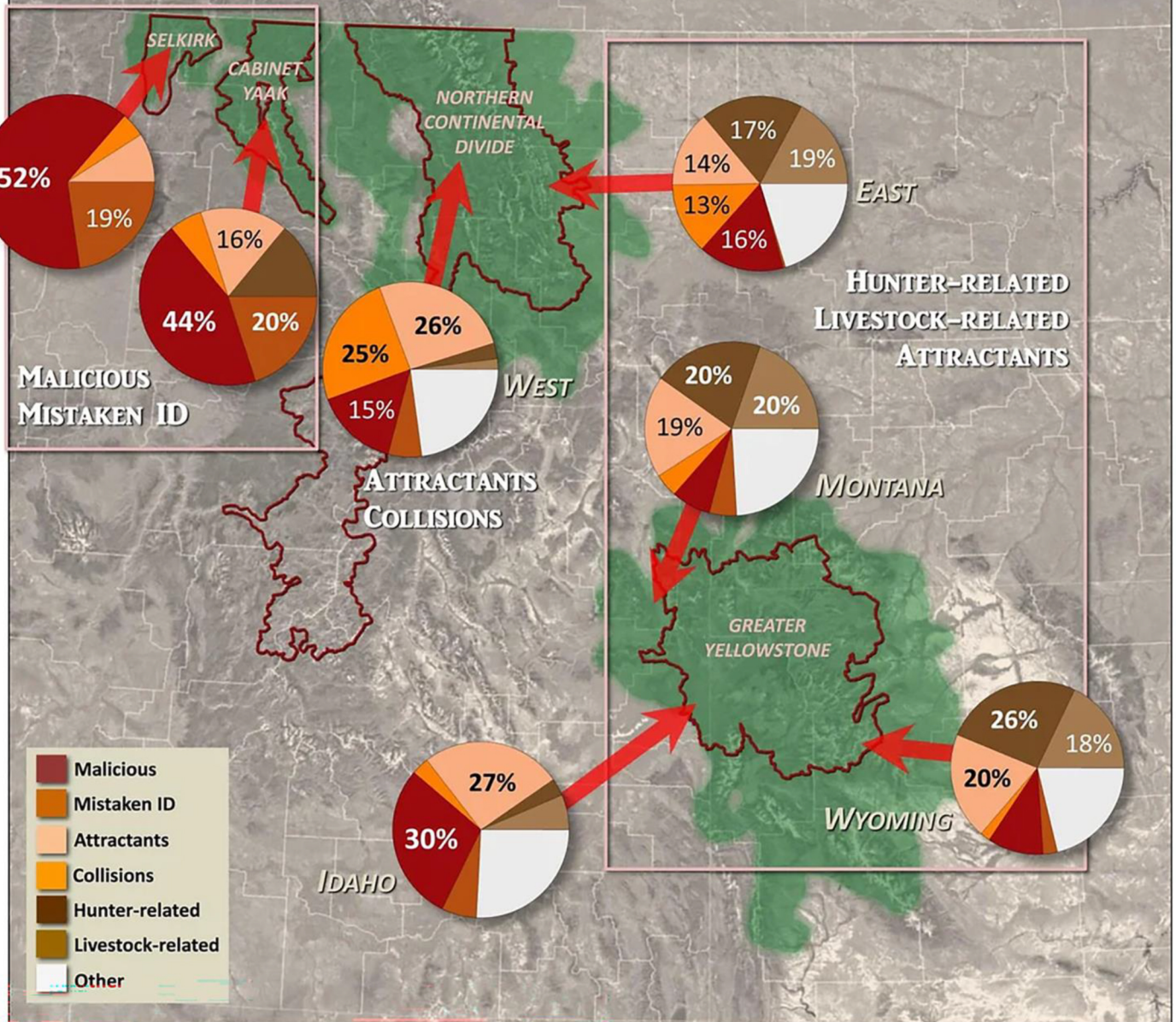


Regional Causes of Grizzly Bear Death – Northern Rockies

Grizzly Times <https://www.grizzlytimes.org/patterns-of-mortality>

by David Mattson

Regional Composition of Causes of Grizzly Bear Deaths



The pie diagrams in this figure represent proportional causes of grizzly bear mortality for different regions of the US Northern Rocky Mountains, with percentages given for dominant causes. The key for causes is shown in the bottom left-hand corner; gray denotes miscellaneous other causes, including natural ones such as predation and disease. Causes vary substantially from one region to another, but with shared patterns moving from west to east. Grizzly bears in the Montana and Wyoming portions of the Greater Yellowstone (GYE) and along the East Front of the Northern Continental Divide (NCDE) die much more often because of conflicts with big game hunters and livestock producers compared to bears farther west. Grizzly bears in the Selkirk Mountains and Cabinet-Yaak die proportionately much more often from poaching (i.e., malicious killing) and because of mistaken identifications by black bear hunters. Bears on the west side of the NCDE, in areas near the Flathead and Mission Valleys, die far more often because of collisions with vehicles and conflicts over attractants at human residences—both of which are associated with high densities of people living in and travelling through this region.