

# REGULATION AND EXPERIENCE OF HUNTING ISSUES IN LITHUANIA

CHALLENGES FOR THE ECONOMIES OF UKRAINE AND LITHUANIA IN THE CONTEXT OF WAR -  
LET'S LOOK FOR BETTER ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS TOGETHER

LVIV





# LITHUANIAN HUNTERS' AND ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION (LHAA) - KEY FACTS

- Established - October 27, 1920
- Number of members: 47 district divisions, which include 17,580 hunters and 3,622 anglers
- Member of the CIC since 1930. Lithuania was one of the 22 countries that established this organization (Professor Tadas Ivanauskas participated in the inaugural meeting and was elected a member of the council)
- Member of FACE since 2004
- New leadership from 2021 July: Chairman. V. Kantauskas, CEO L. Daukša





# HUNTING IN LITHUANIA: HUNTERS

01

There are 30.000 hunters in Lithuania. Numbers are increasing;

Hunting area: 5.6 million. ha. Hunters pay annually 2.8 million Euro for that area;

Average unit size of a hunting area in Lithuania is 8,000 ha;

There are 800 users of hunting areas in the country;

Average number of members in a hunting association is 44;

LHAA accounts for 75% of Lithuanian hunters.

02

Age of hunters: Young hunters

- 3.7% under 20;
- 29.5% from 20 to 40 years;
- 48.7% from 40 to 60 years;
- 18.2% over 60.

Female hunters: 800-1000, i.e. up to 3.3 percent of the total number of hunters





# The main provisions of the regulation of hunting in Lithuania are:

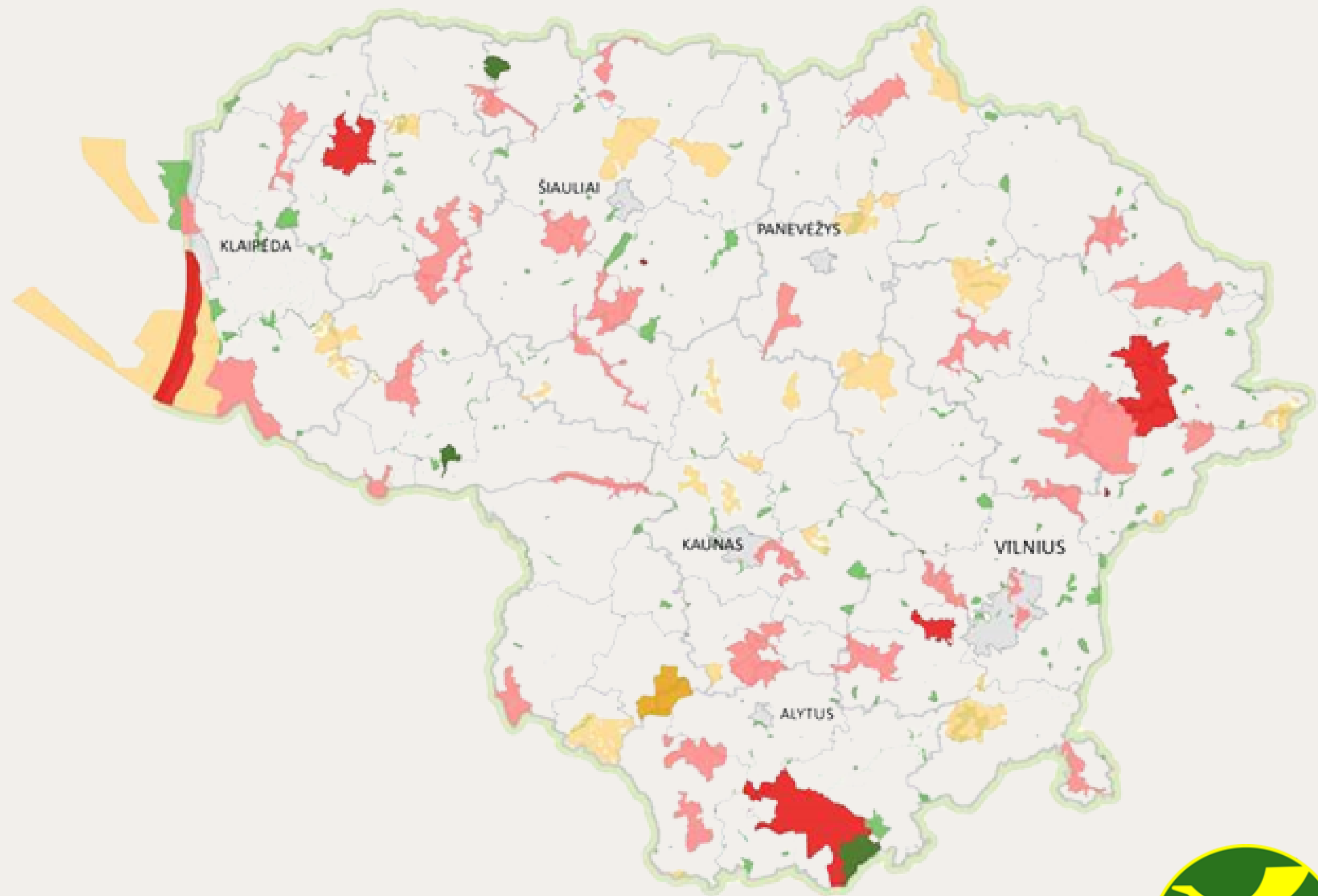
- 01** Wild animals are the property of the state.
- 02** The minimum size of a single hunting area is 1000 hectares.
- 03** State tax for ha of hunting grounds
- 04** Administrative penalties + damages + confiscation





## Map of protected areas

In Lithuania, 18% of the territories are protected, where hunting is subject to special restrictions or hunting activities are completely prohibited.





# HUNTING AND LANDOWNERS' RIGHTS

## Landowners:

- 01** have to be admitted to hunting associations
- 02** may hunt in existing hunting areas on a contractual basis
- 03** to establish individual hunting area if > 1000 ha is owned
- 04** prohibit hunting on his holding (land)

**49% of hunters (almost every second hunter) own land or forest**

**47% of hunters live in hunting areas**





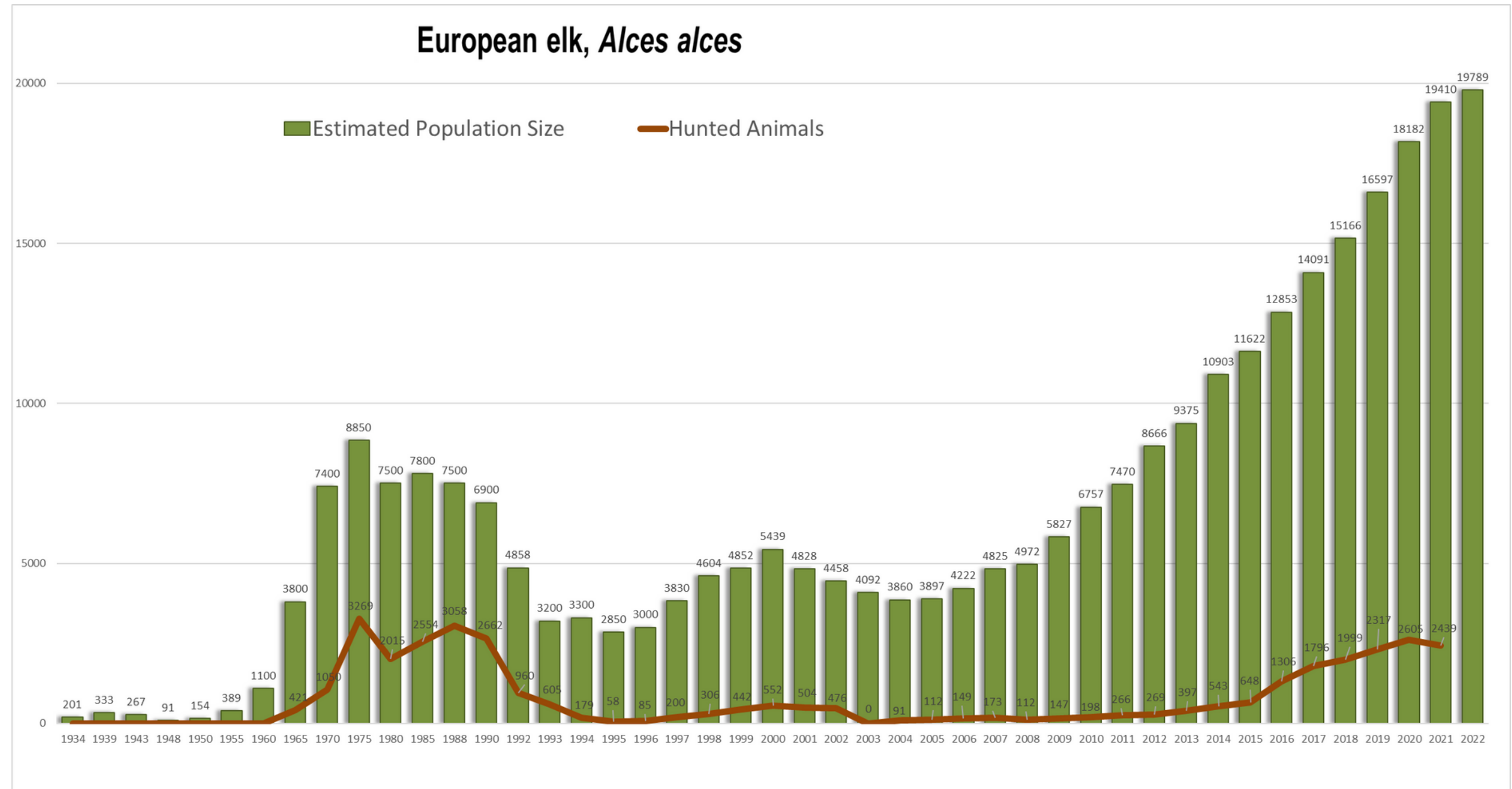
# HUNTERS AND AGRICULTURE

- Hunters' associations must compensate for damage caused by wild animals
- The amount of damage is set by commissions formed from the municipalities of each district
- In-court disputes are becoming more frequent - about 20 disputes in 2021-22



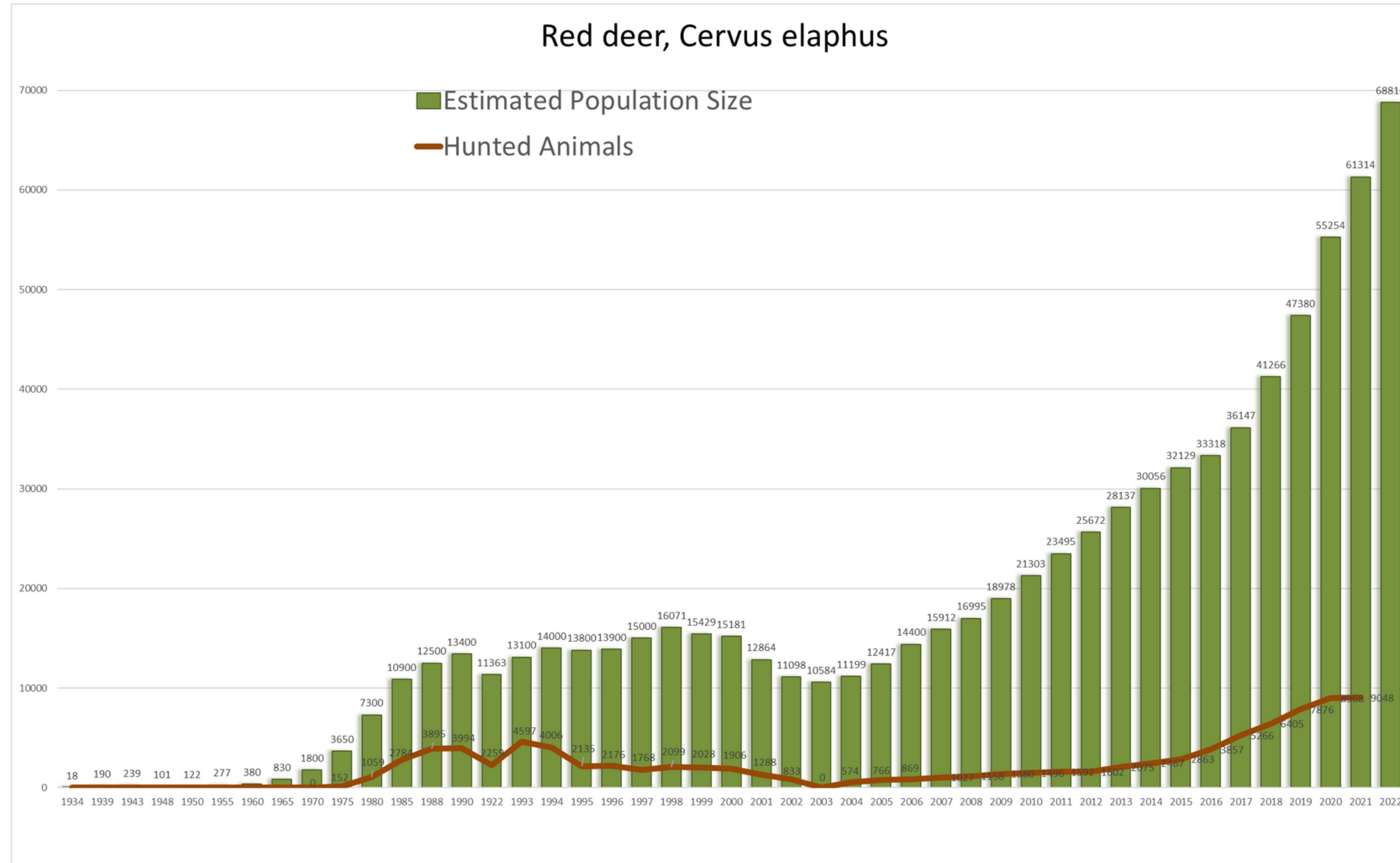


# WHAT DO WE HUNT?



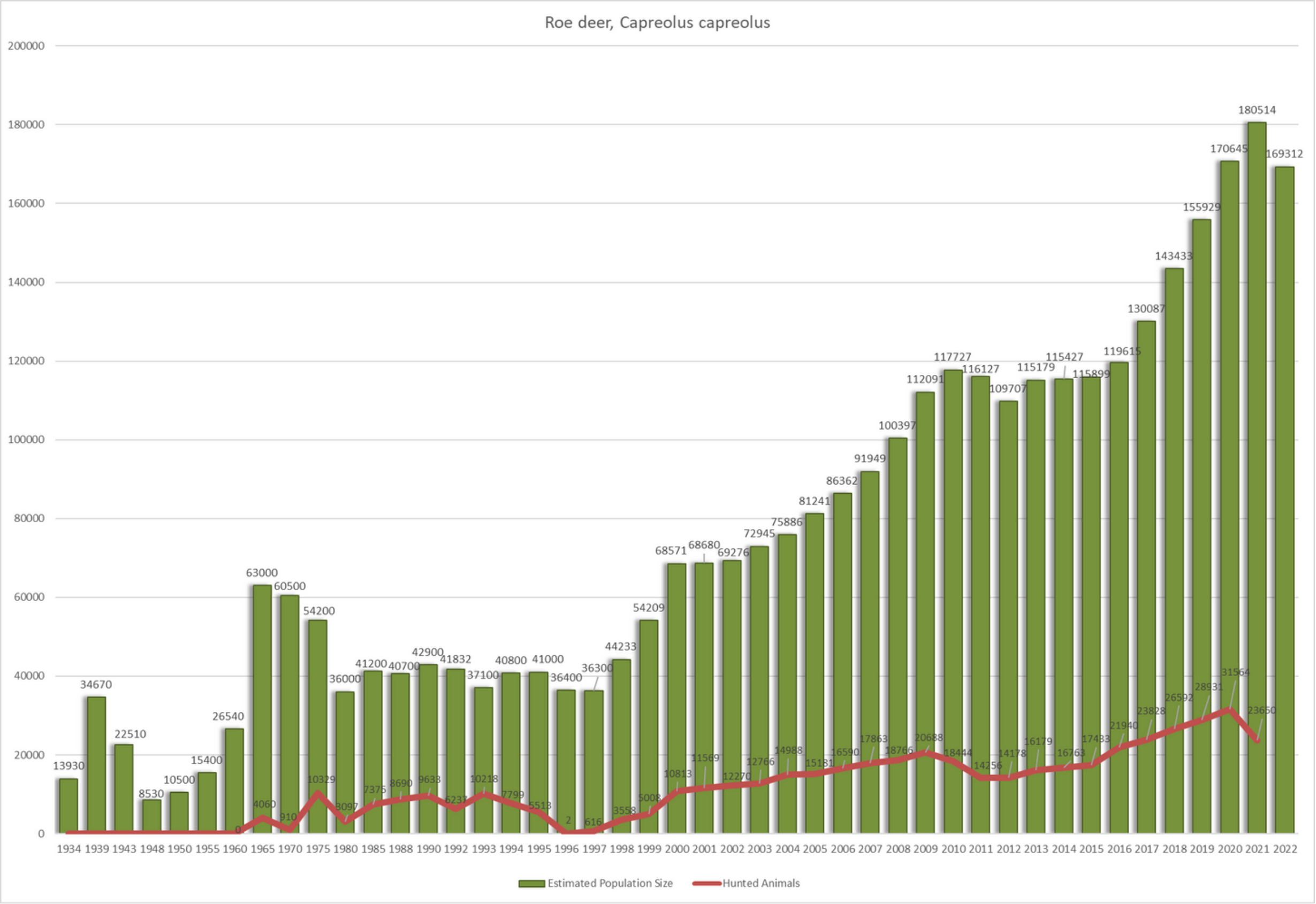


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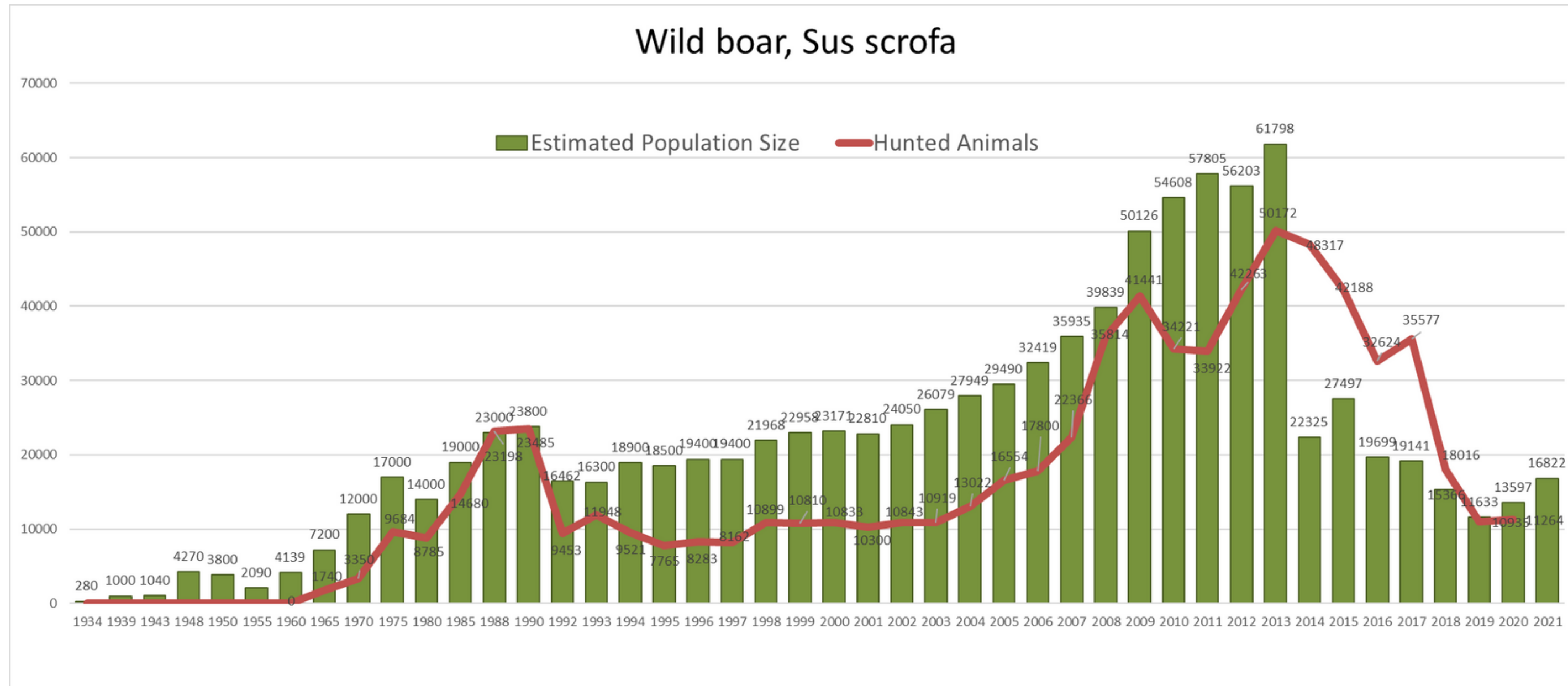


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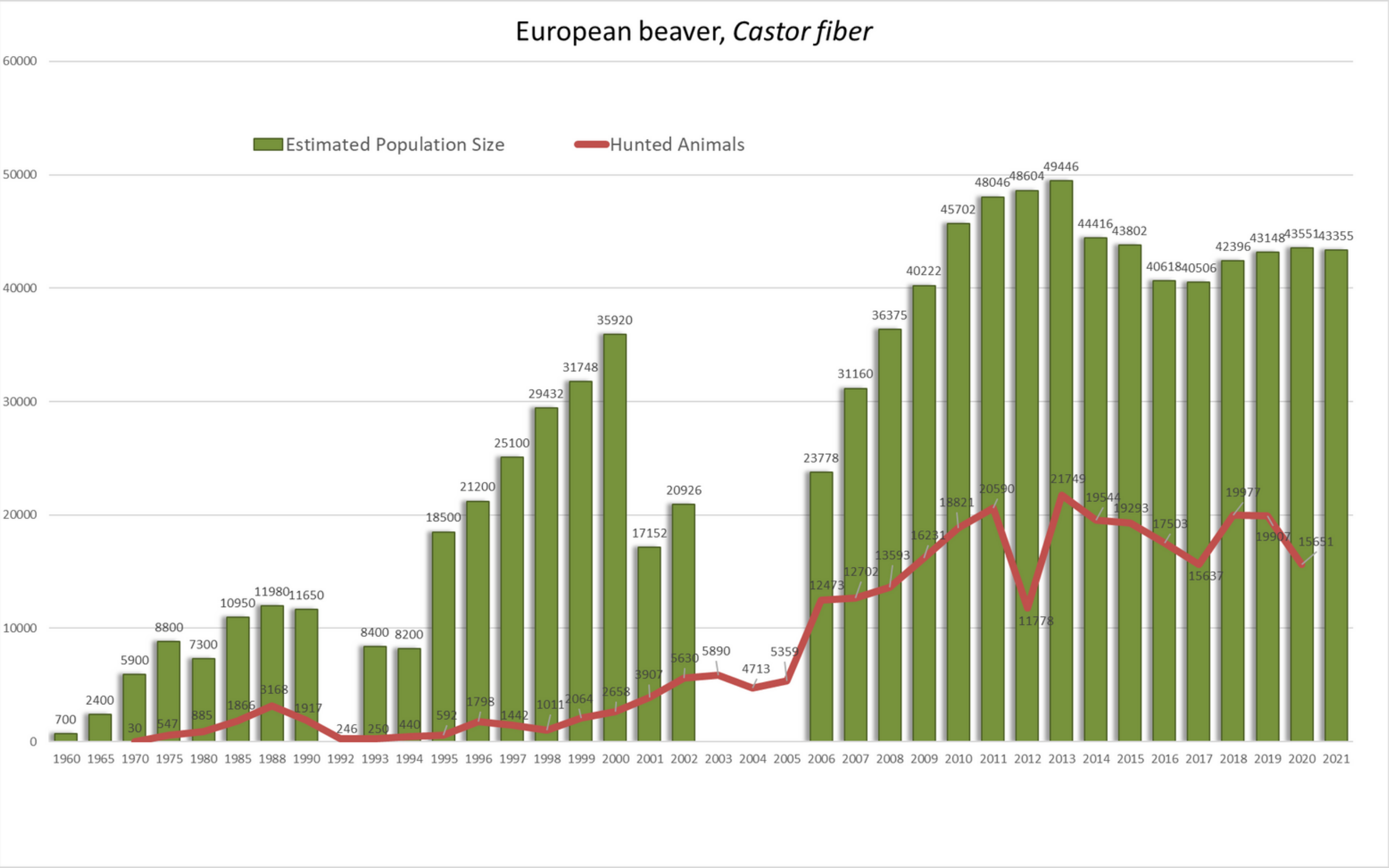


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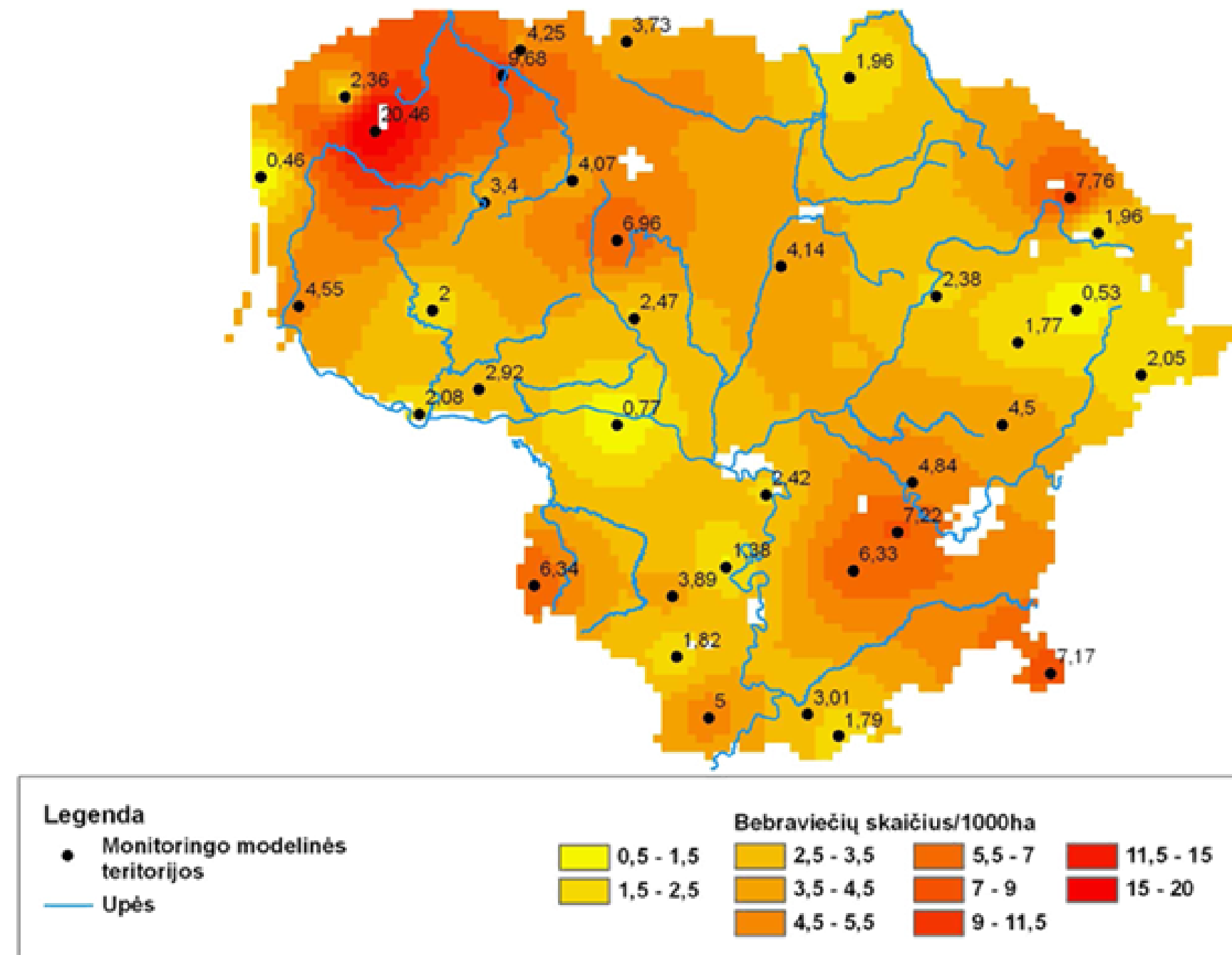


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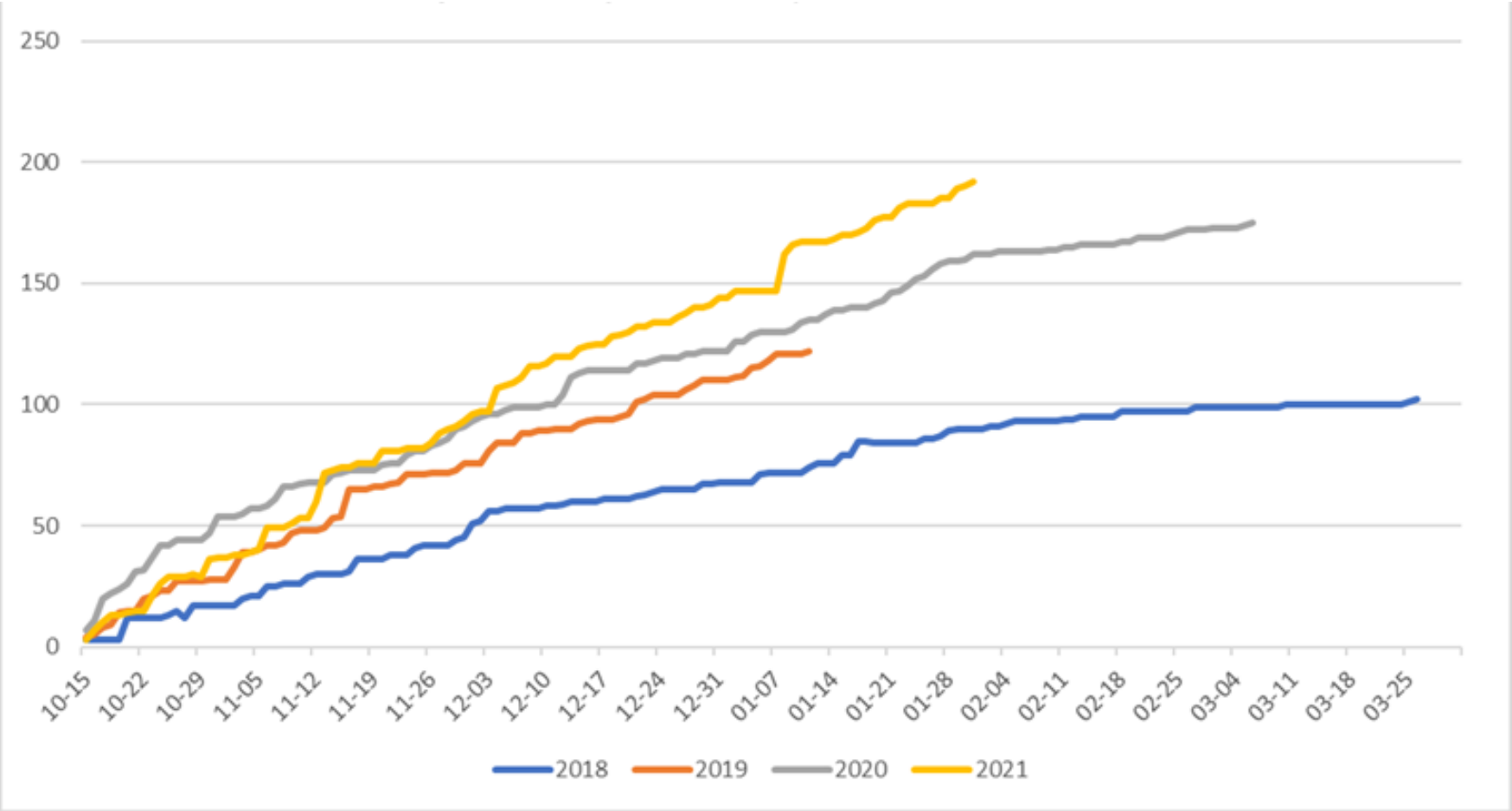
**About 100,000 beavers live  
in Lithuania,  
with an average  
population density of up  
to 4 families per 1000 ha**





# WHAT DO WE HUNT?

Intensity of wolf hunting 2018-2021 m.



Hunting wolves 2015–2022 m.

Hunting season	Limit of wolves	End of the wolf hunt
2015–2016	60	2016-01-12
2016–2017	62	2017-01-11
2017–2018	62	2018-02-04
2018–2019	102	2019-01-07
2019–2020	122	2020-01-11
2020–2021	175	2021-03-06
2021–2022	190	2022-01-31
2022–2023	282	246, still open



# HOW DO WE HUNT?

**Artificial light  
sources**

**Only when hunting  
boars from the  
hunting stand**

**NV/Thermal rifle  
scopes, clip  
on systems**

**Prohibited to possess  
and use  
during a hunt**

**It is proposed to modify and  
allow hunting of non-Bern  
convention wildlife species**

**NV/Thermal  
monitoring devices**

**Allowed to use and  
possess  
during hunting**





# Reintroduction of european bison (wisent)

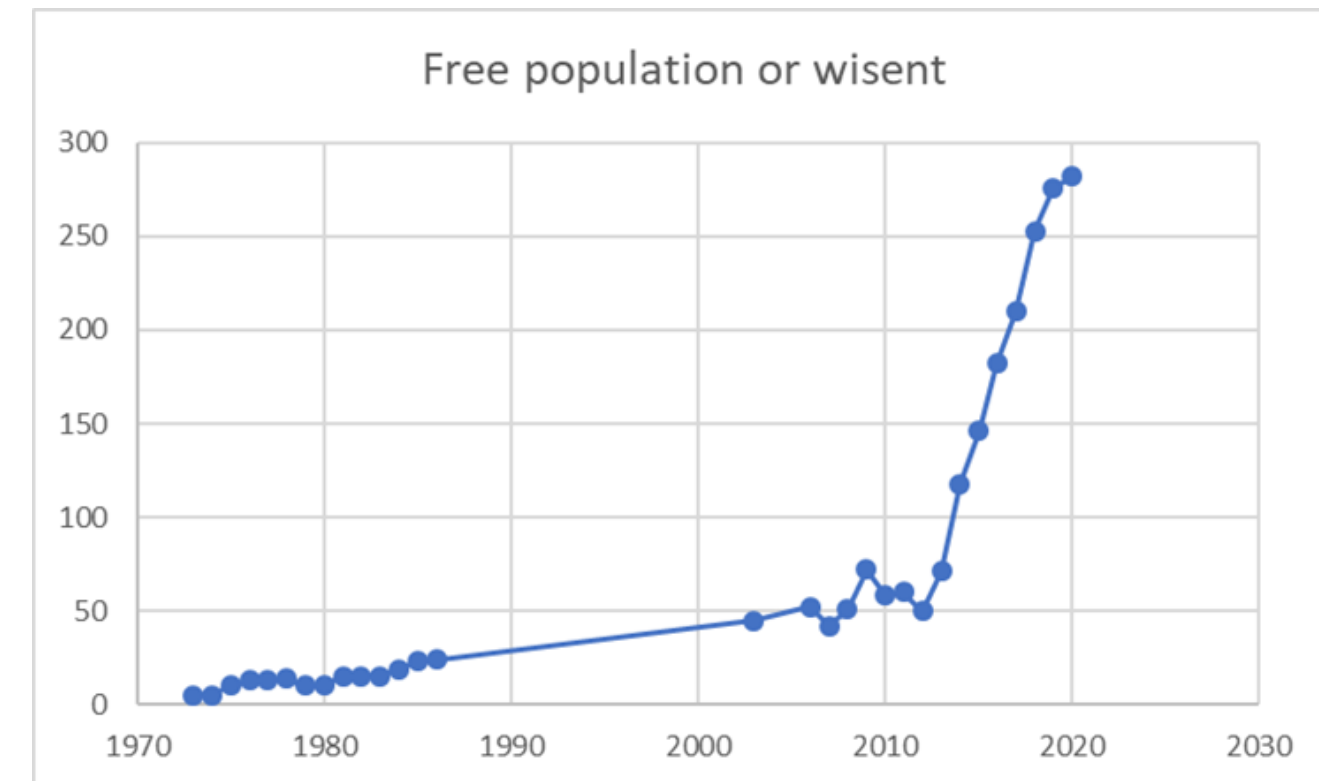
In 1969, local environmentalists joined a wisent restoration campaign.

Bison Breeding Center was founded in Panevėžys region.

Free range reproducing bison herds since 1975.

In 2021, free herd consisted of 282 bison.

Free herd was divided into several parts of fifty, twenty, or some solitary animals.





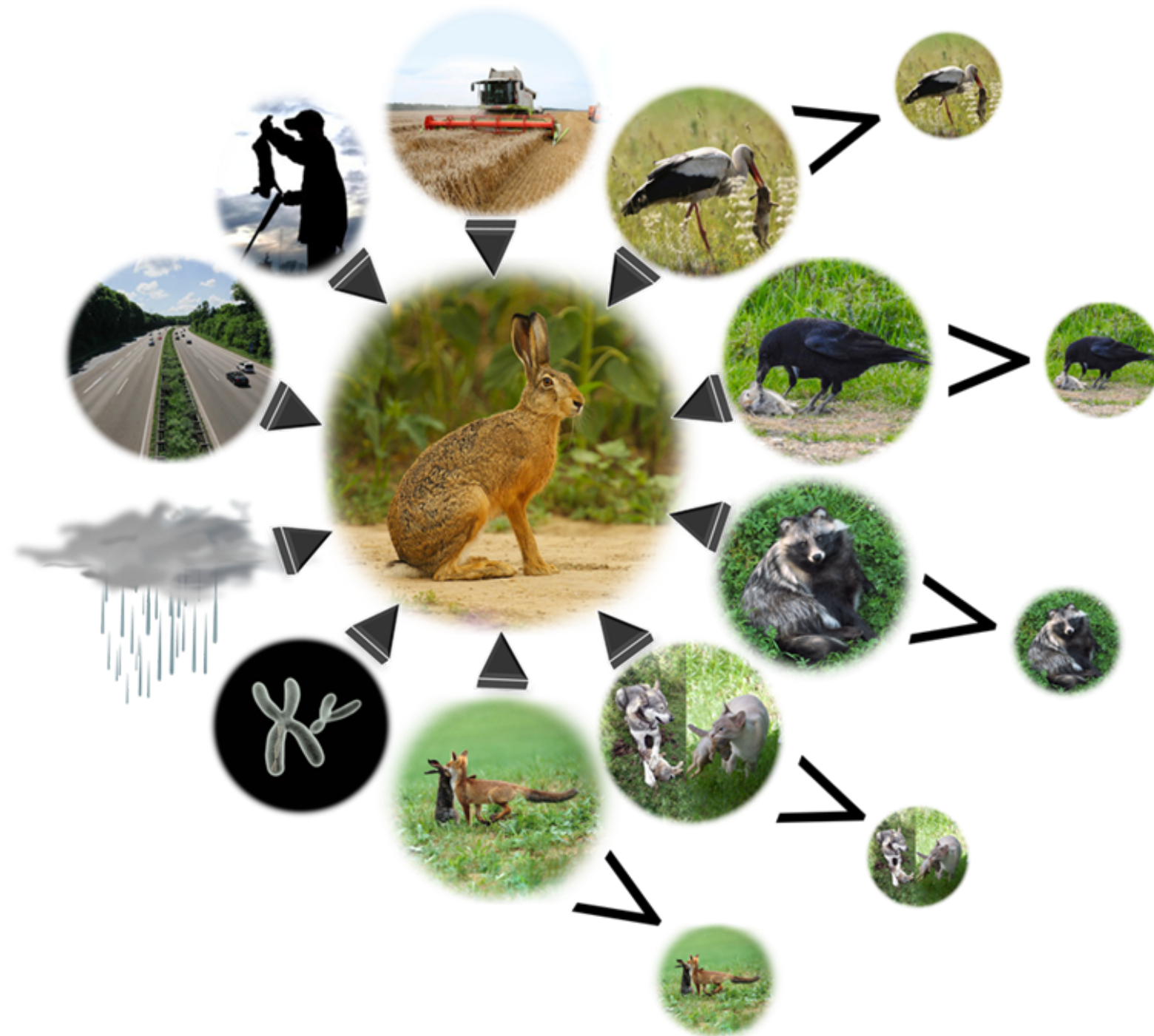
# Problems and management

- Excessive damage to crops
- Hunting of european bison is prohibited
- Capture of wild bison and transfer to enclosures
- Transfer to other areas





**The population of gray hares in Lithuania is rapidly decreasing**  
**Program for the restoration of the gray hare population is needed**



**Partridge:**

**- hunted till 2013**

**- included in Red book species and protected**





# PROBLEMS OF HUNTERS IN LITHUANIA

**Every year, hundreds of hectares of crops are devastated by migratory wild birds (wild humerves, swans, cranes).**

Wild waterfowl. Hunt of cranes and swans is prohibited. Wild geese can be hunted only in autumn.





**RACCOON** is a dangerous invasive species living in Germany 600-700 km from Lithuania, and is also found in neighboring Poland and Belarus. They come to Lithuania by the seaside.

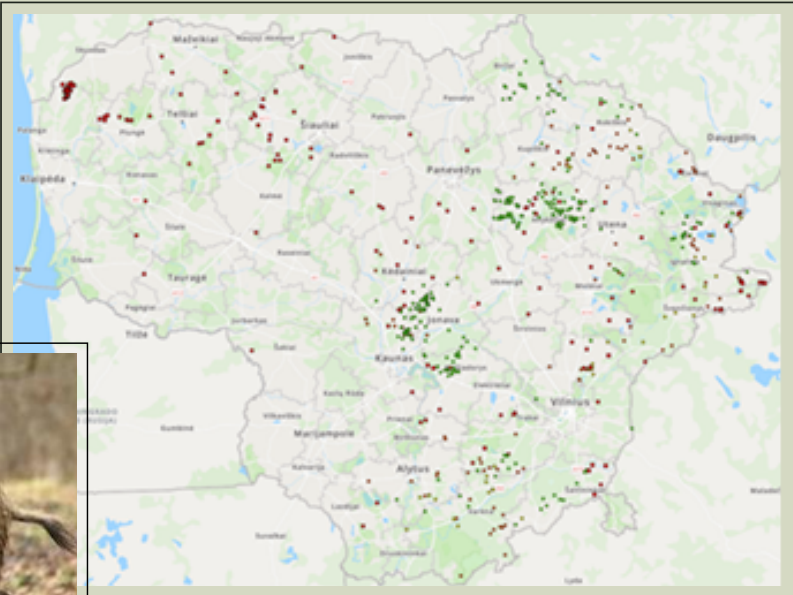


**Other alarmingly invasive species in Lithuania include a Canadian mink and a raccoon dog**



**Problem: there is no political decision to allow the use of night sights in Lithuania for hunting wild boar, foxes and invasive animal species.**

**Since 2014 Lithuania fights African swine fever**







# Thank you

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