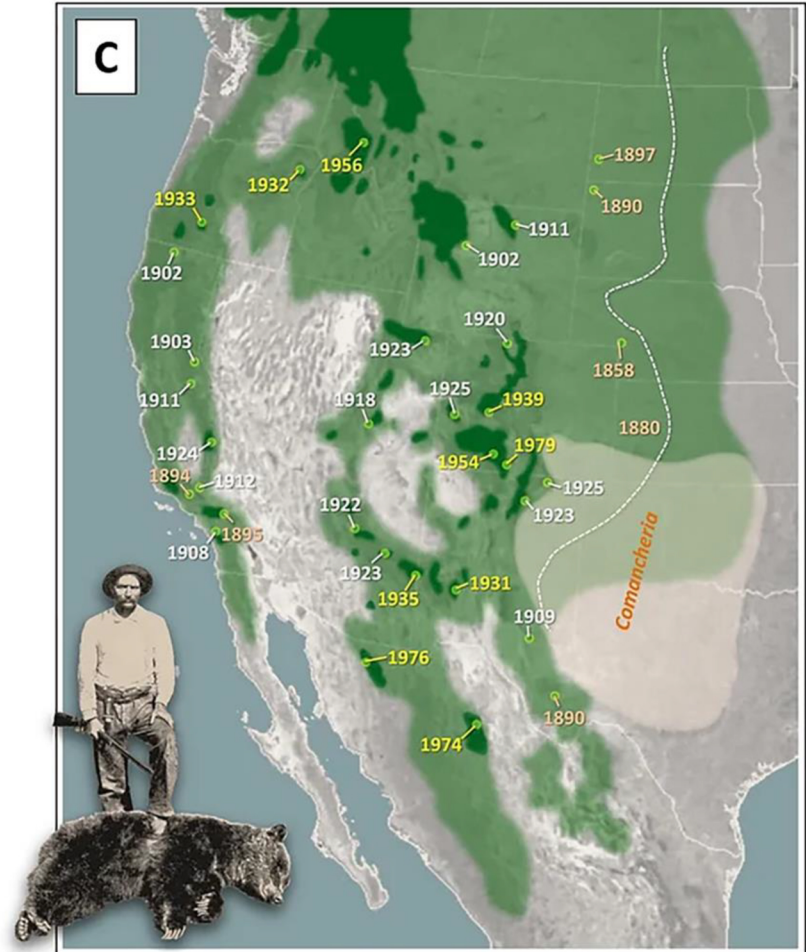
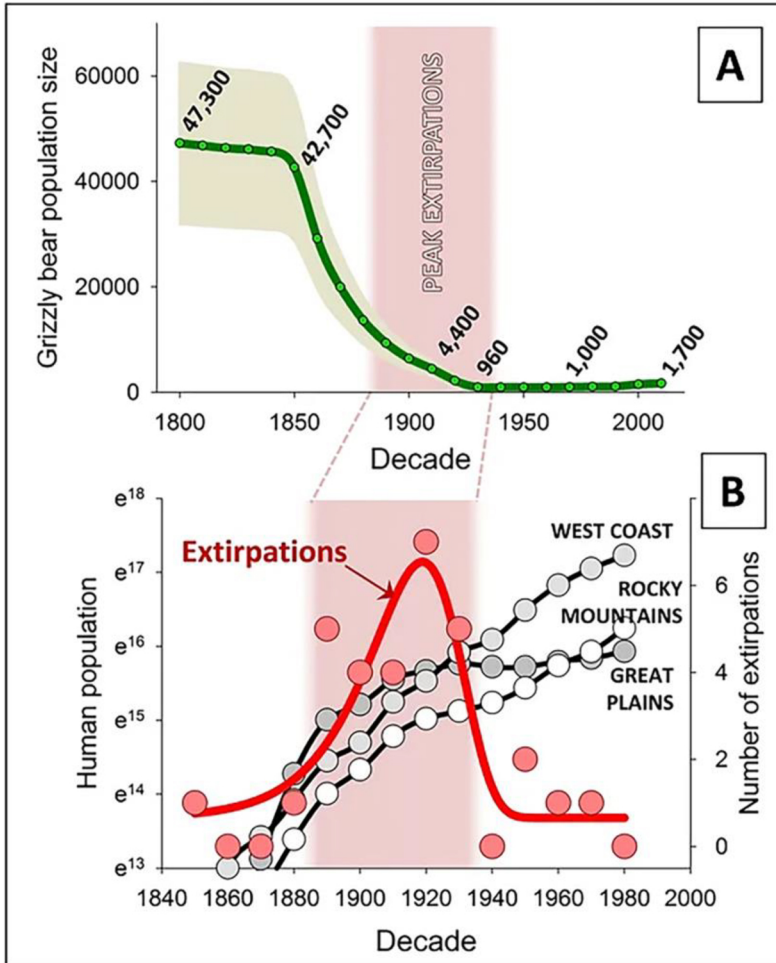


The Last Grizzlies

Grizzly Times <https://www.grizzlytimes.org/grizzly-bear-extirpations>

by David Mattson



Figures (A) and (B) show the pace and cumulative toll of grizzly bear extirpations in Mexico and the western United States between 1800 and 1980. Graph (A) shows estimated numbers of grizzlies over time in the western U.S., with median estimates shown by the dark green line and bounds of uncertainty by the lighter green band. Graph (B) shows the number of local extirpations by decade as pink dots, with the trend shown as a light red line. The period of greatest local extirpations was clearly between 1880 and 1940—a brief 60 year period. The white and gray dots in (B) show total numbers of resident people in different regions of the West, suggesting that extirpations accelerated hard on the heels of rapid increases in populations of European settlers. The map in (C) shows dates and locations of known local extirpations, with the circa-1800 distribution of grizzlies shown in lighter green and the circa-1910 distribution shown in dark green. The area dominated by the Comanche during the early 1800s (Comancheria) is shown in light orange, coincident with where grizzlies had been extirpated by 1850 on the southern Great Plains.