



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

Greater Yellowstone Network (GRYN)

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/ARD/NRR—2011/357



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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T. J. Sullivan
T. C. McDonnell
G. T. McPherson
S. D. Mackey
D. Moore

E&S Environmental Chemistry, Inc.
P.O. Box 609
Corvallis, OR 97339

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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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Greater Yellowstone Network (GRYN)

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.

There are three parks in the Greater Yellowstone Network: Yellowstone (YELL), Grand Teton (GRTE), and Bighorn Canyon (BICA). All are larger than 100 square miles.

Total annual S and N emissions, by county, are shown in Maps E and F, respectively, for lands in and surrounding the Greater Yellowstone Network. County-level S emissions were mostly less than 1 ton per square mile per year, although a few counties within, or partially within, the network had emissions estimates in the range of 1 to 5 tons per square mile per year. Annual county-level N emissions within the network also ranged from less than 1 ton per square mile to 1 to 5 tons per square mile (Map F). In general, annual S and N emissions at most locations within the network were both less than 1 ton per square mile, although S and N emissions were higher in the southwestern portion of the network, in relatively close proximity to GRTE and YELL (Maps E and F). Individual point sources of SO₂ emissions are shown on Map G. There were two point sources that emitted S in the range of 5,000 to 20,000 tons per year. They were both located in the southern part of the network, more than 100 km south of YELL and GRTE. Other point sources were smaller. Point source emissions of oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO_x) and reduced (ammonia, NH₃) N are shown in Map H. There were few N emissions point sources in or near this network. The few that did exist were sources of oxidized N. One emitted more than 3,000 tons of N per year.

Urban centers within the network and within a 300-mile buffer around the network are shown in Map I. There are no population centers of any magnitude in or near this network. Several cities, including Salt Lake City, Boise, and Denver, are within 300 miles of the network boundary.

Total S and N deposition estimates in and around the network are shown in Maps J and K, respectively. Included in this analysis are both wet and dry forms of S and N deposition and both the oxidized and reduced N species. Total S deposition throughout most of the network, including the three parks, was very low (less than 2 kg S/ha/yr). There were two small areas where S deposition ranged from 2 to 5 kg S/ha/yr (Map J). Total N deposition within the network was higher, ranging from below 2 kg N/ha/yr in the east to as high as 5 to 10 kg N/ha/yr in and around portions of GRTE and in the southwestern portion of YELL.

Land cover in and around the network is shown in Map L. The predominant cover types within this network are generally a mix of forest, shrublands and grasslands, with some row crops and pasture/hay. Scattered areas of wetlands and developed lands also occur, mostly around the periphery of the network.

Land slope within the network is variable (Map M). In all three parks, the slope is generally between 10° and 40°. There are small areas in YELL and GRTE that have slope less than 10° and between 40° and 50°.

Park lands requiring special protection against potential adverse impacts associated with acidification from S and N 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. YELL and GRTE are both Class I. Extensive wilderness areas surround these parks.

Park-specific maps are shown for the two most prominent national parks in the network, GRTE and YELL (Maps P-1 through P-4). High-elevation lakes and streams within GRTE and YELL are shown in Maps P-1 and P-2, respectively. These high-elevation water bodies might be more prone to acidification from atmospheric S and N inputs than lakes and streams at lower elevation. High-elevation lands are prevalent in both GRTE and YELL, and many of the lakes and streams in these parks are found above 2,500 m elevation. In GRTE, high-elevation streams within the park are found along the Grand Teton Mountains, which run north to south along the western border of the park (Map P-1). YELL has high-elevation streams located in small areas along the eastern border and in the northwest (Map P-2).

Maps P-3 and P-4 display low-order streams within GRTE and YELL, respectively. GRTE has many low-order streams found in the more mountainous terrain along its eastern and western borders (Map P-3). YELL also has many low-order streams that are more or less evenly distributed throughout most of the park (Map P-4).

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 Greater Yellowstone Network ranked in the lowest quintile among networks in Pollutant Exposure (Figure A). Sulfur and N emissions and deposition within the network are very low. However, the network Ecosystem Sensitivity ranking was in the middle of the highest quintile among networks, a ranking of Very High (Figure B). This was because this area is known to contain acid-sensitive waters and geology, and there are numerous high-elevation lakes and streams and low-order streams that might be sensitive to acidification effects. This network ranked in the top quintile in Park Protection, having substantial amounts of protected lands (Figure C).

In combination, the network rankings for Pollutant Exposure, Ecosystem Sensitivity, and Park Protection yielded an overall Summary Risk ranking that was relatively high among networks (Figure D). The overall level of concern for acidification effects on I&M parks within this network can be considered 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>Bighorn Canyon</i>	Very Low	High	Moderate	Moderate
<i>Grand Teton</i>	Low	Very High	Very High	High
<i>Yellowstone</i>	Low	Very High	Very High	High

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.

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 rankings, the park rankings 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.

Pollutant Exposure was ranked Low for GRTE and YELL, and Very Low for BICA (Figure E). All three were ranked High (BICA) or Very High (GRTE, YELL) for Ecosystem Sensitivity (Figure F). GRTE and YELL both contain high-elevation lakes. The three parks diverged more with respect to Park Protection, which was in the highest quintile for GRTE and YELL, but lower for BICA, which was assigned a Moderate ranking (Figure G). The Summary Risk metric ranked both GRTE and YELL as High; BICA was ranked as Moderate (Figure H, Table A).

- 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. 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.

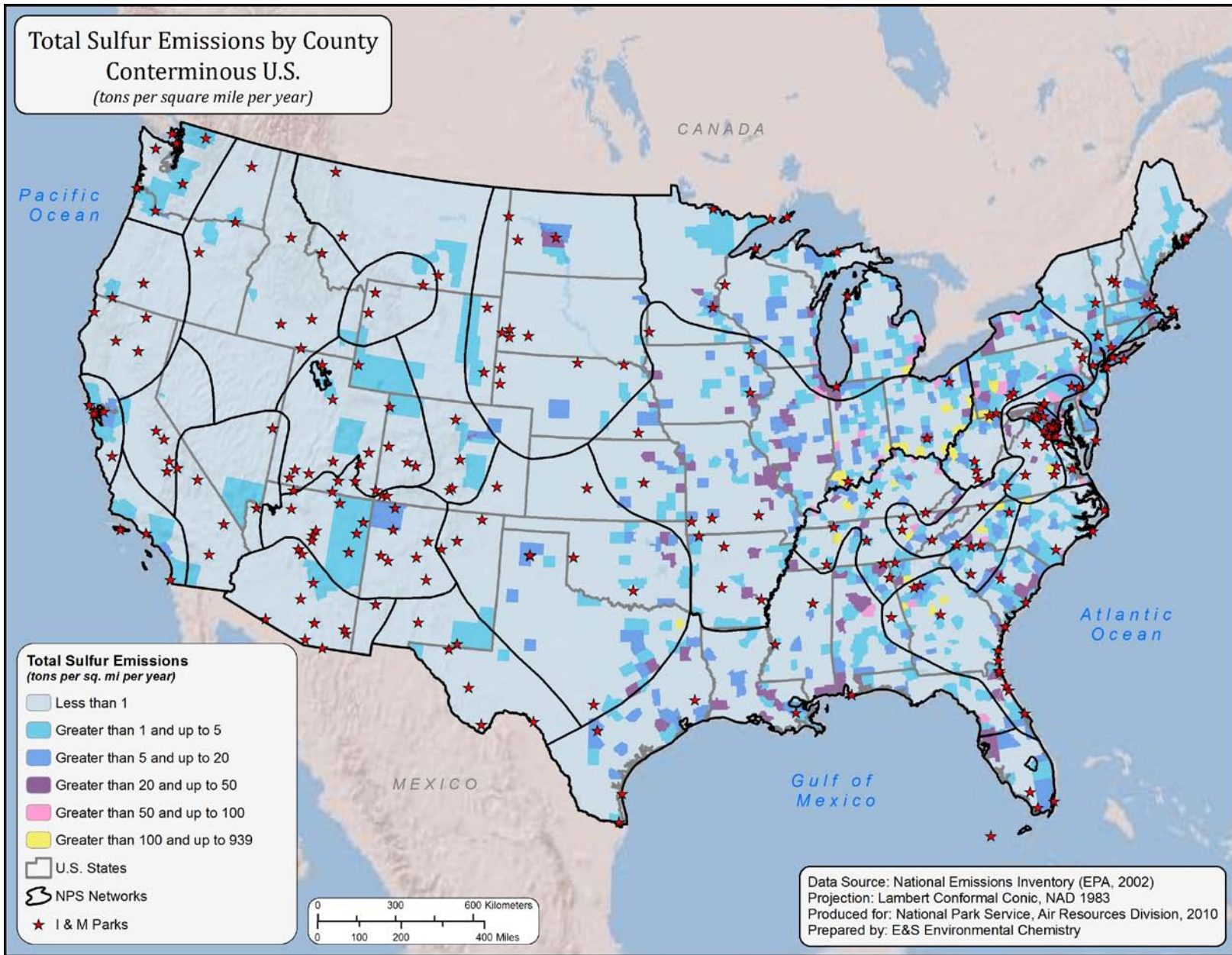
- Map D. Total N deposition for the conterminous United States for the year 2002, expressed in units of kilograms of N deposited from the atmosphere to the Earth surface per hectare per year. Wet and dry forms of both oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO_x) and reduced (ammonia, NH₃) N are included. For the 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 J. Total S deposition in and around the network. Values are expressed as kilograms of S deposited per hectare per year. (Source of data: CMAQ Model wet and 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_x) and reduced (ammonia, NH₃) N. Values are expressed as kilograms of N deposited per hectare per year. (Source of data: CMAQ Model wet and 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)
- 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)
- Map P-1. Park-specific map: high-elevation lakes and streams in GRTE. (Source of data: U.S. EPA National Elevation Dataset [<http://ned.usgs.gov/>] and U.S. EPA/USGS National Hydrography Dataset Plus [<http://www.horizon-systems.com/nhdplus/>])
- Map P-2. Park-specific map: high-elevation lakes and streams in YELL. (Source of data: U.S. EPA National Elevation Dataset [<http://ned.usgs.gov/>] and U.S. EPA/USGS National Hydrography Dataset Plus [<http://www.horizon-systems.com/nhdplus/>])
- Map P-3. Park-specific map: low-order streams in GRTE. (Source of data: U.S. EPA/USGS National Hydrography Dataset Plus [<http://www.horizon-systems.com/nhdplus/>])
- Map P-4. Park-specific map: low-order streams in YELL. (Source of data: U.S. EPA/USGS National Hydrography Dataset Plus [<http://www.horizon-systems.com/nhdplus/>])
- 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.

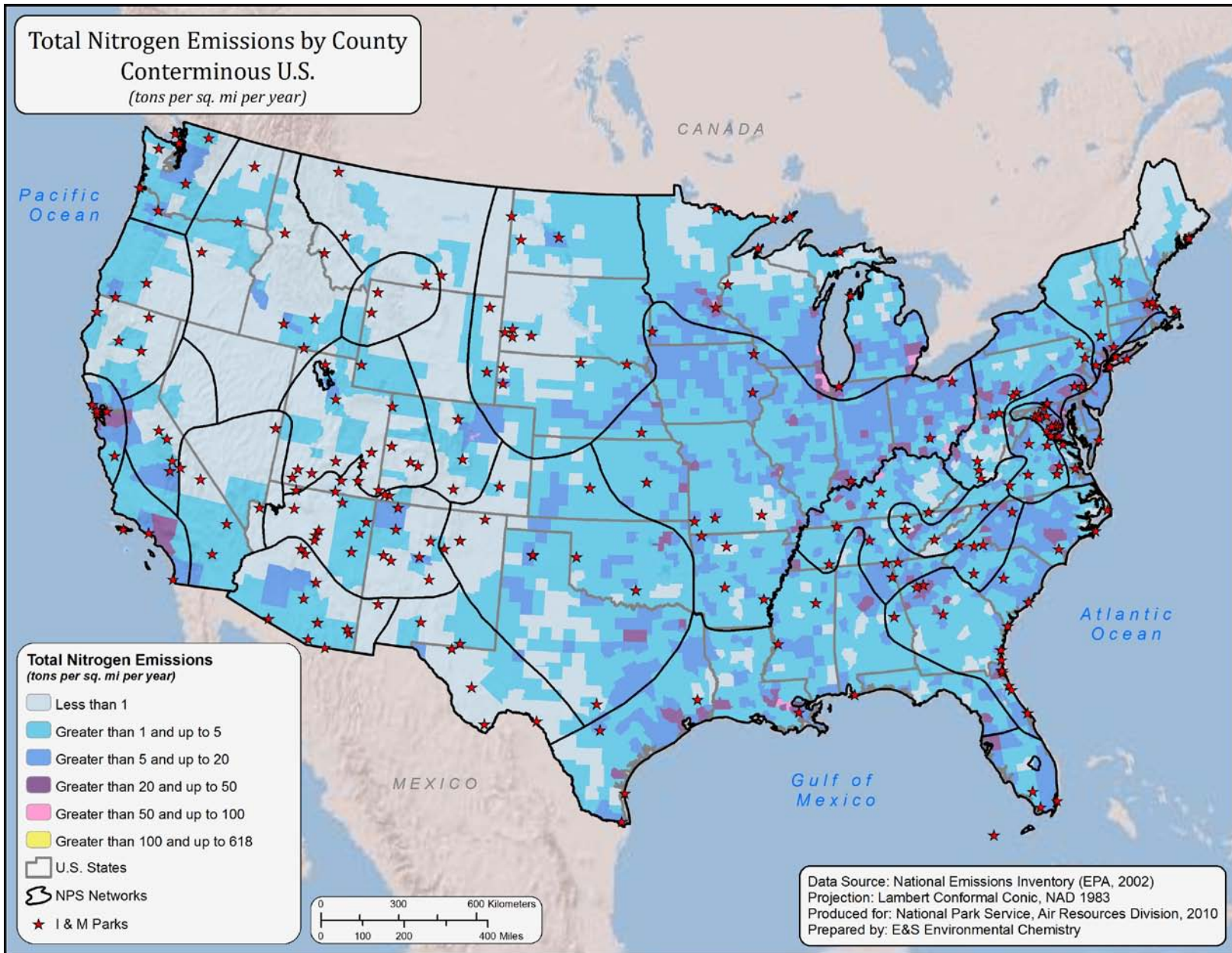
Figure H. Park rankings for Summary Risk for all parks larger than 100 square miles. Ranks for each park were calculated relative to all parks, regardless of size, as the average of the quintile ranks for the Pollutant Exposure, Ecosystem Sensitivity, and Park Protection themes.

GRYN-7



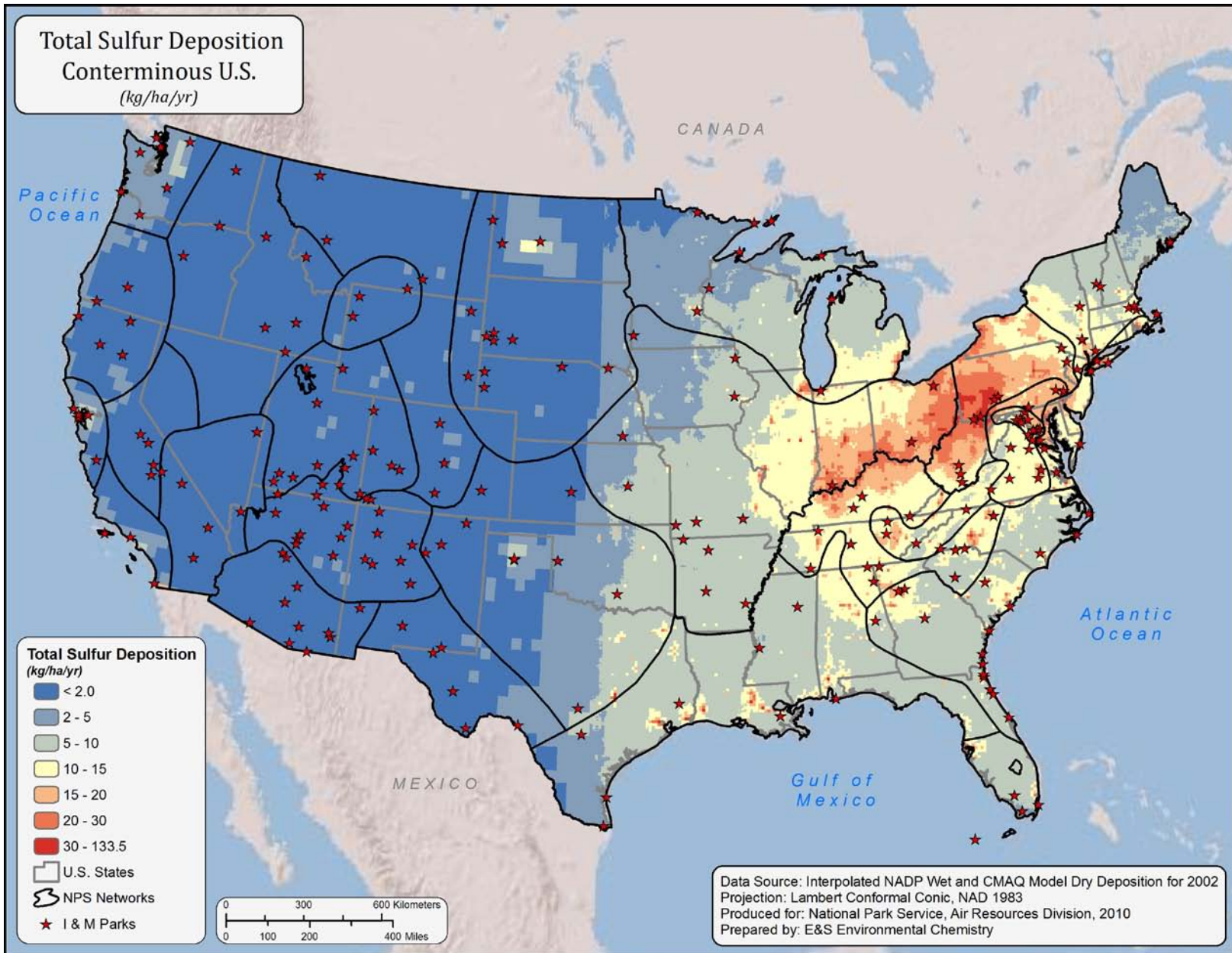
Map A

GRYN-8



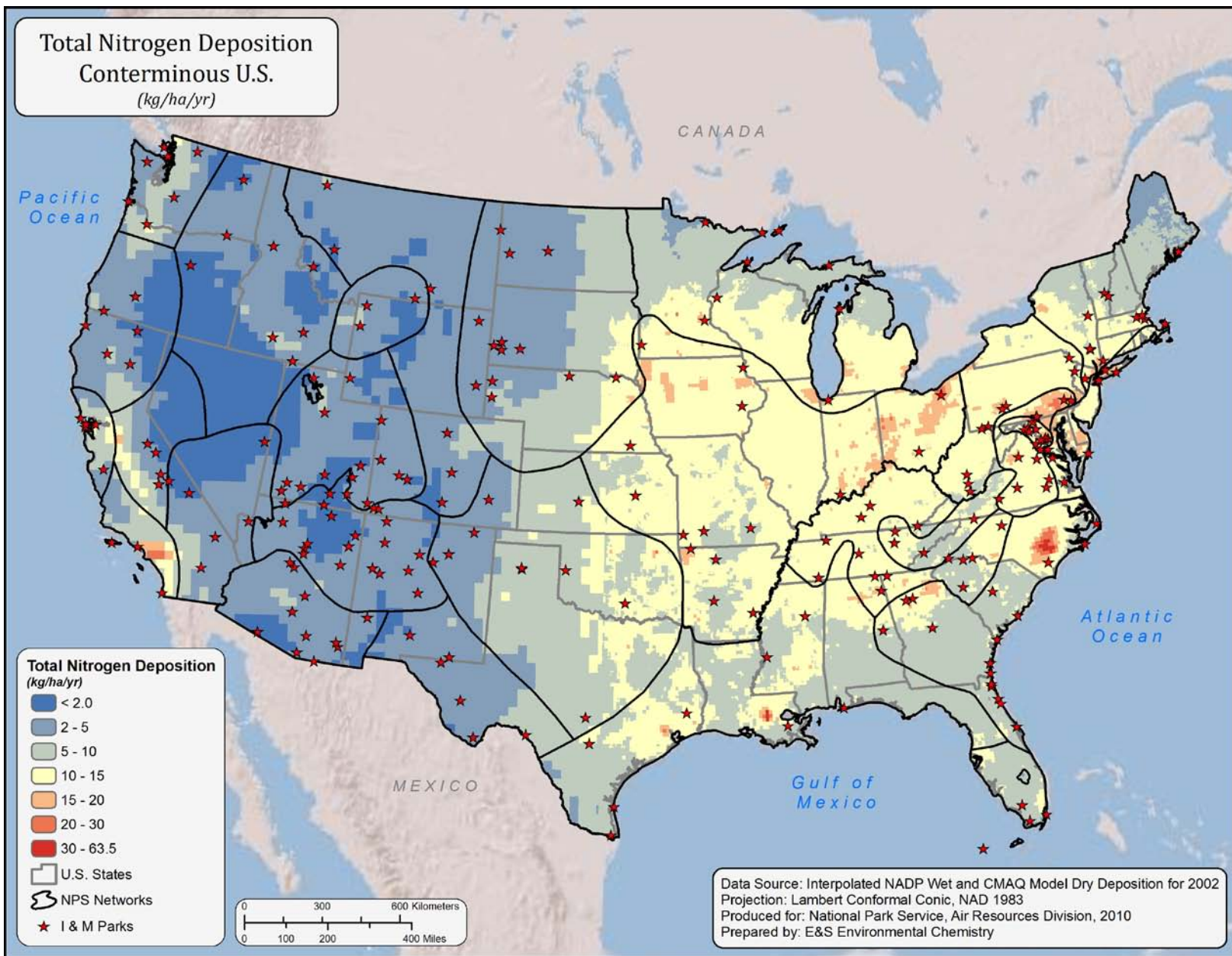
Map B

GRYN-9



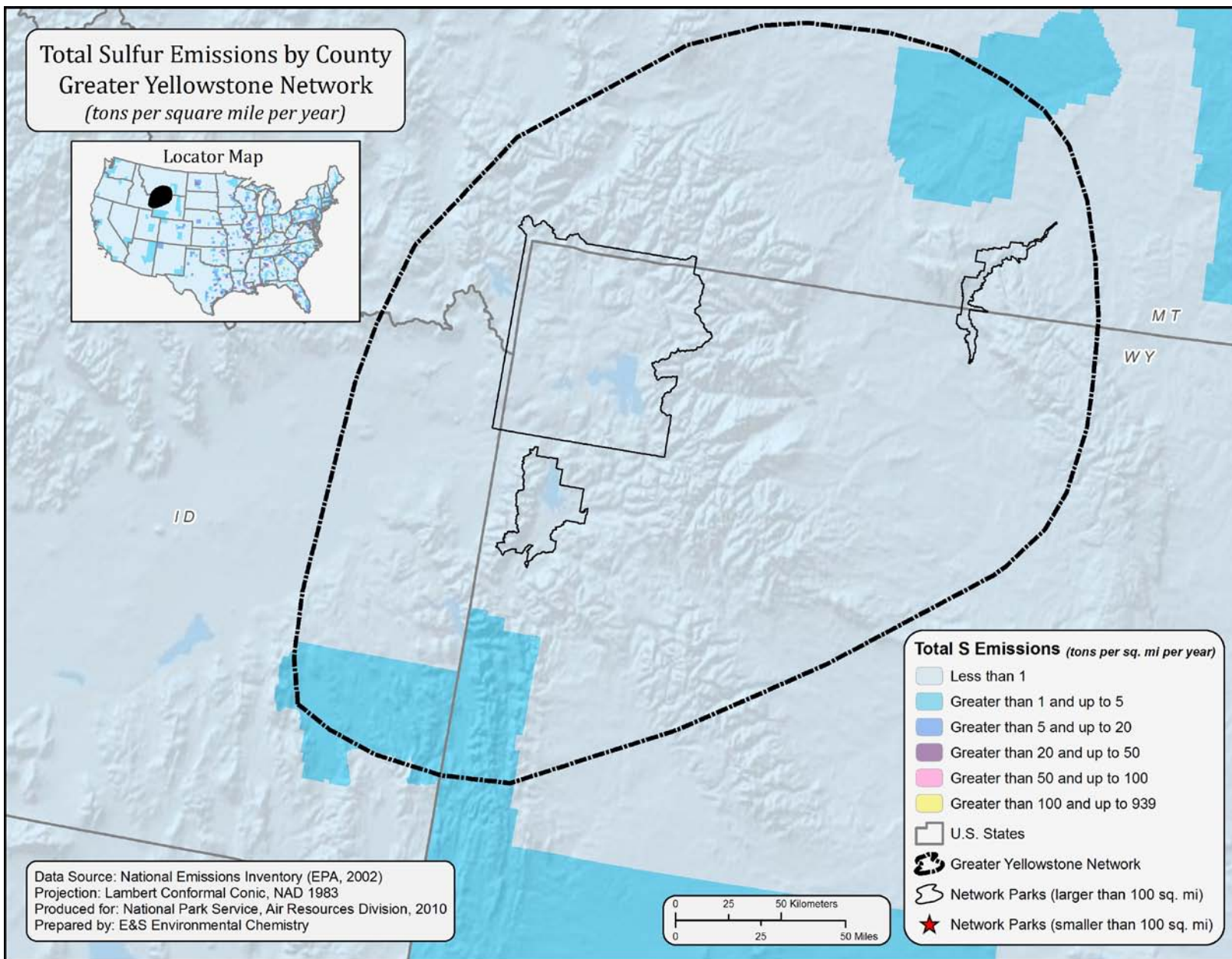
Map C

GRYN-10

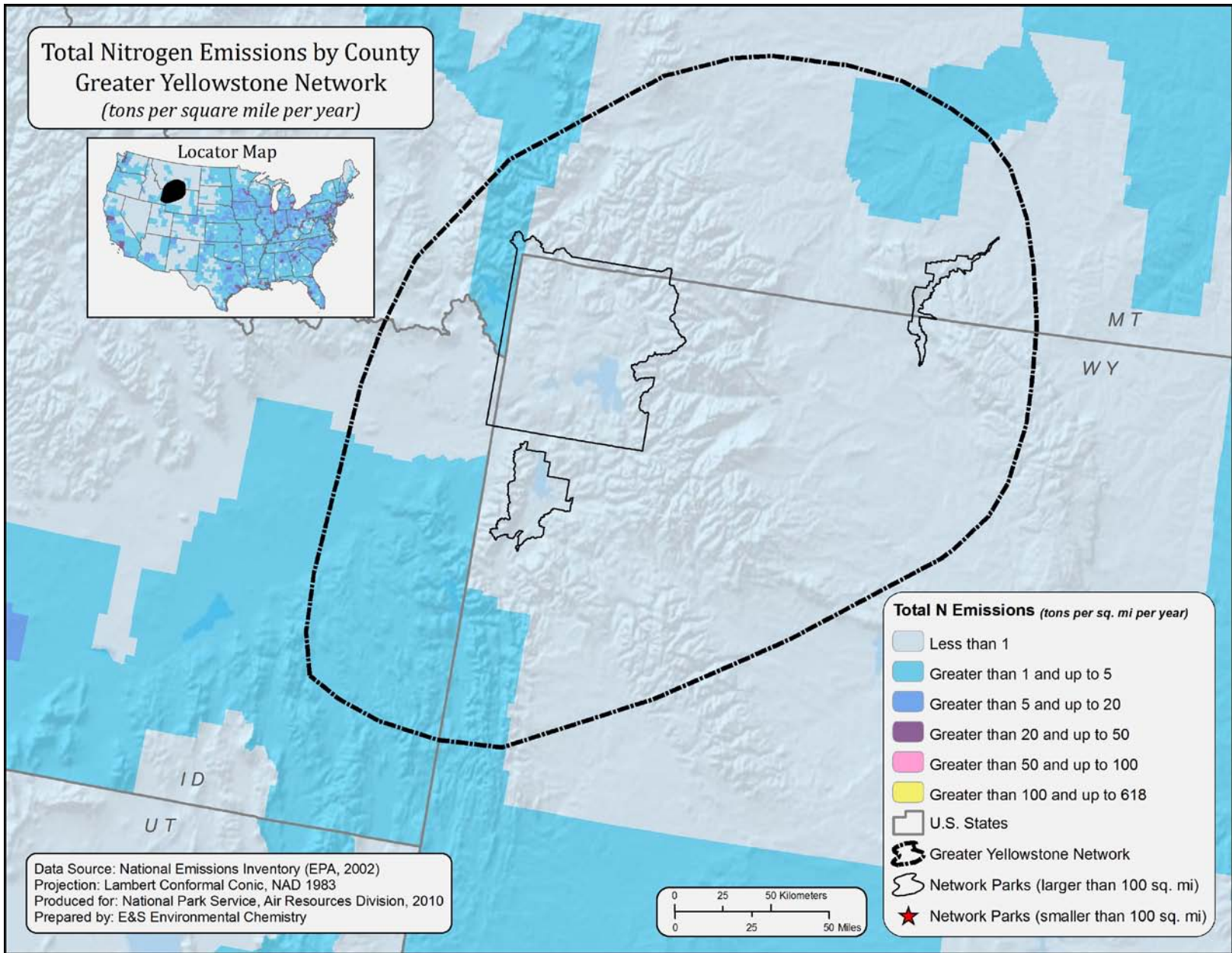


Map D

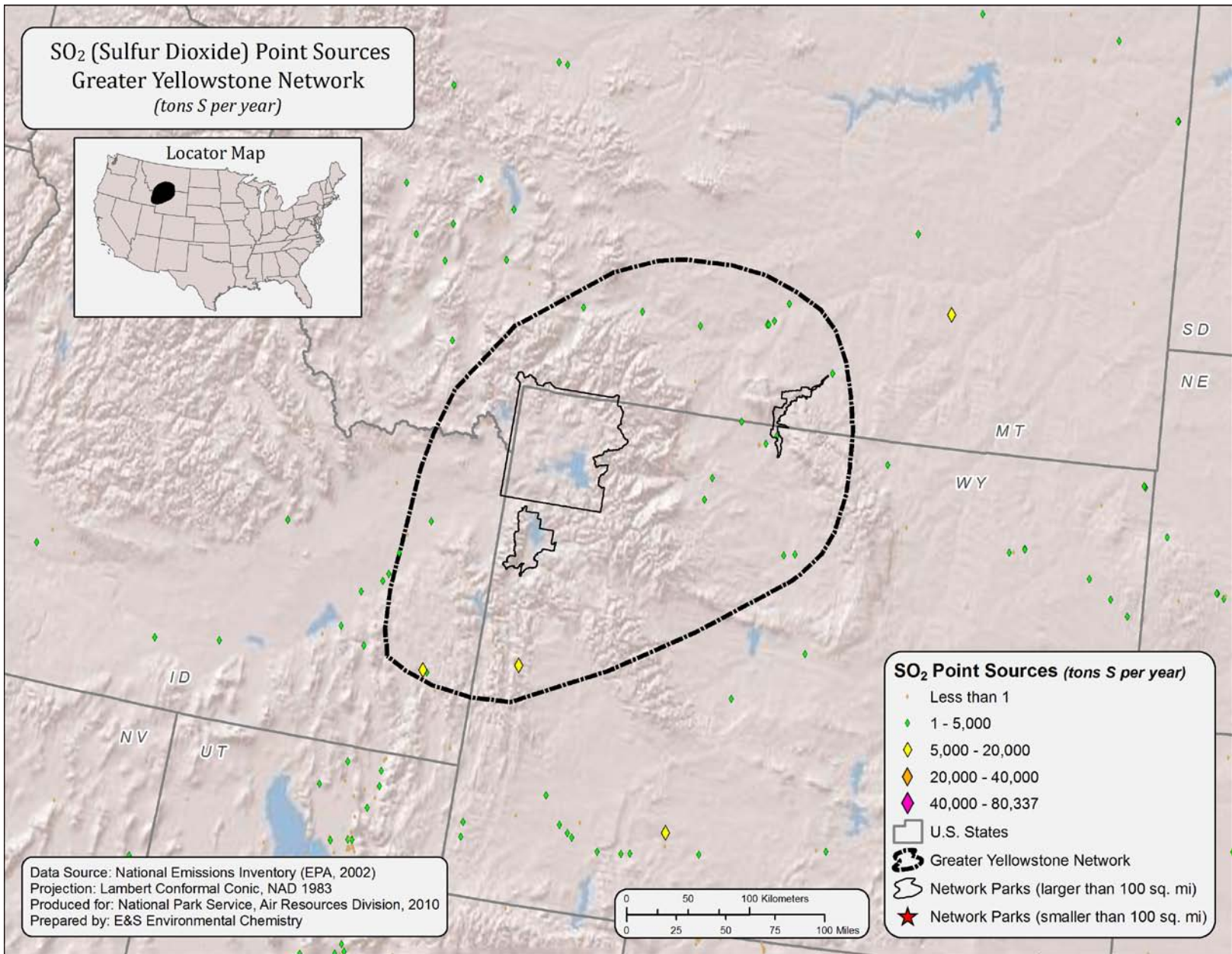
GRYN-11



Map E

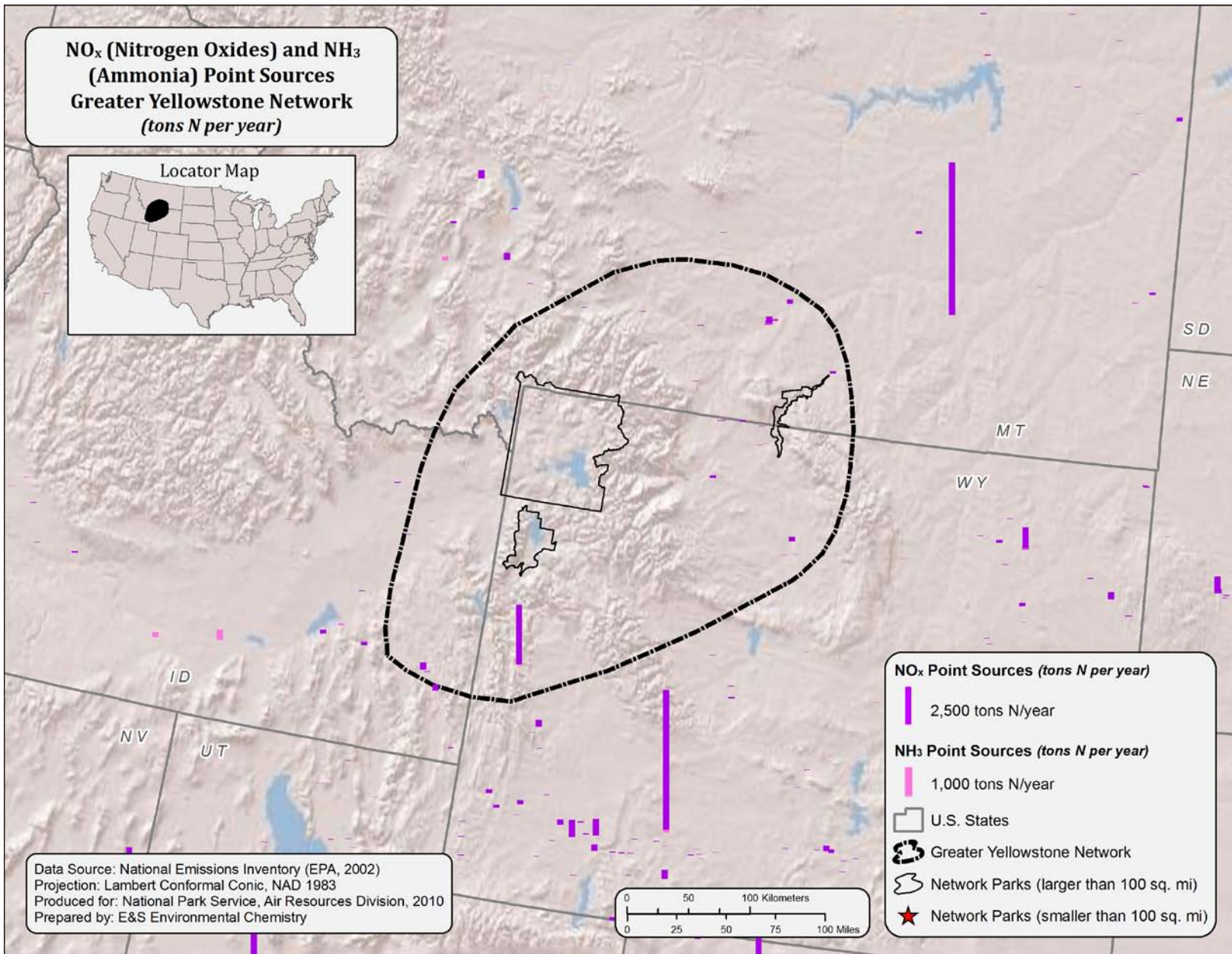


Map F



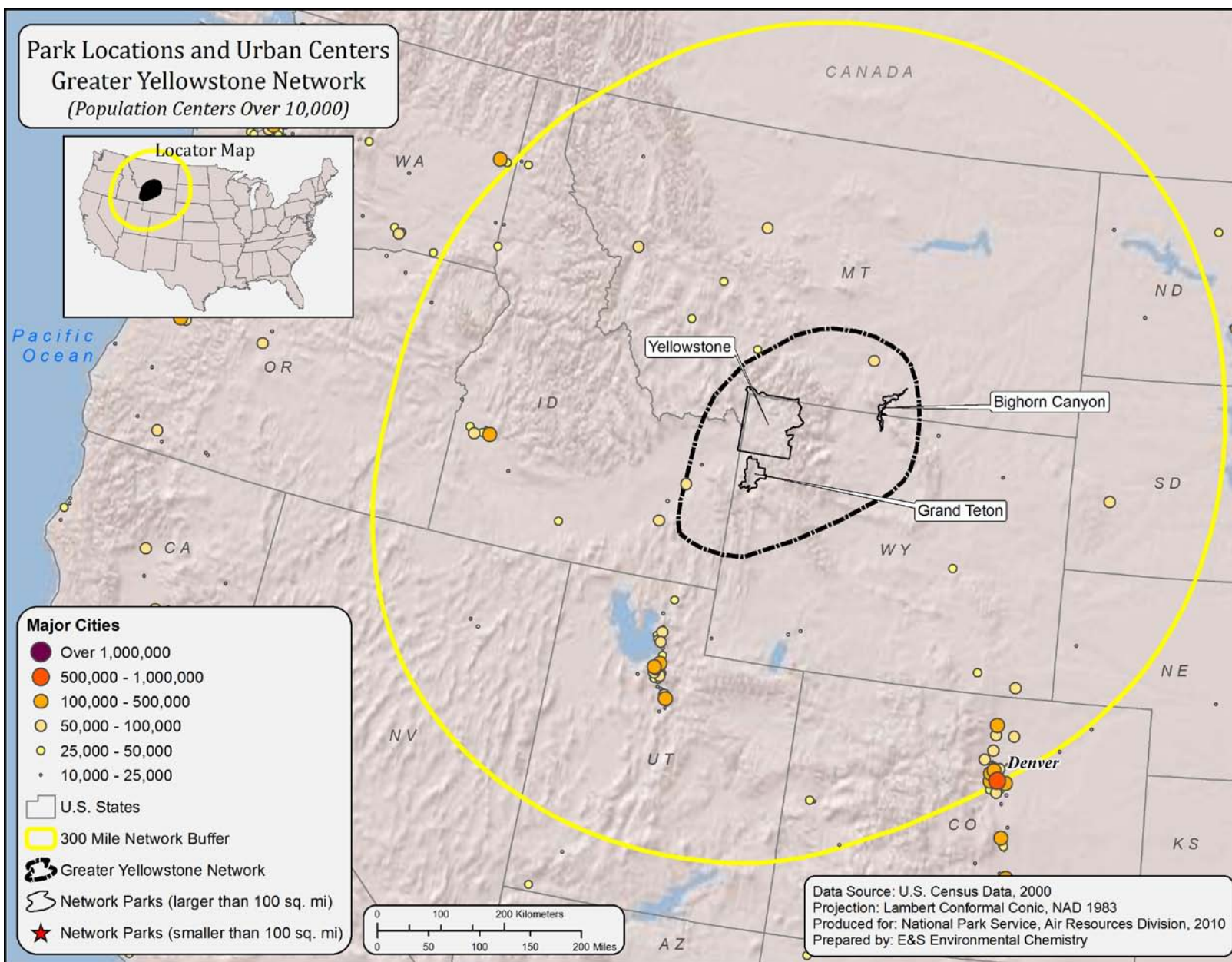
Map G

GRYN-14

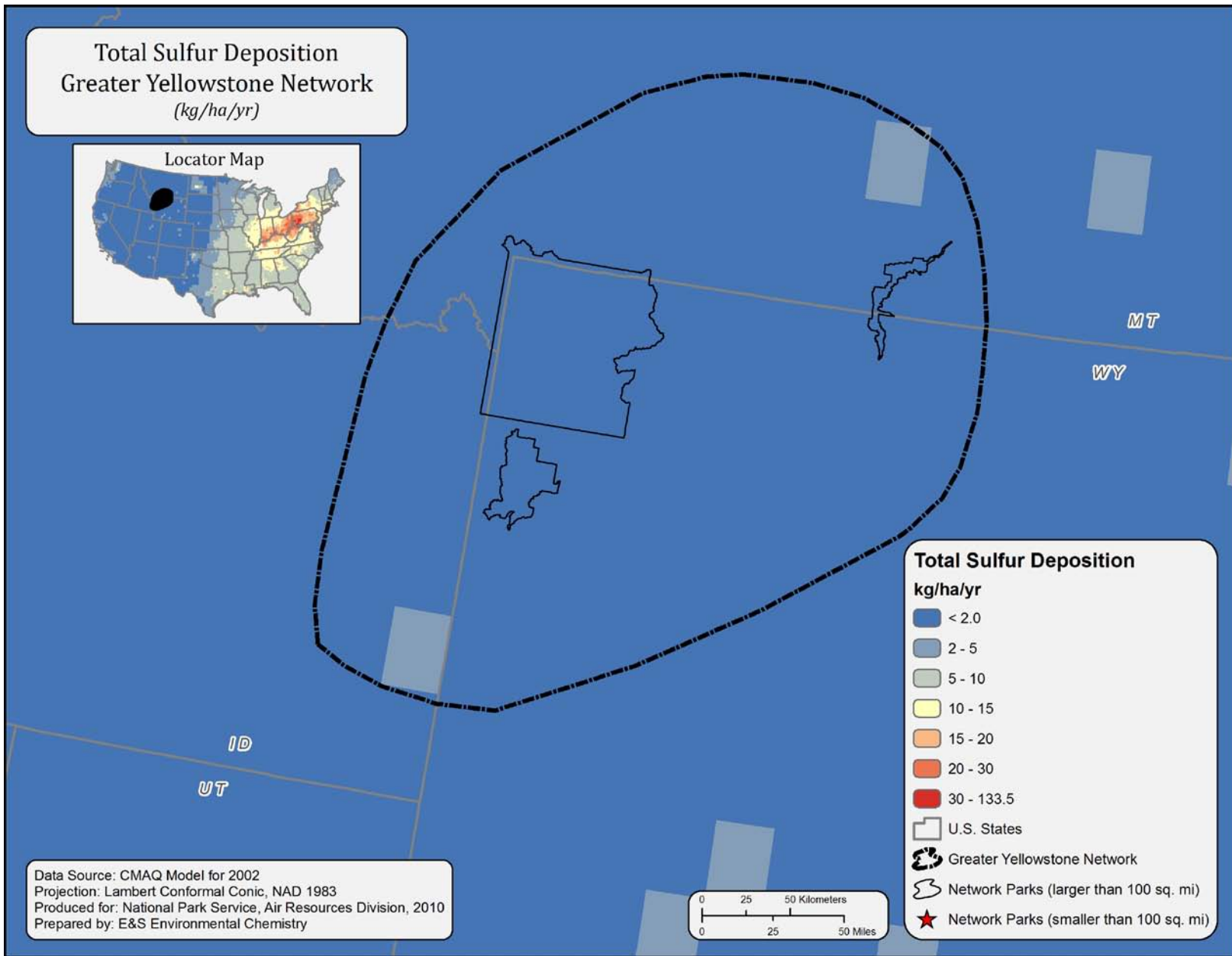


Map H

GRYN-15

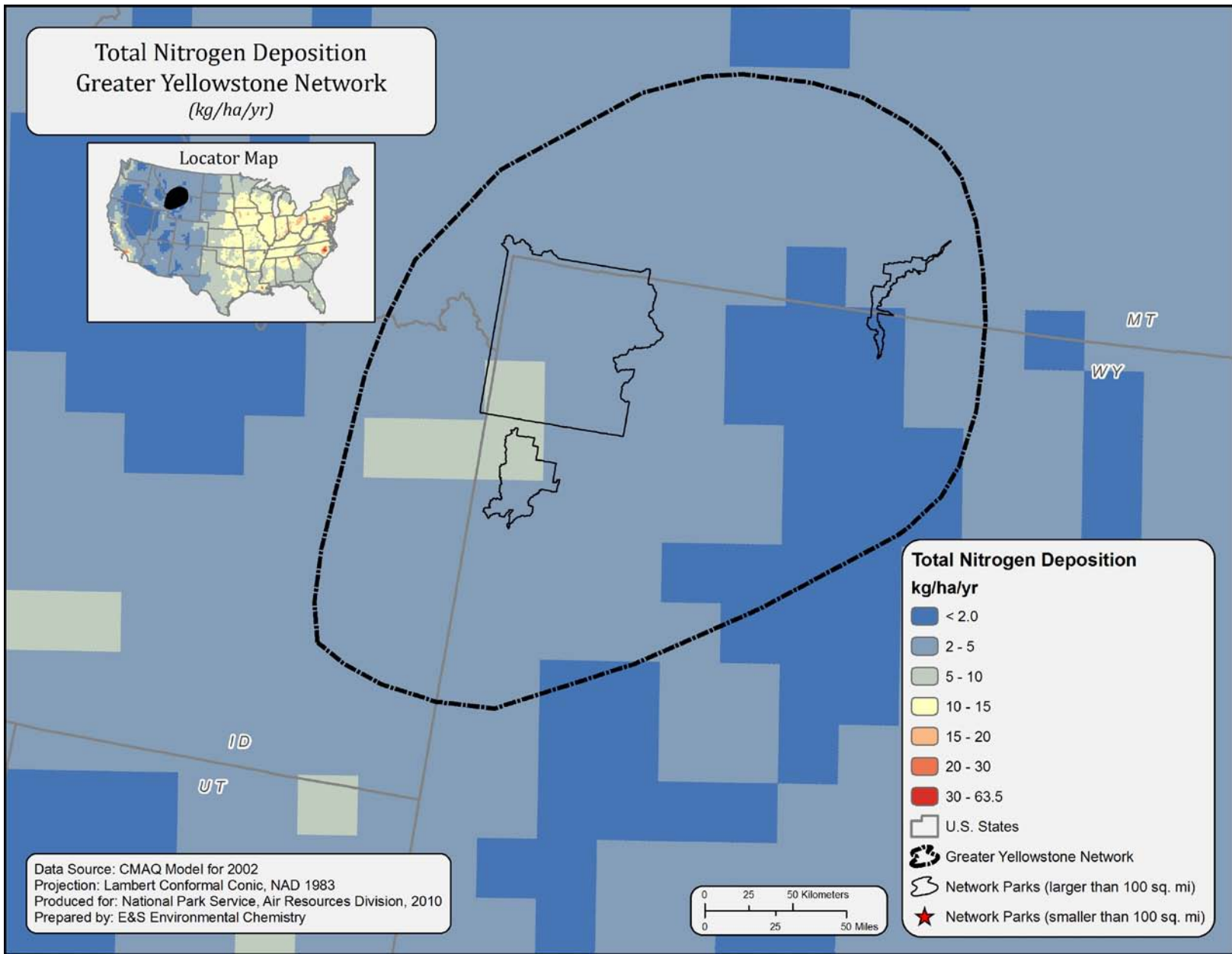


Map I

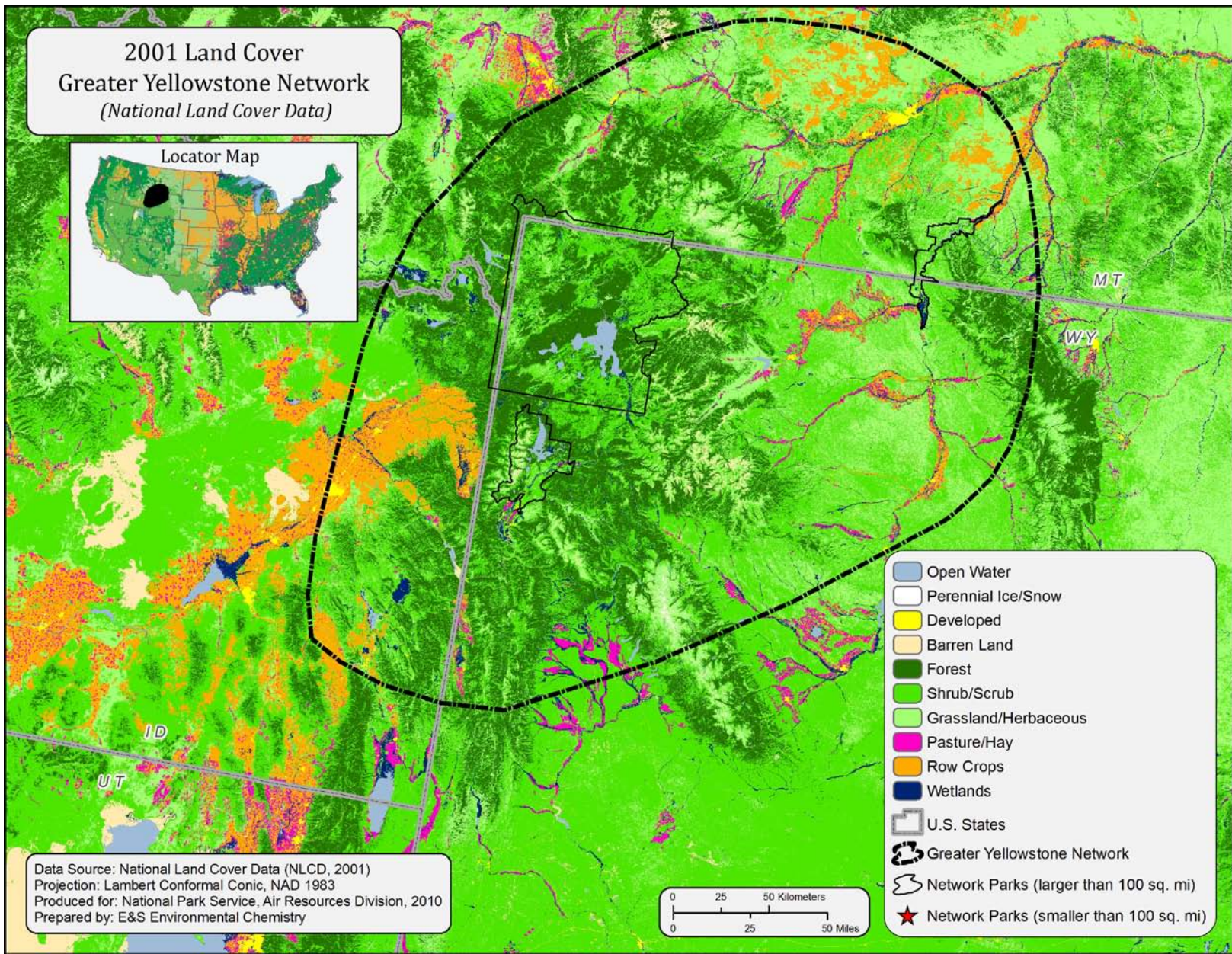


Map J

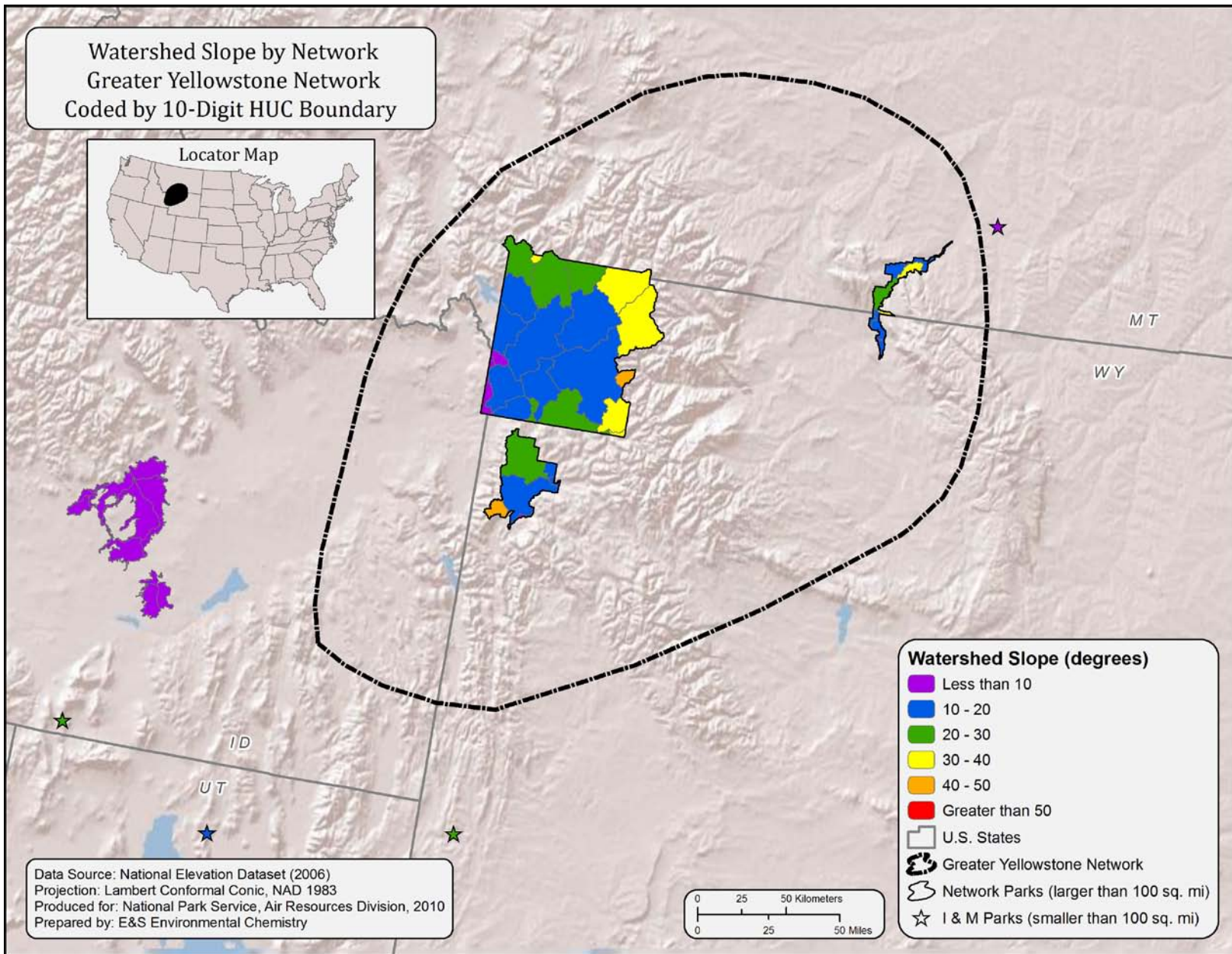
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Map K

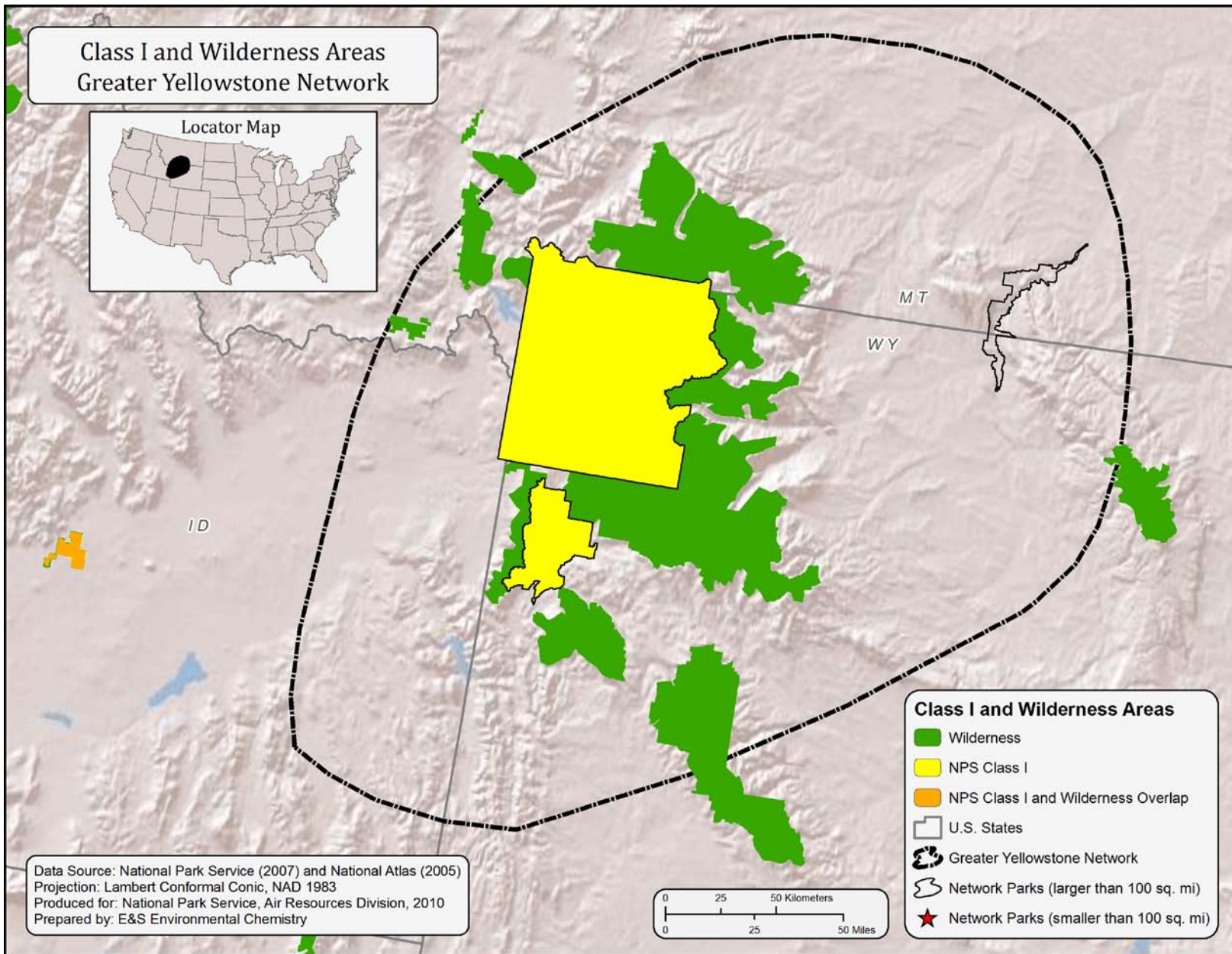


Map L

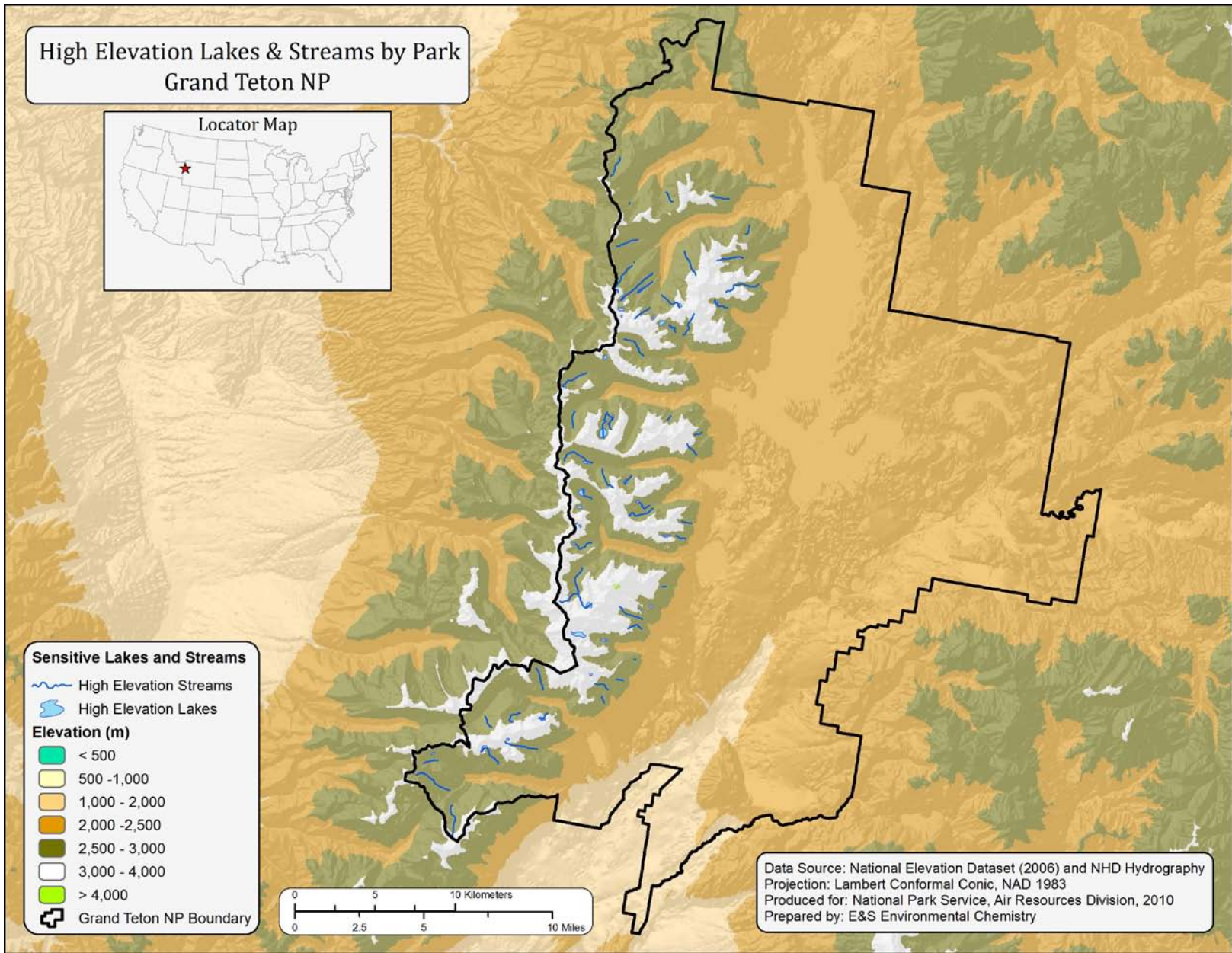


Map M

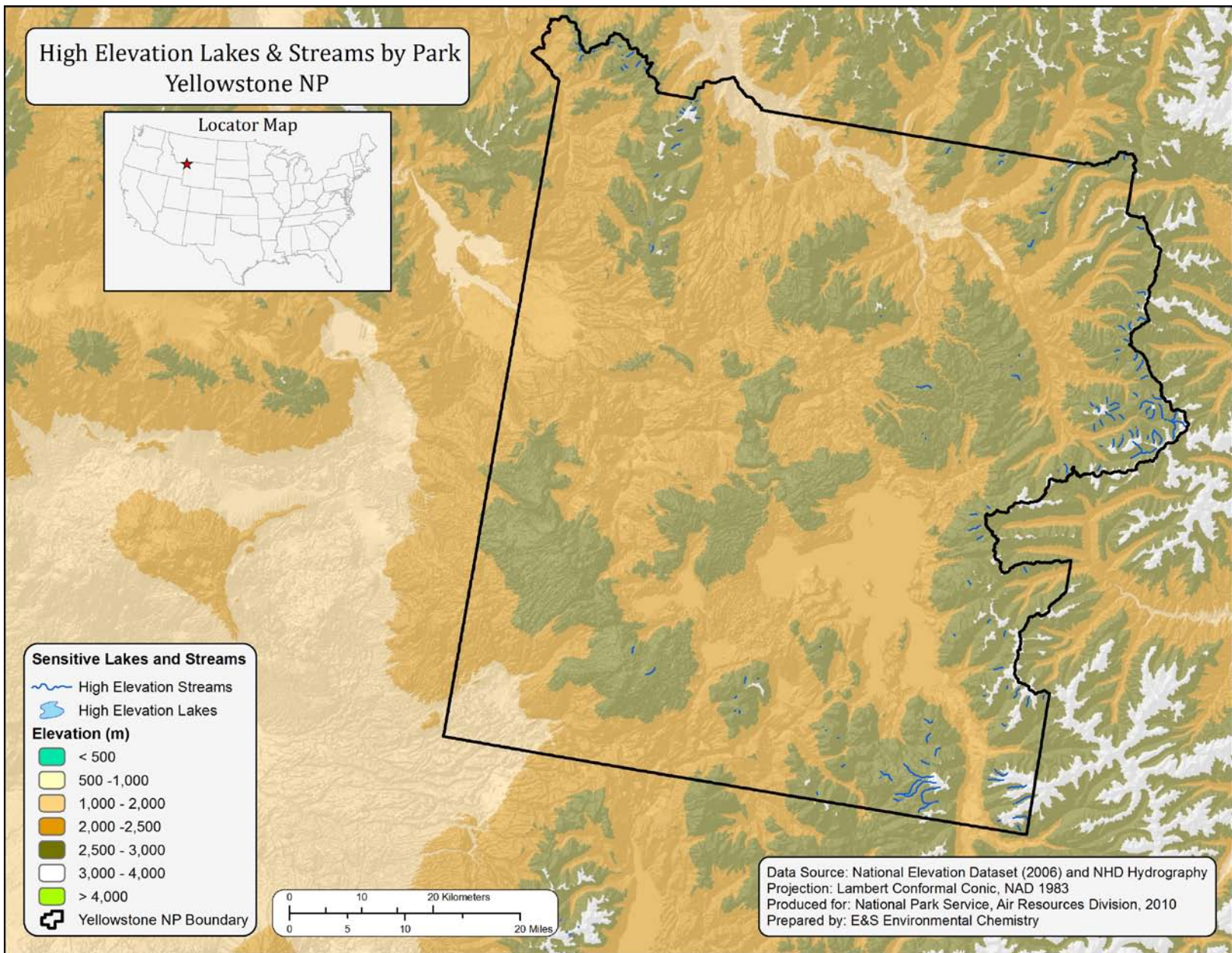
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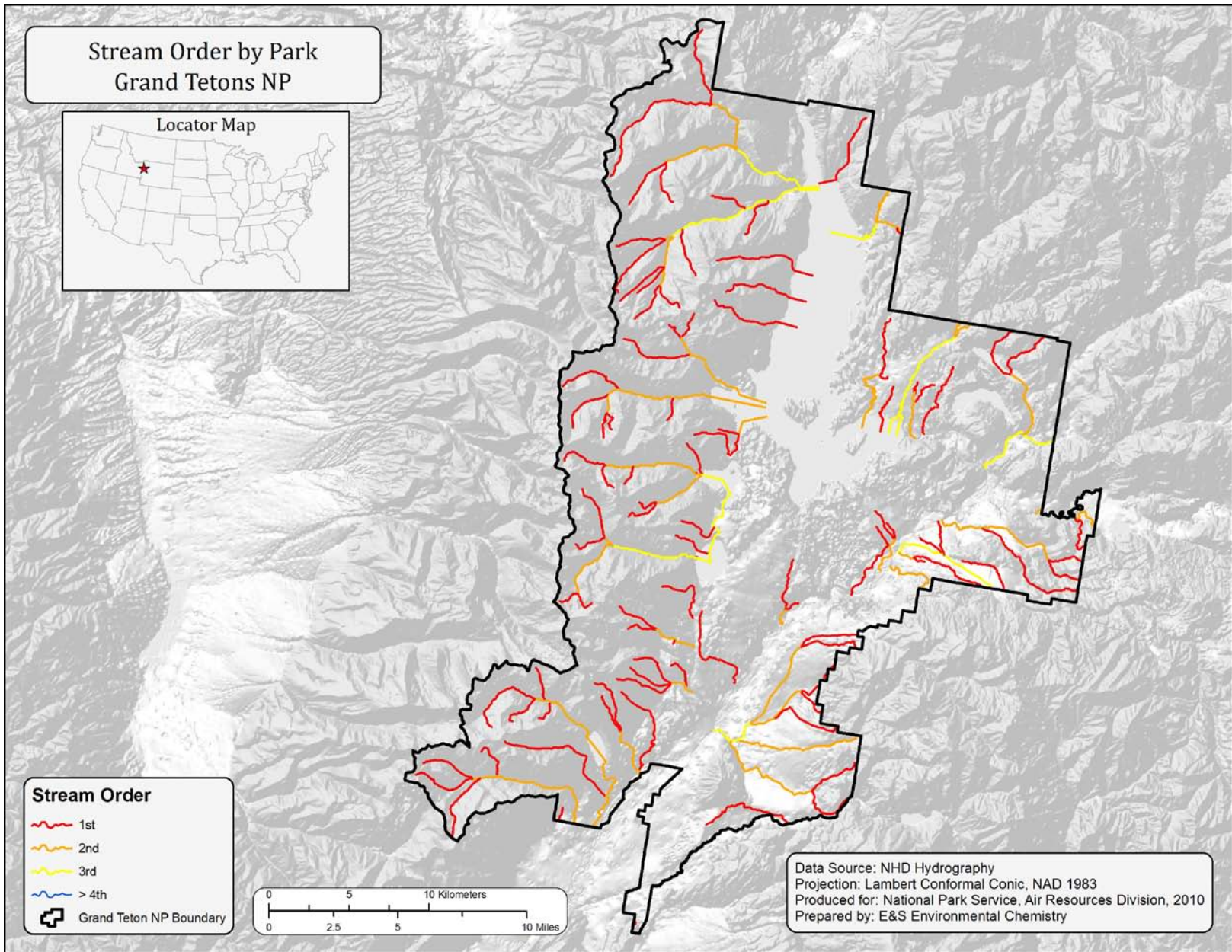
Map N



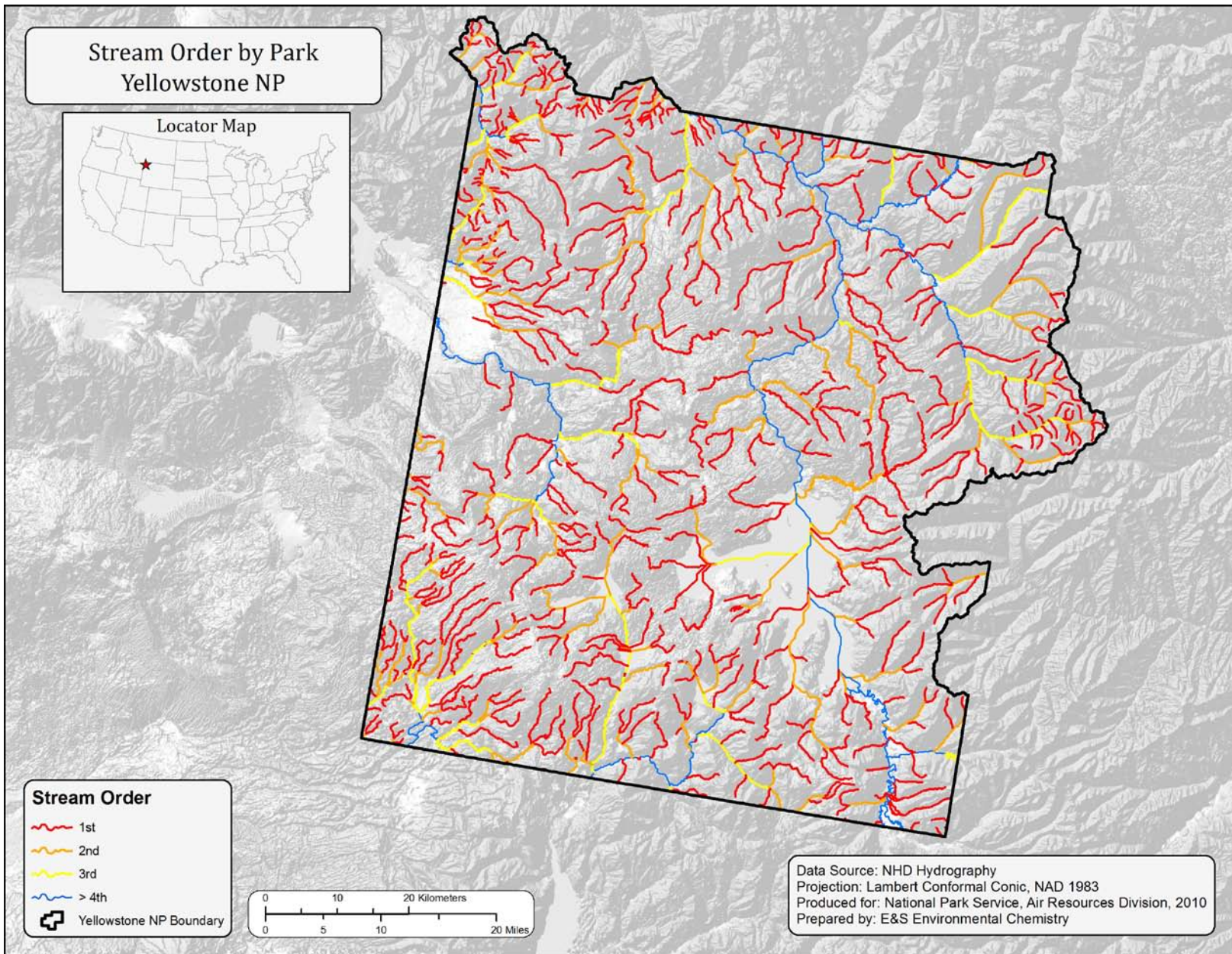
Map P-1



Map P-2



Map P-3



Map P-4

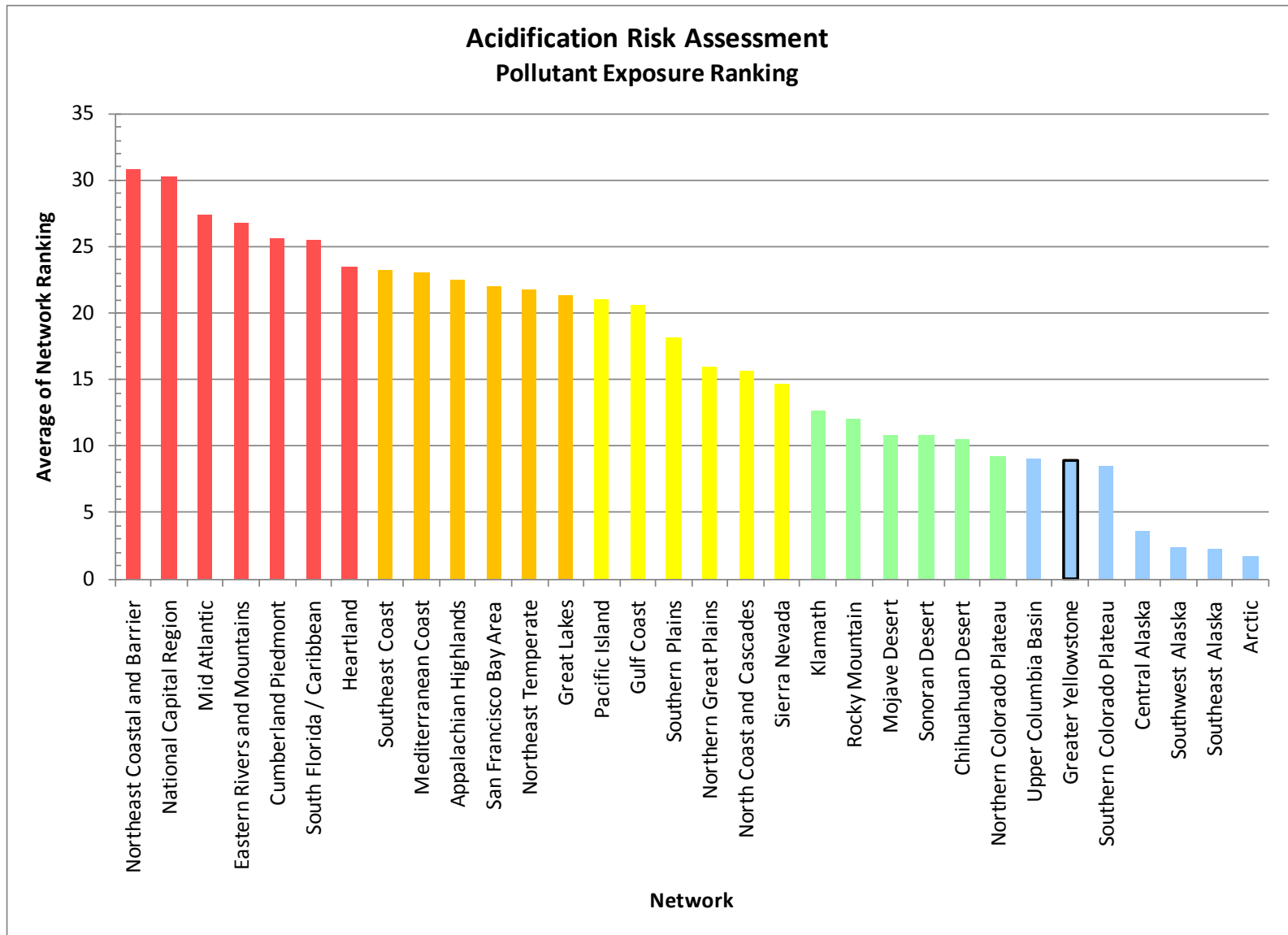


Figure A

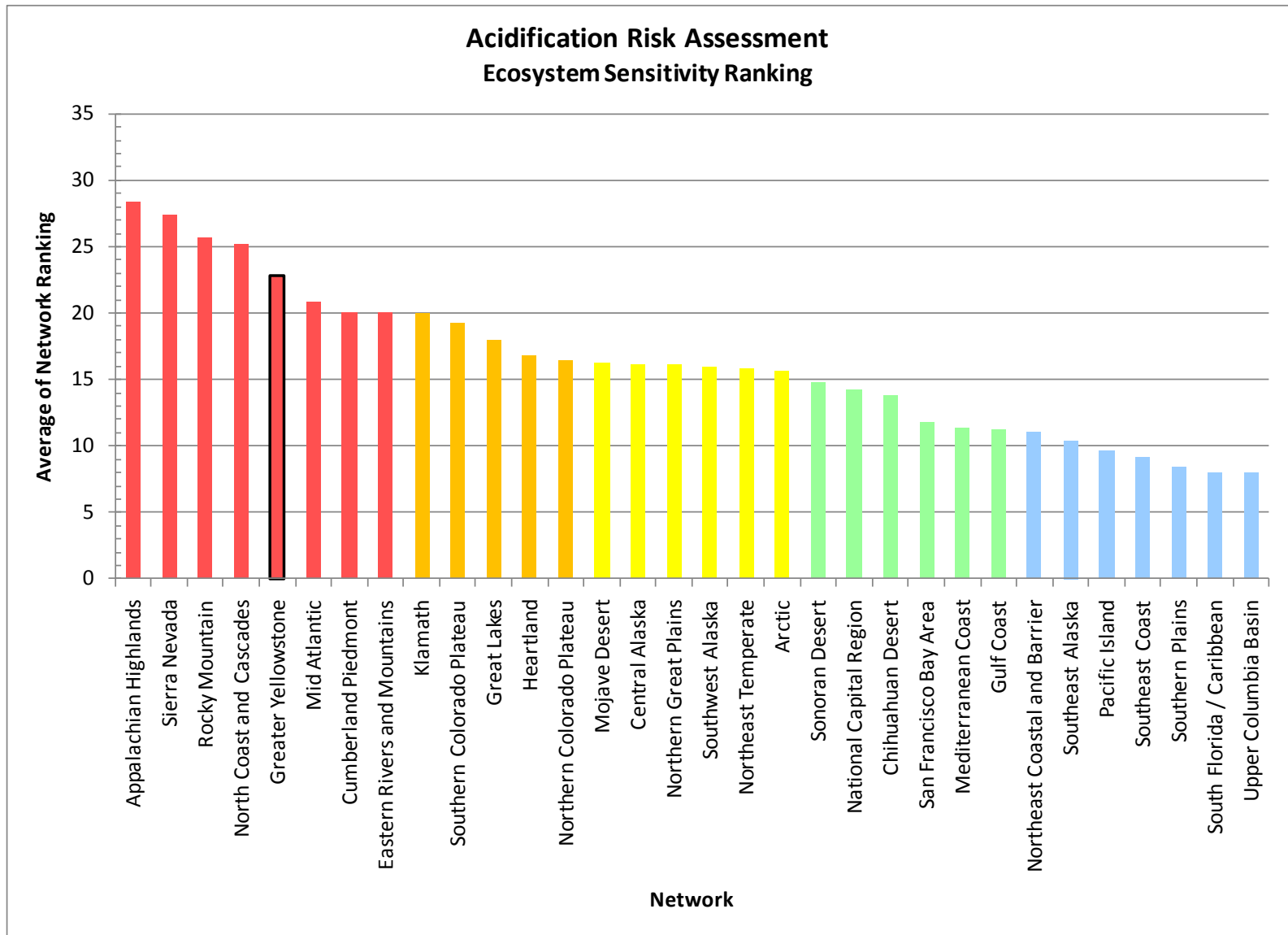


Figure B

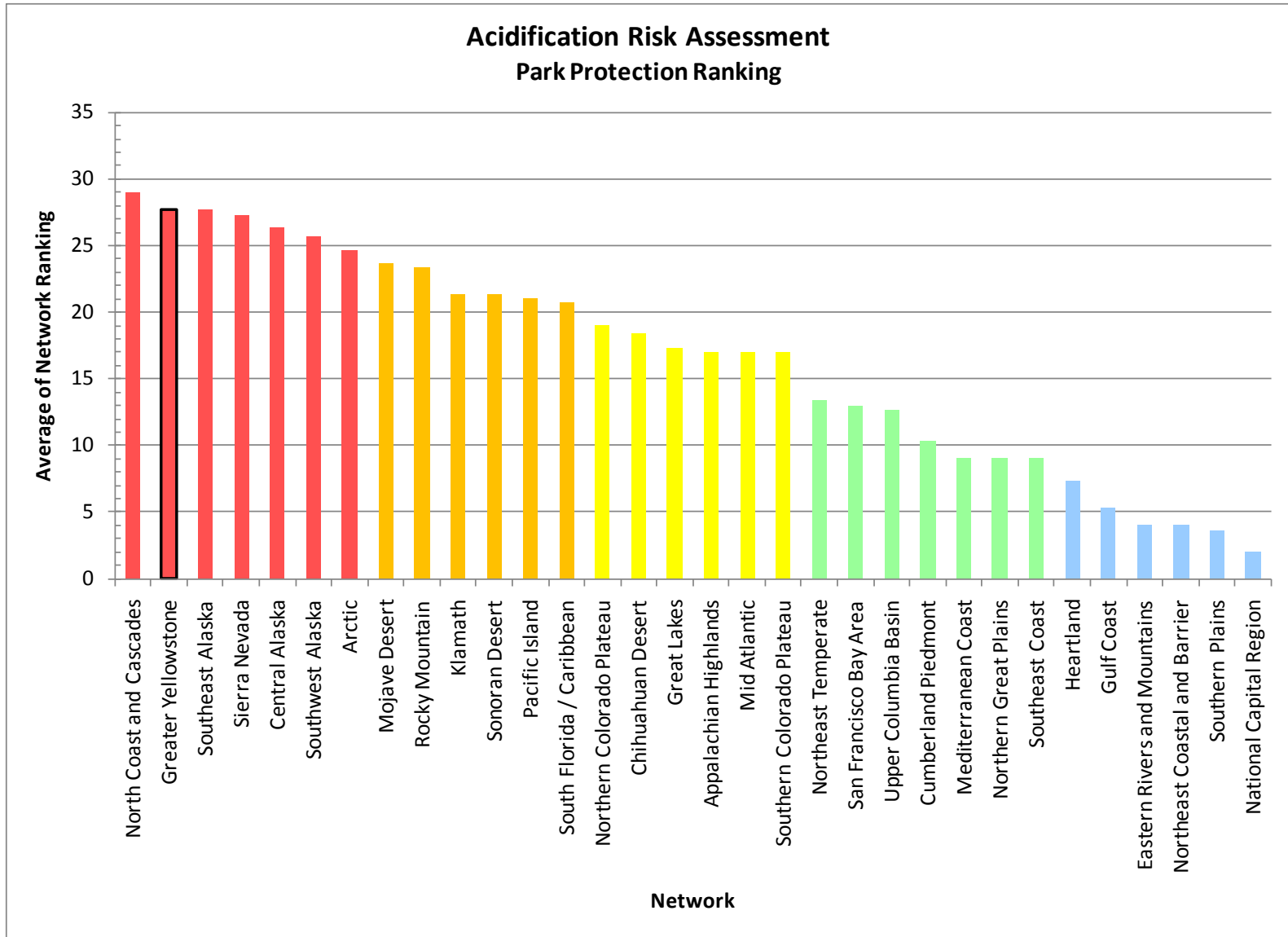


Figure C

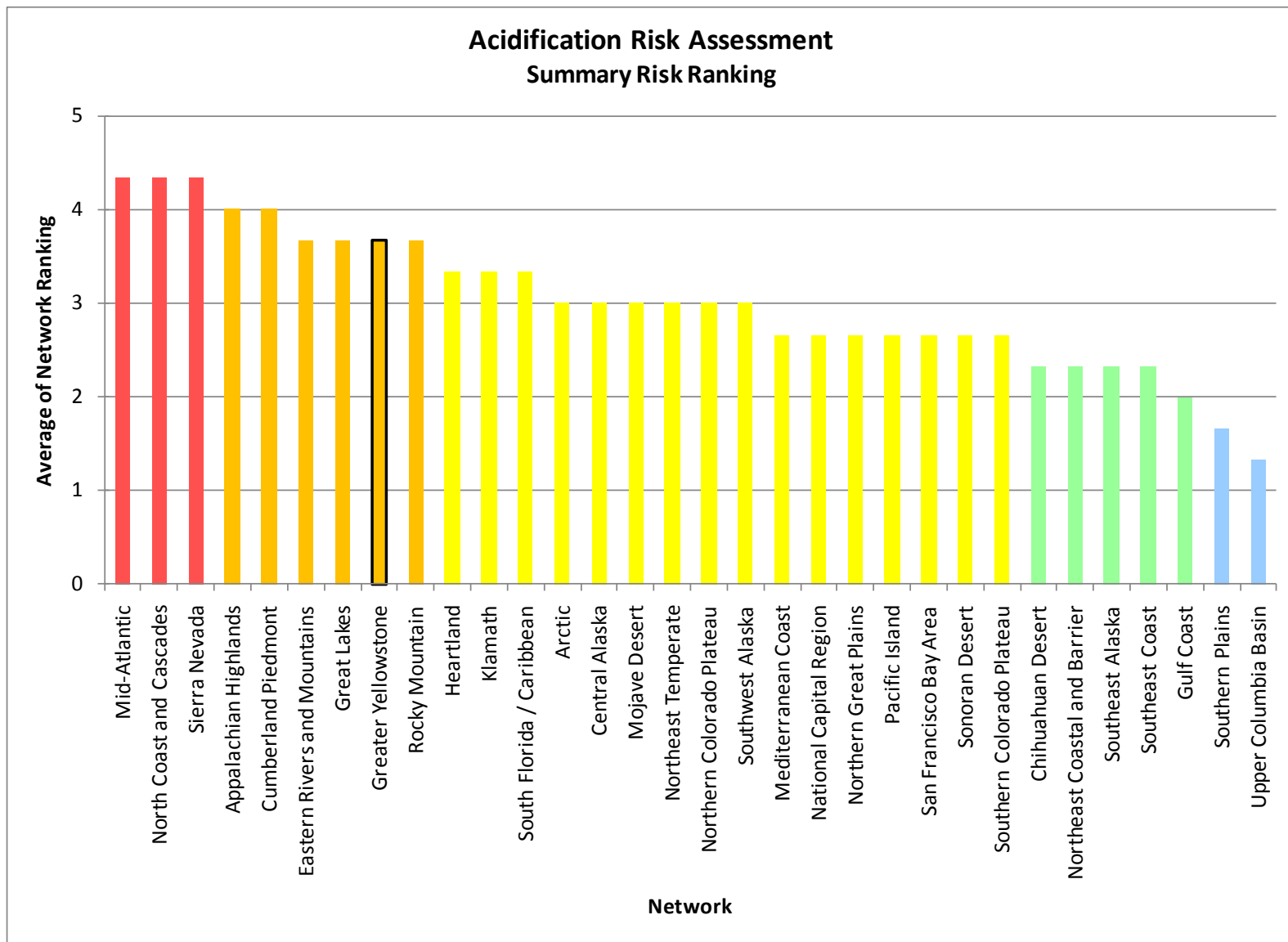


Figure D

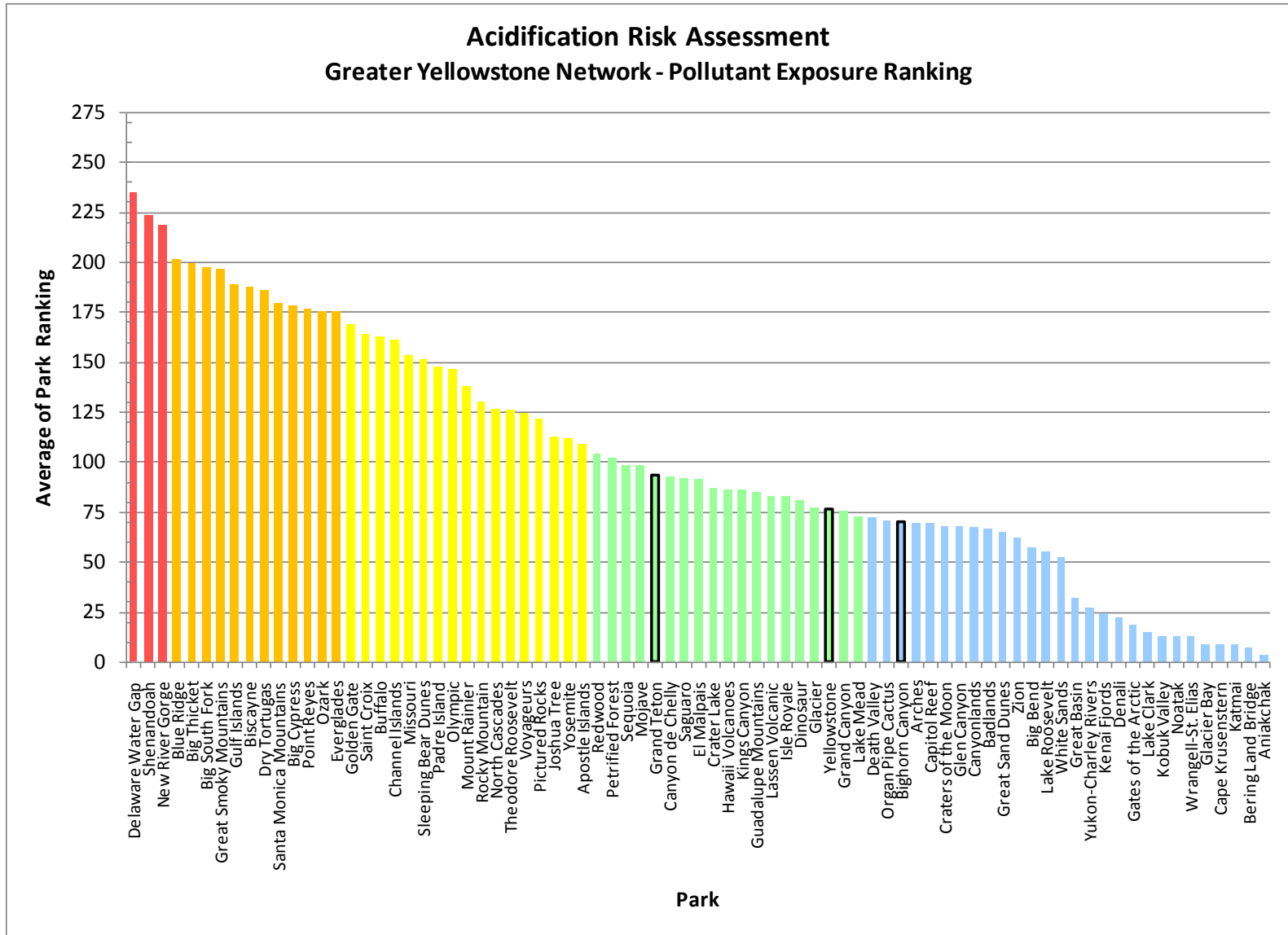


Figure E

GRYN-30

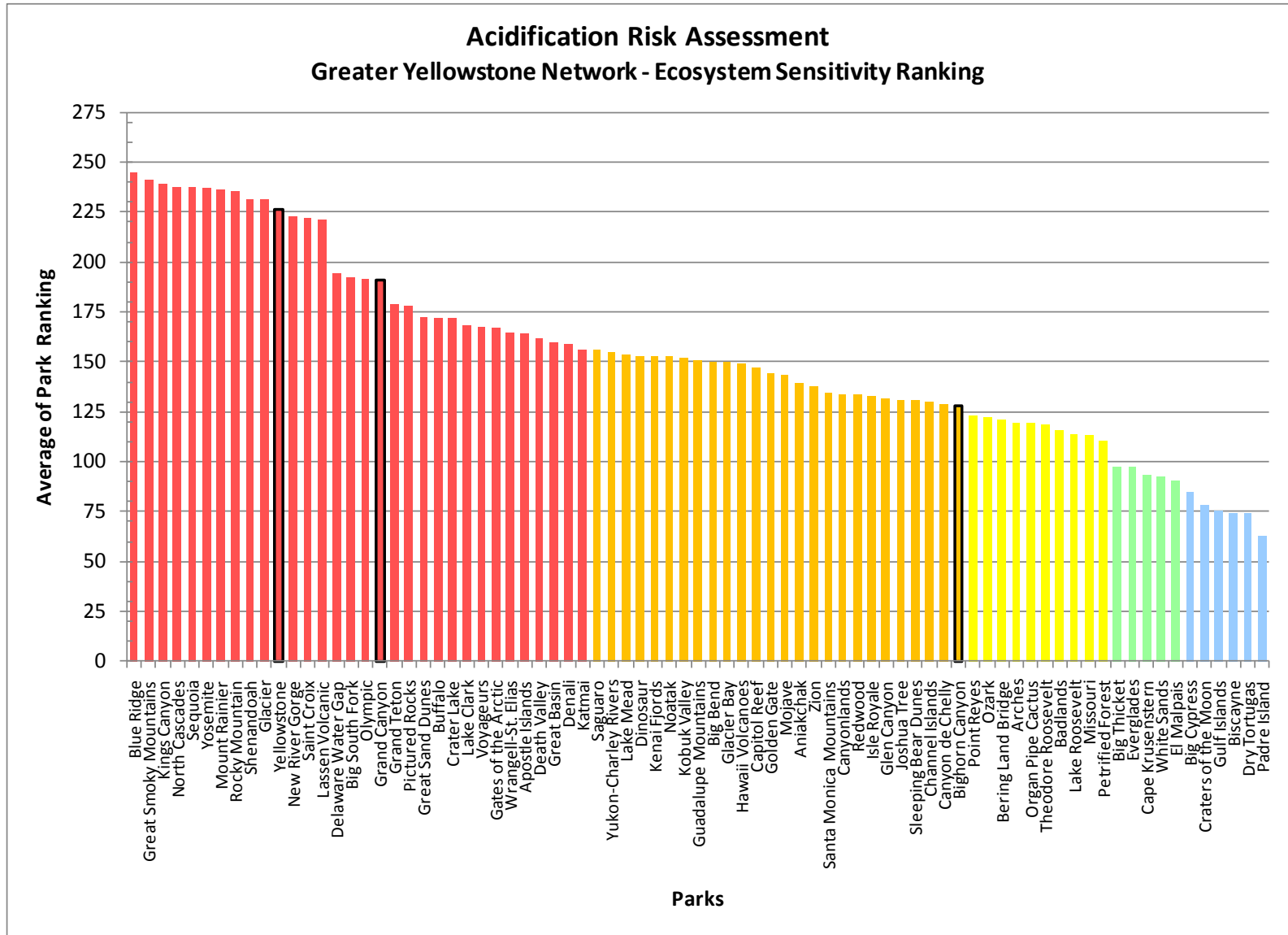


Figure F

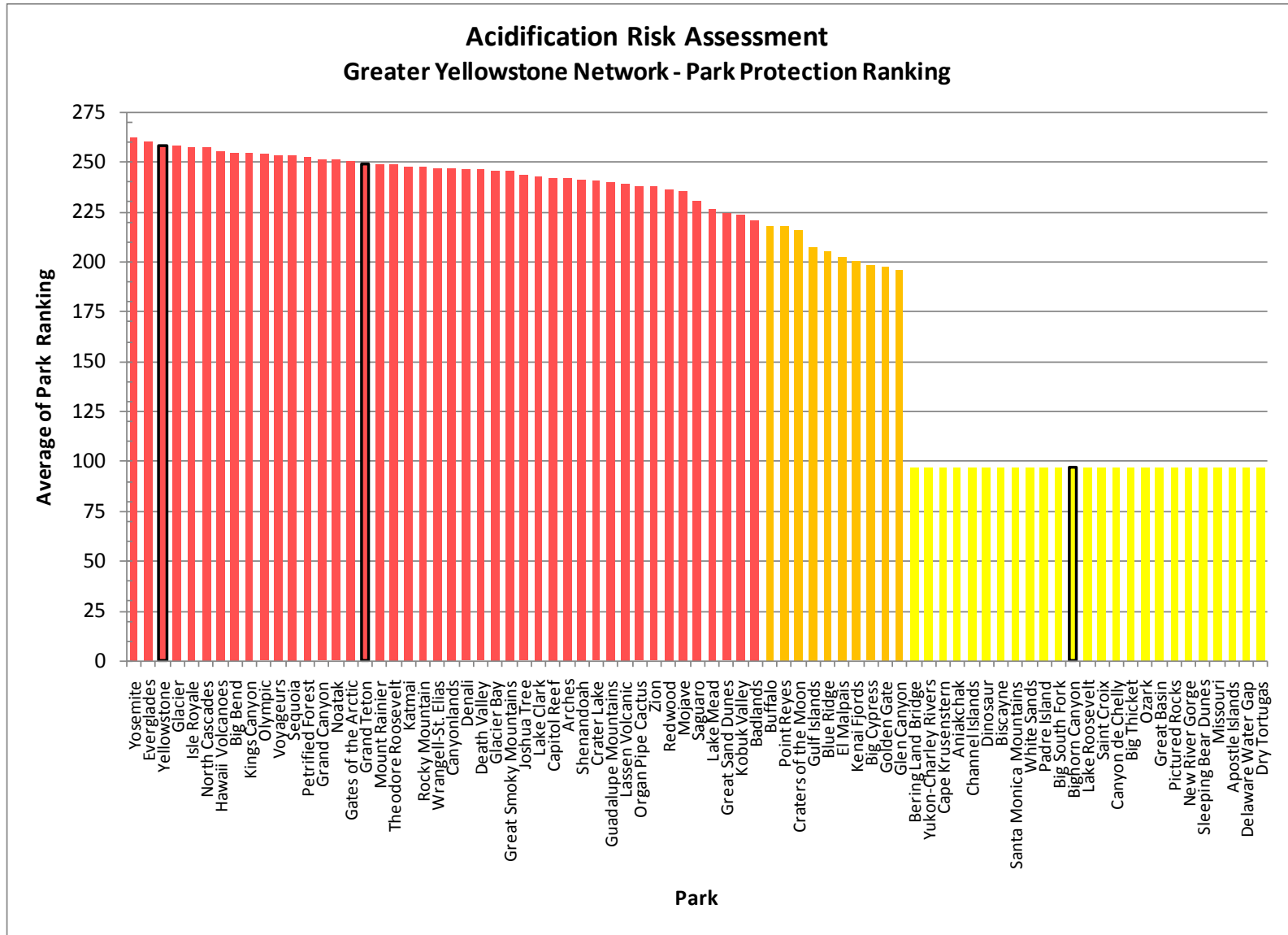


Figure G

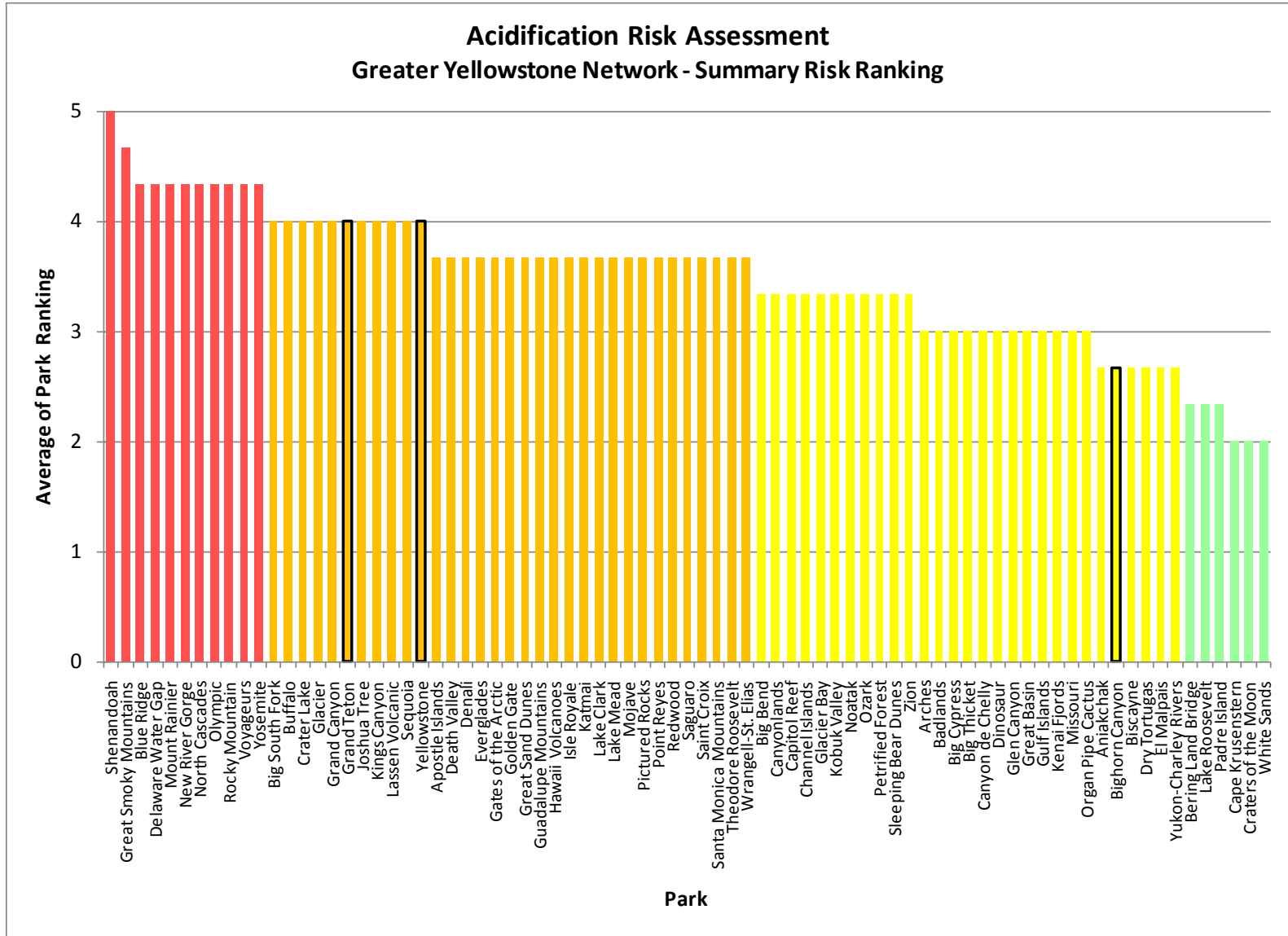


Figure H

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



Natural Resource Program Center

Air Resources Division
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225

www.nature.nps.gov/air