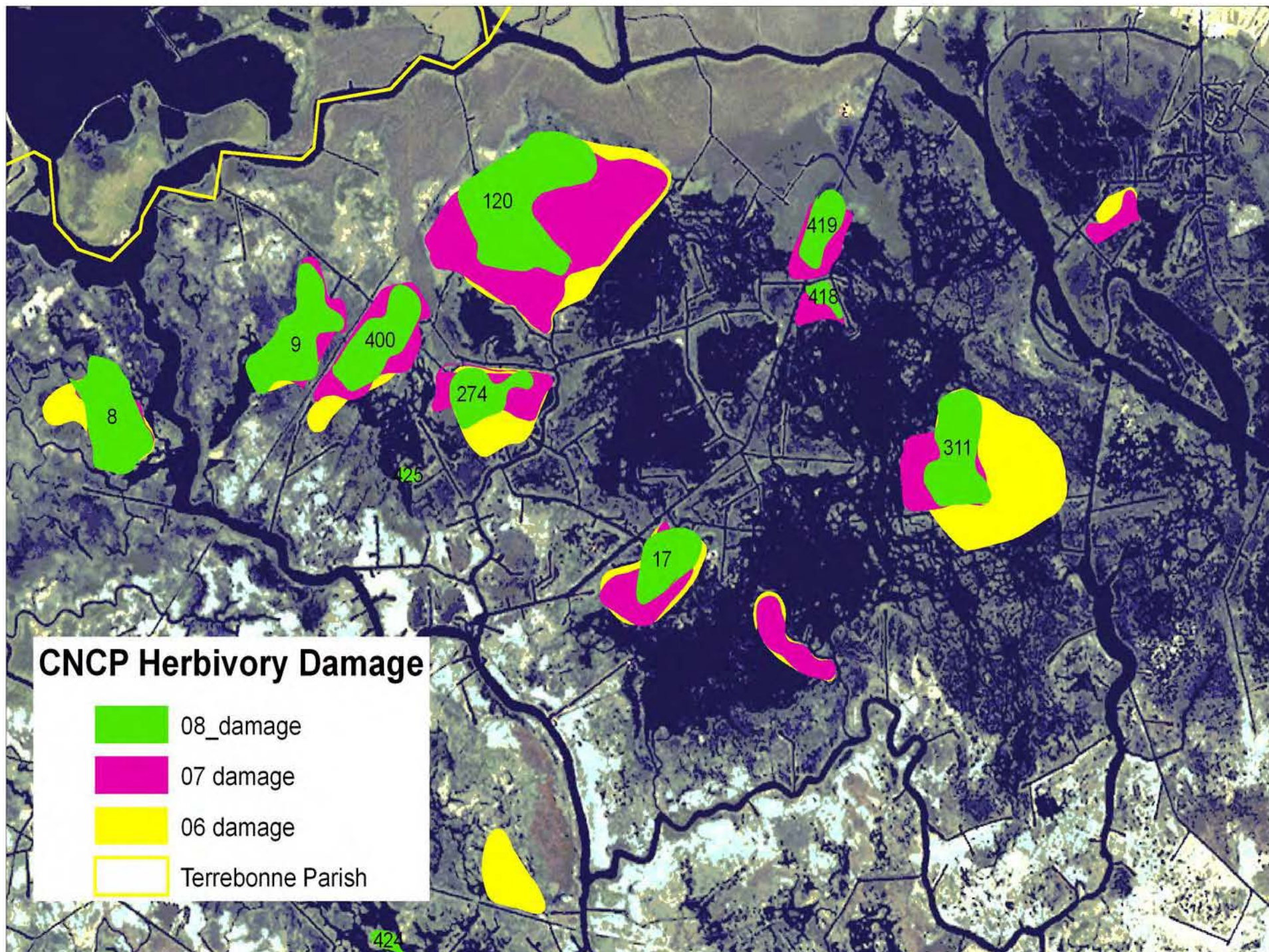
Results

- 17 damage sites ranging from 2.7 – 72.6 acres
- 227.5 total acres damaged
- Assuming equal distribution and occupancy, 796.4 acres currently damaged within freshwater marsh of study area



This is an aerial photograph of a landscape, possibly a wetland or coastal area, with a grid of red lines overlaid. The map is divided into several colored regions: a large green area in the upper left, a yellow area in the lower left and center, and a blue area in the center and right. There are also some red dots and lines scattered across the map. The grid lines are spaced evenly across the entire image.

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, IGN, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



Long Term Goals and Management

- Use data collected to form a program and/or legislation
- Use CNCP as blueprint to obtain CWPPRA funding
- Inform public and companies from data
- Maximize control efforts to reduce marsh degradation

Questions?

