



Evaluation of the Sensitivity of Inventory and Monitoring National Parks to Acidification Effects from Atmospheric Sulfur and Nitrogen Deposition

Central Alaska Network (CAKN)

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/ARD/NRR—2011/352



ON THE COVER

Some ecosystems and vegetation types, such as remote high-elevation lakes, sugar maple trees, headwater streams, and red spruce trees, are sensitive to the effects of acidification from atmospheric nitrogen and sulfur deposition.

Photograph by: National Park Service

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This report received peer review by subject-matter experts who were not directly involved in the collection, analysis, or reporting of the data. Data in this report were collected and analyzed using methods based on established, peer-reviewed protocols and were analyzed and interpreted within the guidelines of the protocols.

Views, statements, findings, conclusions, recommendations, and data in this report do not necessarily reflect views and policies of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use by the U.S. Government.

This report is available from Air Resources Division of the NPS (<http://www.nature.nps.gov/air/Permits/ARIS/networks/acidification-eval.cfm>) and the Natural Resource Publications Management website (<http://www.nature.nps.gov/publications/nrpm/>).

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Central Alaska Network (CAKN)

National maps of atmospheric S and N emissions and deposition are provided in Maps A through D as context for subsequent network data presentations. Maps A and B show county level emissions of total S and N, respectively, for the year 2002. Map C and D show total S and N deposition, again for the year 2002. Regional atmospheric deposition data are not available for Alaska, although deposition of both S and N would be expected to be very low throughout most, but not necessarily all, of Alaska.

The Central Alaska Network contains three parks: Denali (DENA), Wrangell-St. Elias (WRST), and Yukon-Charley River (YUCH). All are larger than 100 square miles.

Total annual S and N emissions, by county, are shown in Map E and F for lands in and surrounding the Central Alaska Network. County-level S and N emissions within most of the network were both less than 1 ton per square mile. Only one county showed higher N emissions, in the range of 1 to 5 tons per square mile per year (Map F). Point source S emissions within the network are shown in Map G. There were few S point sources in or around the network. Most point sources in the network emitted less than 5,000 tons of S per year (Map G). Point source emissions of oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO_x) and reduced (ammonia, NH_3) N are shown in Map H. No point sources emitted more than 1,000 tons of N per year, and there were very few point sources of any magnitude within the network. Point sources that did occur within the network were mainly sources of oxidized, rather than reduced, N (Map H).

There are only two urban centers within the network and only one additional urban center within a 300-mile buffer around the network (Map I). Emissions from urban centers are not expected to be particularly important to the parks in this network.

Maps J and K are not shown for this network because regional total S and N deposition data are not available for networks in Alaska. There are five active NADP/NTN wet deposition monitoring sites in Alaska: Poker Creek, Juneau, DENA, Gates of the Arctic National Park, and Katmai National Park, with data collected since 1980 at DENA and since 1993 at Poker Creek. The other three monitoring sites have been added within the last decade. There are also Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET) dry deposition measurements at DENA and Poker Flats. At all monitored sites in Alaska, wet N deposition has consistently been less than 1 kg N/ha/yr, and it has been less than 0.5 kg N/ha/yr at all monitored sites except Juneau. Wet S deposition has been slightly higher than 1 kg S/ha/yr at Juneau, but less than that at the other monitoring sites. The CASTNET dry deposition measurements have also been low. Thus, the sparse available atmospheric deposition data for Alaska are consistent with the general understanding that atmospheric deposition of both N and S tends to be very low at national park lands within Alaska. It can be assumed that S and N deposition across each of the Alaskan networks would be lower than about 1 or 2 kg/ha/yr, on average.

Land cover in and around the network is shown in Map L. The predominant cover types within this network are generally forest, shrubland, and perennial ice and snow.

Map M displays land slope across park lands in the network. Land slope is variable, but most park lands have relatively low relief. YUCH has average watershed slope of less than 20°. WRST

and DENA have more variable slopes within their respective park lands, with most of each park having less than 20° slope and a few HUC watersheds having slope between 20° and 30° (Map M).

Park lands requiring special protection against potential adverse impacts associated with acidification from acid deposition are shown on Map N. Also shown on Map N are all federal lands designated as wilderness, both lands managed by NPS and lands managed by other federal agencies. The land designations used to identify this heightened protection included Class I designation under the Clean Air Act Amendments and wilderness designation. There are large areas designated as wilderness and as Class I within the network.

Network rankings are given in Figures A through C as the average ranking of the Pollutant Exposure, Ecosystem Sensitivity, and Park Protection metrics, respectively. Figure D shows the overall network Summary Risk ranking. In each figure, the rank for this particular network is highlighted to show its relative position compared with the ranks of the other 31 networks.

The Central Alaska Network ranked in the middle of the lowest quintile, among networks, in Pollutant Exposure (Figure A). Sulfur and nitrogen emissions within the network and expected S and N deposition within the network were very low. The network Ecosystem Sensitivity was ranked as Moderate (Figure B). This network ranked in the top quintile in Park Protection (Figure C), having substantial amounts of protected lands.

In combination, the network rankings for Pollutant Exposure, Ecosystem Sensitivity, and Park Protection yielded an overall network Summary Risk ranking that is near the middle of the distribution among all networks (Figure D).

Similarly, park rankings are given in Figures E through H for the same metrics. In the case of the park rankings, we only show in the figures the parks that are larger than 100 square miles. Relative ranks for all parks, including the smaller parks, are given in Table A and Appendix A. As for the network ranking figures, the park ranking figures highlight those parks that occur in this network to show their relative position compared with parks in the other 31 networks. Note that the rankings shown in Figures E through H reflect the rank of a given park compared with all other parks, irrespective of size.

All three I&M parks in this network were ranked in the lowest quintile for Pollutant Exposure (Figure E). They were ranked Very High (DENA, WRST) to High (YUCH) in Ecosystem Sensitivity (Figure F). DENA and WRST were also ranked Very High for Park Protection, whereas YUCH was only ranked Moderate for this theme (Figure G). For the combined Summary Risk, YUCH was ranked as Moderate, and DENA and WRST were ranked High (Figure H, Table A). The overall level of concern for acidification in the parks in this network is considered Moderate to High.

Table A. Relative rankings of individual I&M parks within the network for Pollutant Exposure, Ecosystem Sensitivity, Park Protection, and overall Summary Risk from acidic deposition.

I&M Parks ² in Network	Relative Ranking of Individual Parks ¹			
	Pollutant Exposure	Ecosystem Sensitivity	Park Protection	Summary Risk
<i>Denali</i>	Very Low	Very High	Very High	High
<i>Wrangell-St. Elias</i>	Very Low	Very High	Very High	High
<i>Yukon-Charley Rivers</i>	Very Low	High	Moderate	Moderate

¹ Relative park rankings are designated according to quintile ranking, among all I&M Parks, from the lowest quintile (very low risk) to the highest quintile (very high risk).

² Park name is printed in bold italic for parks larger than 100 square miles.

Map A. National map of total S emissions by county for the year 2002, in units of tons of S per square mile per year. (Source of data: EPA National Emissions Inventory, <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html>)

Map B. National map of total N emissions by county for the year 2002. Both oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO_x) and reduced (ammonia, NH₃) forms of N are included. The total is expressed in tons per square mile per year. (Source of data: EPA National Emissions Inventory, <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html>)

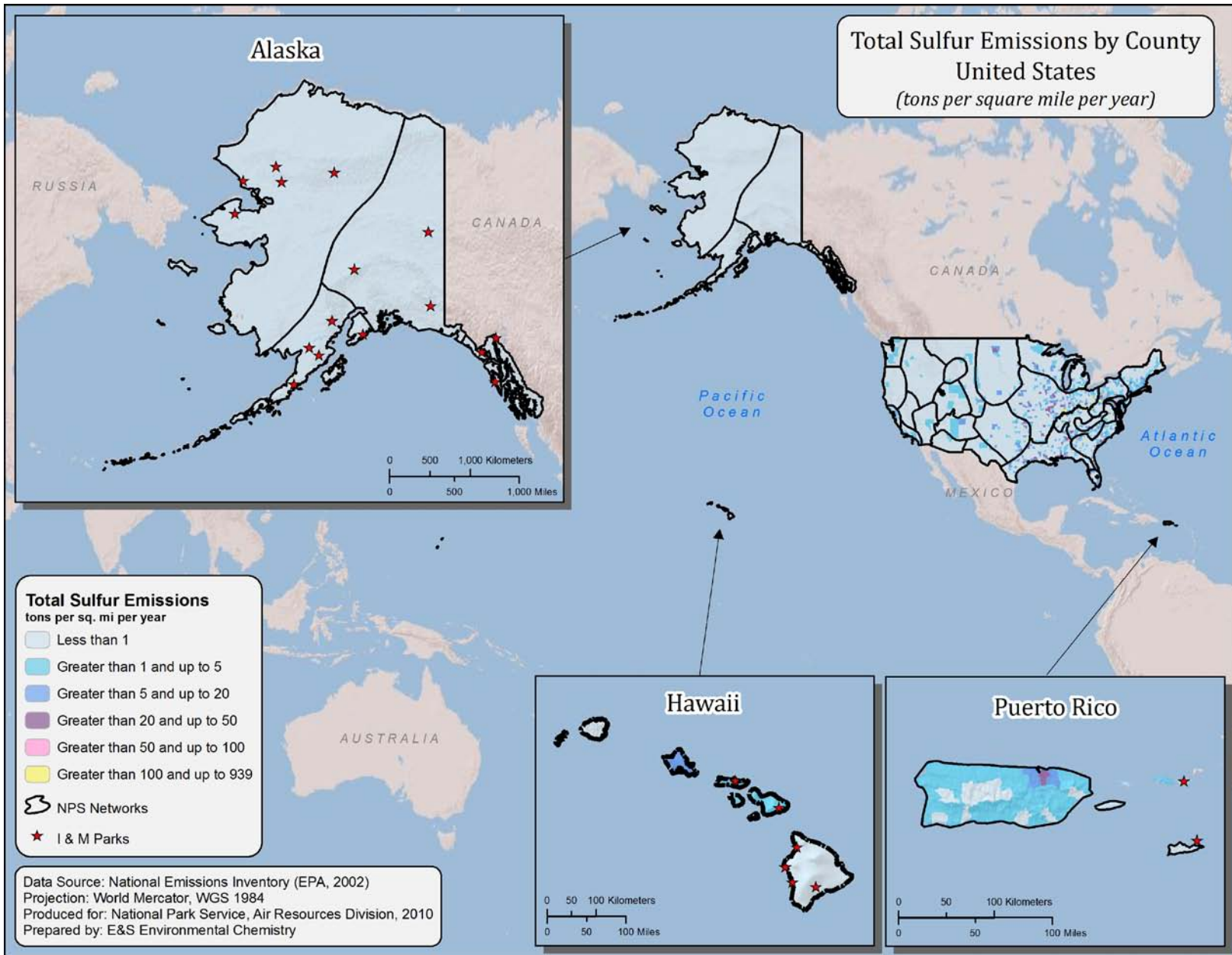
Map C. Regional S deposition data are not available for Alaska. Total S deposition throughout most areas in Alaska is expected to be low, below about 1 to 2 kilograms of S per hectare per year. Total S deposition for the continental United States is presented for context here for the year 2002, expressed in units of kilograms of S deposited from the atmosphere to the earth surface per hectare per year. Wet and dry forms of deposition are included. For the eastern half of the country, wet deposition values were derived from interpolated measured values from NADP (three-year average centered on 2002) and dry deposition values were derived from 12-km CMAQ model projections for 2002. For the western half of the country, both wet and dry deposition values were derived from 36-km CMAQ model projections for 2002. NADP interpolations were performed using the approach of Grimm and Lynch (1997). CMAQ model projections were provided by Robin Dennis, U.S. EPA.

Map D. Regional N deposition data are not available for Alaska. Total N deposition throughout most areas in Alaska is expected to be low, below about 1 to 2 kilograms of N per hectare per year. Total N deposition for the continental United States is presented for context here for the year 2002, expressed in units of kilograms of N deposited from the atmosphere to the earth surface per hectare per year. Wet and dry forms of both oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO_x) and reduced (ammonia, NH₃) N are included. For the eastern half of the country, wet deposition values were derived from interpolated measured values from NADP (three-year average centered on 2002) and dry deposition values were derived from 12-km CMAQ model projections for 2002. For the western half of the country, both wet and dry deposition values were derived from 36-km CMAQ model projections for 2002. NADP interpolations were performed

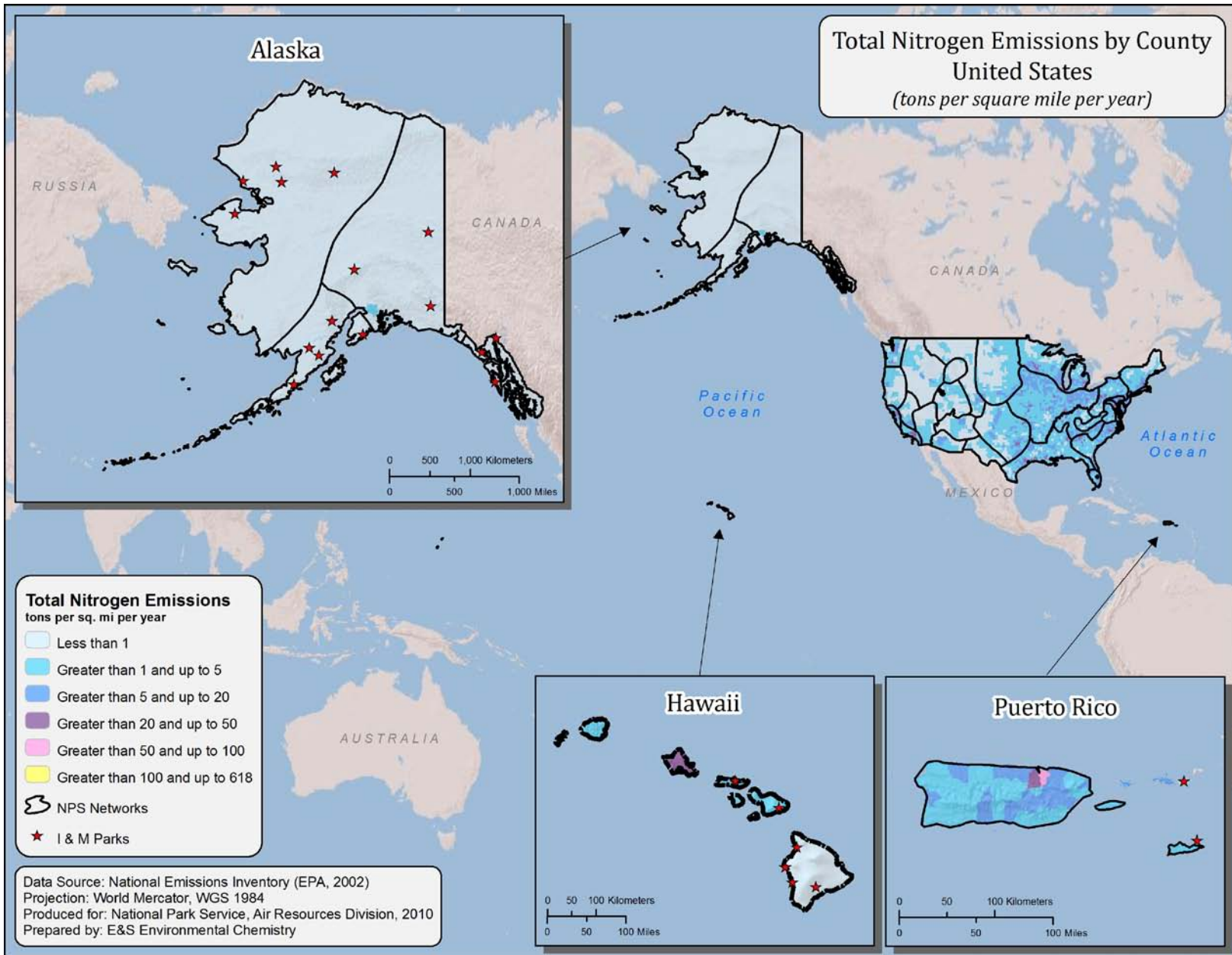
using the approach of Grimm and Lynch (1997). CMAQ model projections were provided by Robin Dennis, U.S. EPA.

- Map E. Total S emissions by county for lands surrounding the network, expressed as tons of S emitted into the atmosphere per square mile per year. (Source of data: EPA National Emissions Inventory, <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html>)
- Map F. Total N emissions by county for lands surrounding the network, expressed as tons of N emitted into the atmosphere per square mile per year. The total includes both oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO_x) and reduced (ammonia, NH₃) N. (Source of data: EPA National Emissions Inventory, <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html>)
- Map G. Major point source emissions of SO₂ for lands surrounding the network. (Source of data: EPA National Emissions Inventory, <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html>)
- Map H. Major point source emissions of oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO_x) and reduced (ammonia, NH₃) N in and around the network. The base of each vertical bar is positioned in the map at the approximate location of the source. The height of the bar is proportional to the magnitude of the source. (Source of data: EPA National Emissions Inventory, <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html>)
- Map I. Urban centers having more than 10,000 people within the network and within a 300-mile buffer around the perimeter of the network. (Source of data: U.S. Census 2000)
- Map L. Land cover types in and around the network, based on the National Land Cover dataset. (Source of data: National Land Cover Dataset, http://www.mrlc.gov/nlcd_multizone_map.php)
- Map M. Average land slope within park units that occur within the network, by 10-digit HUC. (Source of data: U.S. EPA National Elevation Dataset [<http://ned.usgs.gov/>])
- Map N. Lands within the network that are classified as Class I or wilderness area. (Source of data: USGS 2005 [National Atlas; <http://nationalatlas.gov>] and NPS)
- Figure A. Network rankings for Pollutant Exposure, calculated as the average of scores for all Pollutant Exposure variables.
- Figure B. Network rankings for Ecosystem Sensitivity, calculated as the average of scores for all Ecosystem Sensitivity variables.
- Figure C. Network rankings for Park Protection, calculated as the average of scores for all Park Protection variables.
- Figure D. Network Summary Risk rankings, calculated as the average of the quintile ranks for the Pollutant Exposure, Ecosystem Sensitivity, and Park Protection themes.

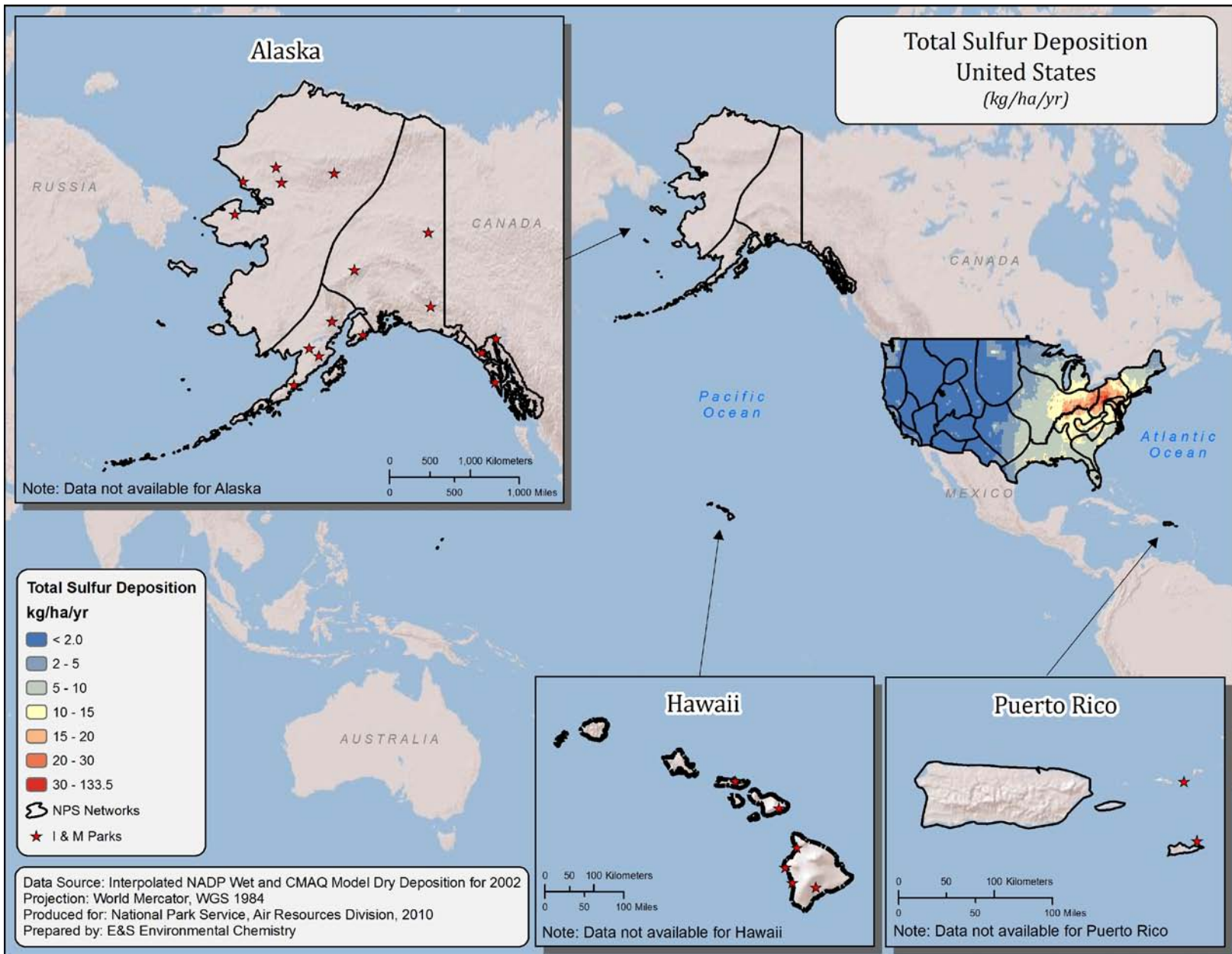
- Figure E. Park rankings for Pollutant Exposure for all parks larger than 100 square miles. Ranks for each park were calculated relative to all parks, regardless of size, as the average of scores for all Pollutant Exposure variables.
- Figure F. Park rankings for Ecosystem Sensitivity for all parks larger than 100 square miles. Ranks for each park were calculated relative to all parks, regardless of size, as the average of scores for all Ecosystem Sensitivity variables.
- Figure G. Park rankings for Park Protection for all parks larger than 100 square miles. Ranks for each park were calculated relative to all parks, regardless of size, as the average of scores for all Park Protection variables.
- Figure H. Park rankings for Summary Risk for all parks larger than 100 square miles. Ranks for each park were calculated relative to all parks, regardless of size, as the average of the quintile ranks for the Pollutant Exposure, Ecosystem Sensitivity, and Park Protection themes.



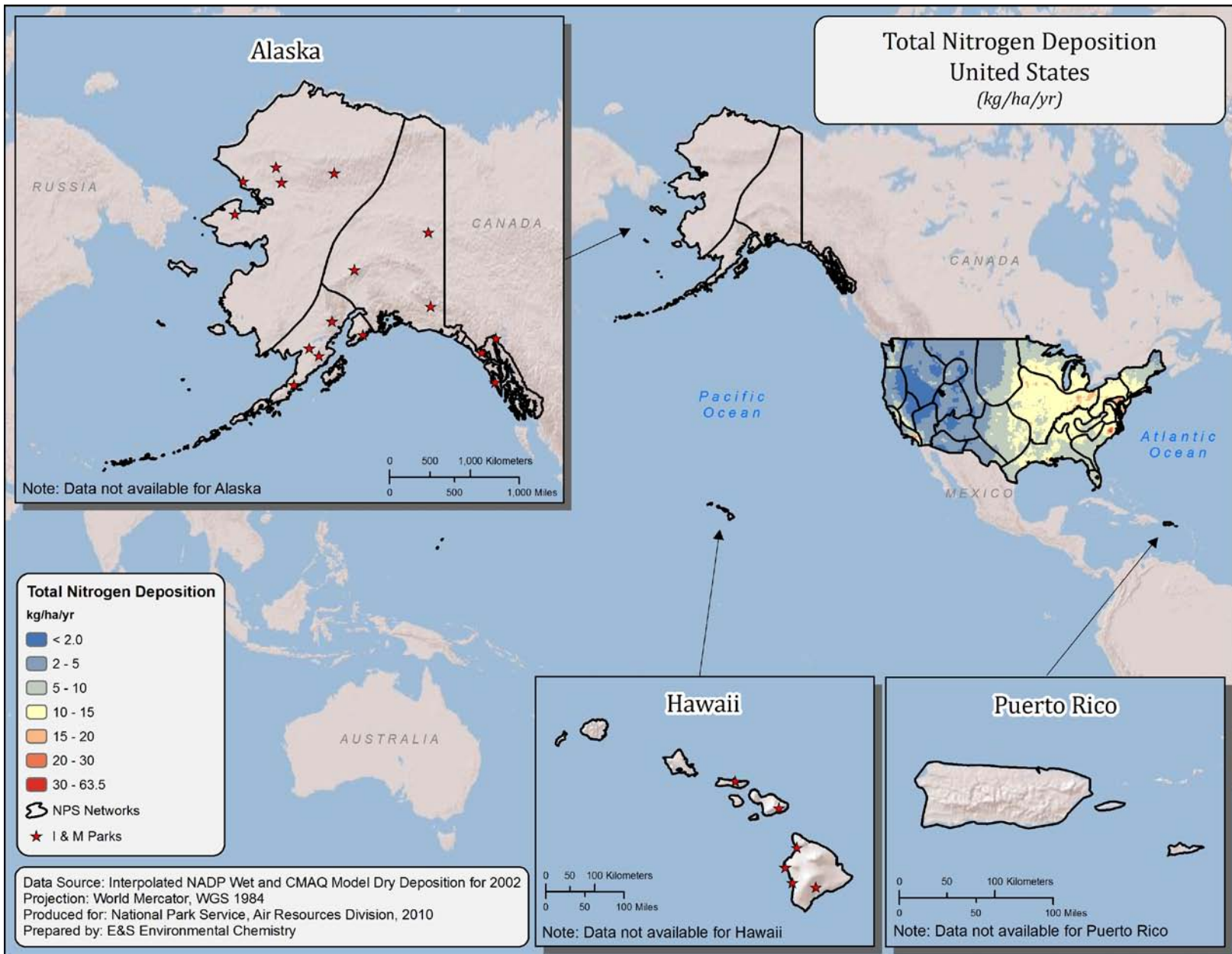
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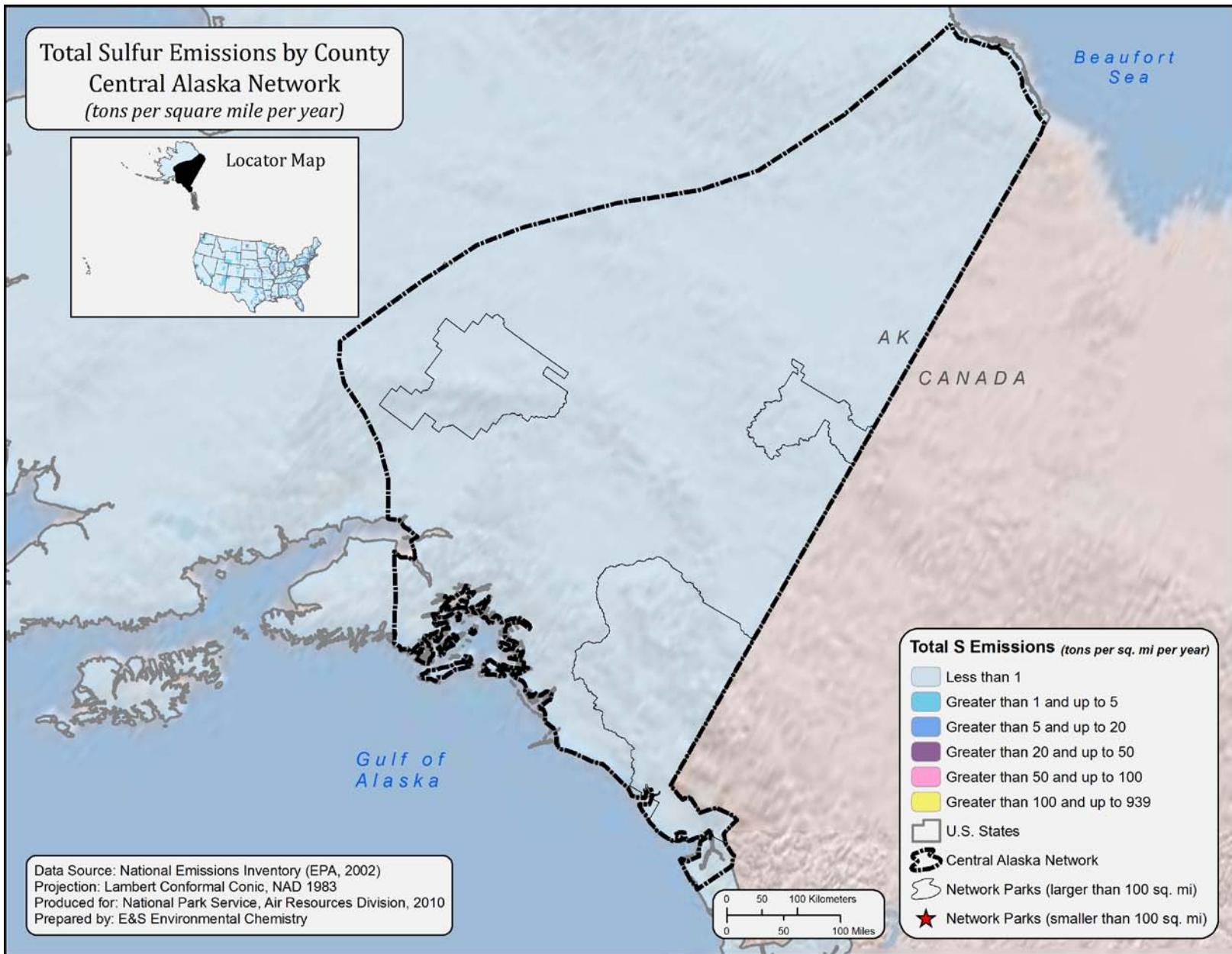
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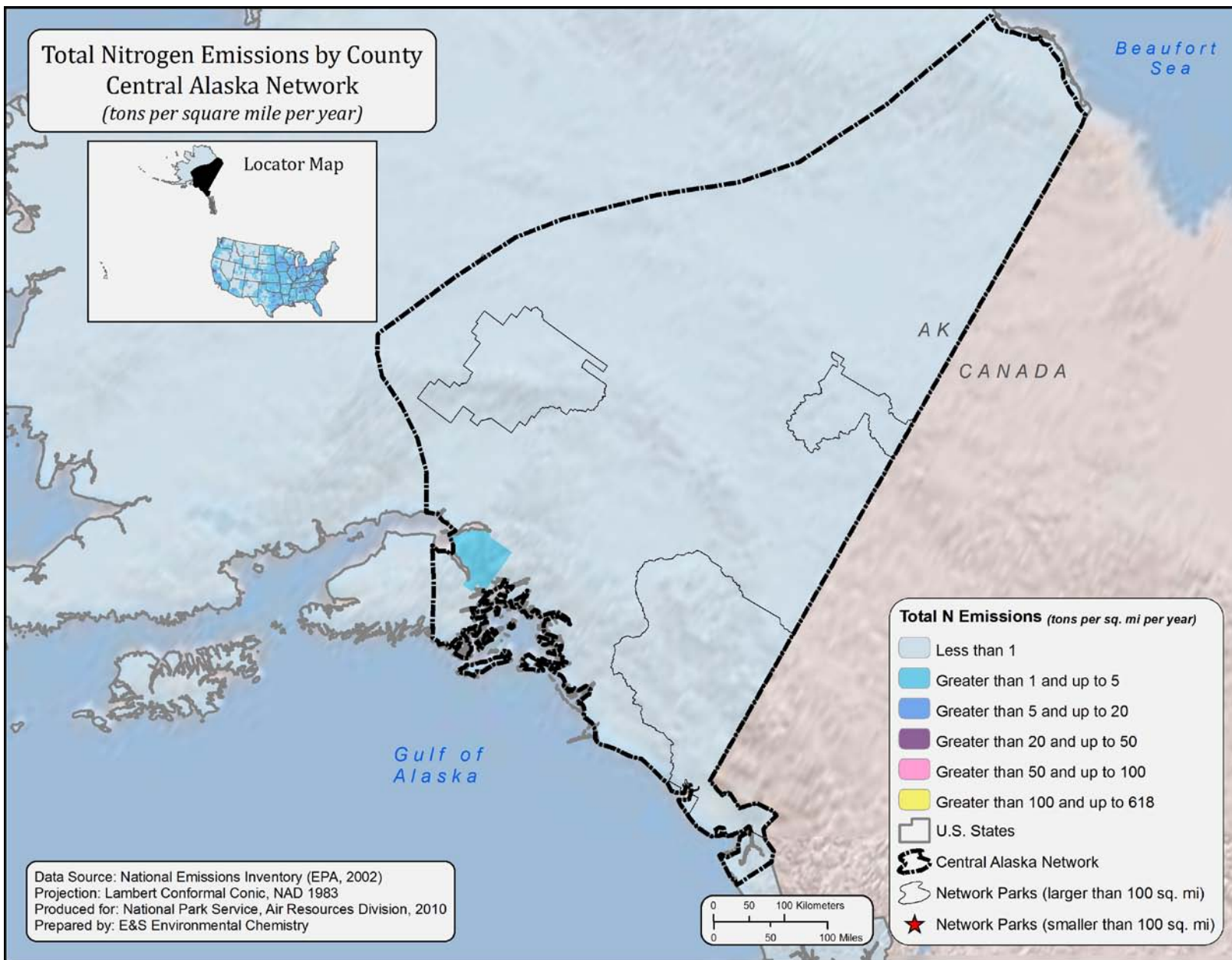
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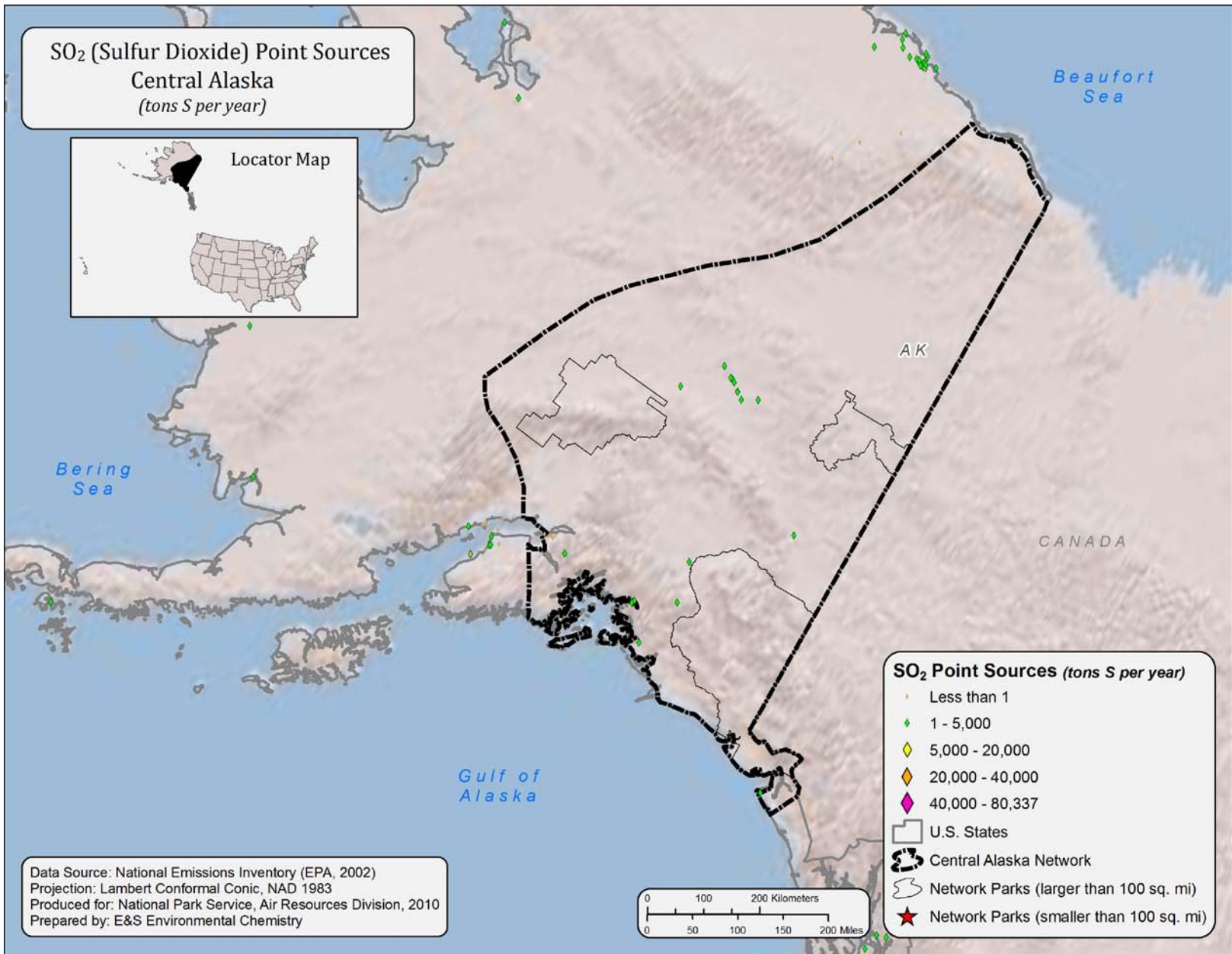
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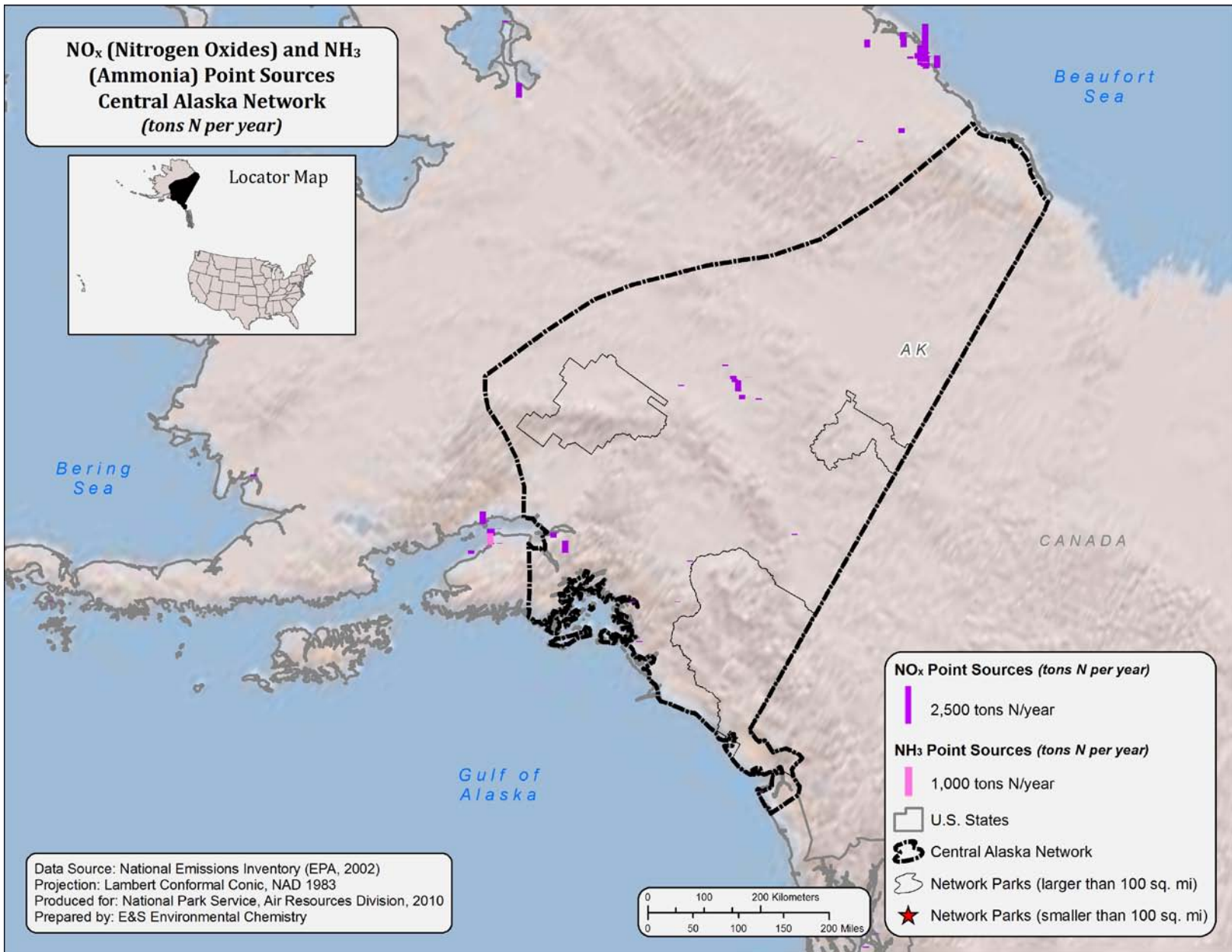
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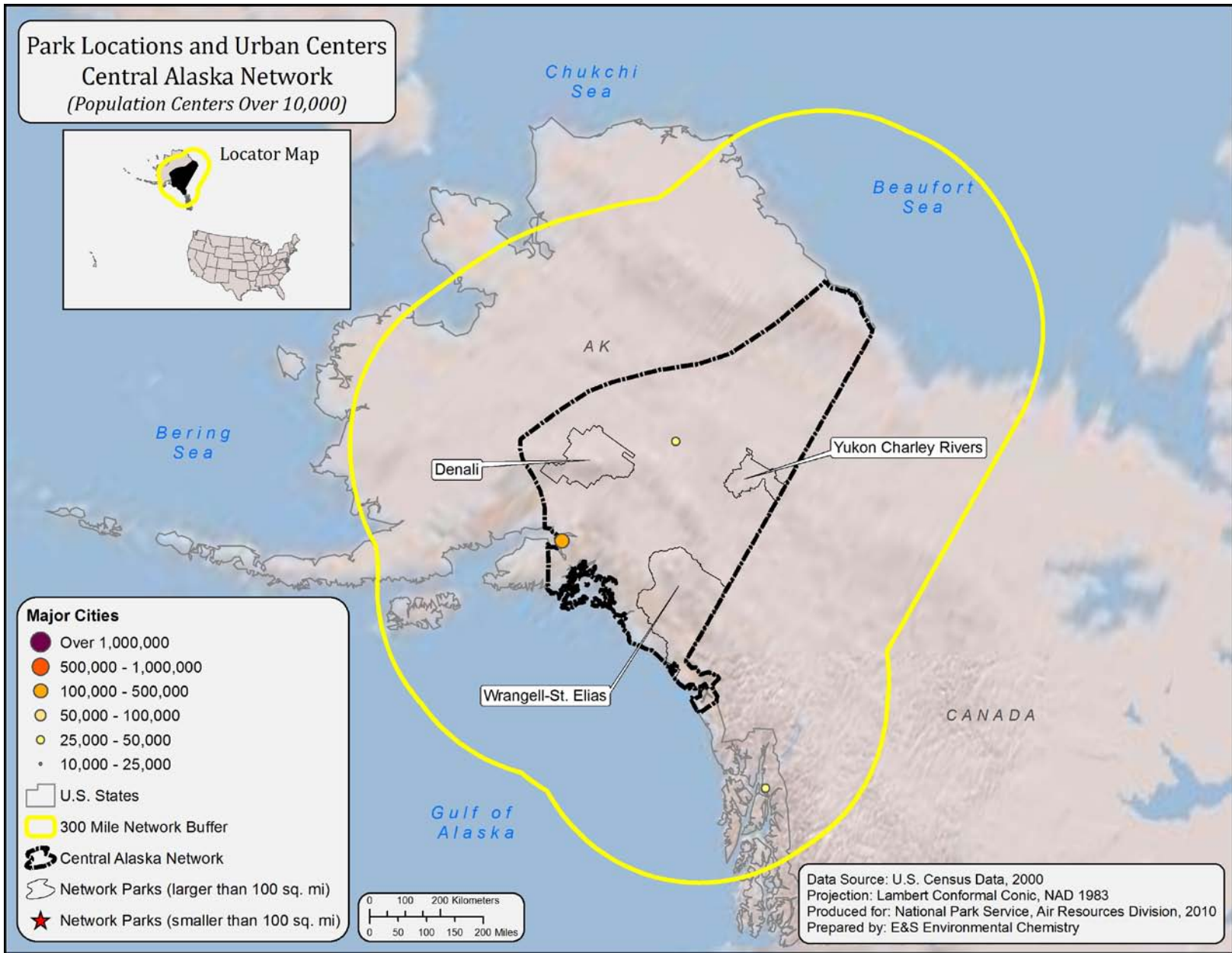
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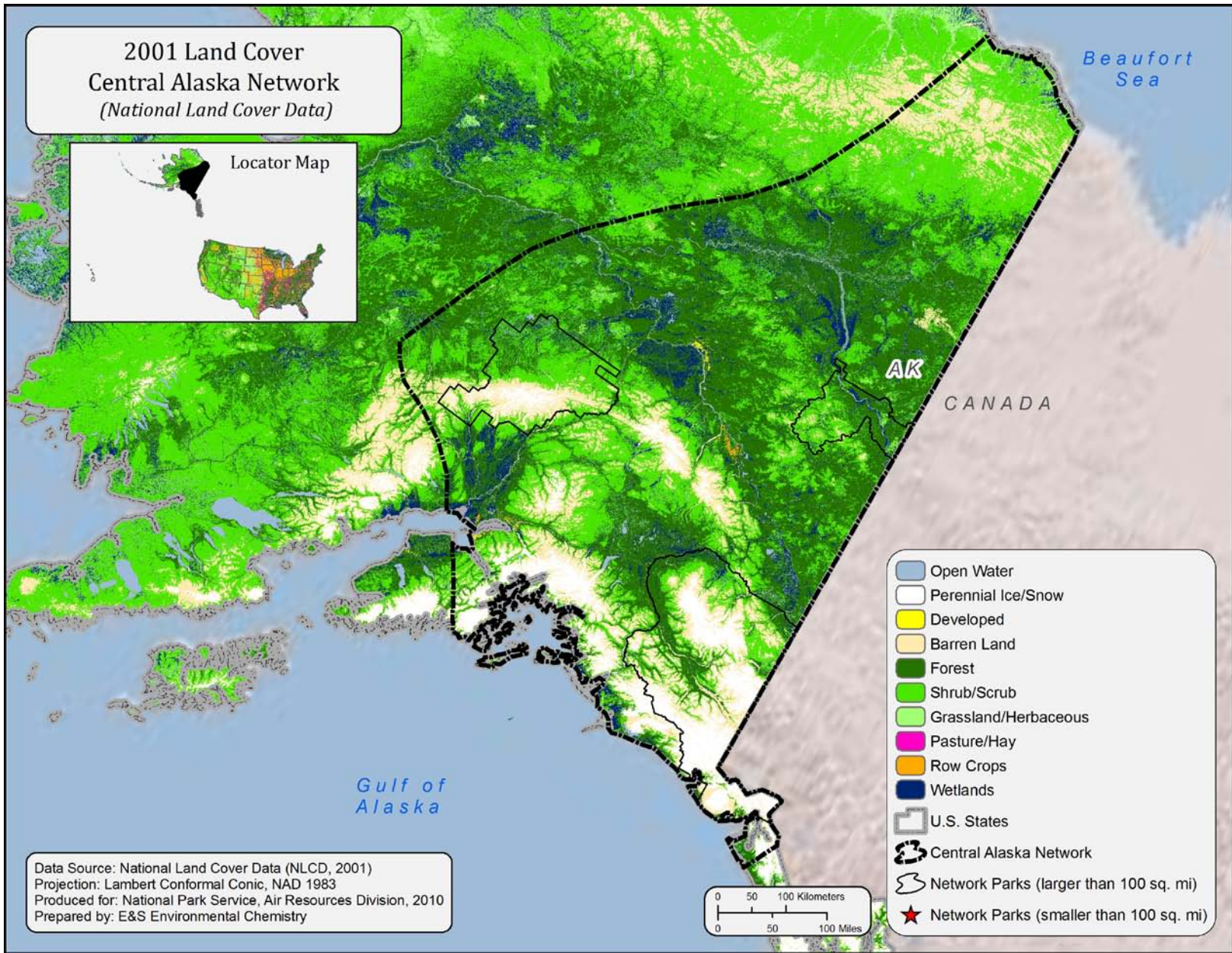
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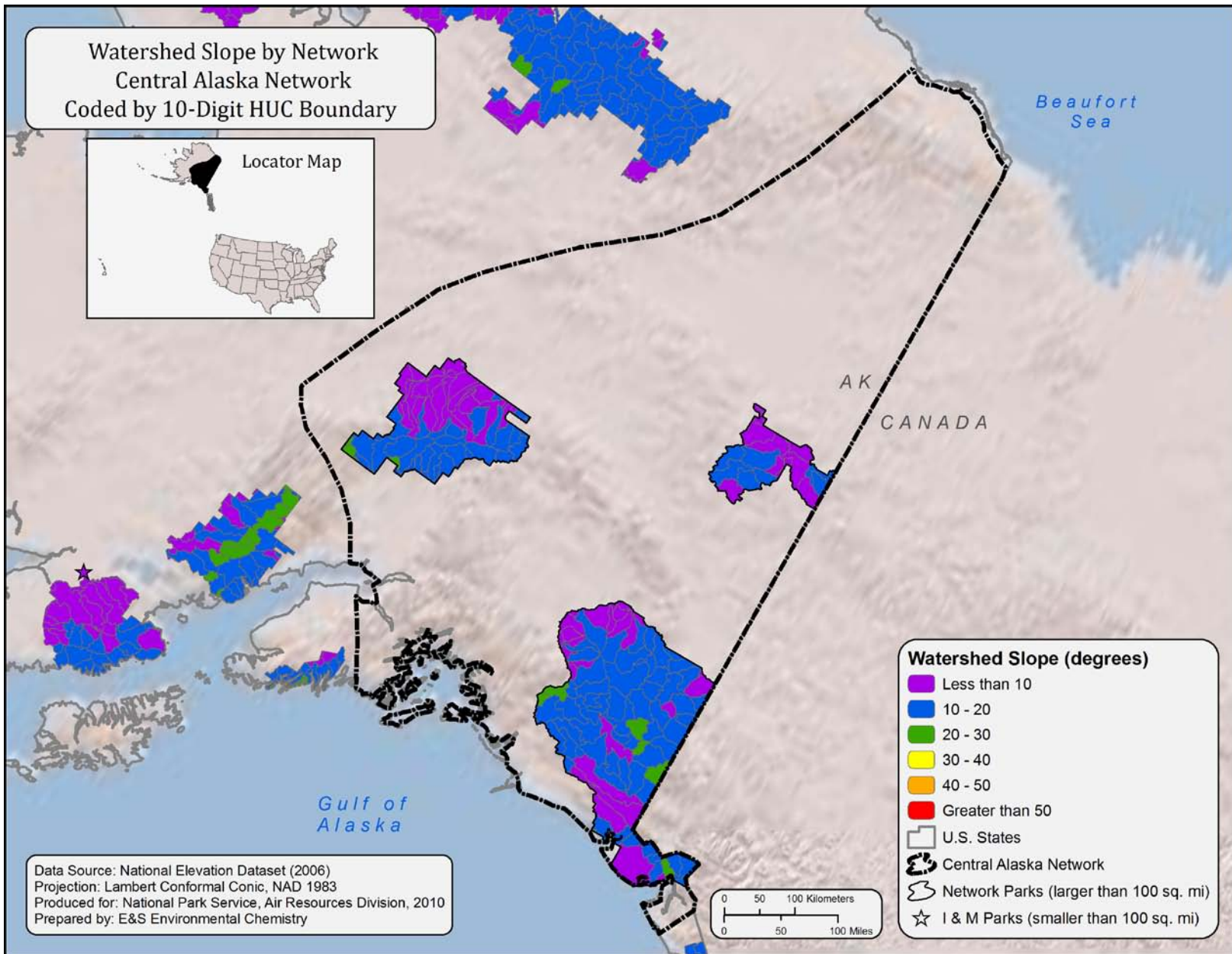
Map H



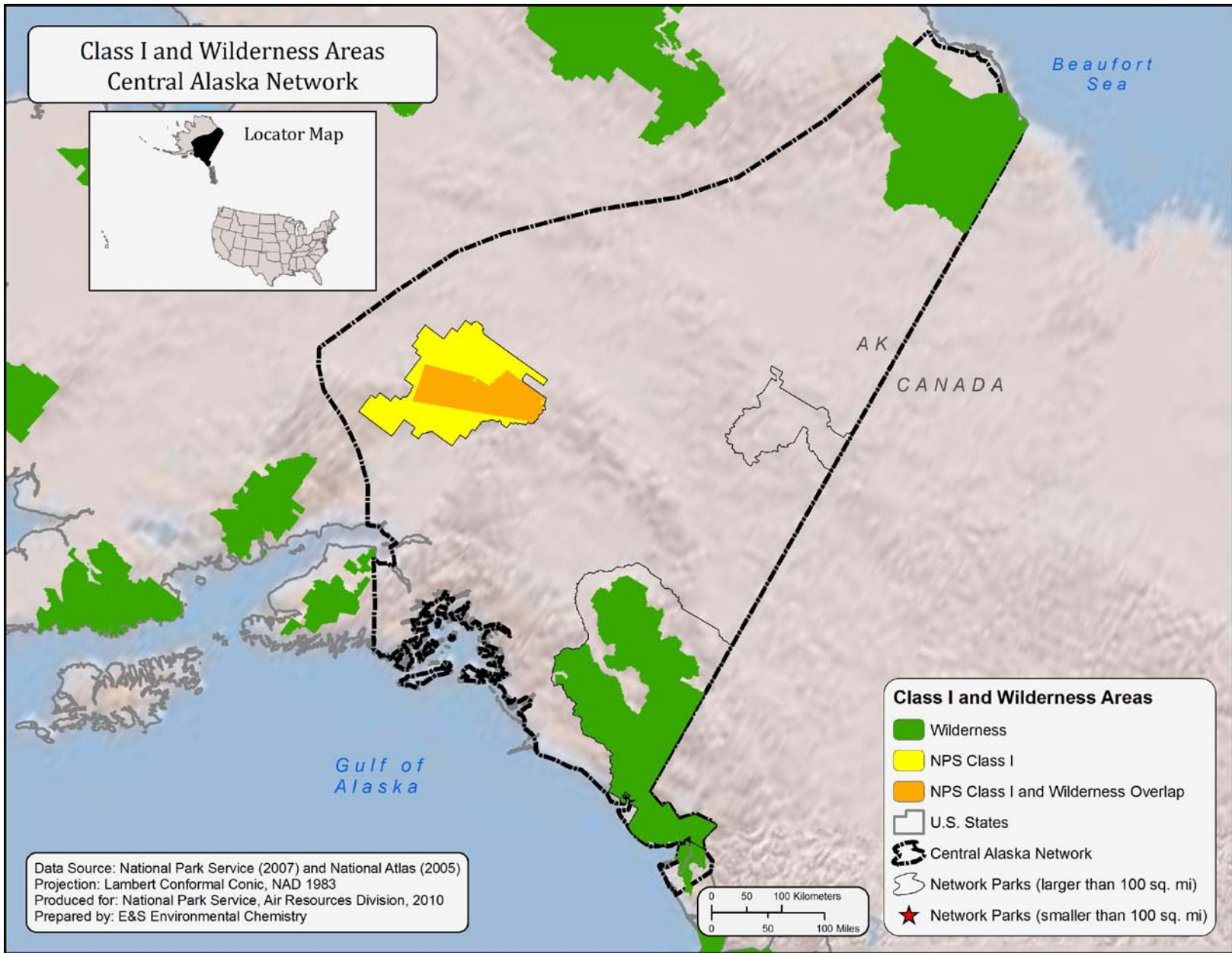
Map I



Map L



Map M



Map N

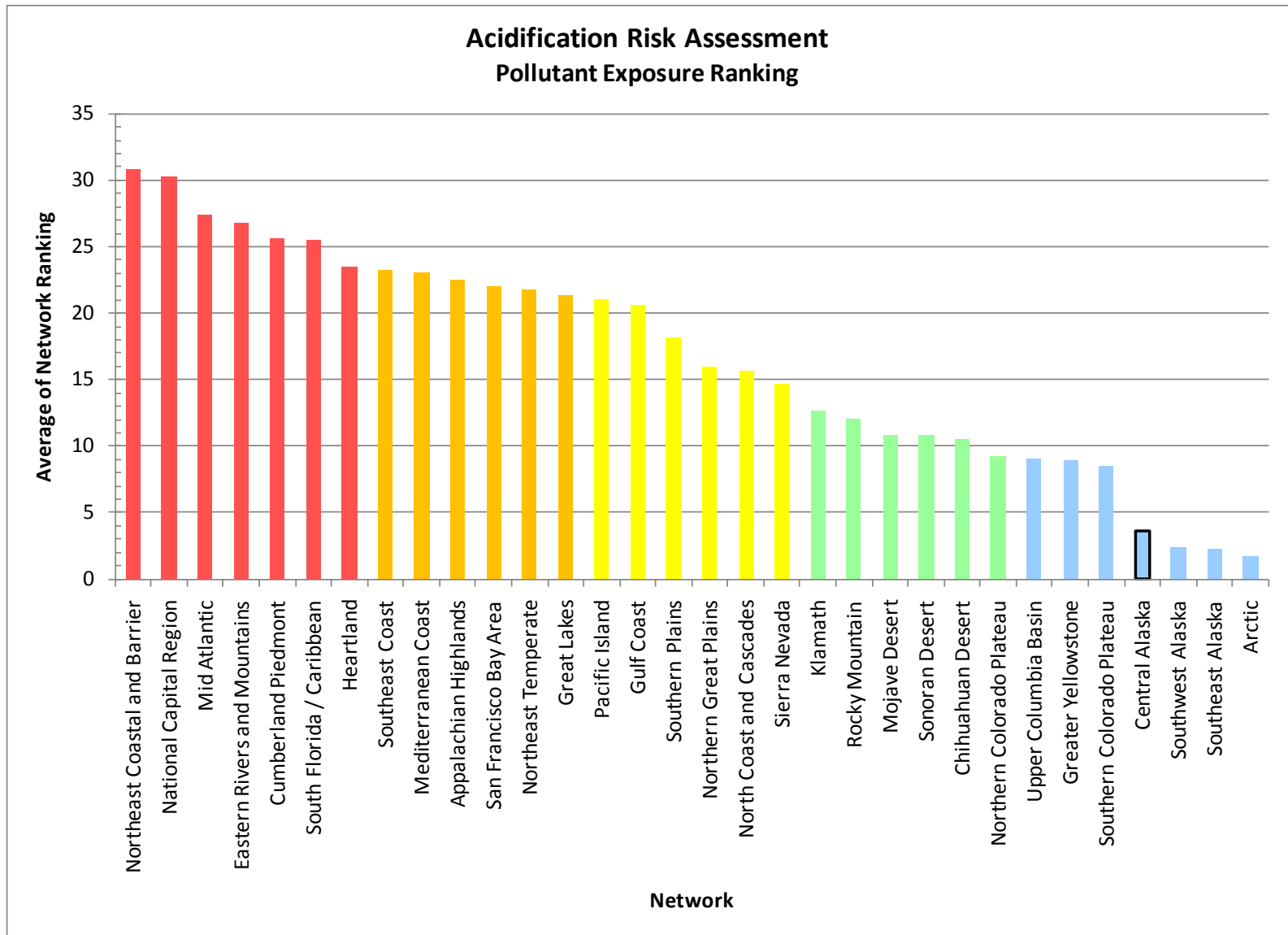


Figure A

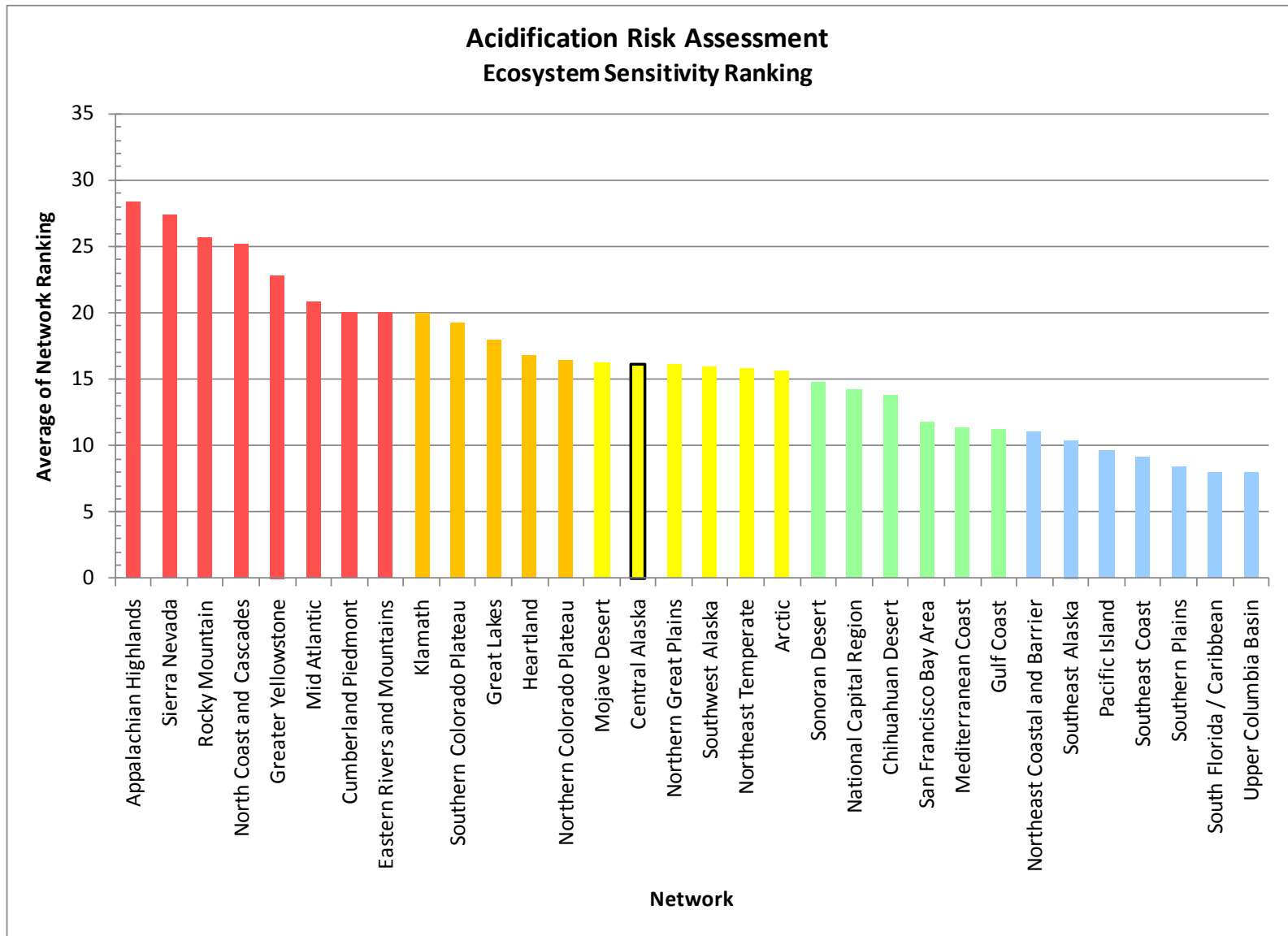


Figure B

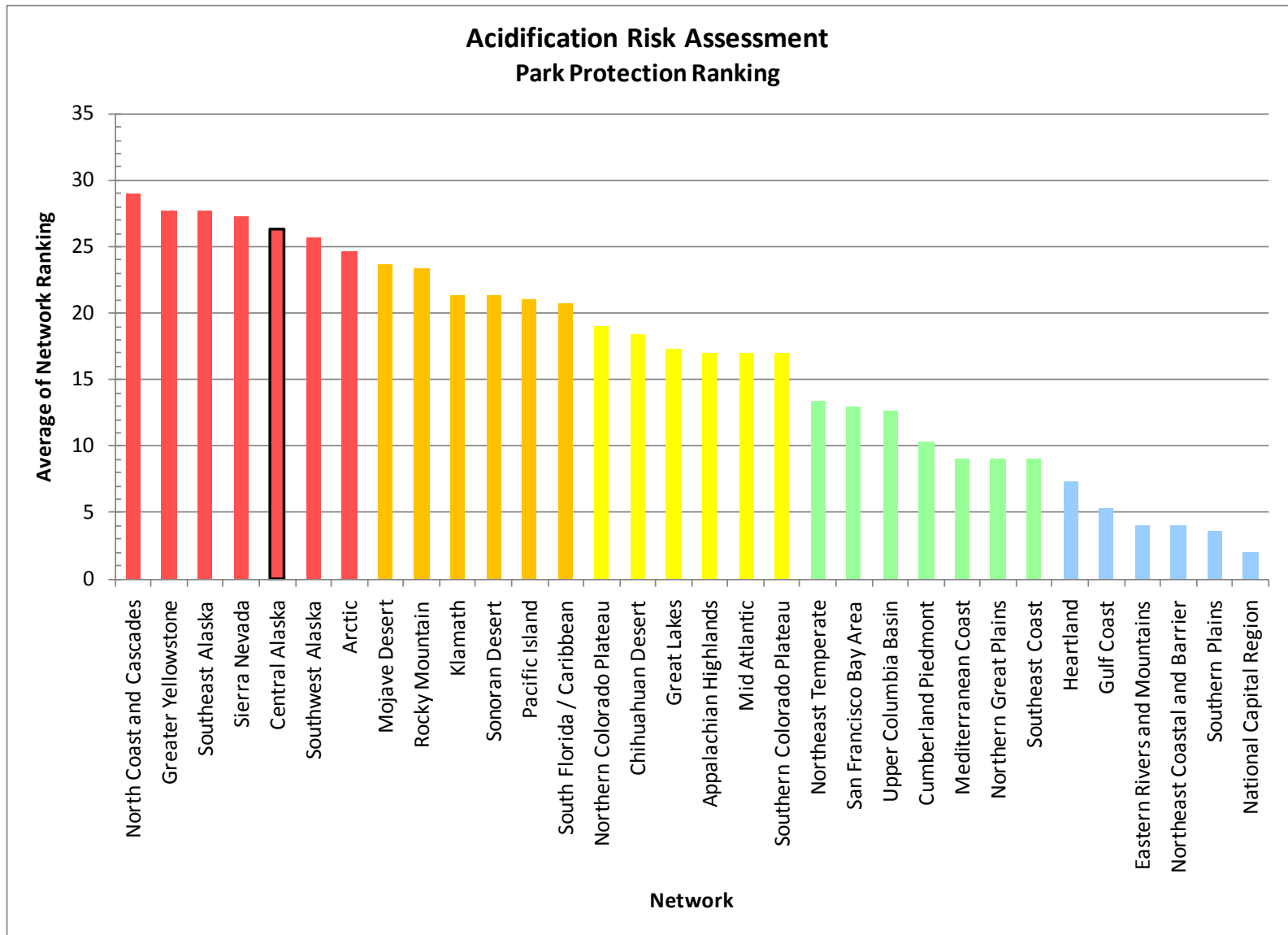


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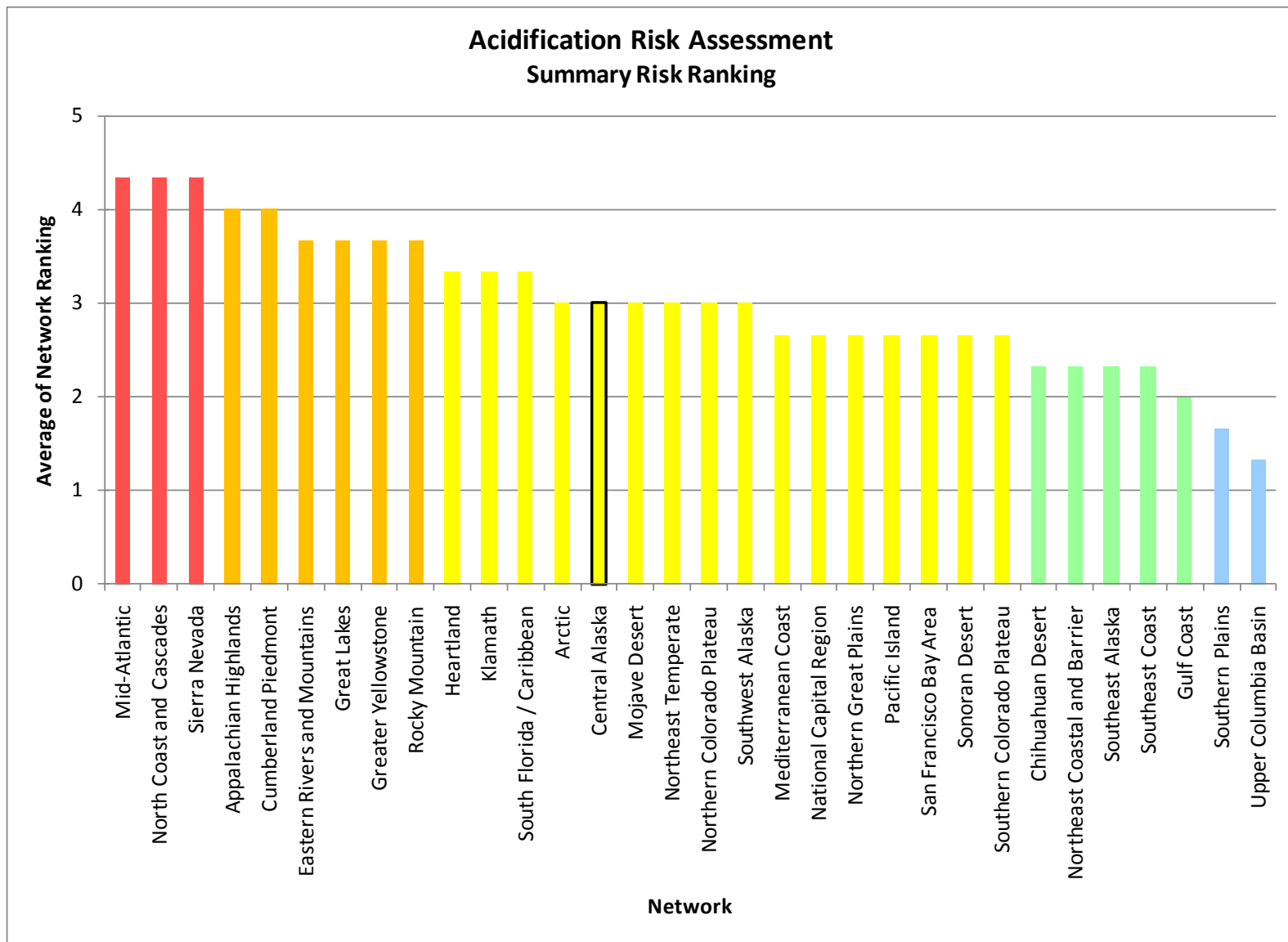


Figure D

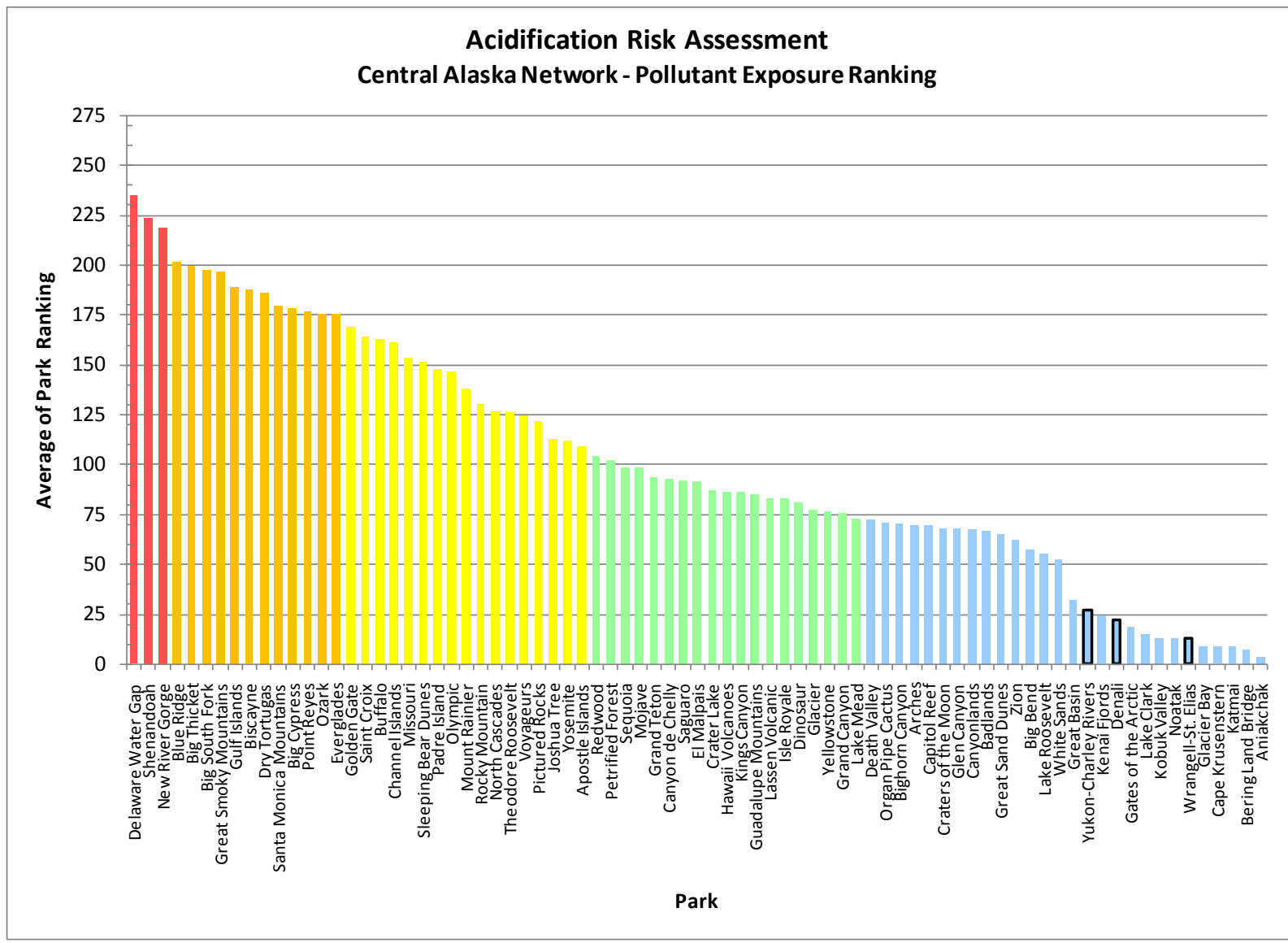


Figure E

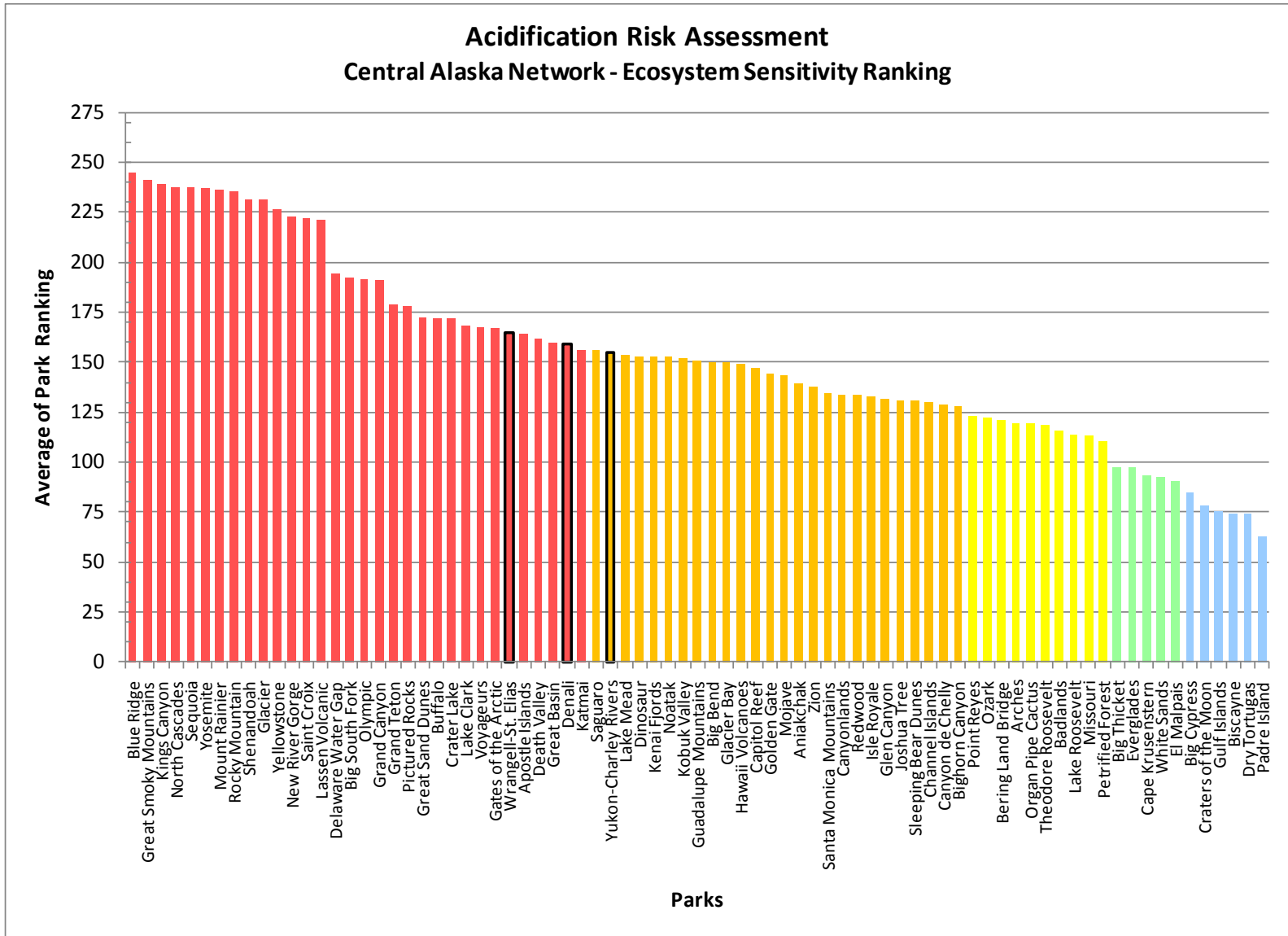


Figure F

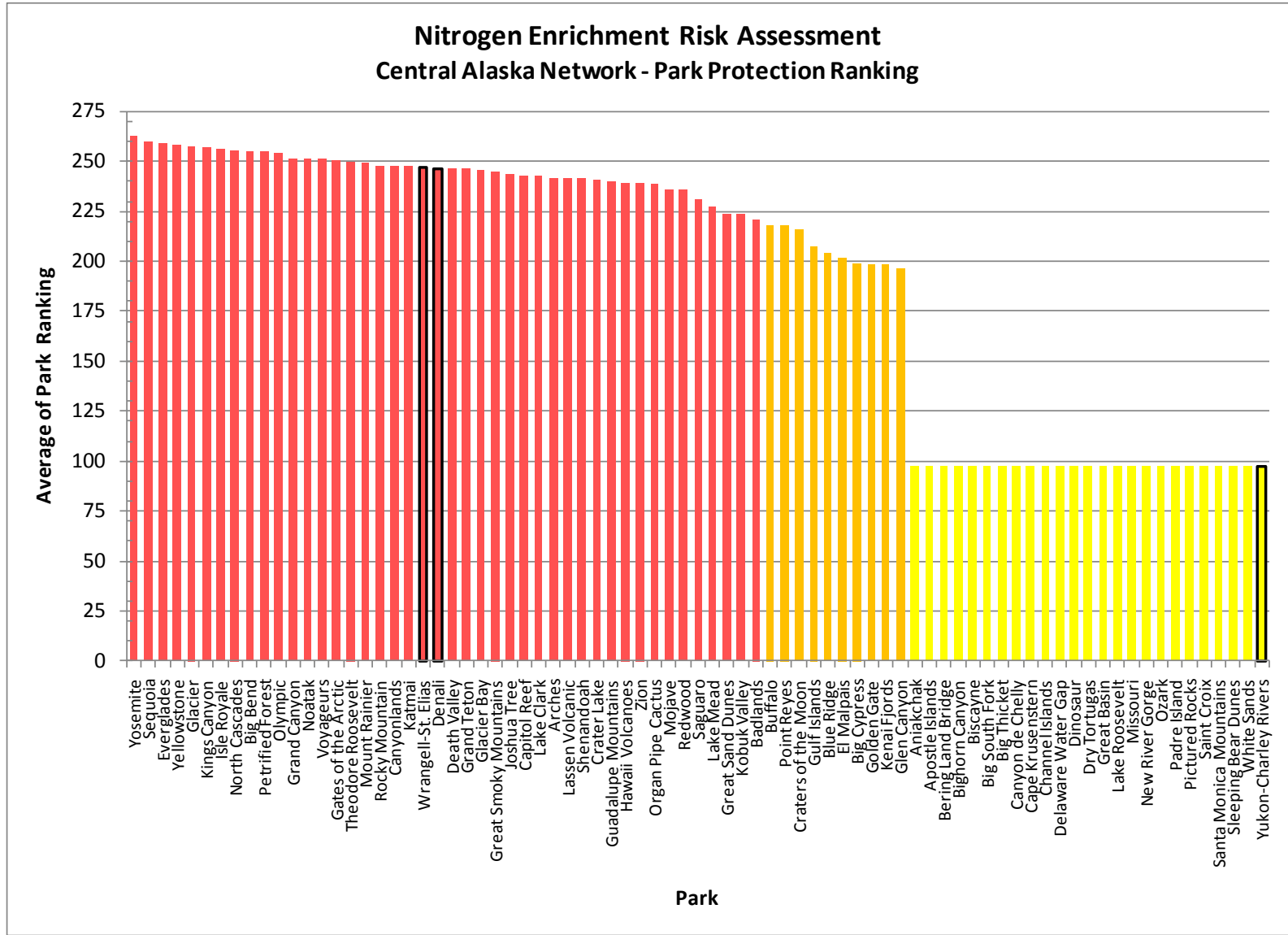


Figure G

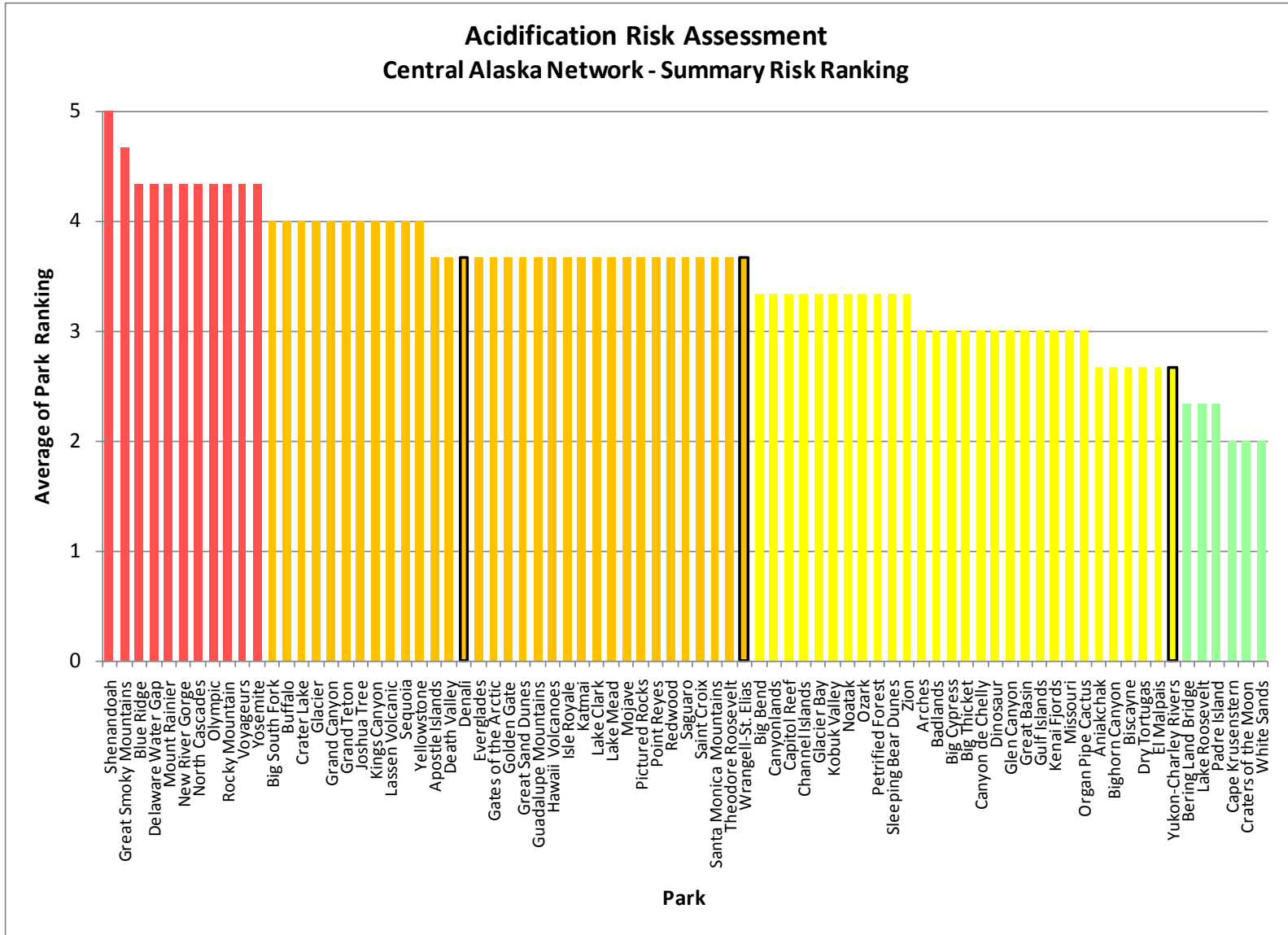


Figure H

The Department of the Interior protects and manages the nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its special responsibilities to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

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