

**Bear Basin Restoration Site  
Monitoring Report MY04  
DMS Project # 95362  
DMS Contract # 004741**

**Onslow County, NC  
CU# 03030001  
DWR# 2013-0456  
SAW# 2012-01391**



Submitted to:

NCDMS, 1652 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1652

**Construction Completed: February 2015**

**Data Collection: 2018**

**Submitted: December 2018**

## **Monitoring and Design Firm**



**4505 Falls of Neuse Road  
Suite 400  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
Phone: (919) 278-2514  
Fax: (919) 783-9266**

**Project Manager: Tim Morris  
Email: [tim.morris@kci.com](mailto:tim.morris@kci.com)  
KCI Project No: 20122266**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/PROJECT ABSTRACT .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.0 MONITORING RESULTS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.1 Vegetation Monitoring .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.2 Hydrology Monitoring .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3.0 REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>3</b>

## **Appendix A – Project Vicinity Map and Background Tables**

Figure 1. Project Site Vicinity Map .....	4
Figure 2. Project Site Mitigation Plan View .....	5
Table 1 – Project Components .....	6
Table 2 – Project Activity and Reporting History .....	7
Table 3 – Project Contacts .....	8
Table 4 – Project Attributes .....	9

## **Appendix B – Visual Assessment Data**

Figure 3. Current Condition Plan View .....	11
Table 5 – Vegetation Condition Assessment .....	12
Photo Point Photos .....	13

## **Appendix C – Hydrologic Data**

30-70 Percentile Graph .....	16
Precipitation and Water Level Plots.....	17
Table 6 – Wetland Hydrology Criteria Attainment.....	37

## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / PROJECT ABSTRACT

The Bear Basin Restoration Site (BBRS) is a full-delivery project that was developed for the North Carolina Division of Mitigation Services (DMS). Construction was completed in February 2015. The site is within the 03030001 Watershed Cataloging Unit (8-digit HUC) and the Local Watershed Unit (14-digit HUC) 03030001010010. In DMS' most recent publication of excluded and Targeted Local Watersheds/Hydrologic Units, the 03030001010010 14-digit HUC has been identified as a Targeted Local Watershed.

The project site, which is protected by an 11.9-acre permanent conservation easement held by the State of North Carolina, is situated in Onslow County in the Carolina Flatwoods ecoregion of the Coastal Plains physiographic province. The site is located on a single parcel located off of Jesse Williams Road approximately five miles west of Richlands, North Carolina.

The project goals and objectives are listed below.

### *Project Goals*

- Protect and improve water quality by reducing sediment and nutrient inputs
- The protection of a watershed draining into shellfish harvesting waters
- Provide habitat for aquatic flora and fauna by improving physical structure and vegetative composition
- Increase the local hydroperiod by encouraging both surface and subsurface storage and retention
- Restore and establish a functional and diverse wetland community

### *Project Objectives*

- Fill field ditches to restore surface flow retention and elevate local groundwater levels.
- Redevelop longer wetland flow patterns to increase surface flow retention time.
- Restore a diverse wetland vegetation community through maintenance and germination of existing wetland seed stores, planting of wetland trees and shrubs, and incorporation of a custom wetland seed mix.

The BBRS provided mitigation for wetland impacts within Hydrologic Unit 03030001 by restoring 8.6 acres of wetland and preserving 1.9 acres of upland, generating 8.6 non-riparian wetland mitigation units (WMU's). The wetland site will be monitored to determine if the project is on-track to meeting jurisdictional wetland status. In the restoration areas, the wetland site will be deemed successful once hydrology is established and vegetation success criteria are met. The site will be monitored for at least seven years or until the success criteria are achieved.

As designed, the western and southernmost ditches, located adjacent to the project easement were left open and not filled during construction. It is anticipated that leaving these ditches open will have minimal impacts to the overall hydrologic performance of the site. The hydrologic influence of these ditches was modeled using Lateral Effect, a software program that determines the lateral effect of a drainage ditch or borrow pit on adjacent wetland hydrology (NCSU BAE, 2011). This analysis determined that the potential horizontal drainage influence averages 85'. Due to the fact that these ditches cannot be filled because of the potential for hydrologic trespass, the area immediately adjacent to the ditch will not be a credit generating part of the site. It is assumed that with the onsite modifications, such as filling field ditches and surface roughening, the entire site will have more surface and groundwater storage, which may decrease the effect of the open ditches. For this reason, the non-credit generating portion of the site is assumed to be half of the zone of influence for the ditch.

## **2.0 MONITORING RESULTS**

### **2.1 VEGETATION MONITORING**

The success criteria for the planted species in the mitigation area is based on the vegetative density estimated as woody stems/acre based on monitoring plot data. The site will demonstrate the re-establishment of targeted vegetative communities through the survival and growth of planted species and volunteer colonization, with an average stem density of 320 stems/acre after three years, 288 stems/acre after four years, 260 stems/acre after five years, and 210 stems/acre after seven years to be considered successful. To determine the success of the planted mitigation area, seven permanent vegetation monitoring plots (10 by 10 meters) have been established in the wetland restoration area at a density that represents the total mitigation acreage. The average density of these plots will determine whether the site meets the success criterion. Vegetation monitoring was not conducted in year four, per the mitigation plan, but will resume in year five.

### **2.2 HYDROLOGY MONITORING**

Wetland hydrology will be monitored with a series of automatic gauges that record water table depth. The site must present continuous saturated or inundated hydrologic conditions for at least 8% of the growing season with a 50% probability of reoccurrence during normal weather conditions. A “normal” year is based on NRCS climatological data for Onslow County using the 30th to 70th percentile thresholds as the range of normal as documented in the USACE Technical Report “Assessing and Using Meteorological Data to Evaluate Wetland Hydrology, April 2000.” The growing season for Onslow County is considered to extend from March 18 to November 16 (243 days). The water table of the restored wetlands must be within 12” of the soil surface continuously for at least 8% (20 days) of the 243-day growing season. Wetland hydrology will be monitored with twenty automatic gauges that record water table depth.

To monitor the effect of the unfilled ditches described in Section 1.0, four sets of coupled gauges were installed perpendicular to the unfilled ditches. Each set includes a gauge that is 50’ from the open ditch and another that is 80’ from the ditch. An additional four gauges were installed between the coupled gauges to monitor hydrology less than 42.5’ from the open ditch in the non-credit bearing zone.

The daily rainfall data was obtained from a local weather station in Jacksonville, NC; provided by the NC State Climate Office. For the 2018 year, the months of April, May, June, July, September and November experienced above average rainfall, while January, August, and October experienced average rainfall. The months of February and March recorded below average rainfall for the site. Overall, the area experienced above average rainfall during the 2018 growing season.

On March 7, 2018, five additional gauges were added to the site in the vicinity of gauges that had not consistently achieved the success criteria in the previous 3 monitoring years. During the site’s fourth growing season, all 21 of the credit bearing gauges achieved the success criteria. Additionally, two of the four non-credit bearing gauges achieved the success criteria.

To make sure that there is no hydrologic trespass, there are some areas of open water on-site that connect to off-site ditches. This open water area has been brought up as a concern by the IRT during credit release meetings. In November 2018, KCI mapped this area (1.06 ac), which is shown in Figure 3, and will continue to monitor the extent of this area. It is expected that this area will decrease in size as vegetation continues to encroach on the open water. This will be documented in future monitoring reports.

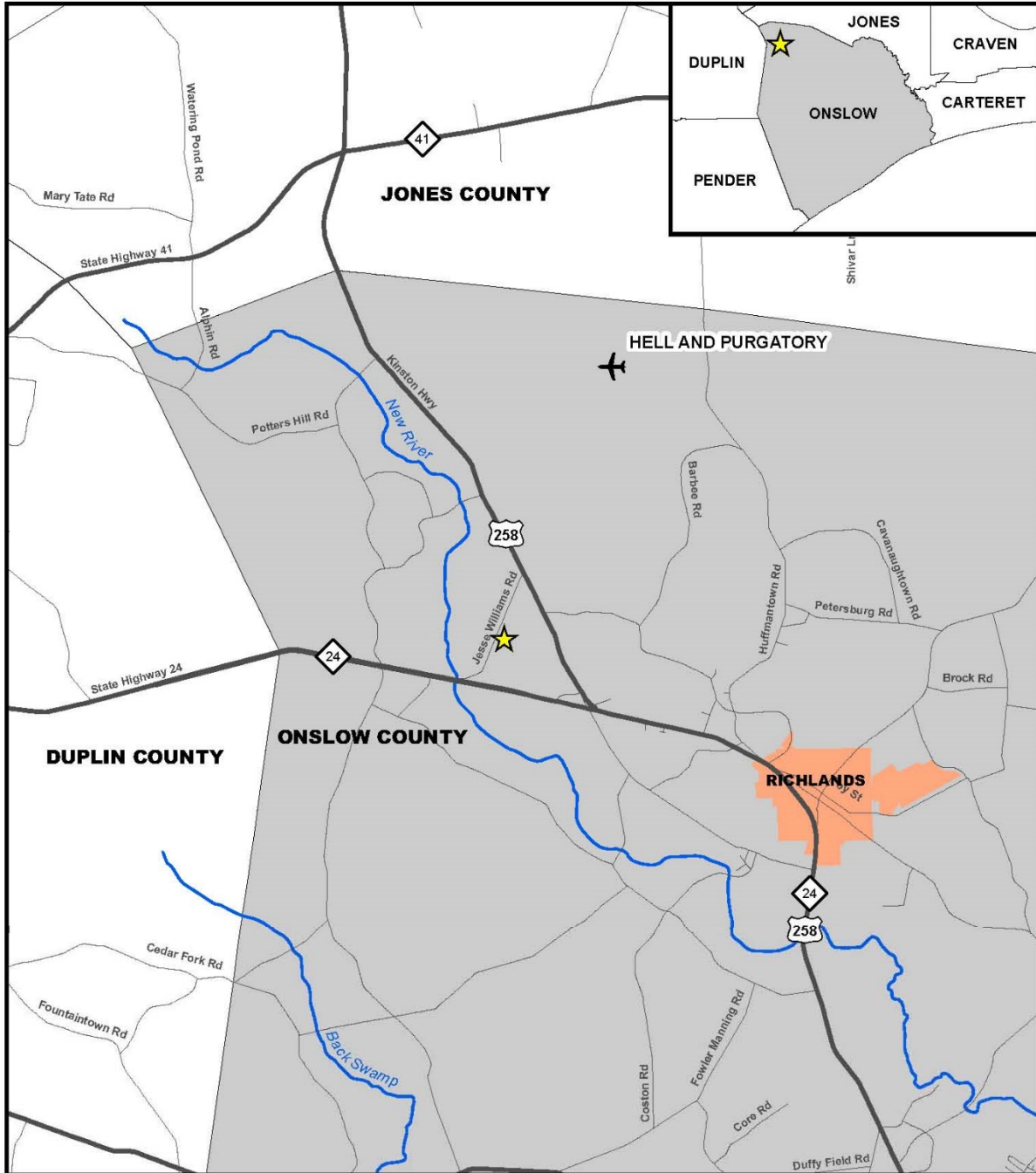
### **3.0 REFERENCES**

USACE. 2003. Stream Mitigation Guidelines. USACE, NCDENR-DWQ, USEPA, NCWRC.

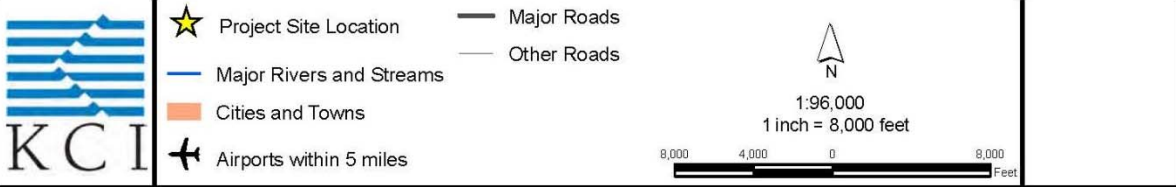
Sprecher, S. W. and Warne, A. G. 2000. "Accessing and Using Meteorological Data to Evaluate Wetland Hydrology," ERDC/EL TR-WRAP-00-01, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Vicksburg, MS.

# **Appendix A**

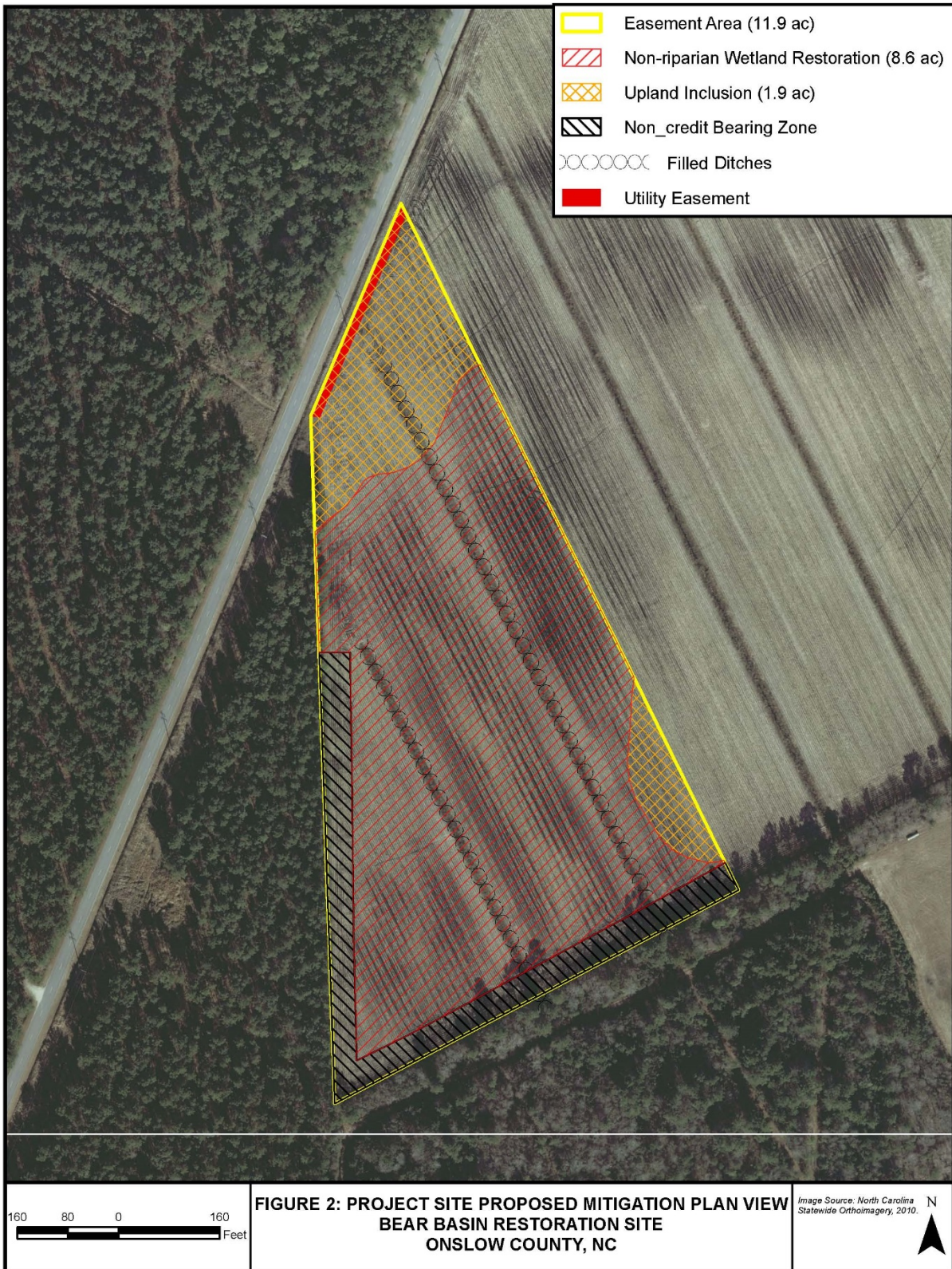
## **Project Vicinity Map and Background Tables**



**Figure 1. Vicinity Map**







<b>Table 1. Project Components</b>									
<b>Project Number and Name: 95362 – Bear Basin Restoration Site</b>									
<b>Mitigation Credits</b>									
	<b>Stream</b>		<b>Riparian Wetland</b>		<b>Non-riparian Wetland</b>		<b>Buffer</b>	<b>Nitrogen Nutrient Offset</b>	<b>Phosphorous Nutrient Offset</b>
<b>Type</b>	R	RE	R	RE	R	RE			
<b>Acres</b>	-	-	-	-	8.6	-	-	-	-
<b>Credits</b>	-	-	-	-	8.6	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	-		-		8.6		-	-	-
<b>Project Components</b>									
<b>Project Component -or- Reach ID</b>	<b>Stationing/ Location</b>		<b>Existing Footage/ Acreage</b>		<b>Approach (PI, PII etc.)</b>		<b>Restoration -or- Restoration Equivalent</b>	<b>Restoration Footage or Acreage</b>	<b>Mitigation Ratio</b>
Wetland Area	-		8.6 acres		-		Restoration	8.6 acres	1:1
<b>Component Summation</b>									
<b>Restoration Level</b>	<b>Stream (linear feet)</b>		<b>Riparian Wetland (acres)</b>		<b>Non-riparian Wetland (acres)</b>		<b>Buffer (square feet)</b>	<b>Upland (acres)</b>	
			Riverine	Non-Riverine					
Restoration	-		-	-	8.6 acres		-	-	
Enhancement			-	-	-		-	-	
Enhancement I	-								
Enhancement II	-								
Creation			-	-	-			-	
Preservation	-		-	-	-			1.9 acres	
High Quality Preservation	-		-	-	-			-	
<b>TOTAL</b>	-		-	-	8.6 acres			1.9 acres	

<b>Table 2. Project Activity &amp; Reporting History</b>		
<b>Bear Basin Wetland Restoration Site, DMS Project# 95362</b>		
<b>Activity or Report</b>	<b>Data Collection Complete</b>	<b>Actual Completion or Delivery</b>
Mitigation Plan		July 2014
Final Design – Construction Plans		July 2014
Construction		Dec 2014
Planting		March 2015
Baseline Monitoring/Report	May 2015	June 2015
Vegetation Monitoring	May 19, 2015	
Photo Points	May 26, 2015	
Year 1 Monitoring	Nov 2015	Jan 2015
Vegetation Monitoring	Oct 13, 2015	
Photo Points	Oct 13, 2015	
Gauge Downloads	Nov 25, 2015	
Year 2 Monitoring	Dec 2016	Dec 2016
Vegetation Monitoring	July 5, 2016	
Photo Points	Aug 16, 2016	
Gauge Downloads	Dec 14, 2016	
Year 3 Monitoring	Nov 2017	Jan 2018
Vegetation Monitoring	July 5, 2017	
Photo Points	Nov 30, 2017	
Gauge Downloads	Nov 30, 2017	
Year 4 Monitoring	Nov 2018	Dec 2018
Vegetation Monitoring	N/A	
Photo Points	Nov 13, 2018	
Gauge Downloads	Nov 13, 2018	

<b>Table 3. Project Contacts</b> <b>Project Number and Name: 95362 - Bear Basin Restoration Site</b>	
<b>Design Firm</b>	KCI Associates of North Carolina, PC 4505 Falls of Neuse Rd. Suite 400 Raleigh, NC 27609 Contact: Mr. Tim Morris Phone: (919) 278-2512 Fax: (919) 783-9266
<b>Construction Contractor</b>	KCI Environmental Technologies and Construction, Inc. 4505 Falls of Neuse Rd. Suite 400 Raleigh, NC 27609 Contact: Mr. Tim Morris Phone: (919) 278-2512 Fax: (919) 783-9266
<b>Planting Contractor</b>	Bruton Nurseries and Landscapes PO Box 1197 Freemont, NC 27830 Contact: Mr. Charlie Bruton Phone: (919) 242-6555
<b>Monitoring Performers</b>	
	KCI Associates of North Carolina, PC 4505 Falls of Neuse Rd. Suite 400 Raleigh, NC 27609 Contact: Mr. Adam Spiller Phone: (919) 278-2514 Fax: (919) 783-9266

<b>Table 4. Project Attribute Table</b>			
<b>Project Number and Name: 95362 – Bear Basin Restoration Site</b>			
<b>County</b>	Onslow County		
<b>Project Area (acres)</b>	11.9 acres		
<b>Project Coordinates (lat. and long.)</b>	34.925365 N , -77.607461 W		
<b>Project Watershed Summary Information</b>			
<b>Physiographic Province</b>	Coastal Plain		
<b>River Basin</b>	White Oak		
<b>USGS Hydrologic Unit 8-digit</b>	03030001	<b>USGS Hydrologic Unit 14-digit</b>	03030001010010
<b>DWQ Sub-basin</b>	03-05-02b		
<b>Project Drainage Area (acres)</b>	32.7 acres		
<b>Project Drainage Area Percentage of Impervious Area</b>	2%		
<b>CGIA Land Use Classification</b>	44% Cultivated, 4% Managed Herbaceous Cover, 50% Southern Yellow Pine, and 2% High-Intensity Developed		
<b>Wetland Summary Information</b>			
<b>Parameters</b>	<b>Wetland Area</b>		
Size of Wetland (acres)	8.6 acres		
Wetland Type (non-riparian, riparian riverine or riparian non-riverine)	Non-riparian		
Mapped Soil Series	Rains and Stallings (Pantego and Lynchburg by detailed soil investigation)		
Drainage class	Poorly drained		
Soil Hydric Status	Drained Hydric		
Source of Hydrology	Precipitation		
Hydrologic Impairment	Ditching and Crops		
Native vegetation community	Crops		
Percent composition of exotic invasive vegetation	0%		

# **Appendix B**

## **Visual Assessment Data**

**LEGEND:**



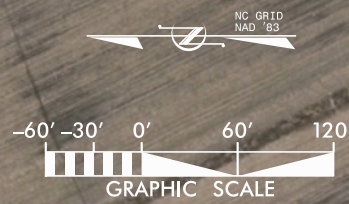
- VEG PLOT ACHIEVING DENSITY CRITERION \* □
  - VEG PLOT BELOW DENSITY CRITERION \* □
  - VEG PLOT TOTAL / PLANTED STEM DENSITY \* ----- **937/786**
  - WETLAND GAUGE ACHIEVING HYDROLOGIC CRITERION ⊕
  - WETLAND GAUGE BELOW HYDROLOGIC CRITERION ⊕
  - PHOTO POINT (PP) ----- ↗
  - FILLED DITCHES ----- 
  - NONRIPARIAN WETLAND RESTORATION = 8.6 ACRES 
  - CONSERVATION EASEMENT ----- —
  - BARE AREA / OPEN WATER ----- —
- \*VEG DATA FROM MY03 (2017)

IMAGE SOURCE: NC 2016 ORTHOIMAGERY



REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION

**NCDEQ DIVISION OF  
MITIGATION SERVICES**

**KCI**  
ASSOCIATES OF NC  
ENGINEERS • PLANNERS • SCIENTISTS  
4505 FALLS OF NEUSE ROAD  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27609

**BEAR BASIN  
RESTORATION SITE**  
DMS PROJECT #95362  
RICHLANDS, ONSLOW COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
MONITORING YEAR 04

<b>Table 5. Vegetation Condition Assessment</b>						
<b>Project Number and Name: 95362 – Bear Basin Restoration Site</b>						
<b>Planted Acreage 11.9</b>			<b>Easement Acreage 8.6</b>			
<b>Vegetation Category</b>	<b>Definitions</b>	<b>Mapping Threshold</b>	<b>CCPV Depiction</b>	<b>Number of Polygons</b>	<b>Combined Acreage</b>	<b>% of Planted Acreage</b>
<b>1. Bare Areas</b>	Very limited cover of both woody and herbaceous material.	0.1 acres	Pattern and Color	1*	1.06	8.9%
<b>2. Low Stem Density Areas</b>	Woody stem densities clearly below target levels based on MY3, 4, or 5 stem count criteria.	0.1 acres	Not Depicted, Covers Most of Restoration Area	0	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total</b>				0	1.06	8.9%
<b>3. Areas of Poor Growth Rates or Vigor</b>	Areas with woody stems of a size class that are obviously small given the monitoring year.	0.25 acres	Pattern and Color	0	0.00	0.0%
<b>Cumulative Total</b>				0	1.06	8.9%
<b>4. Invasive Areas of Concern</b>	Areas or points (if too small to render as polygons at map scale).	1000 SF	Pattern and Color	0	0.00	0.0%
<b>5. Easement Encroachment Areas</b>	Areas or points (if too small to render as polygons at map scale).	none	Pattern and Color	0	0.00	0.0%

\*=this polygon represents the area of open water discussed in Section 2.2



## Photo Reference Points



PP1 – MY-00 – 5/26/15



PP1 – MY-04 – 11/13/18



PP2 – MY-00 – 5/26/15



PP2 – MY-04 – 11/13/18



PP3 – MY-00 – 5/26/15



PP3 – MY-04 – 11/13/18



PP4 – MY-00 – 5/26/15



PP4 – MY-04 – 11/13/18



PP5 – MY-00 – 5/26/15



PP5 – MY-04 – 11/13/18



PP6 – MY-00 – 5/26/15

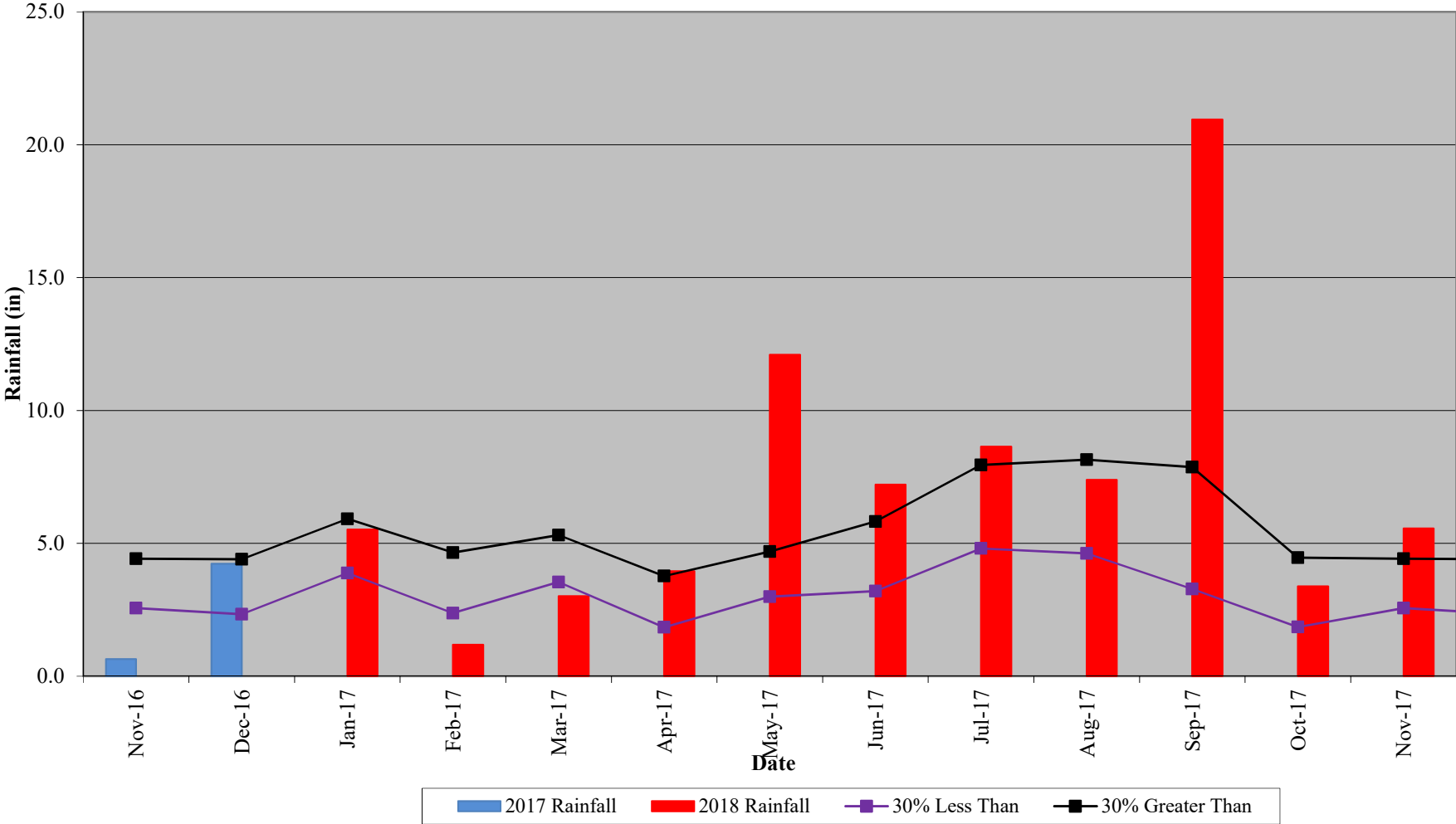


PP6 – MY-04 – 11/13/18

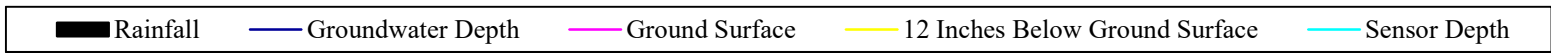
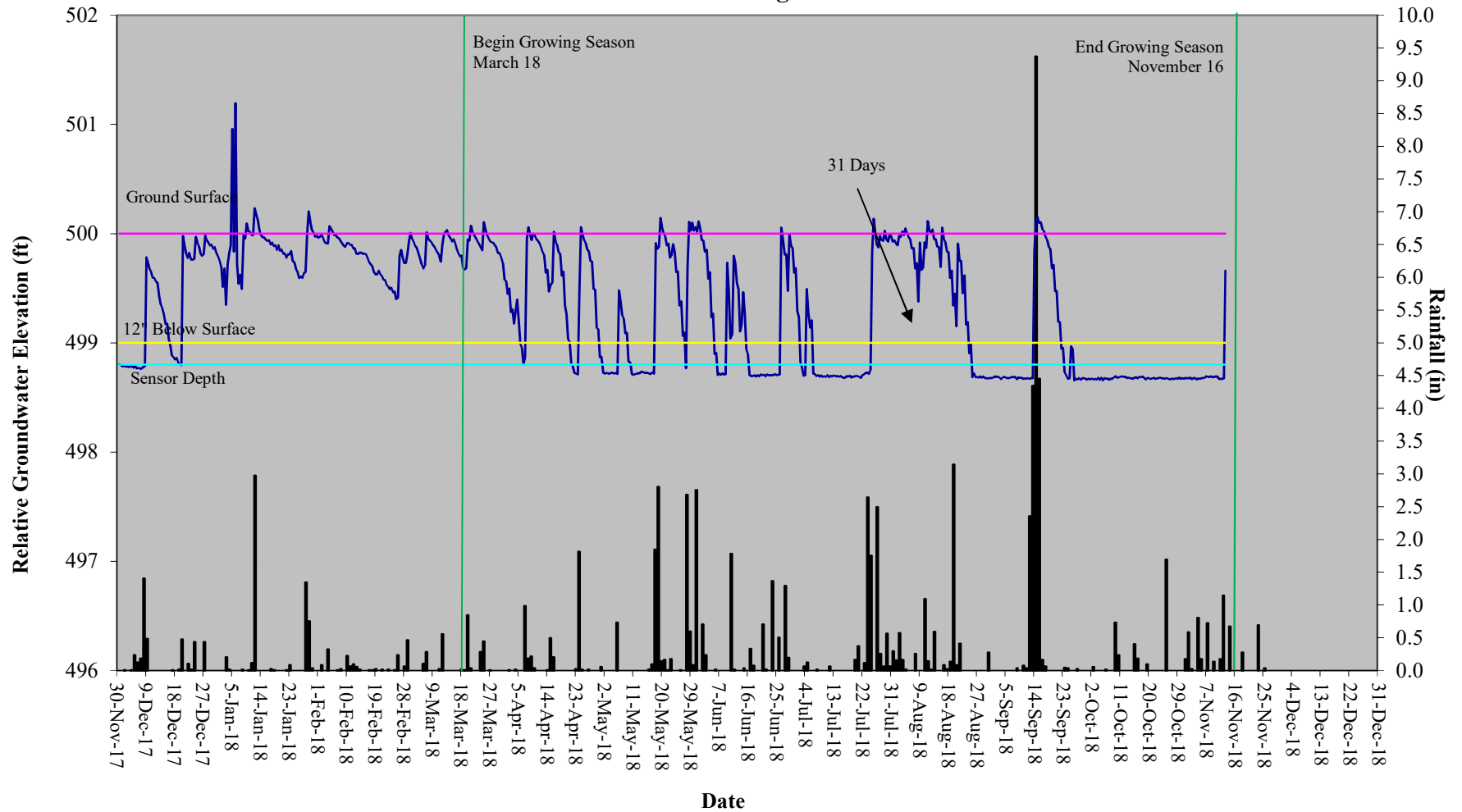
# **Appendix C**

## **Hydrologic Data**

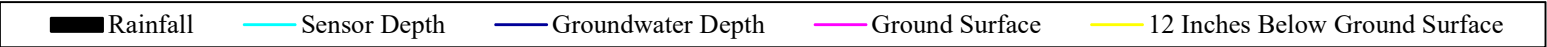
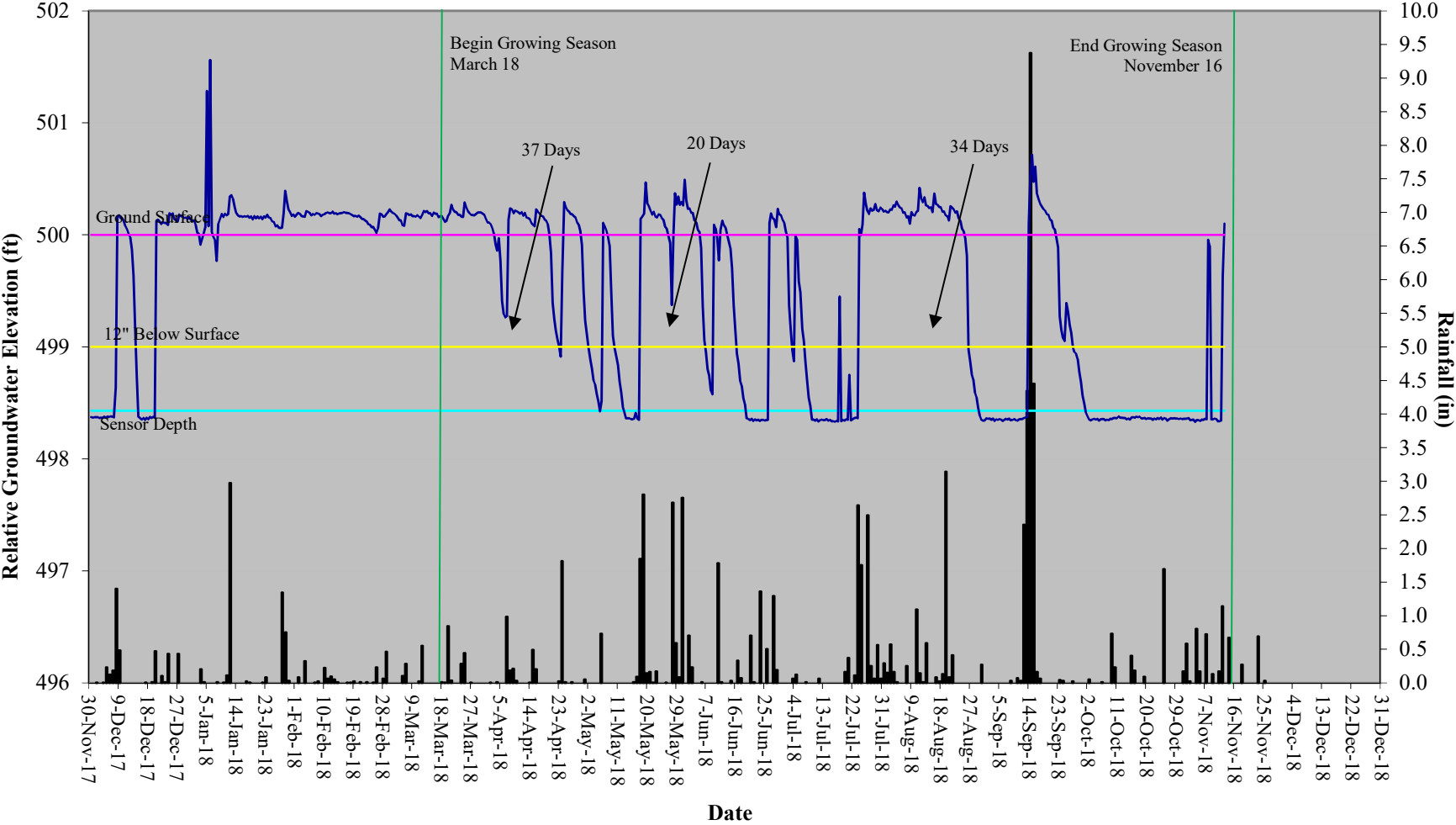
**Bear Basin Wetland Restoration Site  
30-70 Percentile Graph  
WETS Station Name: Maysville, NC**



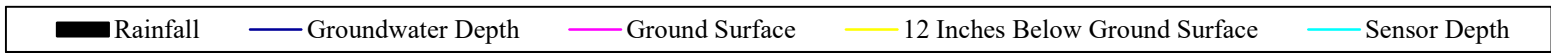
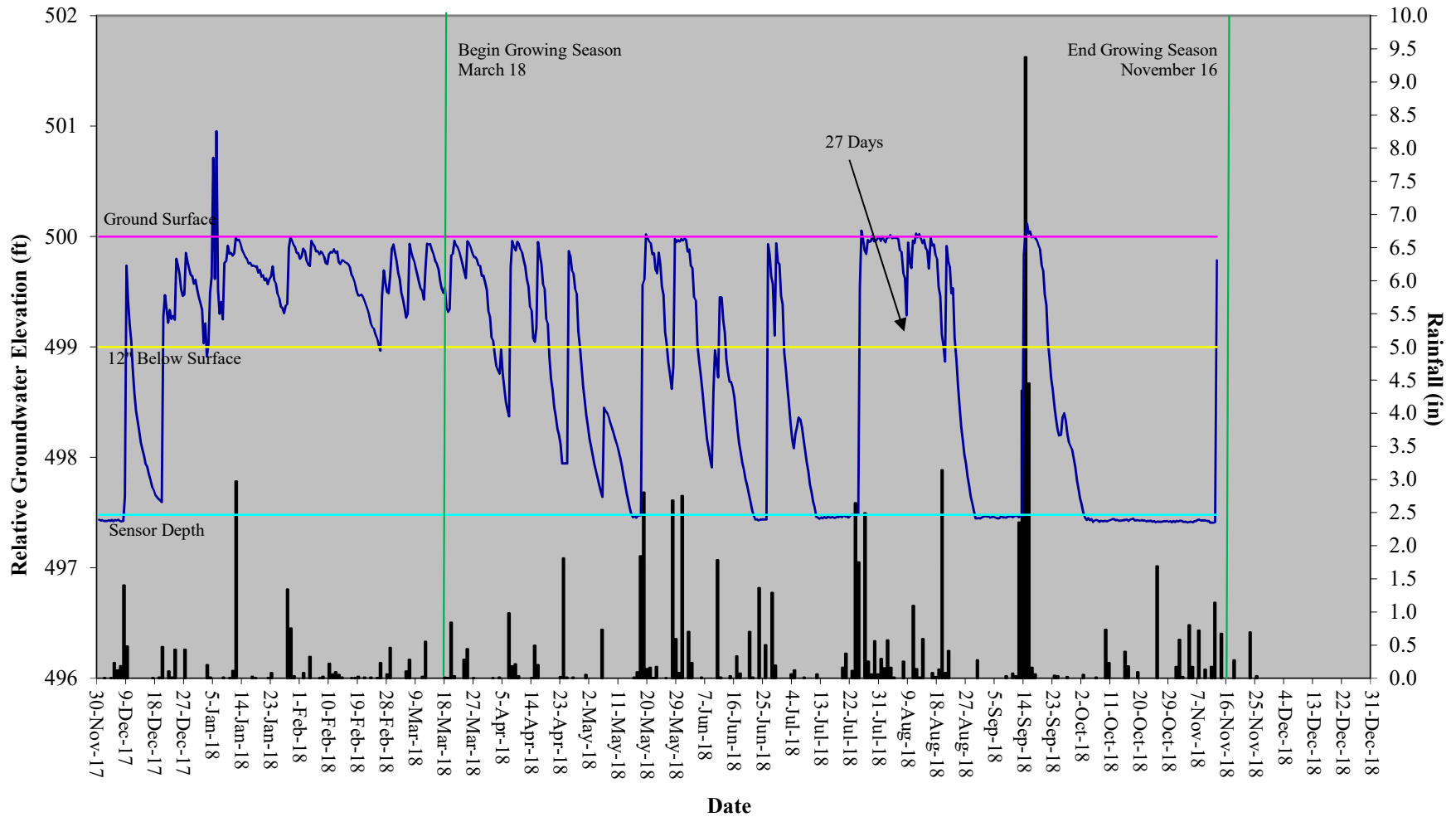
## Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 1



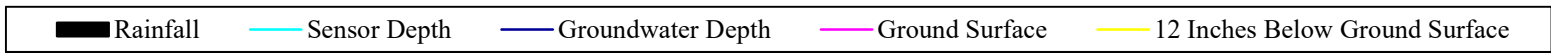
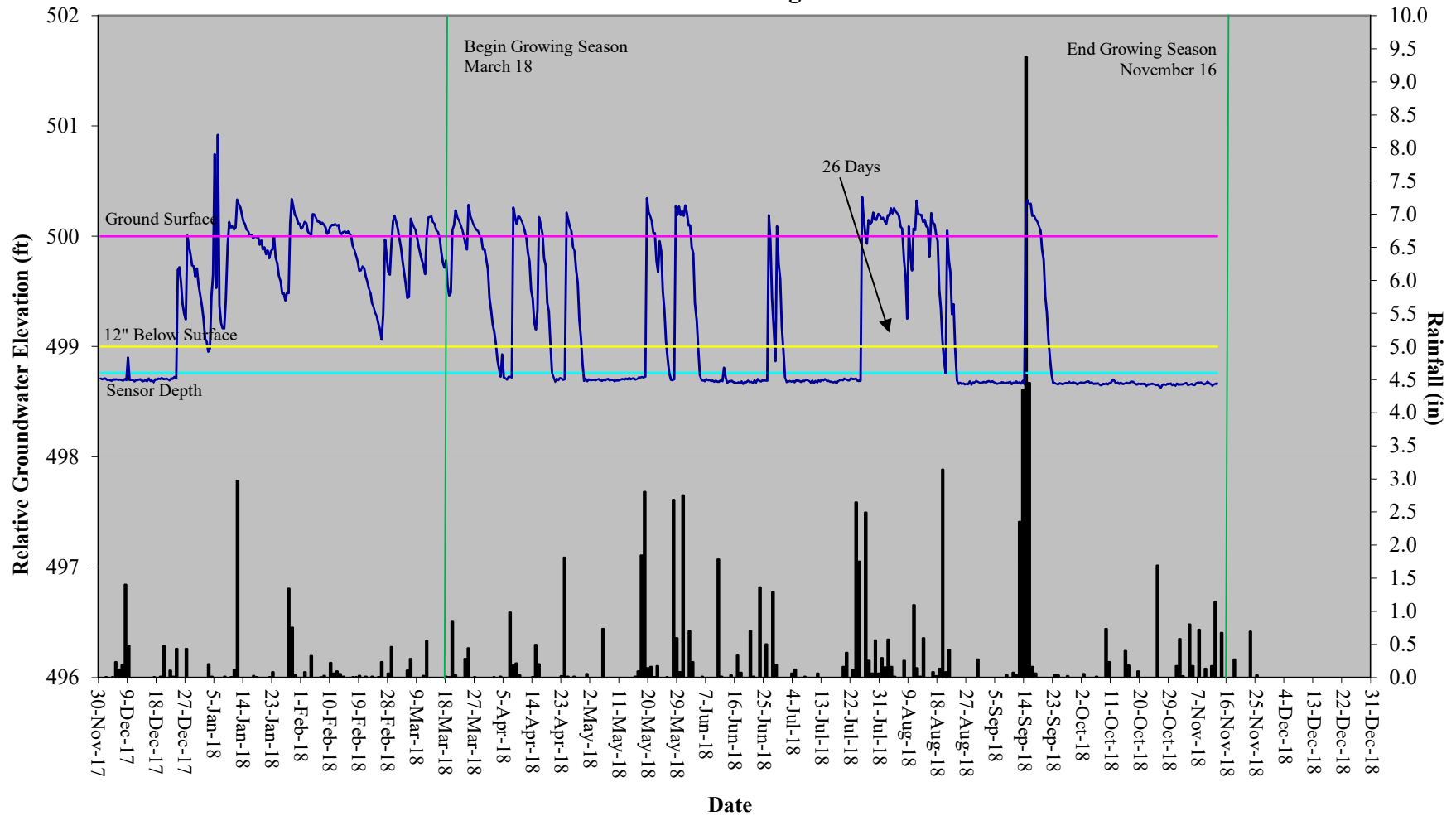
### Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 2



### Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 3

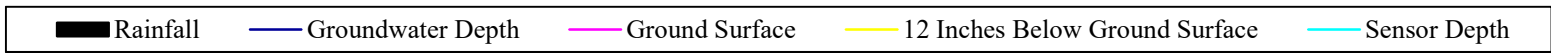
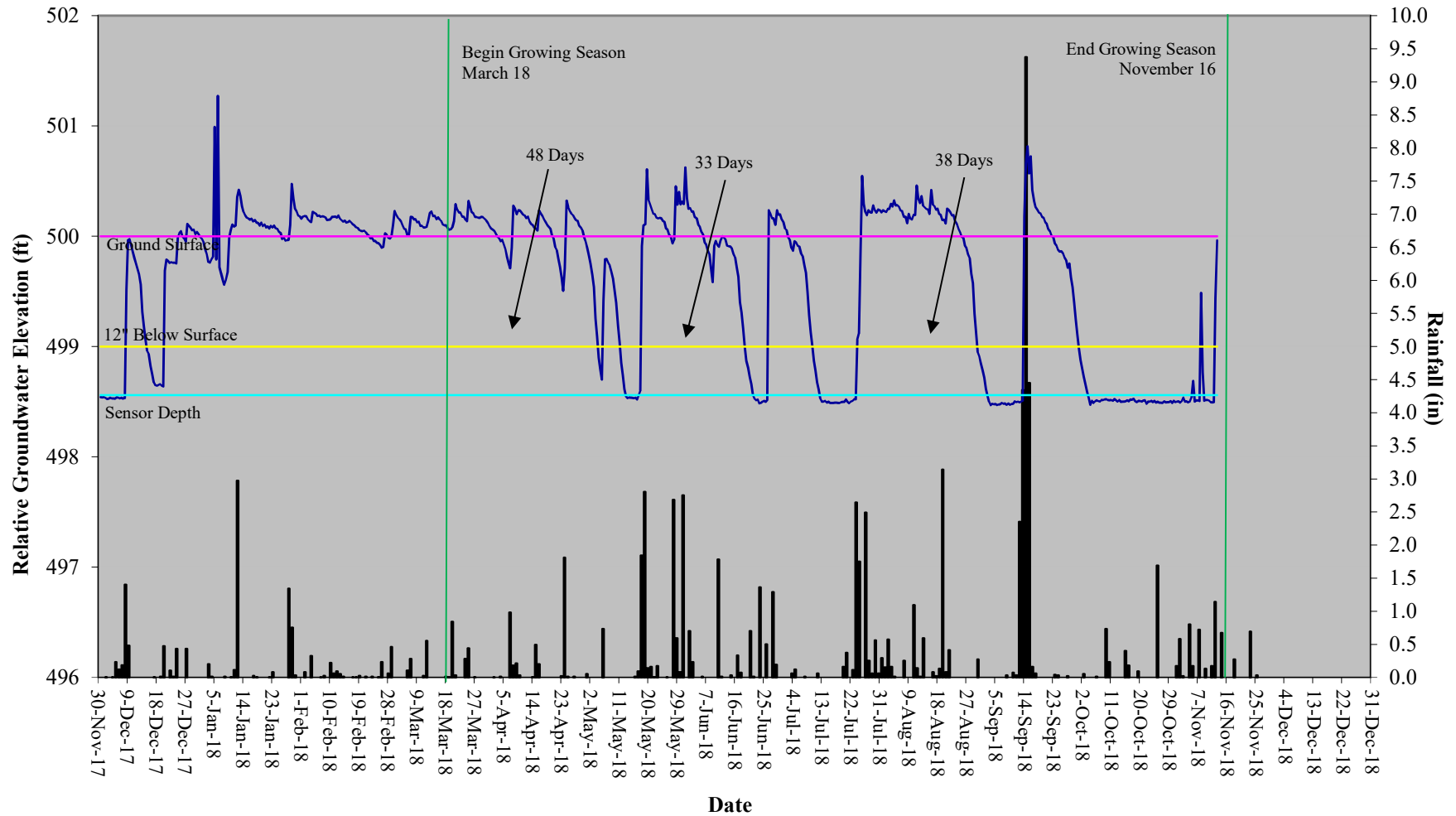


## Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 4

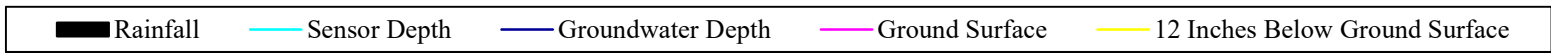
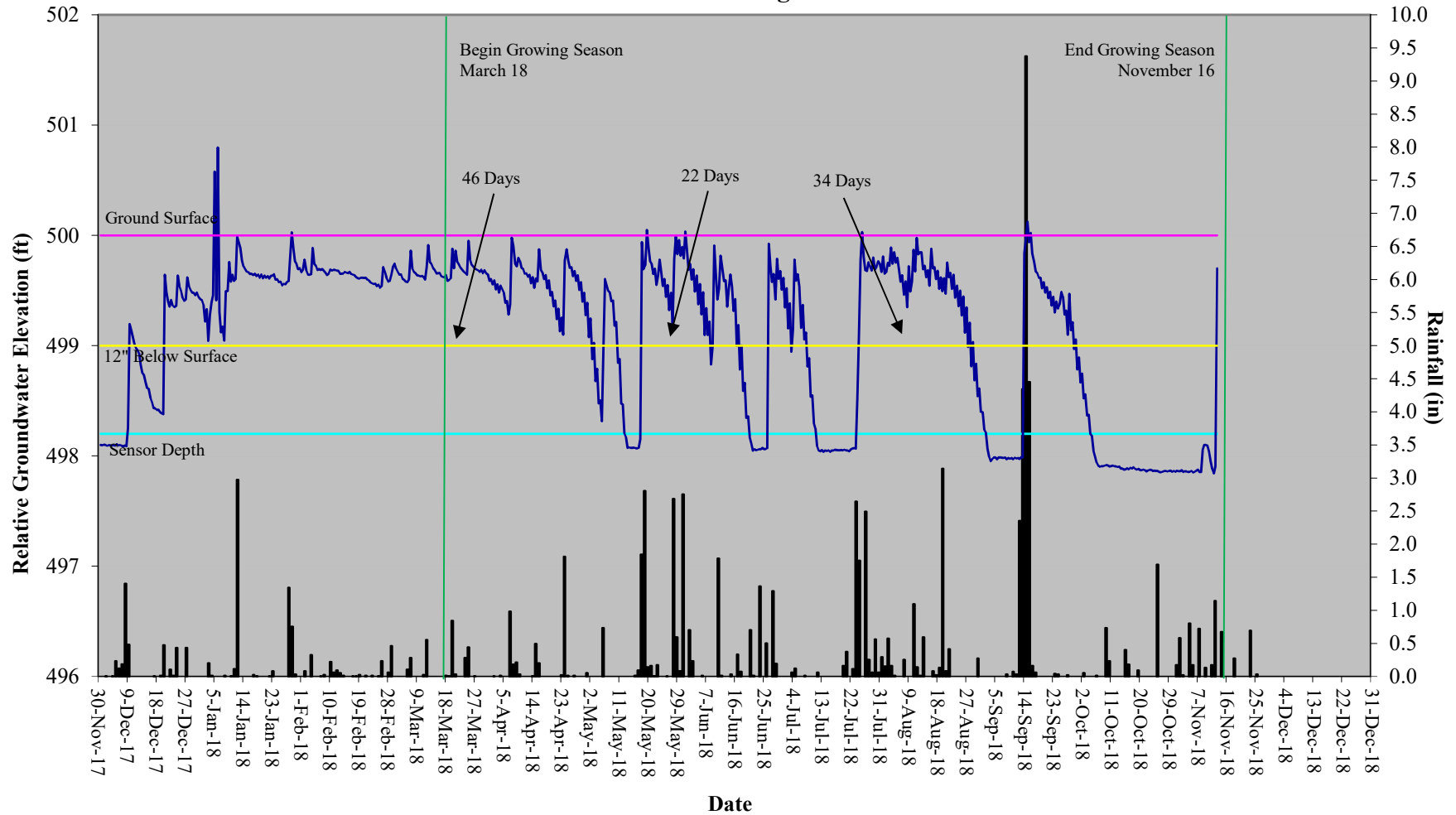




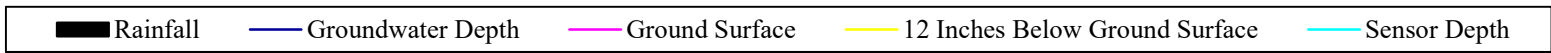
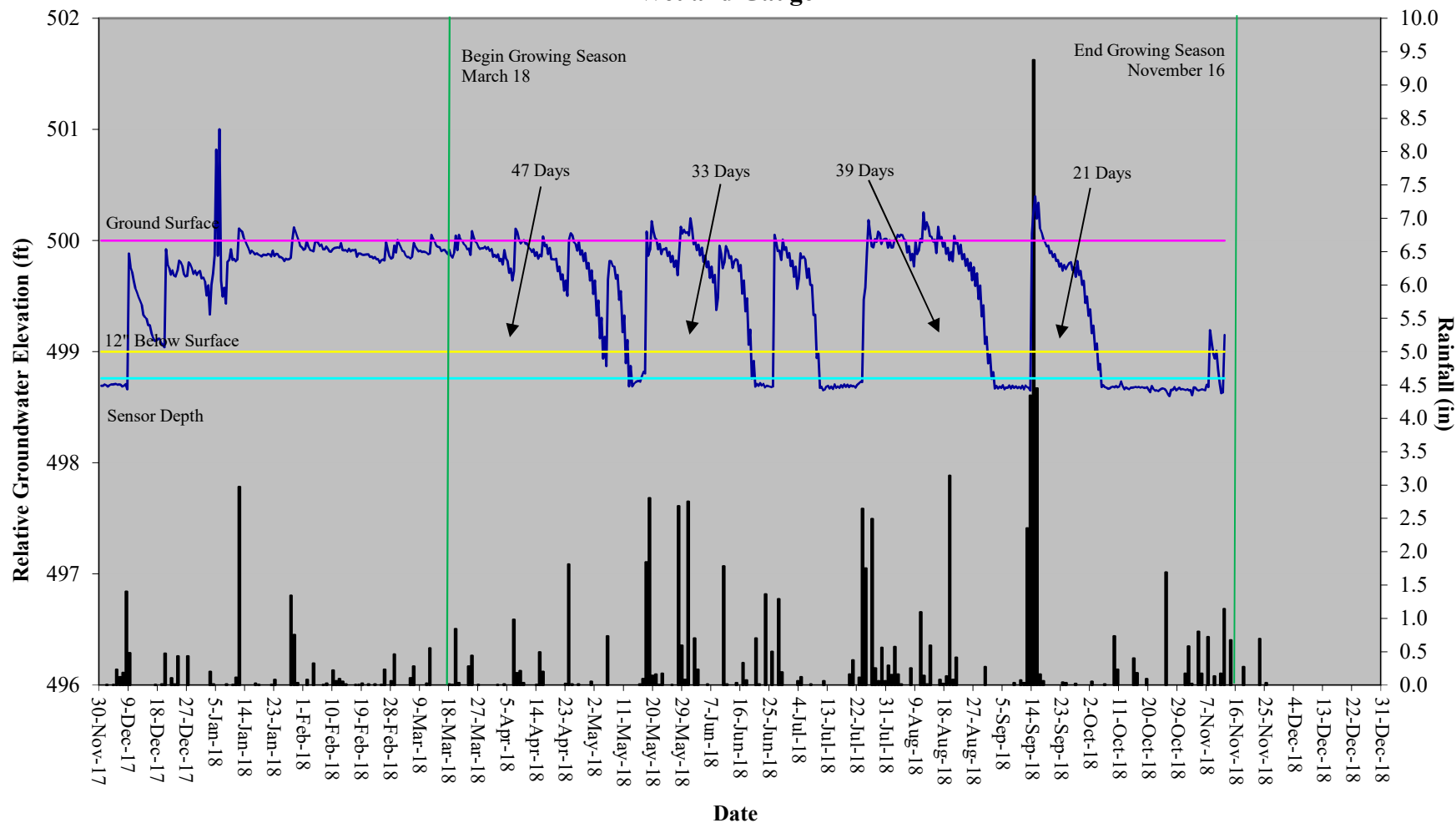
## Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 5



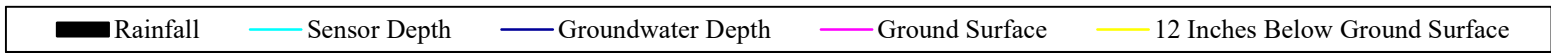
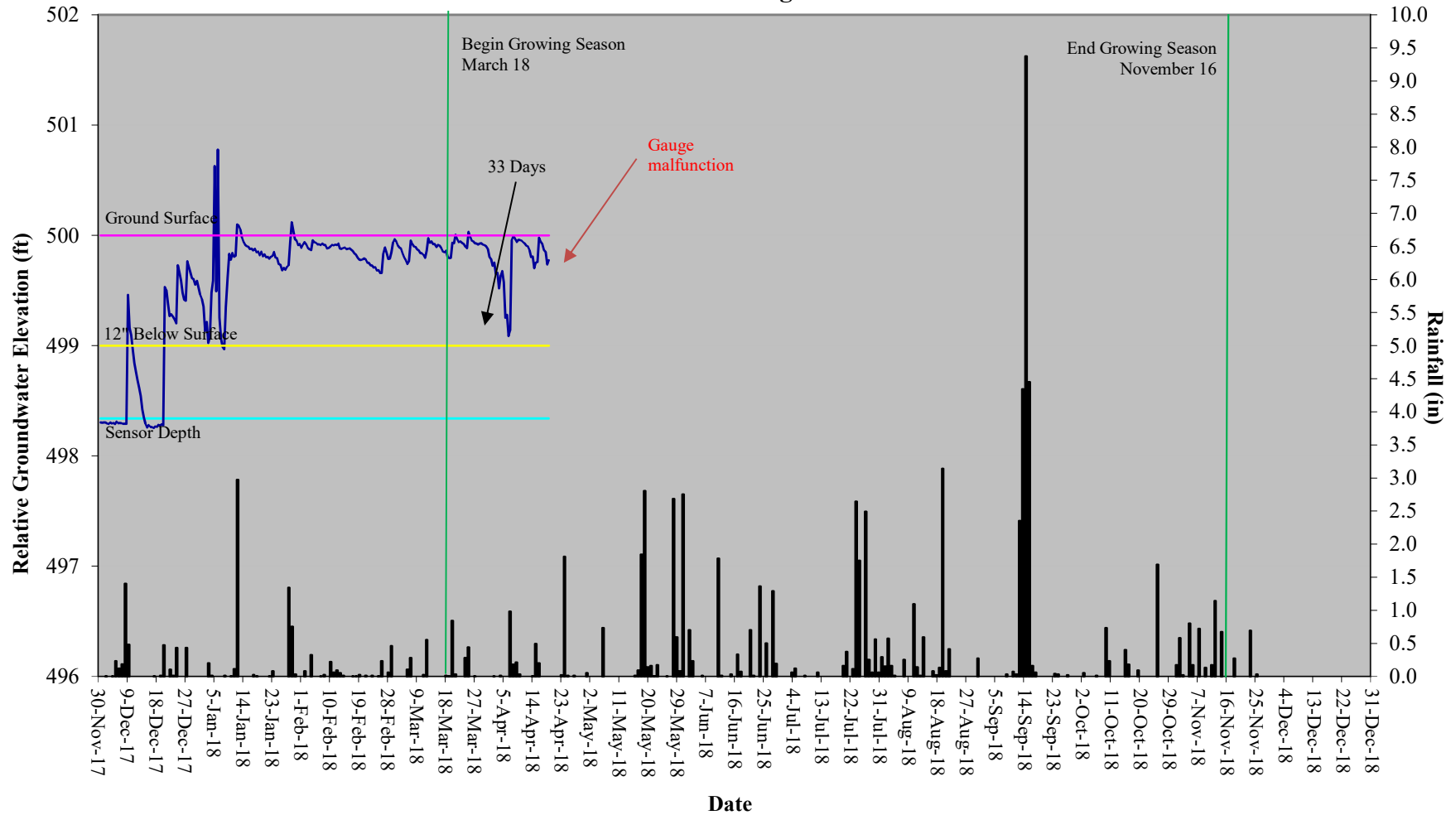
## Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 6



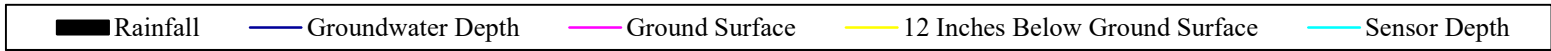
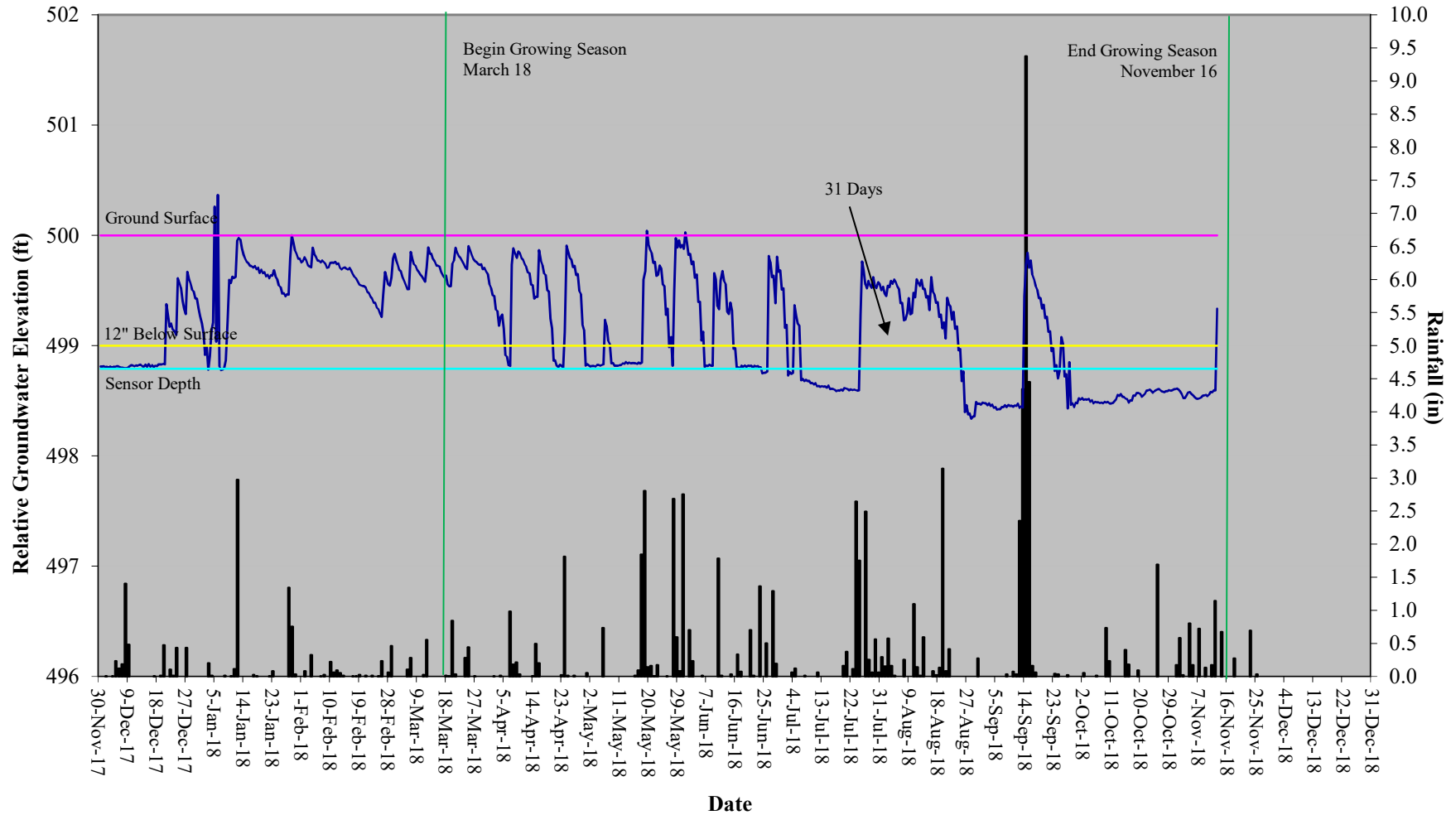
## Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 7



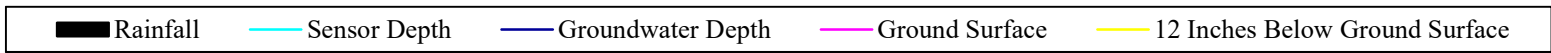
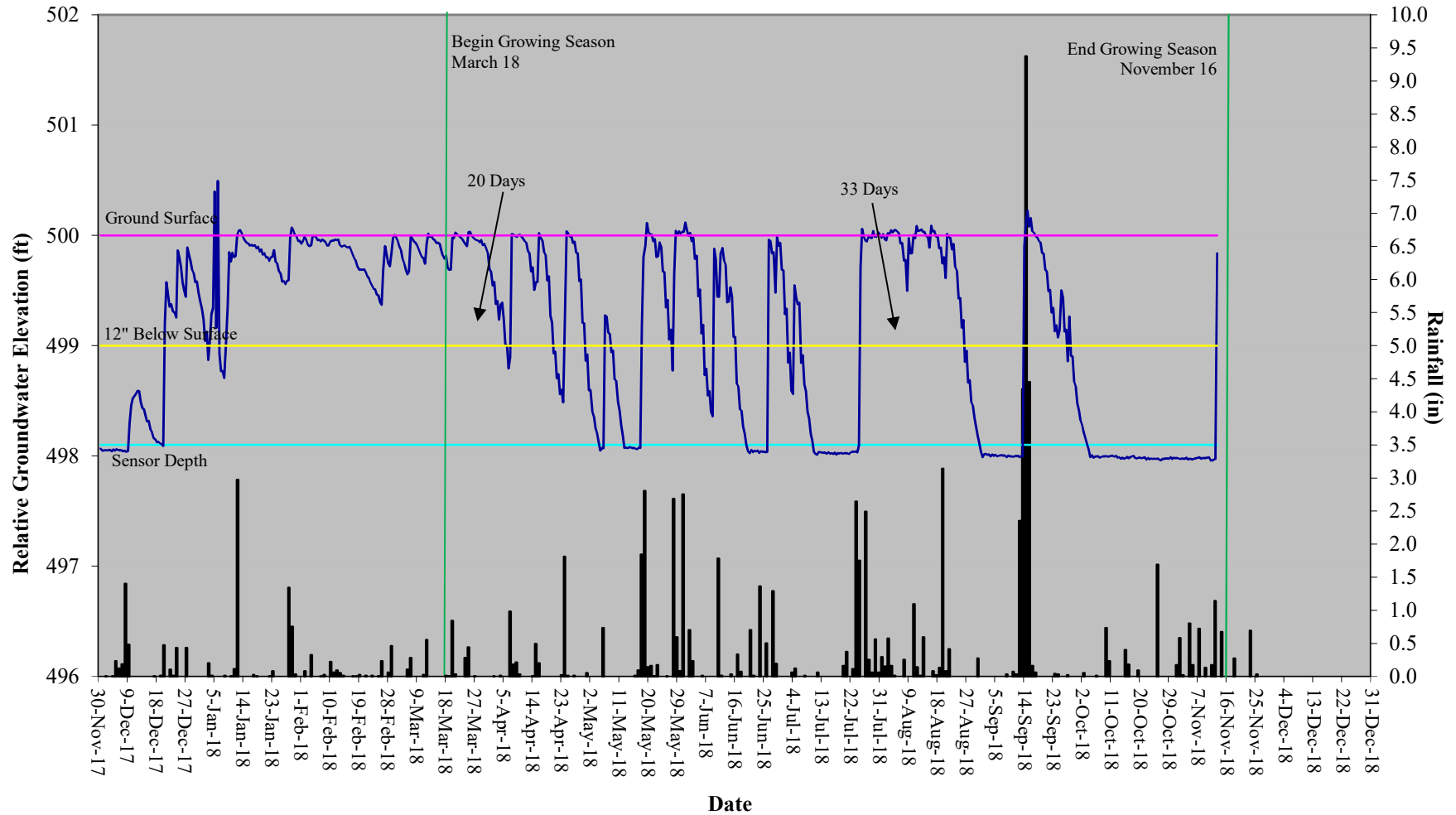
## Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 8



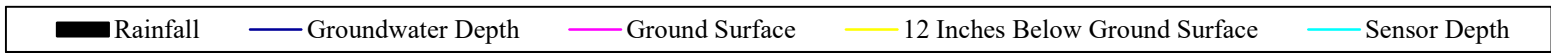
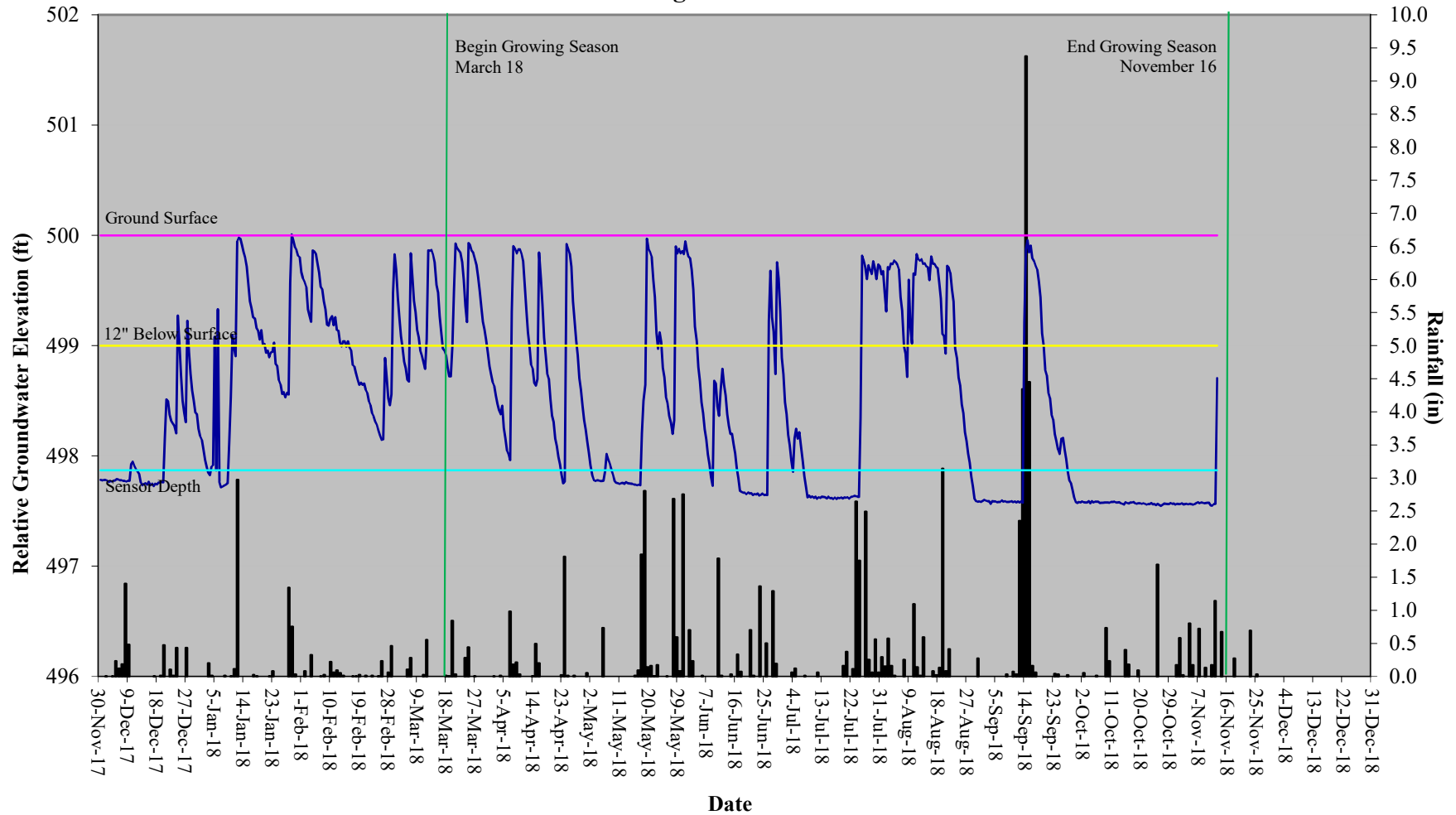
## Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 9



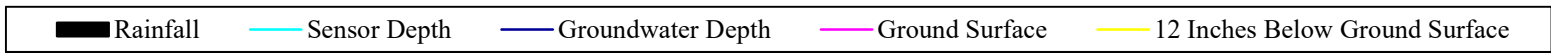
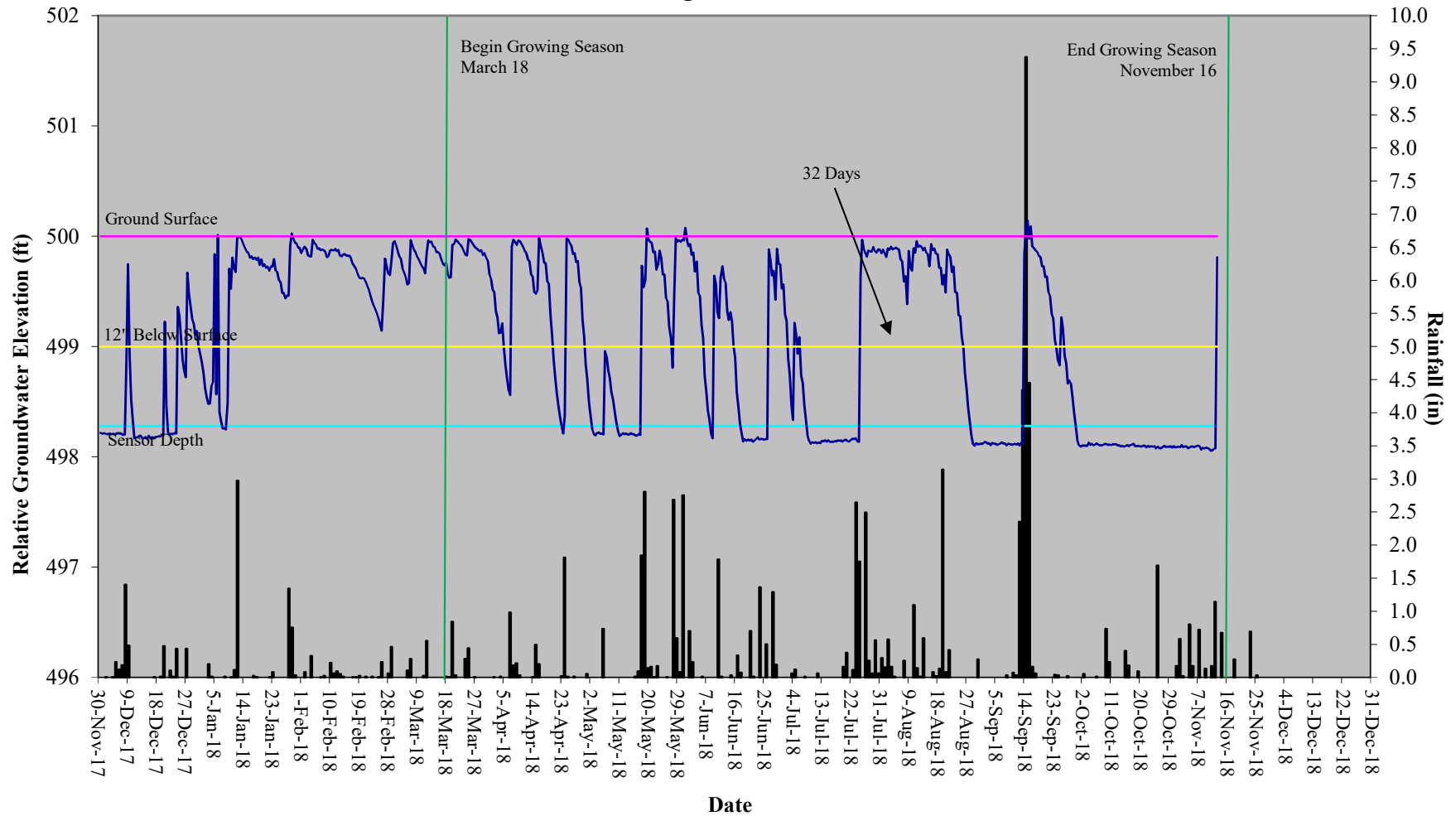
### Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 10



## Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 11 - non-credit zone

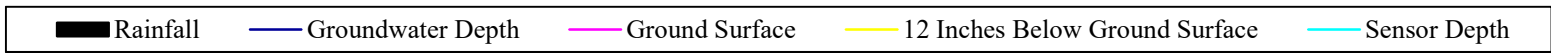
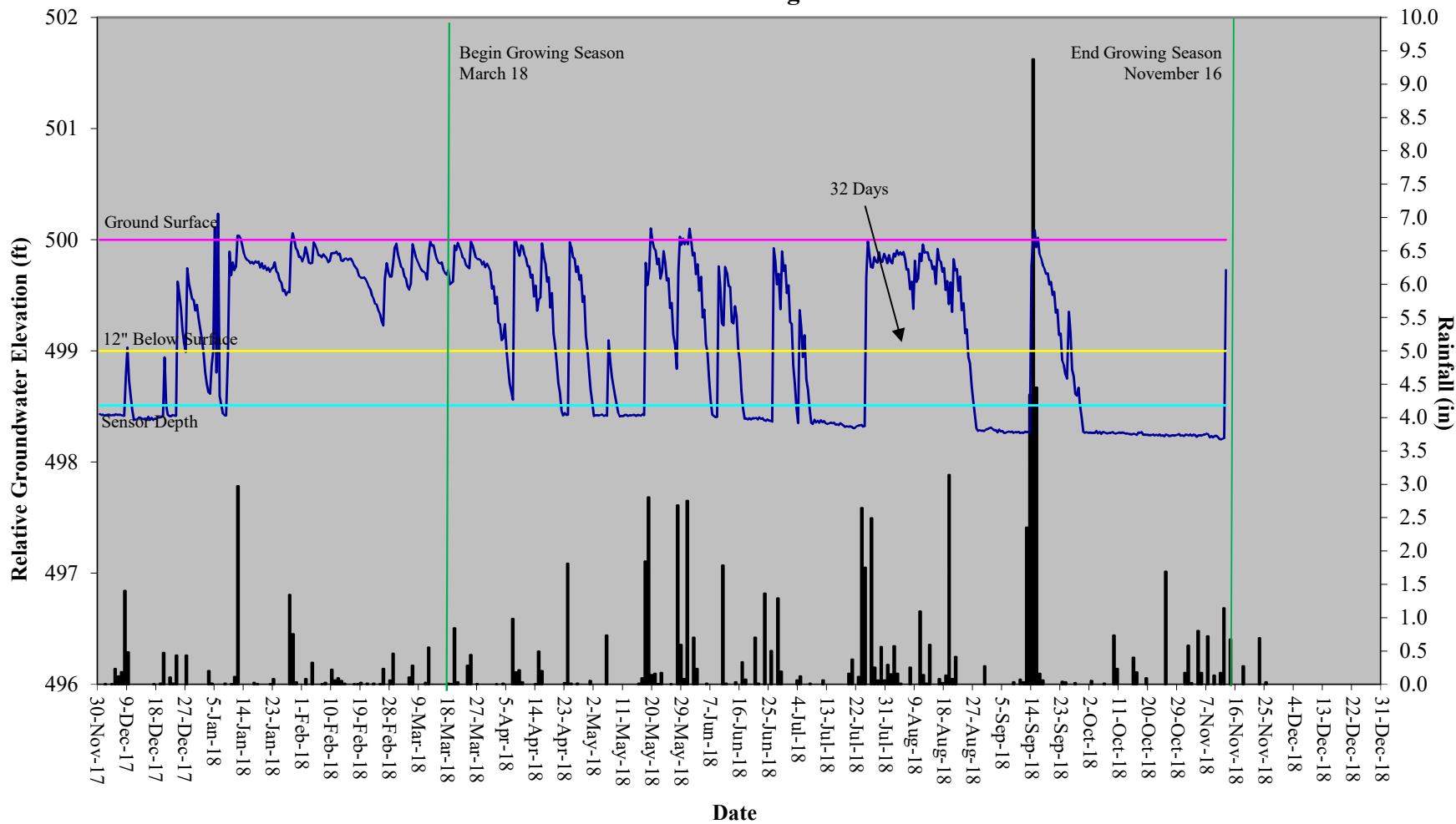


## Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 12 - non-credit zone

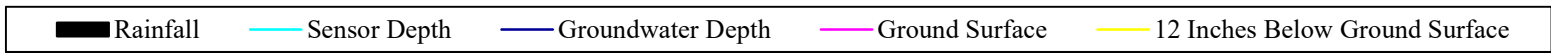
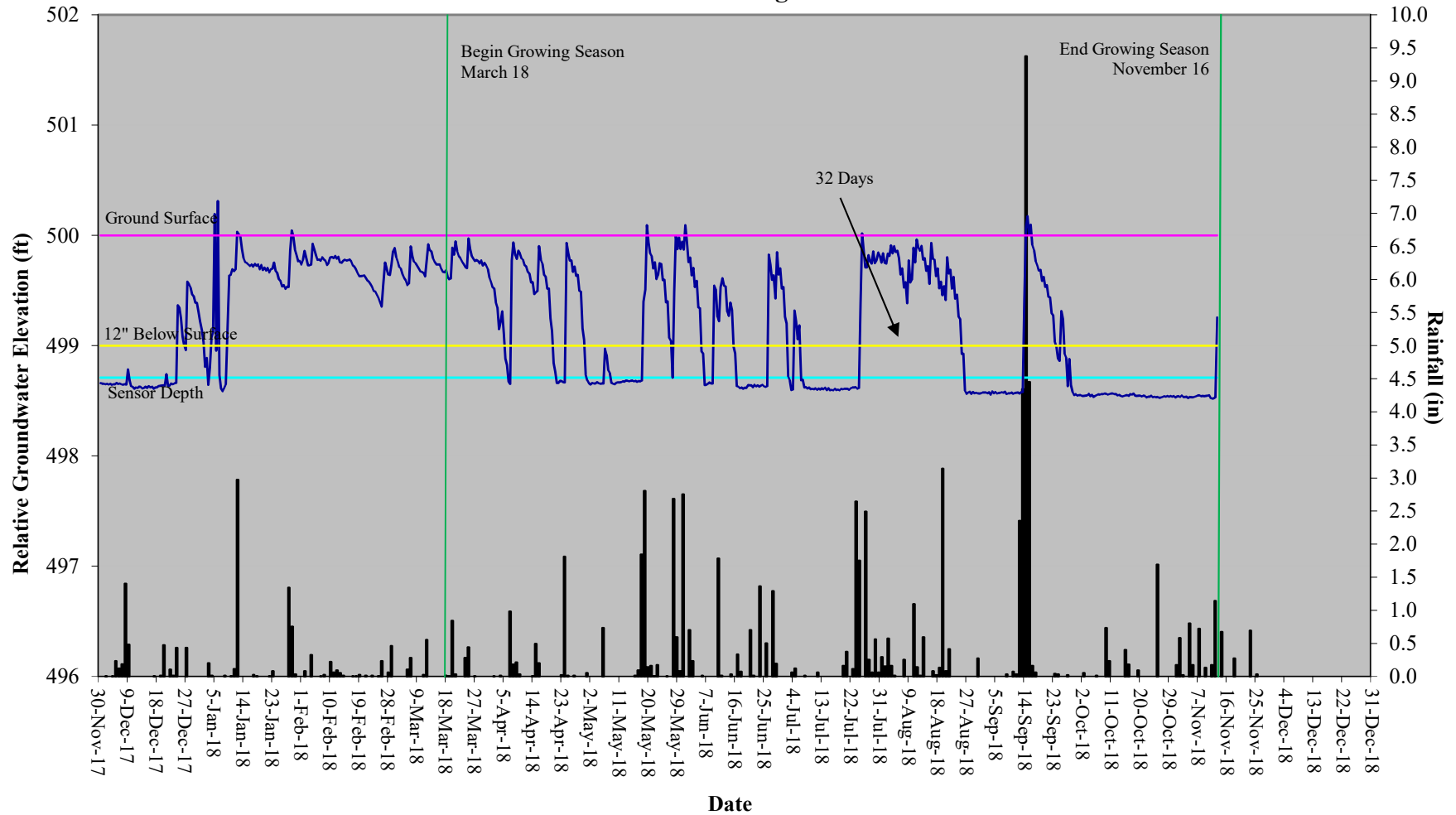




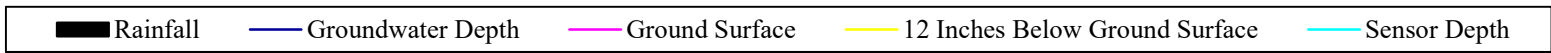
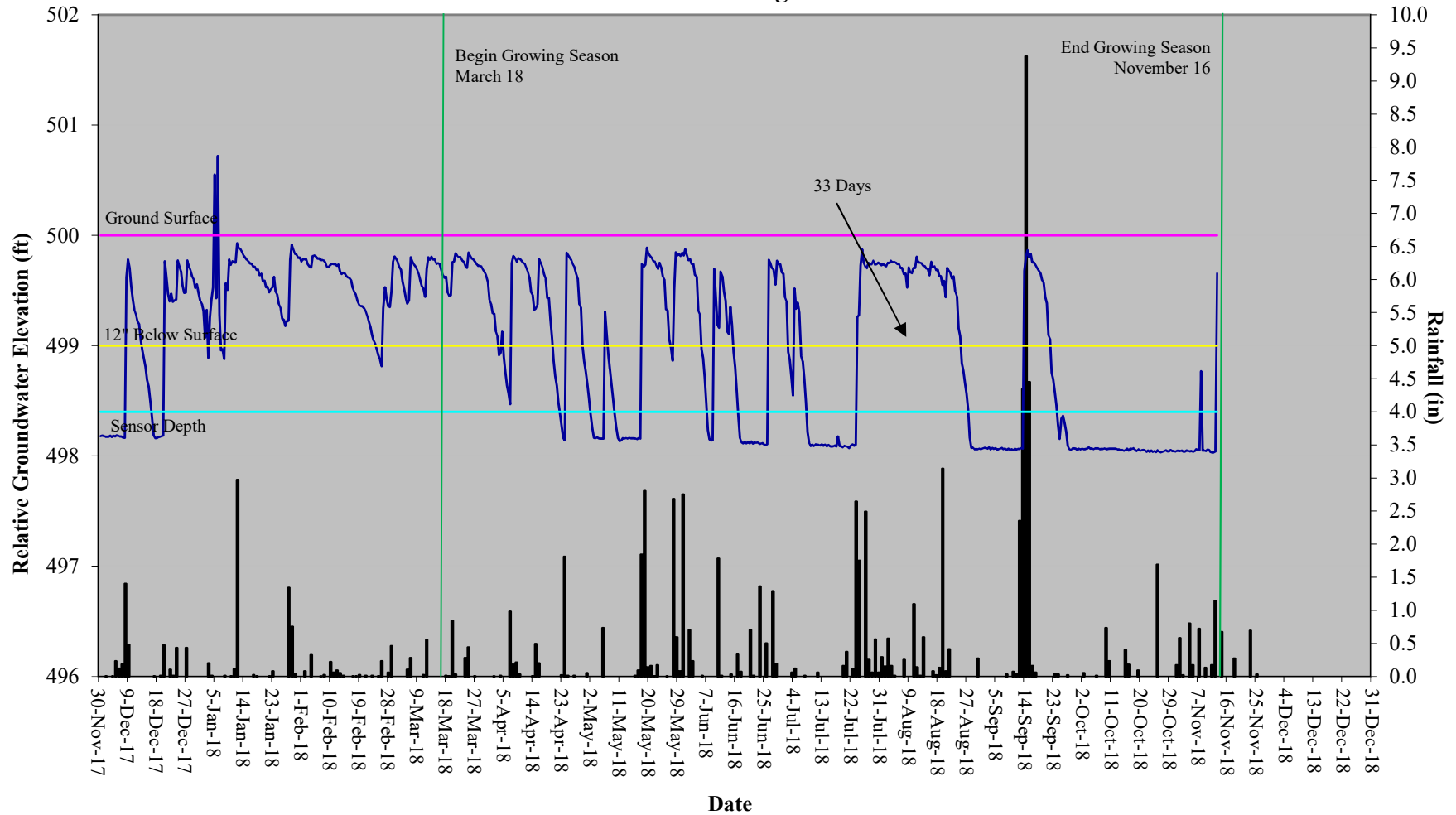
## Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 13



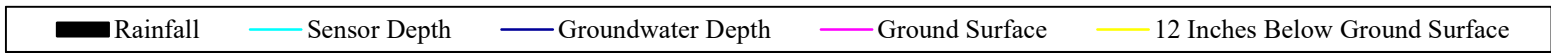
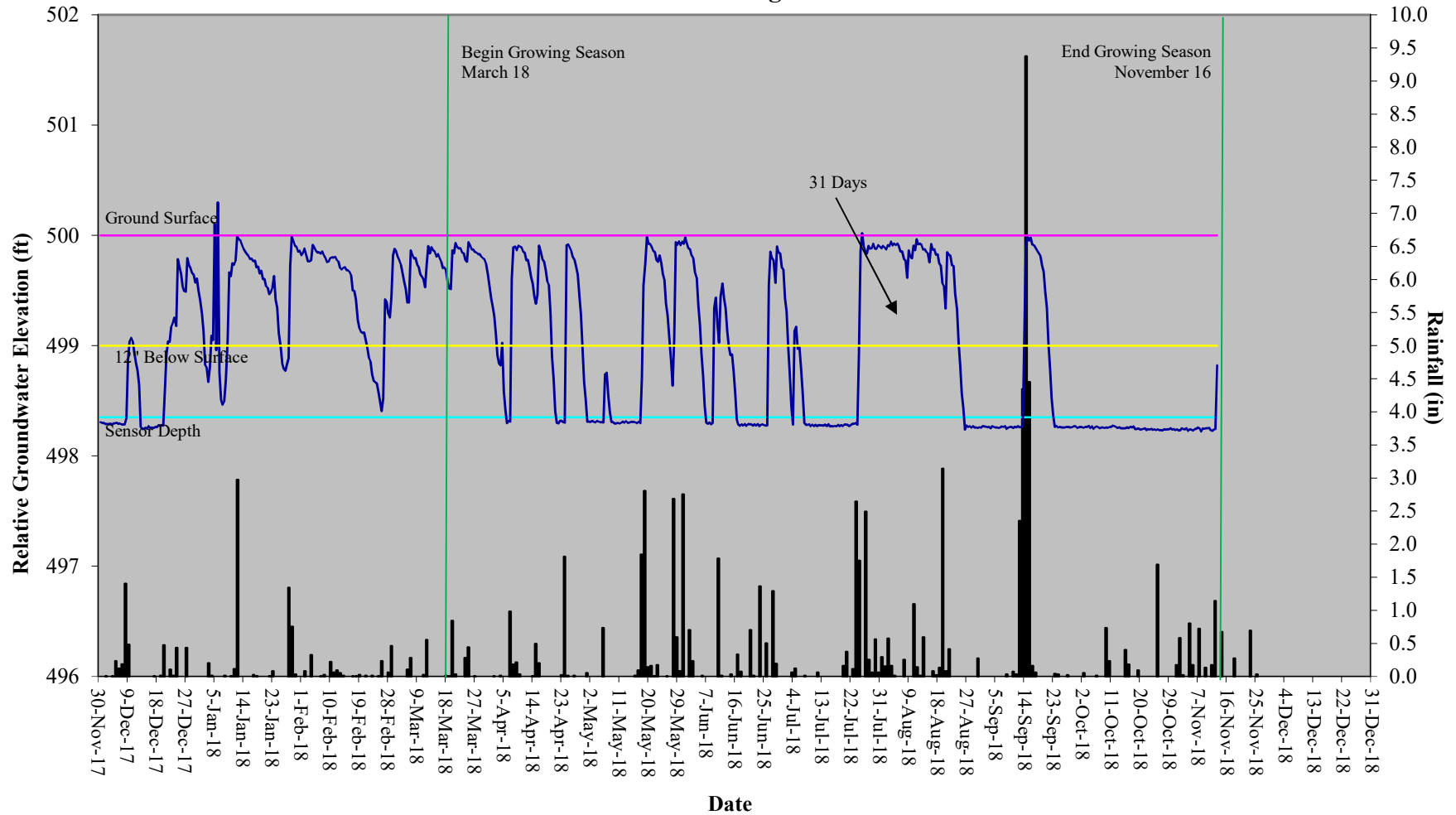
## Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 14



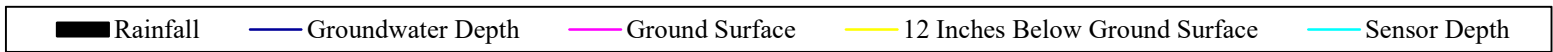
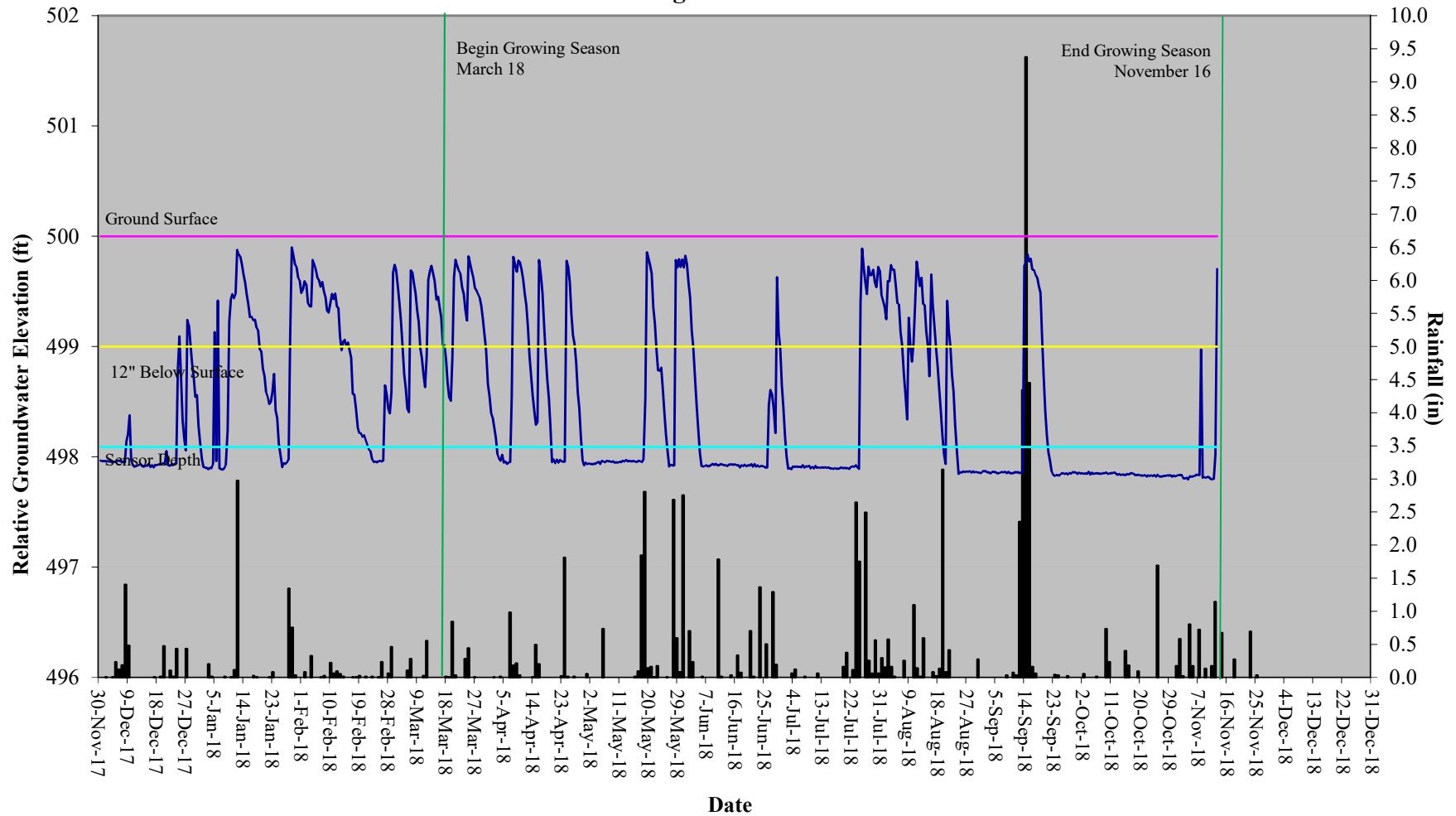
## Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 15



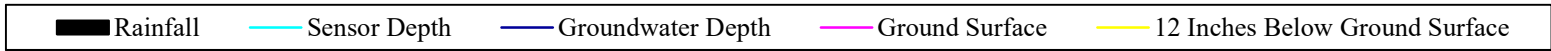
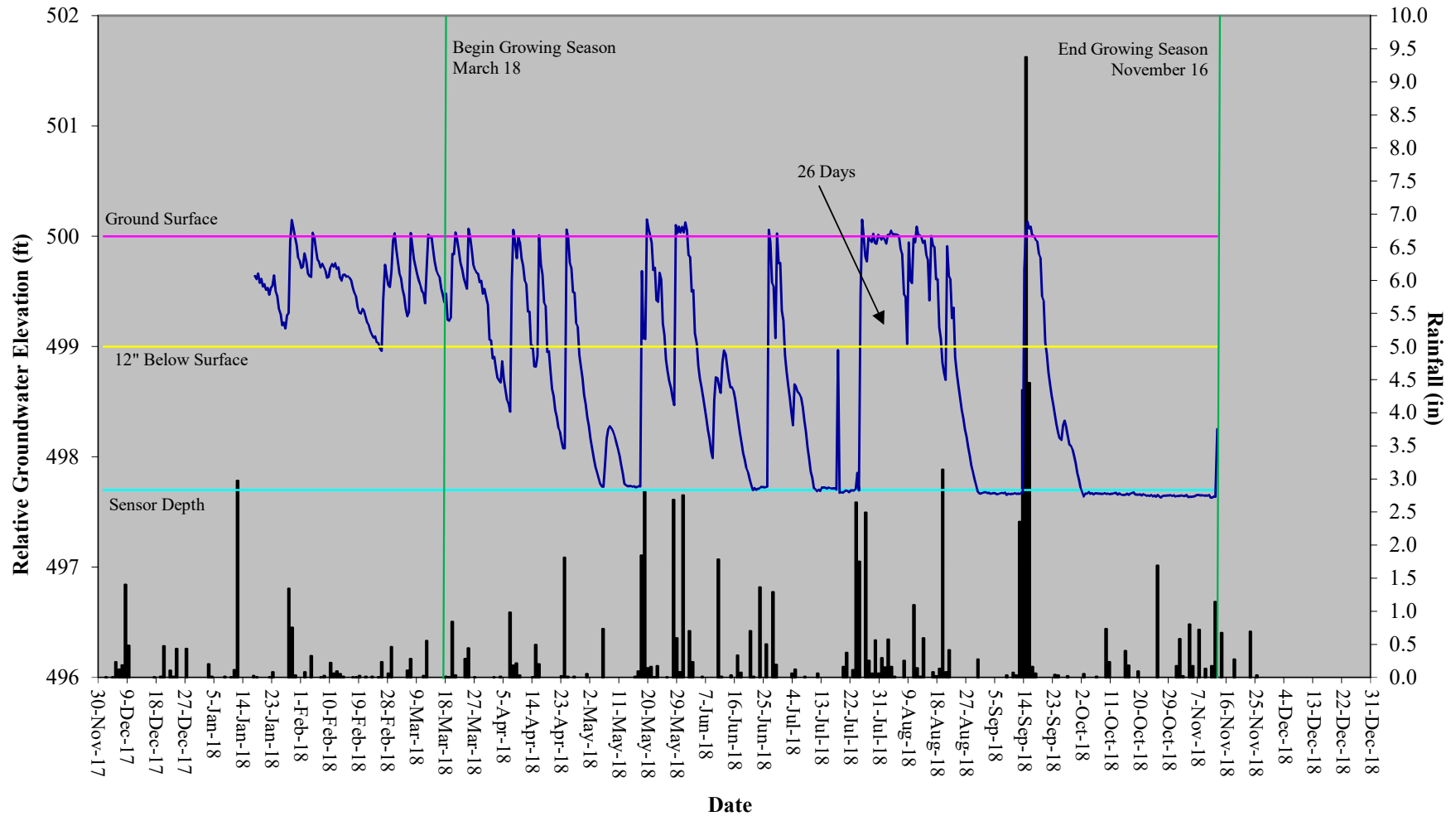
## Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 16



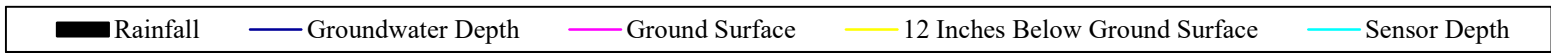
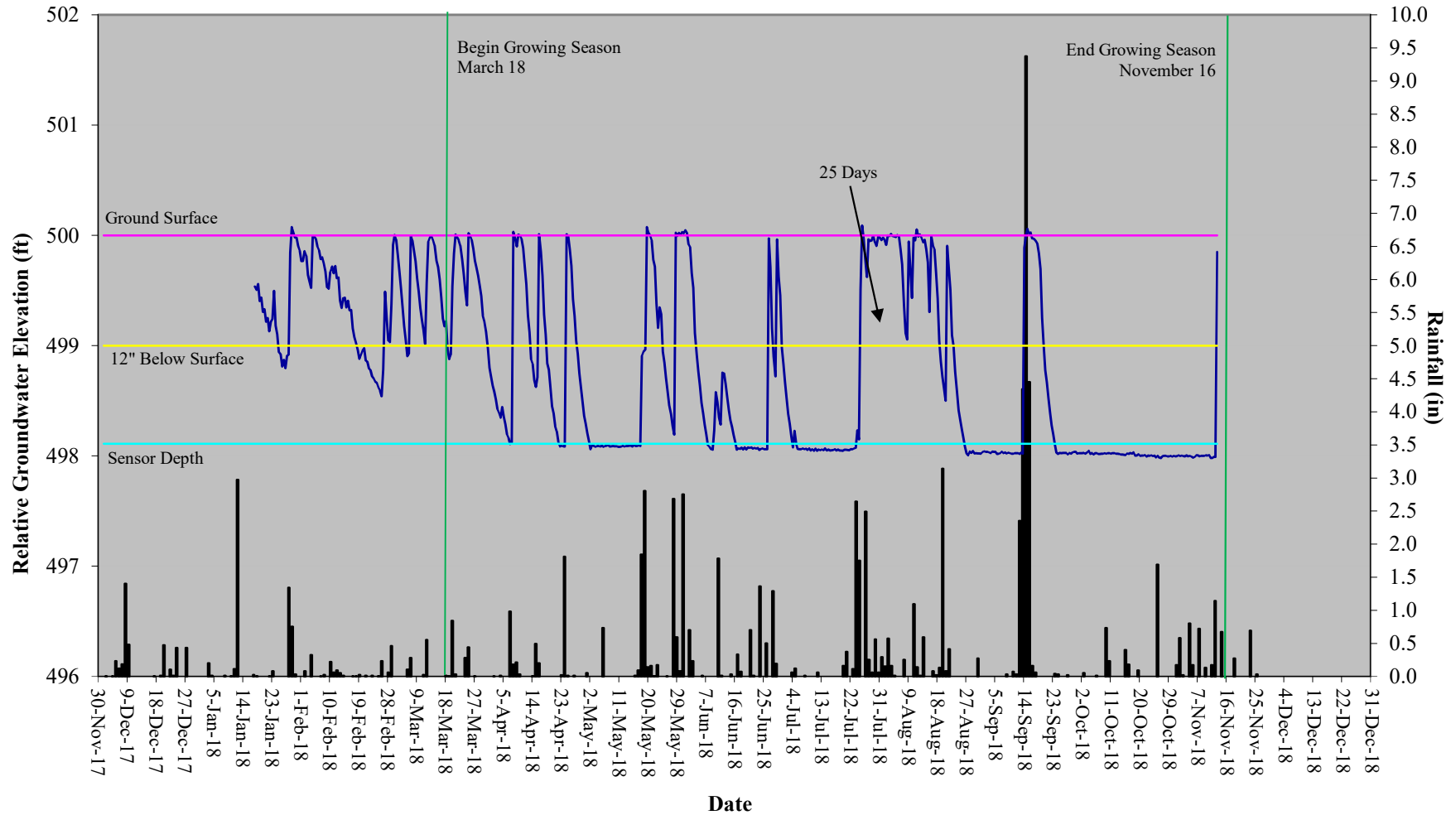
## Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 17 - non-credit zone



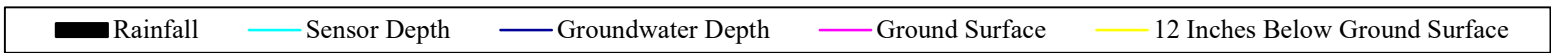
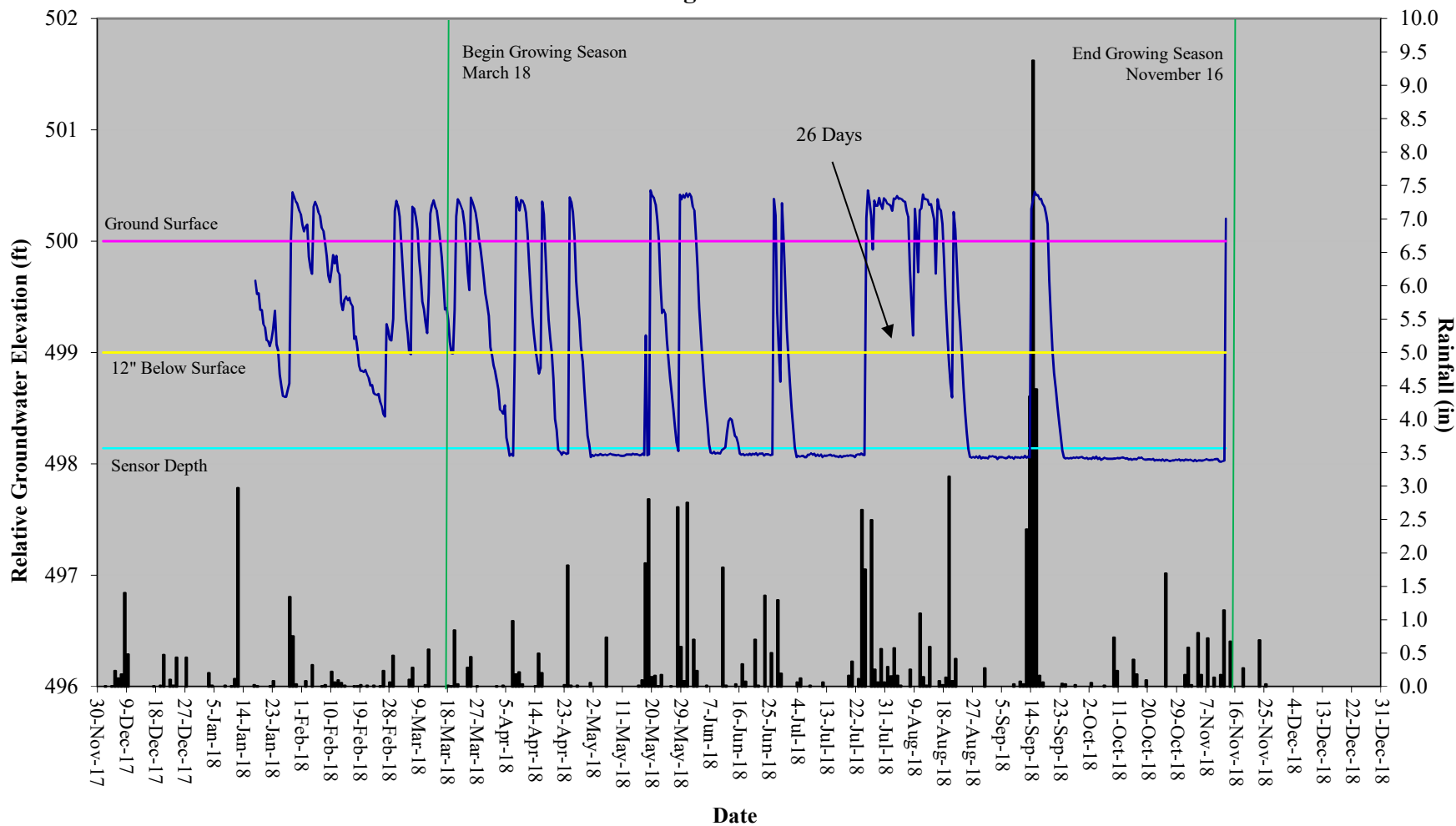
## Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 18



### Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 19

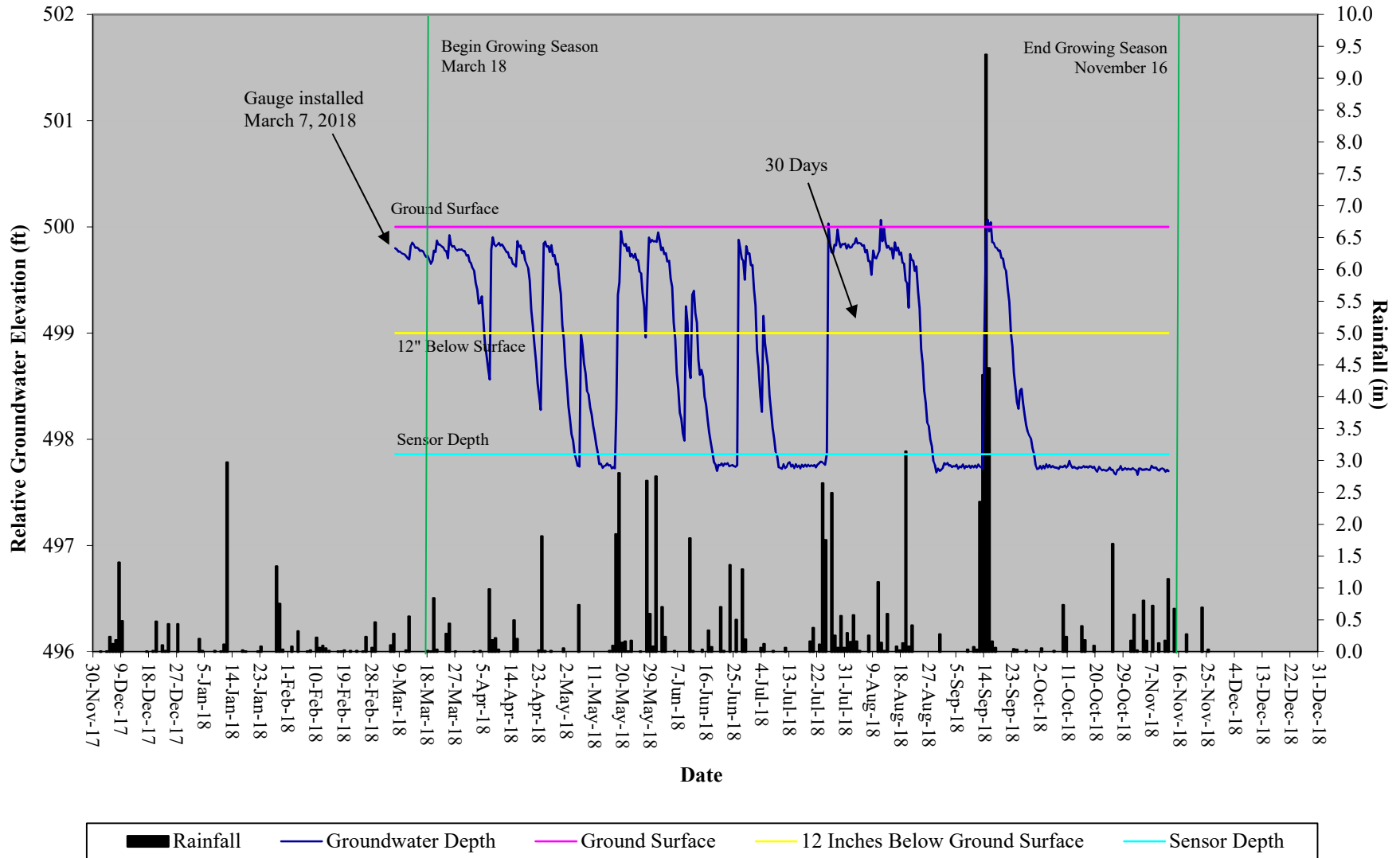


## Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 20 - non-credit zone

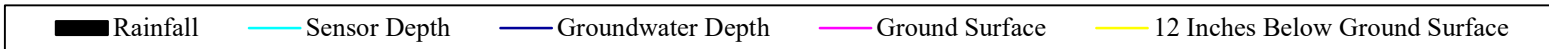
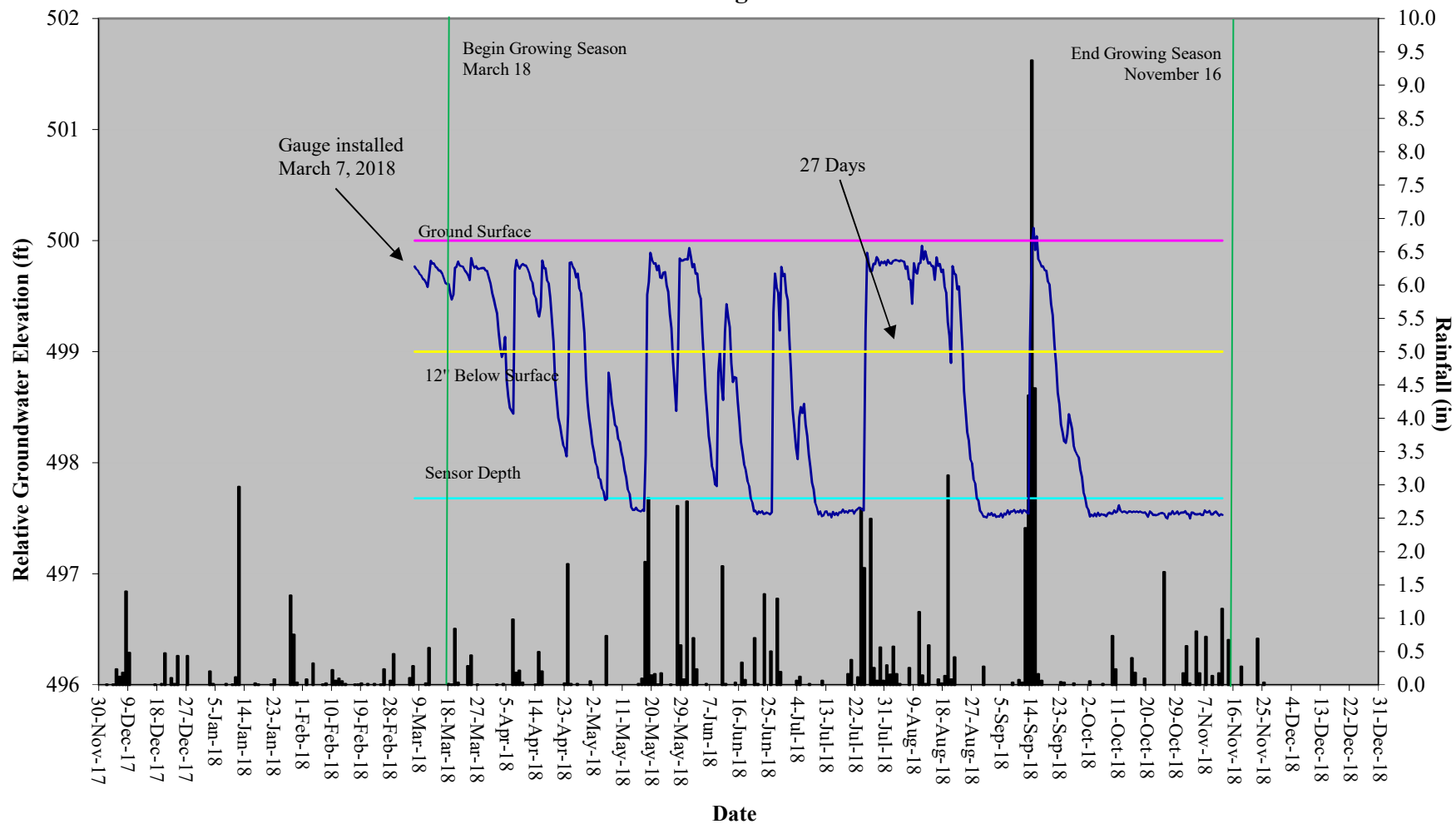




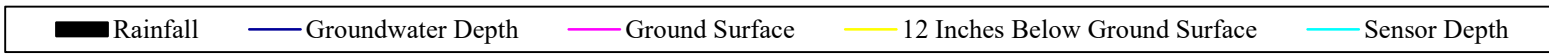
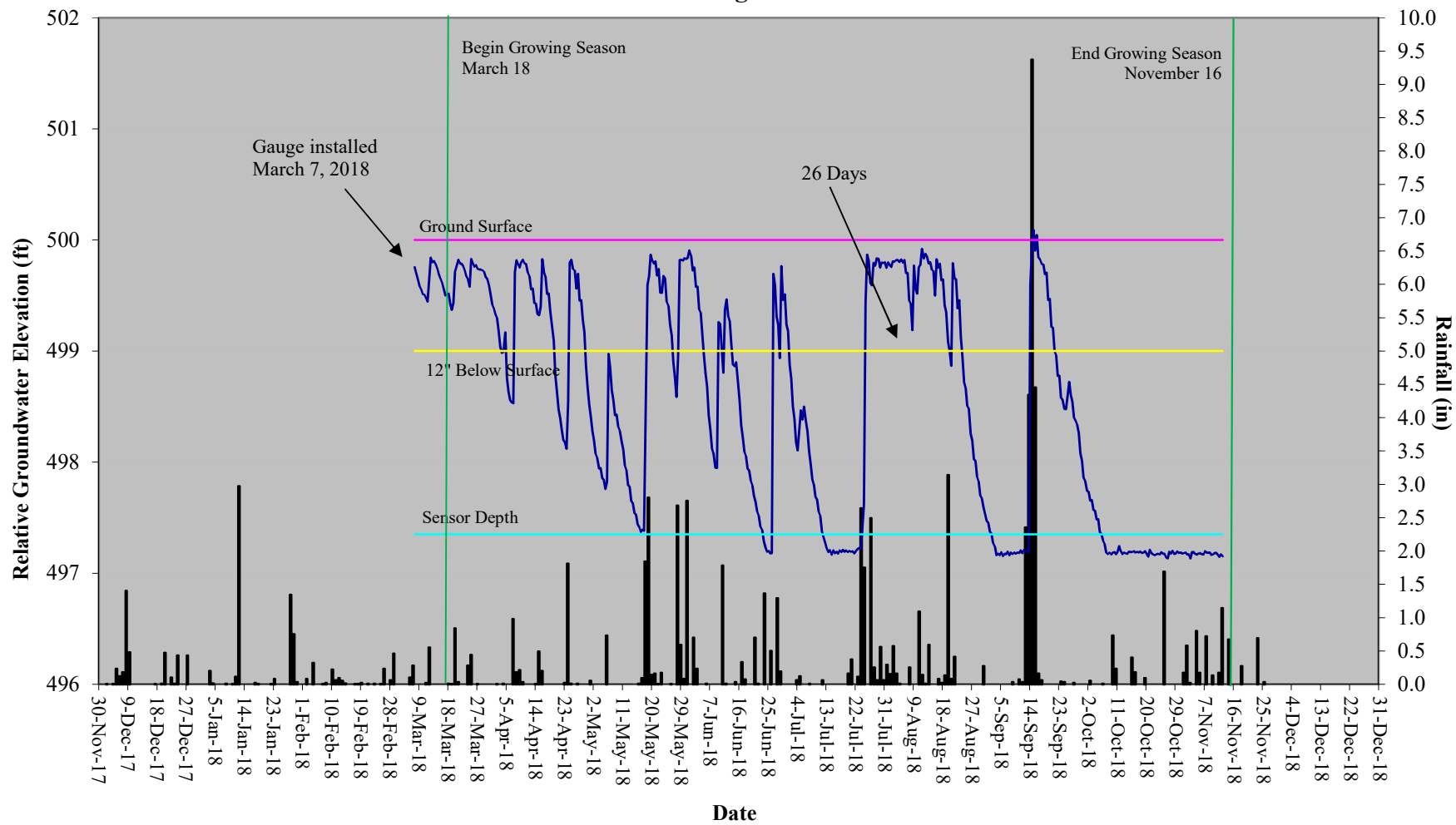
### Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 21



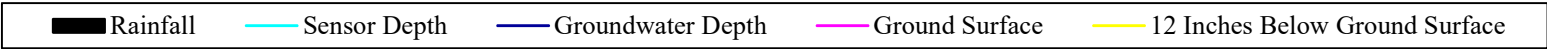
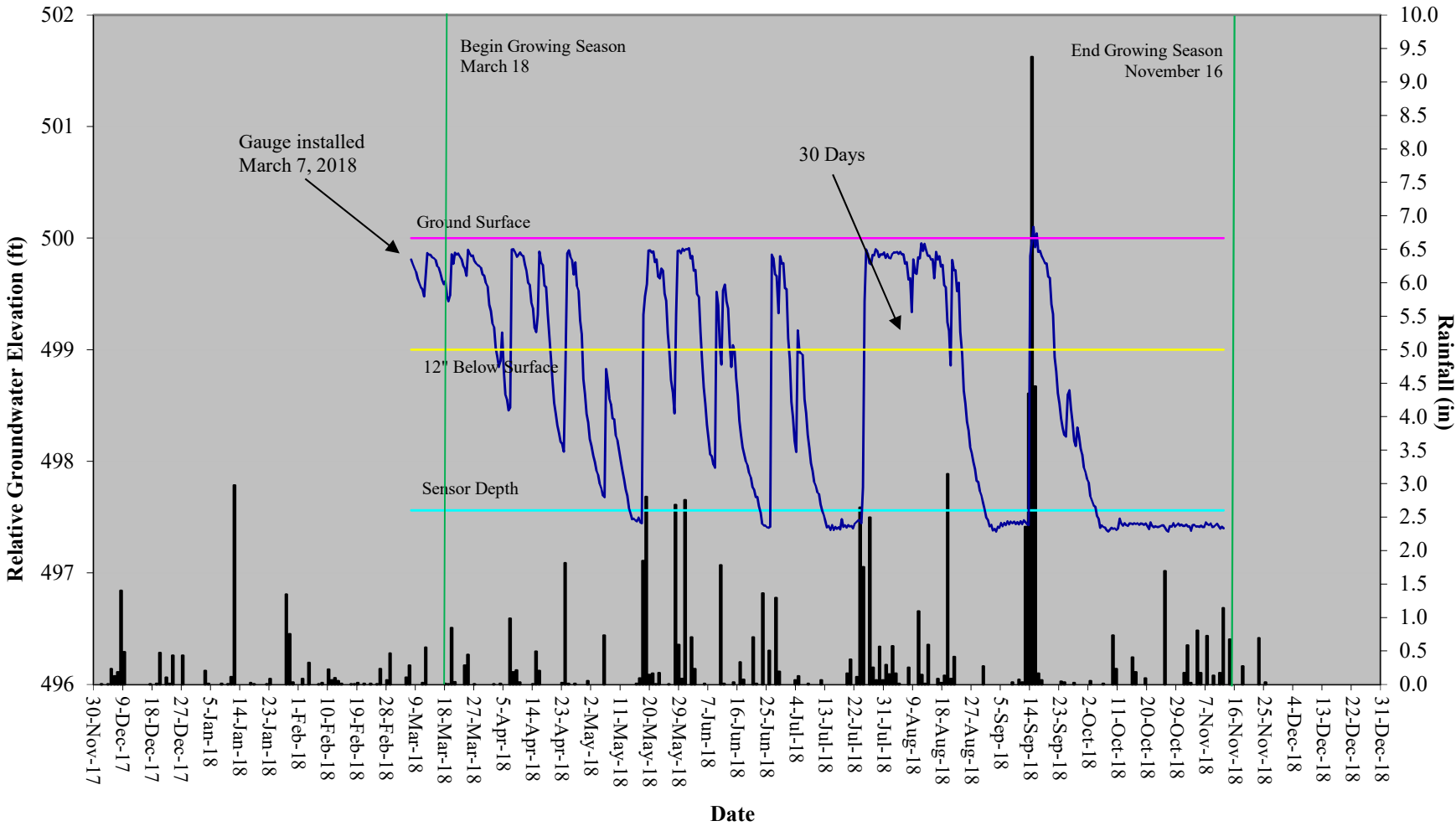
### Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 22



### Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 23



### Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 24



### Bear Basin Restoration Site Hydrograph Wetland Gauge 25

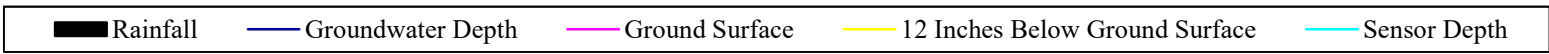
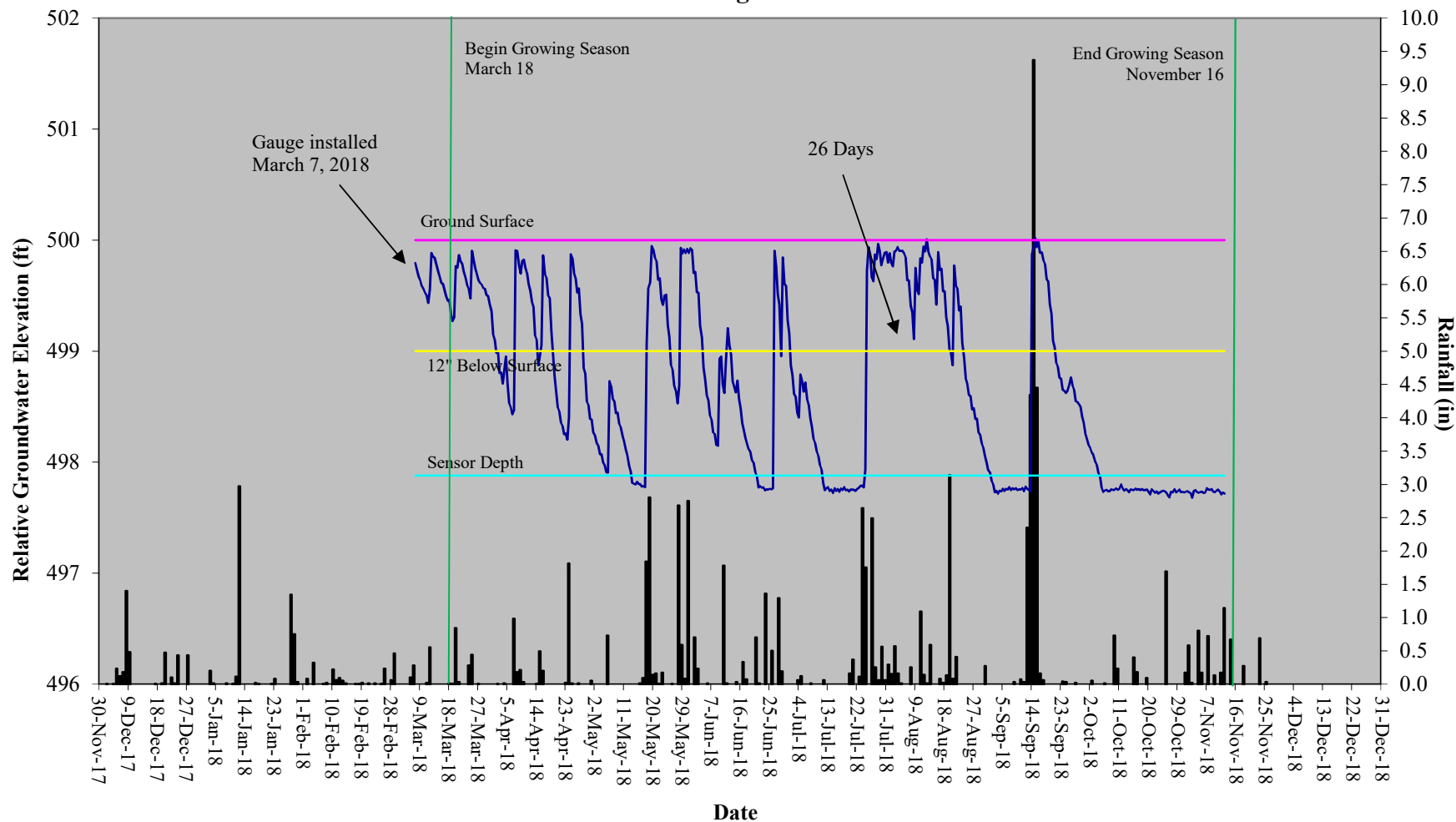


Table 9. Wetland Hydrology Criteria Attainment Table							
Project Number and Name: 95362 - Bear Basin Restoration Site							
	Success Criteria Achieved/ Max Consecutive Days During Growing Season (Percentage)						
Success Criteria (21 Days) (8%)	MY-01 2015	MY-02 2016	MY-03 2017	MY-04 2018	MY-05	MY-06	MY-07
Gauge 1	Yes/23 (9.3%)	Yes/24 (9.7%)	Yes/26 (10.7%)	Yes/31 (12.8%)			
Gauge 2	Yes/28 (11.3%)	Yes/42 (17.1%)	Yes/28 (11.5%)	Yes/37 (15.2%)			
Gauge 3	Yes/22 (9.1%)	No/14 (5.6%)	No/10 (4.1%)	Yes/27 (11.1%)			
Gauge 4	No/17 (7.0%)	No/15 (6.0%)	Yes/25 (10.3%)	Yes/26 (10.7%)			
Gauge 5	Yes/90 (36.8%)	Yes/48 (19.5%)	Yes/30 (12.3%)	Yes/48 (19.8%)			
Gauge 6	Yes/28 (11.3%)	Yes/41 (16.9%)	Yes/29 (11.9%)	Yes/46 (18.9%)			
Gauge 7	Yes/51 (20.8%)	Yes/45 (18.5%)	Yes/25 (10.3%)	Yes/47 (19.3%)			
Gauge 8	Yes/28 (11.3%)	Yes/42 (17.1%)	Yes/27 (11.1%)	Yes/33 (13.6%)			
Gauge 9	Yes/23 (9.3%)	Yes/23 (9.3%)	Yes/25 (10.3%)	Yes/31 (12.8%)			
Gauge 10	Yes/24 (9.7%)	No/18 (7.4%)	Yes/26 (10.7%)	Yes/33 (13.6%)			
Gauge 11*	15 (6.2%)	15 (6.2%)	4 (1.6%)	13 (5.3%)			
Gauge 12*	25 (10.3%)	19 (7.6%)	25 (10.3%)	32 (13.2%)			
Gauge 13	Yes/27 (11.1%)	Yes/42 (17.1%)	Yes/26 (10.7%)	Yes/32 (13.2%)			
Gauge 14	Yes/25 (10.3%)	No/19 (7.6%)	Yes/26 (10.7%)	Yes/32 (13.2%)			
Gauge 15	Yes/35 (14.2%)	Yes/42 (17.1%)	Yes/27 (11.1%)	Yes/33 (13.6%)			
Gauge 16	Yes/22 (9.1%)	No/14 (5.6%)	No/10 (4.1%)	Yes/31 (12.8%)			
Gauge 17*	23 (9.3%)	14 (5.6%)	9 (3.7%)	14 (5.8%)			
Gauge 18	Yes/22 (9.1%)	No/14 (5.6%)	No/9 (3.7%)	Yes/26 (10.7%)			
Gauge 19	No/18 (7.4%)	No/12 (4.9%)	No./7 (2.9%)	Yes/25 (10.3%)			
Gauge 20*	19 (7.6%)	12 (4.9%)	7 (2.9%)	26 (10.7%)			
Gauge 21**				Yes/30 (12.3%)			
Gauge 22**				Yes/27 (11.1%)			
Gauge 23**				Yes/26 (10.7%)			
Gauge 24**				Yes/27 (11.1%)			
Gauge 25**				Yes/26 (10.7%)			

\*=non-credit bearing area

\*\*=Gauge installed March 7, 2018