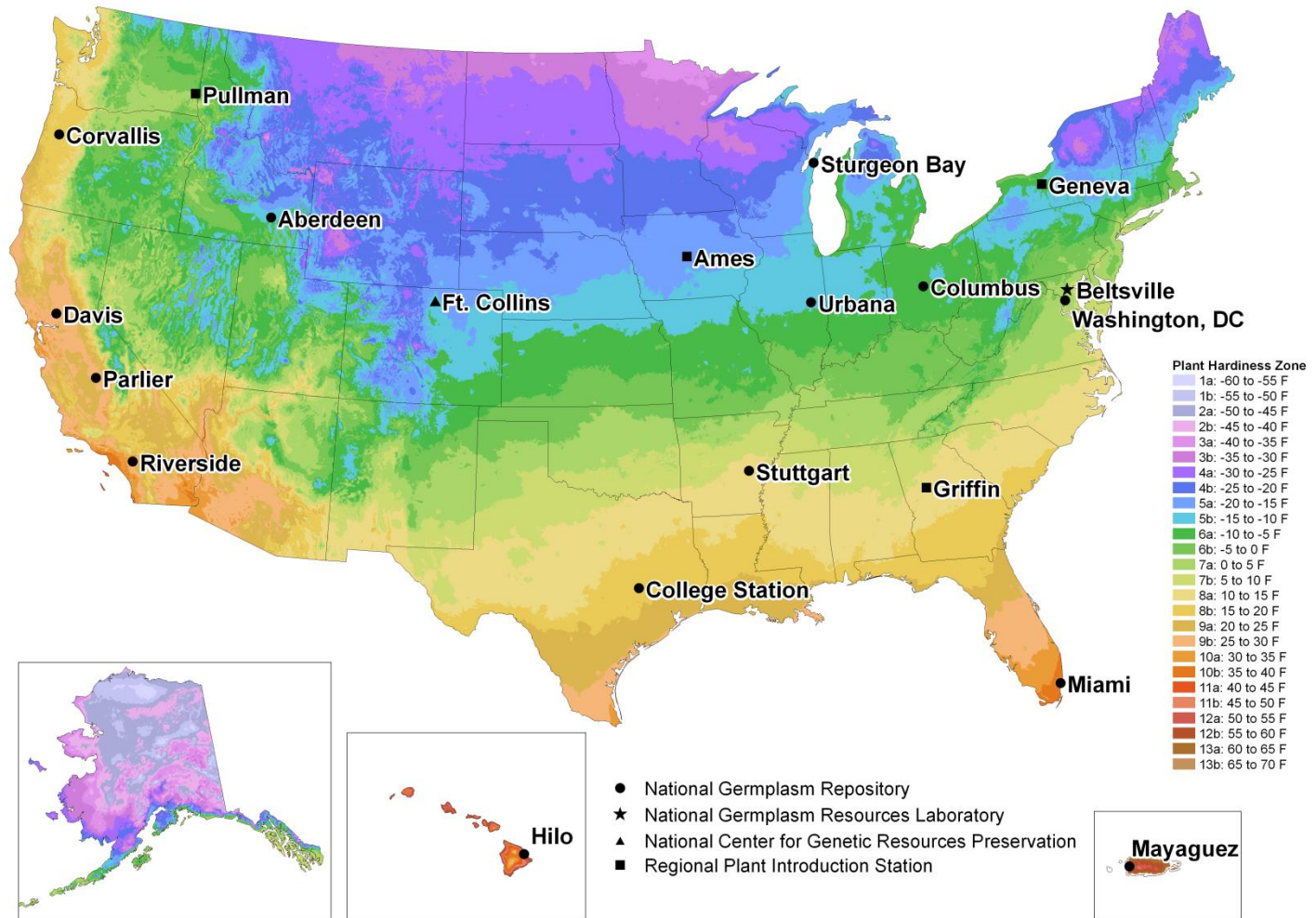


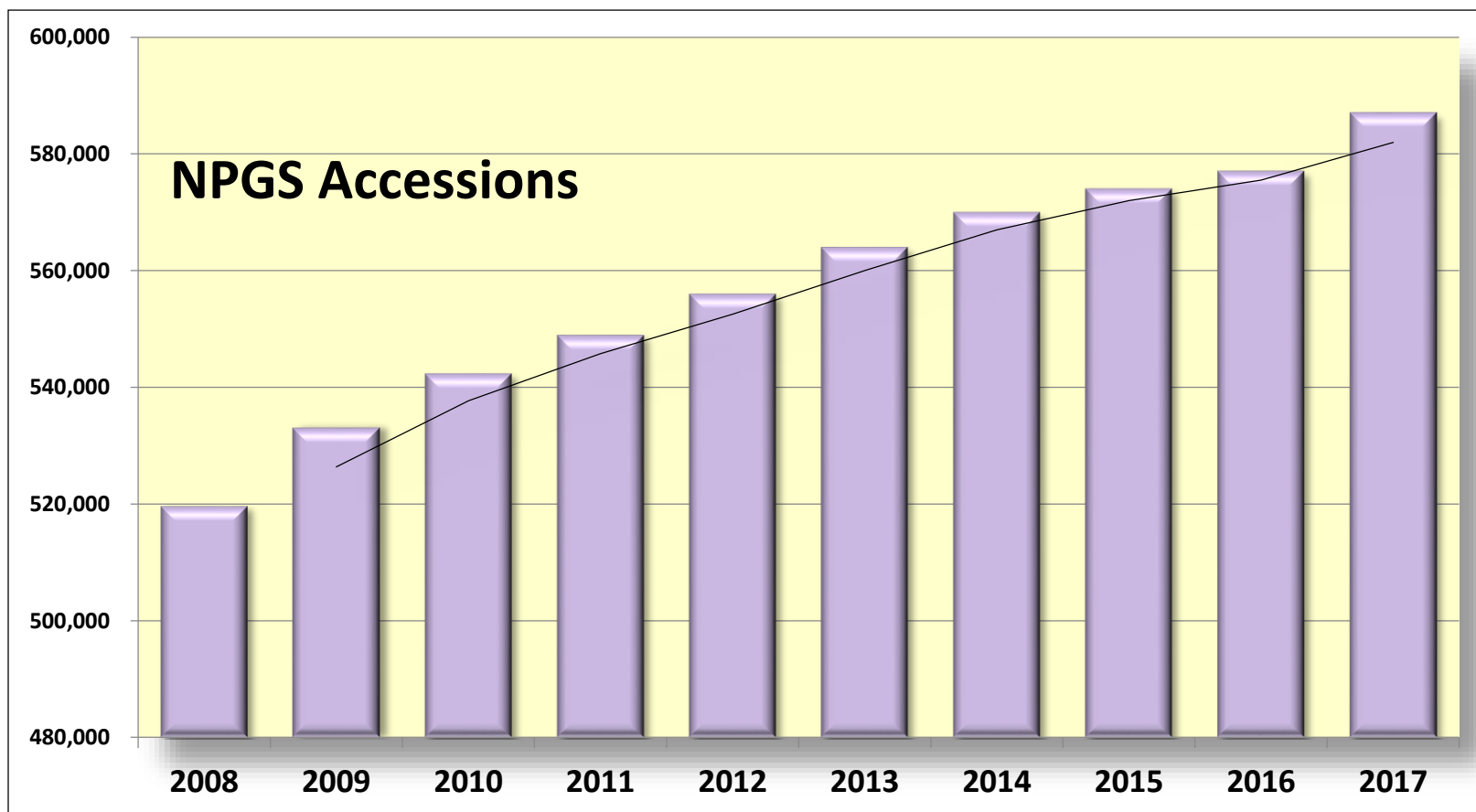
The National Plant Germplasm System: 2018 Status, Prospects, and Challenges

Peter Bretting
USDA/ARS Office of National Programs
Peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov
1.301.504.5541

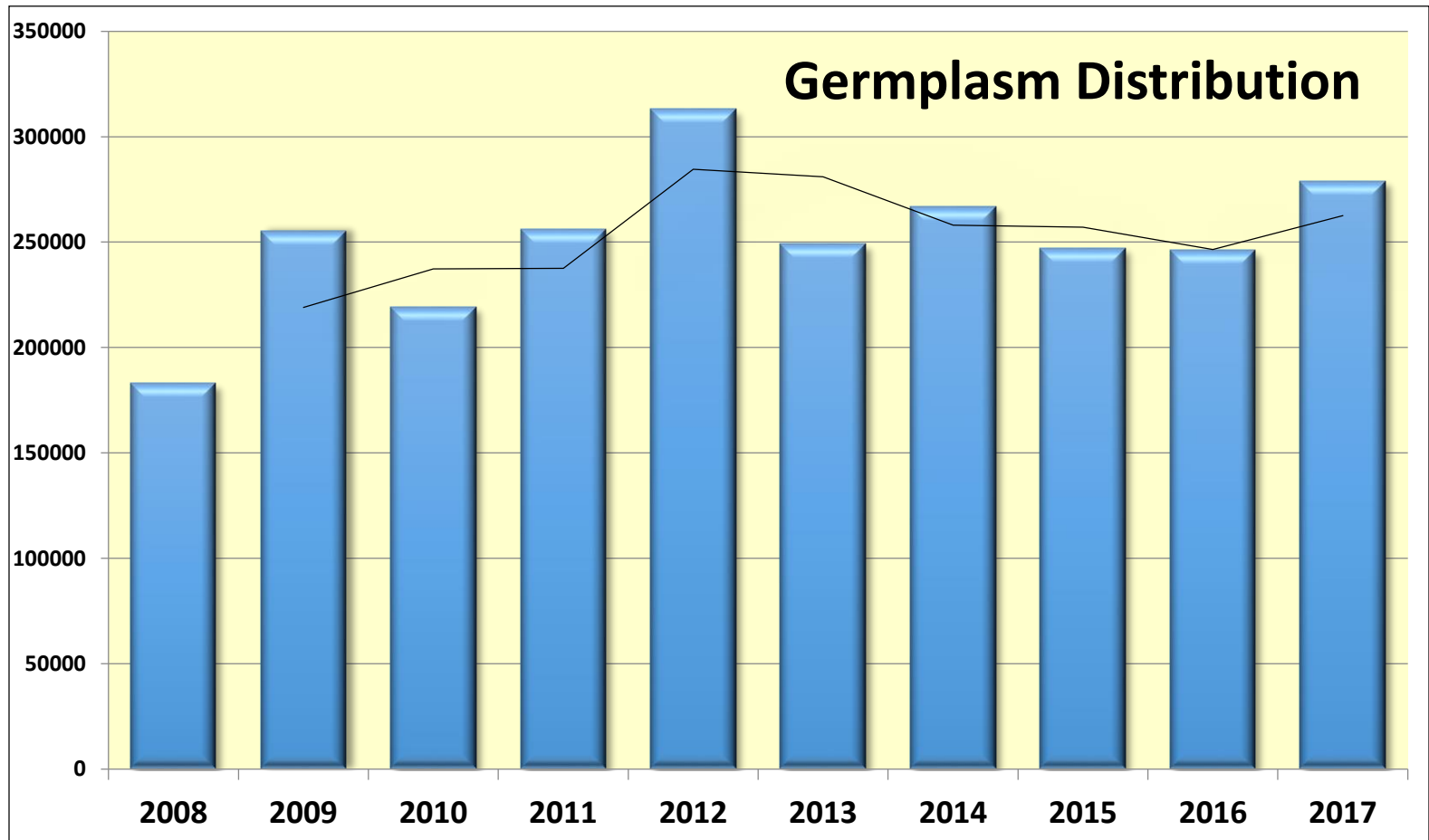
USDA National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS)



NUMBER OF NPGS ACCESSIONS 2008-2017



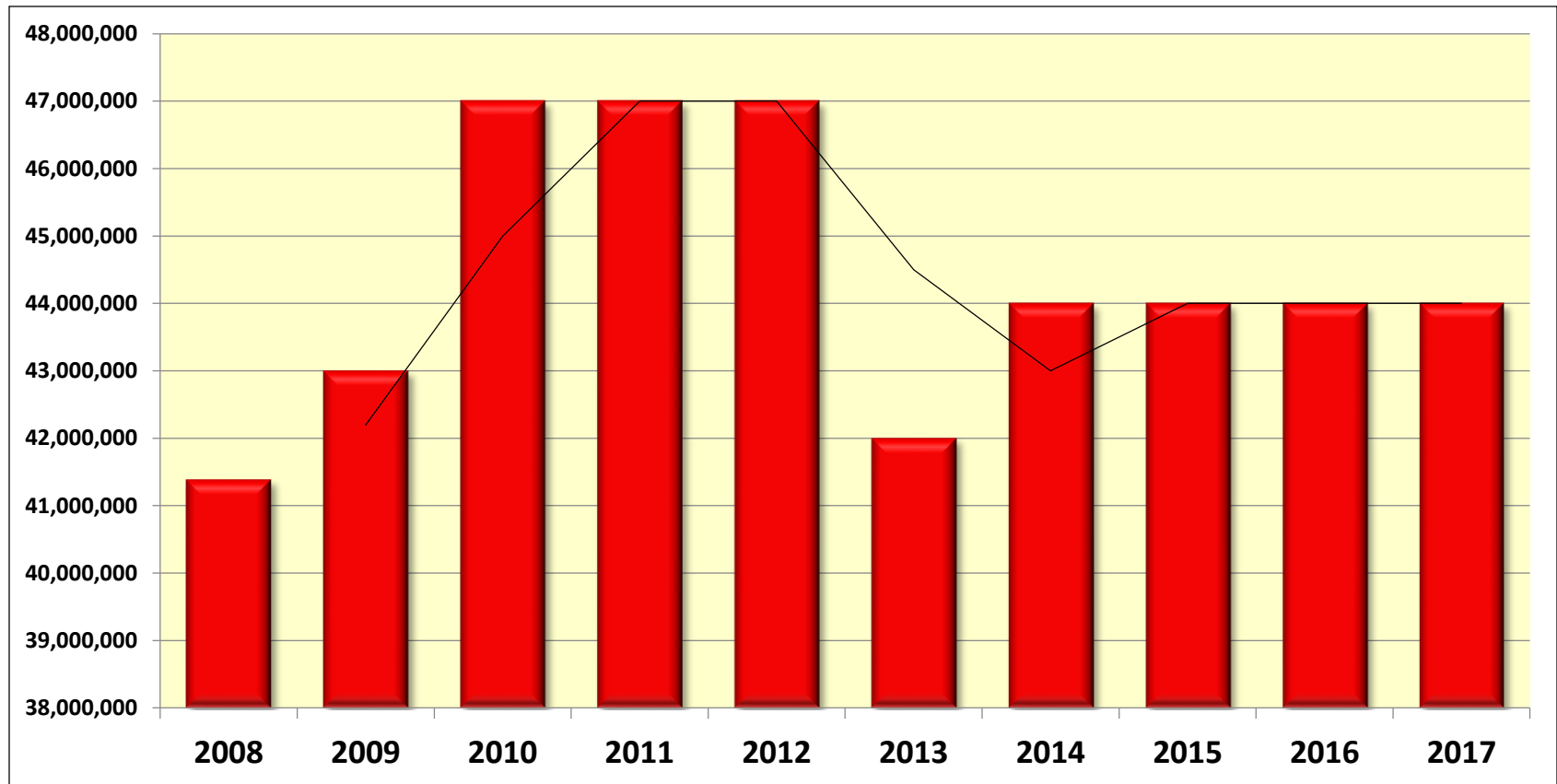
DEMAND FOR NPGS GERMPLASM 2008-2017



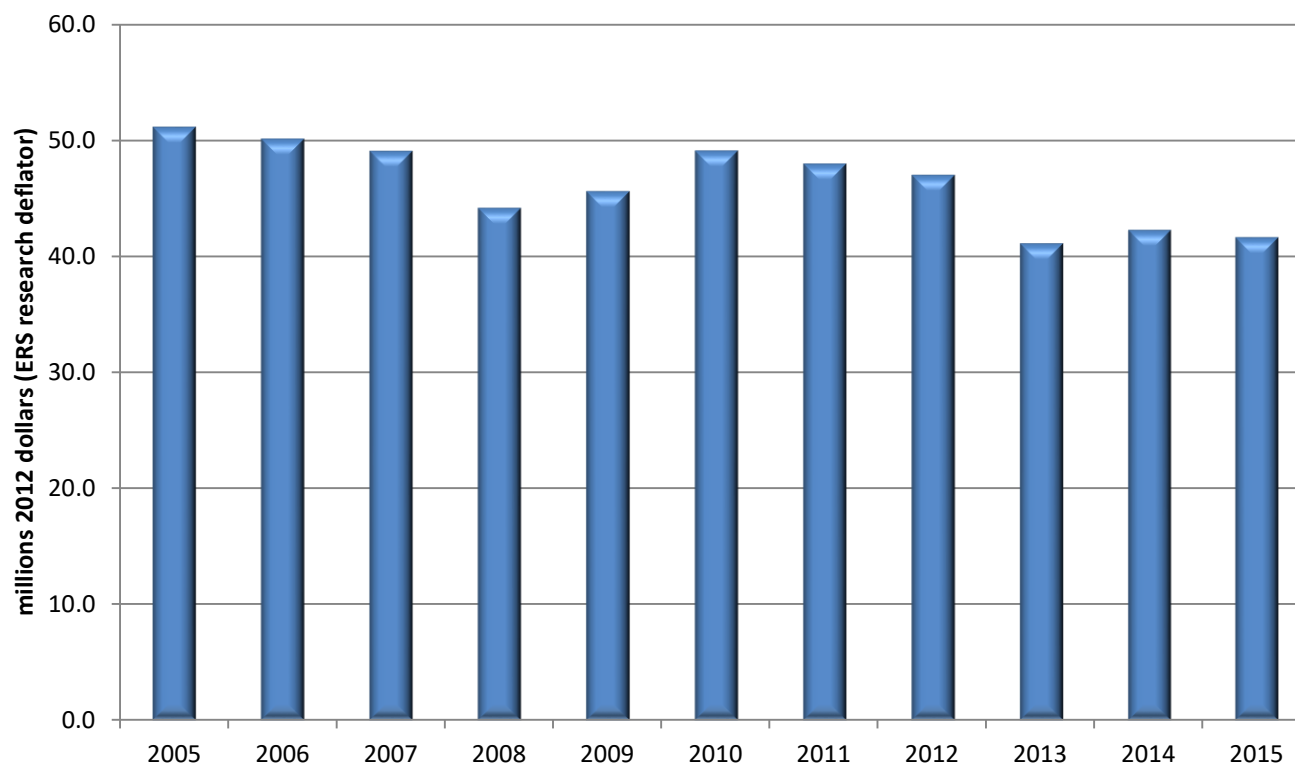
ARS NATIONAL PLANT GERMPLASM SYSTEM

BUDGET

2008-2017



**Real ARS National Plant Germplasm System Budget,
2005-2015, converted to 2012 dollars with ERS
research deflator**



Note: Deflator for 2015 is preliminary

Some key challenges for the NPGS

- **Managing and expanding the NPGS operational capacity and infrastructure to meet the increased demand for germplasm and associated information.**
- **Recent and upcoming NPGS personnel retirements.**
- **Developing and applying cryopreservation and/or in vitro conservation methods for clonal germplasm.**
- **BMPs and procedures for managing accessions (and breeding stocks) with GE traits and the occurrence of adventitious presence (AP).**
- **Acquiring and conserving additional germplasm, especially of crop wild relatives.**

Genetic Resource Management Priorities

- **Acquisition**
- **Maintenance**
- **Regeneration**
- **Documentation and Data Management**
- **Distribution**
- **Characterization**
- **Evaluation**
- **Enhancement**
- **Research in support of the preceding priorities**

Personnel Changes

- Farewell and best wishes to John Wiersema, nomenclaturist extraordinaire (ARS-Beltsville); Dave Stout—2nd time for him!—seed manager and GRIN-Global whiz (ARS-Pullman); Jack Peters, excellent technician (ARS-Corvallis).
- Welcome and best wishes to Ben Gutierrez, new cold-hardy grape curator at ARS-Geneva.
- With hiring freeze lifted, we hope to hire additional staff in the near future.

Plant Genetic Resource (PGR) Management Training Initiative

- **At least 1/3 of NPGS PGR managers could (likely will) retire within 5 years.**
- **Currently, no formal, comprehensive program exists for training new PGR managers.**
- **G. Volk (ARS-Ft. Collins) and P. Byrne (CSU-Ft. C.) secured a USDA/NIFA grant for a workshop at Ft. C. 24-26 April 2018 that discussed designing & developing a training program for PGR management to be delivered primarily through distance-learning.**
- **The workshop generated numerous insights; another grant (Higher Education Challenge) was already submitted to extend concepts and ideas from the workshop.**