



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

## *Eastern Rivers and Mountains Network (ERMN)*

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/ARD/NRR—2011/355



**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.

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## Eastern Rivers and Mountains Network (ERMN)

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 total N for the year 2002. Maps C and D show total S and total N deposition, again for the year 2002.

The Eastern Rivers and Mountains Network contains two parks that are slightly larger than 100 square miles: Delaware Water Gap (DEWA) and New River Gorge (NERI). In addition, there are seven smaller parks.

Total S and N emissions, by county, are shown in Maps E and F, respectively, for lands in and surrounding the Eastern Rivers and Mountains Network. County-level annual S emissions within the network were mostly less than 20 tons per square mile per year, although several counties showed higher emissions levels, up to more than 100 tons per square mile per year in some areas. Several counties just outside the network boundary also had S emission values exceeding 100 tons per square mile per year, predominately on the western border of the network (Map E). County-level annual N emissions within the network ranged from less than 1 ton per square mile to greater than 100 tons per square mile. In general, however, county annual N emissions were between 1 and 20 tons per square mile. A number of counties along the western border of the network showed total N annual emissions higher than 50 tons per square mile. Point source emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> and oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO<sub>x</sub>) and reduced (ammonia, NH<sub>3</sub>) N, are shown in Maps G and H, respectively. There were many S point sources of substantial magnitude within the network, and a few just west of the network. Some emitted in excess of 40,000 tons of S per year (Map G). Most S point sources in the network ranged from less than 1 ton of S per year to 20,000 tons of S per year. The largest N point sources were consistently sources of oxidized, rather than reduced, N. Many NO<sub>x</sub> point sources in and around the network were larger than 5,000 tons per year, mainly located in the mid-section of the network.

Urban centers within the network and within a 300-mile buffer around the network are shown on Map I. There are no population centers within the network that are larger than 500,000 people except Philadelphia, which is on the network border. There are several cities with populations between 100,000 and 500,000.

Spatial patterns in total S and N deposition are shown in maps J and K, respectively, for areas in and around the network. Included in this analysis are both wet and dry forms of deposition and both the oxidized and reduced N species. Total S deposition was quite high in comparison to other networks, with most of the network ranging from 15 to 20 kg S/ha/yr to greater than 30 kg S/ha/yr (Map J). Only a small portion of the network (in the southeast) had S deposition below 10 kg S/ha/yr. Total N deposition within the network ranged from as low as 5 to 10 kg N/ha/yr to as high as 15 to 20 kg N/ha/yr (Map K). Most of the network received 10 to 15 kg/ha/yr of total N deposition.

Land cover in and around the network is shown in Map L. The predominant cover types within this network are generally forest, pasture/hay, developed areas, and row crops.

In general, land slope tends to be moderately steep across park lands in this network, with average slope in the range of 10° to 30° (Map M). There are two parks, New River Gorge (NERI) and Bluestone (BLUE) that have slopes in the 30° to 40° range.

Park lands requiring special protection against potential adverse impacts associated with acidification from acidic 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 no Class I areas in this network and only limited designated wilderness, none of which is on lands managed by NPS.

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 Eastern Rivers and Mountains Network ranked Very High, in the middle of the top quintile, in Pollutant Exposure (Figure A). Sulfur and N emissions and deposition within the network were both high. The network Ecosystem Sensitivity ranking was also Very High, ranked at the bottom of the top quintile among networks (Figure B). This is because the geology and water within this network are known to be acid-sensitive, there are acid-sensitive tree species present, and slopes are steep, giving rise to low-order, relatively high-elevation streams. This network ranked in the lowest quintile in Park Protection, however, having limited amounts of protected lands (Figure C).

In combination, the network rankings for Pollutant Exposure, Ecosystem Sensitivity, and Park Protection yielded an overall Network Risk ranking that was relatively high compared with other networks (Figure D). The overall level of concern for acidification effects on I&M parks within this network is considered High.

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.

The two I&M parks in the Eastern Rivers and Mountains Network that are larger than 100 square miles, DEWA and NERI, were ranked Very High among parks in Pollutant Exposure (Figure E). All but two of the smaller parks were ranked Very High for Pollutant Exposure; Bluestone (BLUE) and Upper Delaware (UPDE), were ranked as High. All of the parks in this network ranked Very High in Ecosystem Sensitivity, except Friendship Hill (FRHI), which was ranked Moderate for this theme. Park Protection rankings for all parks in the network were Moderate (Table A, Figure G). The Summary Risk ranking for six of the parks in this network (including DEWA and NERI) was Very High (Figure H, Table A). The other three parks were ranked High for Summary Risk.

**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 <sup>2</sup> in Network	Relative Ranking of Individual Parks <sup>1</sup>			
	Pollutant Exposure	Ecosystem Sensitivity	Park Protection	Summary Risk
Allegheny Portage Railroad	Very High	Very High	Moderate	Very High
Bluestone	High	Very High	Moderate	High
<b><i>Delaware Water Gap</i></b>	Very High	Very High	Moderate	Very High
Fort Necessity	Very High	Very High	Moderate	Very High
Friendship Hill	Very High	Moderate	Moderate	High
Gauley River	Very High	Very High	Moderate	Very High
Johnstown Flood	Very High	Very High	Moderate	Very High
<b><i>New River Gorge</i></b>	Very High	Very High	Moderate	Very High
Upper Delaware	High	Very High	Moderate	High

<sup>1</sup> 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).

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

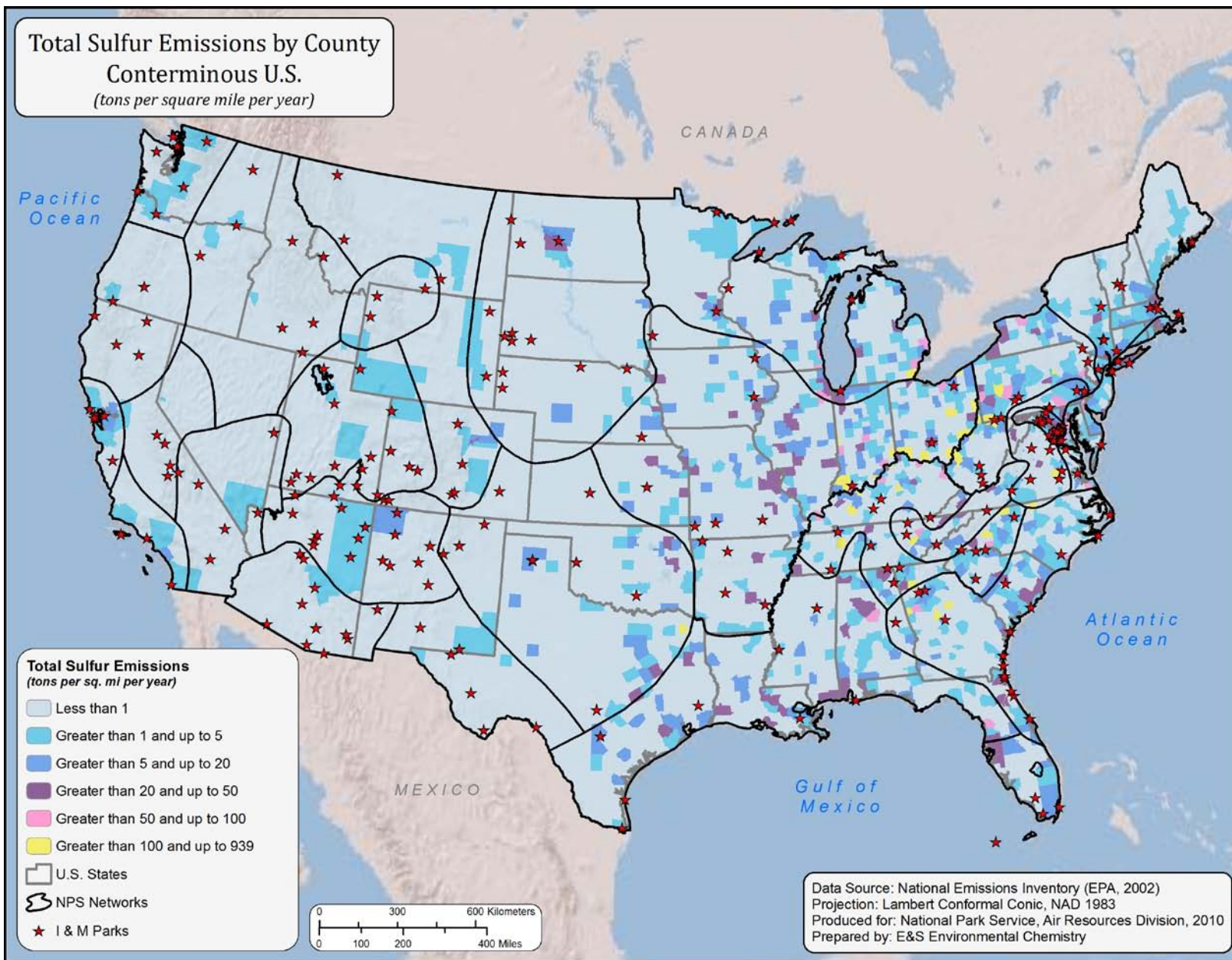
- Map A. National map of total S emissions by county for the year 2002, in units of tons of S per square mile per year. (Source of data: EPA National Emissions Inventory, <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html>)
- Map B. National map of total N emissions by county for the year 2002. Both oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO<sub>x</sub>) and reduced (ammonia, NH<sub>3</sub>) 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. Total S deposition for the conterminous United States for the year 2002, expressed in units of kilograms of S deposited from the atmosphere to the Earth surface per hectare per year. 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. Total N deposition for the conterminous United States 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<sub>x</sub>) and reduced (ammonia, NH<sub>3</sub>) 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.

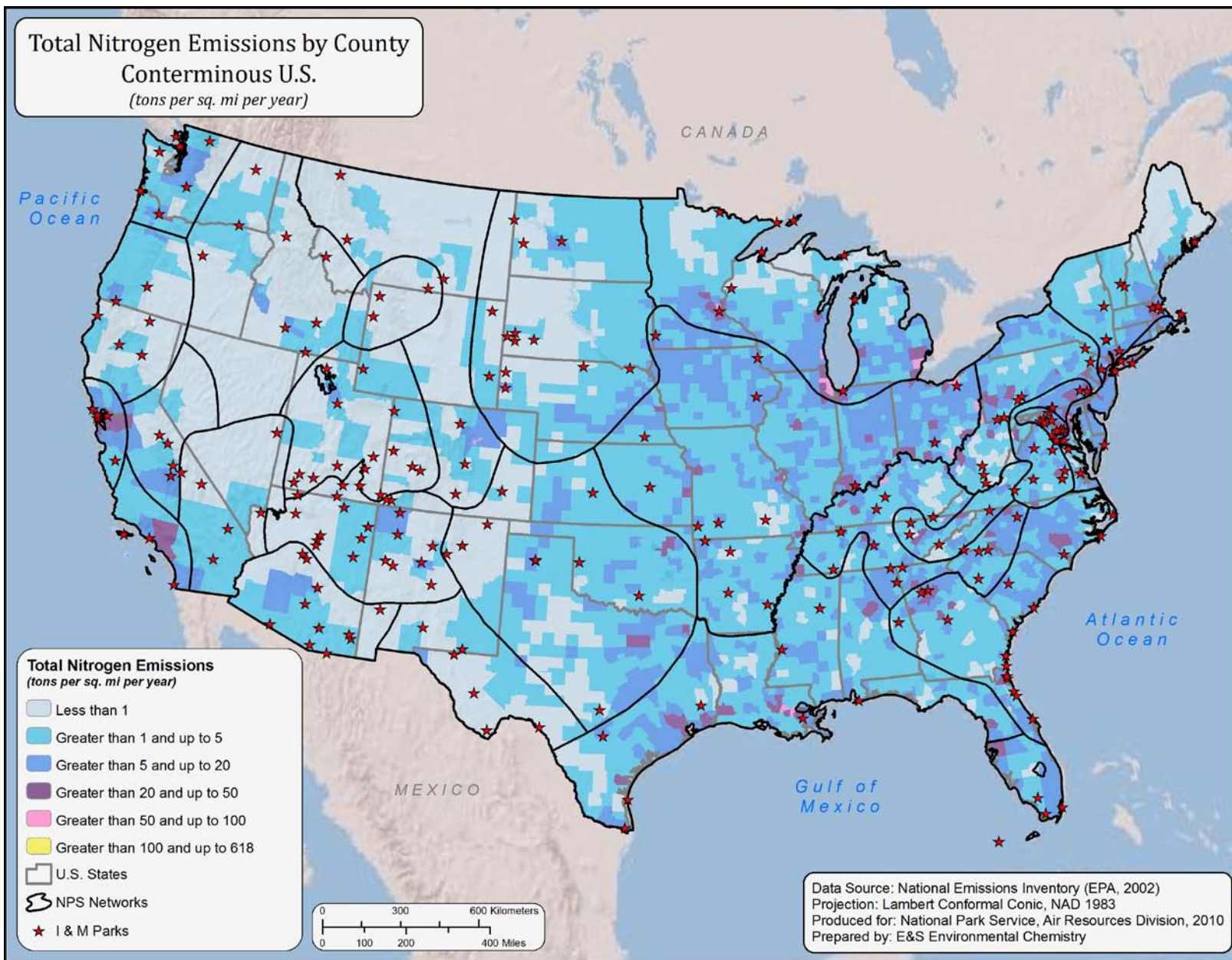
- Map E. Total S emissions by county for lands surrounding the network, expressed as tons of S emitted into the atmosphere per square mile per year. (Source of data: EPA National Emissions Inventory, <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html>)
- Map F. Total N emissions by county for lands 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<sub>x</sub>) and reduced (ammonia, NH<sub>3</sub>) N. (Source of data: EPA National Emissions Inventory, <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html>)
- Map G. Major point source emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> 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<sub>x</sub>) and reduced (ammonia, NH<sub>3</sub>) 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 J. Total S deposition in and around the network. Values are expressed as kilograms of S deposited per hectare per year. (Source of data: Interpolated NADP wet and CMAQ Model dry deposition data for 2002; see information for Map C above for details)
- Map K. Total N deposition in and around the network. Included in the total are wet plus dry forms of both oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO<sub>x</sub>) and reduced (ammonia, NH<sub>3</sub>) N. Values are expressed as kilograms of N deposited per hectare per year. (Source of data: Interpolated NADP wet and CMAQ Model dry deposition data for 2002; see information for Map D above for details)
- 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](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.

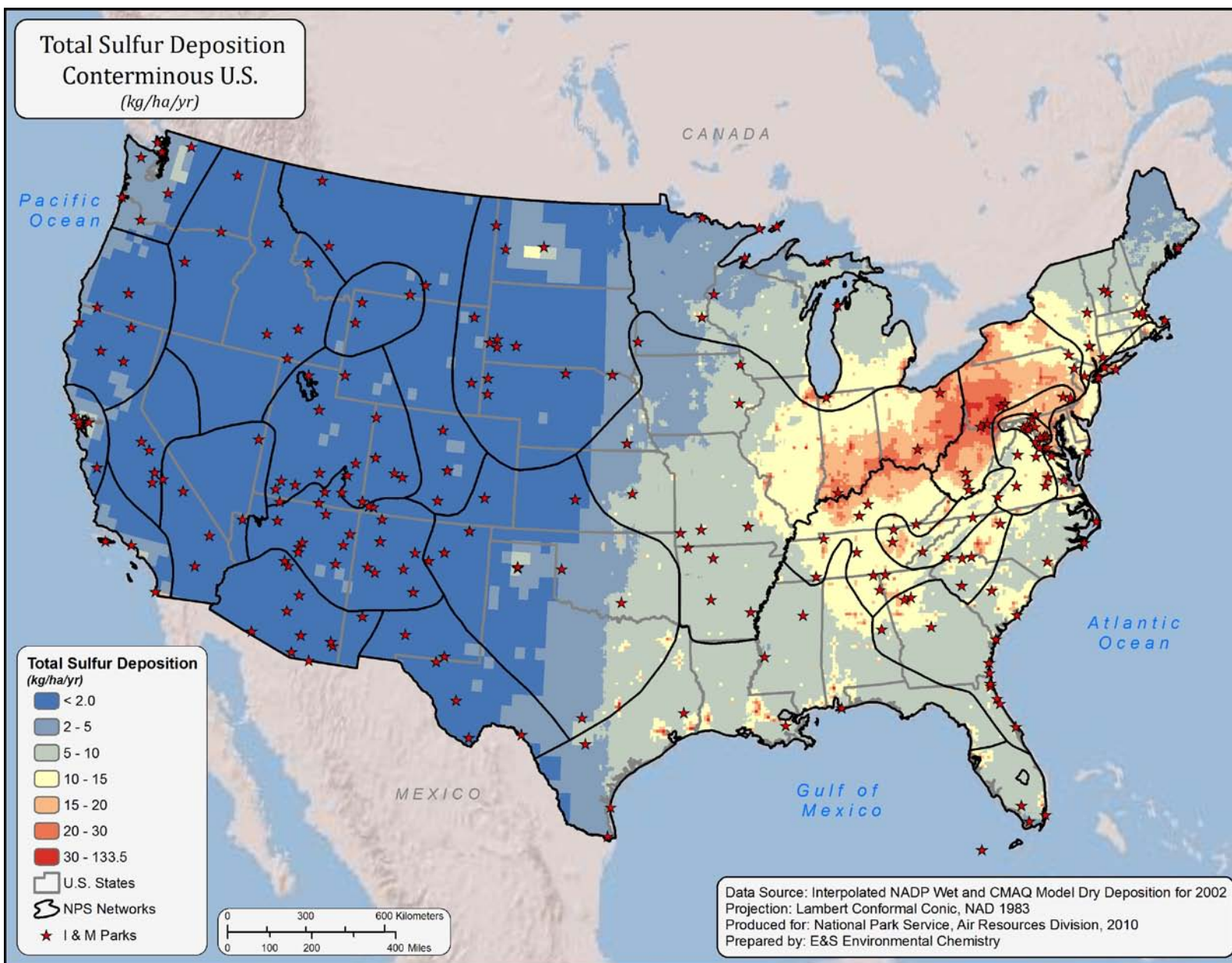


Map A

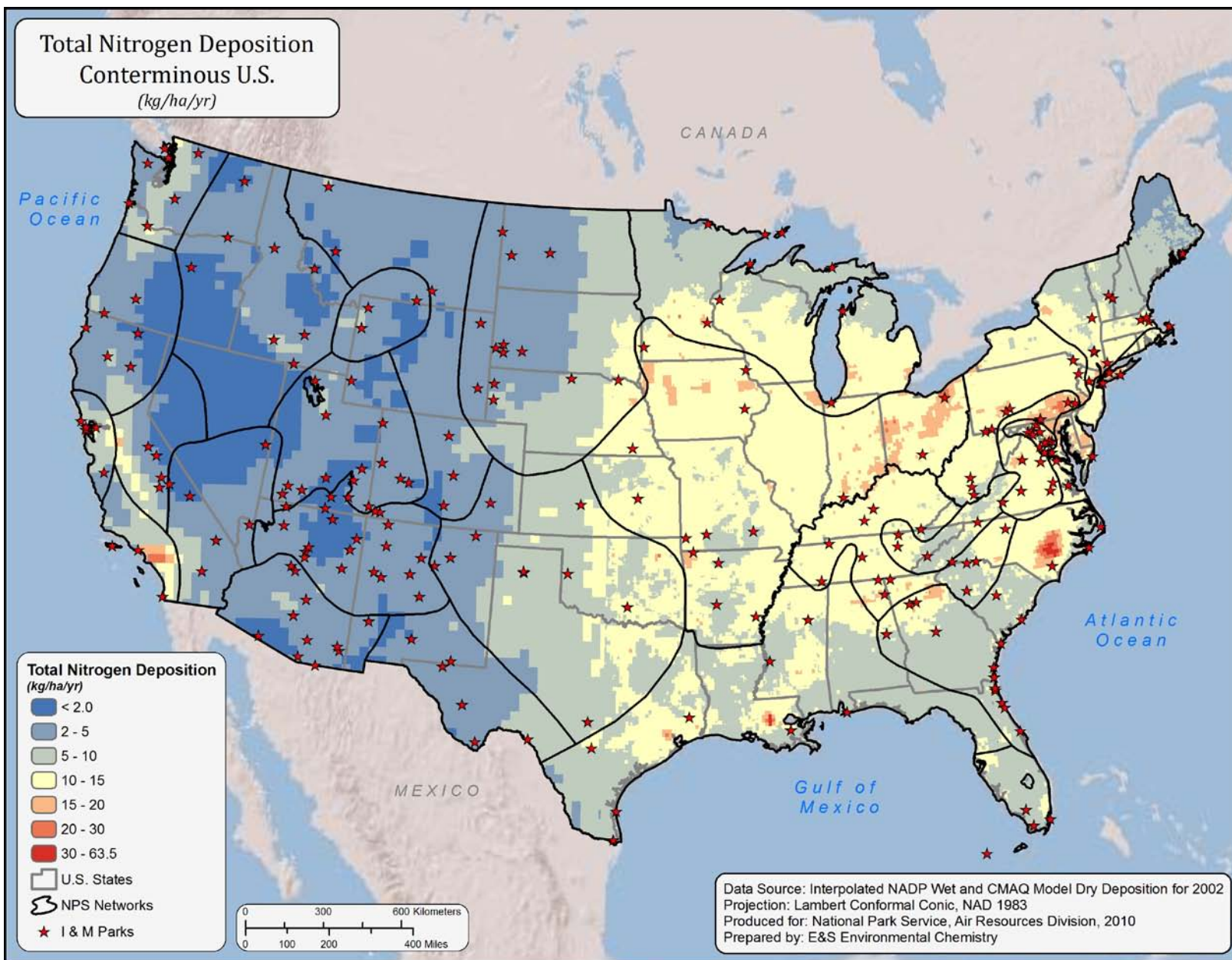


Map B

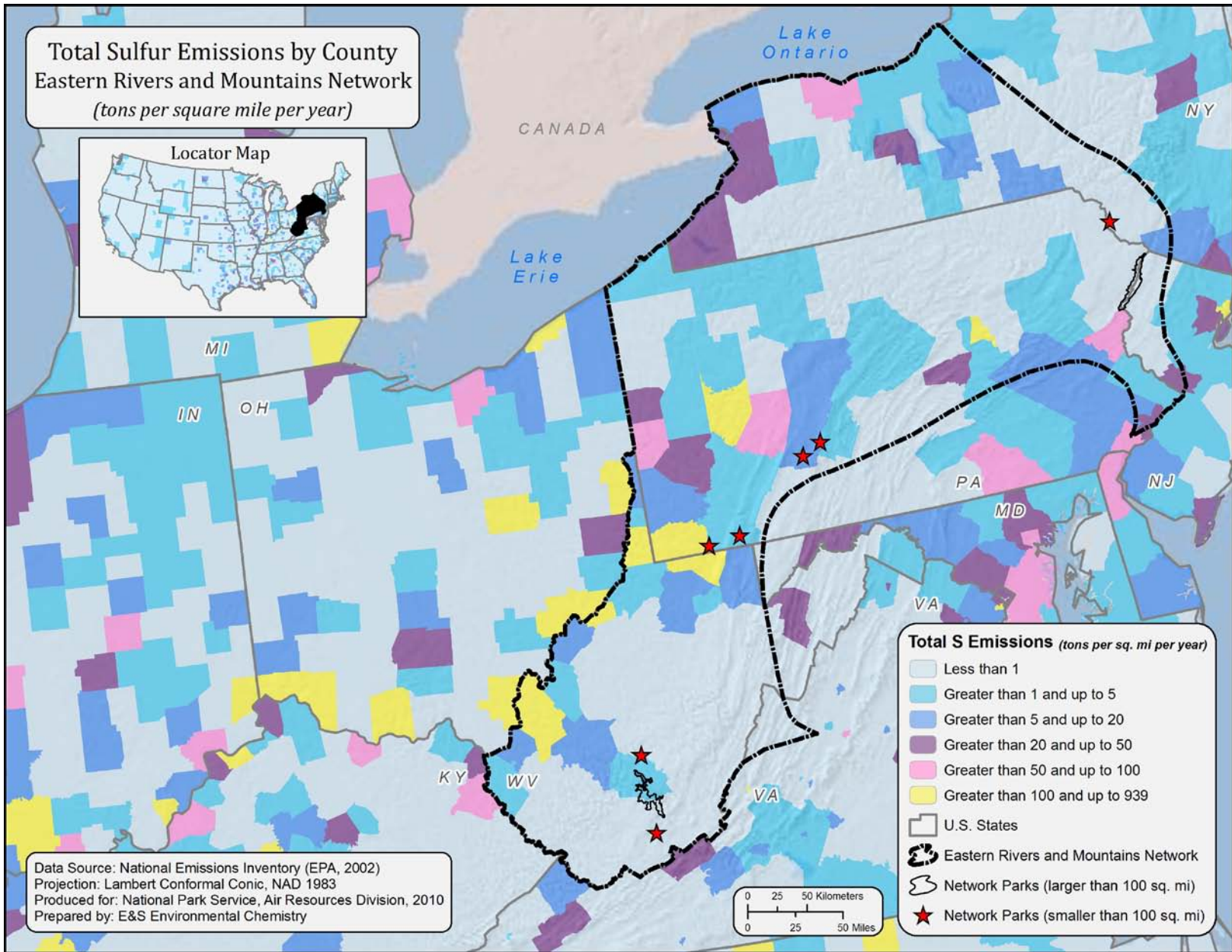
ERMN-8



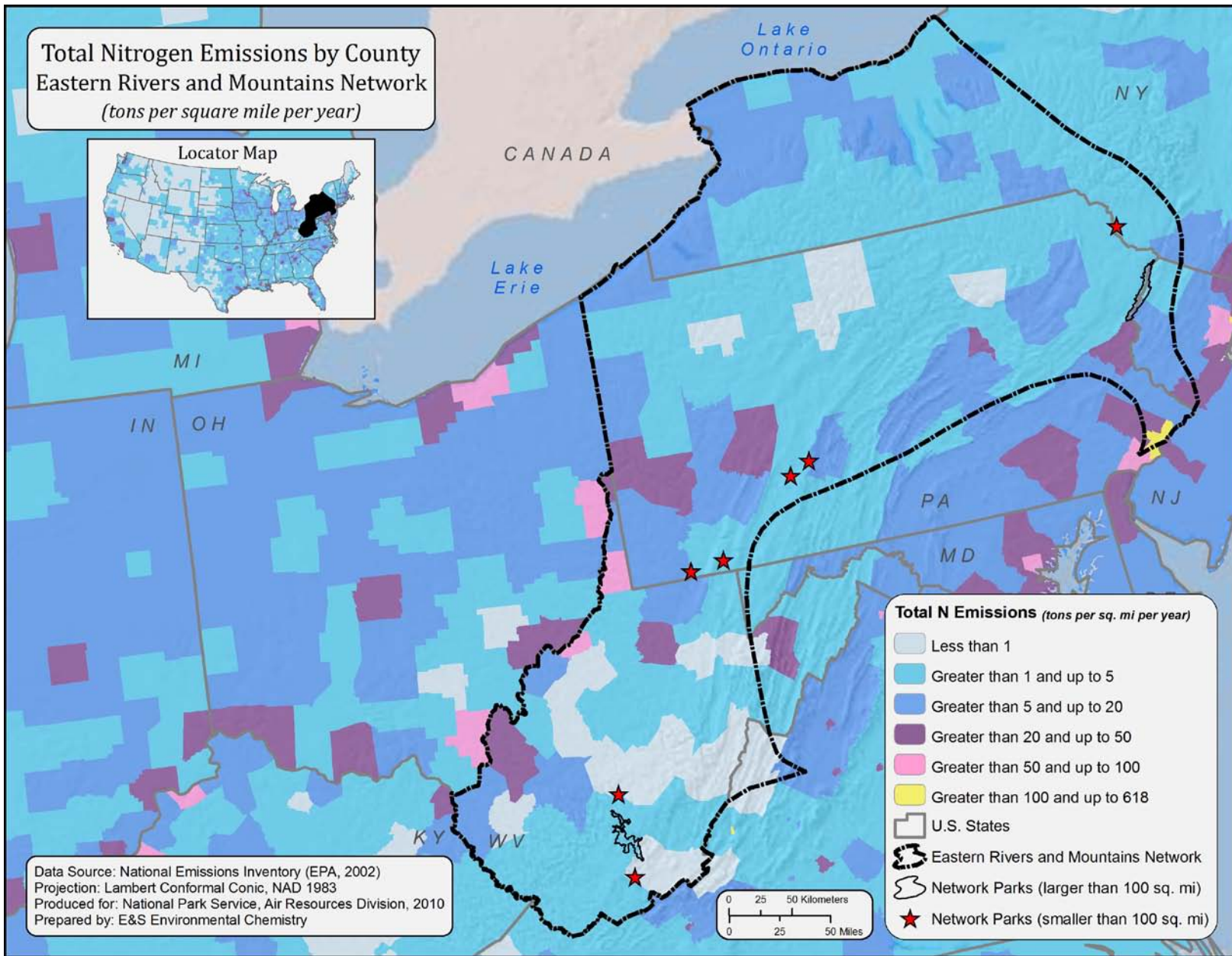
Map C



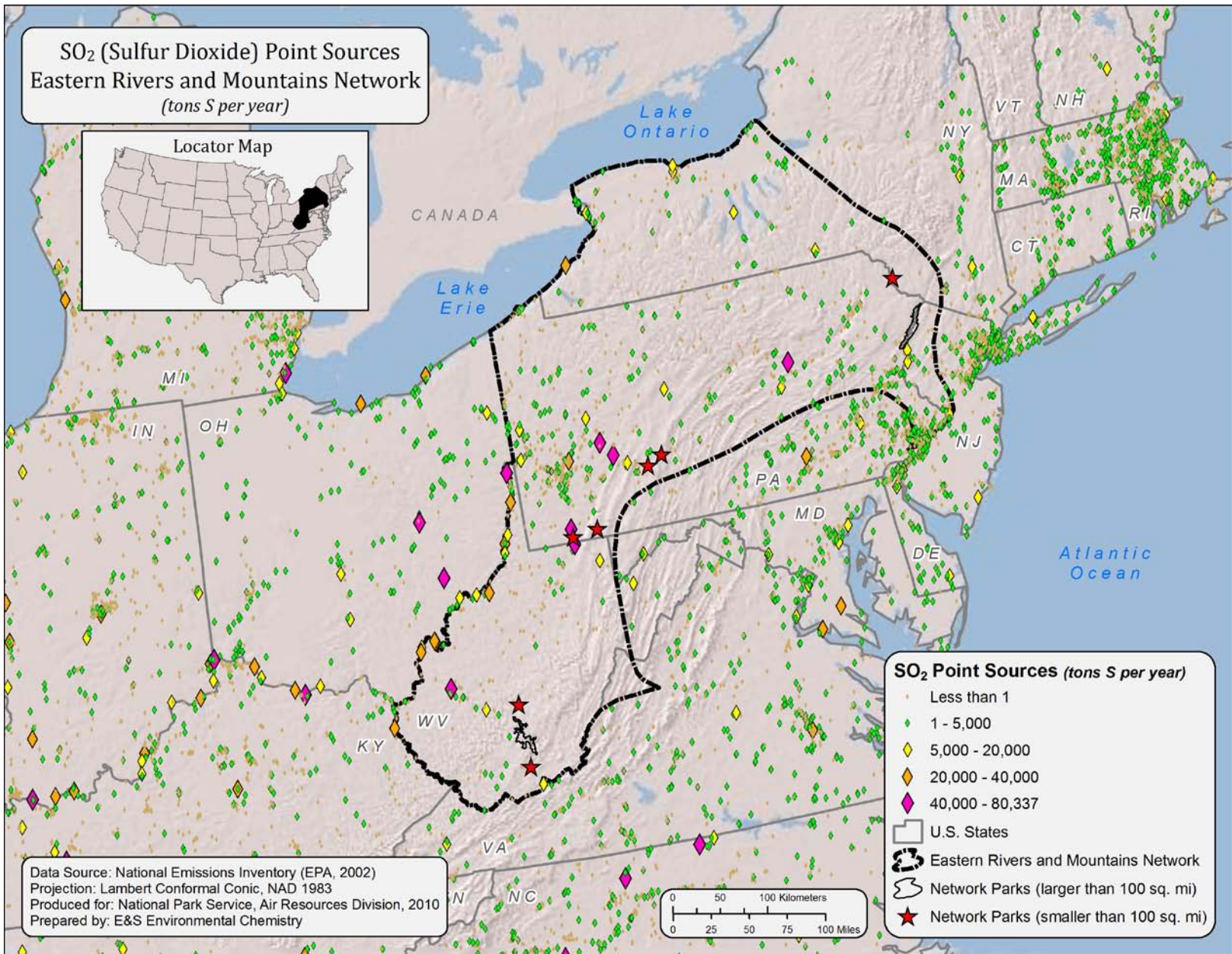
Map D



Map E

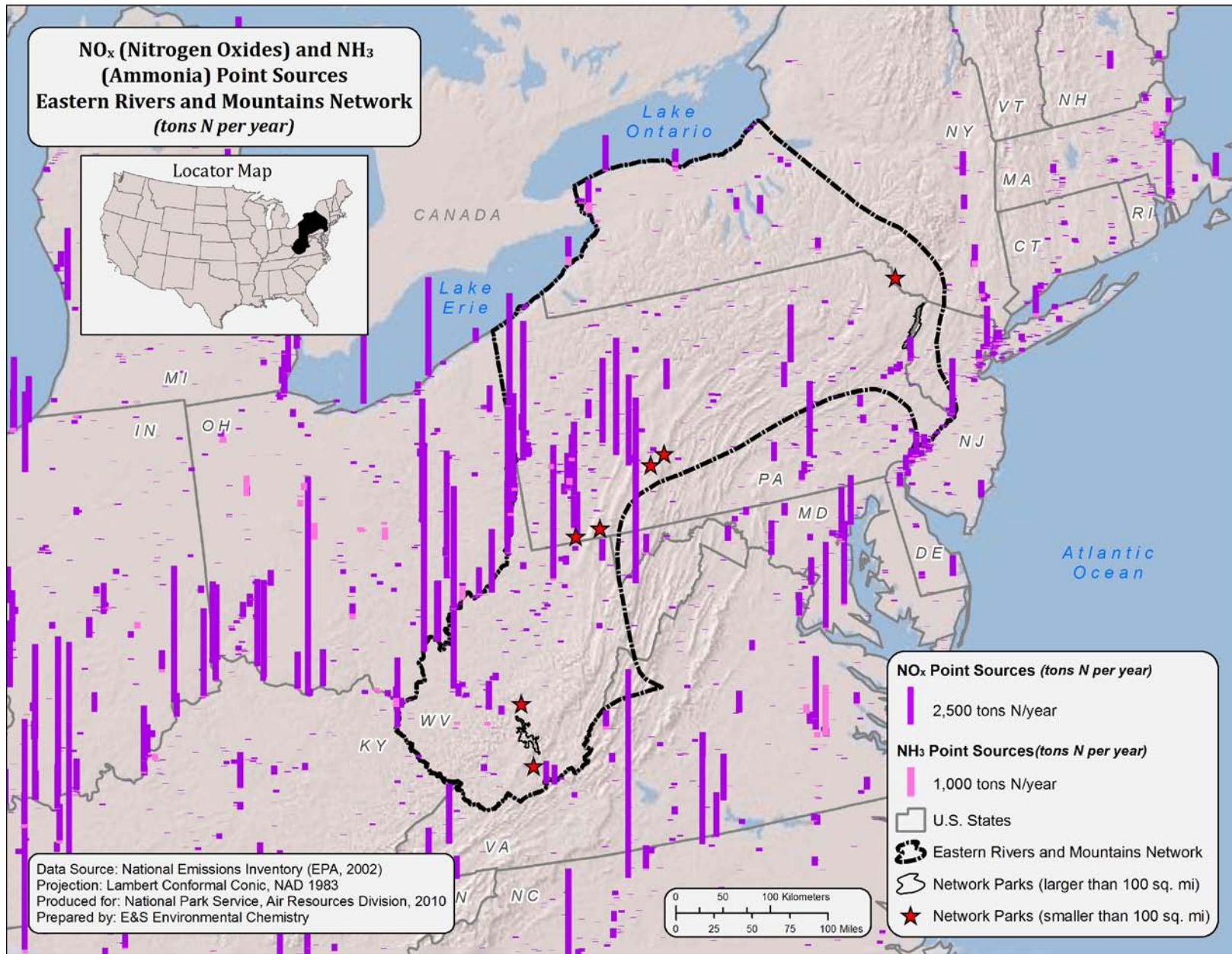


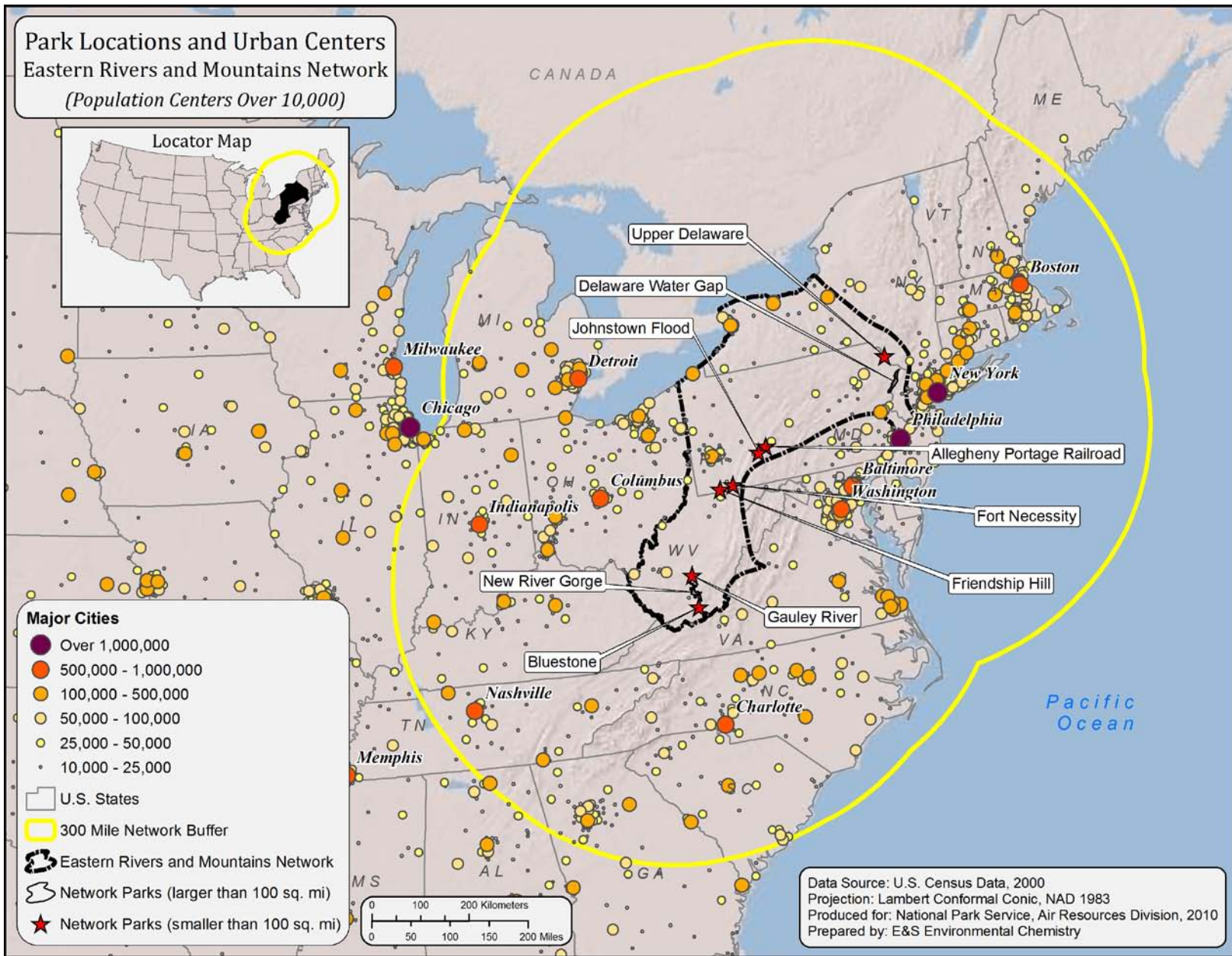
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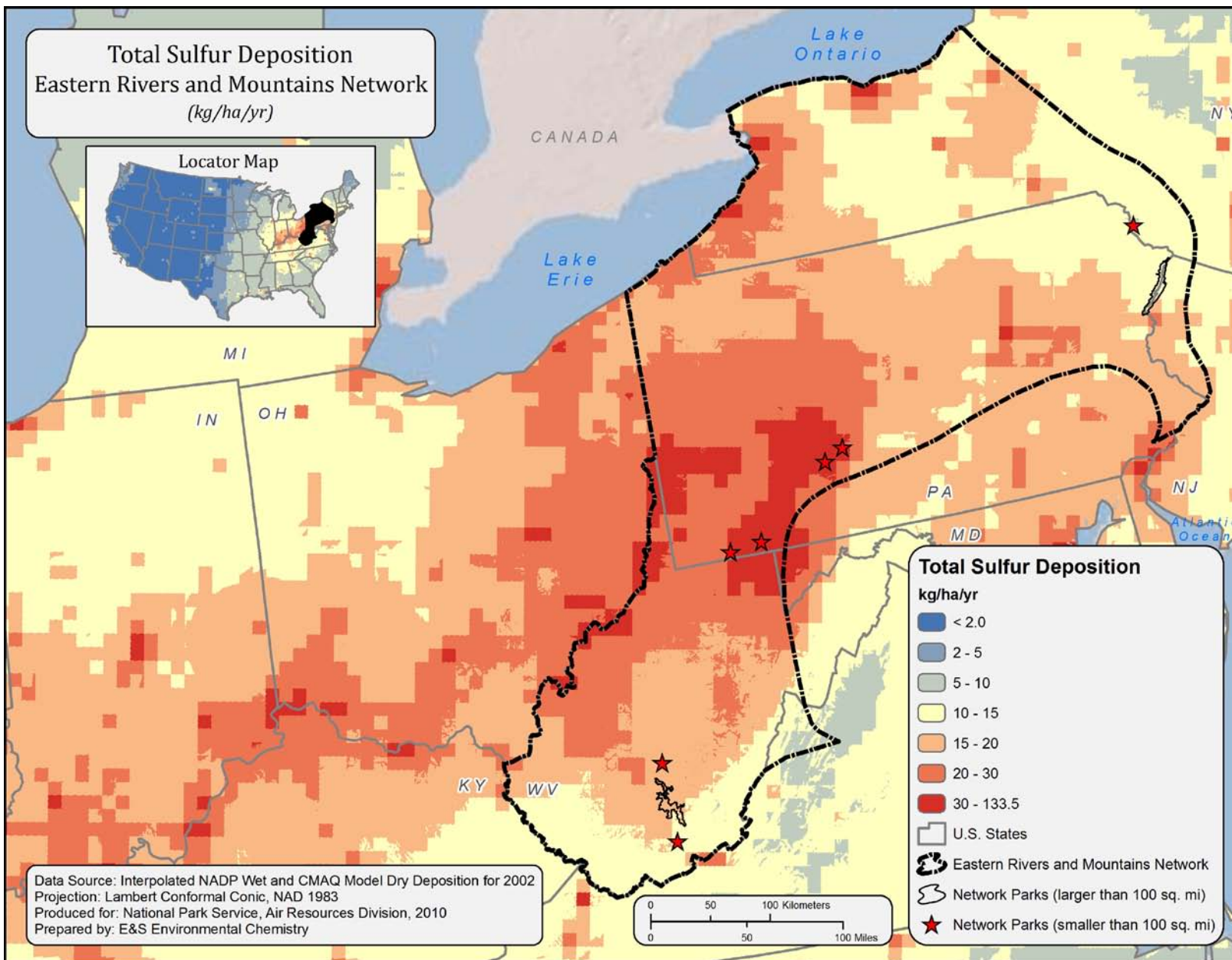
Map G



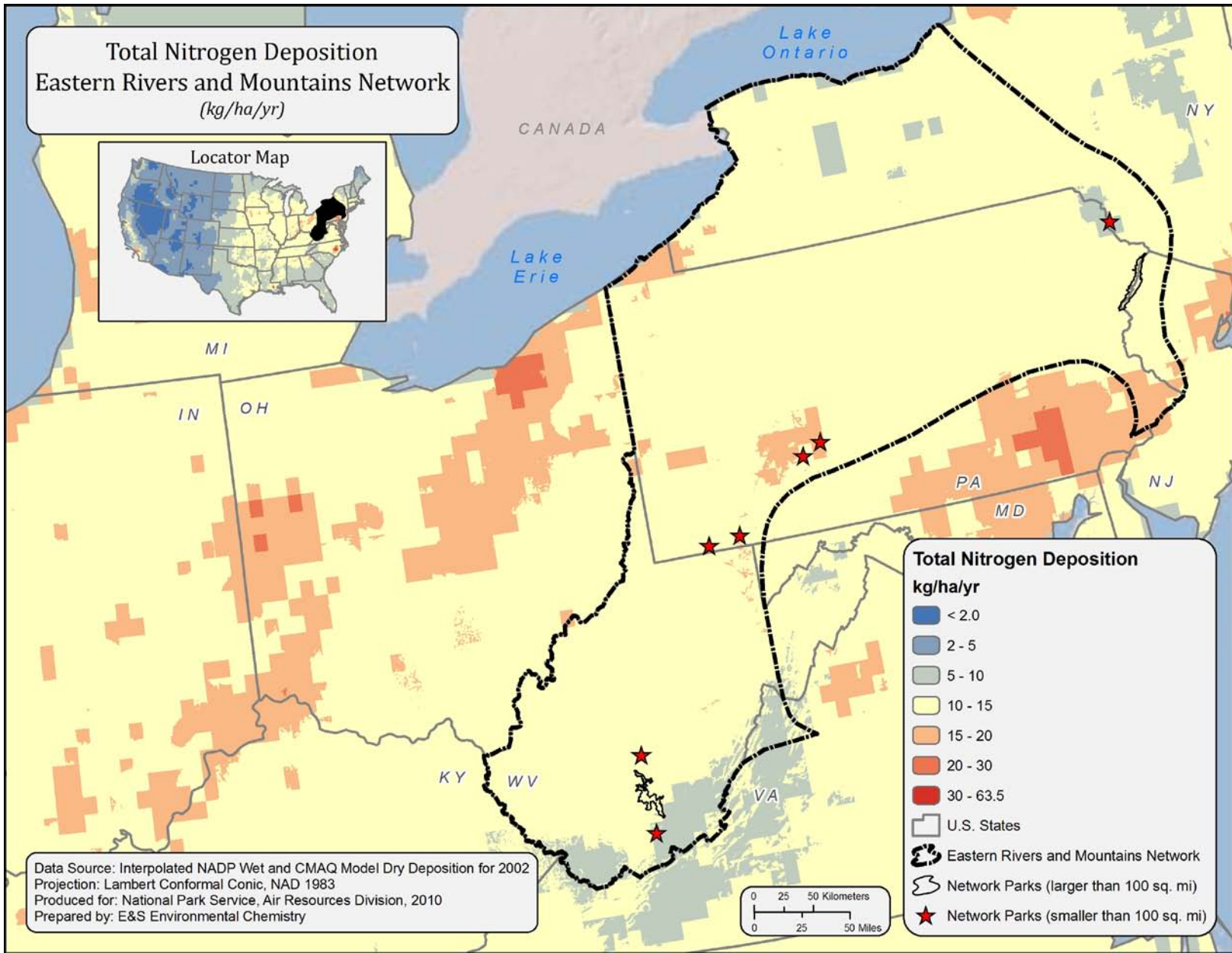




Map I

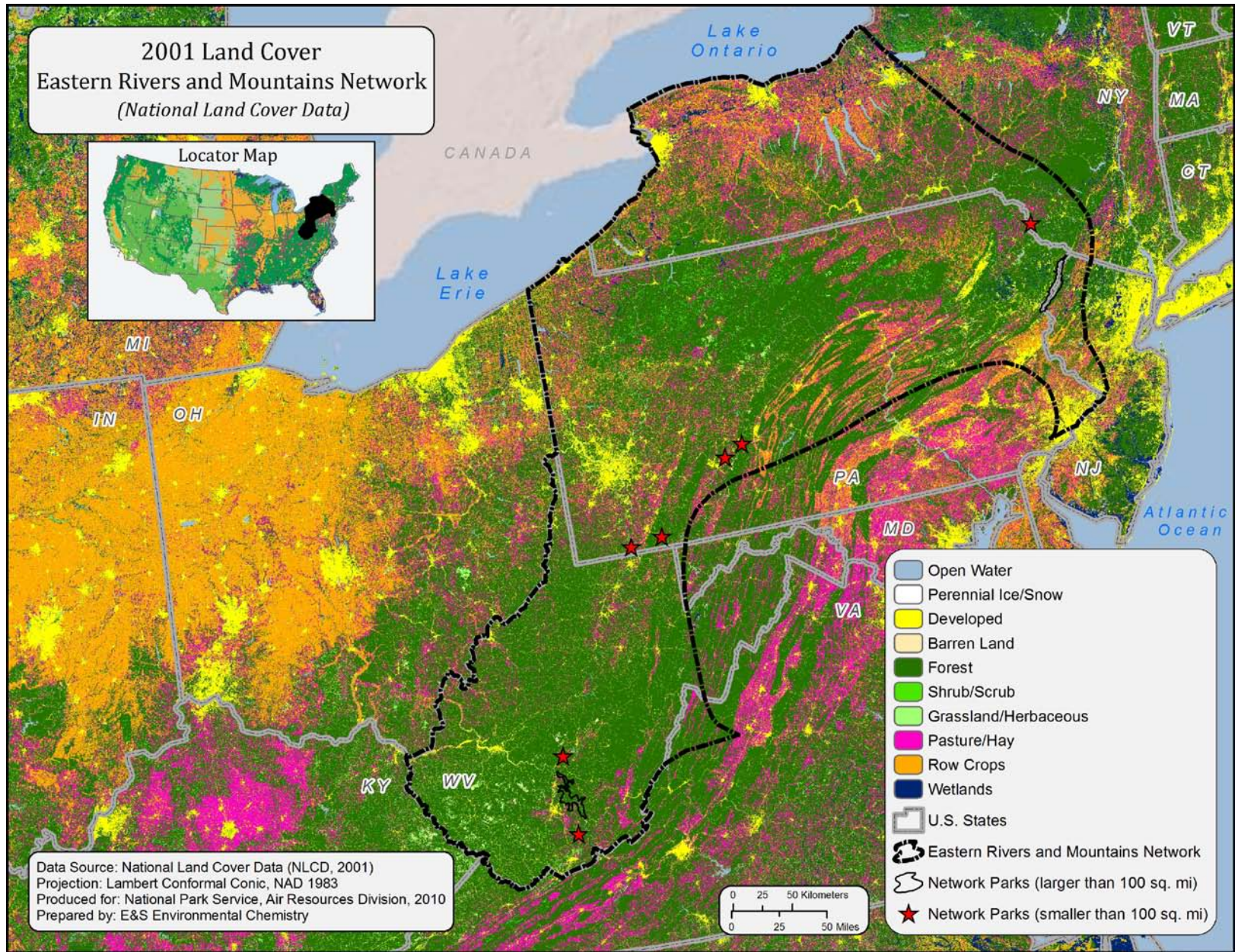


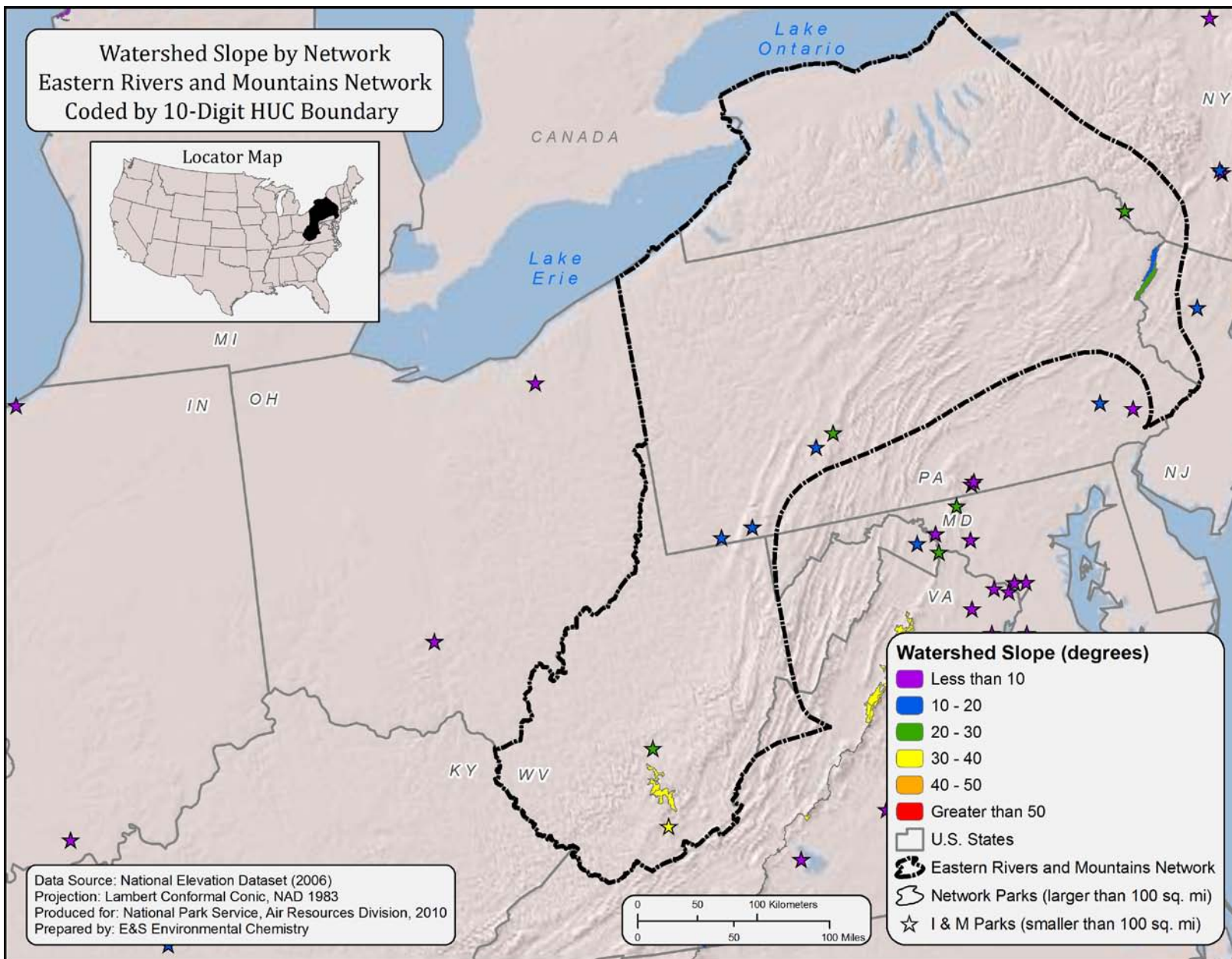
Map J



Map K





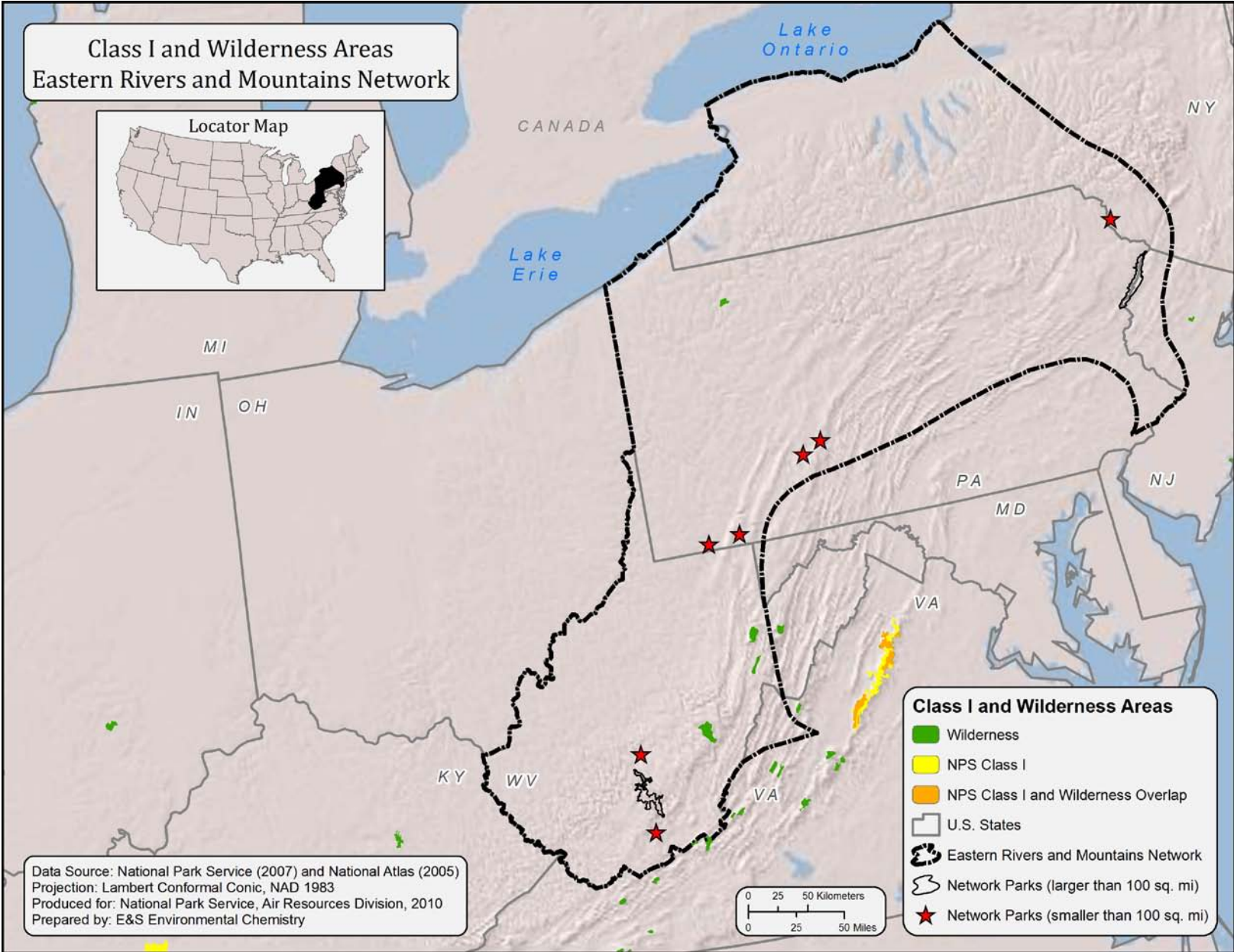


Map M





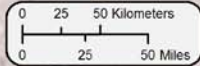
# Class I and Wilderness Areas Eastern Rivers and Mountains Network



**Class I and Wilderness Areas**

- Wilderness
- NPS Class I
- NPS Class I and Wilderness Overlap
- U.S. States
- Eastern Rivers and Mountains Network
- Network Parks (larger than 100 sq. mi)
- ★ Network Parks (smaller than 100 sq. mi)

Data Source: National Park Service (2007) and National Atlas (2005)  
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic, NAD 1983  
 Produced for: National Park Service, Air Resources Division, 2010  
 Prepared by: E&S Environmental Chemistry



ERMN-21

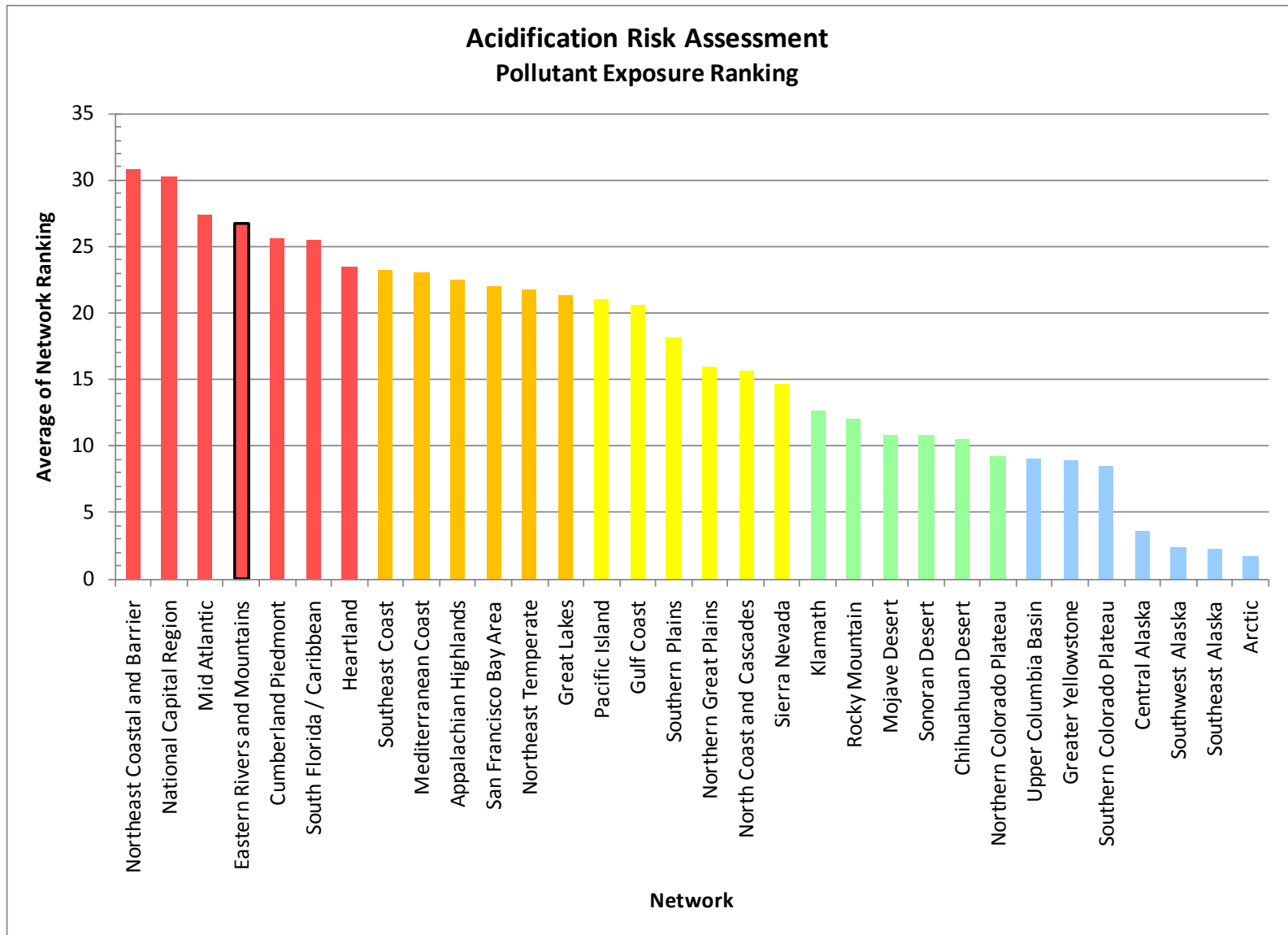


Figure A

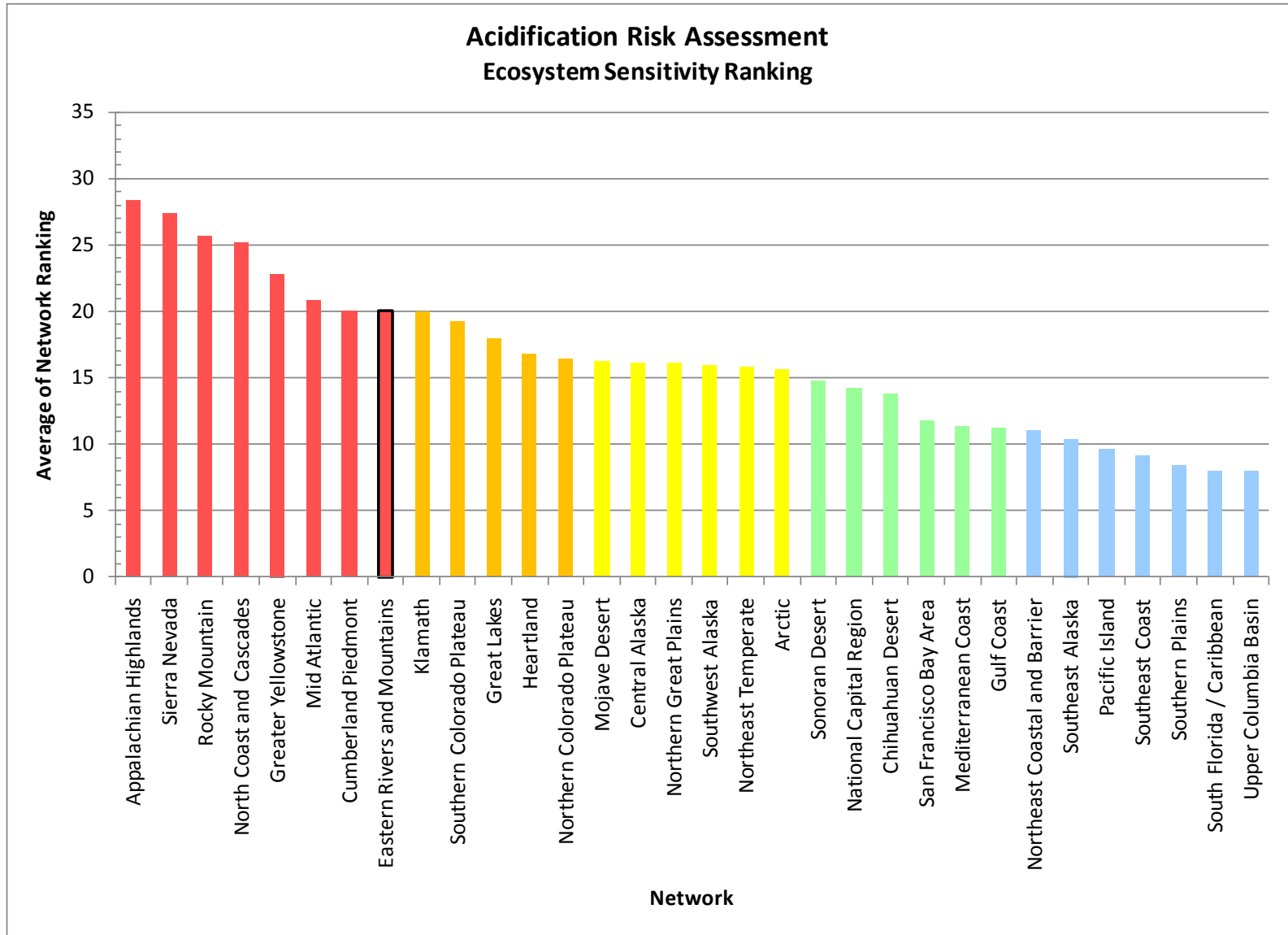


Figure B

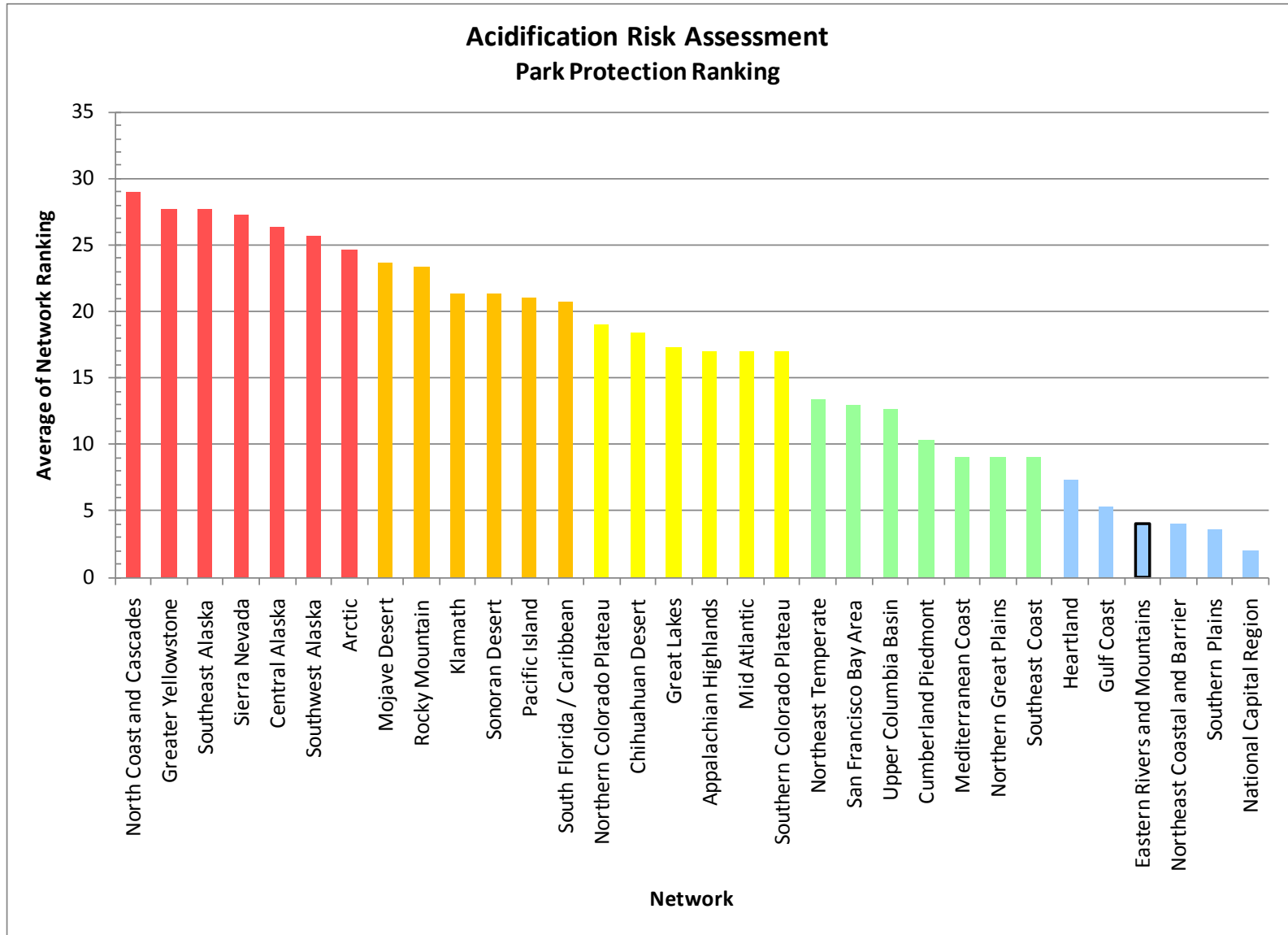


Figure C

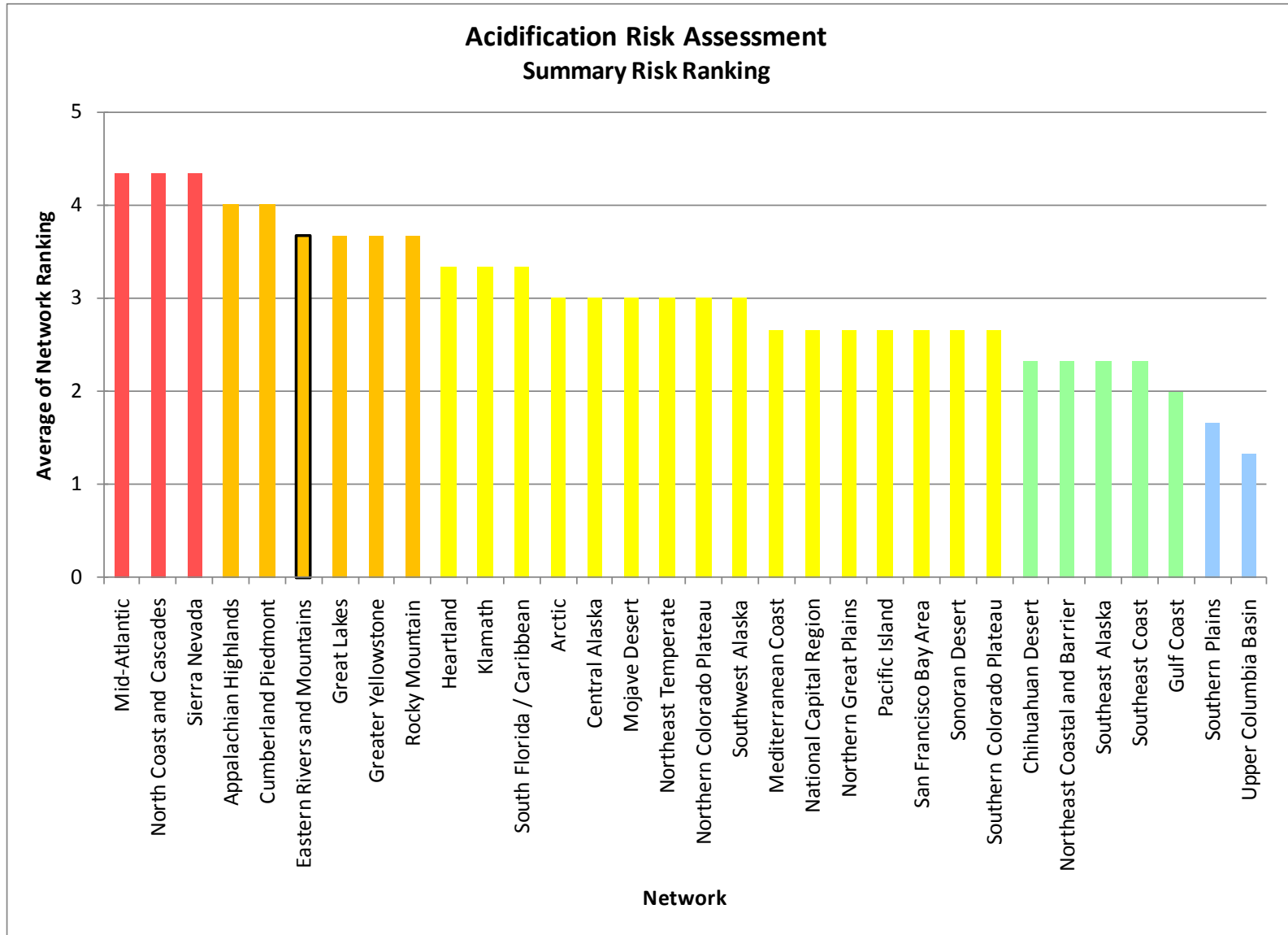


Figure D

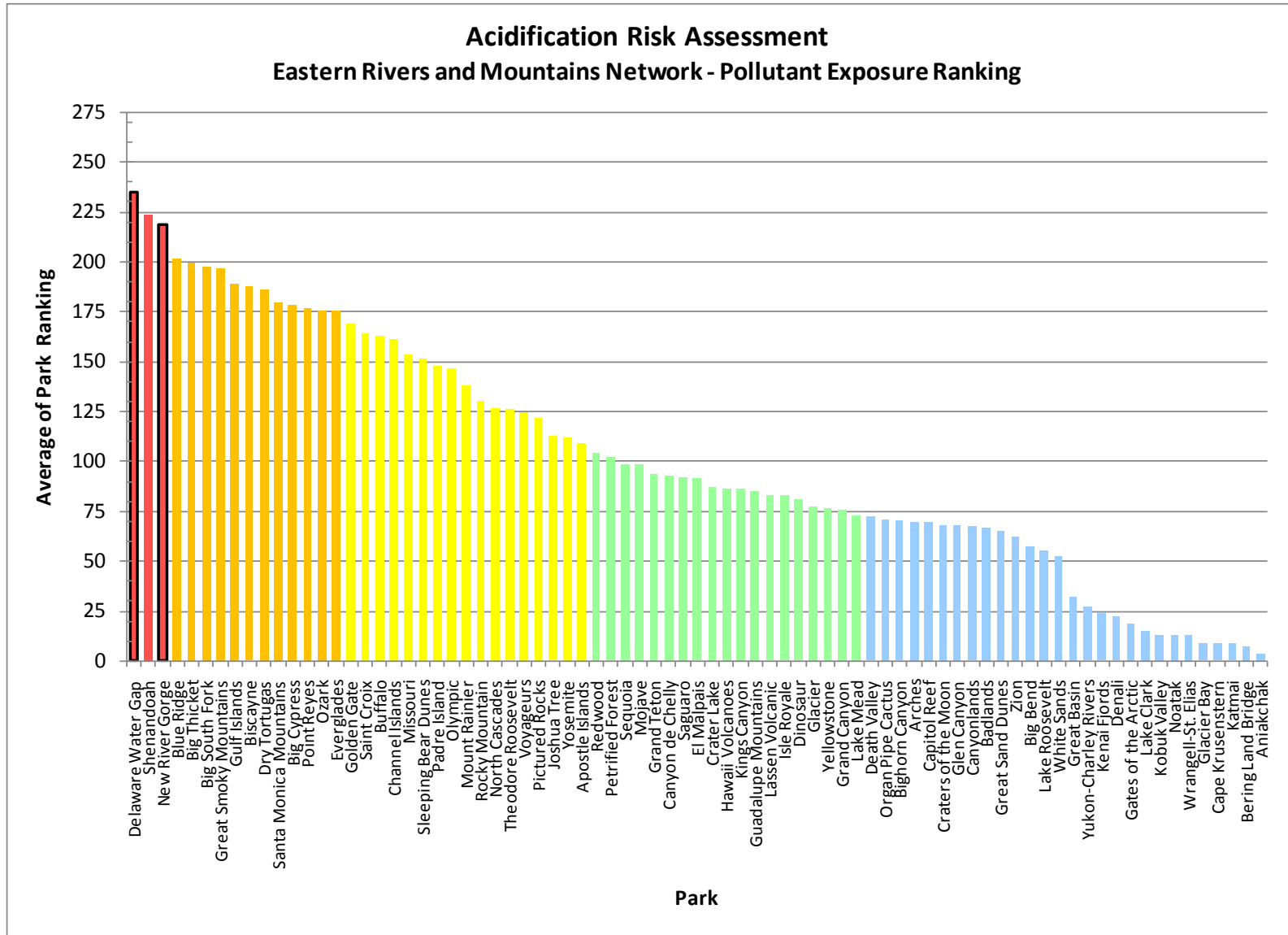


Figure E

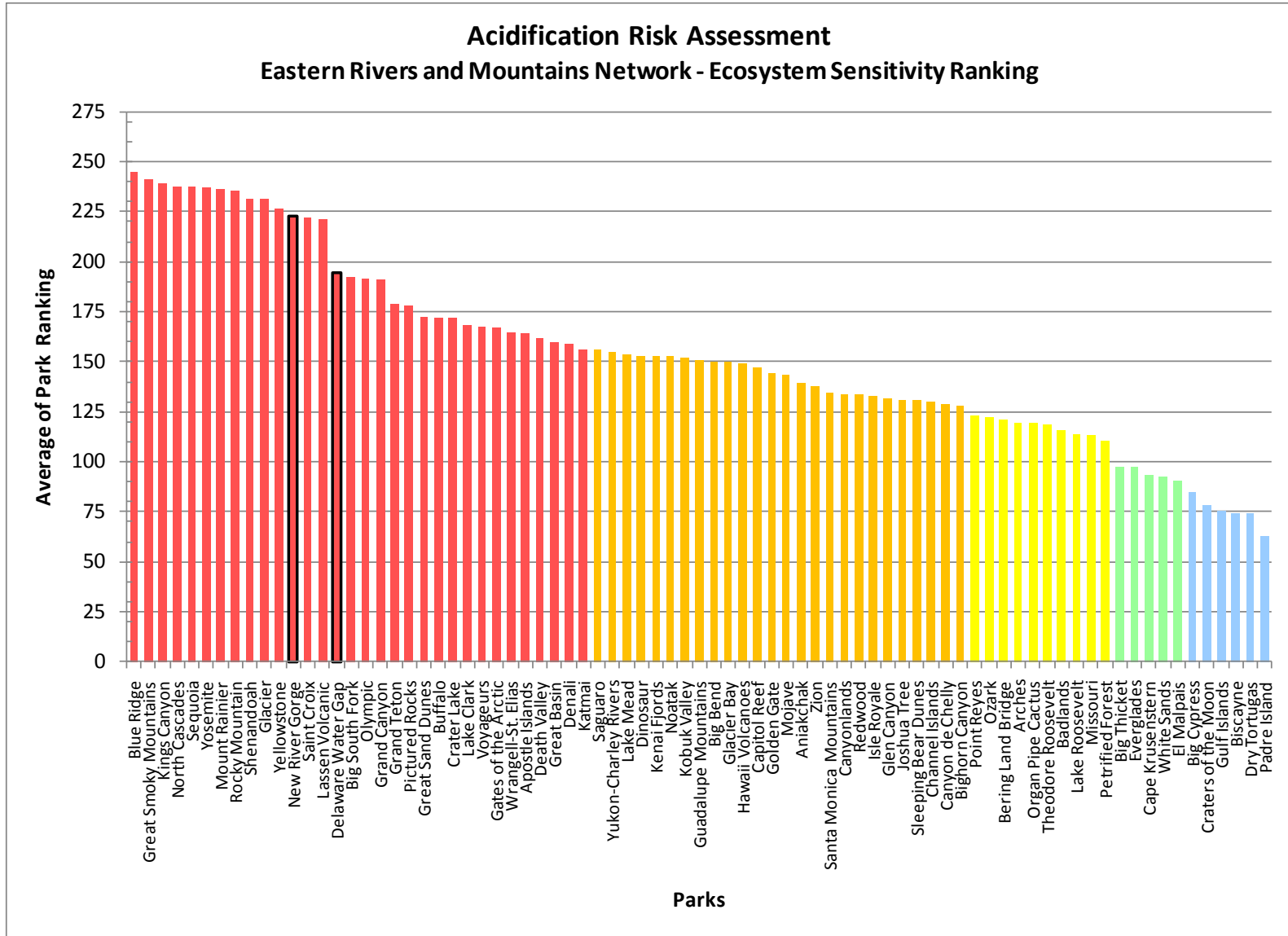


Figure F

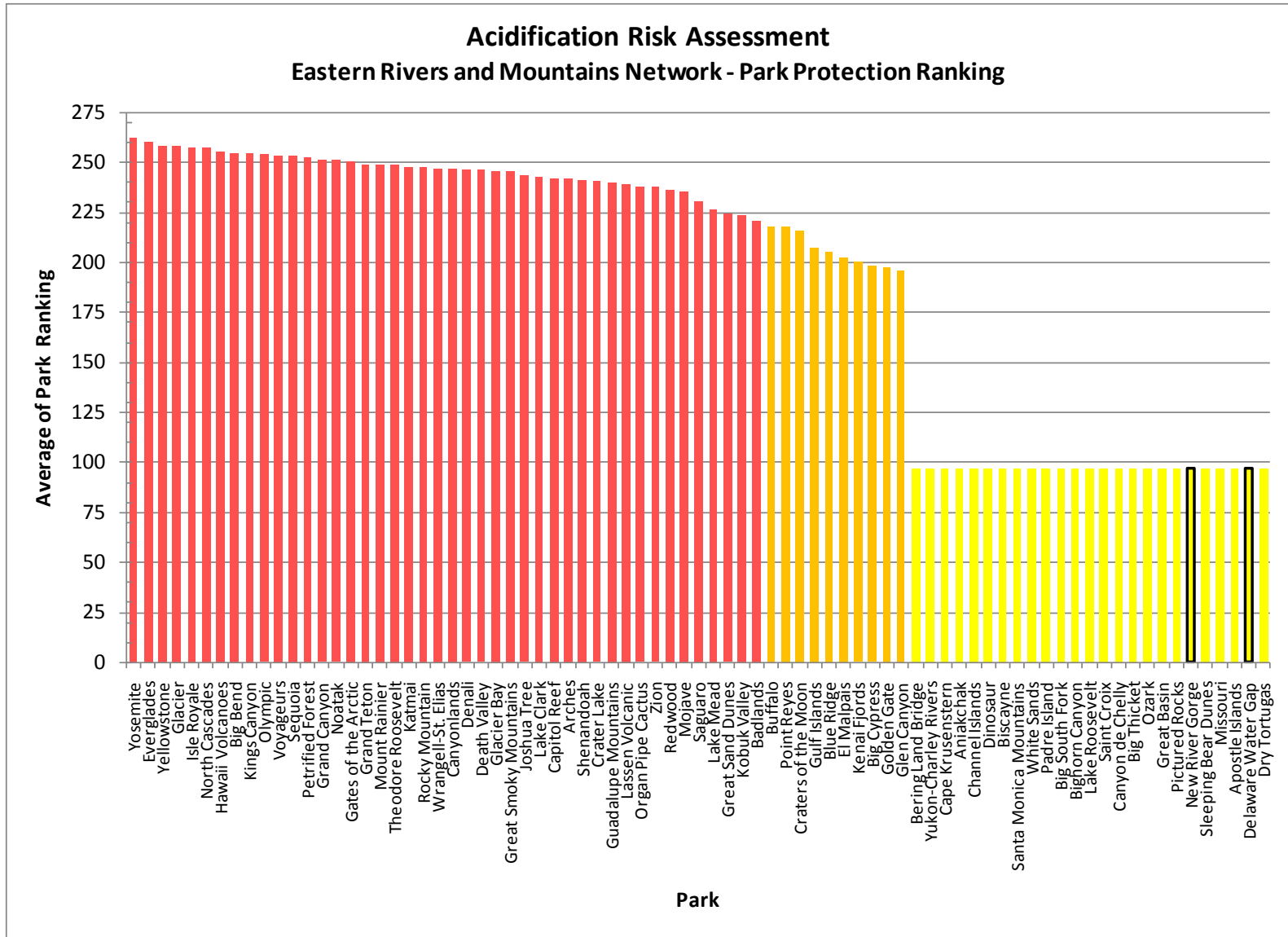


Figure G



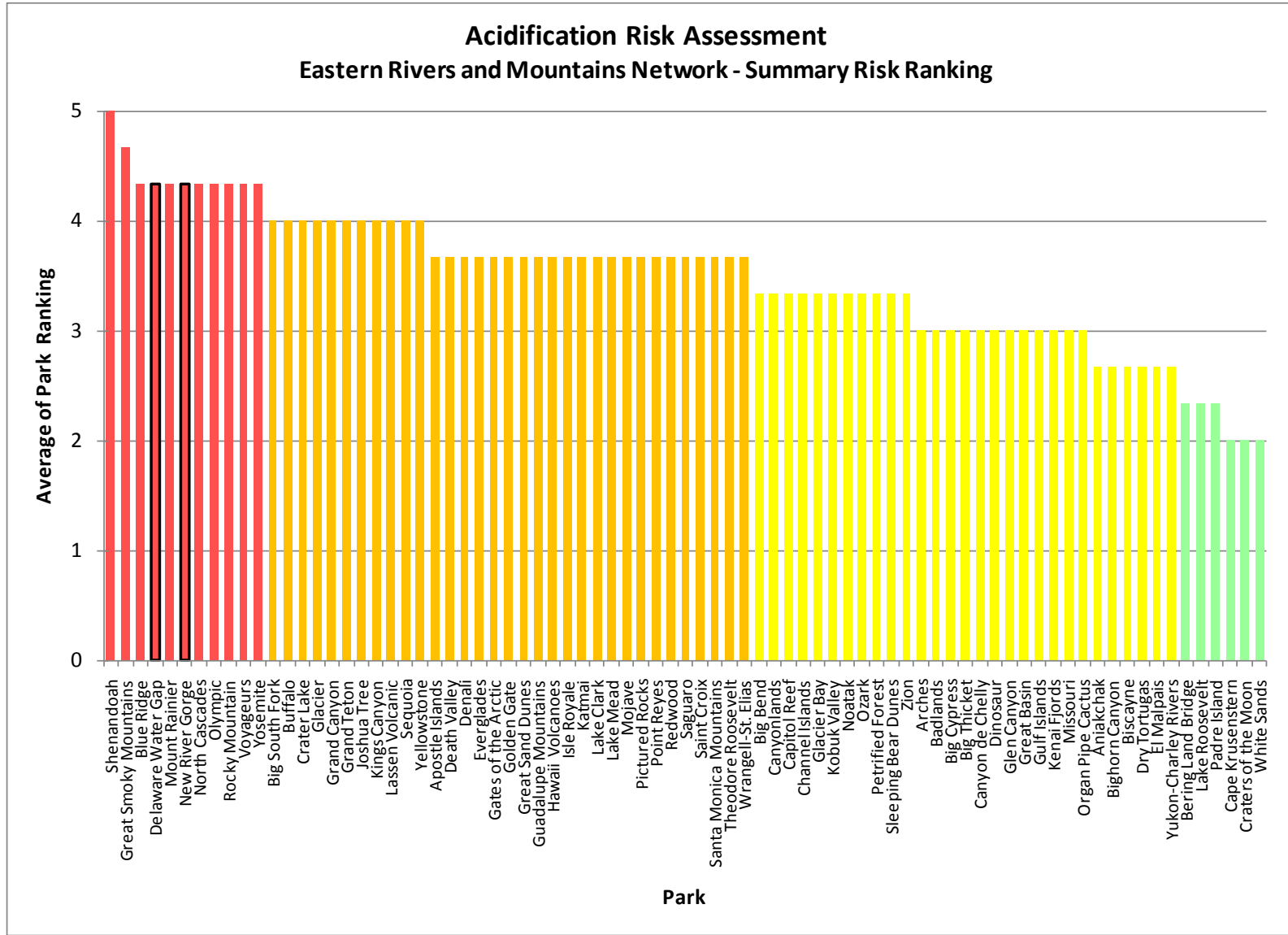


Figure H



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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**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**



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