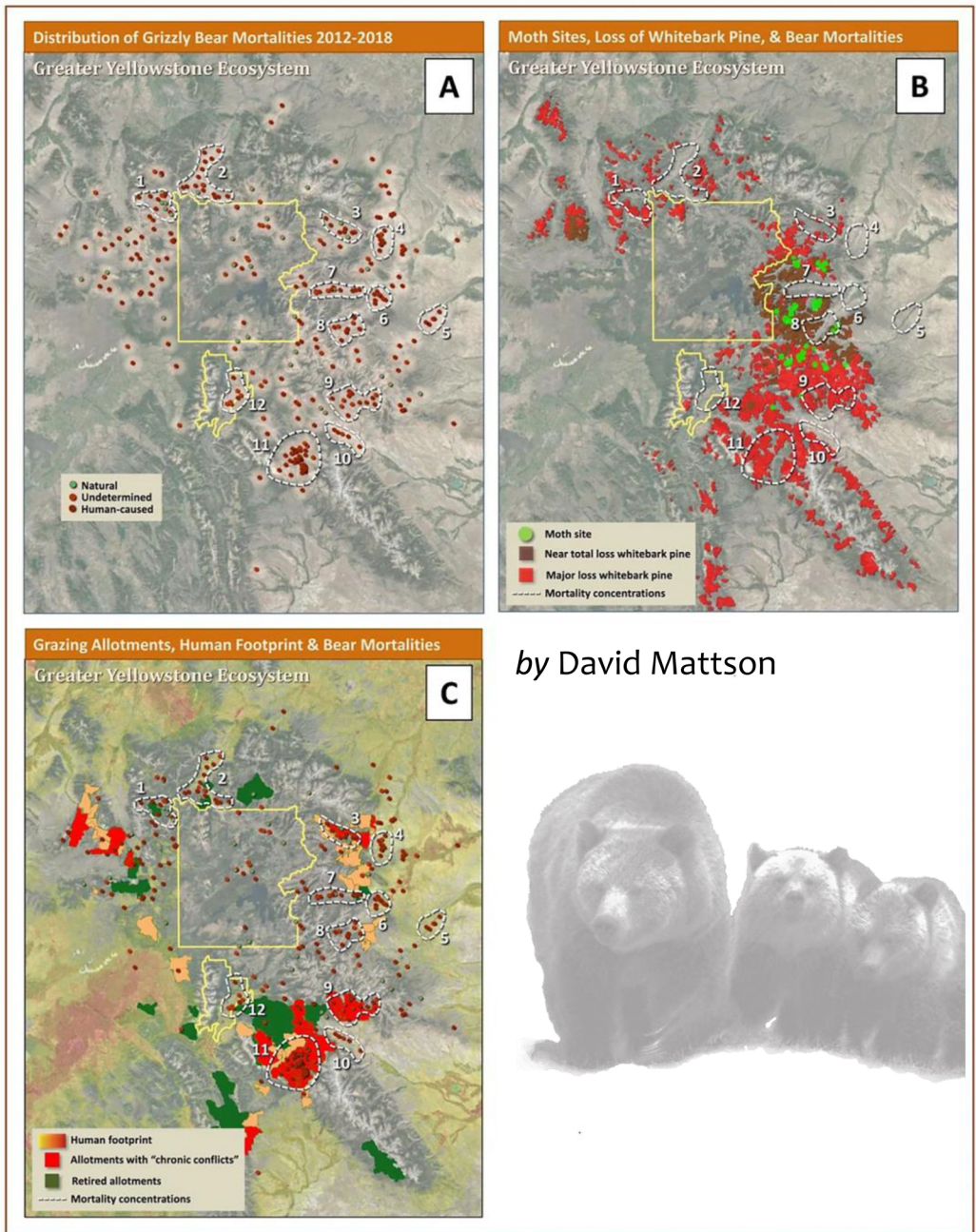


Patterns of Mortality – Yellowstone Ecosystem

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



These three maps show the distribution of grizzly bear mortalities in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem during 2012-2018 relative to different causal factors. Map (A) identifies clusters of mortalities that are shown in (B) and (C). Map (B) shows clusters relative to areas with heavy whitebark pine mortality during 2002-2009 (denoted by red and burgundy) and sites where grizzlies fed on army cutworm moths (denoted by green dots). Map (C) shows mortality clusters relative to the human footprint (in shades of yellow to orange) and public-land grazing allotments differentiated by whether these allotments experienced chronic bear depredations (red), something less than chronic conflicts (orange), or had been retired (green). The major points to be taken away from these maps are, first, many mortality hotspots are spatially associated with heavy losses of whitebark pine that were not offset by nearby availability of moth sites (hotspots 1, 3, 9, 10, 11); second, a heavier human footprint was associated with only a handful of hotspots (2, 4, 5); and, third, most hotspots were associated with public-land grazing allotments in areas with heavy losses of whitebark pine, but with the Upper Green River area (hotspot 11) standing out from all of the rest. Notably virtually no grizzly bears died in grazing allotments that had been retired