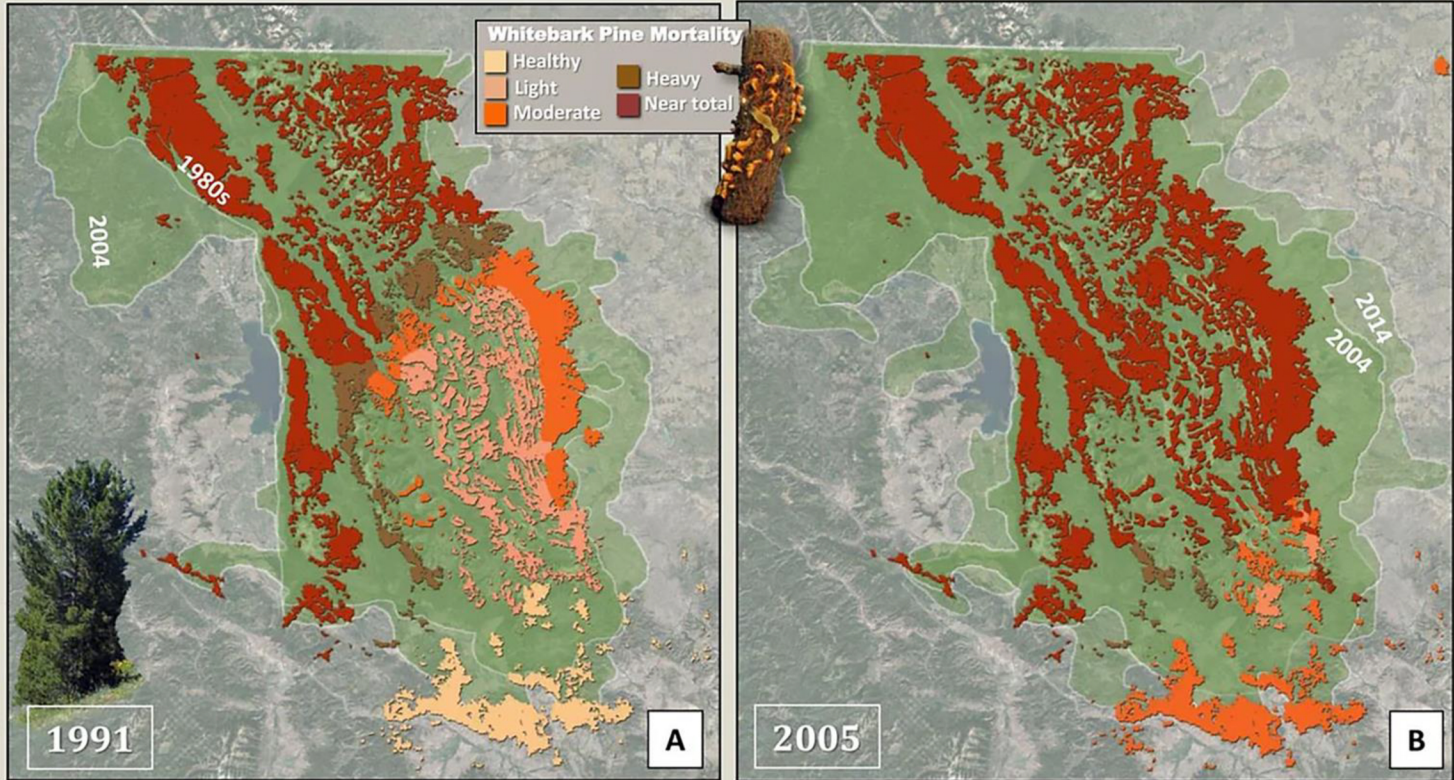


Trends in Availability of Whitebark Pine – Northern Continental Divide

Grizzly Times <https://www.grizzlytimes.org/trends-in-habitat>

by David Mattson

Whitebark Pine: Northern Continental Divide



These maps show levels of whitebark pine mortality caused by white pine blister rust (a non-native fungal pathogen) in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) circa 1991 (A) and 2005 (B). Comparatively healthy forests are shown in tan; areas with near total loss of whitebark pine are shown in burgundy. Whitebark pine seeds were an important food of grizzly bears along the East Front of the NCDE prior to 2000. Loss of pine seeds in this area probably contributed to increased grizzly bear activity on lower elevation agricultural lands along the East Front. The estimated extent of whitebark pine mortality was taken from Keane & Arno (1993), Keane et al. (1994), and Retzlaff et al. (2016).