



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

## *Mediterranean Coast Network (MEDN)*

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/ARD/NRR—2011/361



**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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## **Mediterranean Coast Network (MEDN)**

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 two parks in the Mediterranean Coast Network that are larger than 100 square miles: Channel Islands (CHIS) and Santa Monica (SAMO). There is also one smaller park: Cabrillo (CABR).

Total annual S and N emissions, by county, are shown in Maps E and F, respectively, for lands in and surrounding the Mediterranean Coast Network. County-level S emissions within the networks were mostly less than 5 tons per square mile per year, although there was one county that had emissions ranging from 5 to 20 tons per square mile per year (Map E). County-level N emissions within the network ranged from 1 to 5 tons per square mile to 20 to 50 tons per square mile (Map F). In general, annual county N emissions were between 1 and 20 tons per square mile, except in and around the Los Angeles basin, where they were higher. Individual point source emissions of S are shown in Map G. There were no S emissions point sources of any magnitude; all emitted less than 5,000 tons of S per year. Point source emissions of oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO<sub>x</sub>) and reduced (ammonia, NH<sub>3</sub>) N are shown in Map H. There were few N point sources of any magnitude within this network. Nonpoint sources, especially motor vehicles, constitute the vast majority of the N emissions in this network.

Urban centers within the network and within a 300-mile buffer around the network are shown in Map I. Urban development in and around Los Angeles and south to San Diego is substantial. Large population centers are much less common in the northern portion of the network, although San Jose and San Francisco are not far to the north, within the 300-mile buffer around the network boundary. Phoenix is located to the east, also within the network buffer.

Total S and N deposition in and around the network are shown in Maps J and K, respectively. Included in this analysis are both wet and dry forms of deposition and both the oxidized and reduced N species. Total S deposition within the network ranged from less than 2 kg S/ha/yr to 15 to 20 kg S/ha/yr. The network, in general, had S deposition values less than 5 kg S/ha/yr in most areas. Total N deposition within the network ranged from less than 2 kg N/ha/yr in small areas on the coast in the northern part of the network to as high as 20 to 30 kg N/ha/yr in the Los Angeles basin (Map K).

Land cover in and around the network is shown in Map L. The predominant cover types within this network are generally urban and shrubland in the south and a mixture of mainly row crops, grassland/herbaceous, shrubland, and forest in the north.

Map M shows land slope within the park lands in the network. Terrain tends to be moderately steep, with slopes in most of the parks between 10° and 30°, except for one HUC watershed along the coast in SAMO which has average slope in the range of 30° to 40°.

Park lands requiring special protection against potential adverse impacts associated with 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 no Class I areas in this network. There are, however, many wilderness areas, but none are 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 Mediterranean Coast Network ranked in the second highest quintile among networks in Pollutant Exposure (Figure A). Sulfur and N emissions and acidic deposition within the network were relatively high. However, the network Ecosystem Sensitivity ranking was lower, within the second lowest quintile among networks (Figure B). This network also ranked in the second lowest quintile in Park Protection, having only 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 is moderate among networks (Figure D). The overall level of concern for acidification effects on I&M parks within this network can be considered Moderate.

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.

SAMO ranked in the second highest quintile in Pollutant Exposure, whereas CABR and CHIS were ranked Moderate, in the middle quintile, for this theme (Figure E, Table A). The two larger parks were ranked in the second highest quintile (High) in Ecosystem Sensitivity (Figure F), having substantial coverage of low-order streams expected to be sensitive to acidification effects and moderately steep terrain. The smaller park (CABR) was ranked in the second lowest quintile (Table A). All three parks were ranked in the middle quintile (Moderate) in Park Protection (Figure G). For the park Summary Risk ranking, SAMO was ranked High, and CHIS and CABR were ranked Moderate (Figure H, Table A).

**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
Cabrillo	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate
<b><i>Channel Islands</i></b>	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate
<b><i>Santa Monica Mountains</i></b>	High	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.

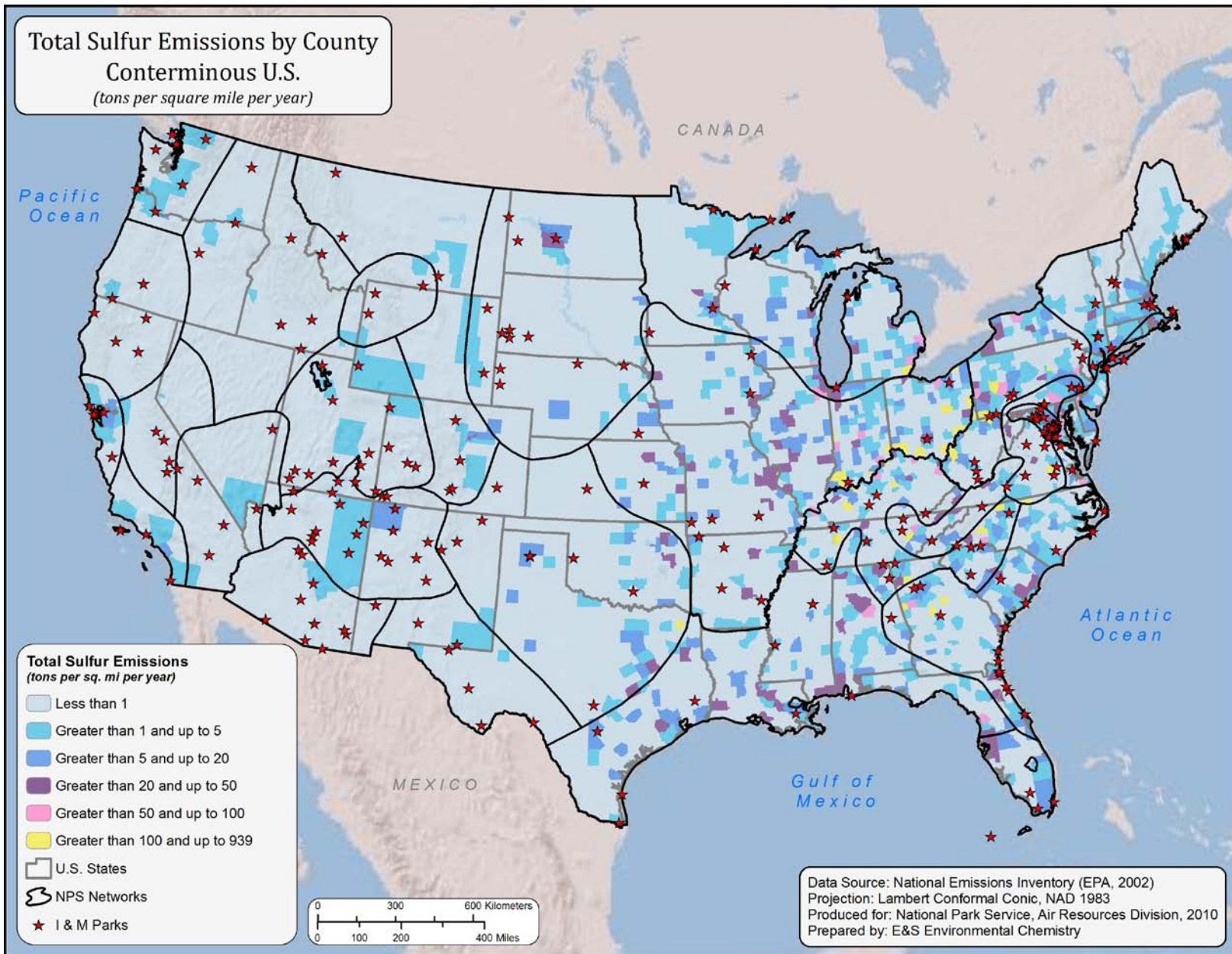
- Map A. National map of total S emissions by county for the year 2002, in units of tons of S per square mile per year. (Source of data: EPA National Emissions Inventory, <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html>)
- Map B. National map of total N emissions by county for the year 2002. Both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

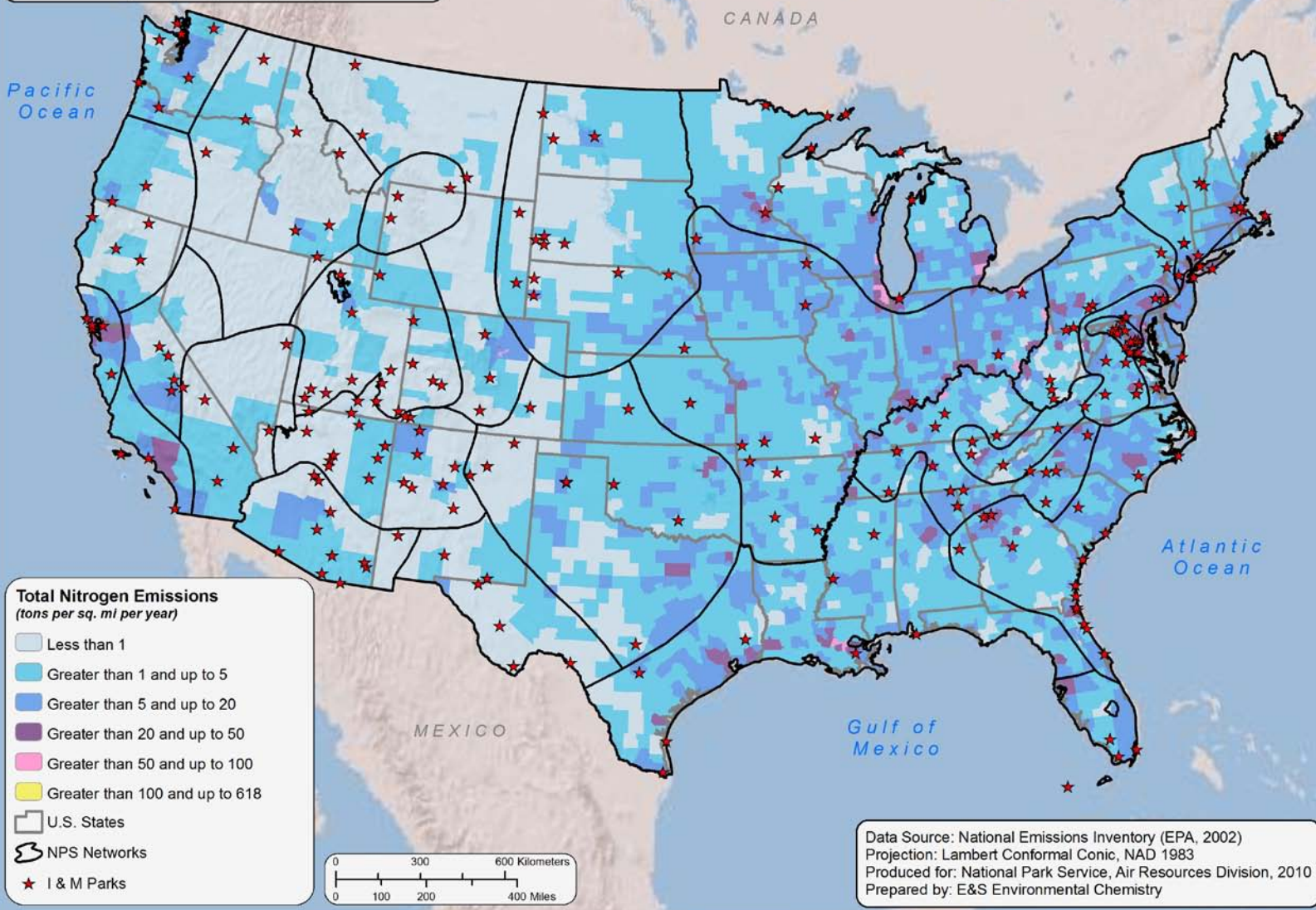


- Figure C. Network rankings for Park Protection, calculated as the average of scores for all Park Protection variables.
- Figure D. Network Summary Risk rankings, calculated as the average of the quintile ranks for the Pollutant Exposure, Ecosystem Sensitivity, and Park Protection themes.
- Figure E. 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

**Total Nitrogen Emissions by County  
Conterminous U.S.**  
*(tons per sq. mi per year)*

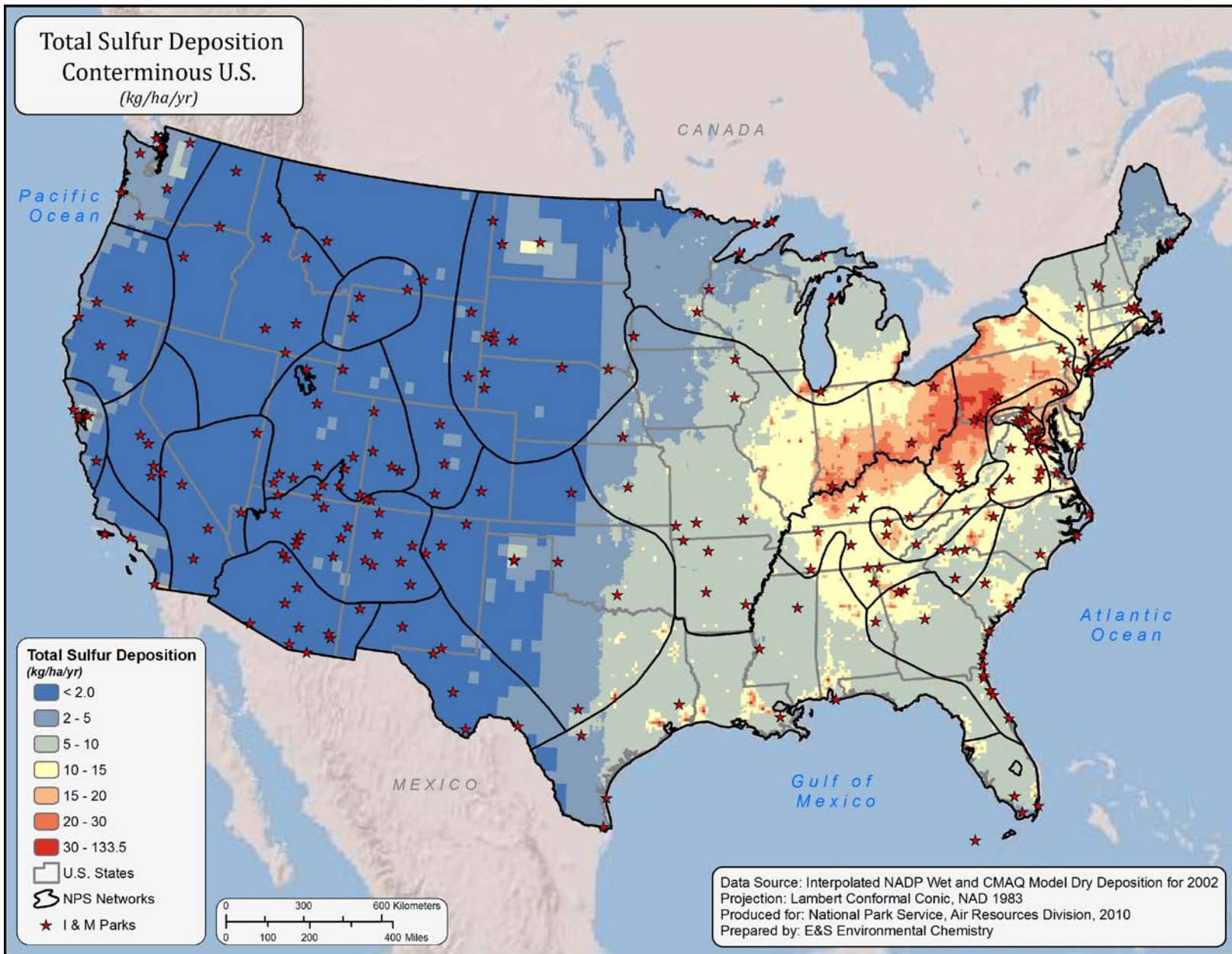


MEDN-7

Map B

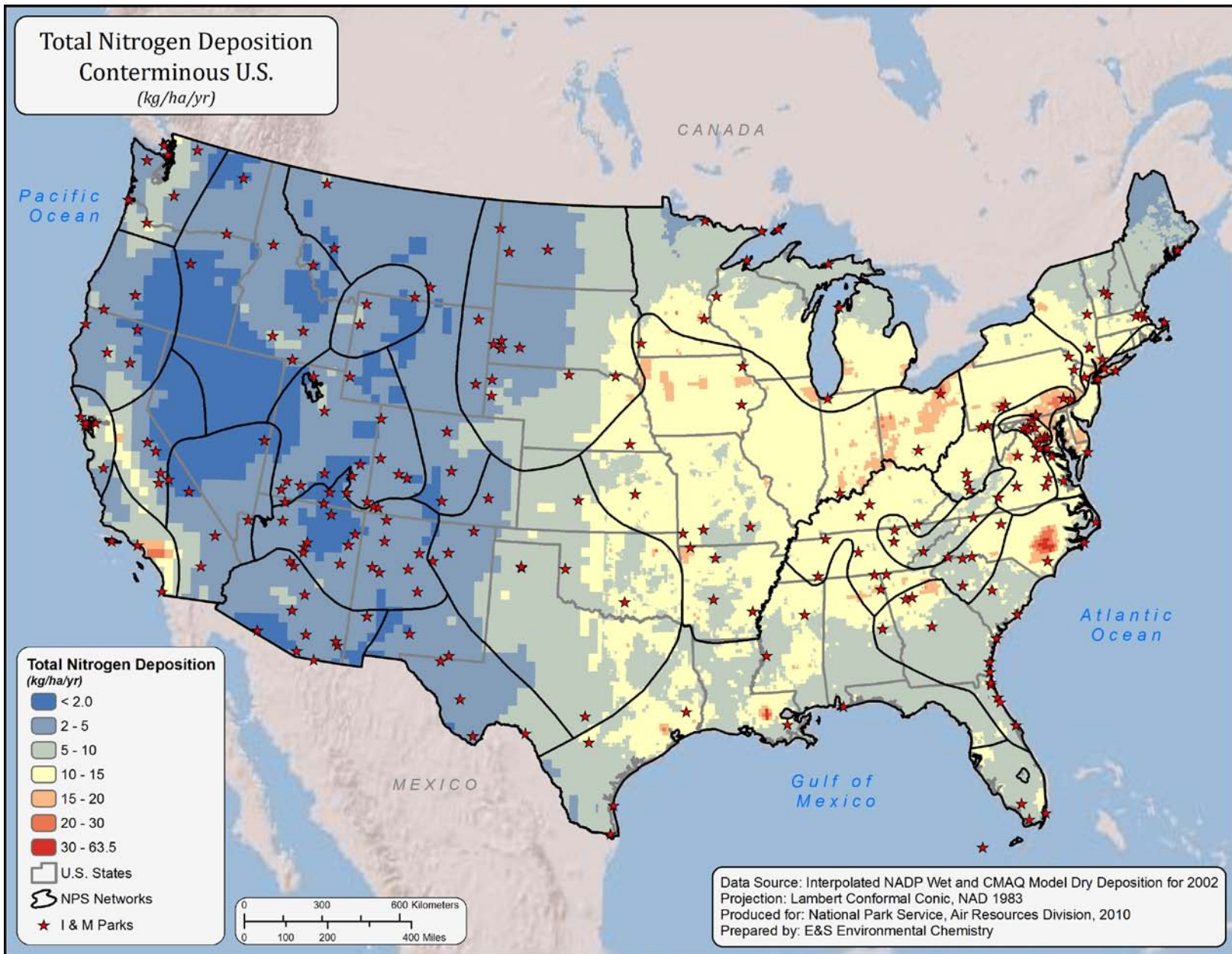


MEDN-8



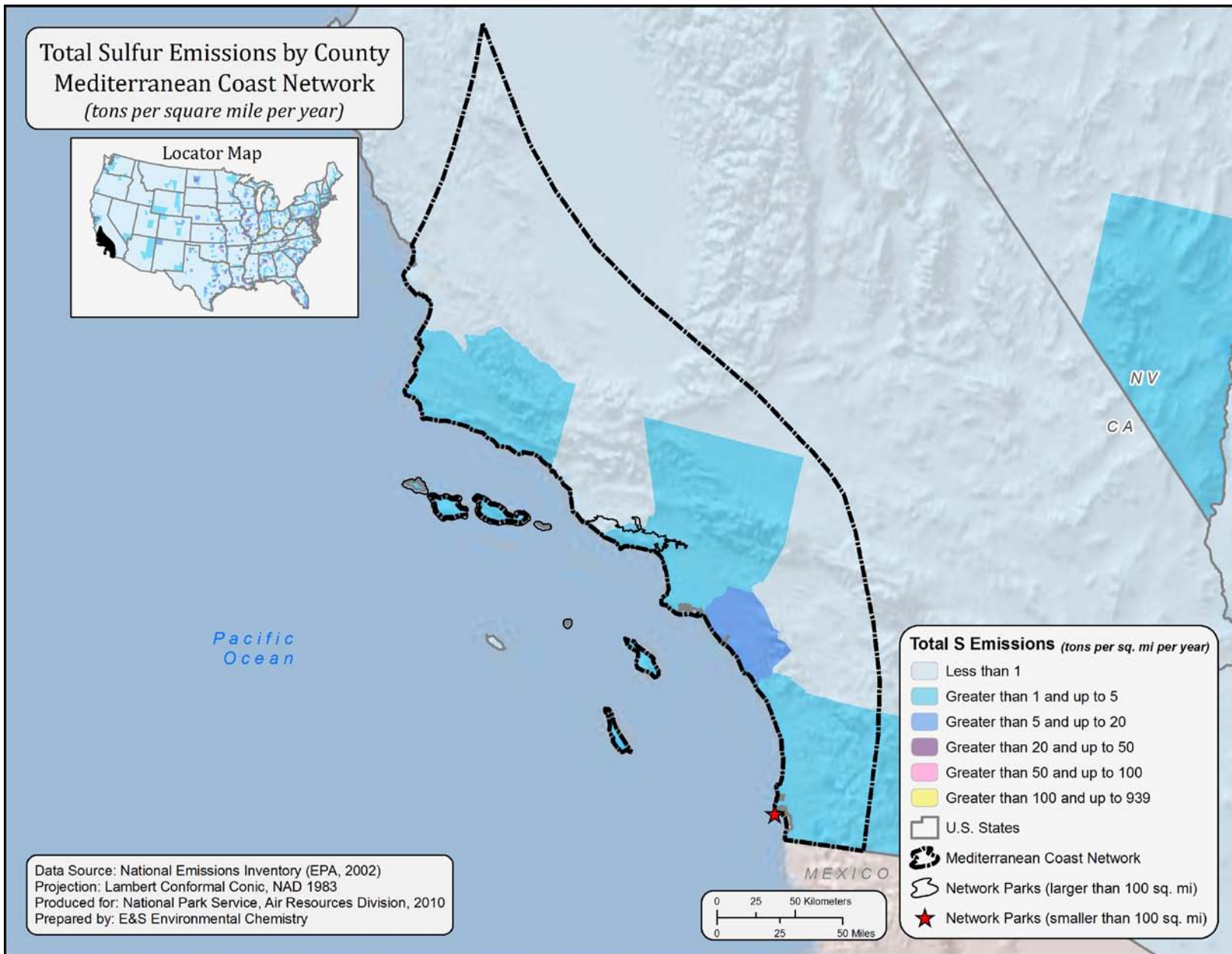
Map C

MEDN-9

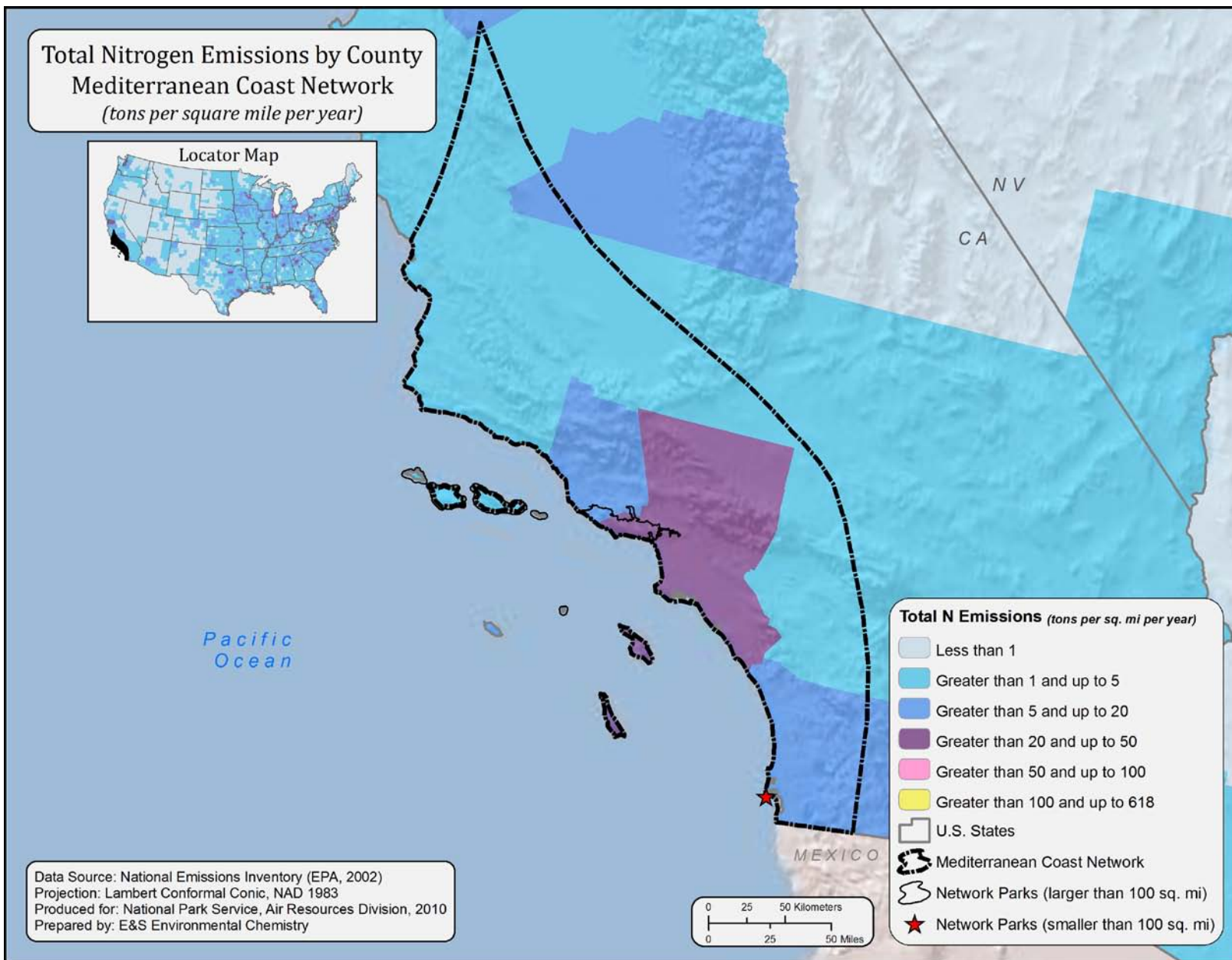


Map D



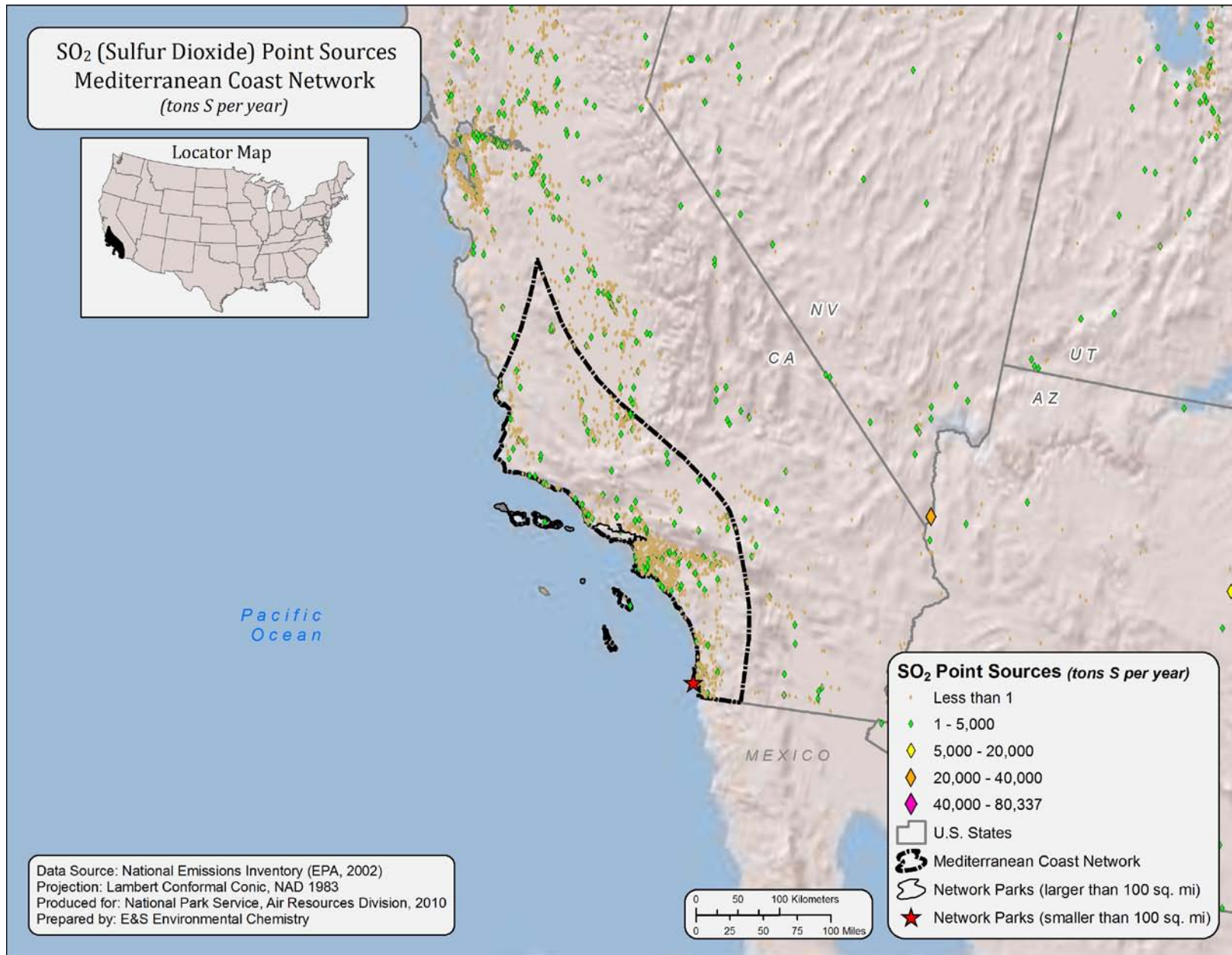


Map E

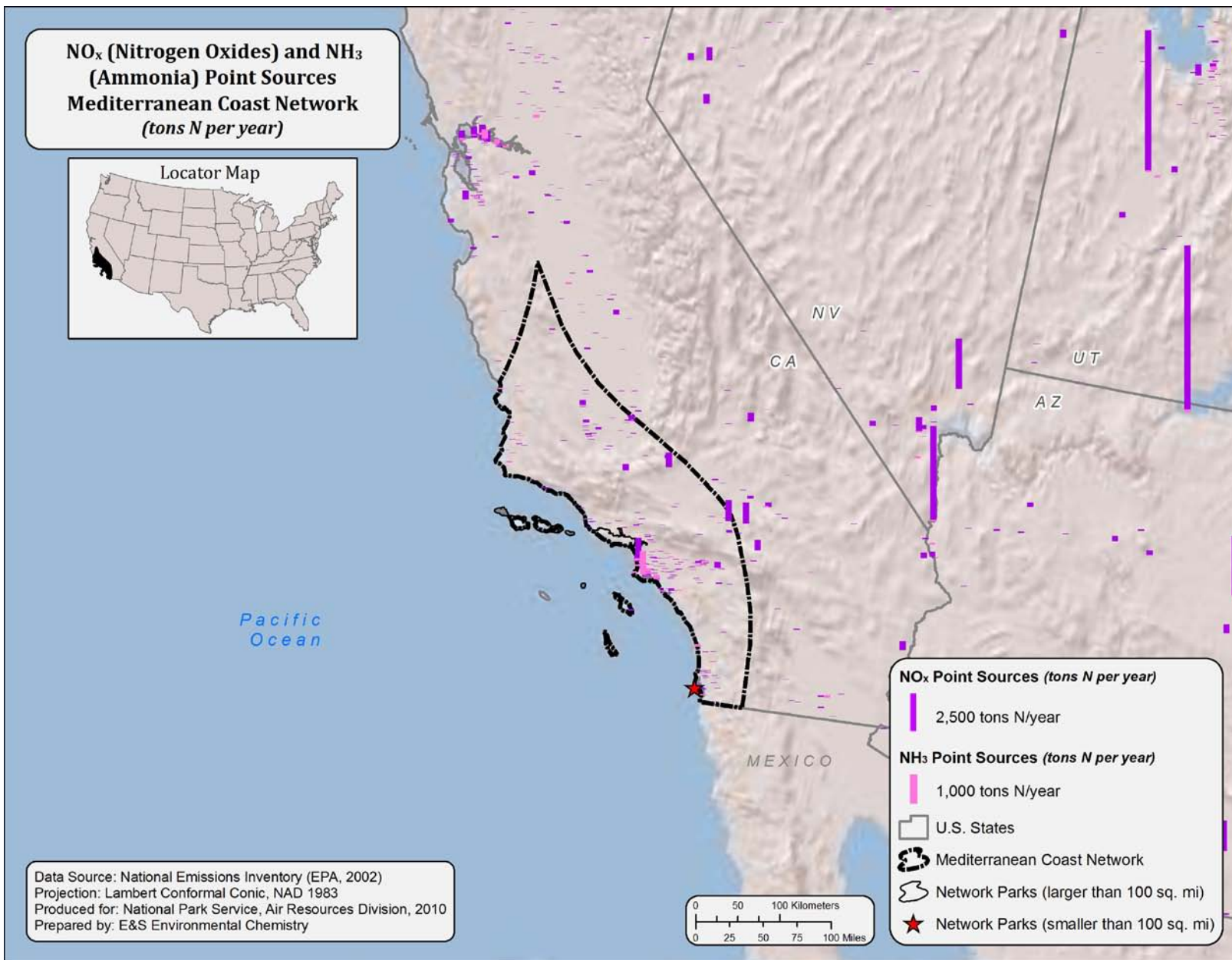


Map F

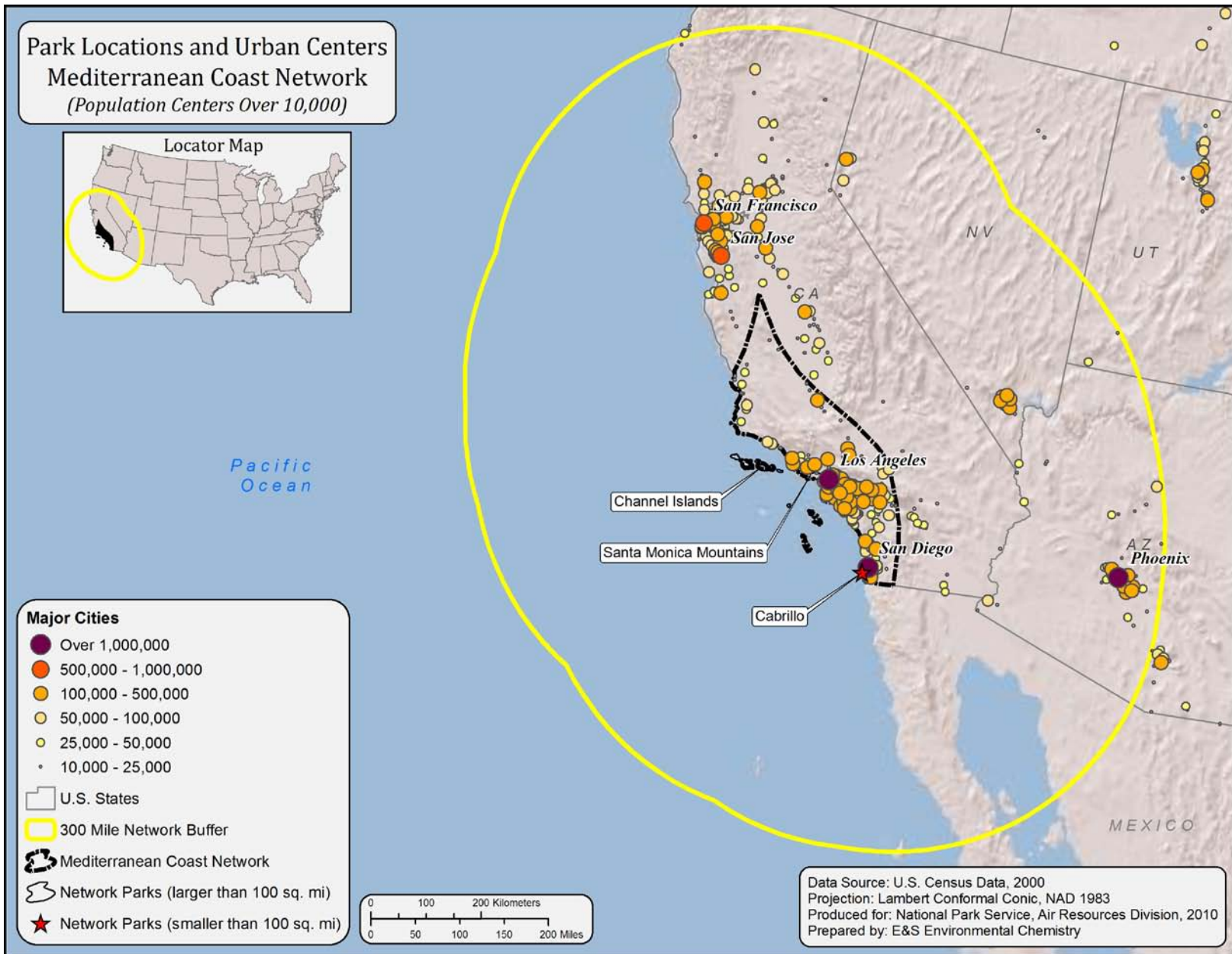




Map G

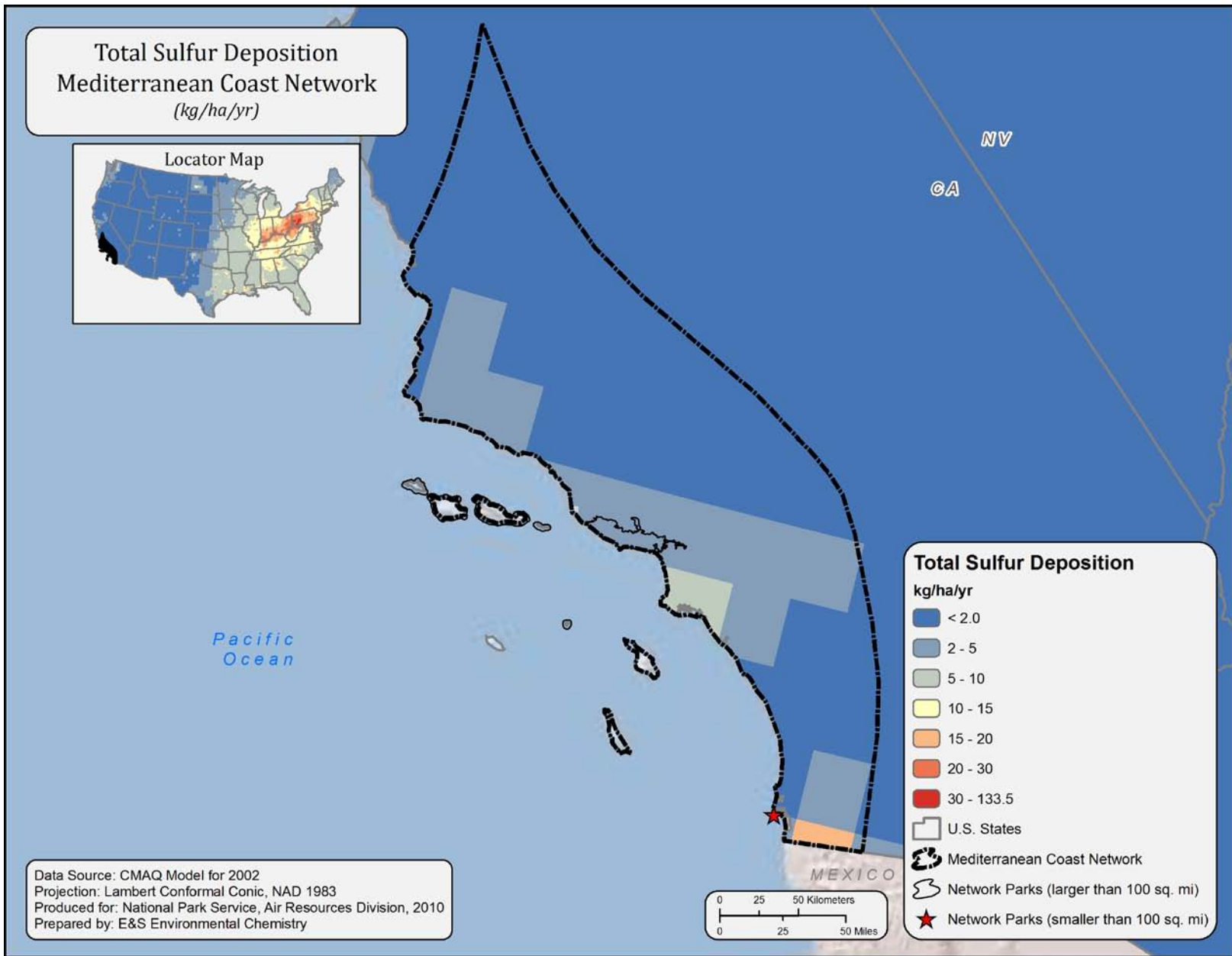


Map H

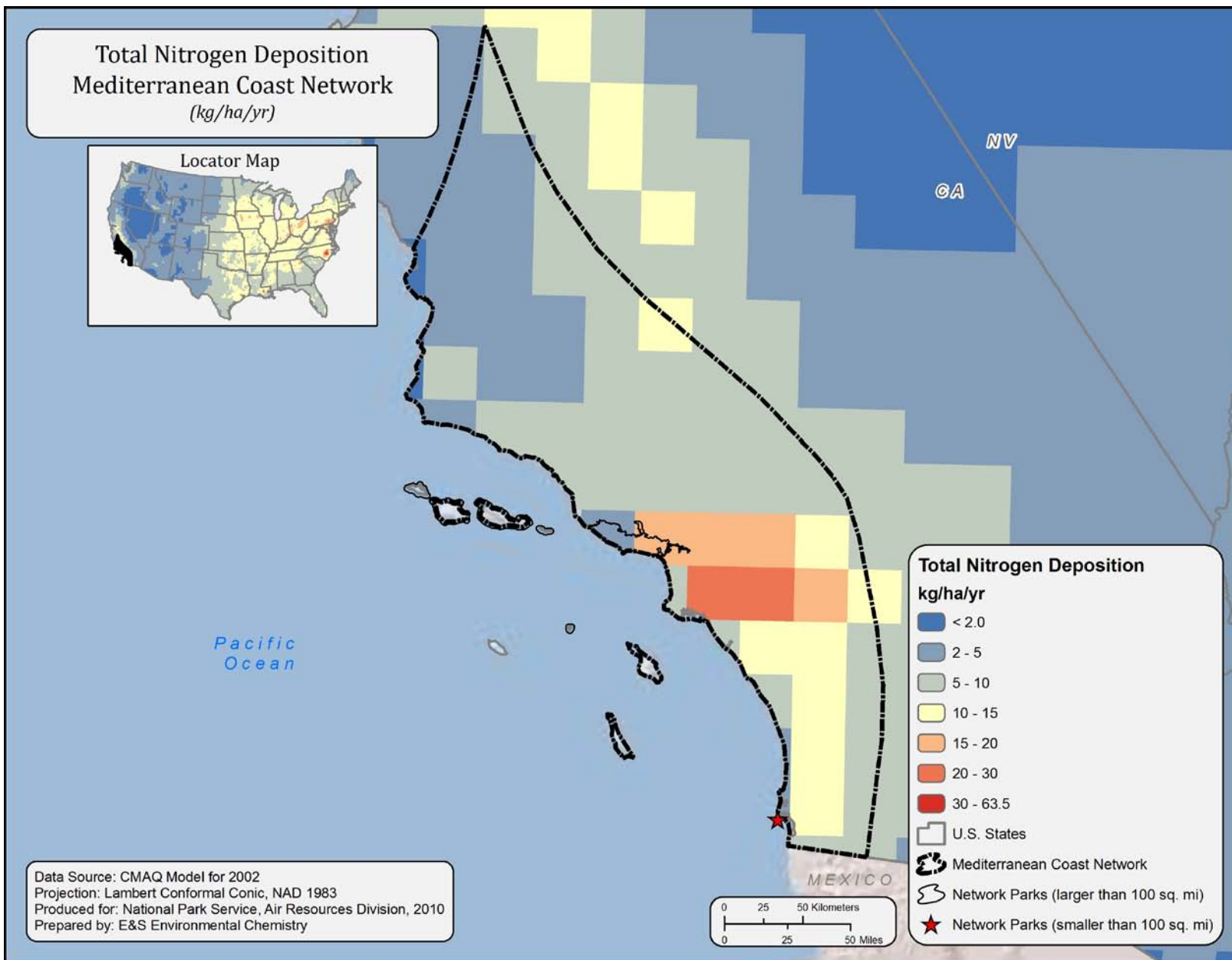


Map I

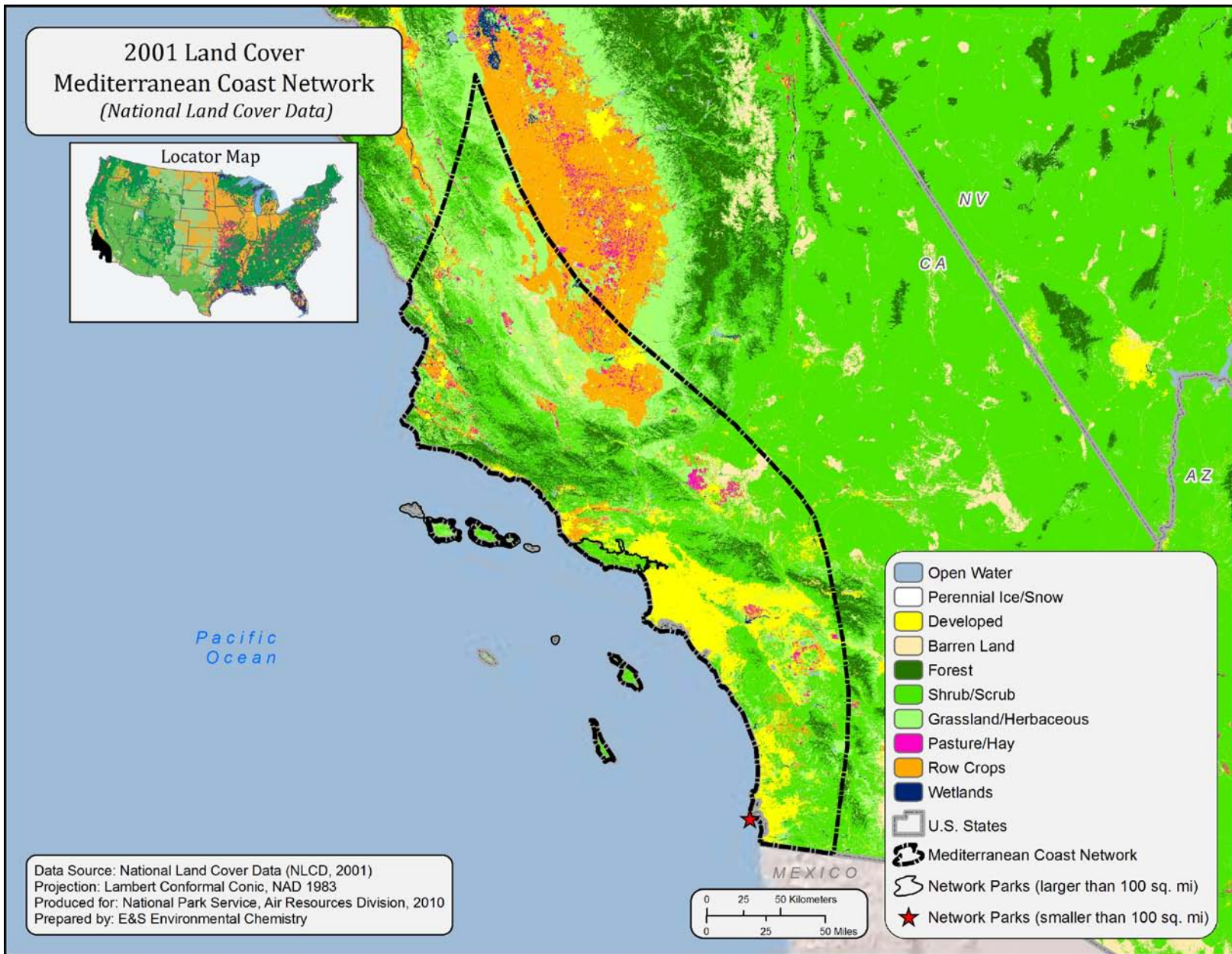




Map J

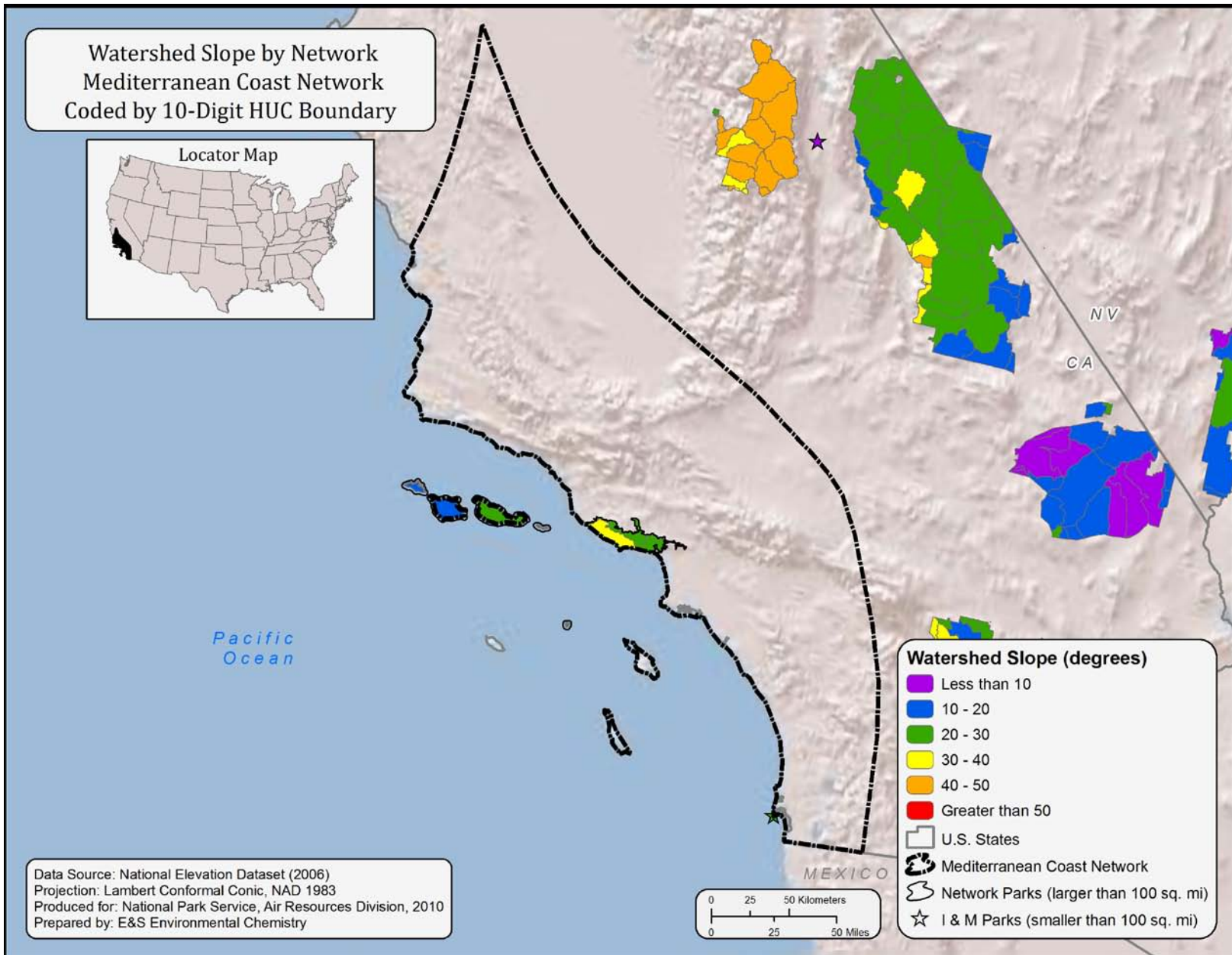


Map K



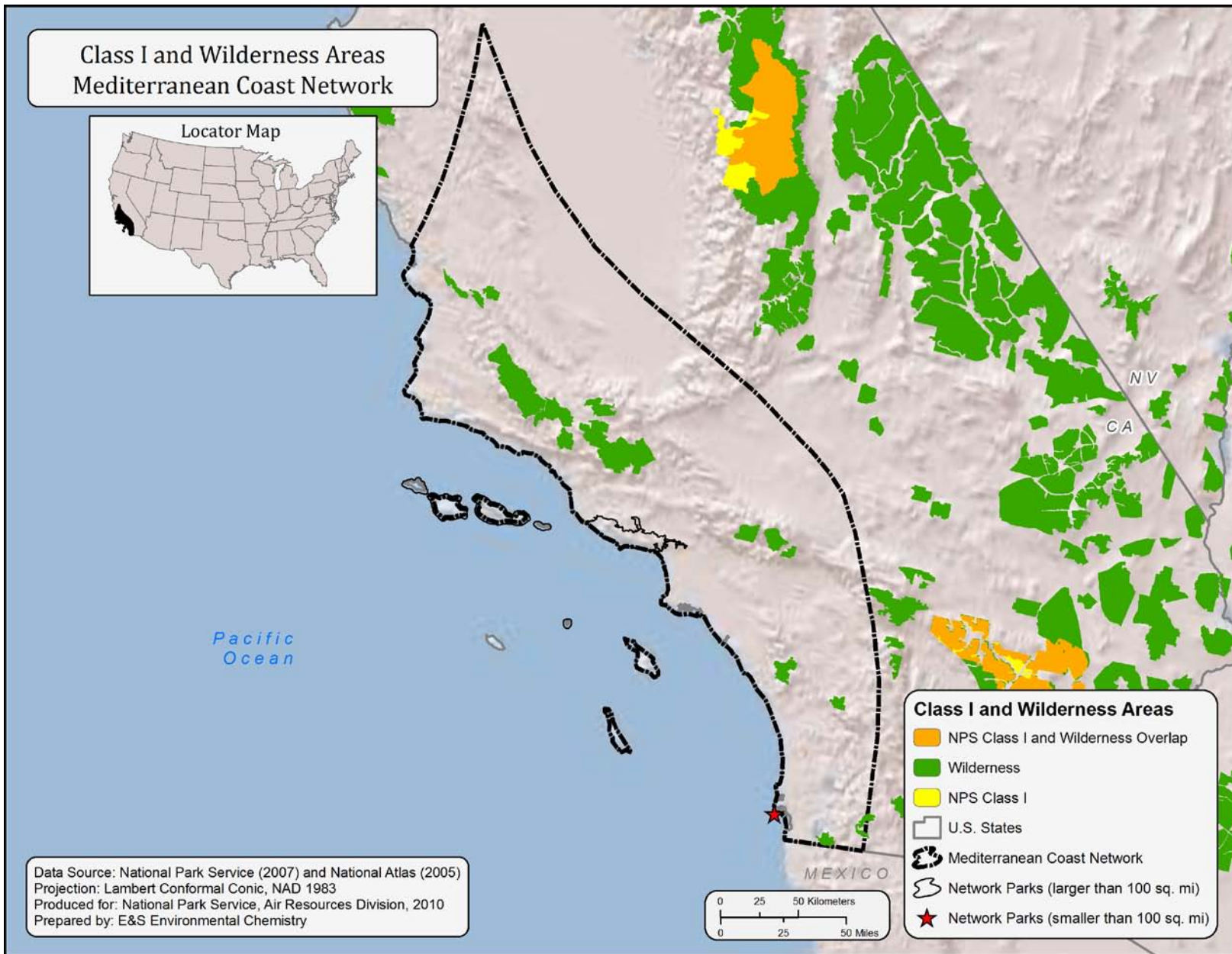
Map L





Map M





Map N

MEDN-20

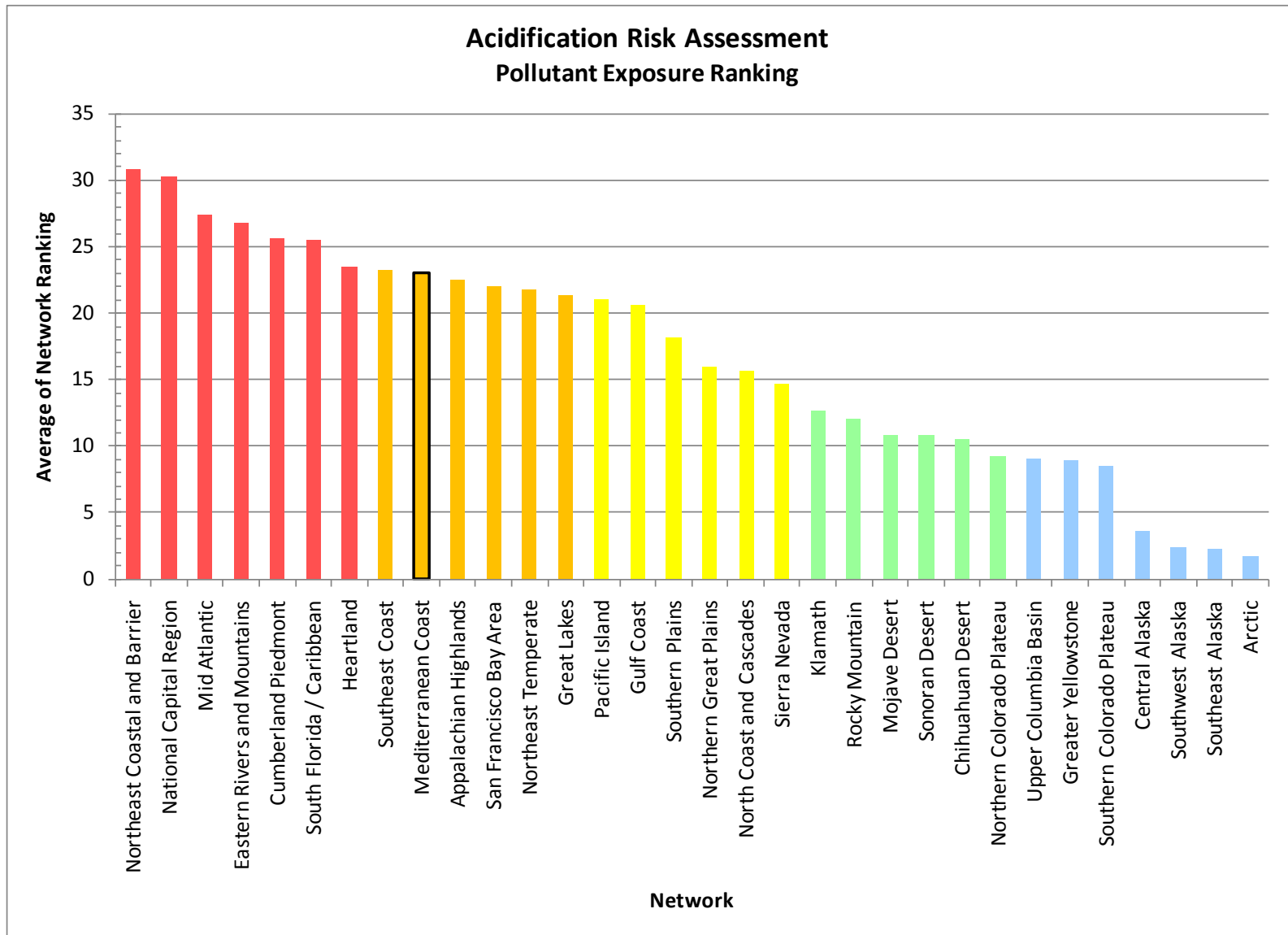


Figure A

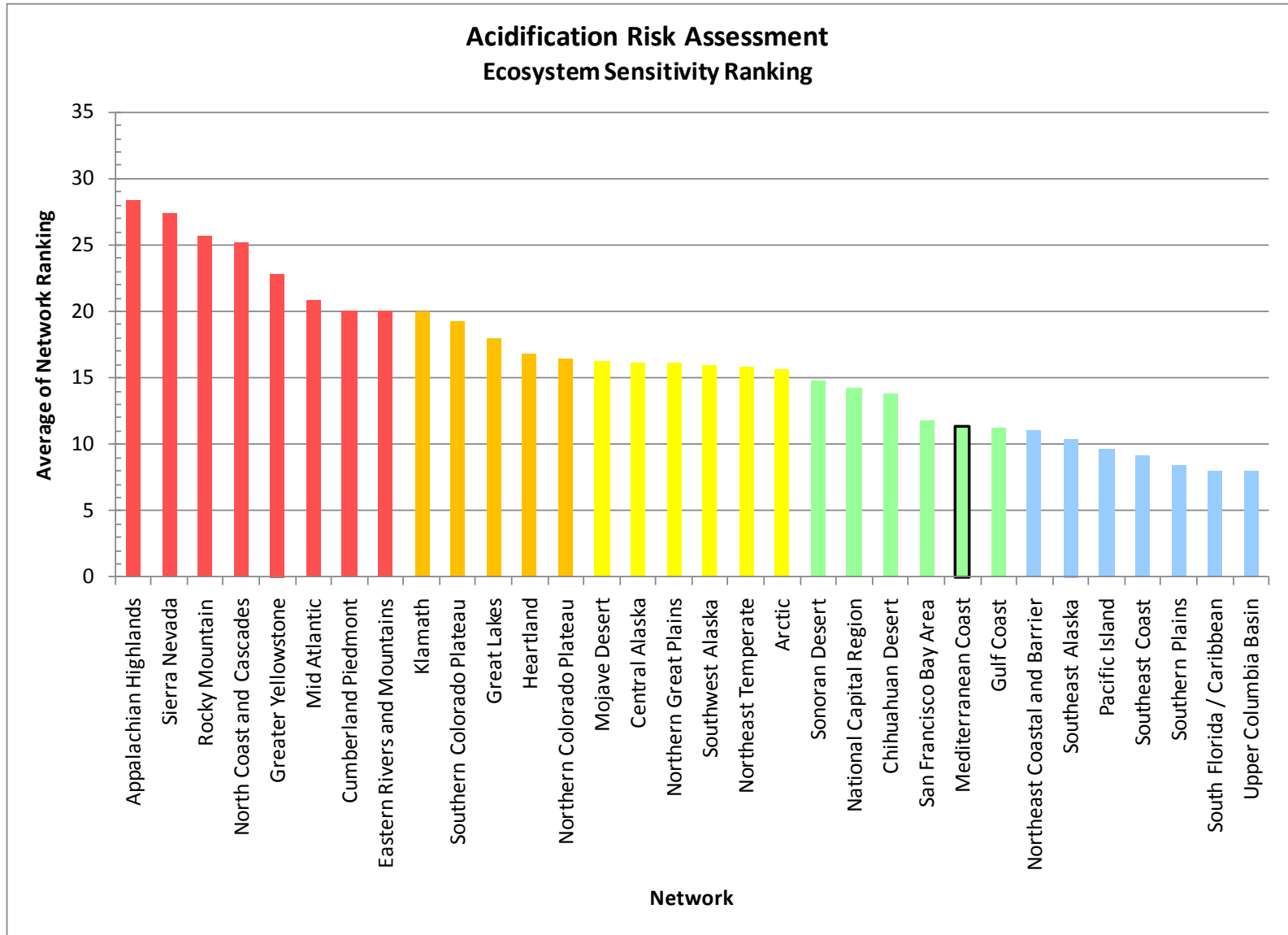


Figure B

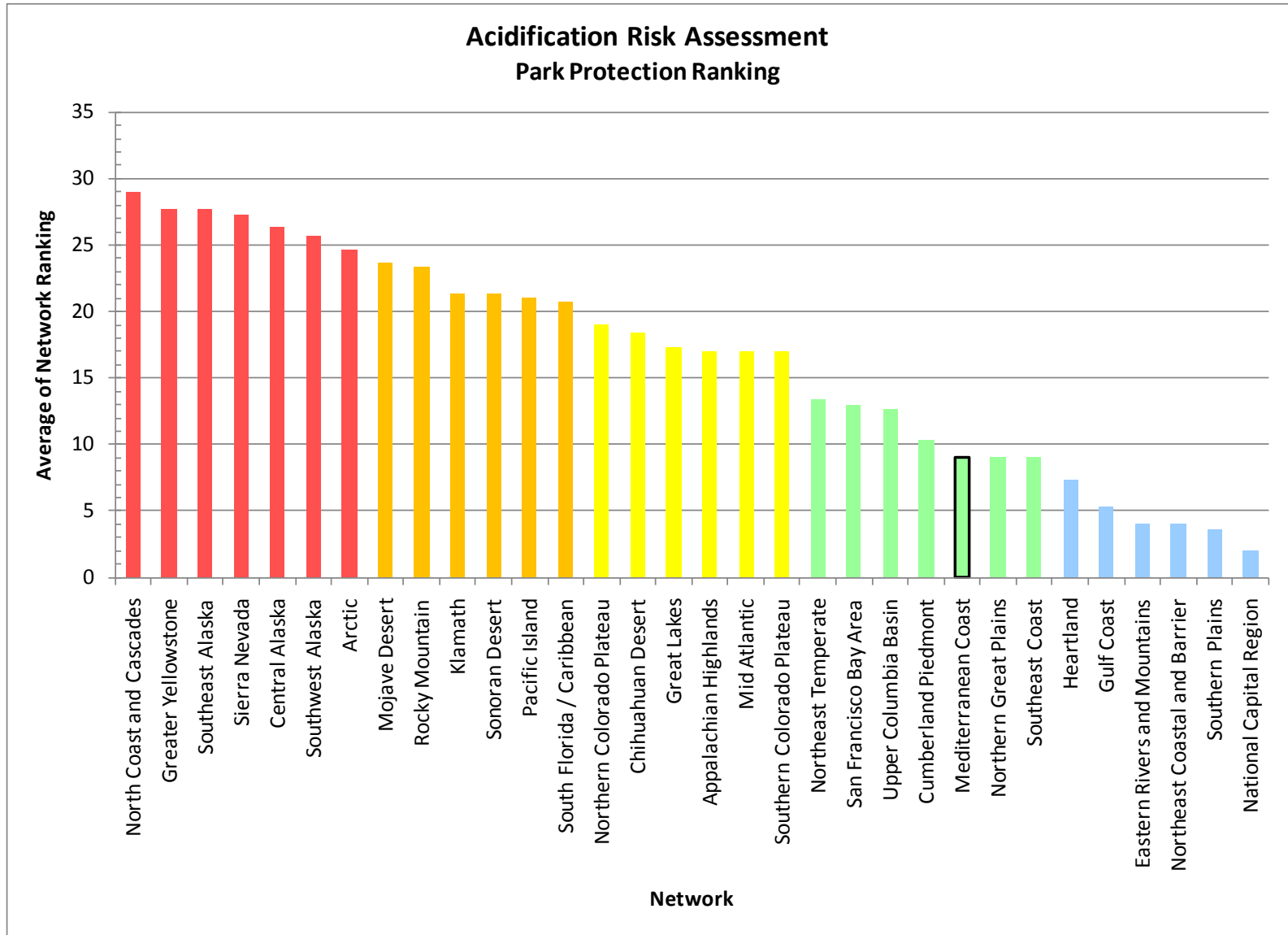


Figure c

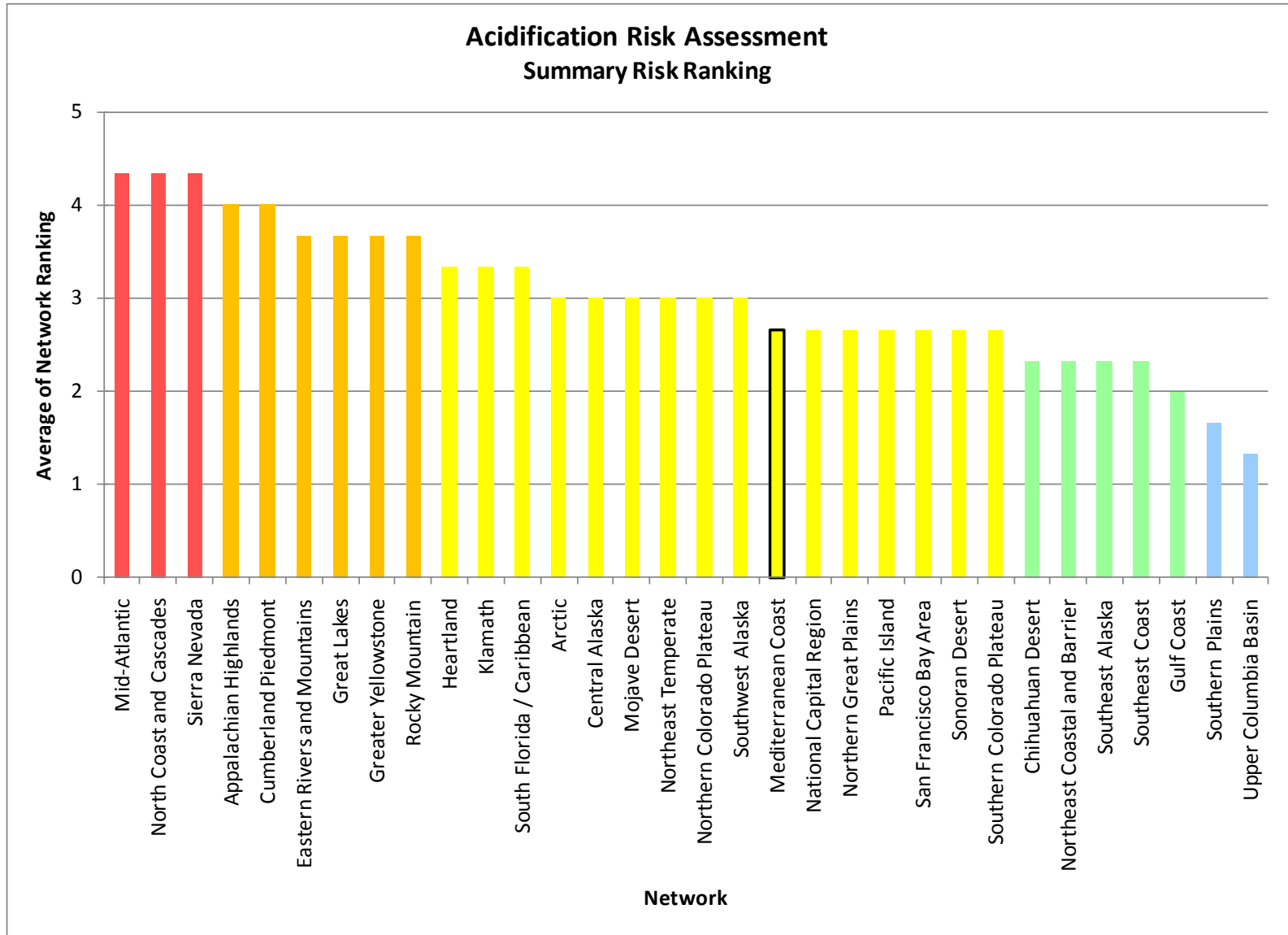


Figure D

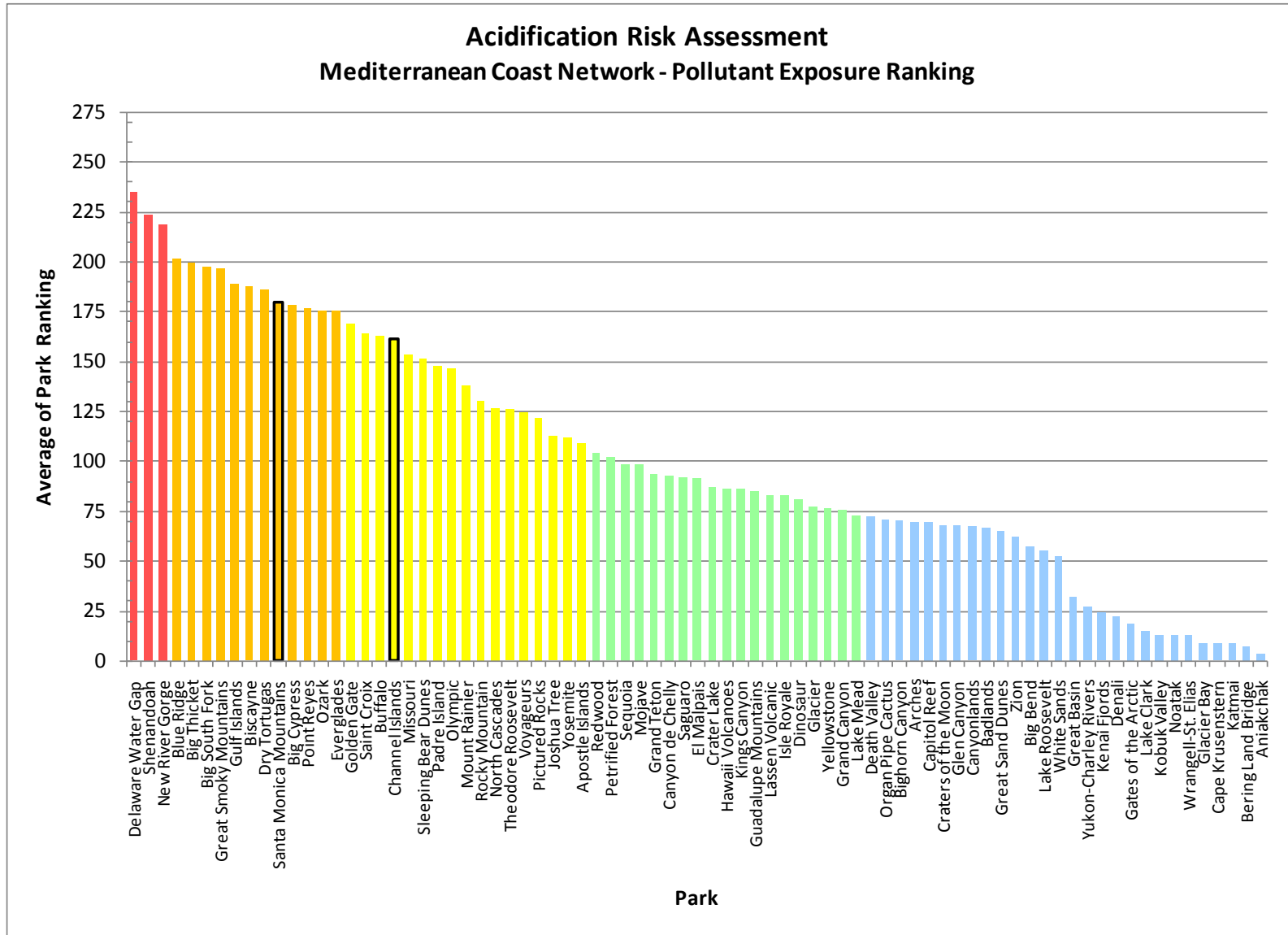


Figure E

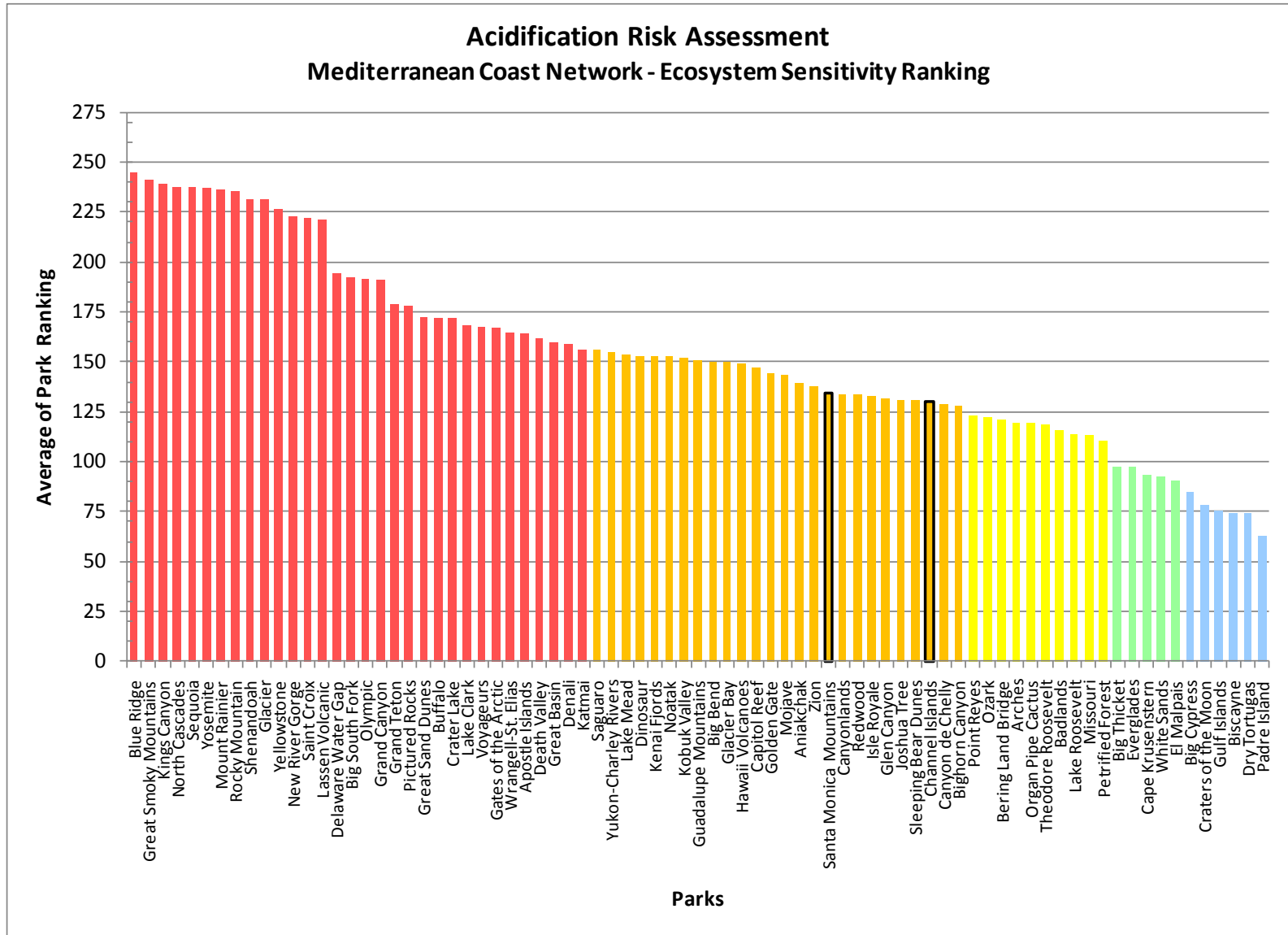


Figure F



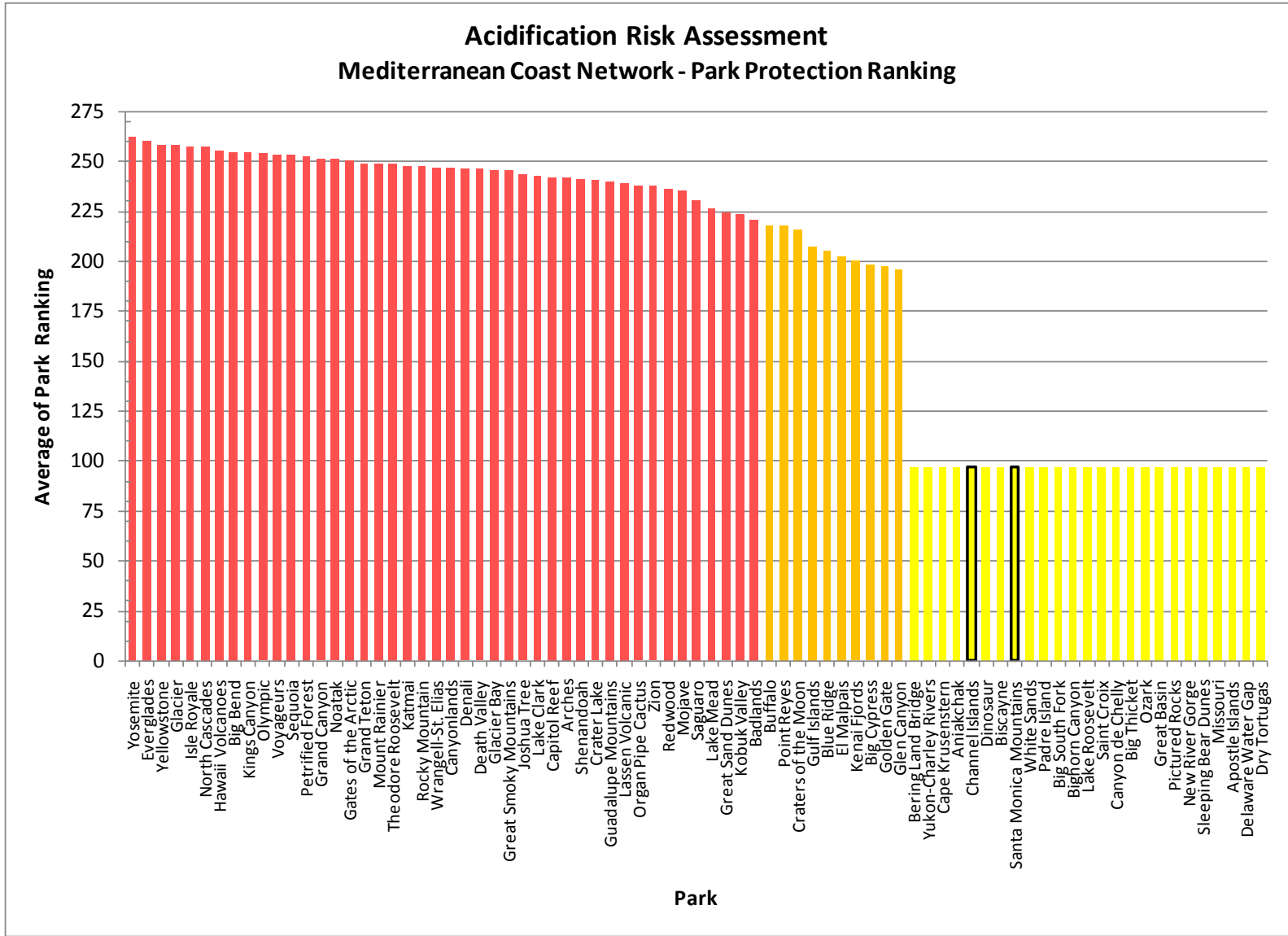


Figure G

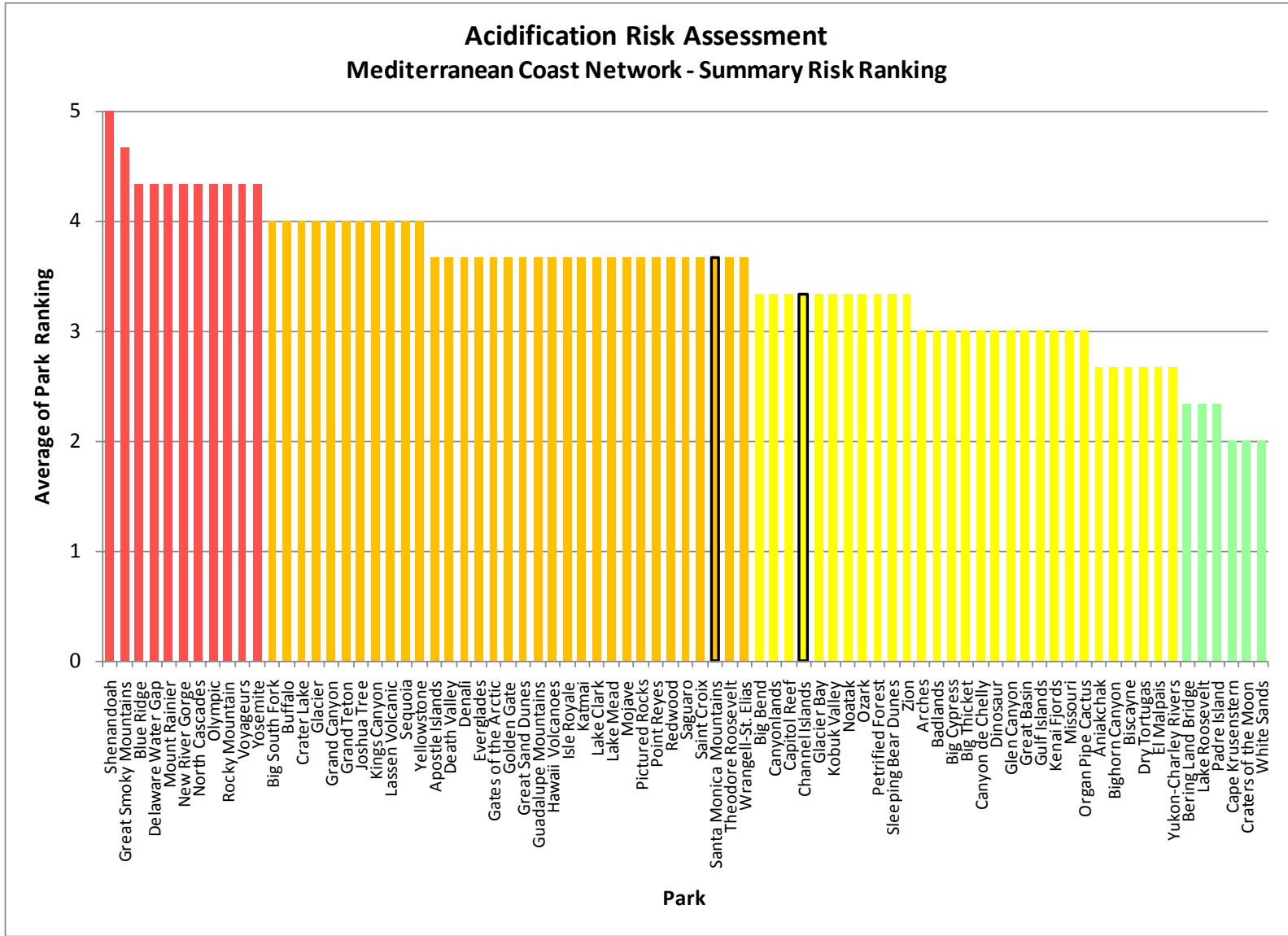


Figure H



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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