

Total vegetation cover soil protection

Region:LGA Murchison_(S) WA

Date: December 2025

This report describes vegetation protecting the soil surface from erosion during a chosen month compared to previous years. This report has been generated using MODIS fractional vegetation cover information available in Rangelands and Pasture Productivity (RAPP) map tool <https://map.geo-rapp.org/#australia>. The report is based on 500 metre pixel data on monthly time steps.

Land use forest cover:

Results can be shown for the whole region (polygon), and separated by land use and forest cover classes which are likely to show different cover patterns and targets. Land use is divided into four broad classes: Conservation and natural environments, Agriculture, production native forests and plantation forests (no report), and other (no report). Agriculture is divided into grazing, crops and horticulture which are sub-divided into non-irrigated and irrigated. If forest is present land use is further divided into: non-forest, woodland forest and non-woodland forest. The area of each land use and forest class are shown as a map and chart. The report content is repeated for each land use and forest cover class that covers at least 1% of the area of the chosen region.

Total vegetation Cover:

The total vegetation cover indicates where soil is likely to be protected from wind and or water hillslope erosion. Total vegetation cover for this month is shown on a map and chart classified into 4 classes.

- 71-100% High cover - protected from wind and usually water erosion (high rainfall, steep slopes, and erodible soils may need greater than 80, 90, 95 and up to 100% cover)
- 51-70% Moderate cover - protected from wind erosion
- 31-50% Low cover - not protected
- 0-30% Very Low cover - not protected

Erosion protection: Wind erosion 50% total vegetation cover

The vegetation cover threshold required to prevent soil erosion is usually 50% to reduce wind erosion, 70% or 80% to reduce water (hillslope) erosion depending on the steepness and rainfall. Areas protected from erosion for the month:

- Map: water erosion protection (>70% cover) percentage area and hectares.
- Map: wind erosion protection (>50% cover) percentage area and hectares.

Comparison with previous years:

- Map: anomaly comparing this month to the average cover from the same month in previous years.
- Map: deciles rank of month against the same month in previous years.

Anomalies and deciles until September 2019 are calculated comparing to the same months 2001 to 2019. Extra monthly data will be used to calculate anomalies and deciles post September 2019 as they become available.

Time series monthly from January 2001 to current:

Erosion protection

- Wind erosion protection time series: percentage of the area of the region with greater than 50% cover for each month (orange lines). Horizontal lines are 10th (cover target) and 50th percentiles.
- Water erosion protection time series: percentage of the area of the region with greater than 70% cover for each month (blue line). Horizontal lines are 10th (cover target) and 50th percentiles.

Rainfall

- Millimetres rainfall each month (black line).

Each time series is also stacked by year. The black line shows the current year of data.

Water erosion protection for higher rainfall and steeper slopes:

Water erosion protection on higher slopes. As slope increases, more cover is required to control water erosion. The thresholds reported are:

- the percentage area with pixels greater than 80% total cover.
- the percentage area with pixels greater than 90% total cover.
- the percentage area with pixels greater than 95% total cover.

Acknowledgment of data:

1. <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/aclump/land-use/alum-classification>
2. <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/sofr/sofr-2018>
3. <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pastures-and-rangelands/establishment-mgmt/production-management2/groundcover>
4. MODIS Fractional cover algorithm:
<https://doi.org/10.4225/08/5848a3f19a7b3>



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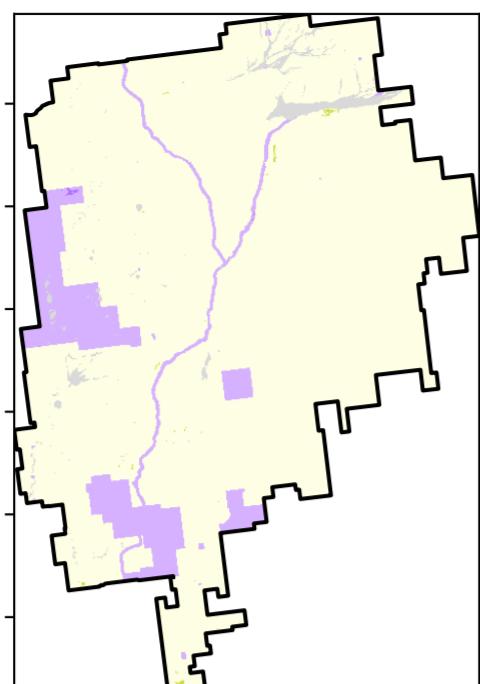
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Vegetation Cover Dec 2025

Land use and forest cover

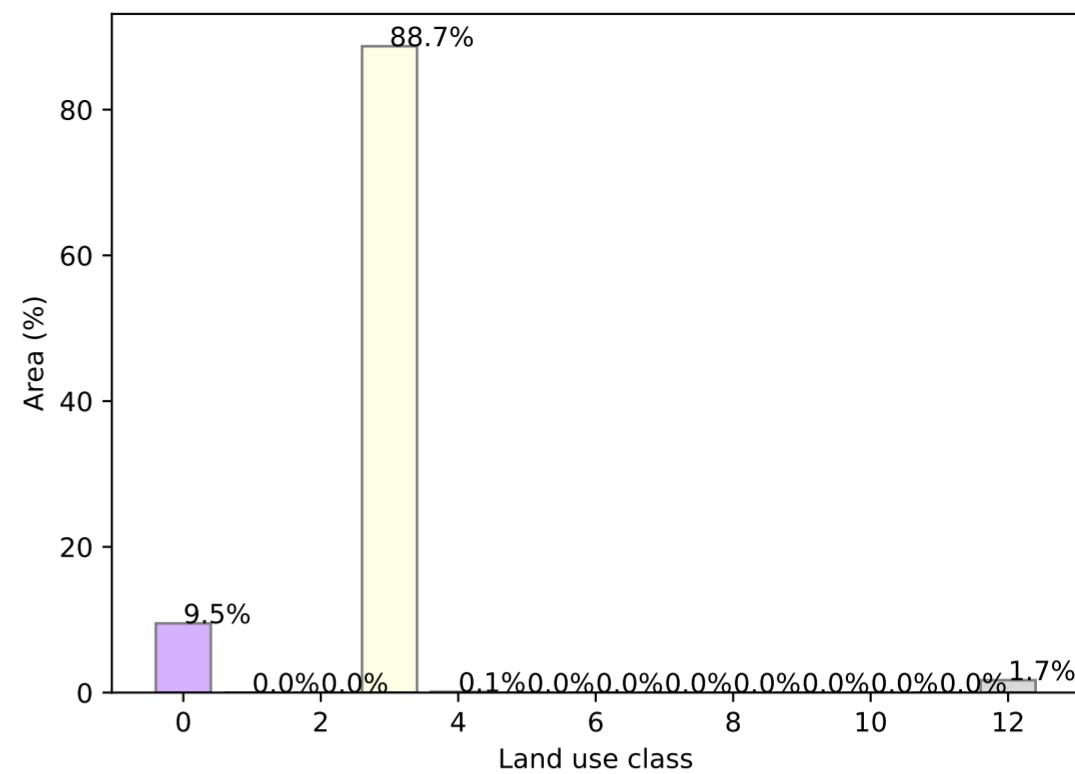
Catchment Scale Land Use and Forests of Australia (2018)
Derived from Catchment Scale Land Use of Australia (2018) and Forests of Australia (2018)



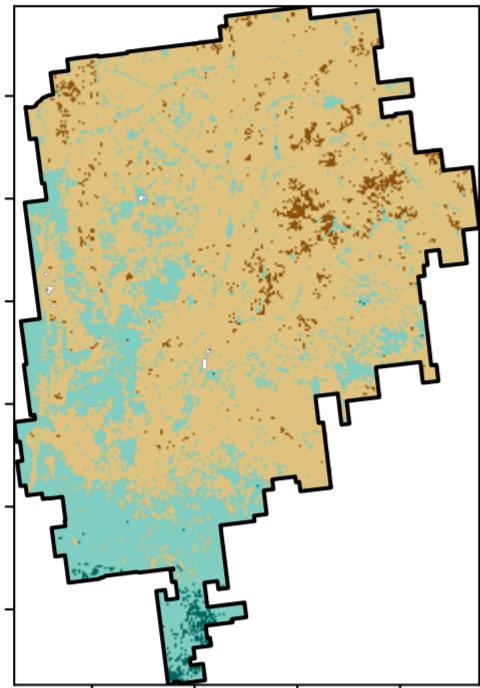
Legend with land class forest cover and number, i.e. Forests is 12

- 1 Conservation and natural environments - Non-forest
- 2 Conservation and natural environments - Woodland forest
- 3 Conservation and natural environments - Non-Woodland forest
- 4 Agriculture - Grazing - Non-forest
- 5 Agriculture - Grazing - Woodland forest
- 6 Agriculture - Grazing - Non-woodland forest
- 7 Agriculture - Grazing - Irrigated
- 8 Agriculture - Cropping - Non-irrigated
- 9 Agriculture - Cropping - Irrigated
- 10 Agriculture - Horticulture - Non-irrigated
- 11 Agriculture - Horticulture - Irrigated
- 12 Production native forests and plantation forests
- 13 Other uses

Proportion of each land class in area

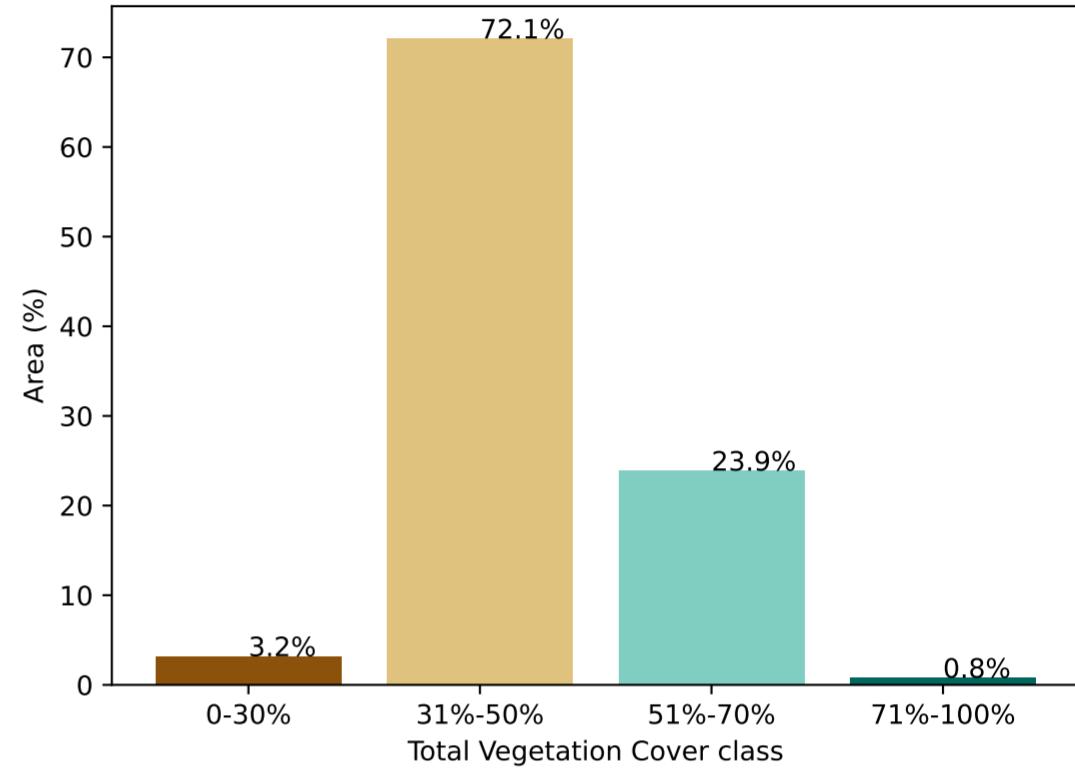


Total Vegetation Cover [%]

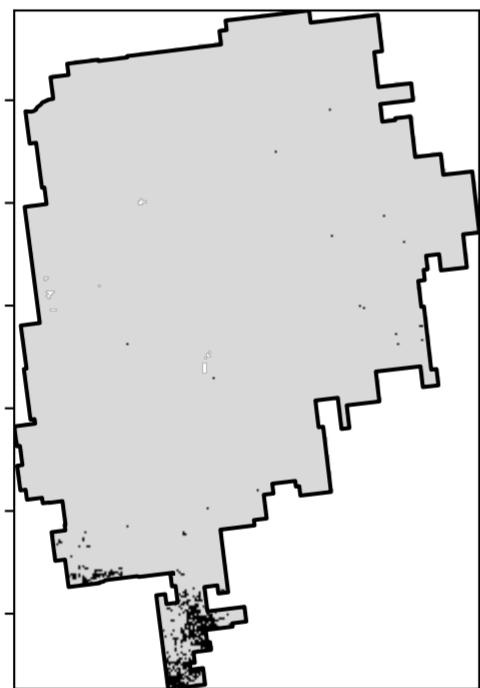


71-100%
51-70%
31-50%
0-30%

Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

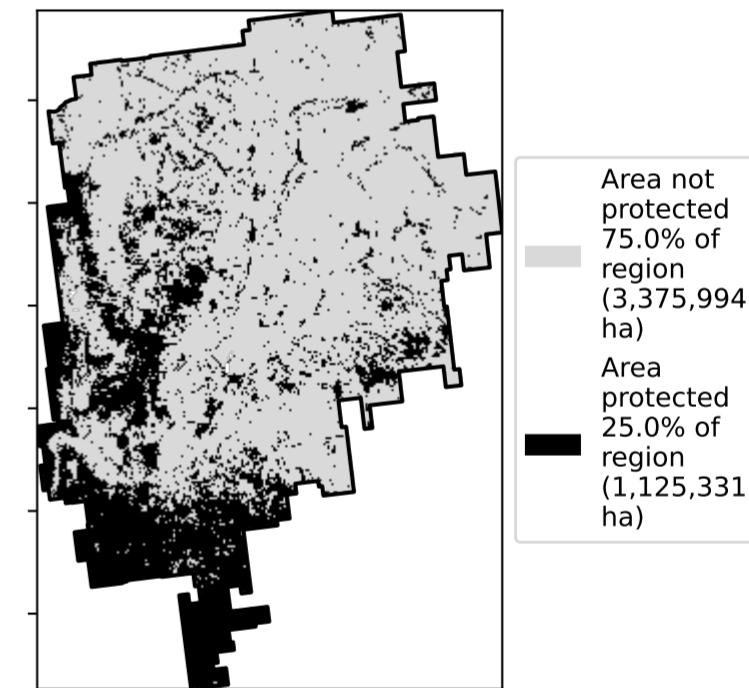


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



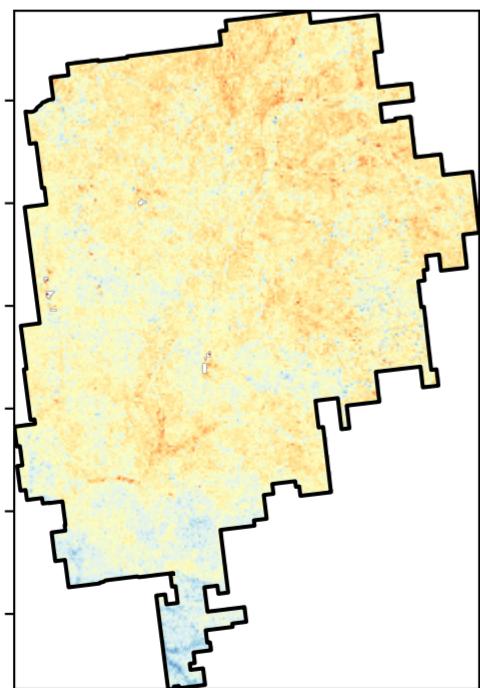
Area not protected 99.2% of region (4,465,314 ha)
Area protected 0.8% of region (36,011 ha)

% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Area not protected 75.0% of region (3,375,994 ha)
Area protected 25.0% of region (1,125,331 ha)

Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

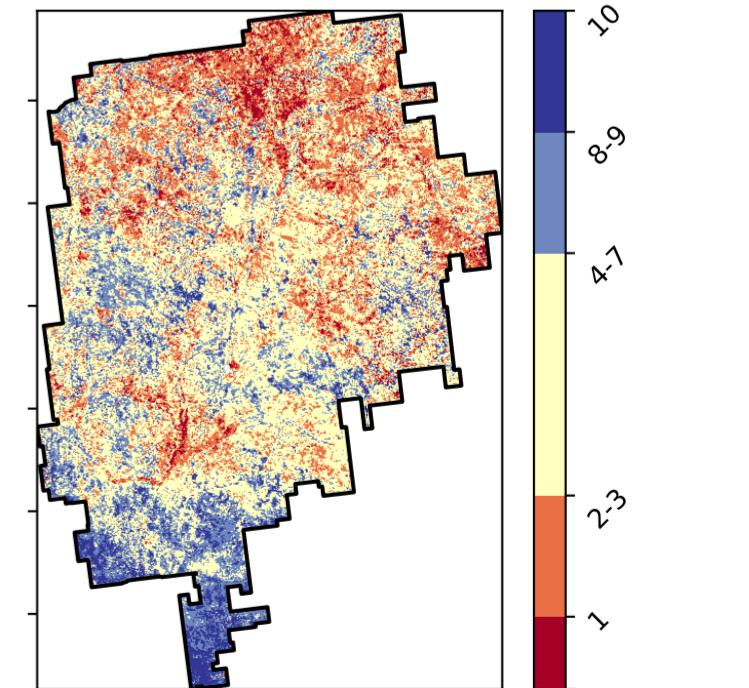


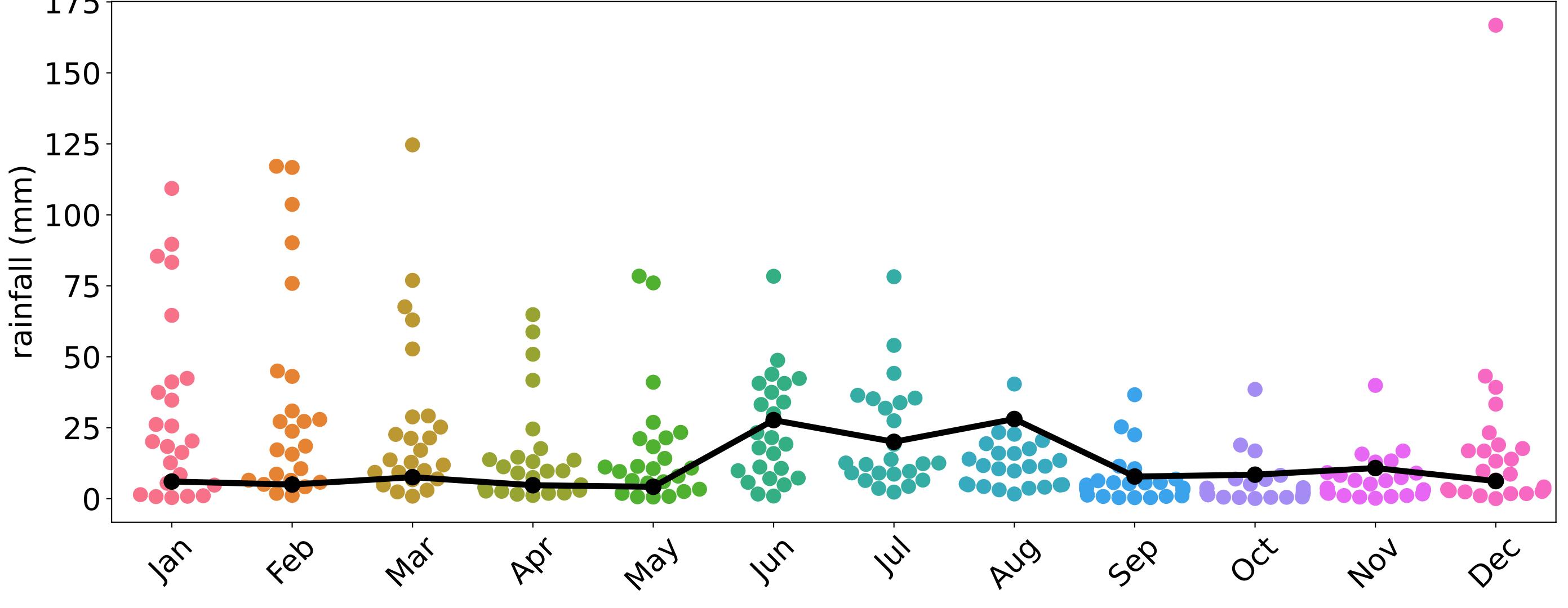
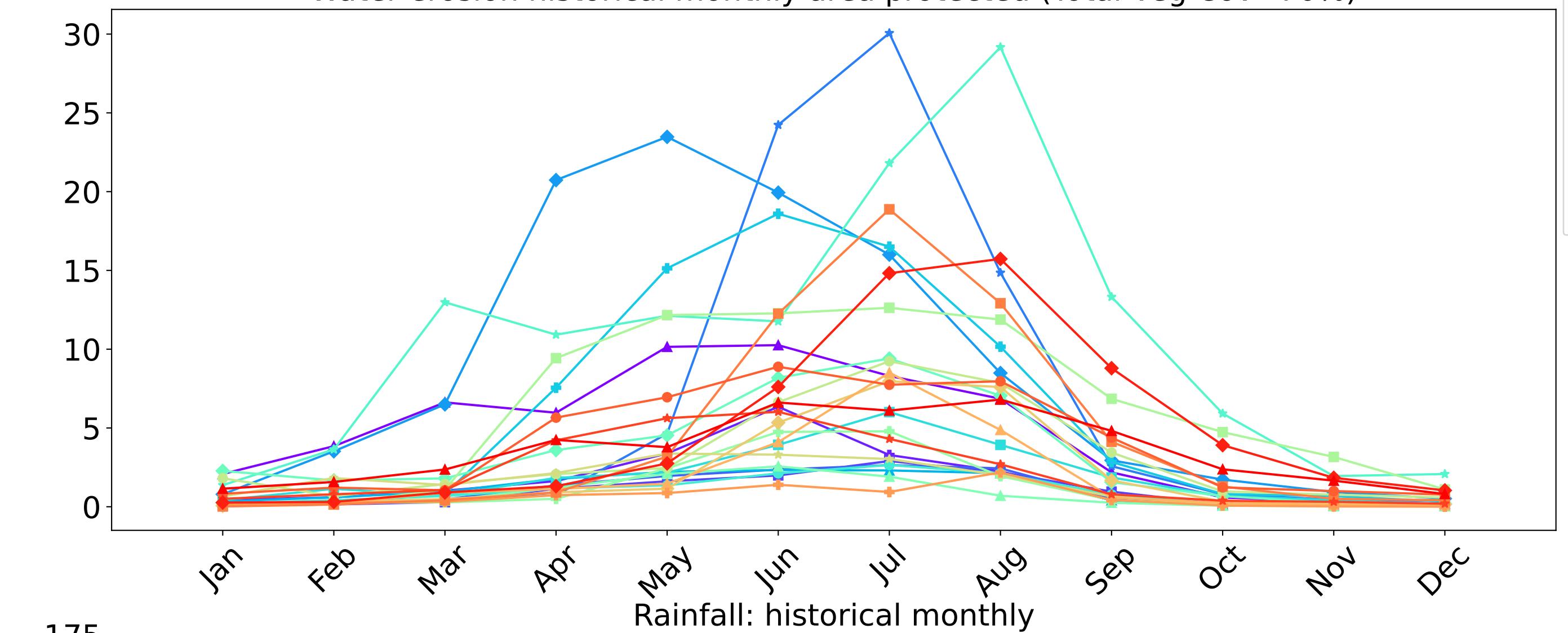
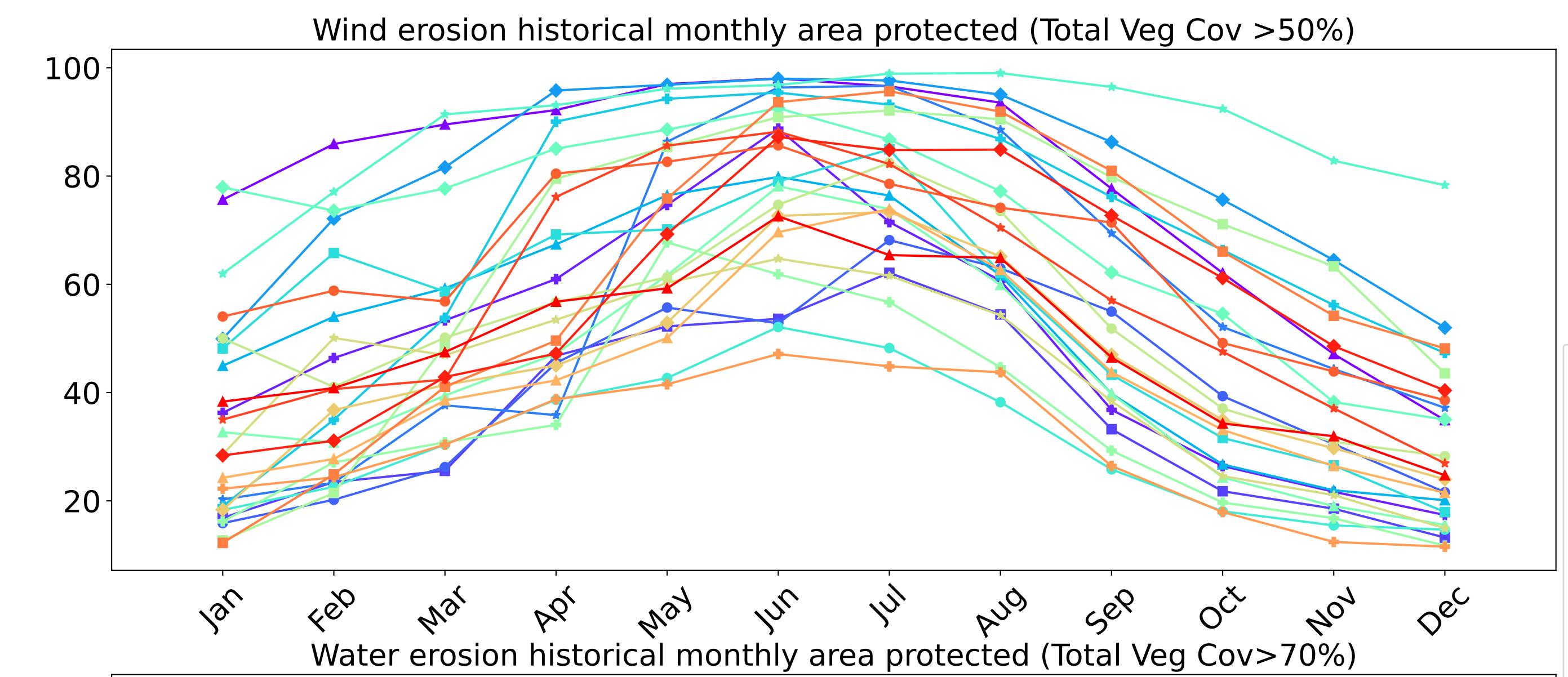
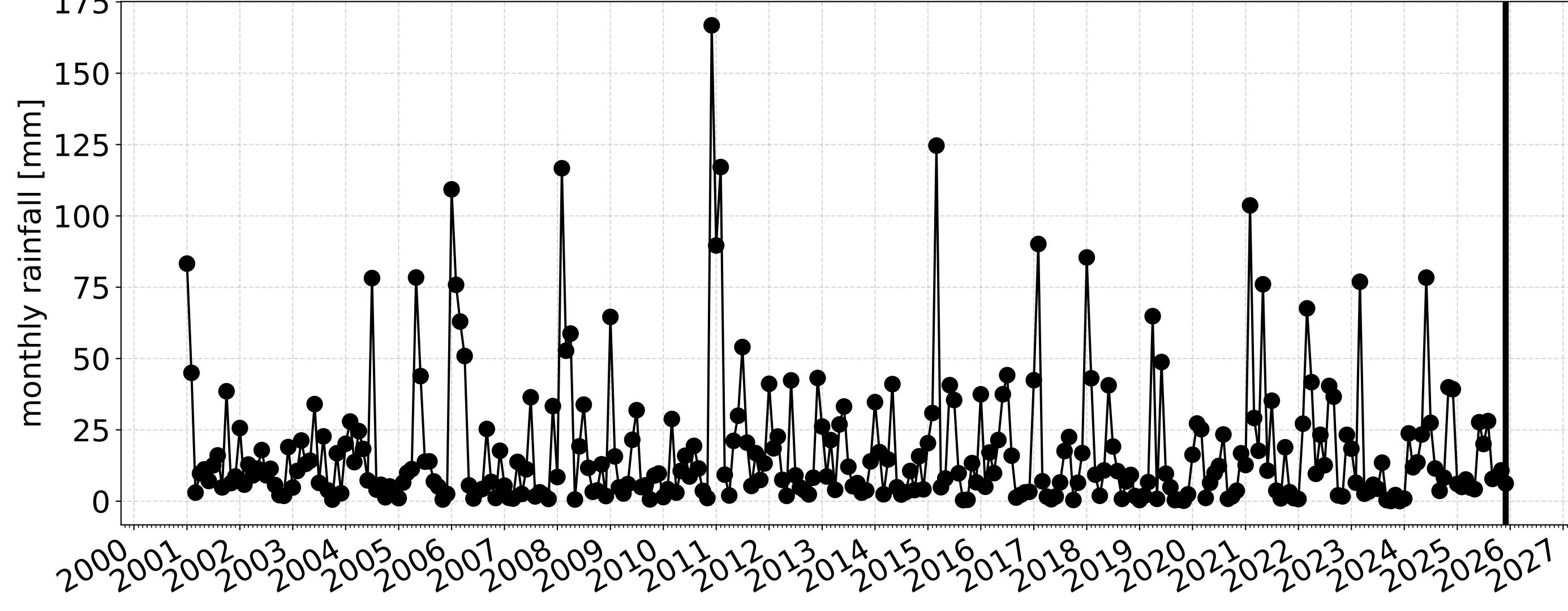
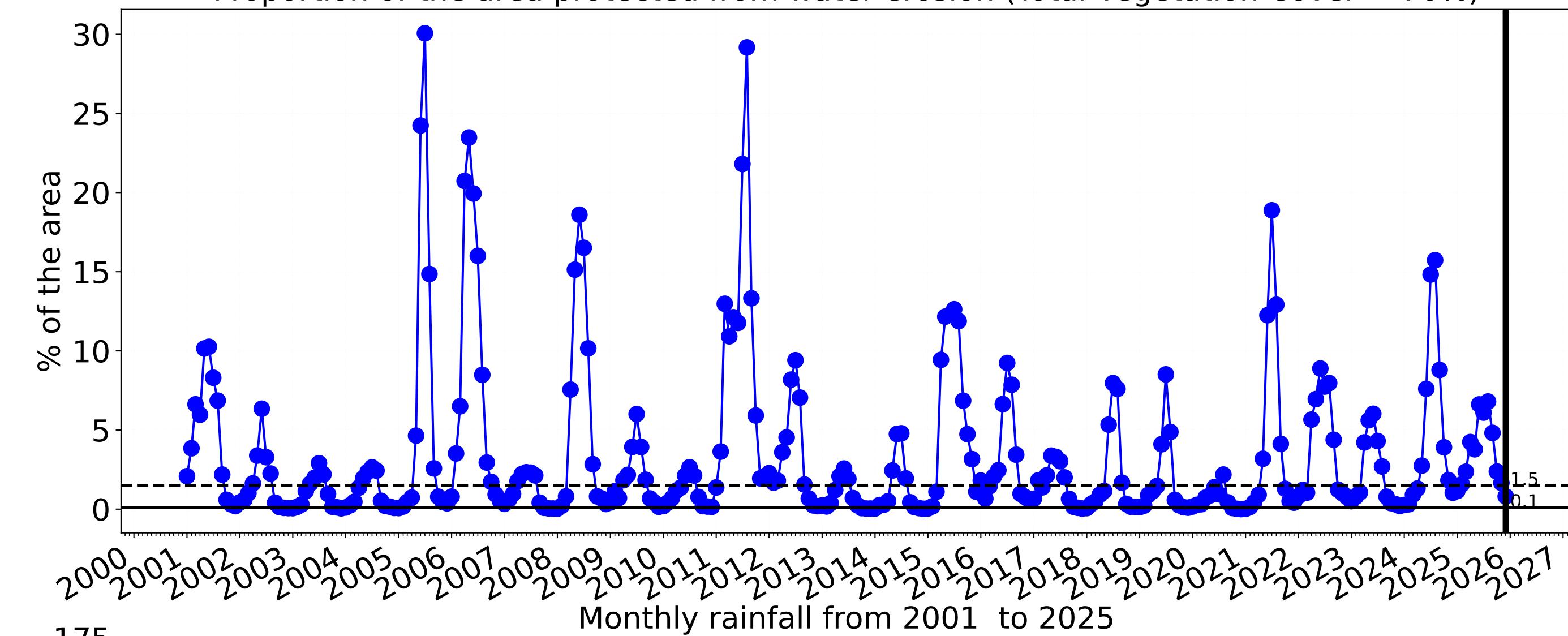
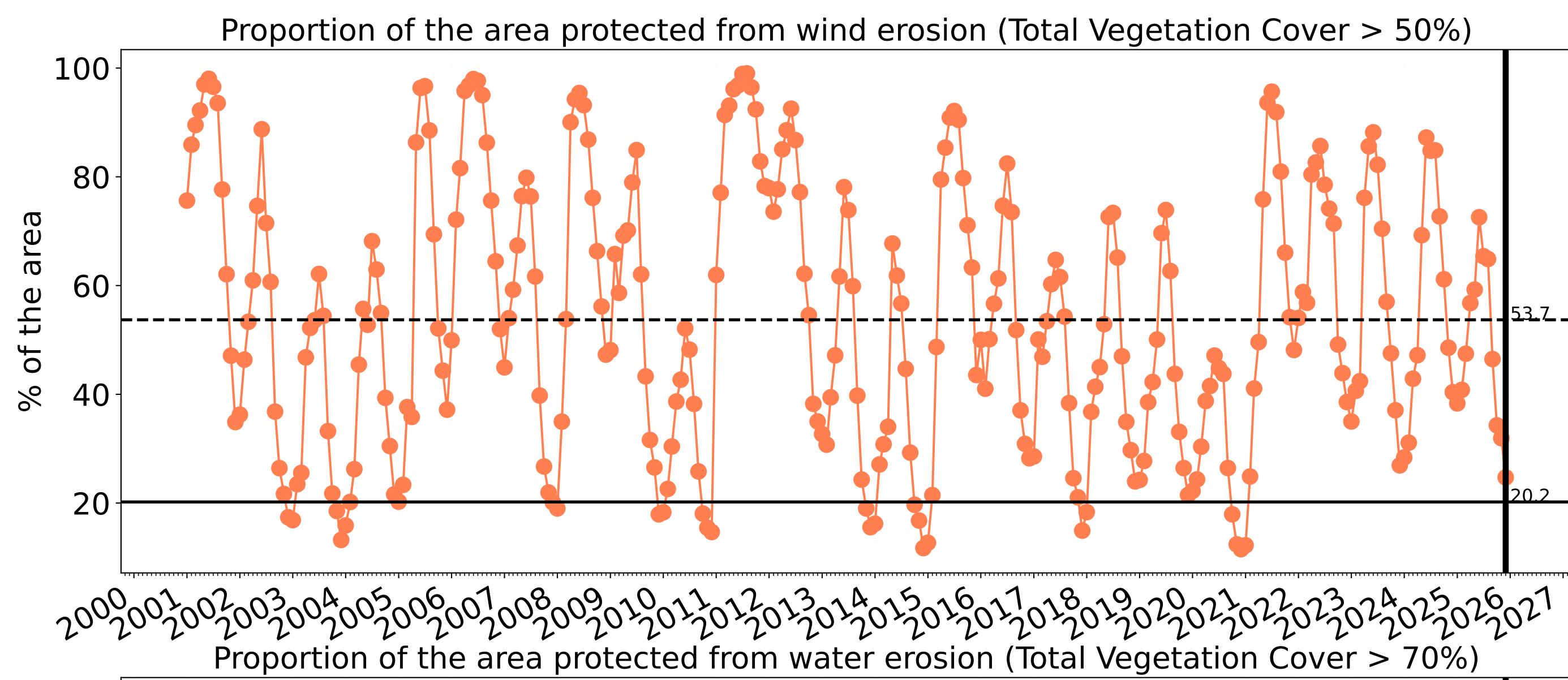
-20
-10
0
10
20

Anomaly shows how many percentage points each pixel is from the mean. That is, red pixels are about 20% lower than the mean of that pixel. The mean is only for the month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

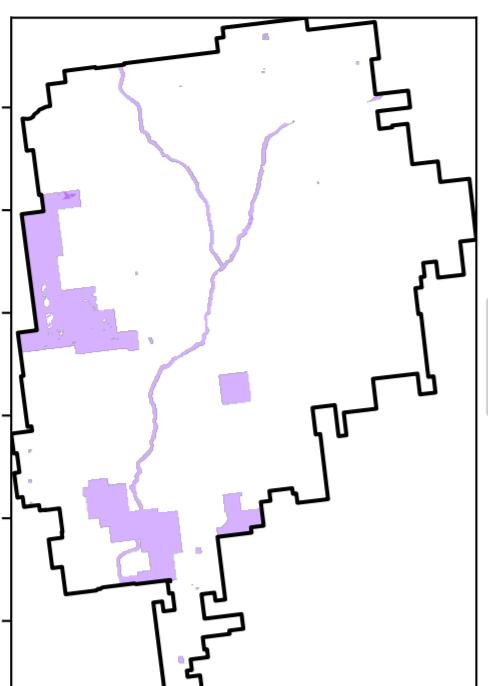




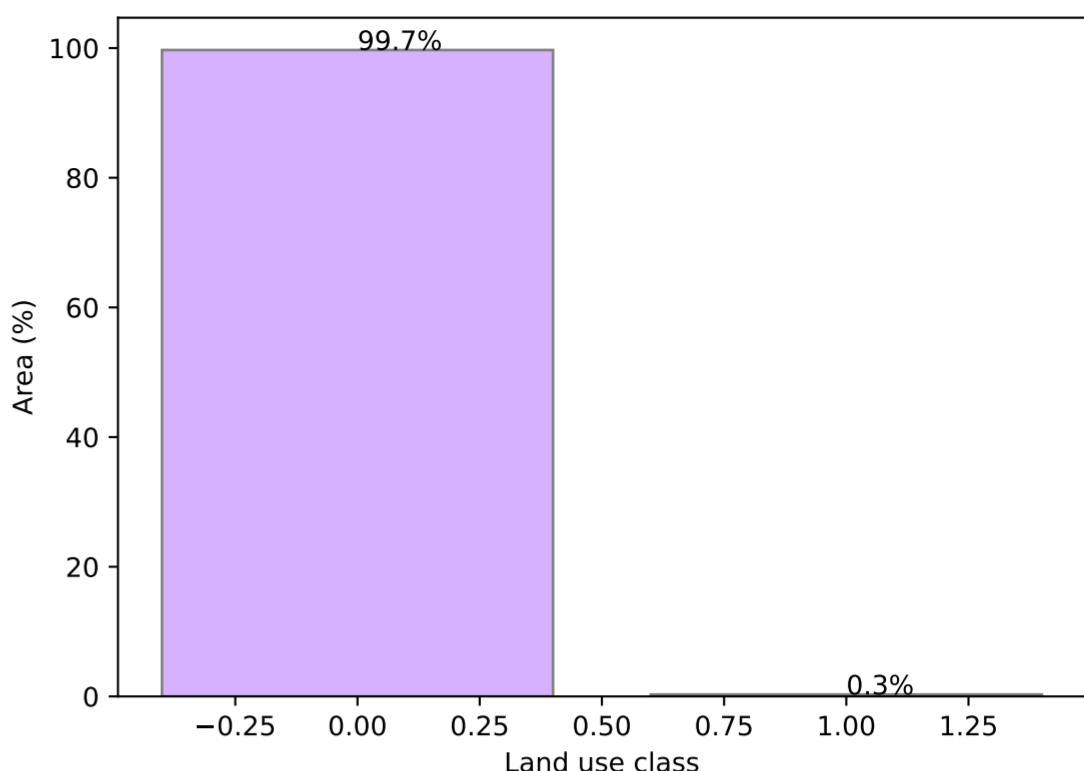
Conservation and natural environments

Land use and forest cover

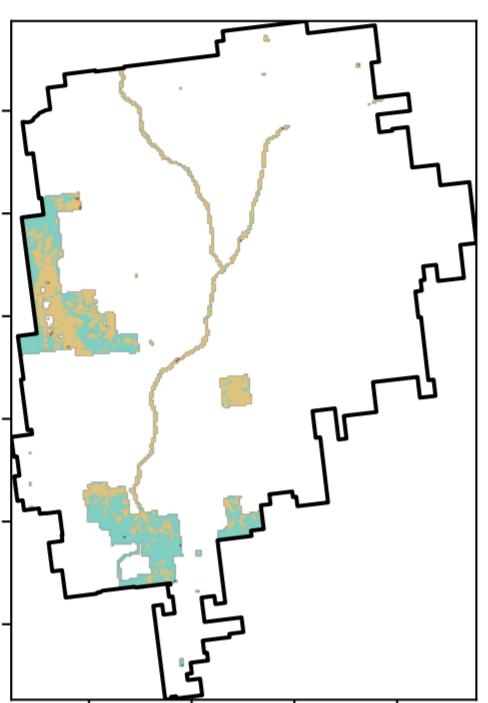
Catchment Scale Land Use and Forests of Australia (2018)
Derived from Catchment Scale Land Use of Australia (2018) and Forests of Australia (2018)



Proportion of each land class in area

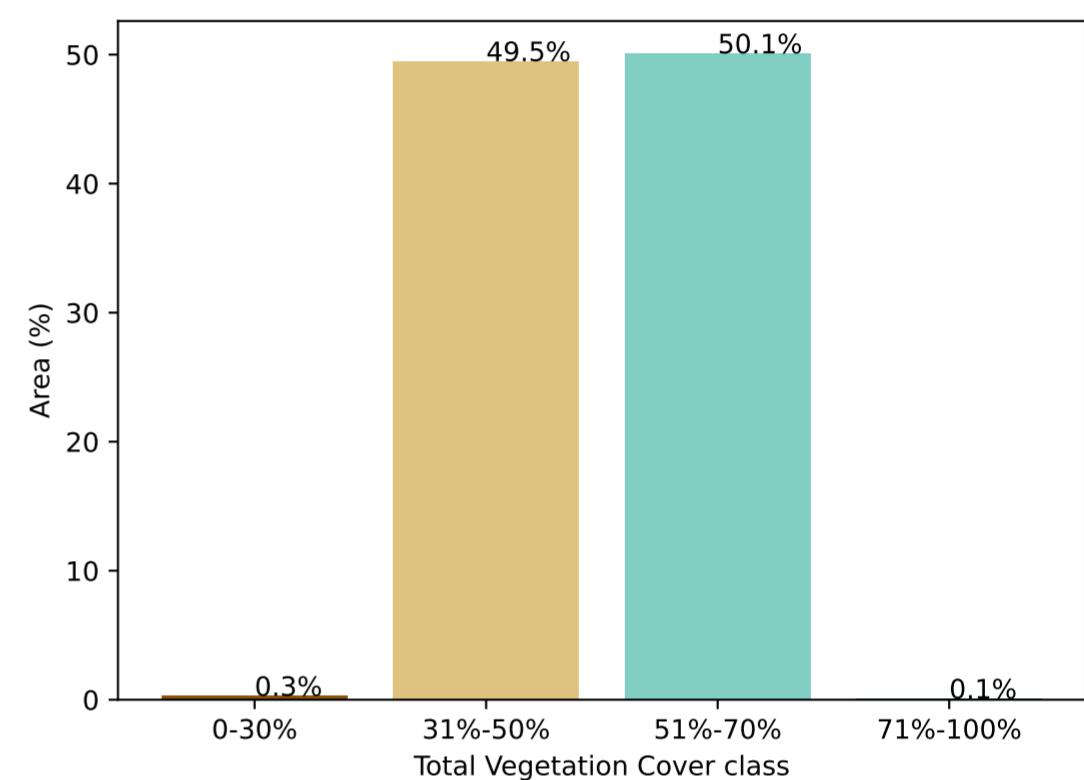


Total Vegetation Cover [%]

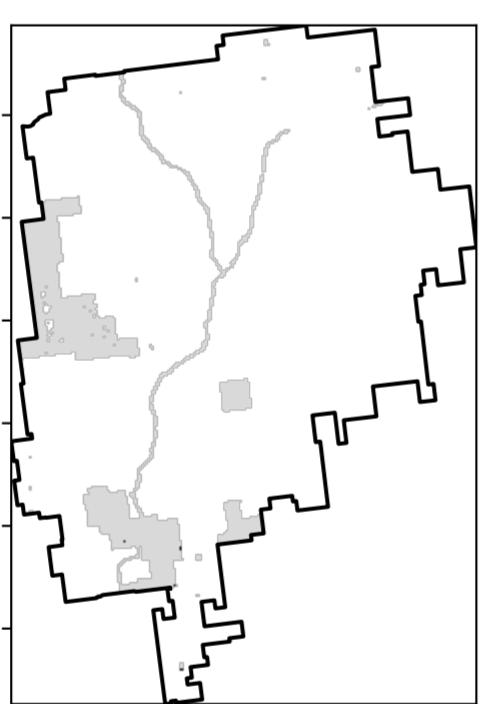


71%-100%
51%-70%
31%-50%
0-30%

Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

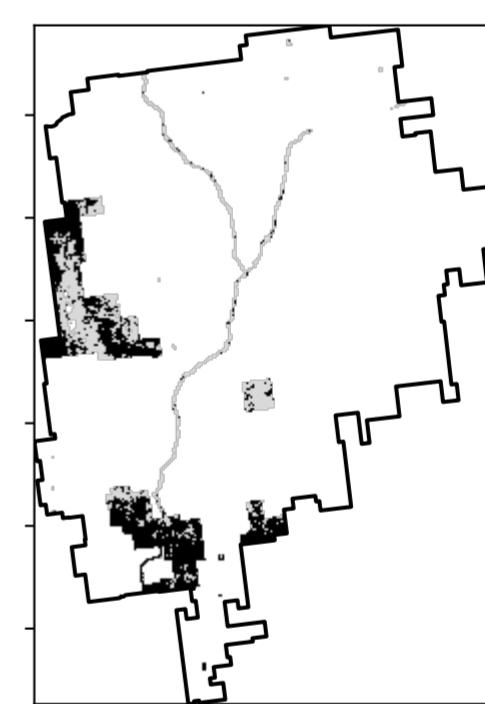


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



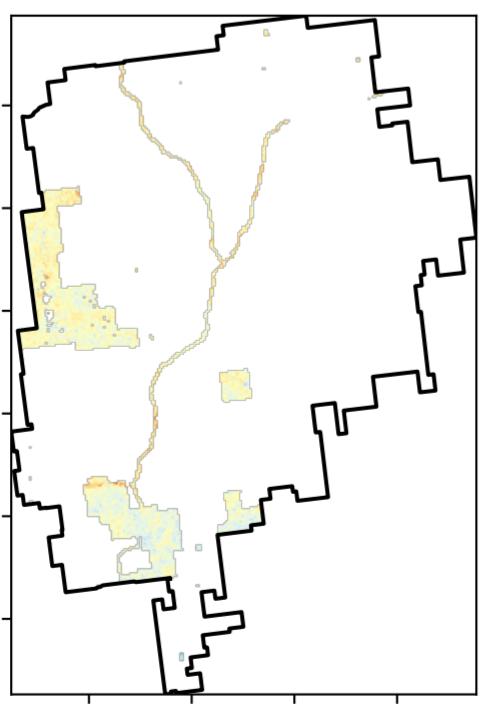
Area not protected 99.9% of region (428,871 ha)
Area protected 0.1% of region (429 ha)

% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Area not protected 50.0% of region (214,650 ha)
Area protected 50.0% of region (214,650 ha)

Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

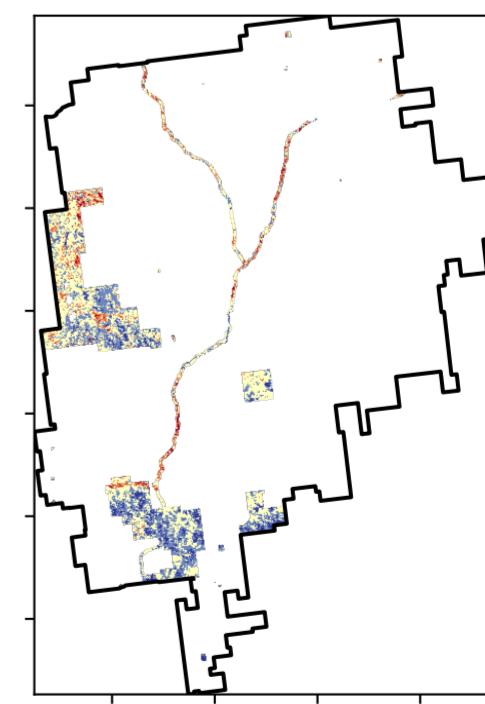


20
10
0
-10
-20

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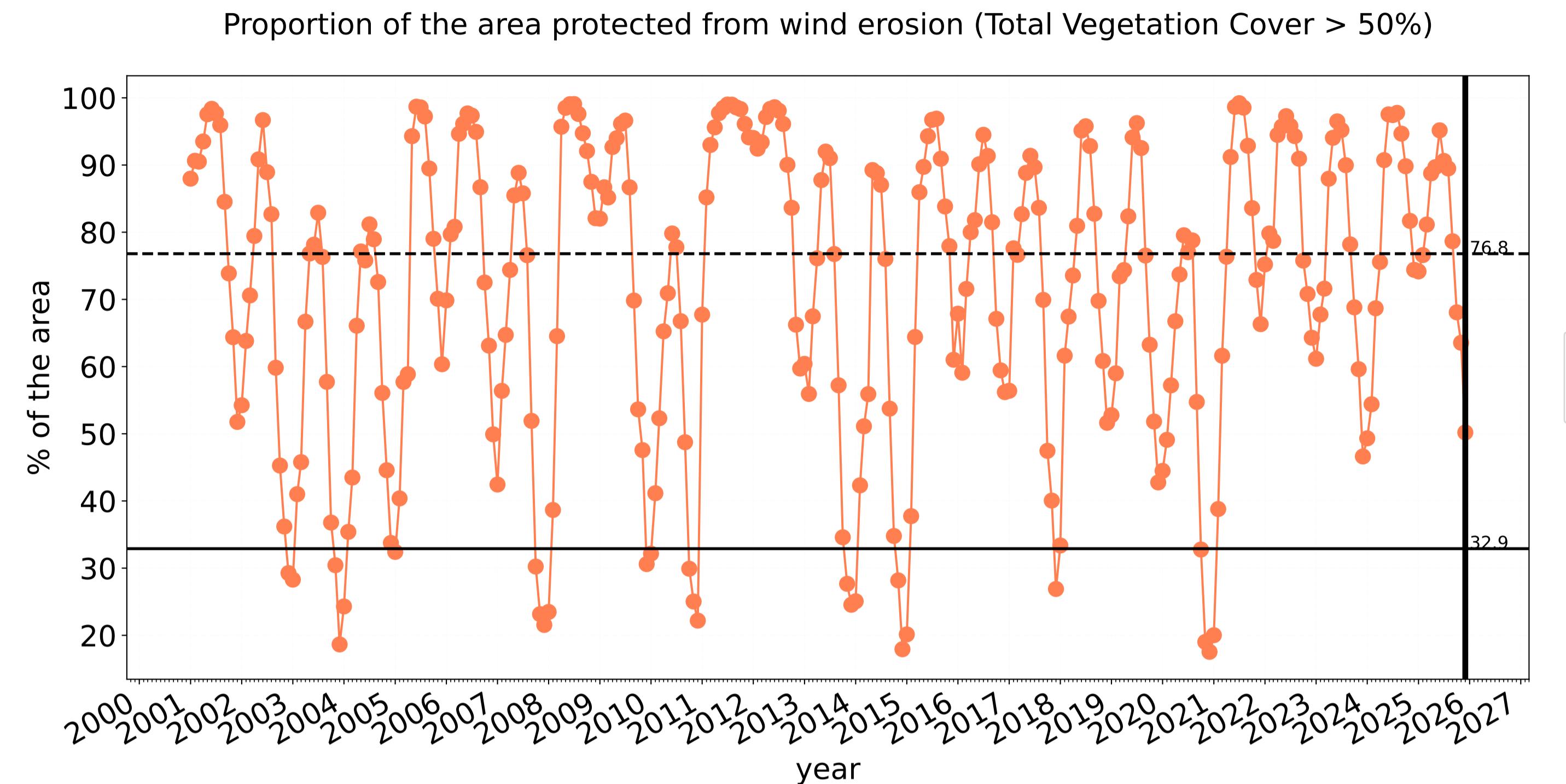
Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



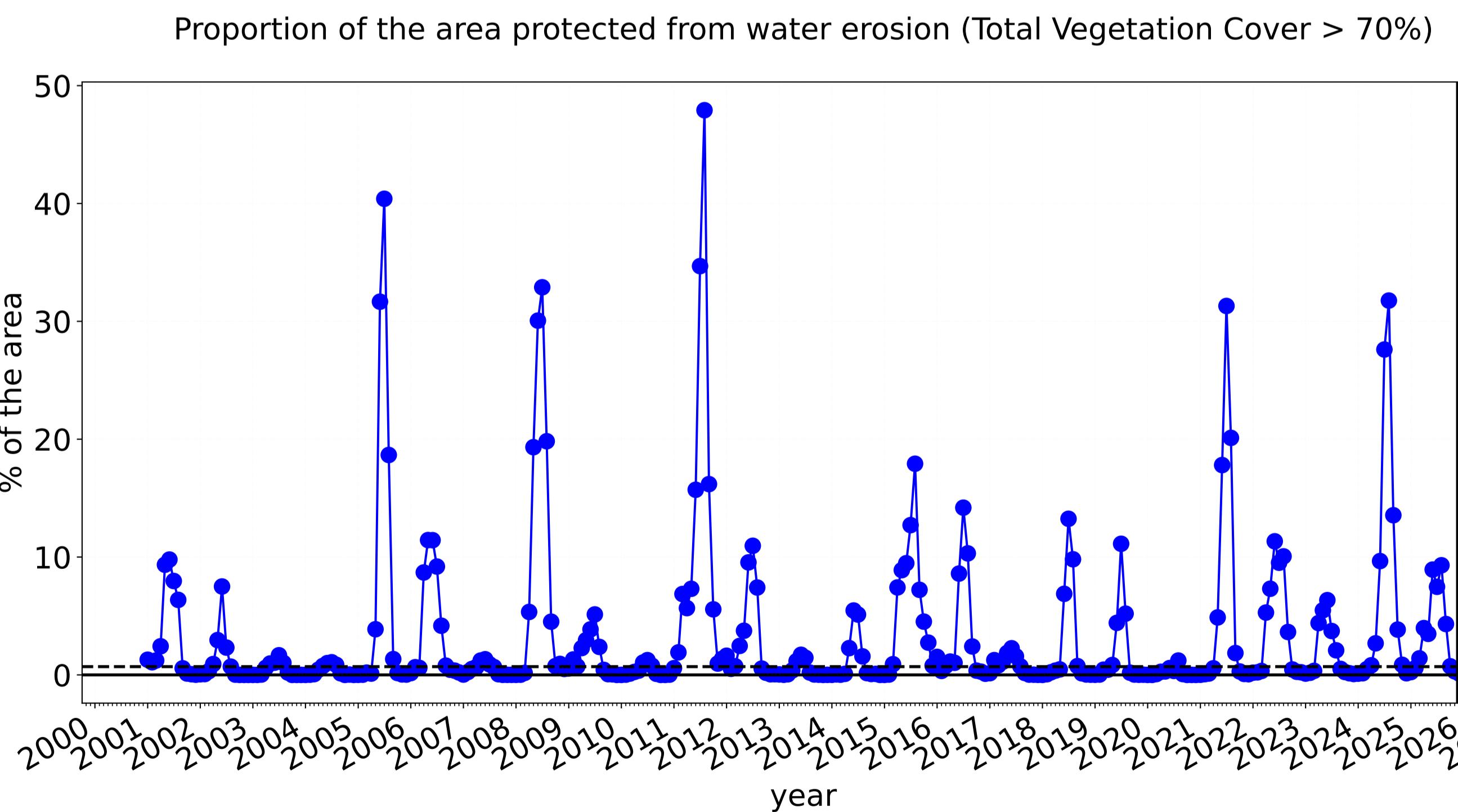
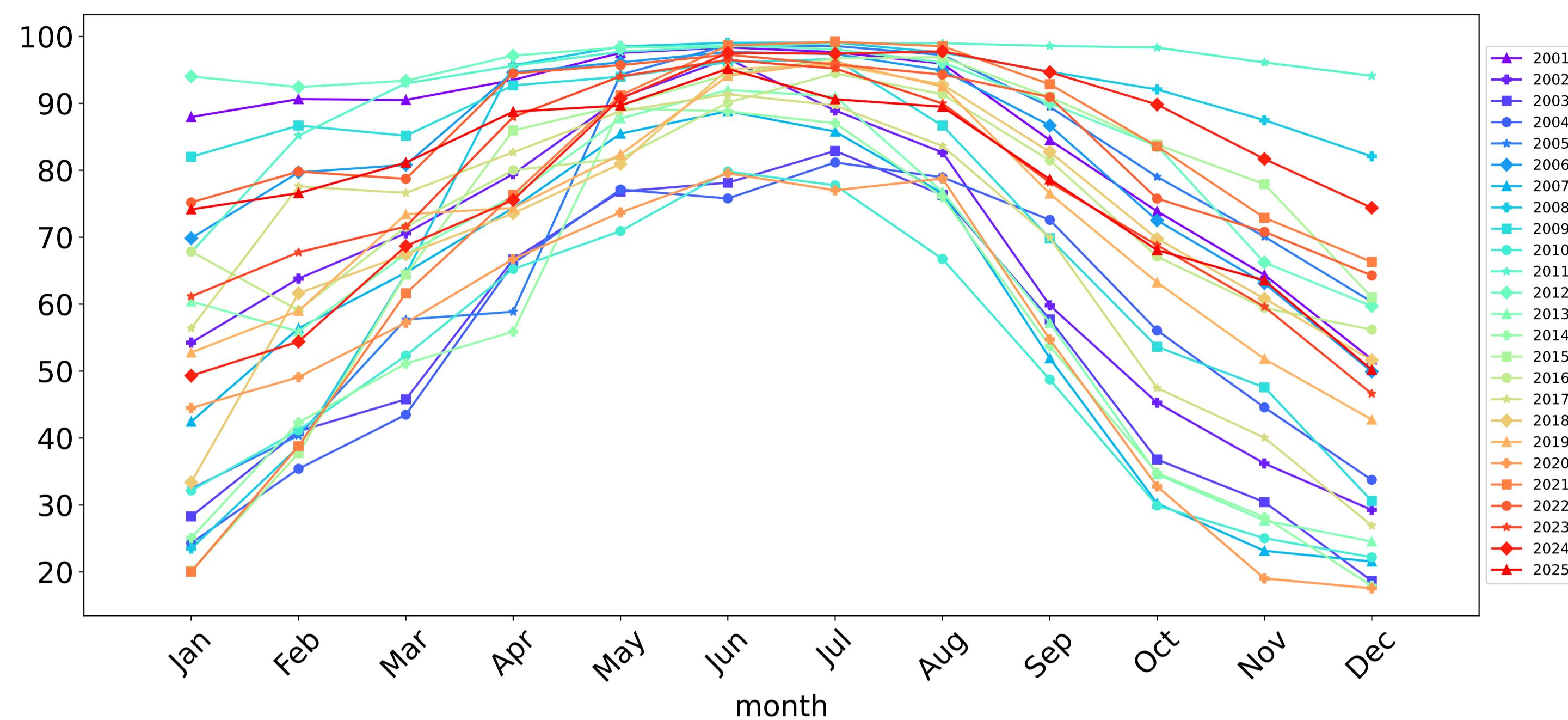
10
9
8
7
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5
4
3
2
1



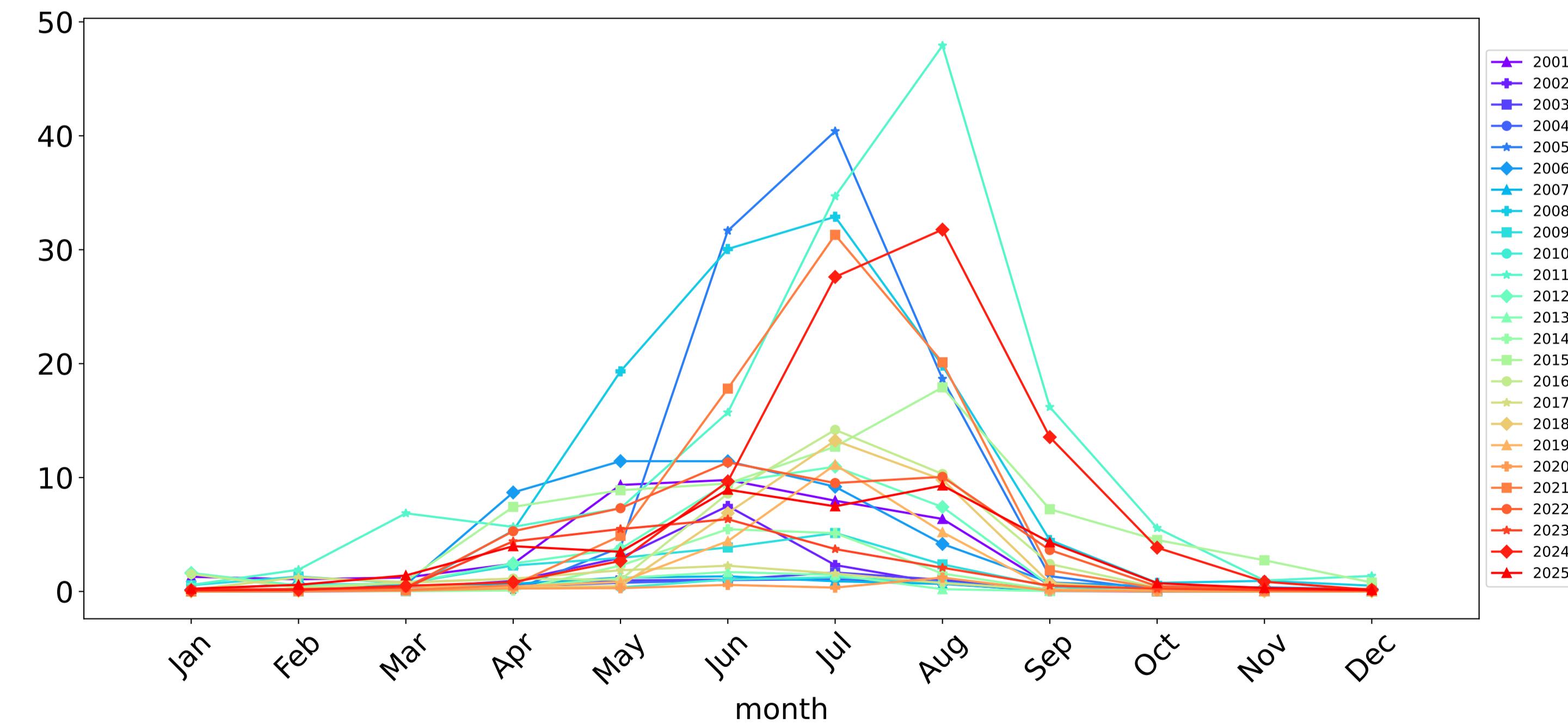
Conservation and natural environments timeseries



Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



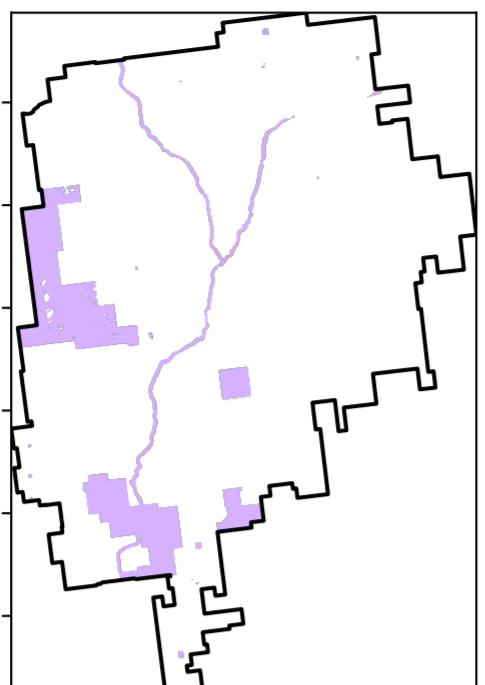
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov>70%)



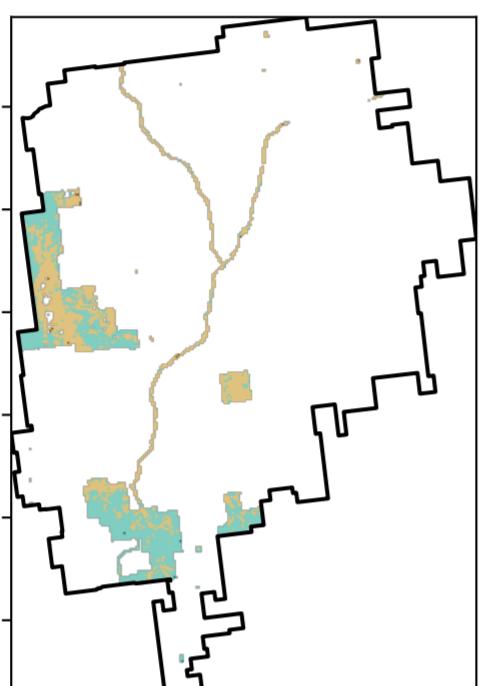
Conservation and natural environments non forest

Land use and forest cover

Catchment Scale
Land Use and Forests
of Australia (2018)
Derived from
Catchment Scale Land
Use of Australia
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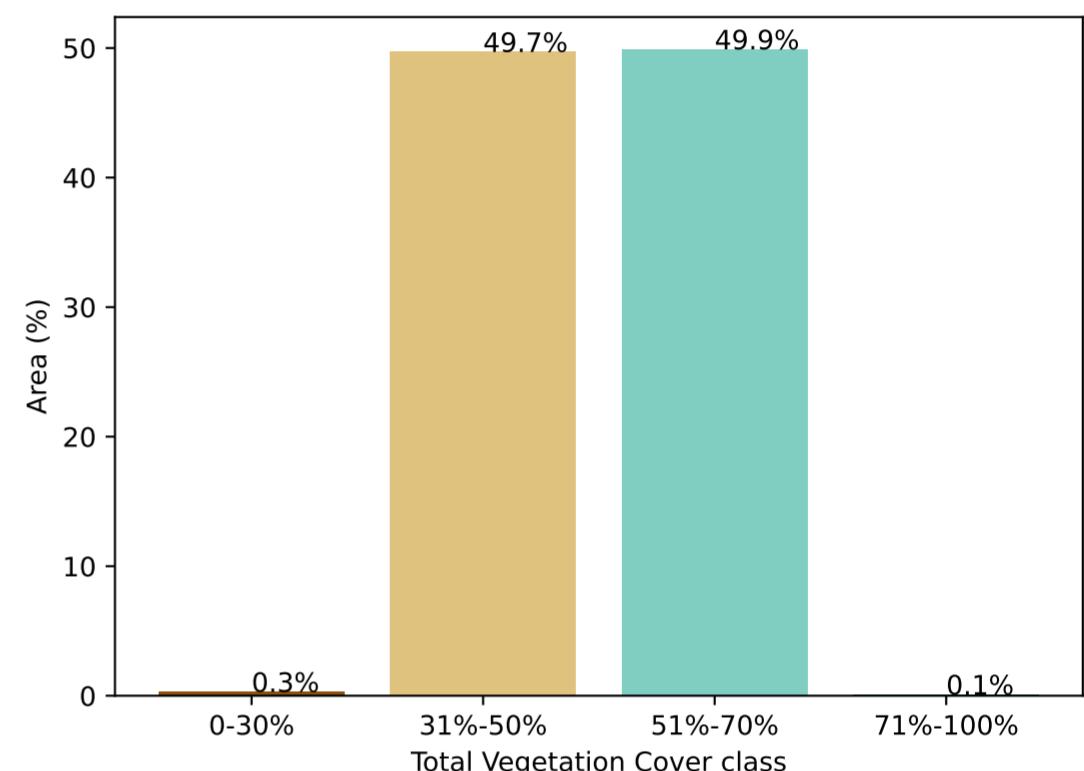


Total Vegetation Cover [%]

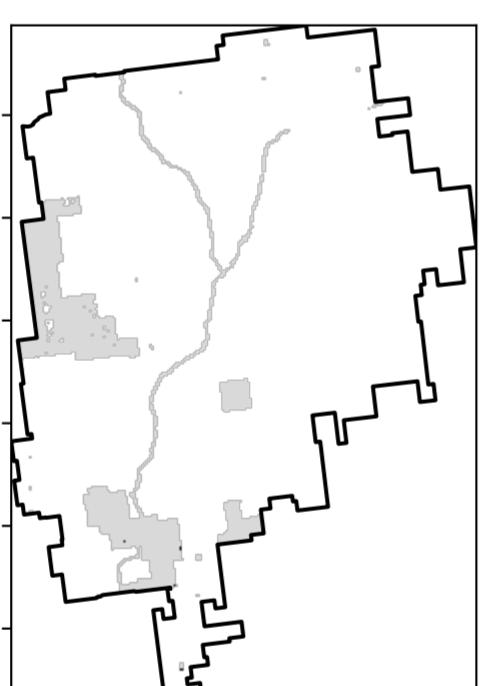


71-100%
51-70%
31-50%
0-30%

Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

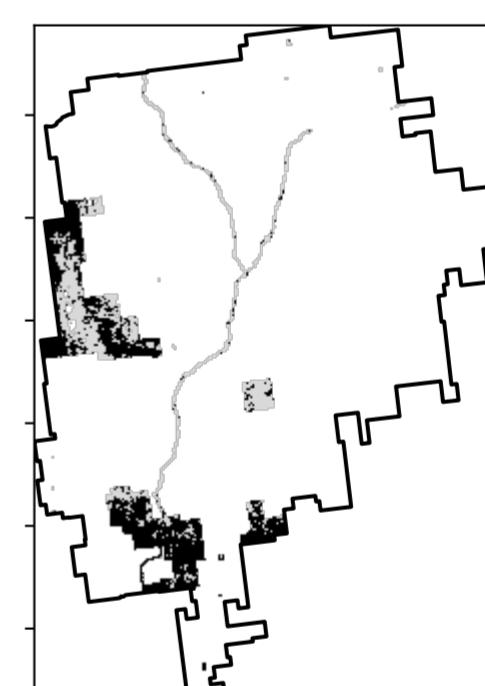


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



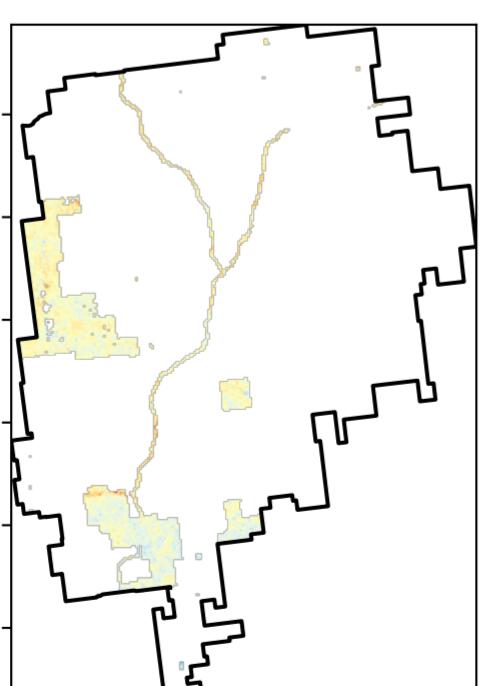
Area not protected
99.9% of region
(427,572 ha)
Area protected
0.1% of region
(428 ha)

% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Area not protected
50.0% of region
(214,000 ha)
Area protected
50.0% of region
(214,000 ha)

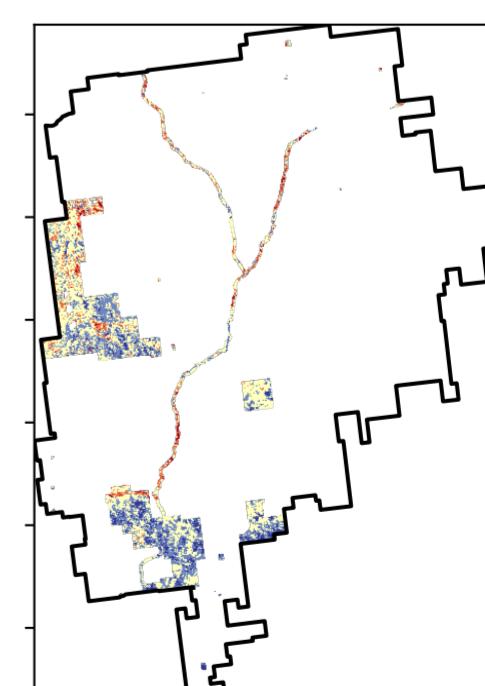
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]



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Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1



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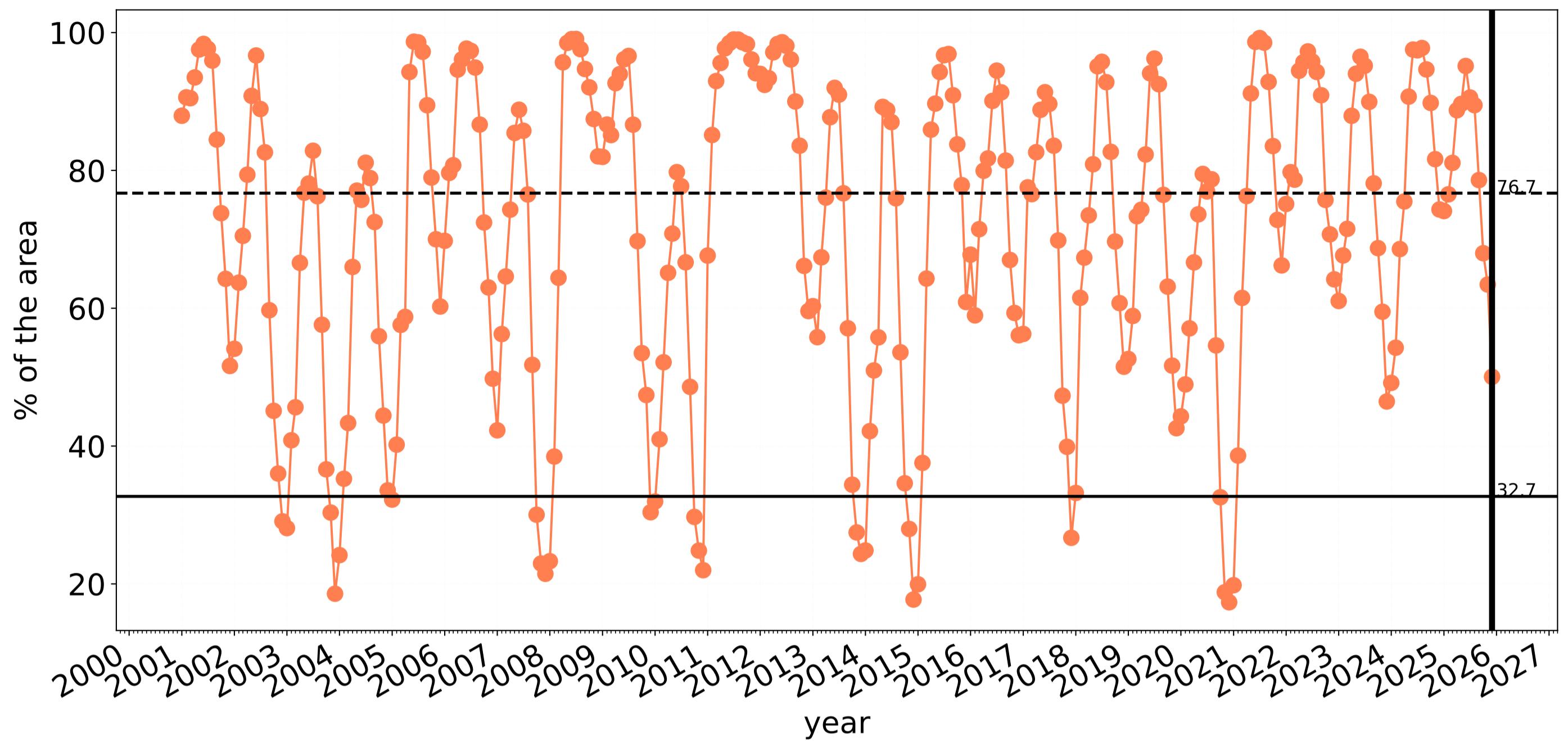
Australian Government

National
Landcare
Programme

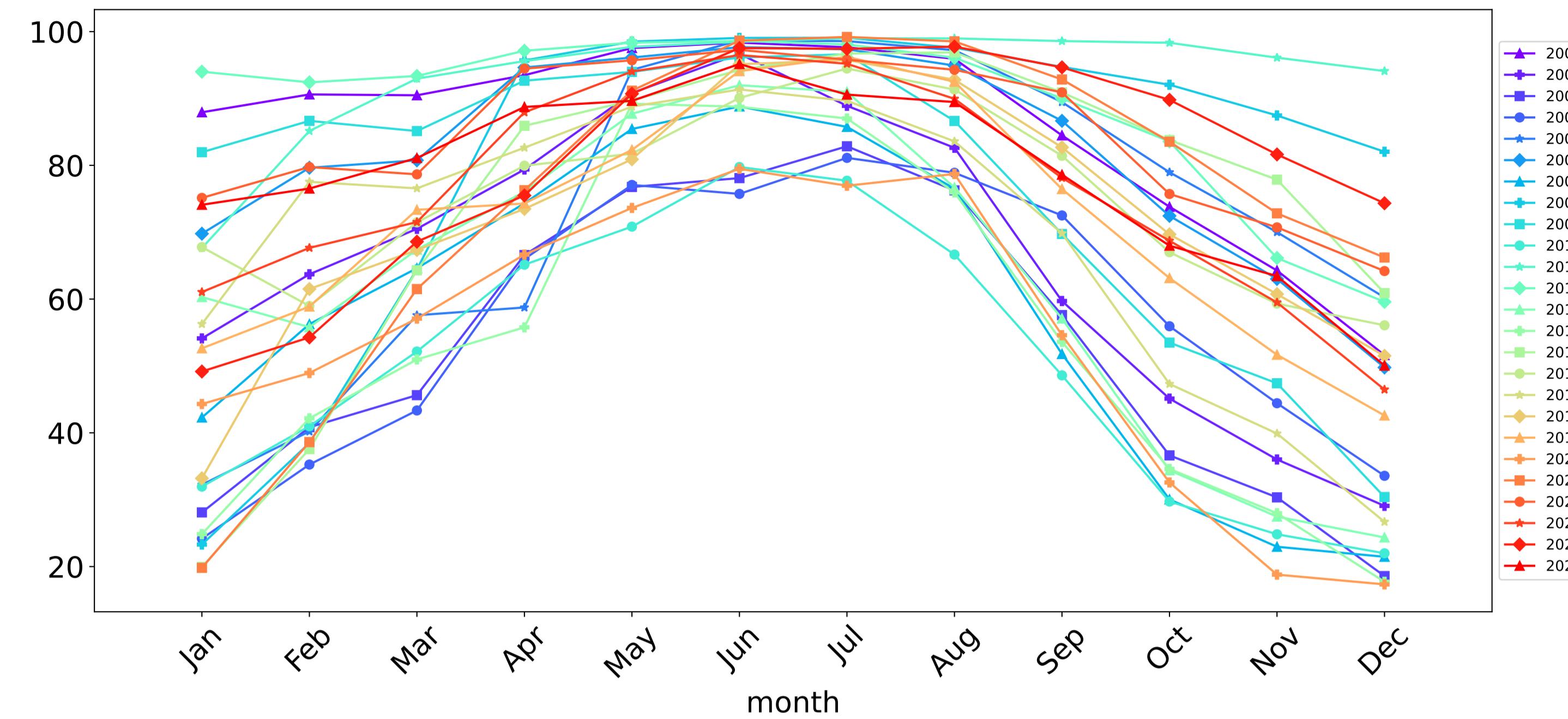
NSW
GOVERNMENT

Conservation and natural environments non forest timeseries

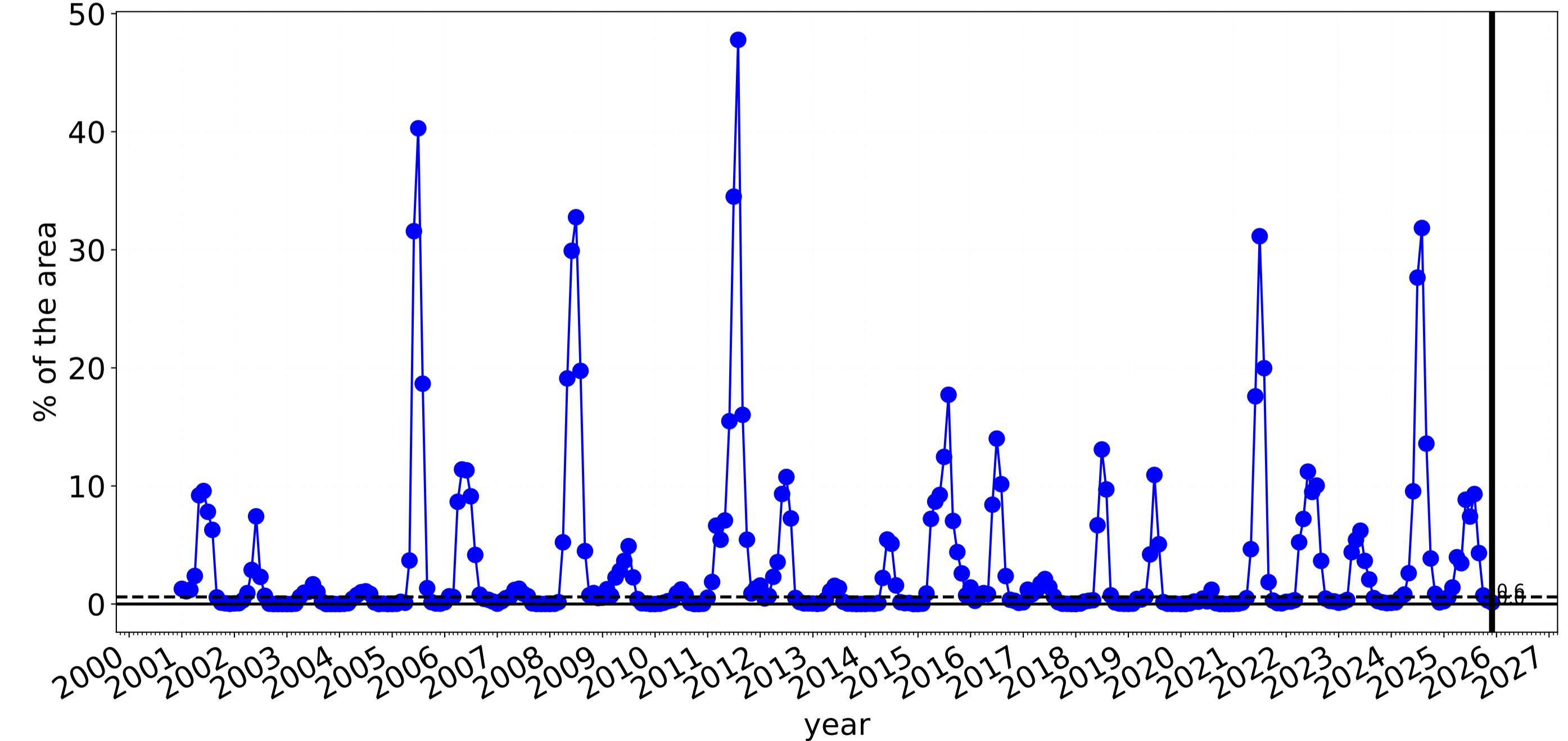
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



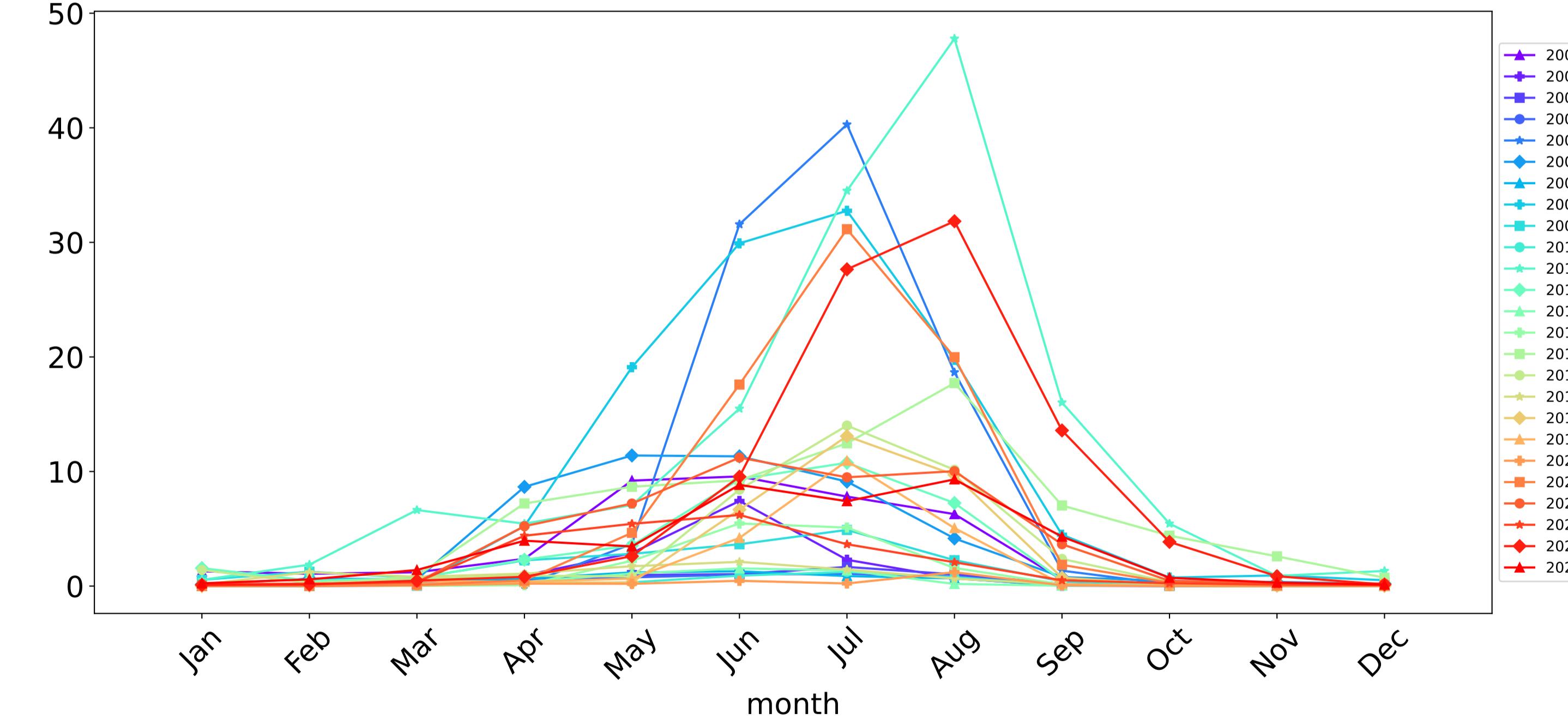
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



Proportion of the area protected from water erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 70%)

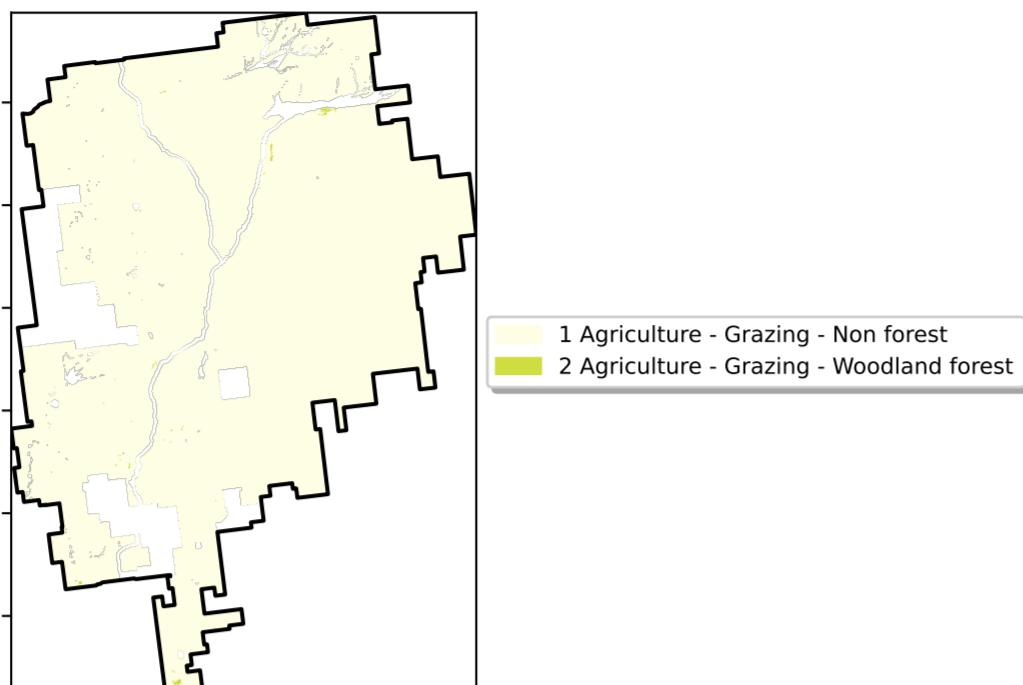


Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >70%)



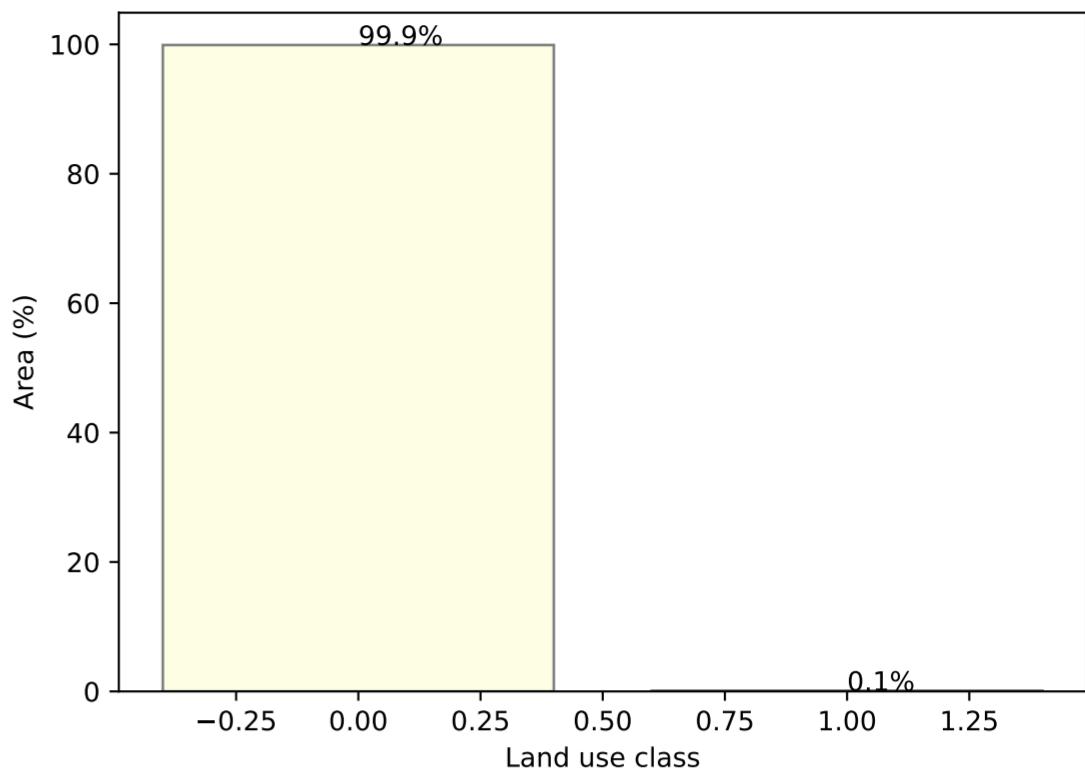
Agriculture

Land use and forest cover

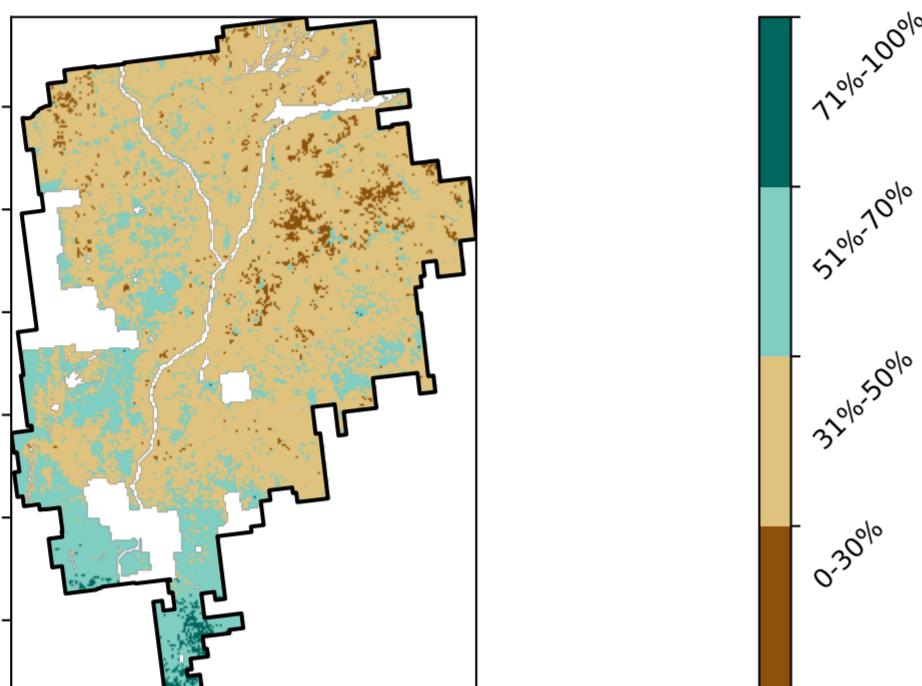


Catchment Scale
Land Use and Forests
of Australia (2018)
Derived from
Catchment Scale Land
Use of Australia
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of Australia (2018)

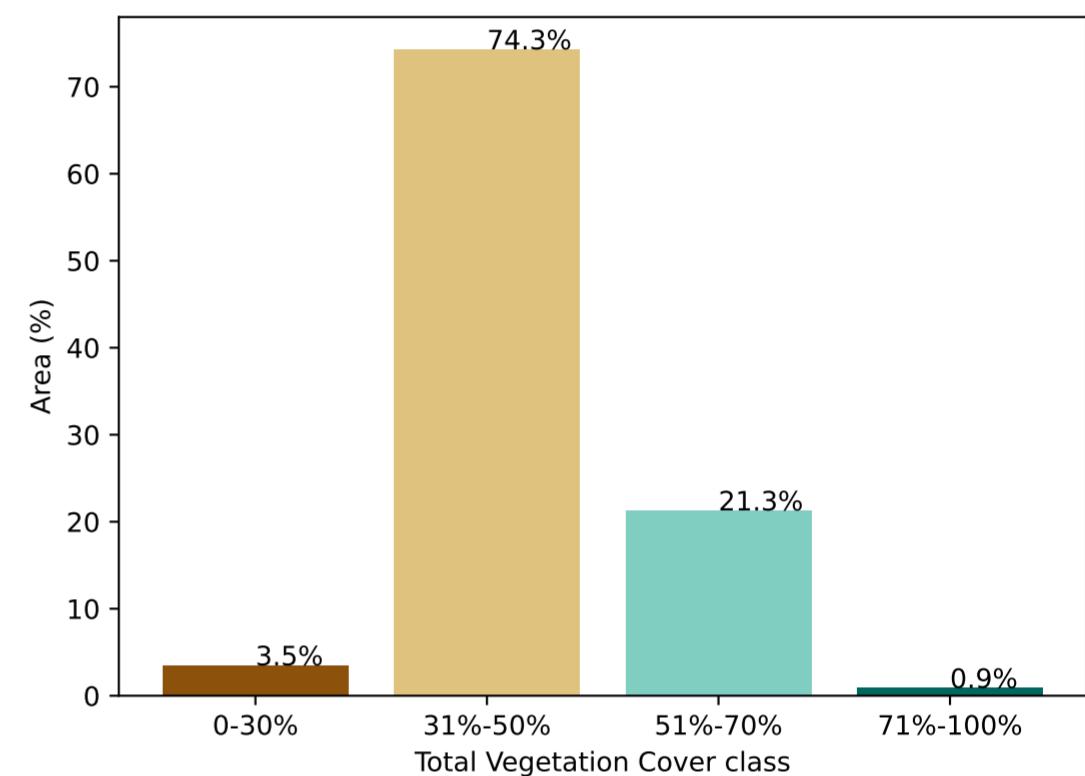
Proportion of each land class in area



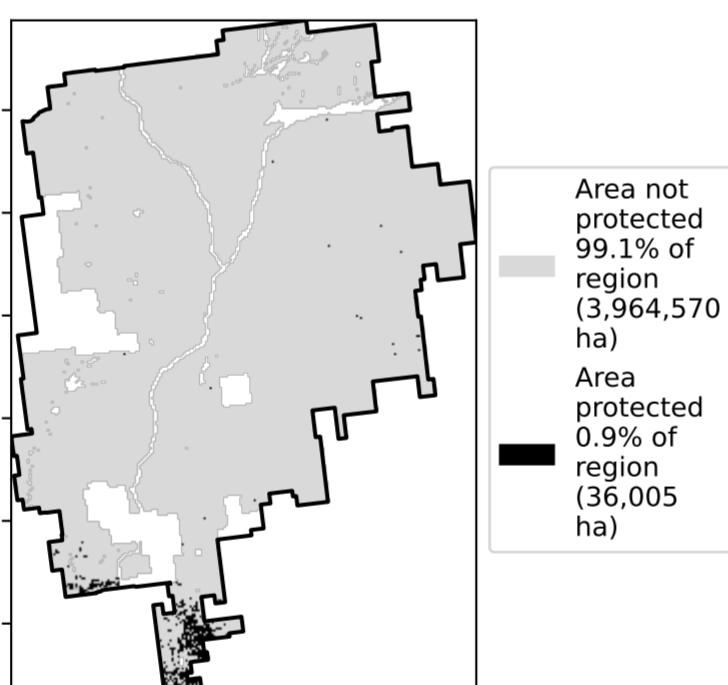
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



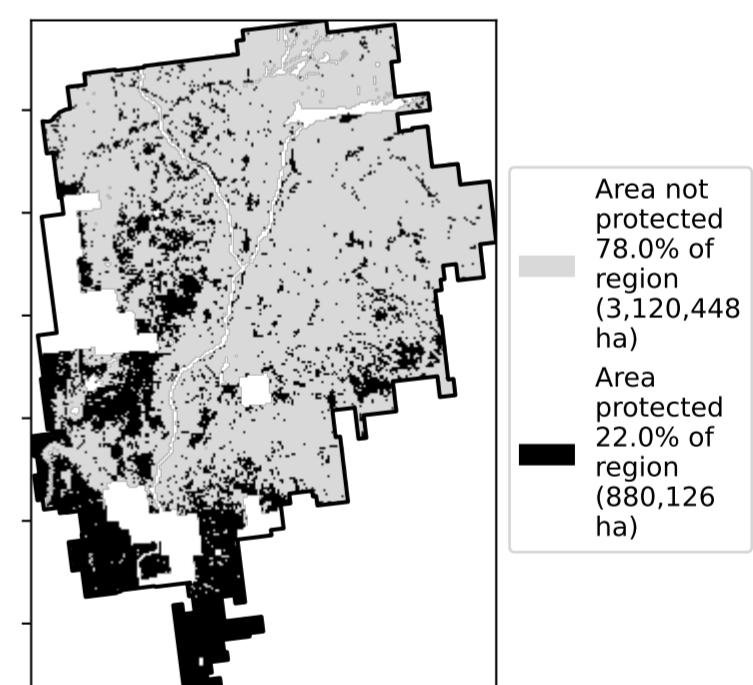
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



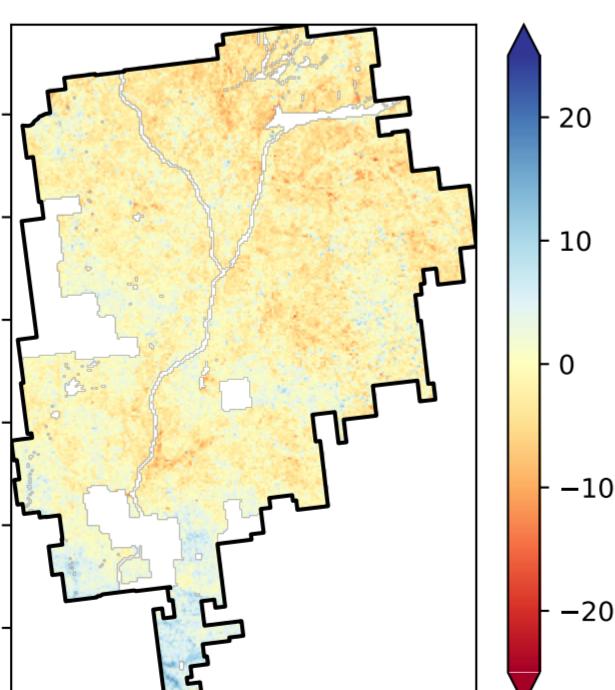
% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



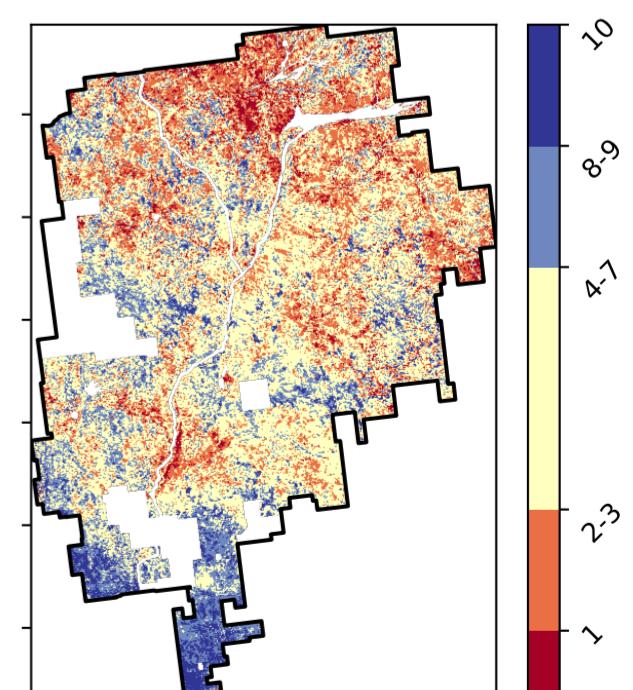
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]



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Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



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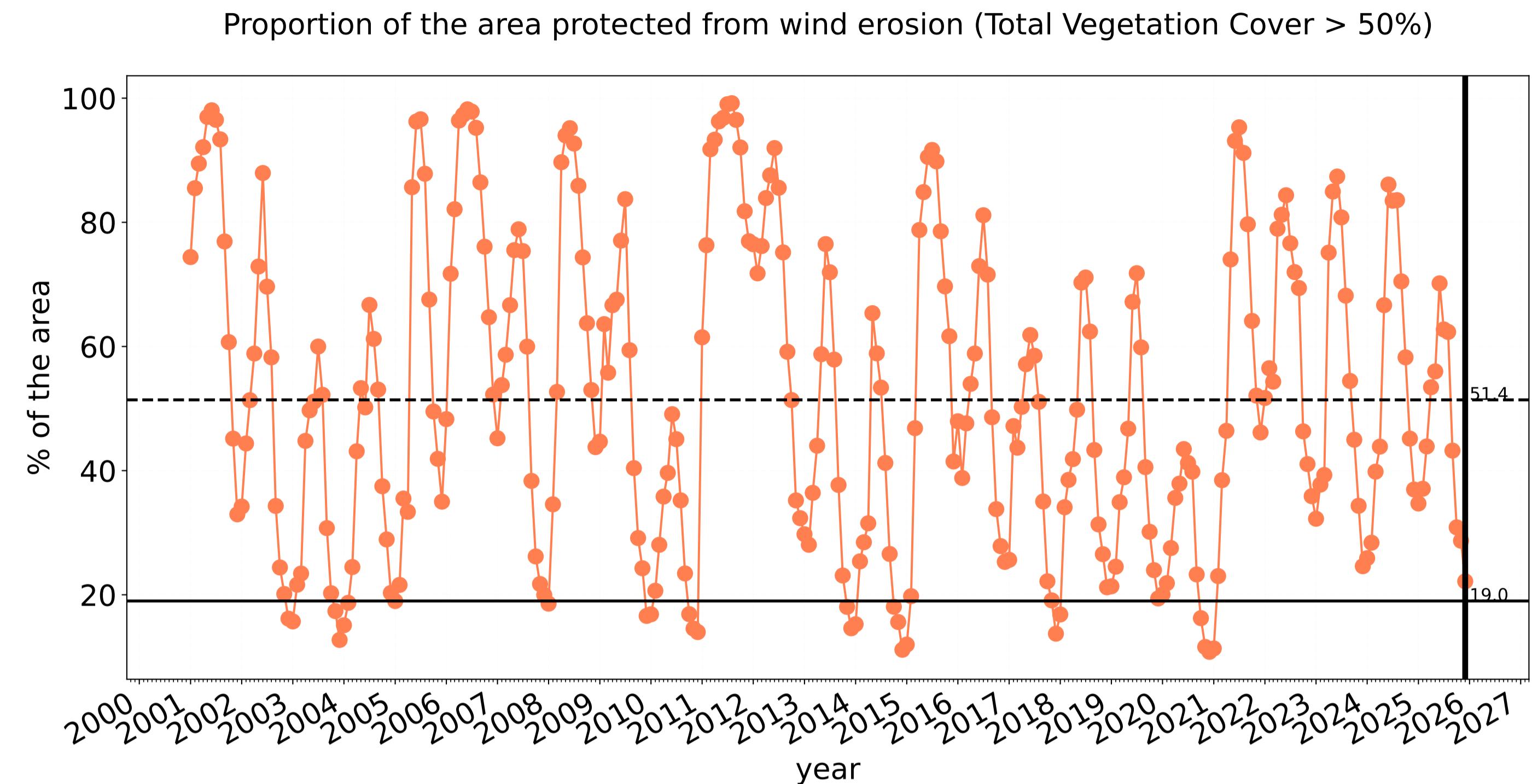
Ecosystem Research Infrastructure



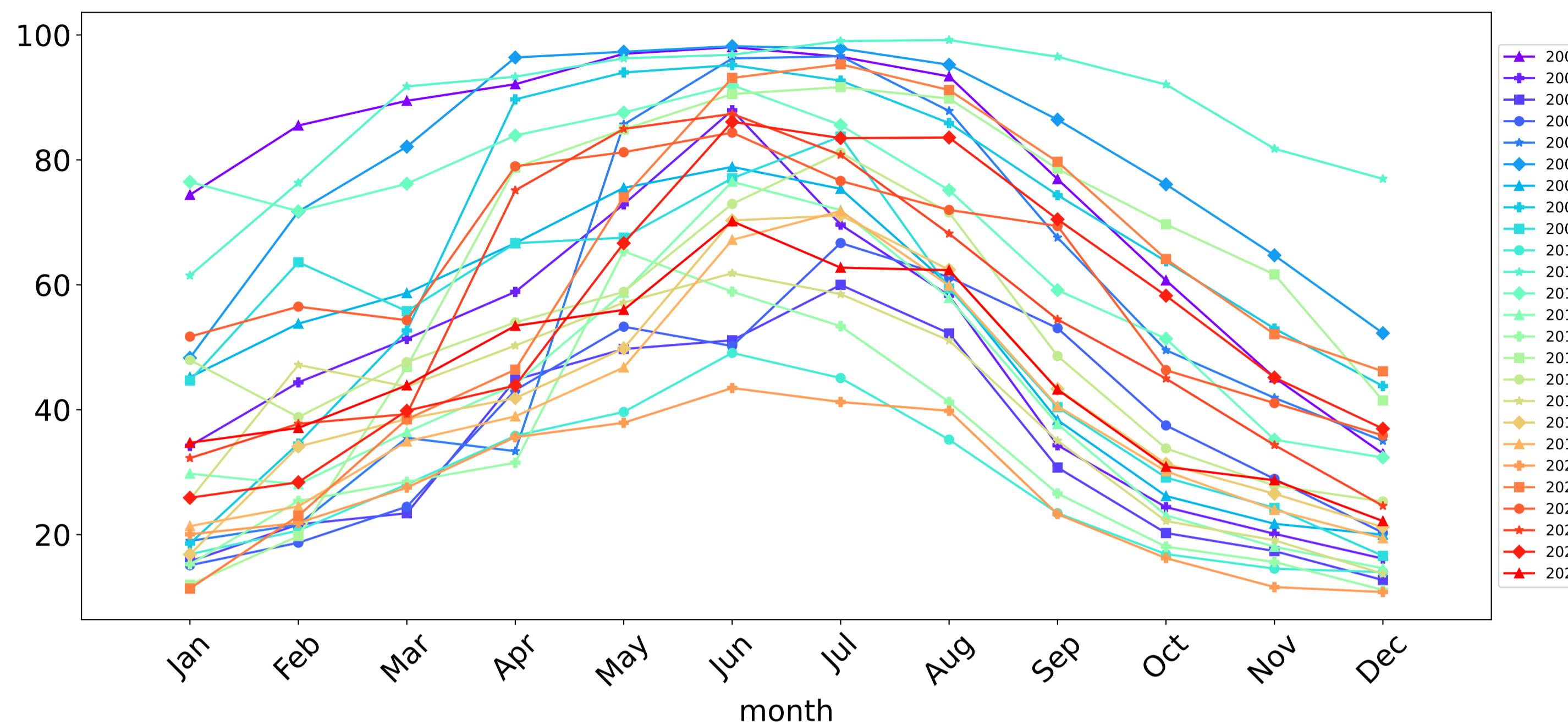
Australian Government



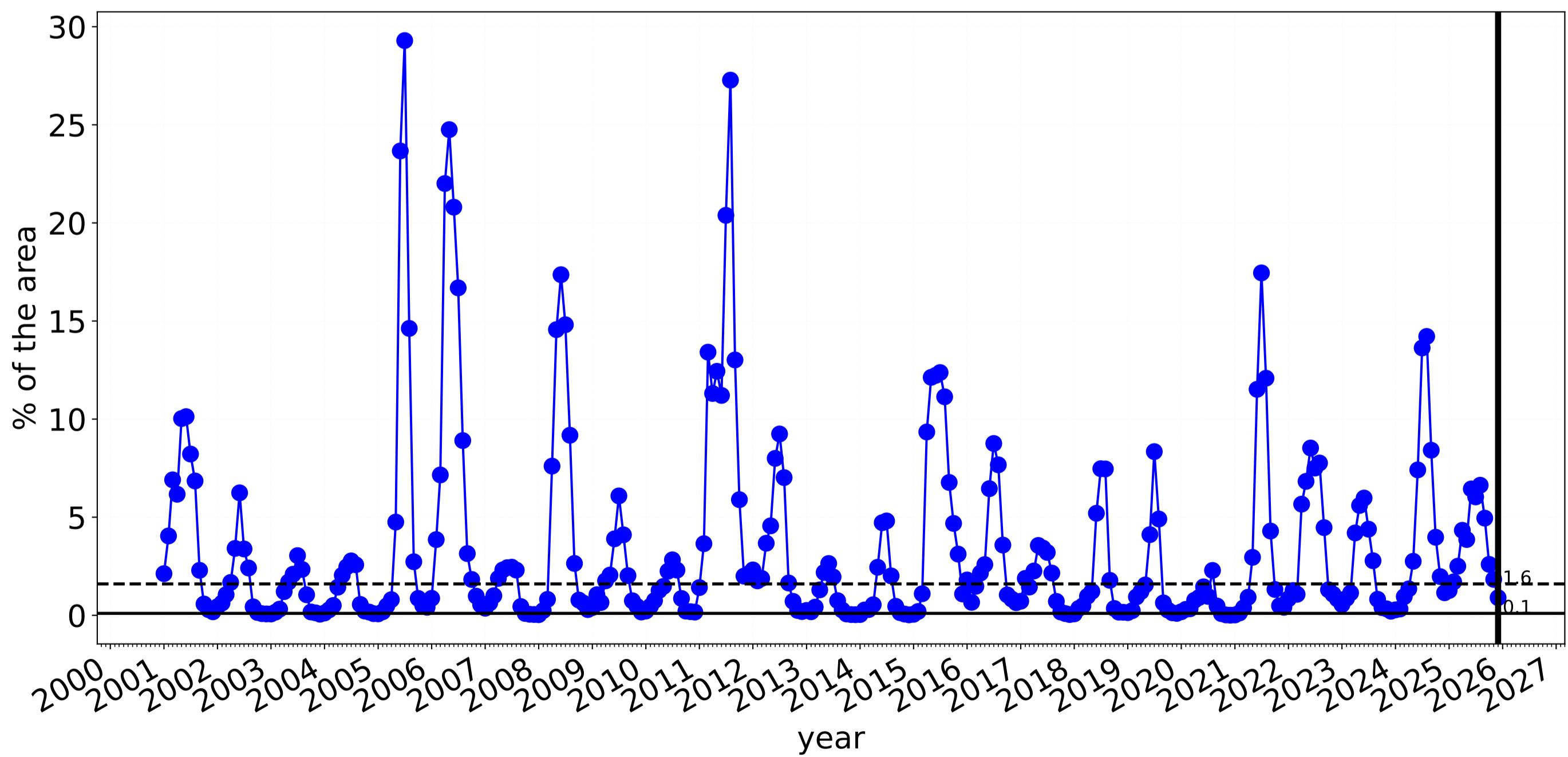
Agriculture timeseries



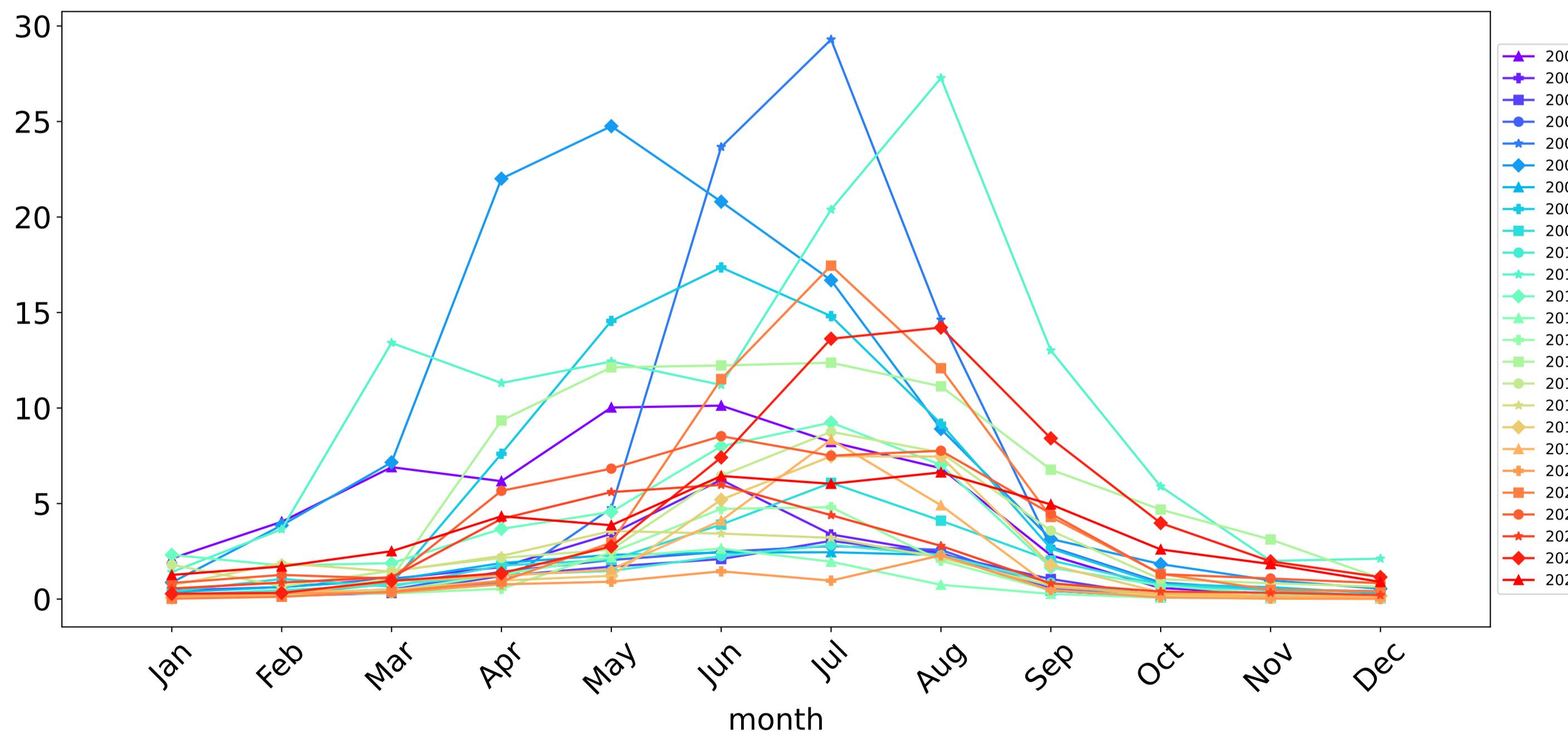
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



Proportion of the area protected from water erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 70%)



Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >70%)



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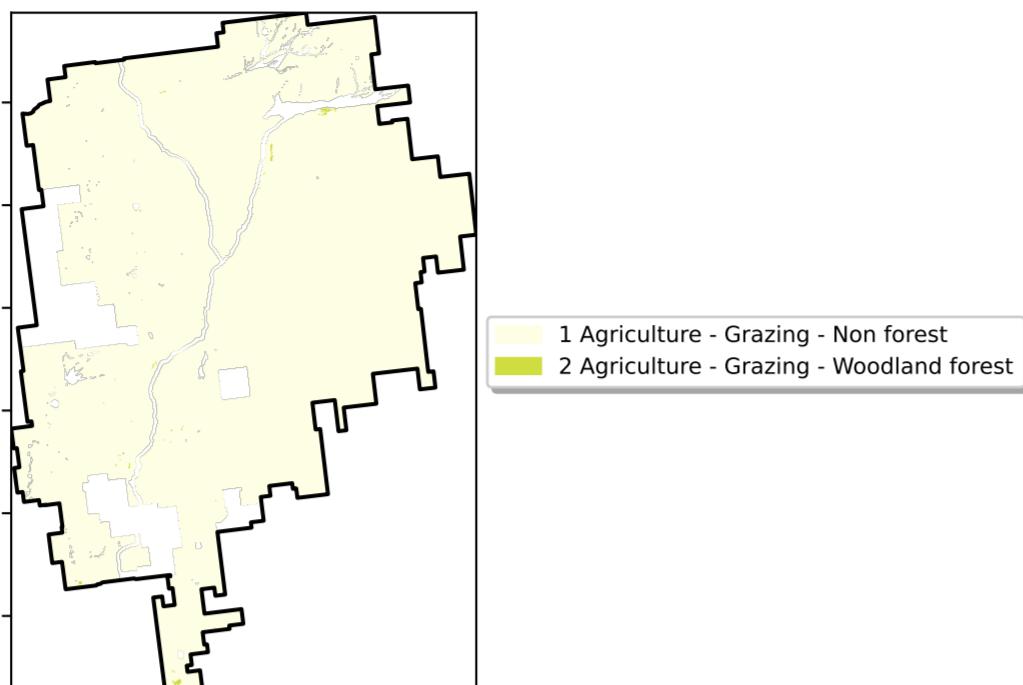


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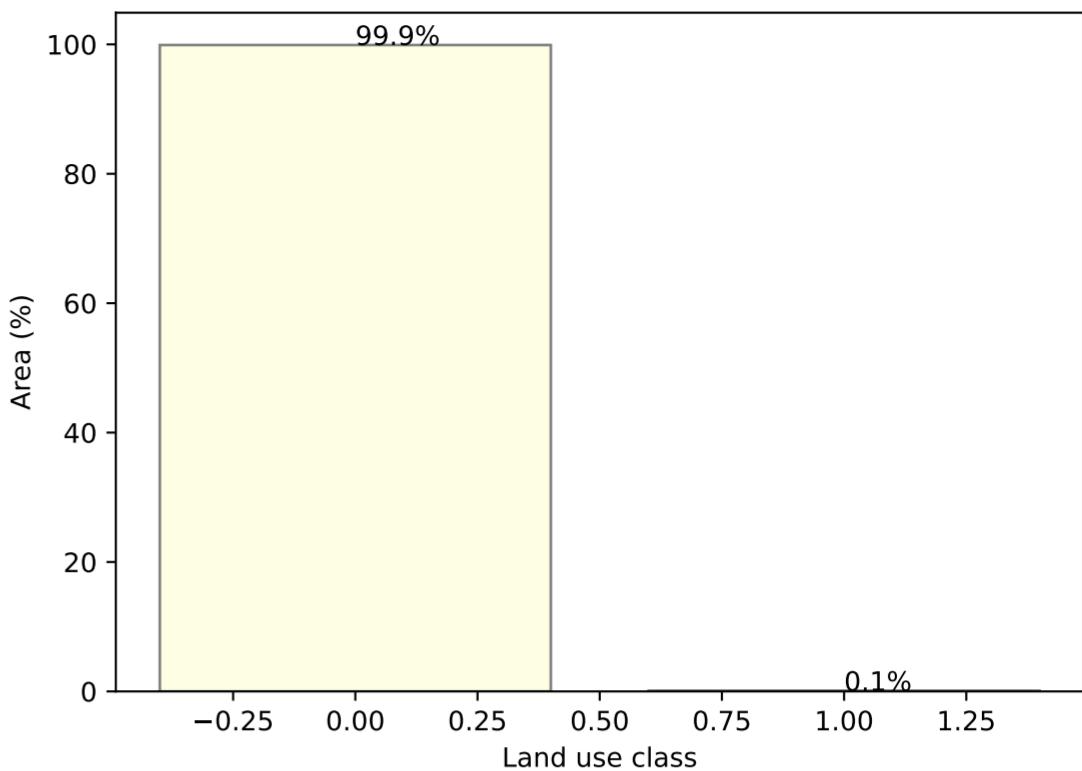
Grazing

Land use and forest cover

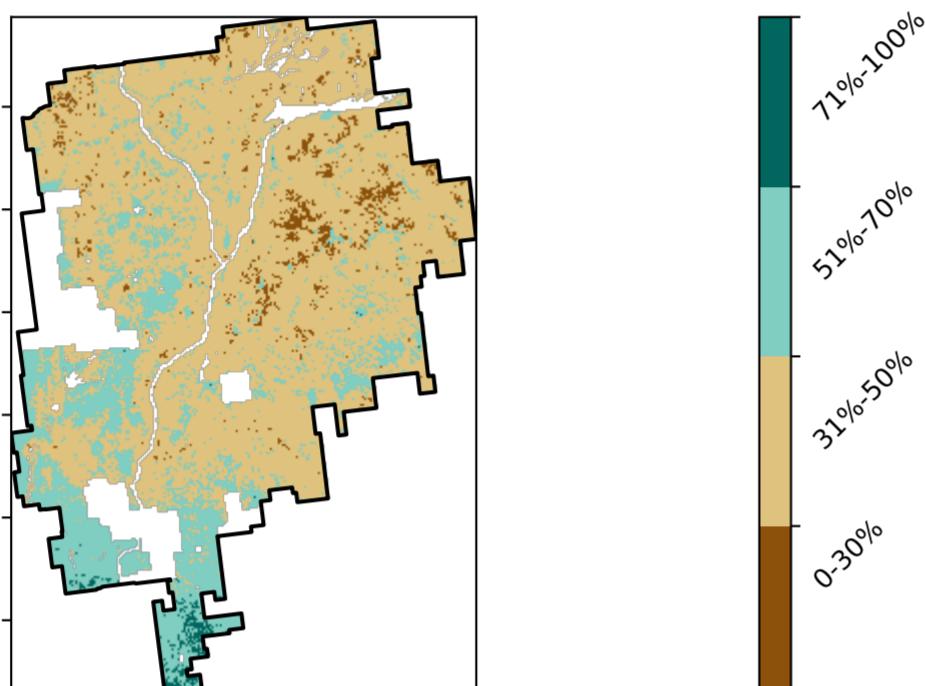


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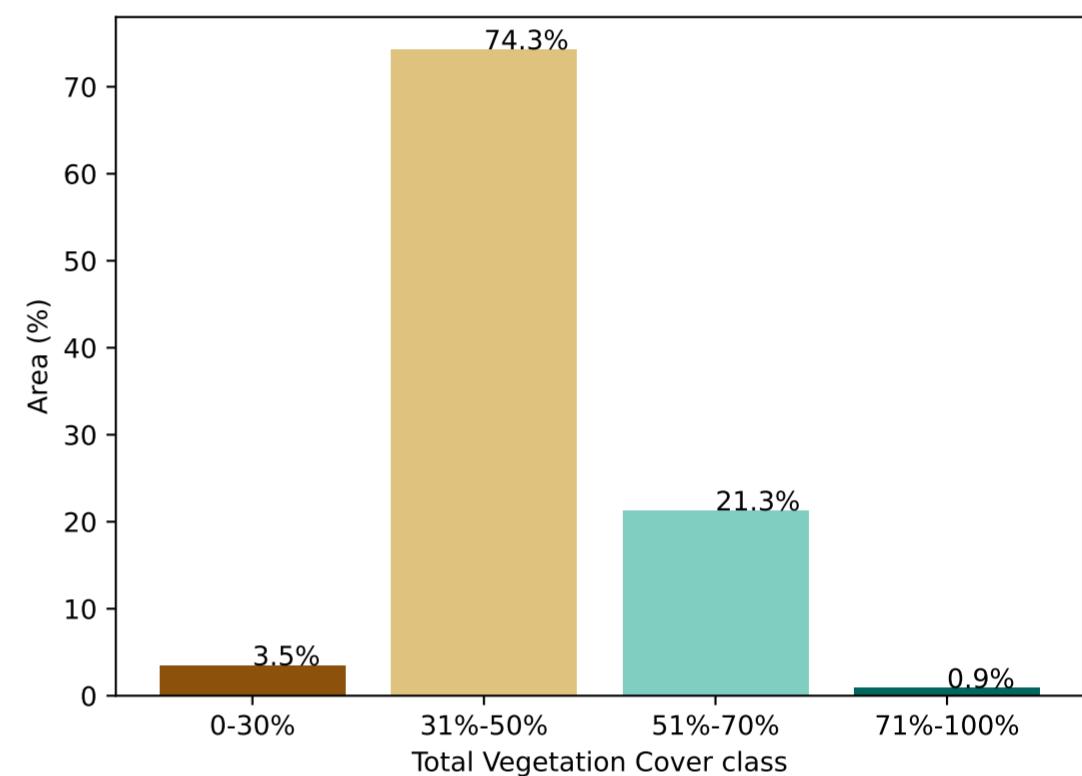
Proportion of each land class in area



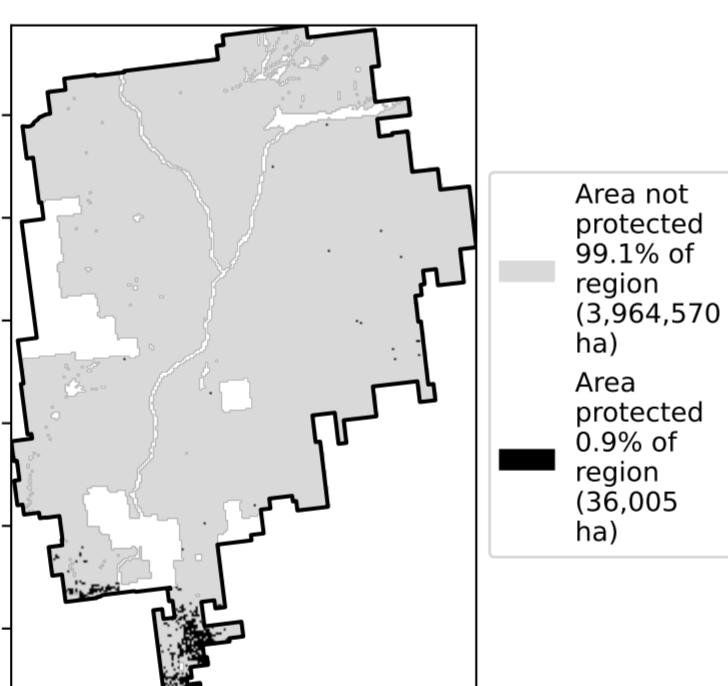
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



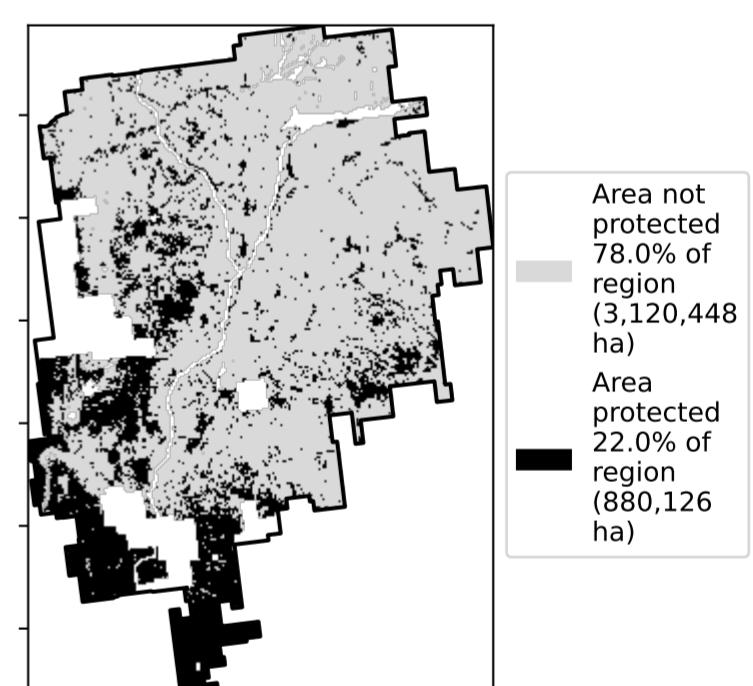
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



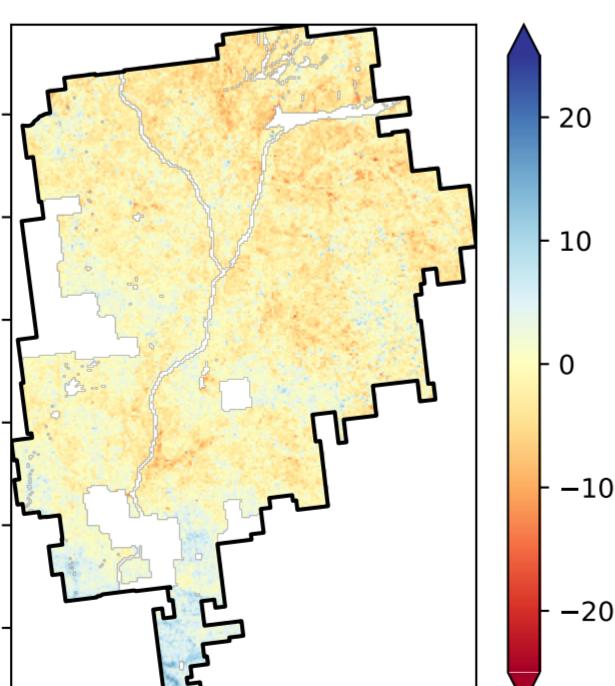
% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

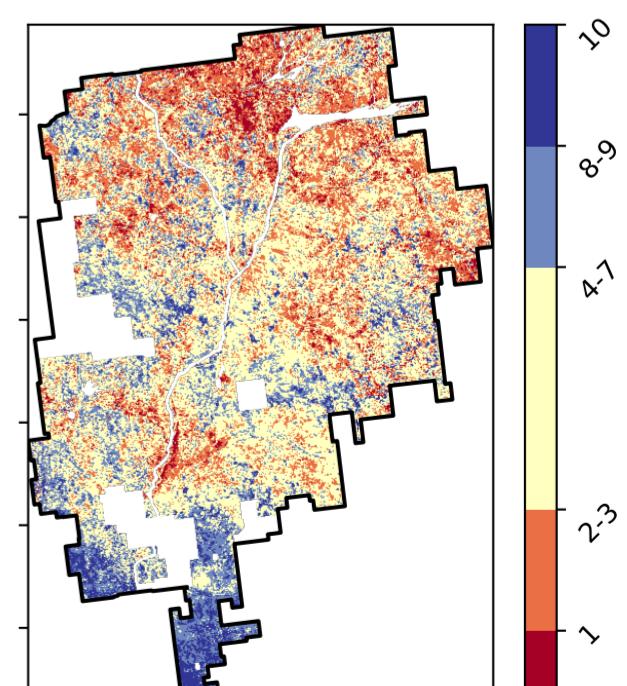


Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]



Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



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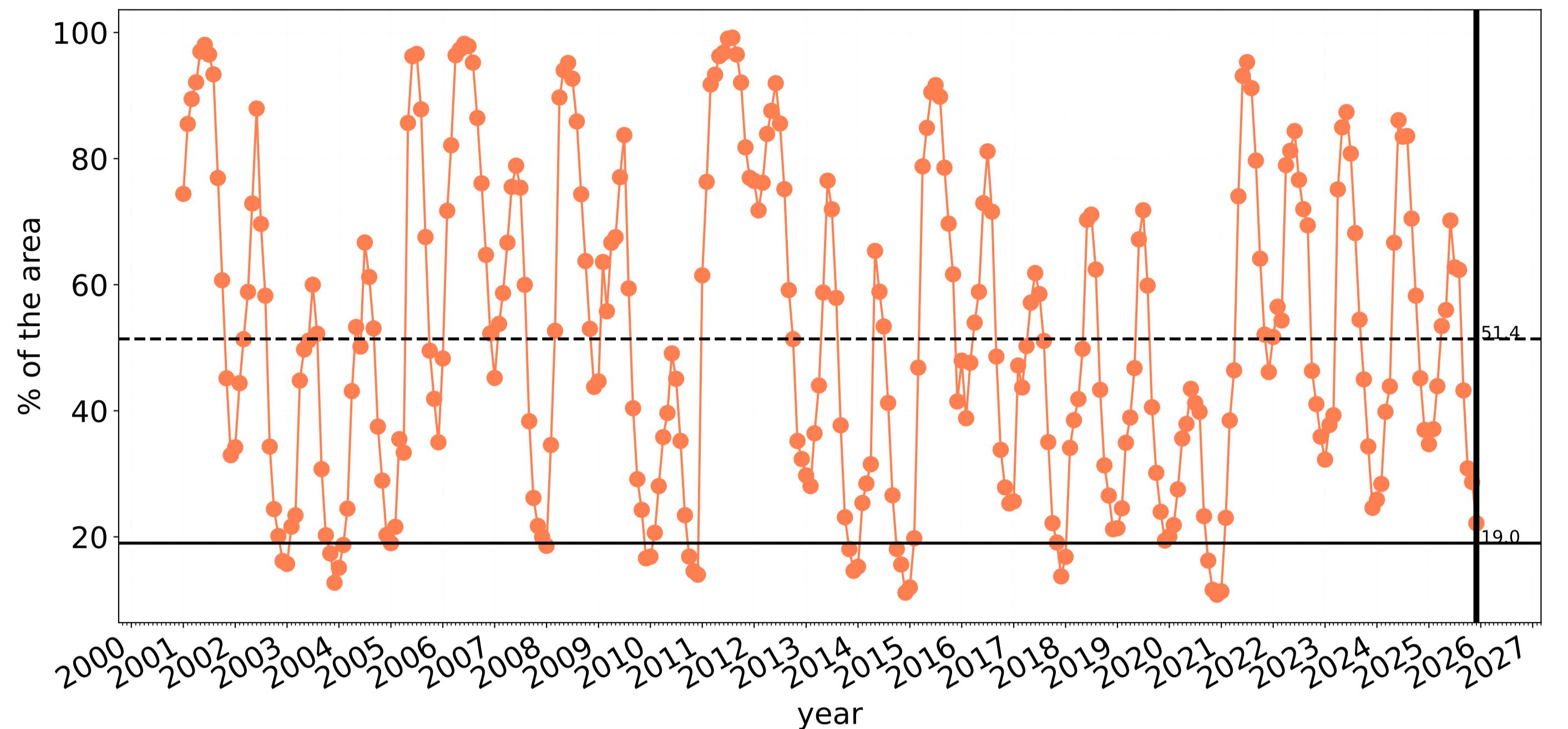


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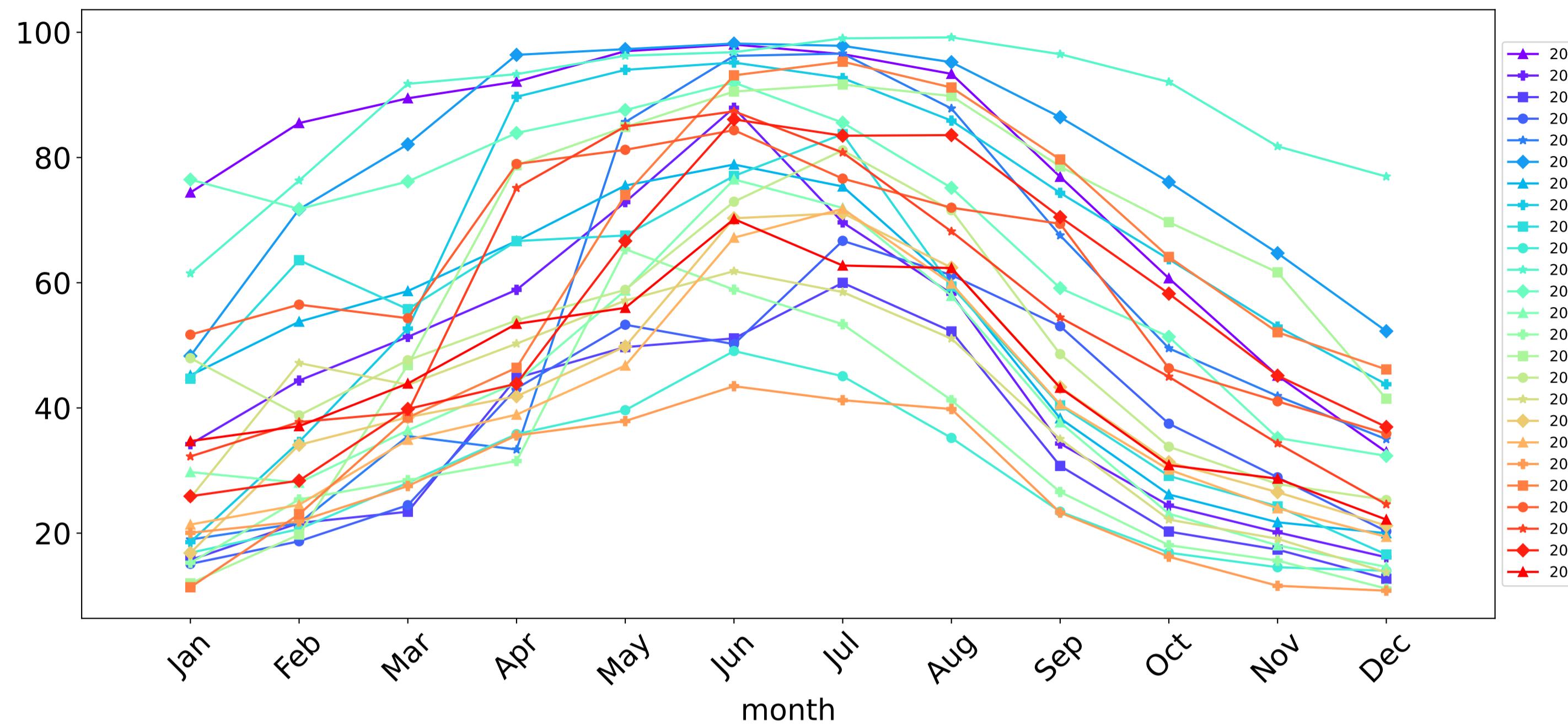


Grazing timeseries

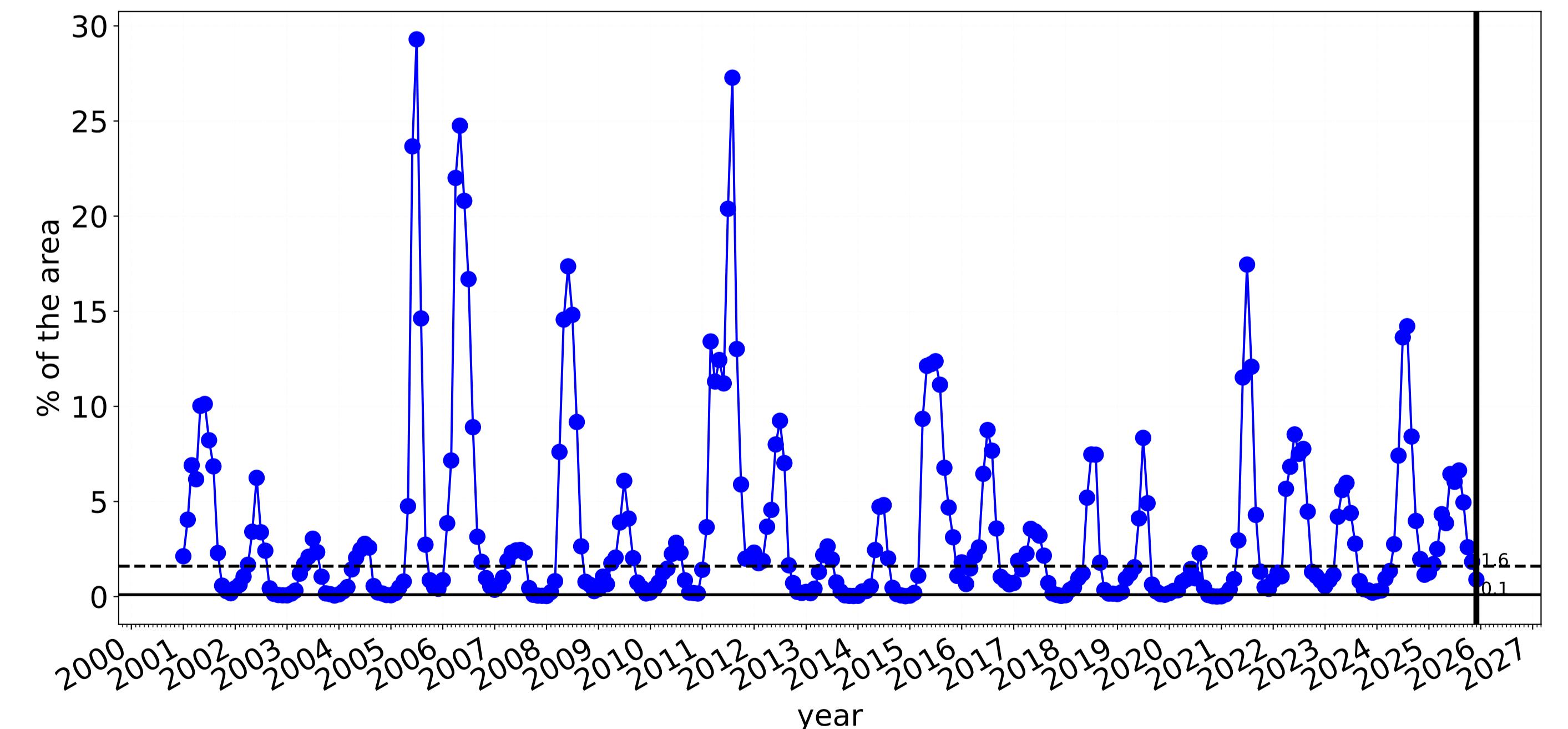
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



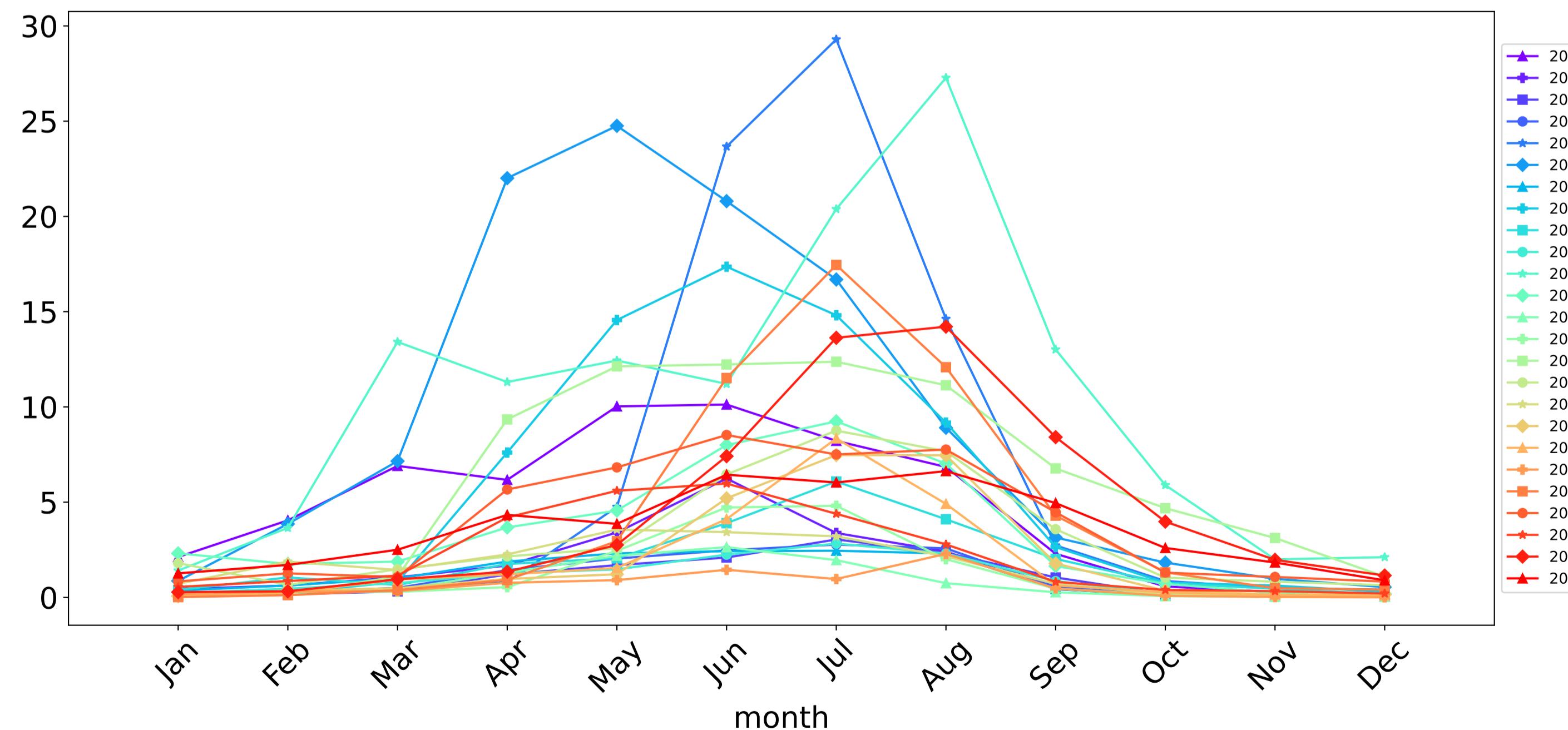
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



Proportion of the area protected from water erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 70%)



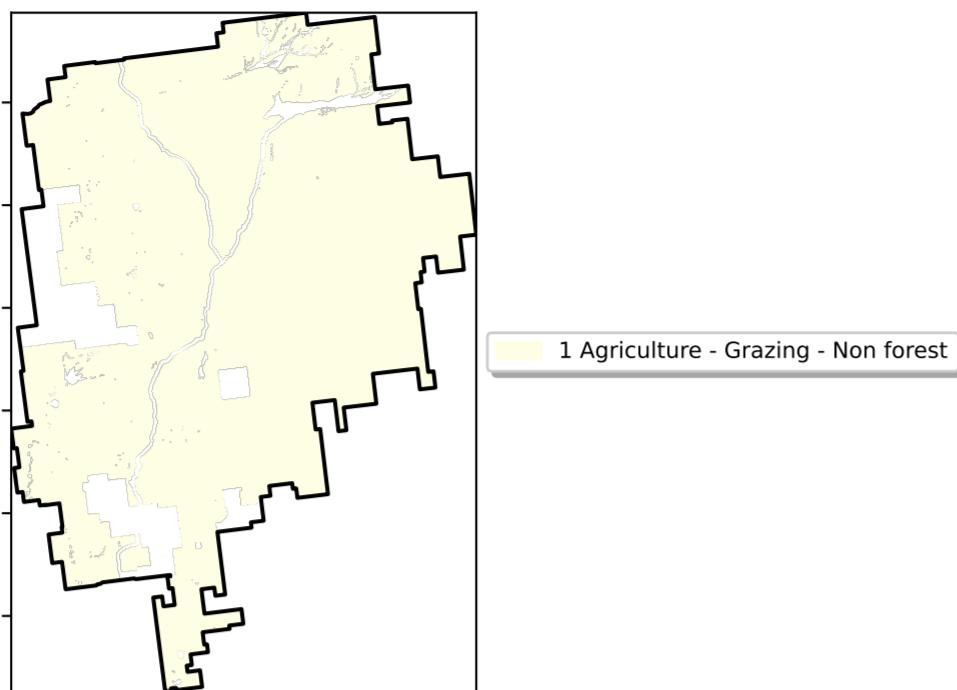
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov>70%)



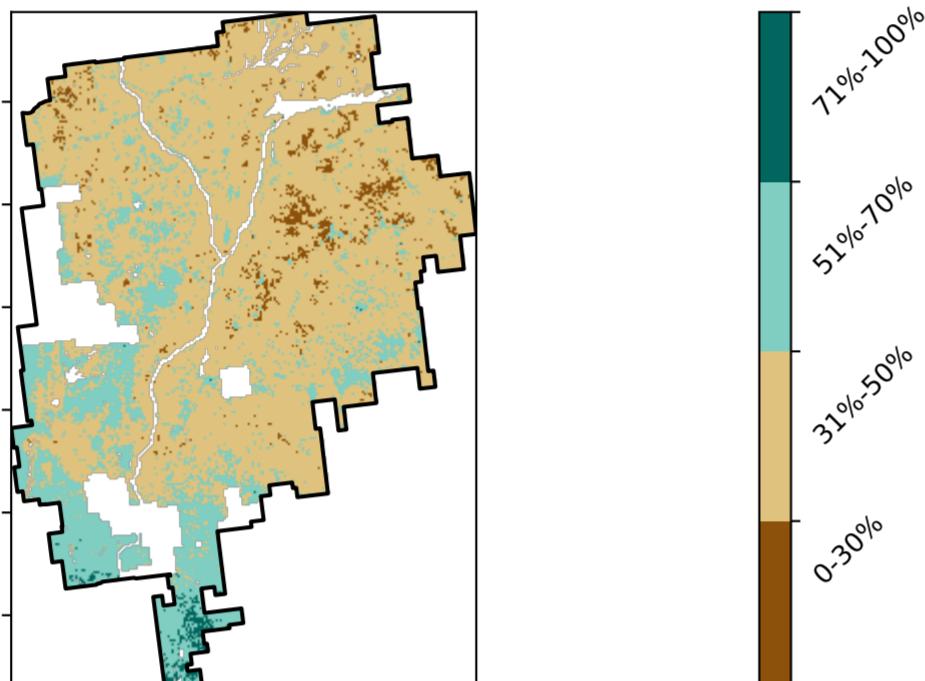
Grazing non forest

Land use and forest cover

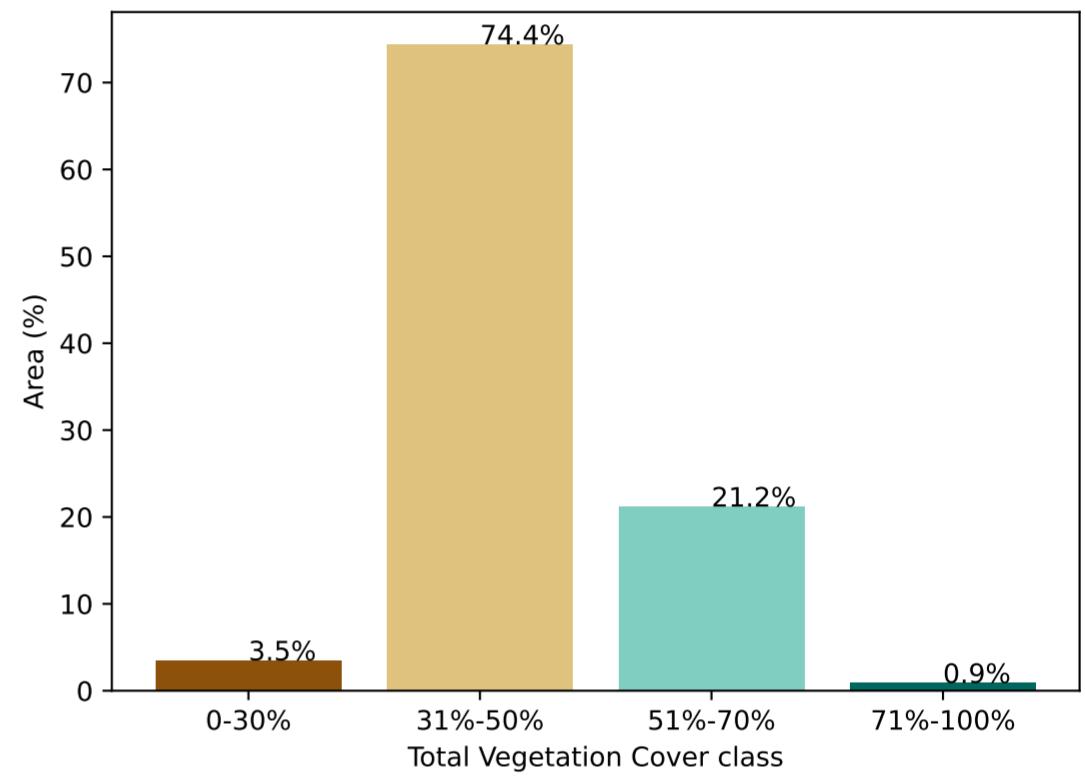
Catchment Scale
Land Use and Forests
of Australia (2018)
Derived from
Catchment Scale Land
Use of Australia
(2018) and Forests
of Australia (2018)



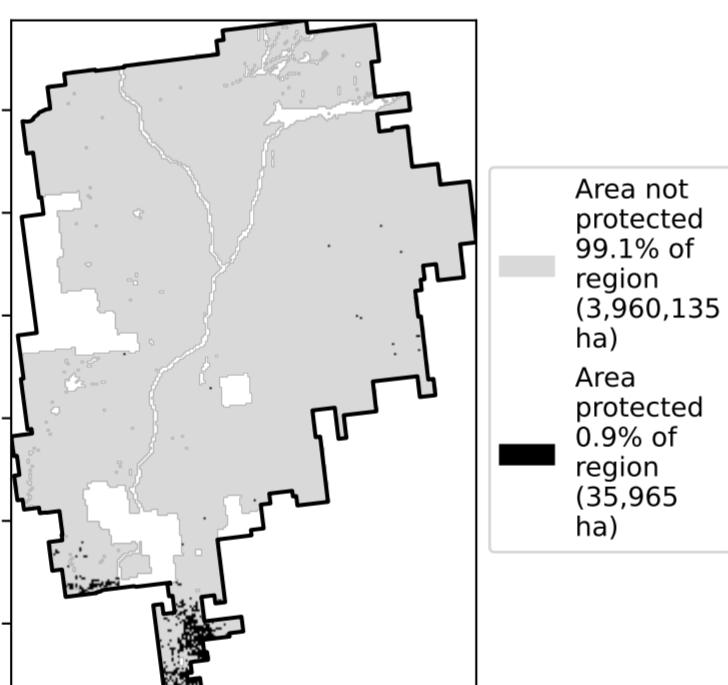
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



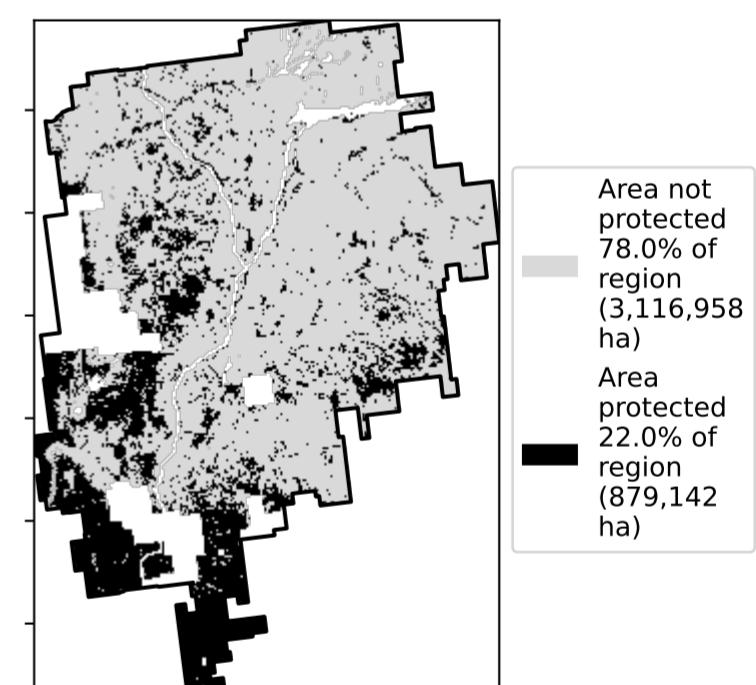
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

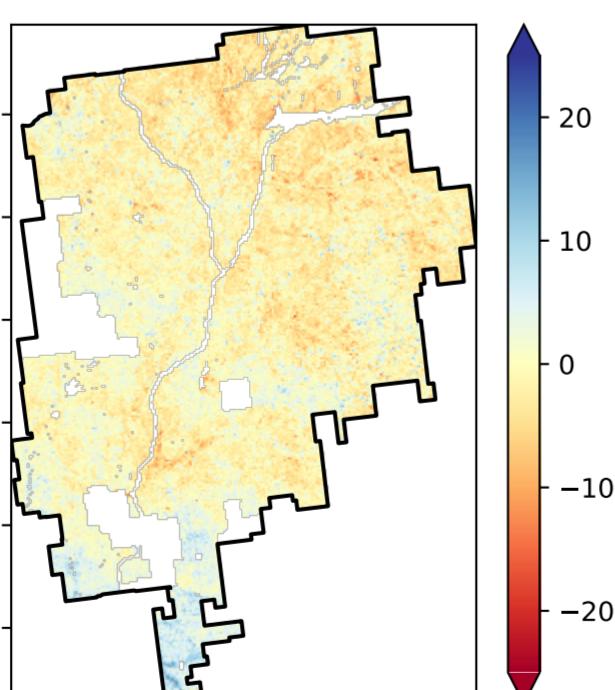


% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



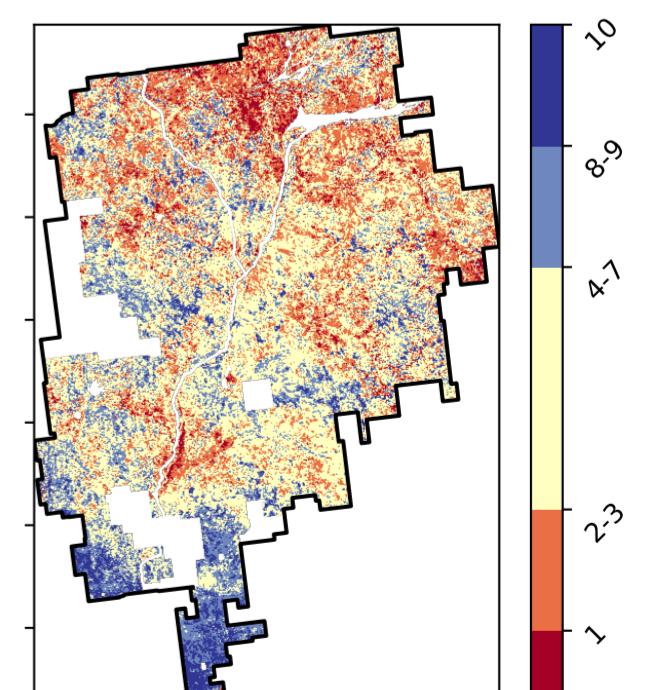
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

Anomaly shows how many percentage points each pixel is from the mean. That is, red pixels are about 20% lower than the mean of that pixel. The mean is only for the month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.



Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



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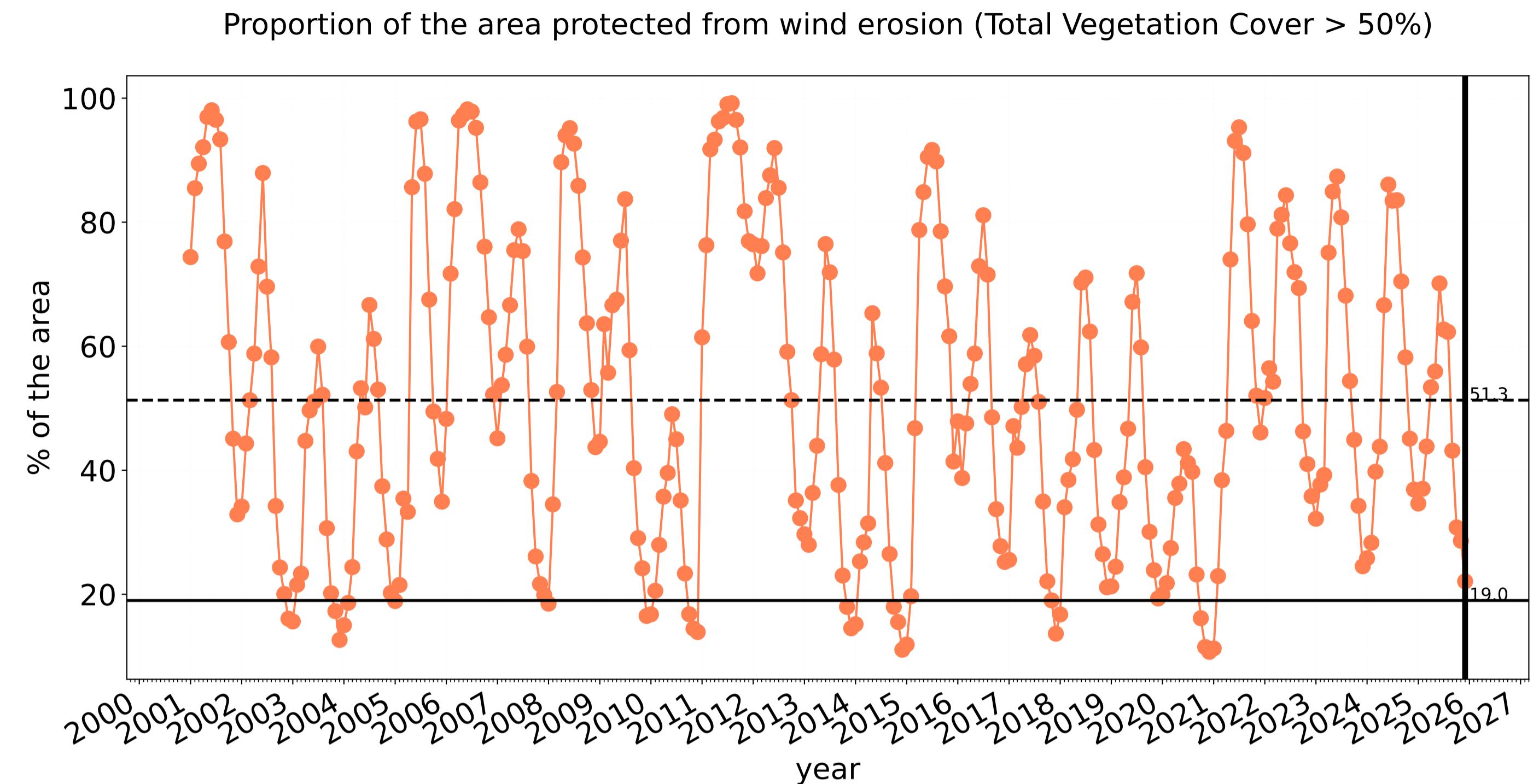
Ecosystem Research Infrastructure



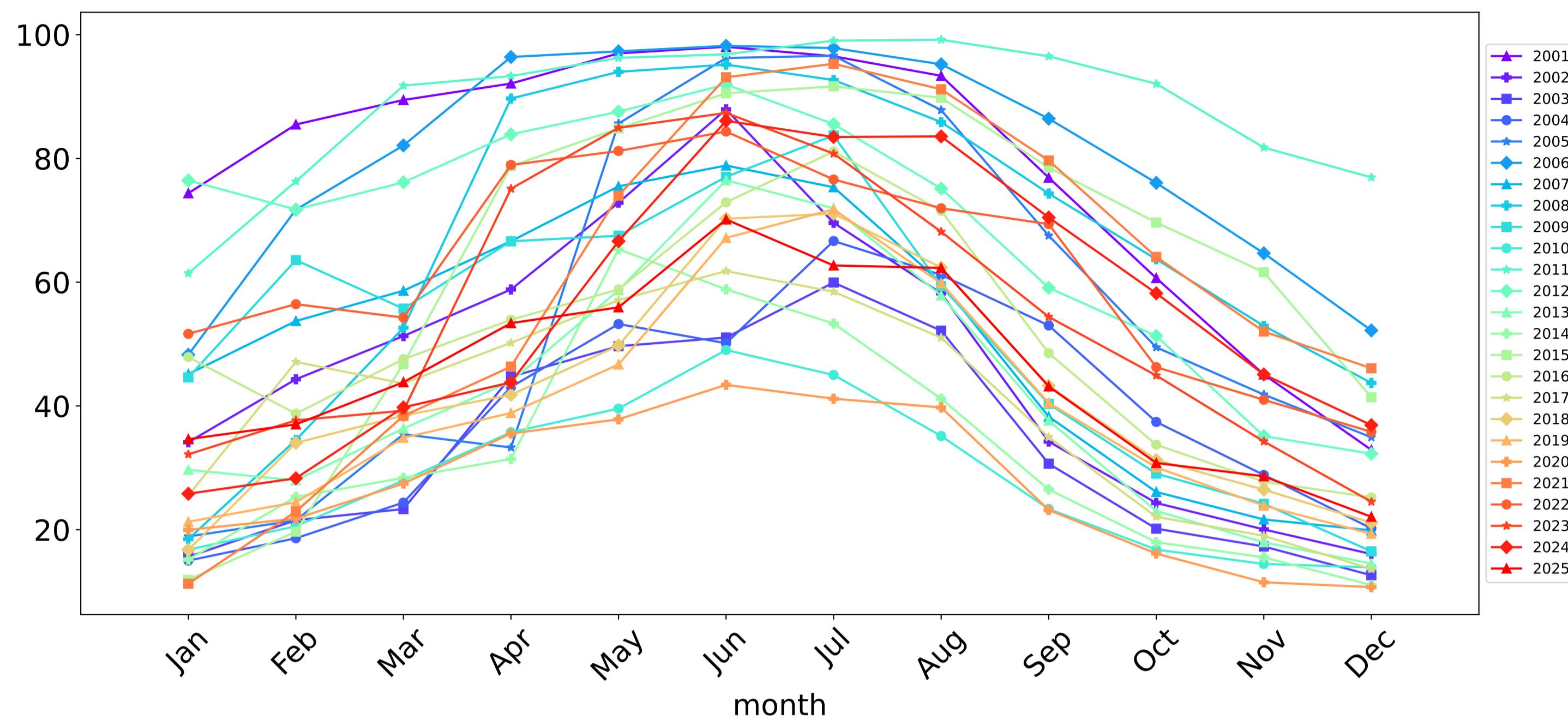
Australian Government



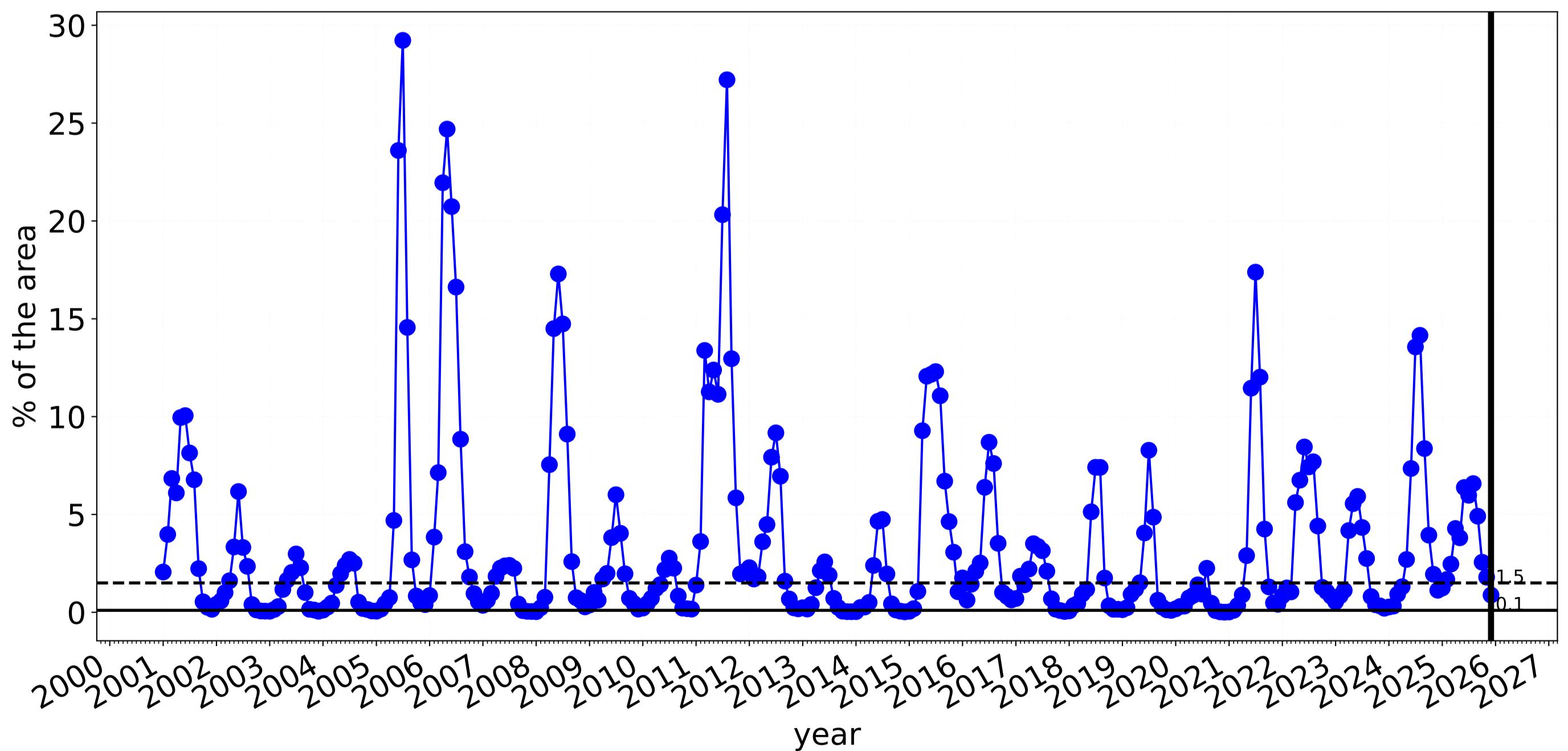
Grazing non forest timeseries



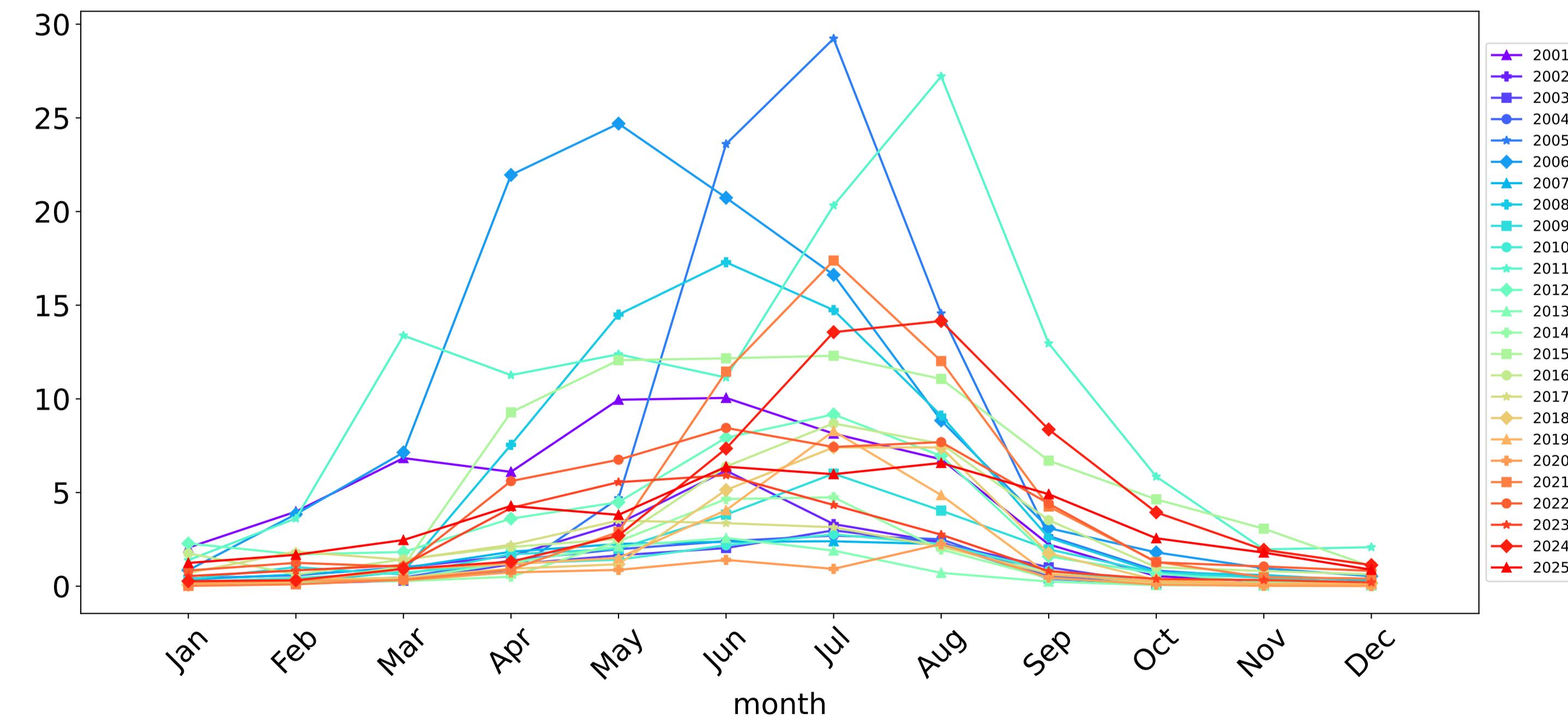
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



Proportion of the area protected from water erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 70%)



Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >70%)



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National
Landcare
Programme



Murchison_(S) (4,501,325 ha and no data 3,346 ha) Percentage area and hectares protected with TVC threshold 30,50,70,80,90 and 95%

Land use and forest cover Class	area(ha)	above_30	above_50	above_70	above_80	above_90	above_95
Entire region	4,501,325	96.8% 4,356,200	24.7% 1,112,675	0.8% 36,475	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0
Conservation and natural environments	429,300	99.7% 428,175	50.2% 215,500	0.1% 550	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0
Conservation and natural environments non forest	428,000	99.7% 426,875	50.1% 214,225	0.1% 550	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0
Agriculture	4,000,575	96.5% 3,859,275	22.2% 886,825	0.9% 35,925	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0
Grazing	4,000,575	96.5% 3,859,275	22.2% 886,825	0.9% 35,925	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0
Grazing non forest	3,996,100	96.5% 3,854,800	22.1% 882,550	0.9% 35,150	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0



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