



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

Mid-Atlantic Network (MIDN)

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/ARD/NRR—2011/362



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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Mid-Atlantic Network (MIDN)

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 is only one park in the Mid-Atlantic Network that is larger than 100 square miles: Shenandoah (SHEN). There are nine smaller parks.

Total annual S and N emissions, by county, are shown in Maps E and F, respectively, for lands in and surrounding the Mid-Atlantic Network. County-level S emissions within the network ranged from less than 1 to greater than 100 tons per square mile per year (Map E). In general, S emissions were less than 20 tons per square mile per year, with only a few counties exceeding this amount. County-level N emissions within the network ranged from less than 1 ton per square mile to more than 100 tons per square mile (Map F). In general, N emissions were less than 20 tons per square mile, but there were several areas with higher N emissions, most in the range of 20 to 50 tons per square mile. Individual point sources of S are displayed on Map G. Point sources of S within the network were mostly less than 5,000 tons per year. However, there were several sources of greater magnitude, with one source emitting more than 40,000 tons per year (Map G). There were also numerous large S point sources to the northwest of the network. Point source emissions of oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO_x) and reduced (ammonia, NH_3) N are shown in Map H. There were relatively few substantial (larger than 1,000 tons per year) N point sources within this network, and all except one of these emitted NO_x . There were, however, a number of point sources of oxidized N that were larger than 5,000 tons per year just to the west of the network boundary.

Urban centers within the network and within a 300-mile buffer around the network are shown in Map I. Baltimore is the only urban center within the network that is larger than 500,000 people. However, there are many large cities within the 300-mile buffer around the network boundary, some very close to the network boundary (Washington, DC, New York, and Philadelphia).

Total S and N deposition in and around the network are shown on Maps J and K, respectively. Included in this analysis are both wet and dry forms of acidic deposition and both the oxidized and reduced N species. Total S deposition within the network ranged from as low as 5 to 10 kg S/ha/yr to greater than 30 kg S/ha/yr (Map J). SHEN is located in a zone that receives less than 15 kg S/ha/yr. The highest S deposition values within the network occur to the north. Total N deposition within the network ranged from as low as 5 to 10 kg N/ha/yr to 20 to 30 kg N/ha/yr (Map K). Estimated total N deposition throughout much of the network, including most of SHEN, was in the range of 10 to 15 kg N/ha/yr.

Land cover in and around the network is shown in Map L. The predominant cover types within this network are highly variable. SHEN is largely forested, but the surrounding land is a mix of pasture/hay, forest, and developed land. Elsewhere within the network, land cover types consist mainly of a varied mix of pasture/hay, forest, row crops, and developed areas.

Land slope tends to be fairly steep in SHEN, which is situated along the ridge of the Appalachian Mountains. The HUCs throughout the entire park have average slope in the 30° to 40° range. All other parks within the network are much less steep, with average slope less than 10° in all but one park (Hopewell Furnace [HOFU]), which has average slope in the 10° to 20° range.

Park lands requiring special protection against potential adverse impacts associated with 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. SHEN is classified as Class I. Large portions of SHEN, along with two small areas outside NPS jurisdiction, are designated as wilderness.

Maps P-1 through P-3 are park-specific maps for SHEN, which show sensitive vegetation (Map P-1), high-elevation lakes and streams (Map P-2) and low-order streams (Map P-3). Nearly the entire park is covered by vegetation types likely to contain sugar maple (Map P-1). Sugar maple is known to be especially sensitive to acidification effects from atmospheric S and N inputs.

High-elevation lakes are absent from the park but there is considerable length of high-elevation streams (Map P-2). Higher-elevation streams are considered potentially more susceptible to acidification from atmospheric S and N input than lower-elevation streams. All streams in the park are first or second order.

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 Mid-Atlantic Network ranked among the highest of all of the networks in Pollutant Exposure (Figure A). Sulfur and N emissions and deposition within the network were very high. Network Ecosystem Sensitivity ranking was also in the highest quintile among networks (Figure B). This was because there is extensive vegetation coverage in the I&M parks in this network that includes sugar maple, and there is considerable length of high-elevation and low-order streams. Surface waters and geology within this network are also known to be highly sensitive to acidification effects. This network ranked near the median among networks in Park Protection (Figure C), having moderate amounts of protected lands. In combination, the network rankings for Pollutant Exposure, Ecosystem Sensitivity, and Park Protection yielded an overall Network Risk ranking that is the highest among 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 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.

SHEN, the only park larger than 100 square miles, ranked near the top among parks in Pollutant Exposure (Figure E) and Ecosystem Sensitivity (Figure F), having substantial coverage of sensitive resources and high risk from nearby pollution sources. The Park Protection ranking for SHEN was also in the highest quintile among parks (Figure G).

Most of the smaller historical parks in this network were ranked Very High in Pollutant Exposure; Appomattox Court House (APCO) and for Booker T. Washington (BOWA) were ranked High. The smaller parks were variable in Ecosystem Sensitivity, from Very Low in BOWA to Moderate in Valley Forge (VAFO), HOFU, and Gettysburg (GETT). All of the smaller parks were ranked in the middle quintile in Park Protection.

Overall, the park Summary Risk ranking placed SHEN at the top among parks (Figure H). Concern for acidification effects in SHEN is considered Very High. For the park Summary Risk ranking for the smaller parks, three were ranked High (GETT, HOFU, and VAFO), and the rest were ranked Moderate.

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 Parks² in Network	Relative Ranking of Individual Parks¹			
	Pollutant Exposure	Ecosystem Sensitivity	Park Protection	Summary Risk
Appomattox Court House	High	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Booker T. Washington	High	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate
Eisenhower	Very High	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania	Very High	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Gettysburg	Very High	Moderate	Moderate	High
Hopewell Furnace	Very High	Moderate	Moderate	High
Petersburg	Very High	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Richmond	Very High	Low	Moderate	Moderate
<i>Shenandoah</i>	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High
Valley Forge	Very High	Moderate	Moderate	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.

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)

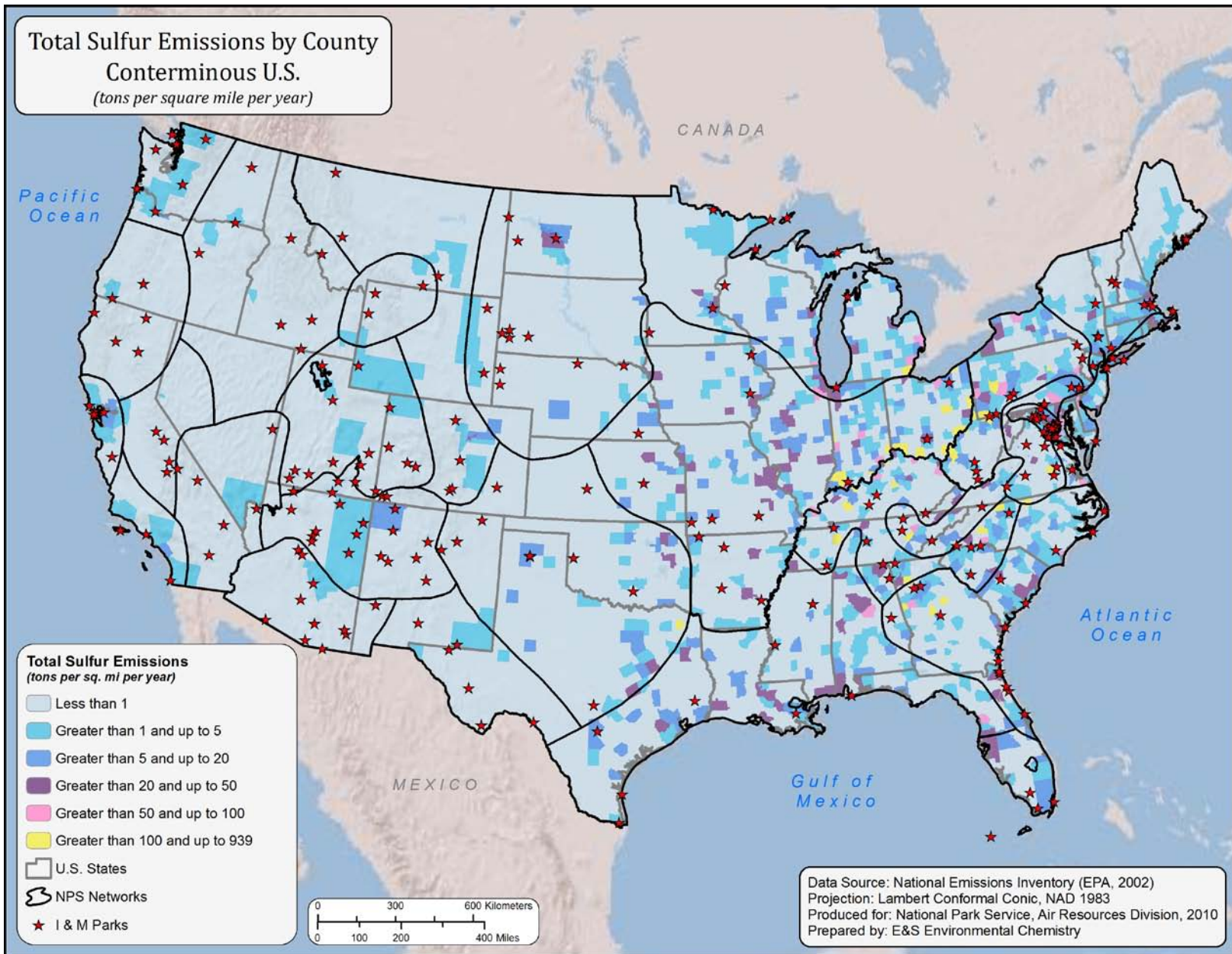
- Map J. Total S deposition in and around the network. Values are expressed as kilograms of S deposited per hectare per year. (Source of data: Interpolated NADP wet and CMAQ Model dry deposition data for 2002; see information for Map C above for details)
- Map K. Total N deposition in and around the network. Included in the total are wet plus dry forms of both oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO_x) and reduced (ammonia, NH₃) 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)
- 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: sensitive vegetation types in SHEN. (Source of data: Landfire [<http://www.landfire.gov/>] and NPS Vegetation Survey)
- Map P-2. Park-specific map: high-elevation lakes and streams in SHEN. (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 SHEN. (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.

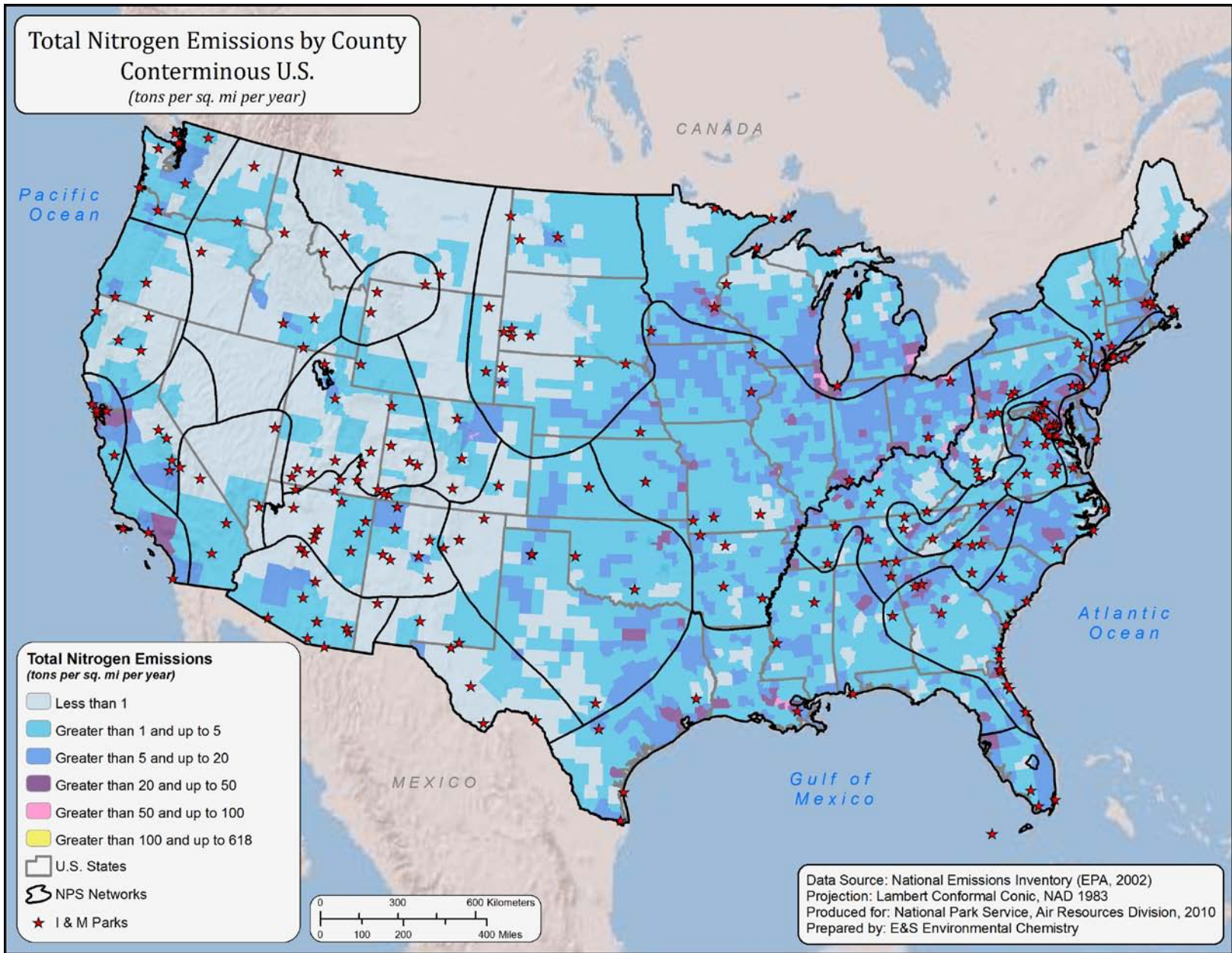
Figure G. Park rankings for Park Protection for all parks larger than 100 square miles. Ranks for each park were calculated relative to all parks, regardless of size, as the average of scores for all Park Protection variables.

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.

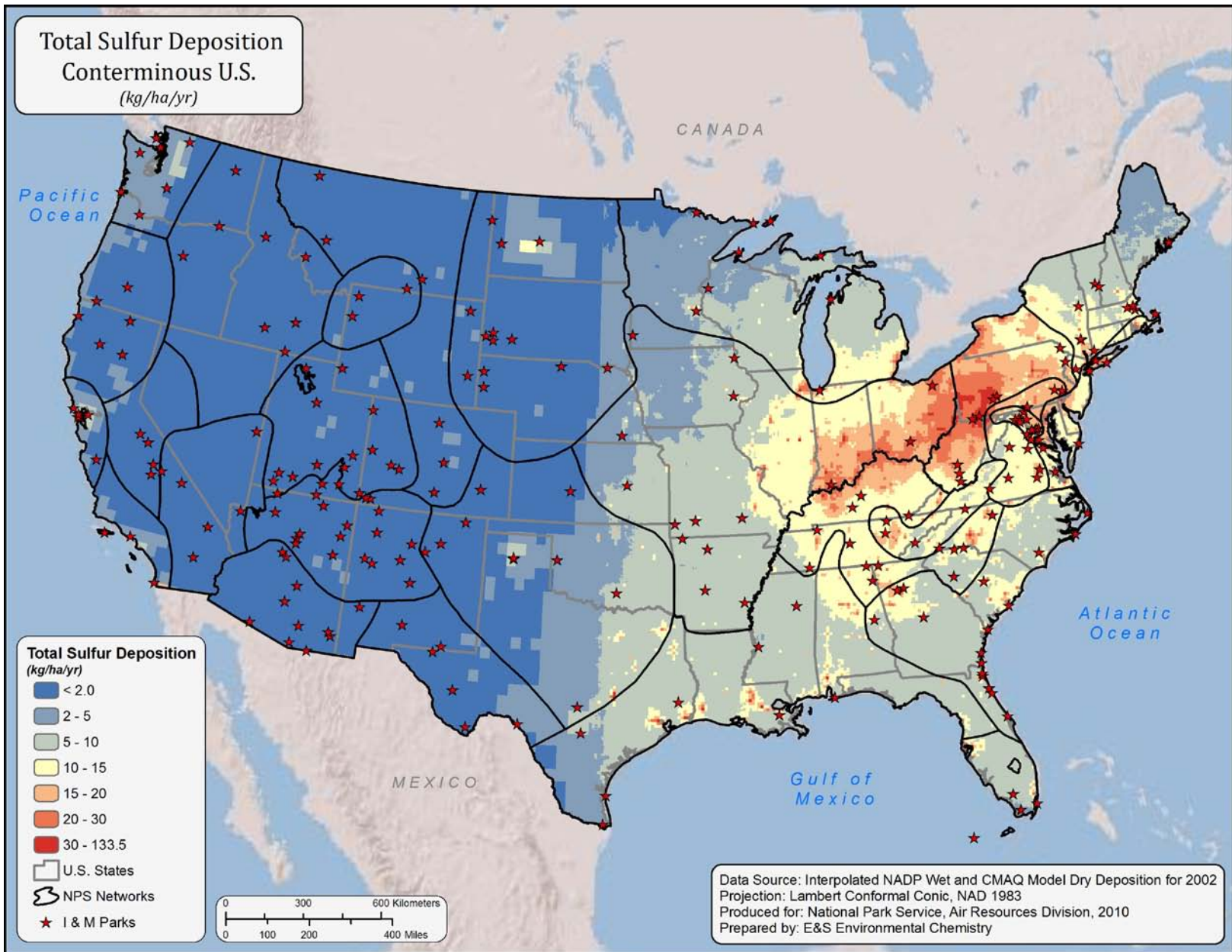
MIDN-7



Map A

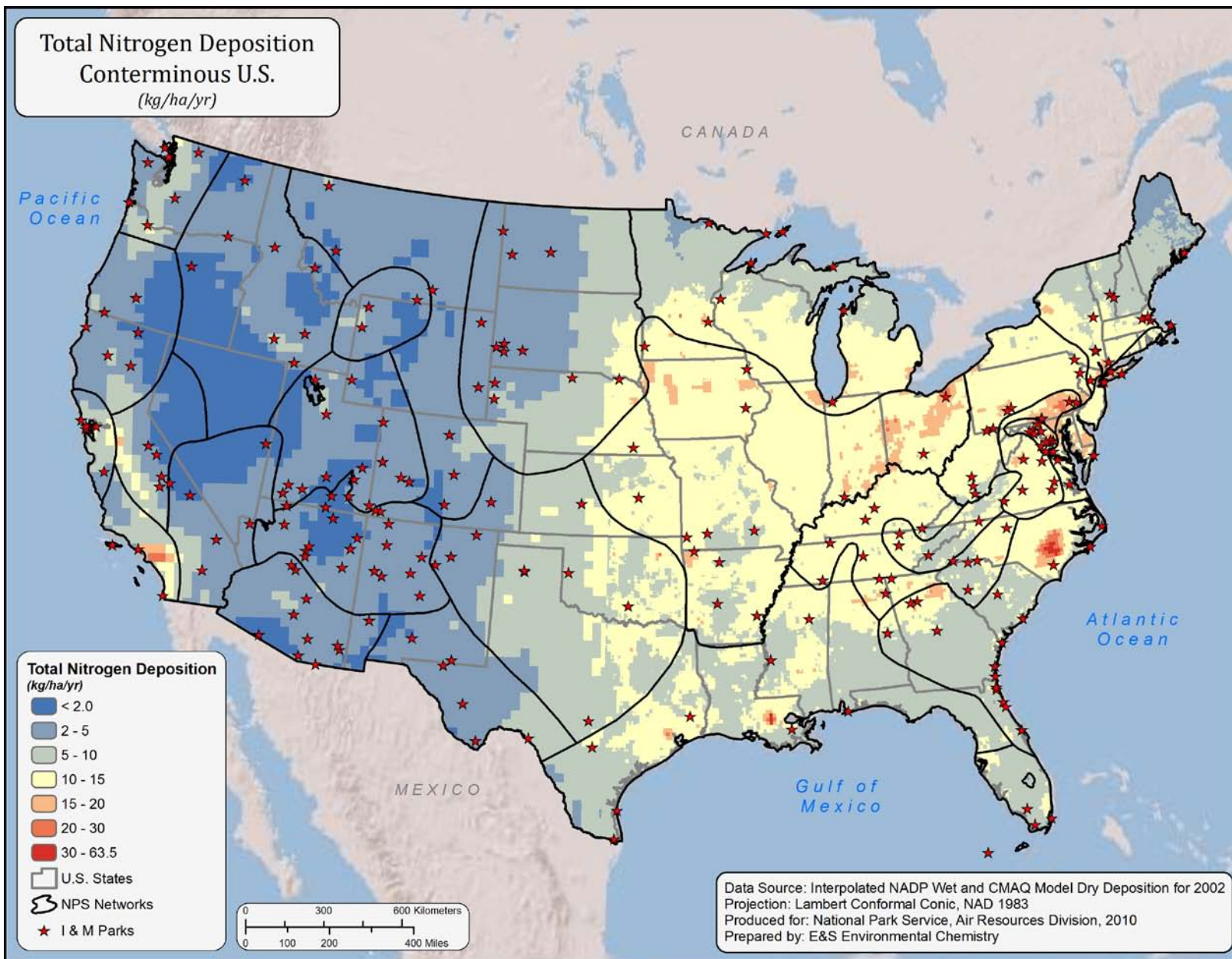


Map B

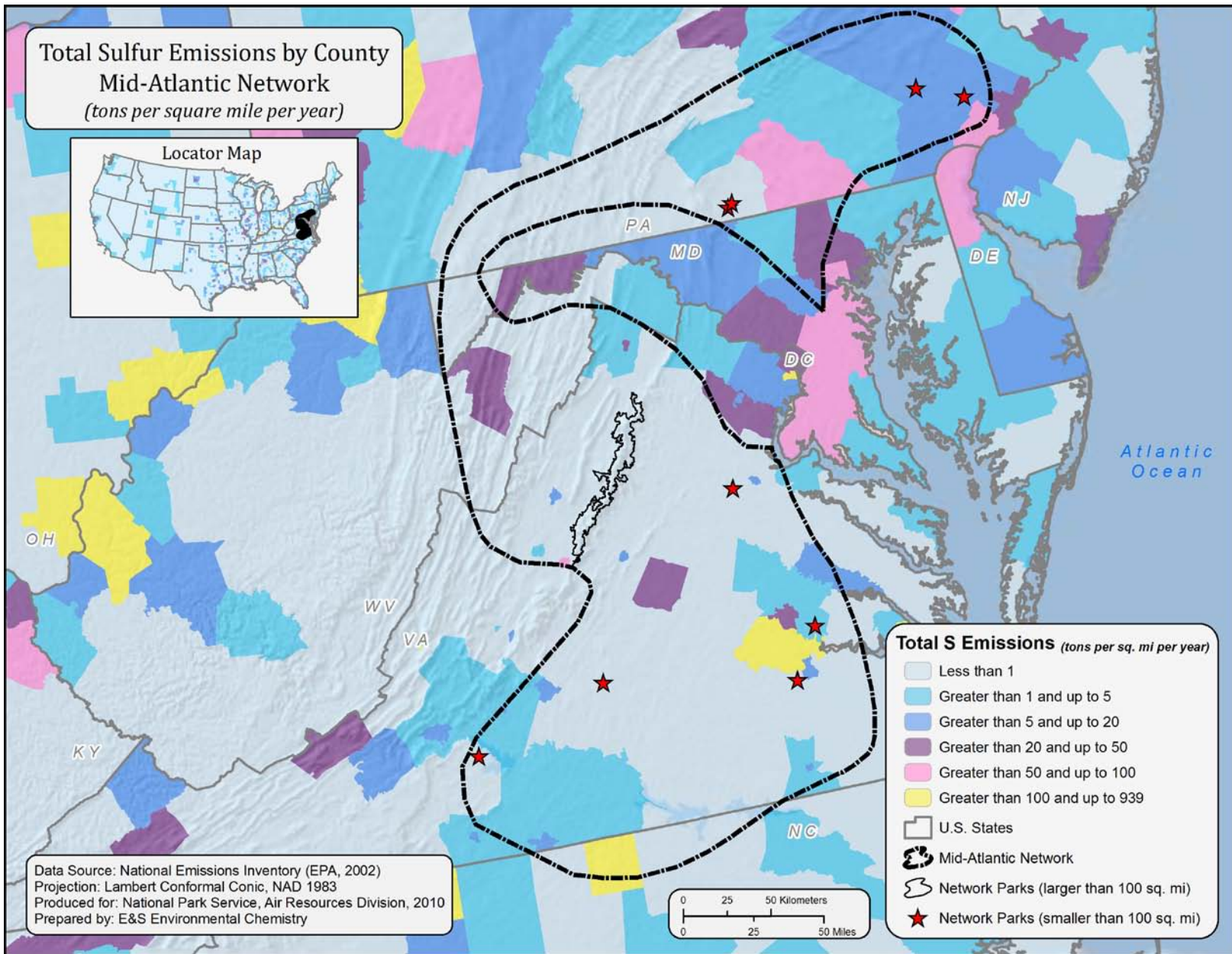


Map C

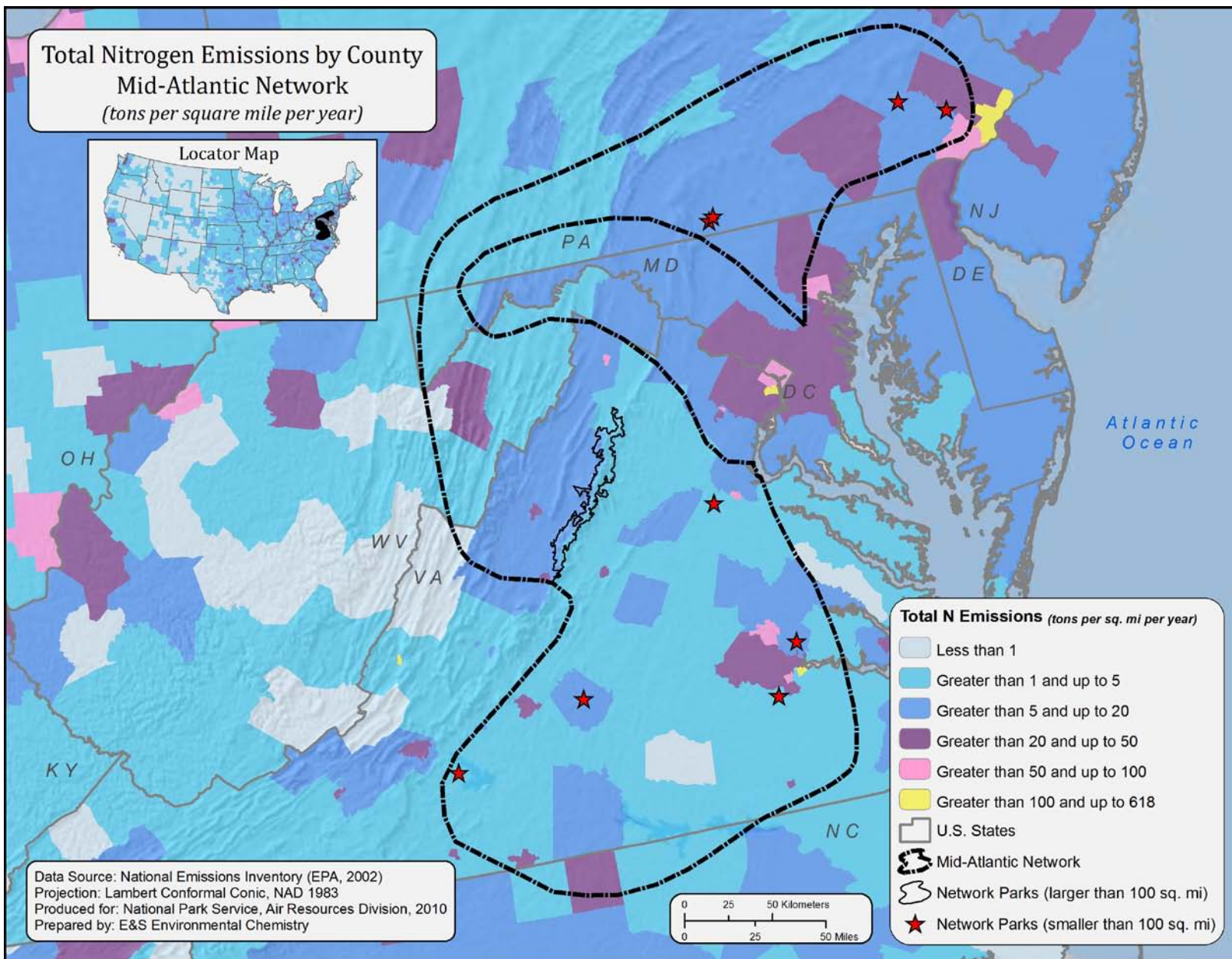
MIDDN-10



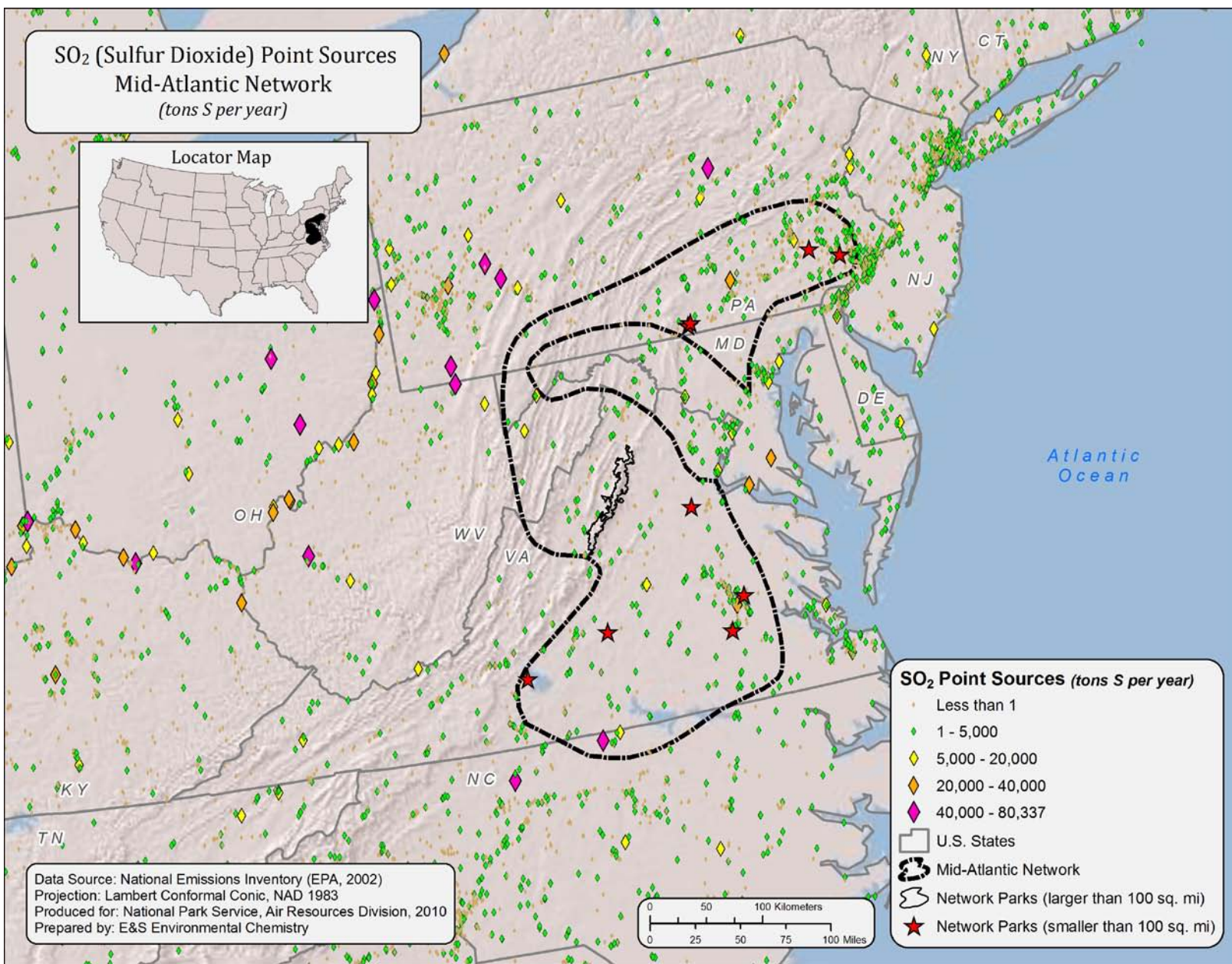
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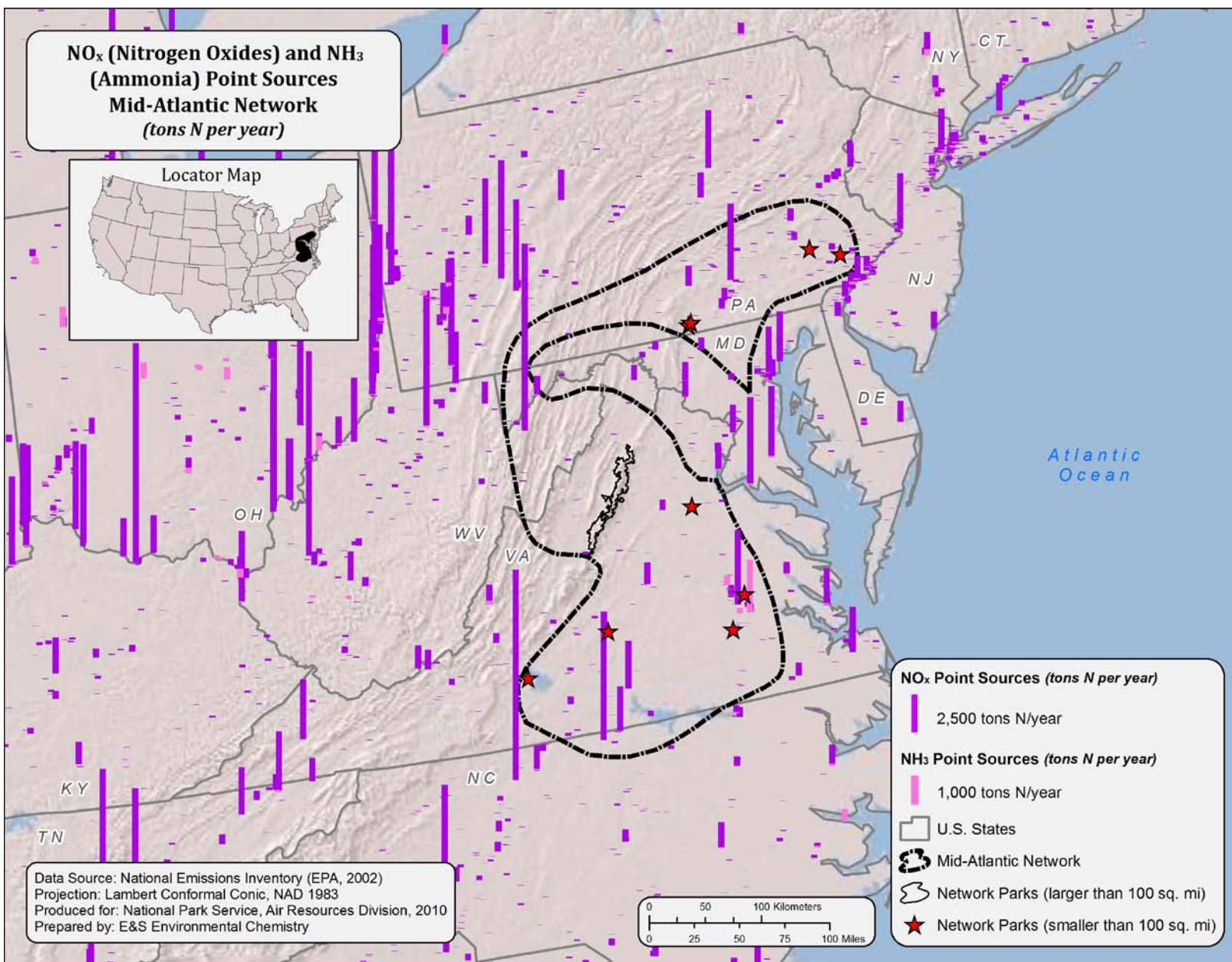
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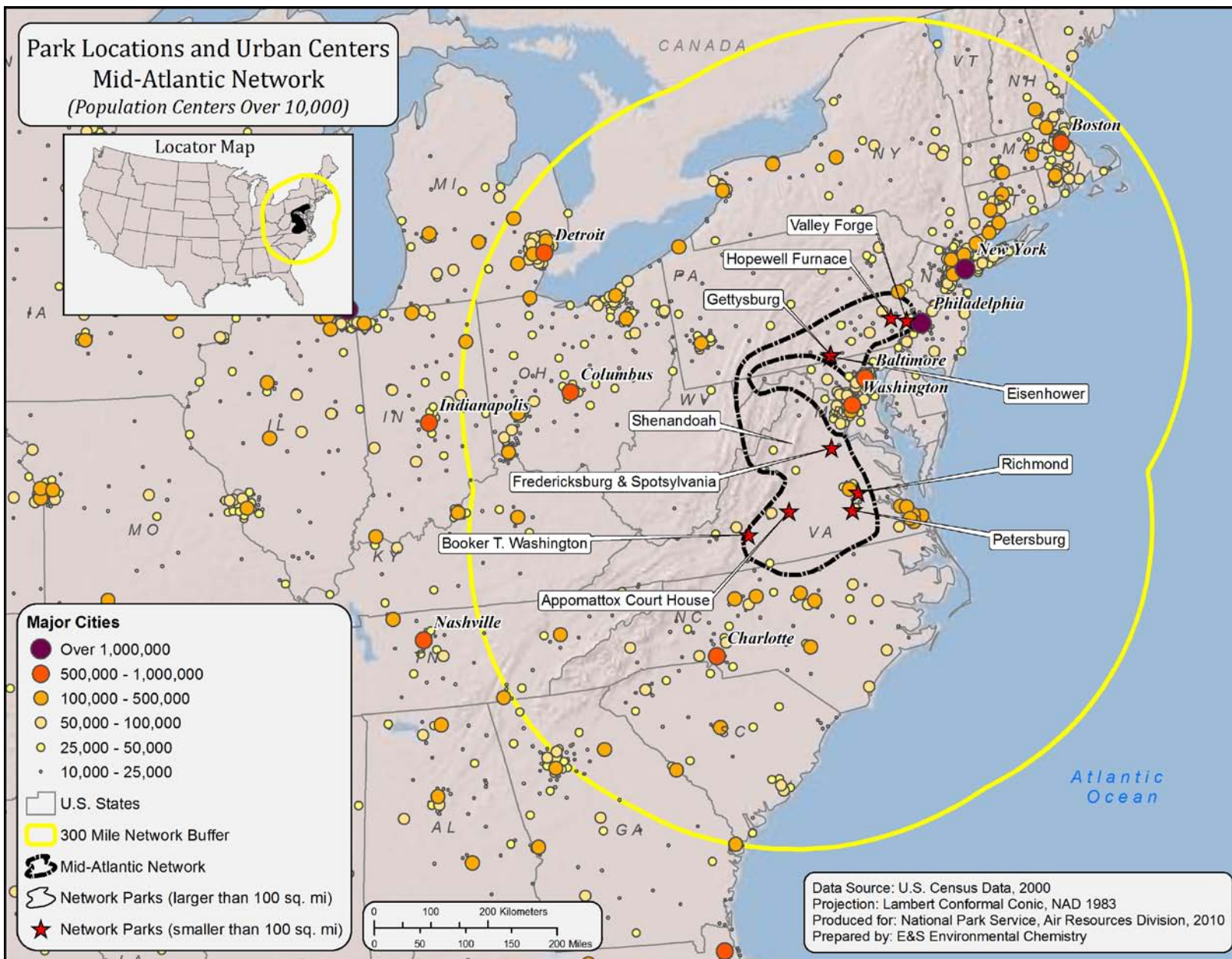
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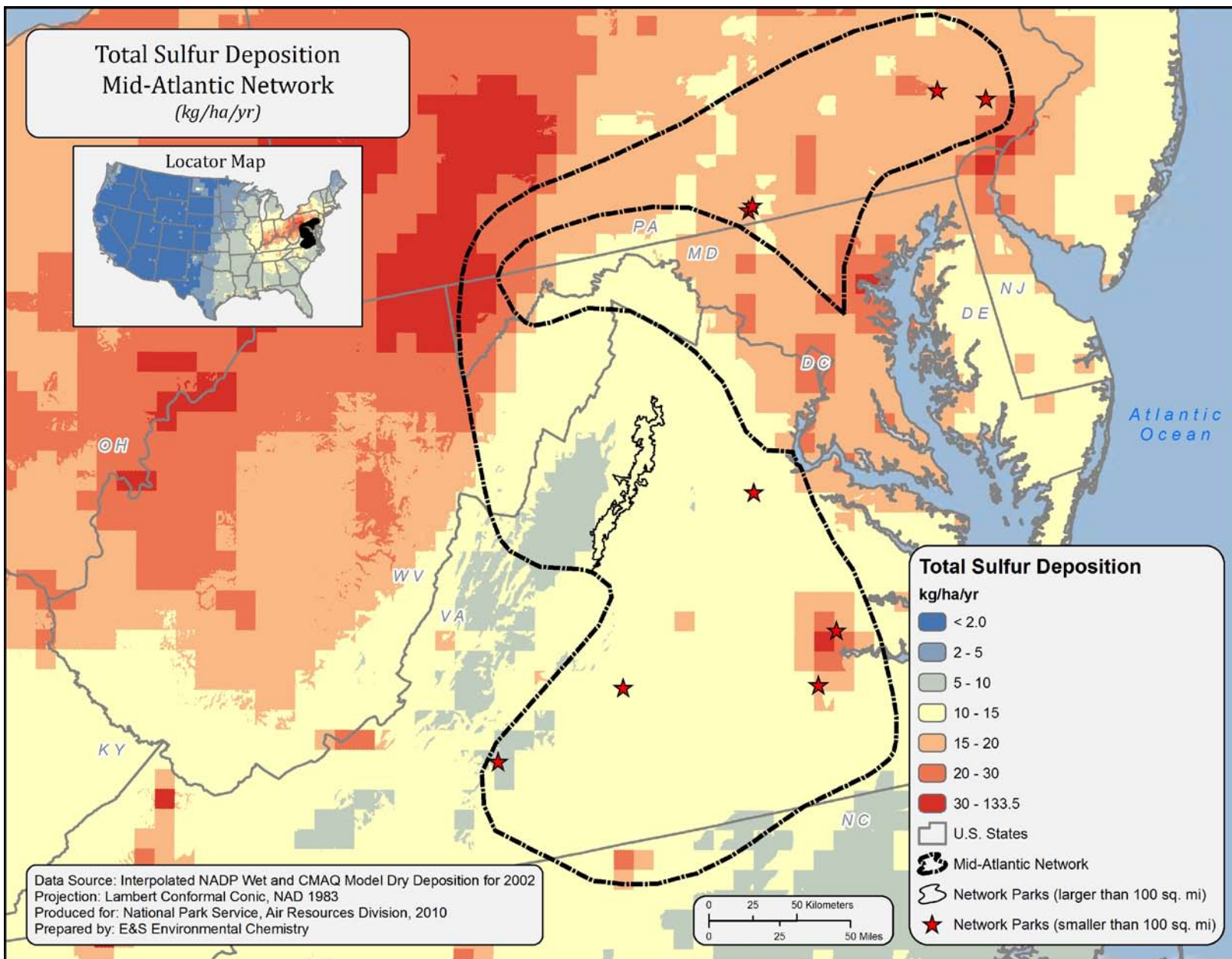
Map G



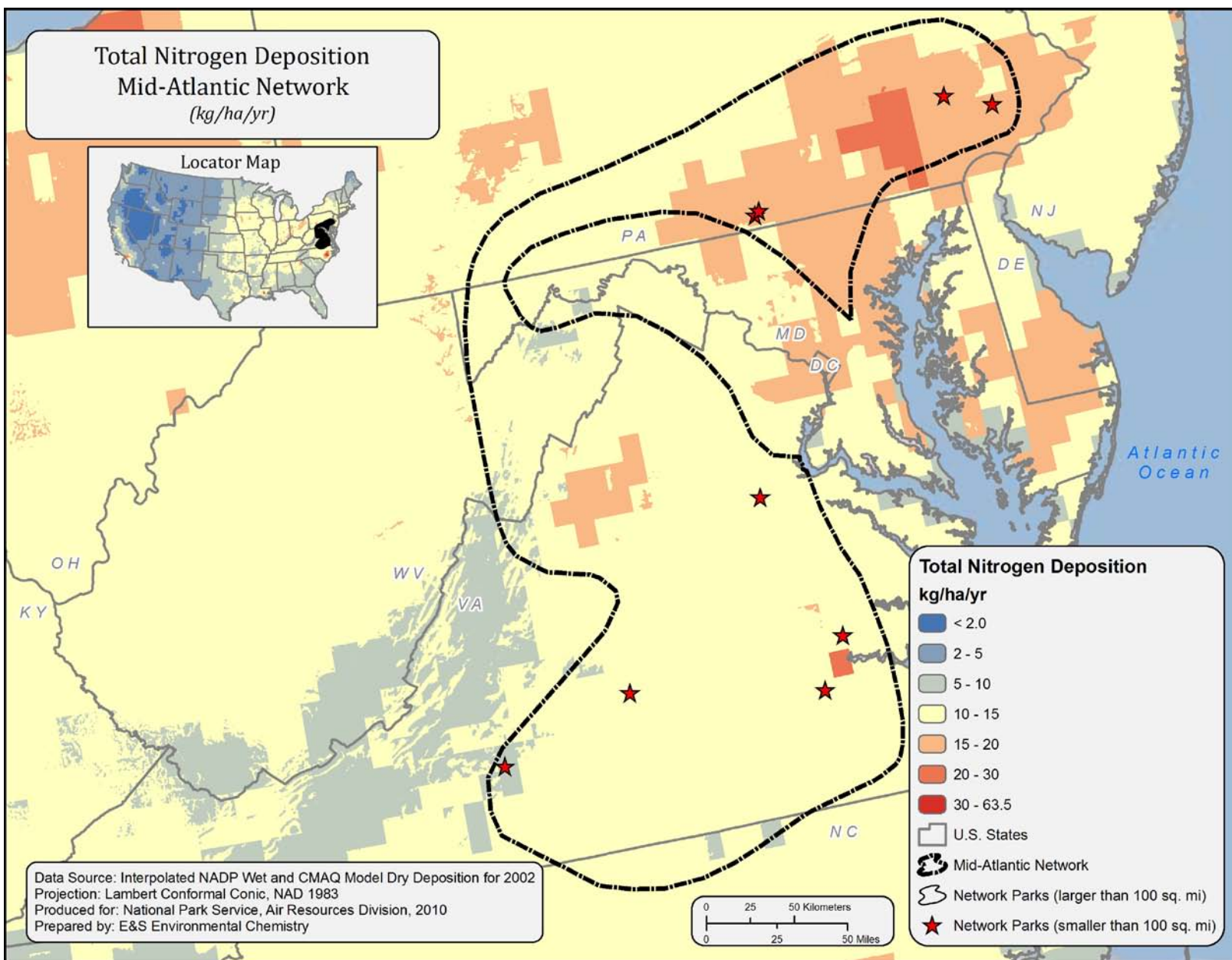
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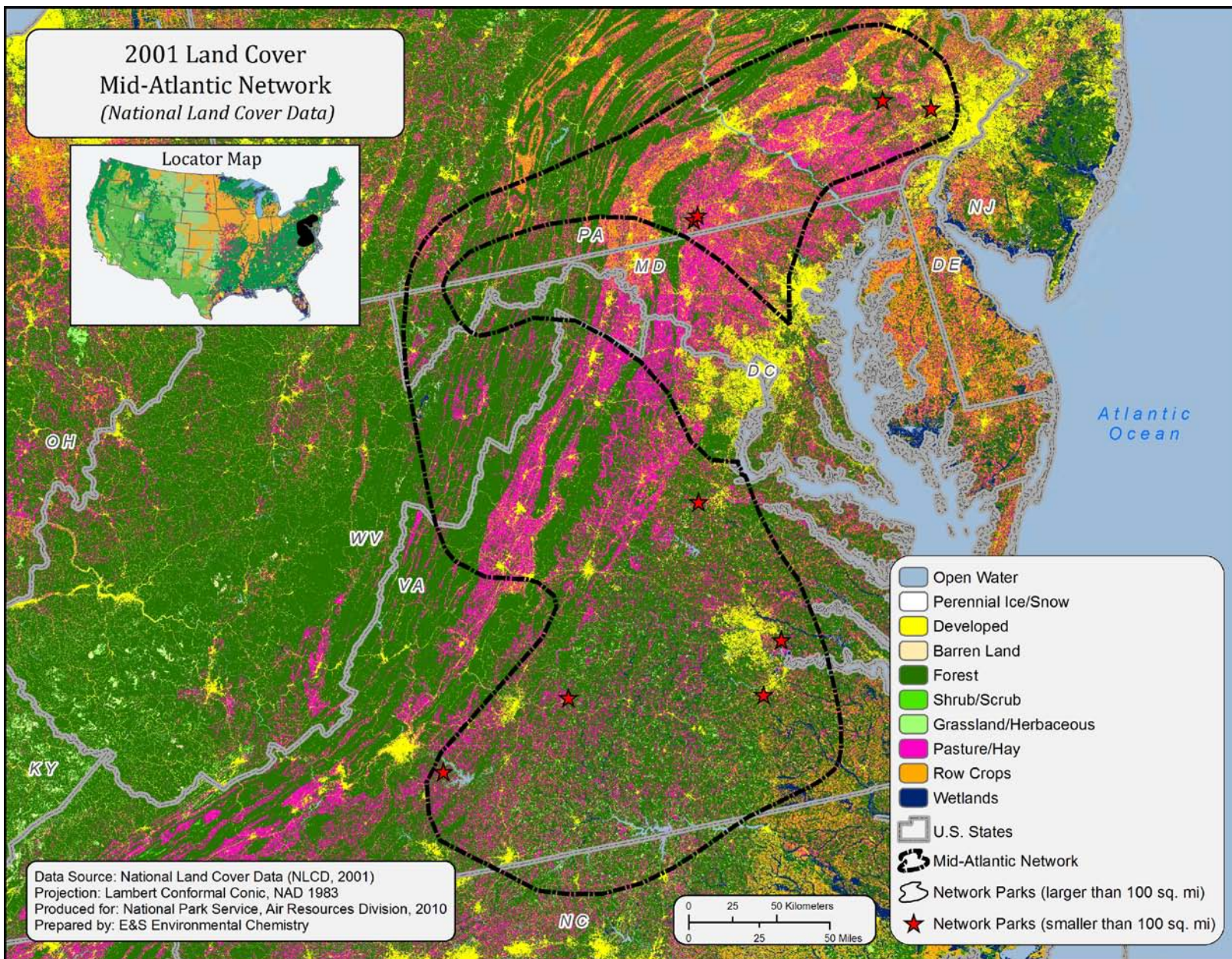
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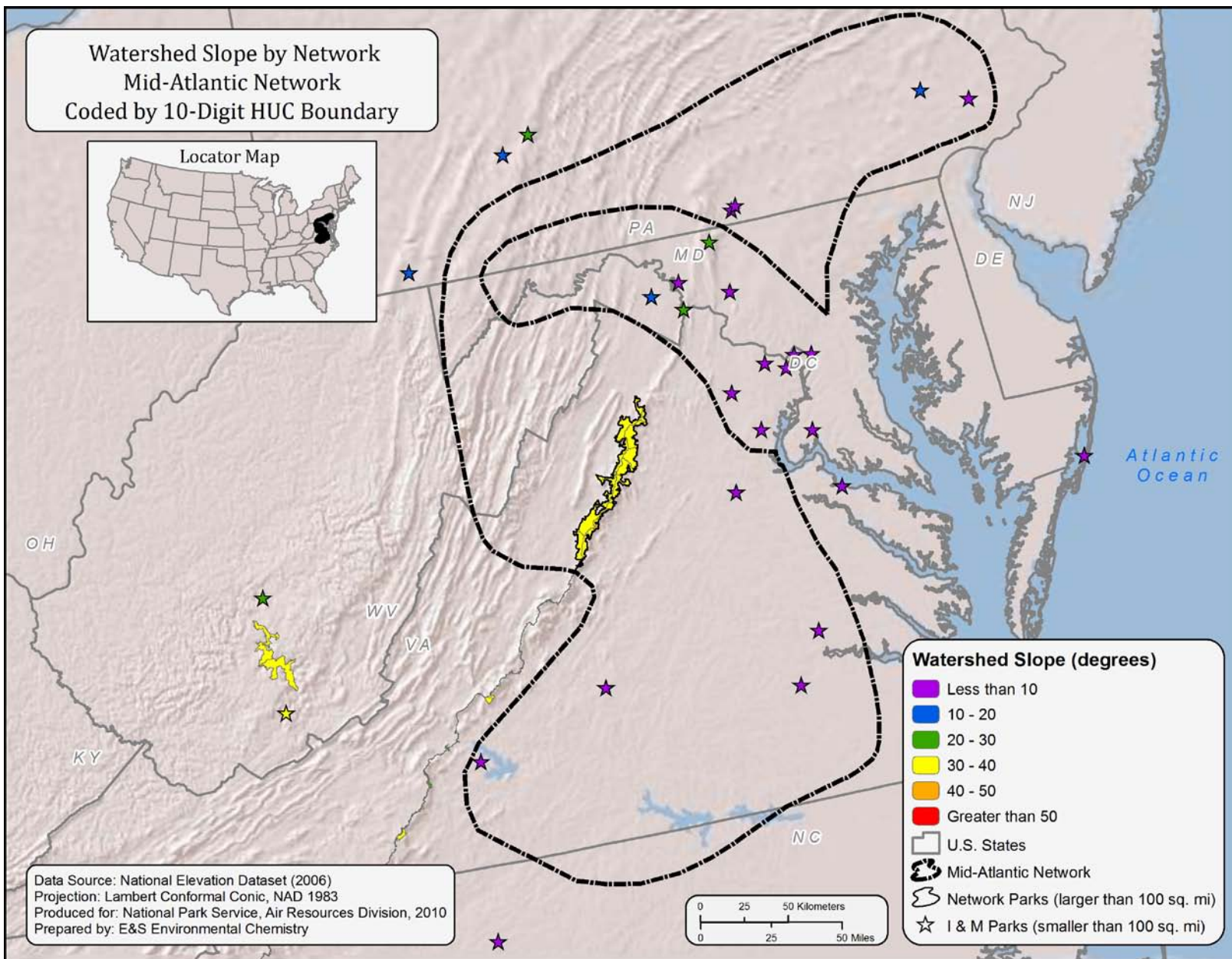
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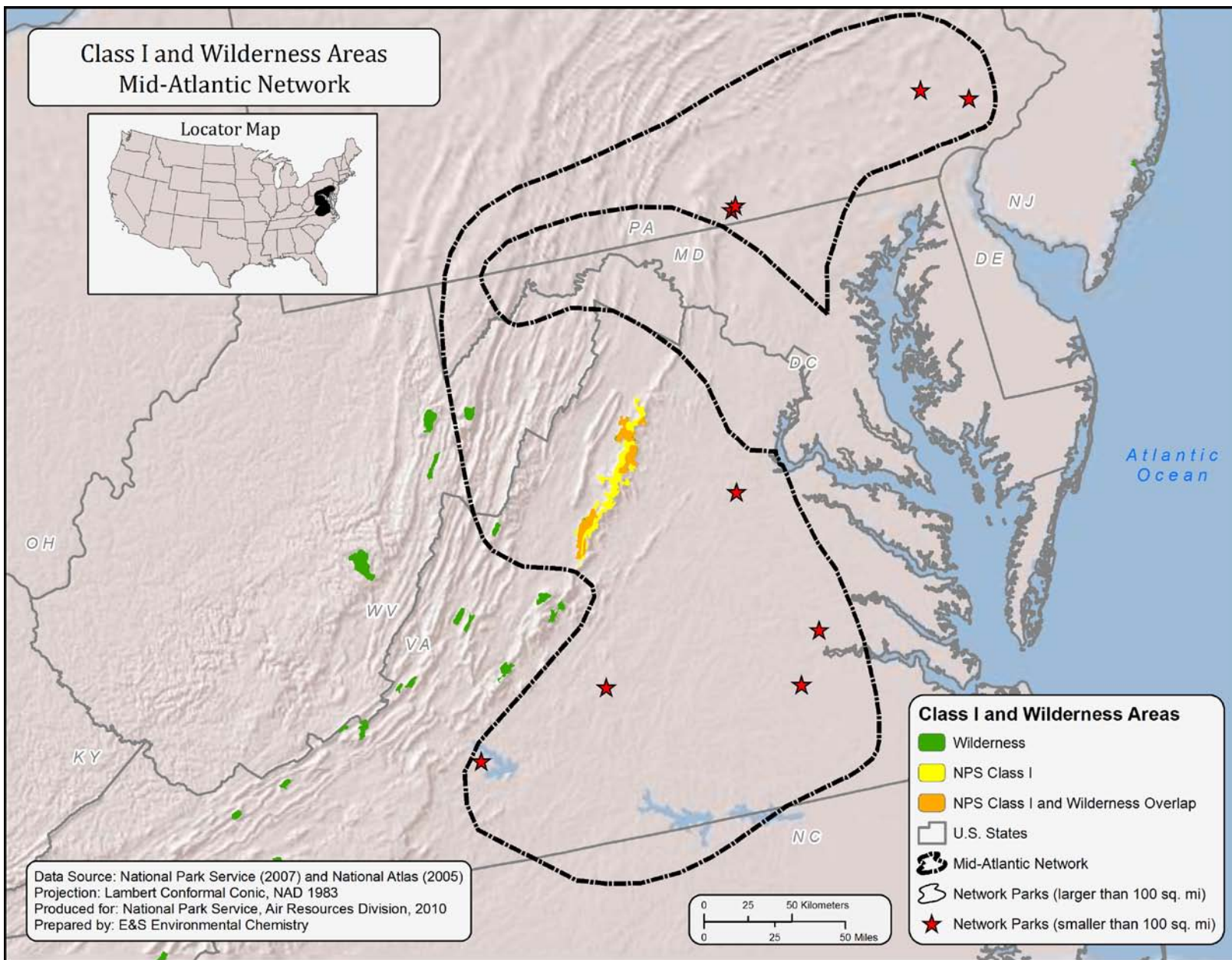
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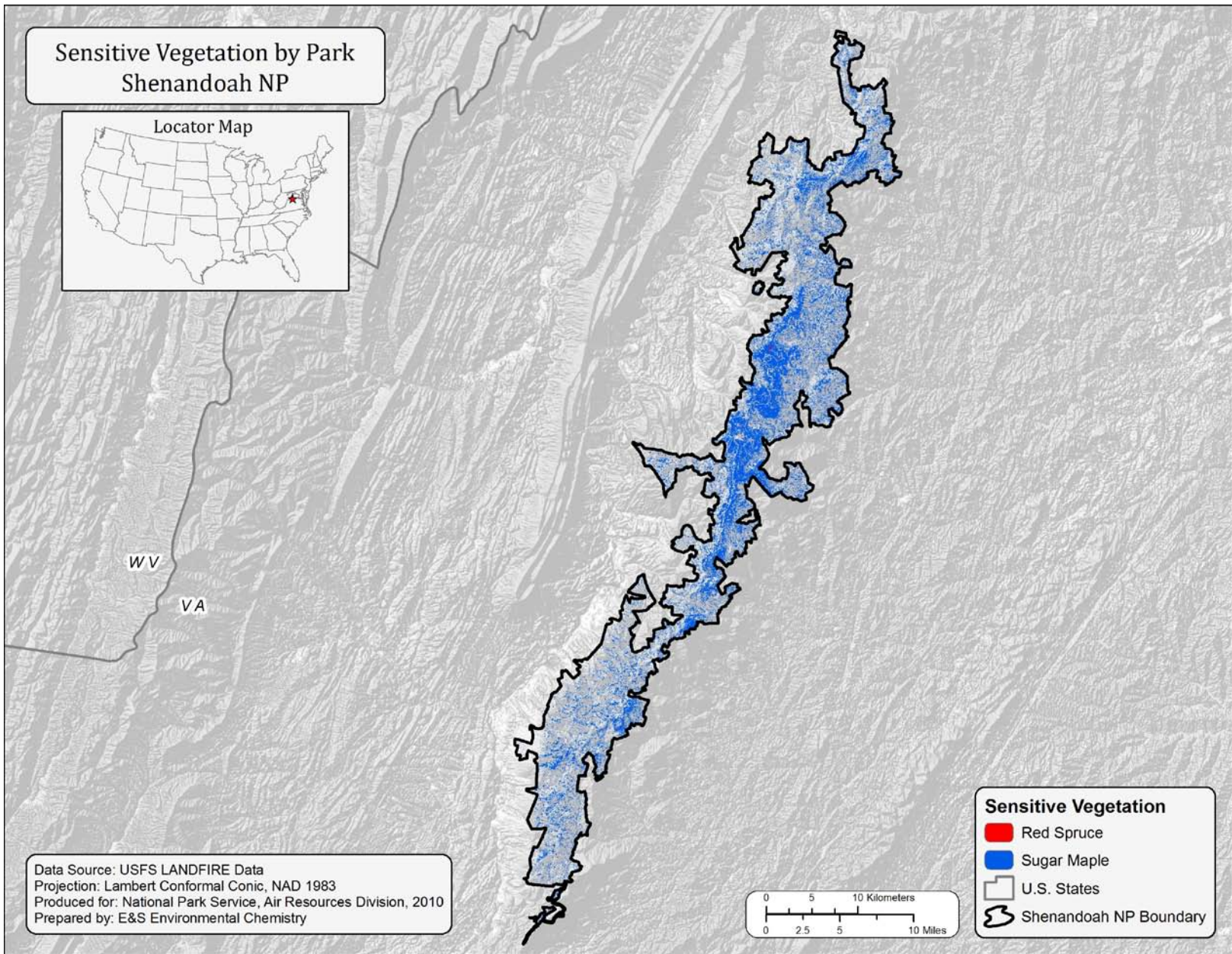
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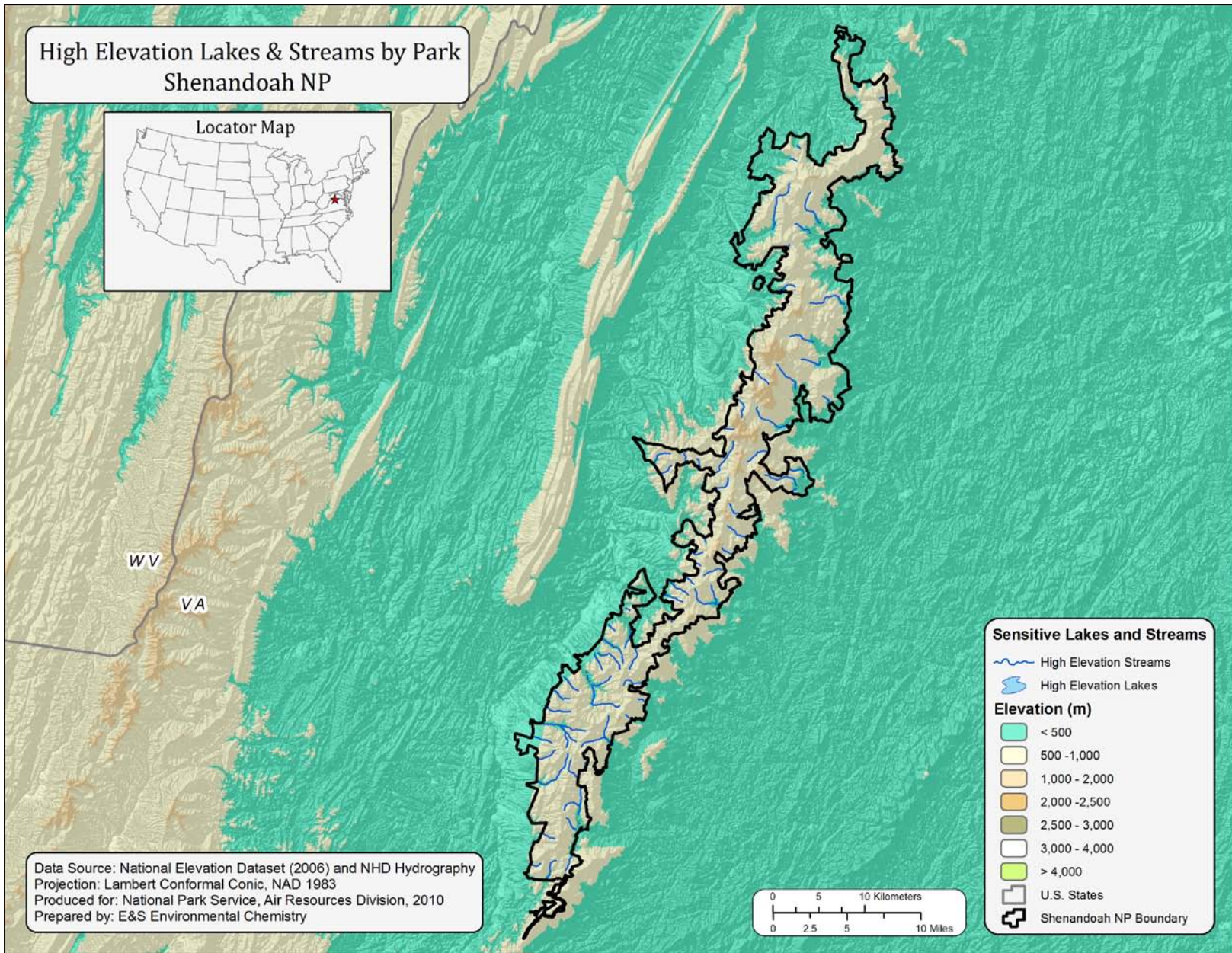
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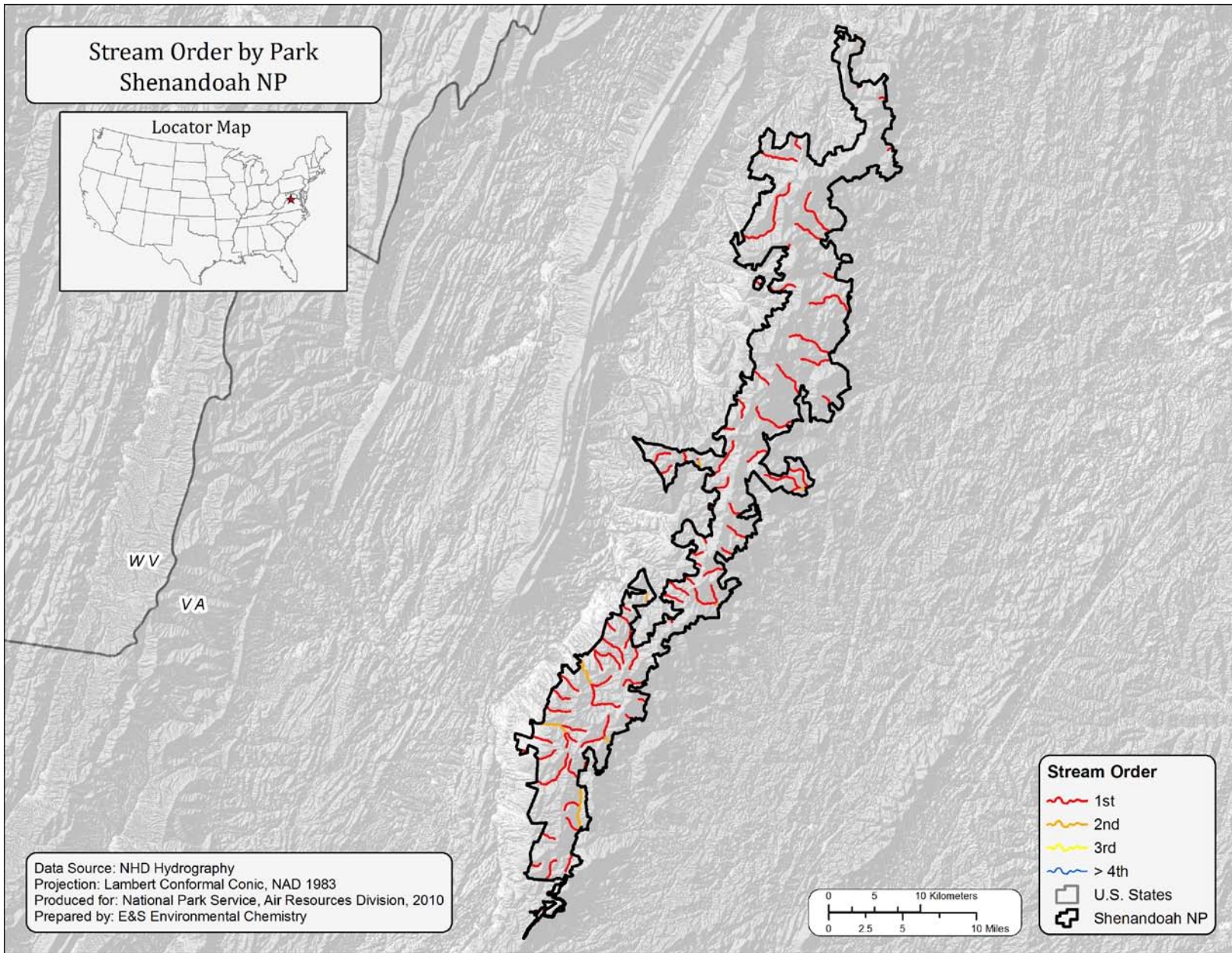
Map N



Map P-1



Map P-2



Map P-3

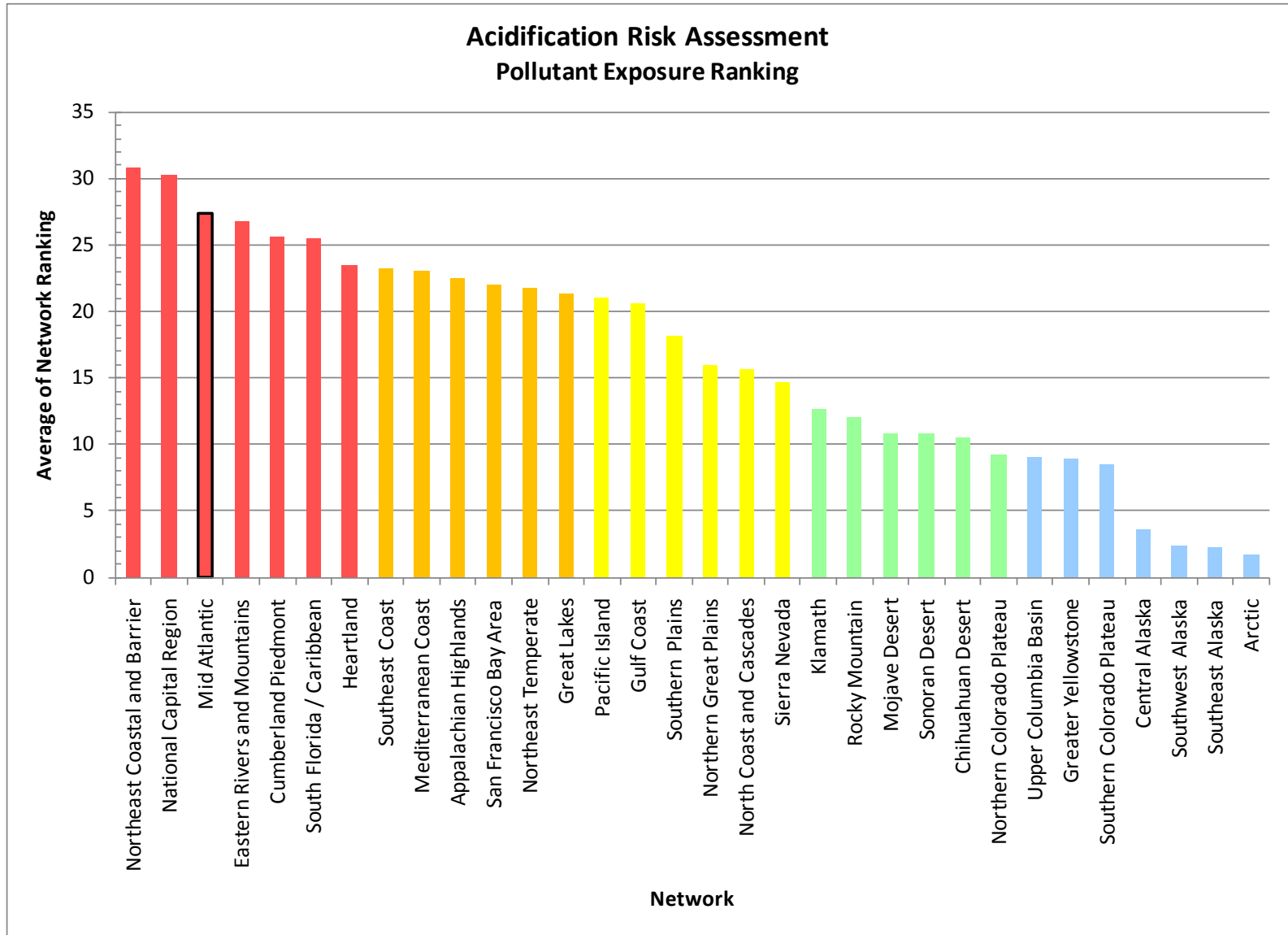


Figure A

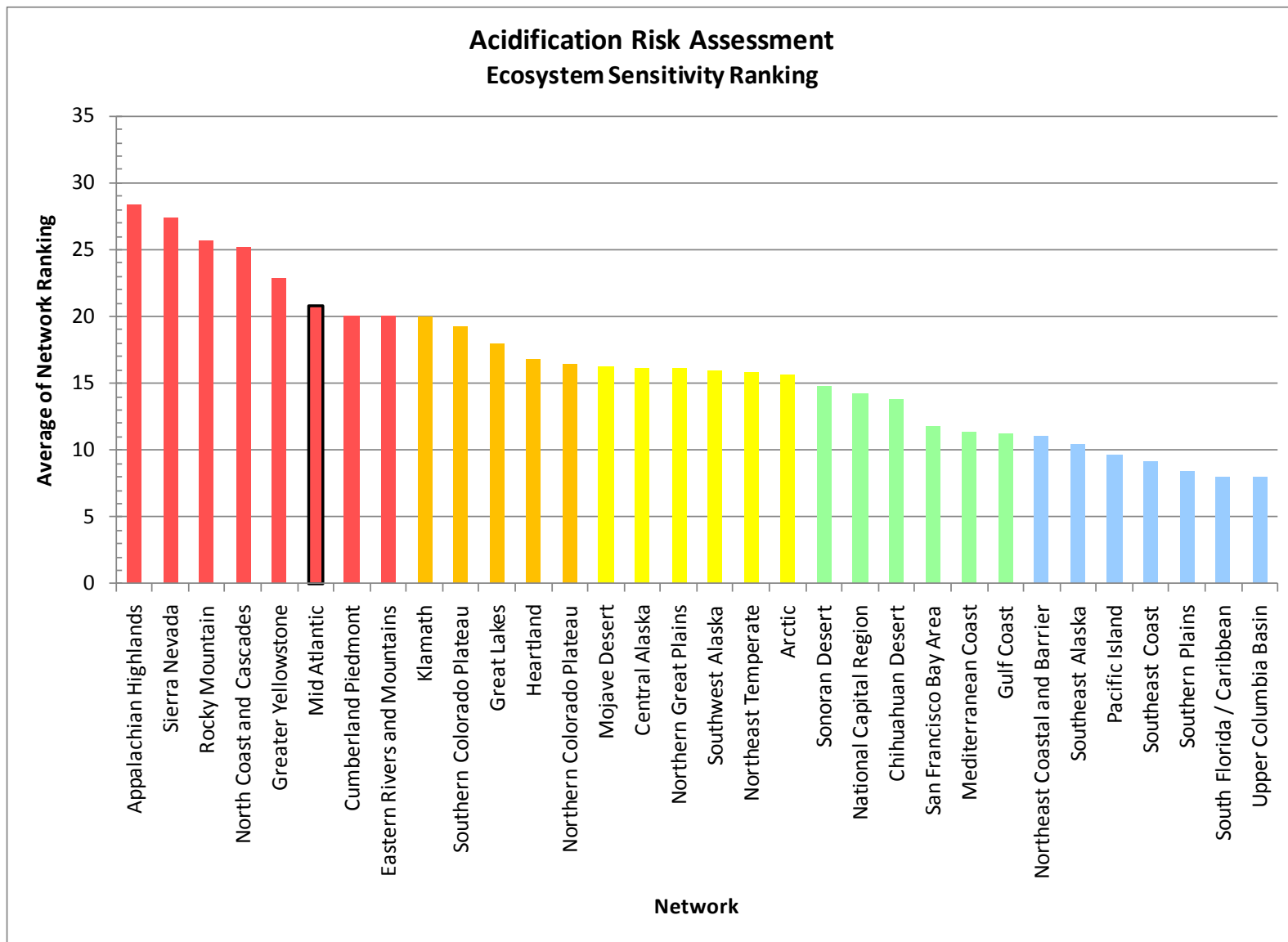


Figure B

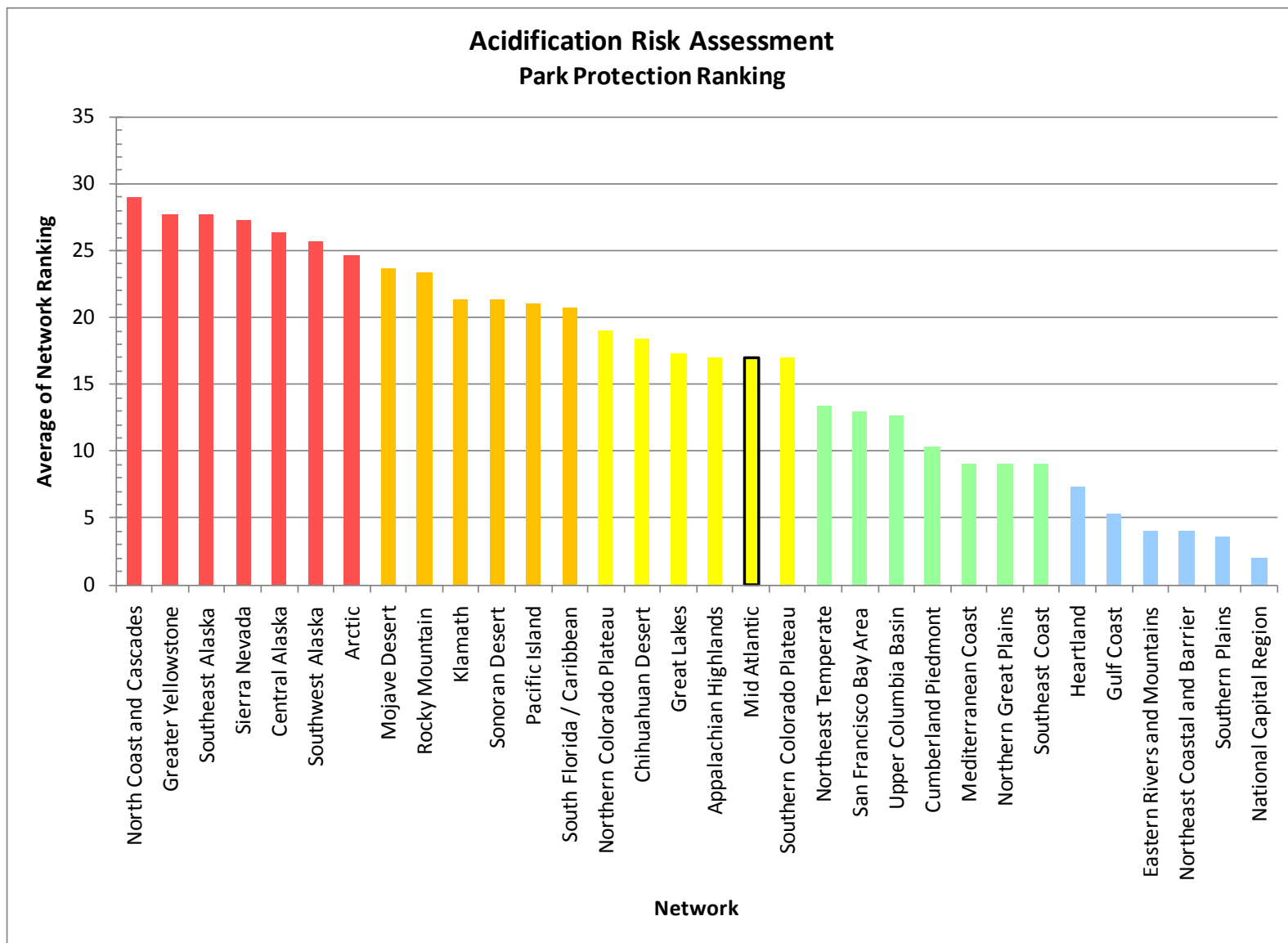


Figure C

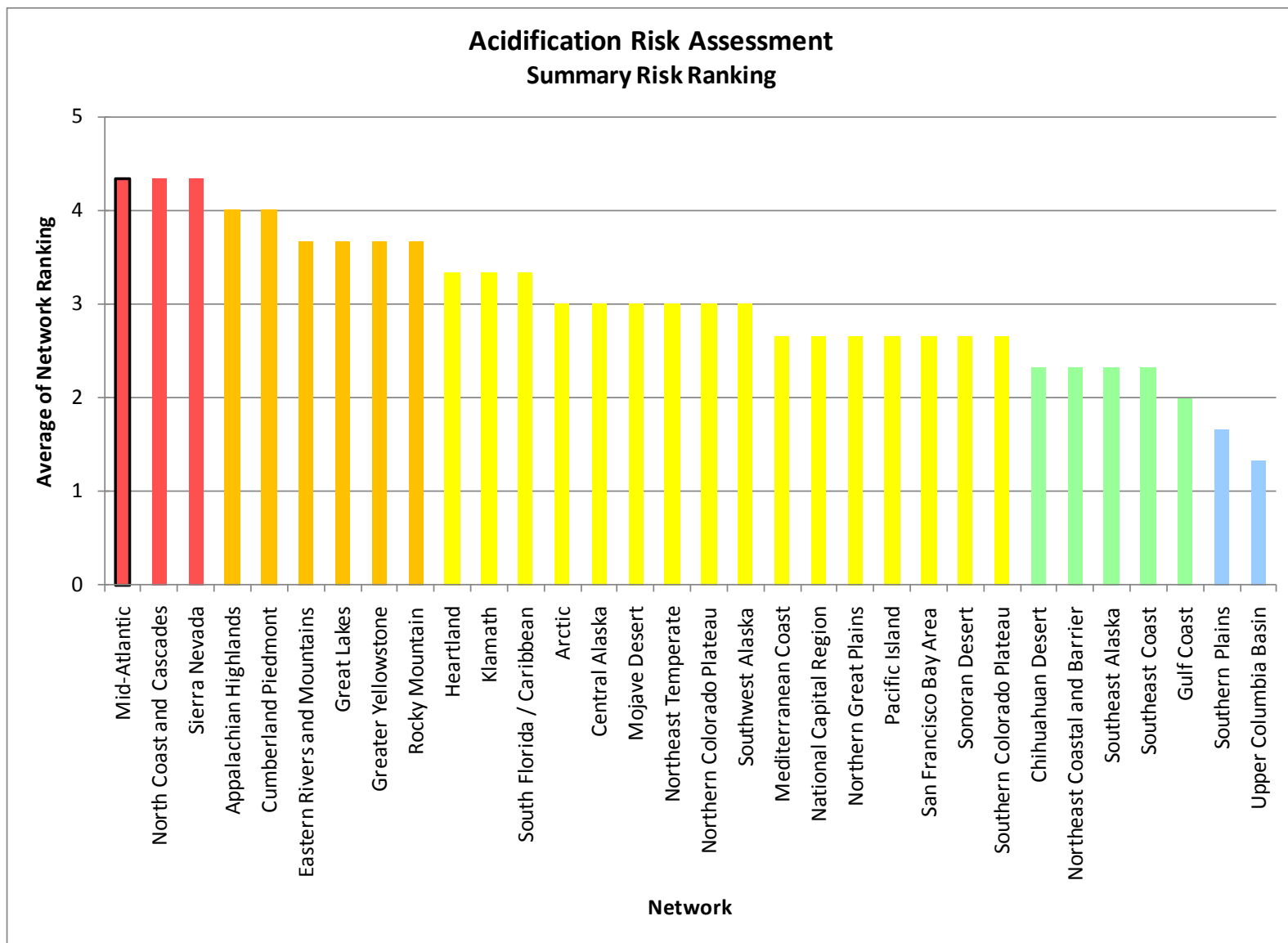


Figure D

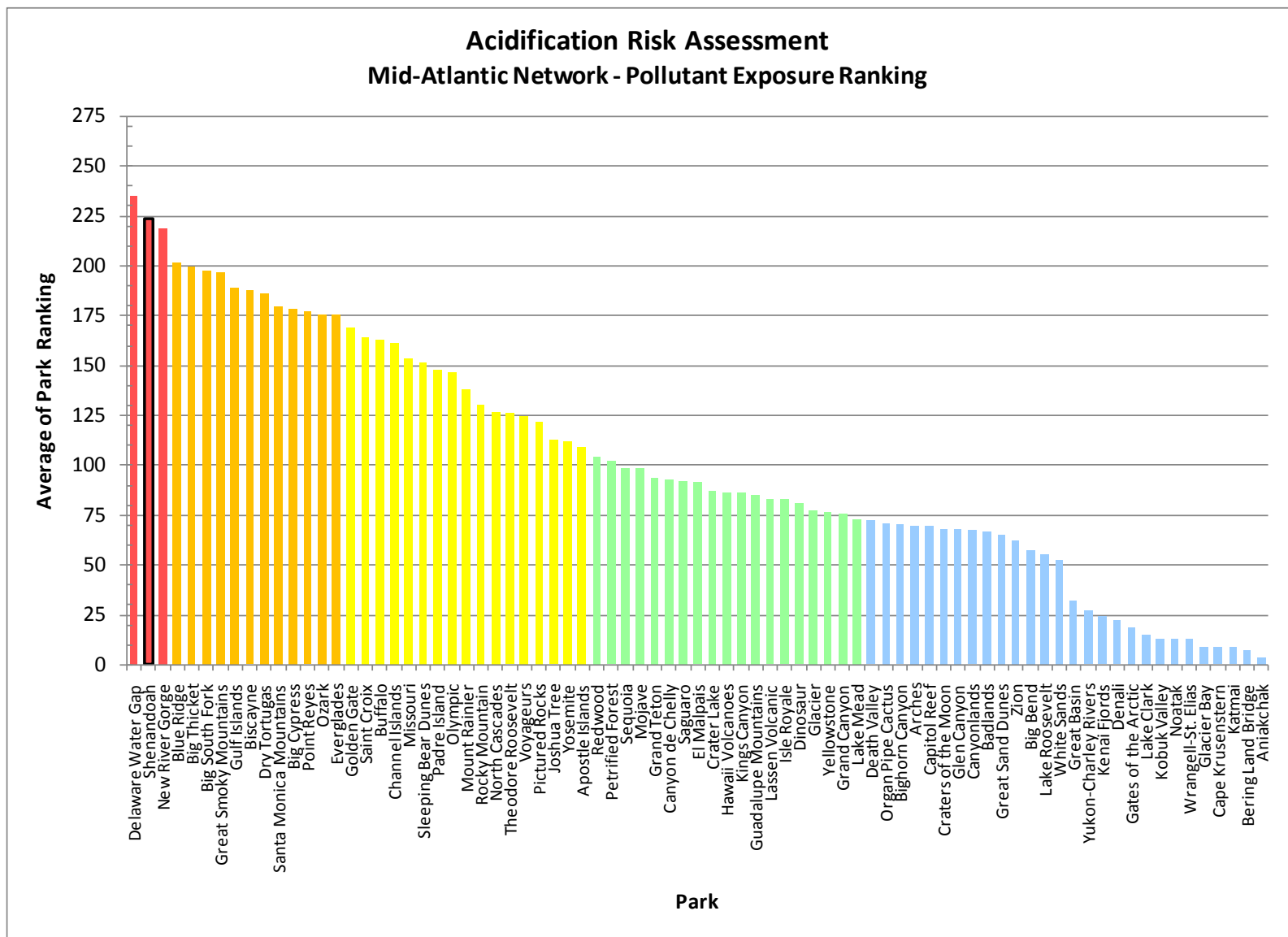


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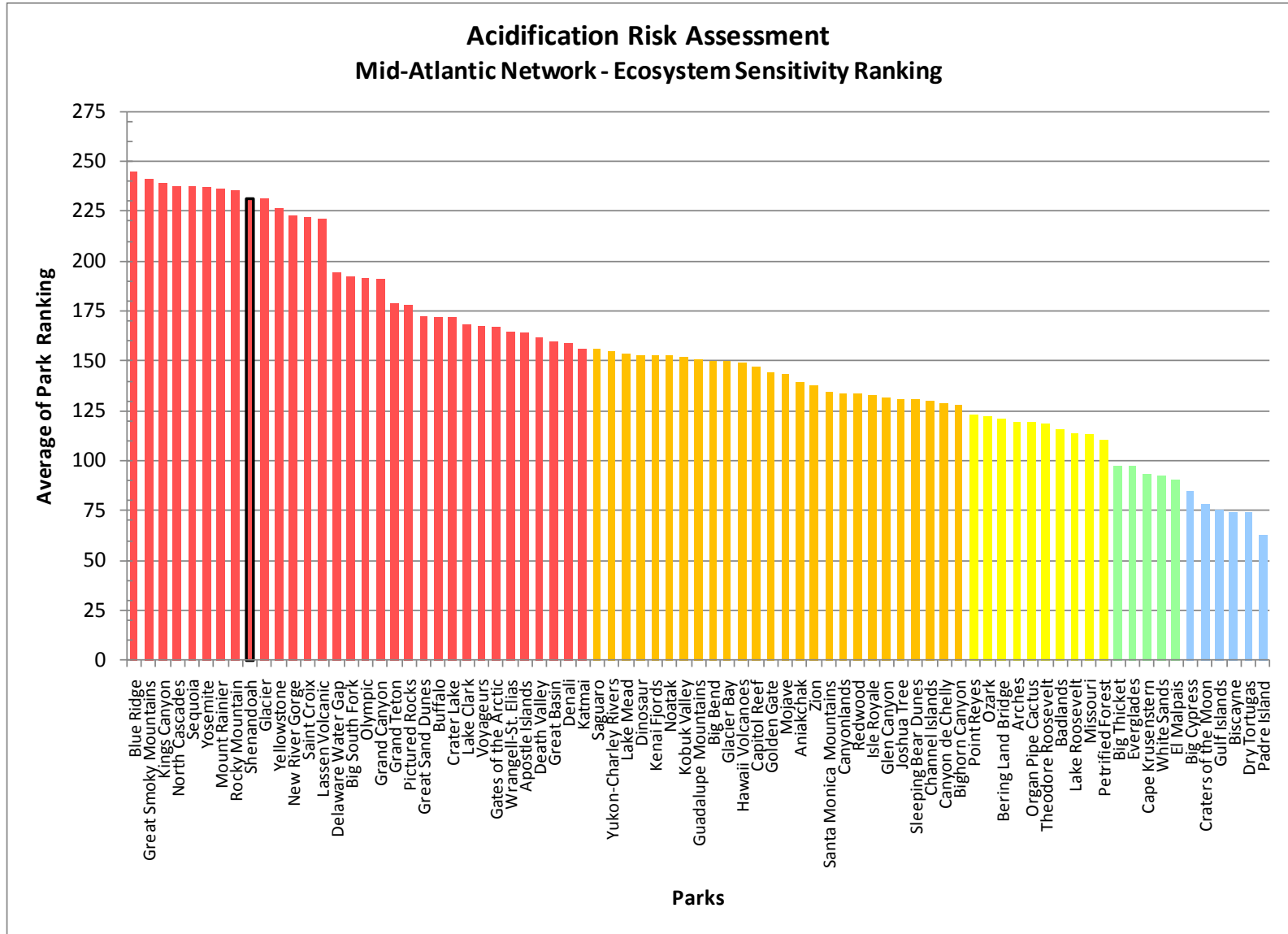


Figure F

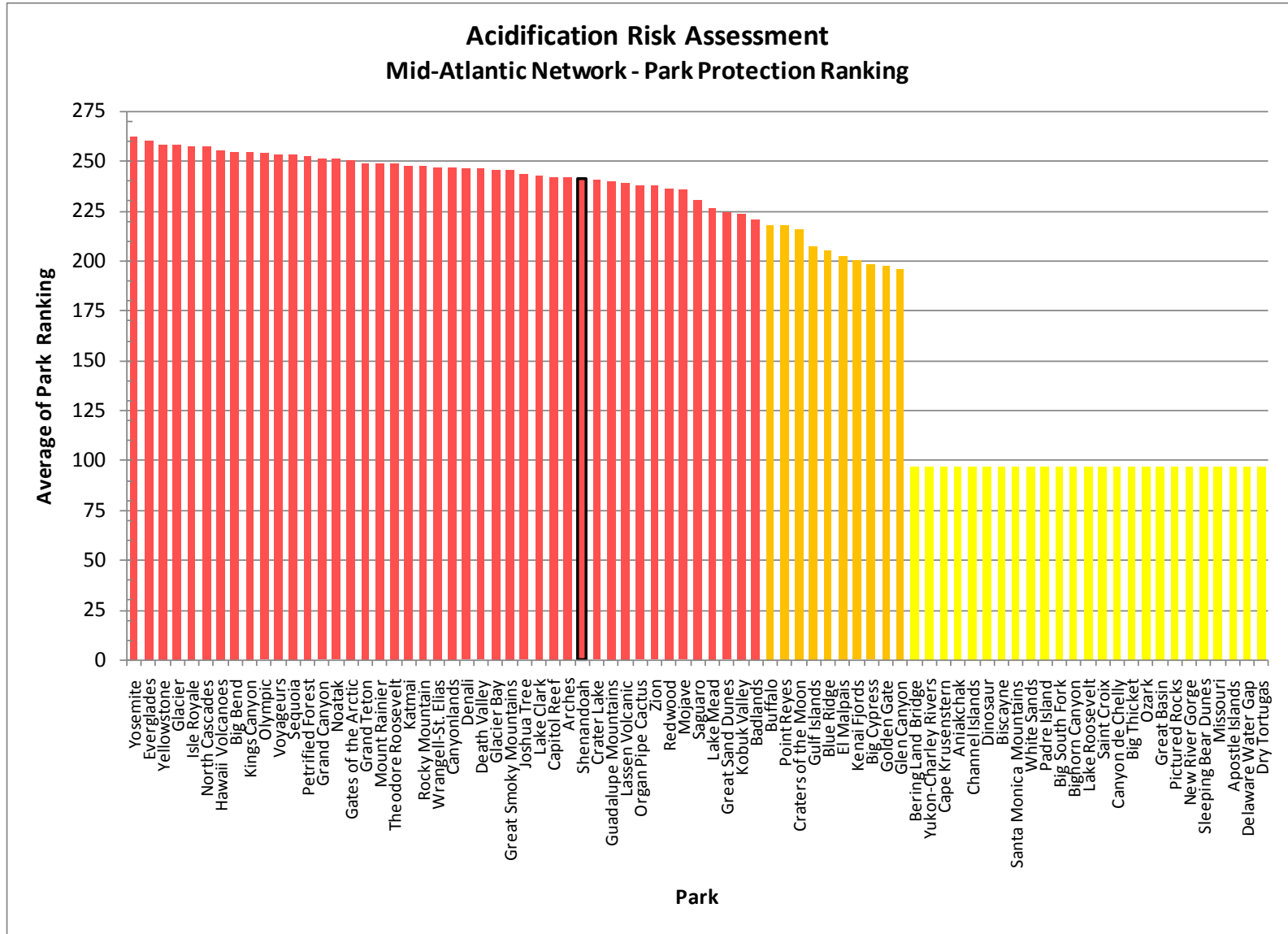


Figure G

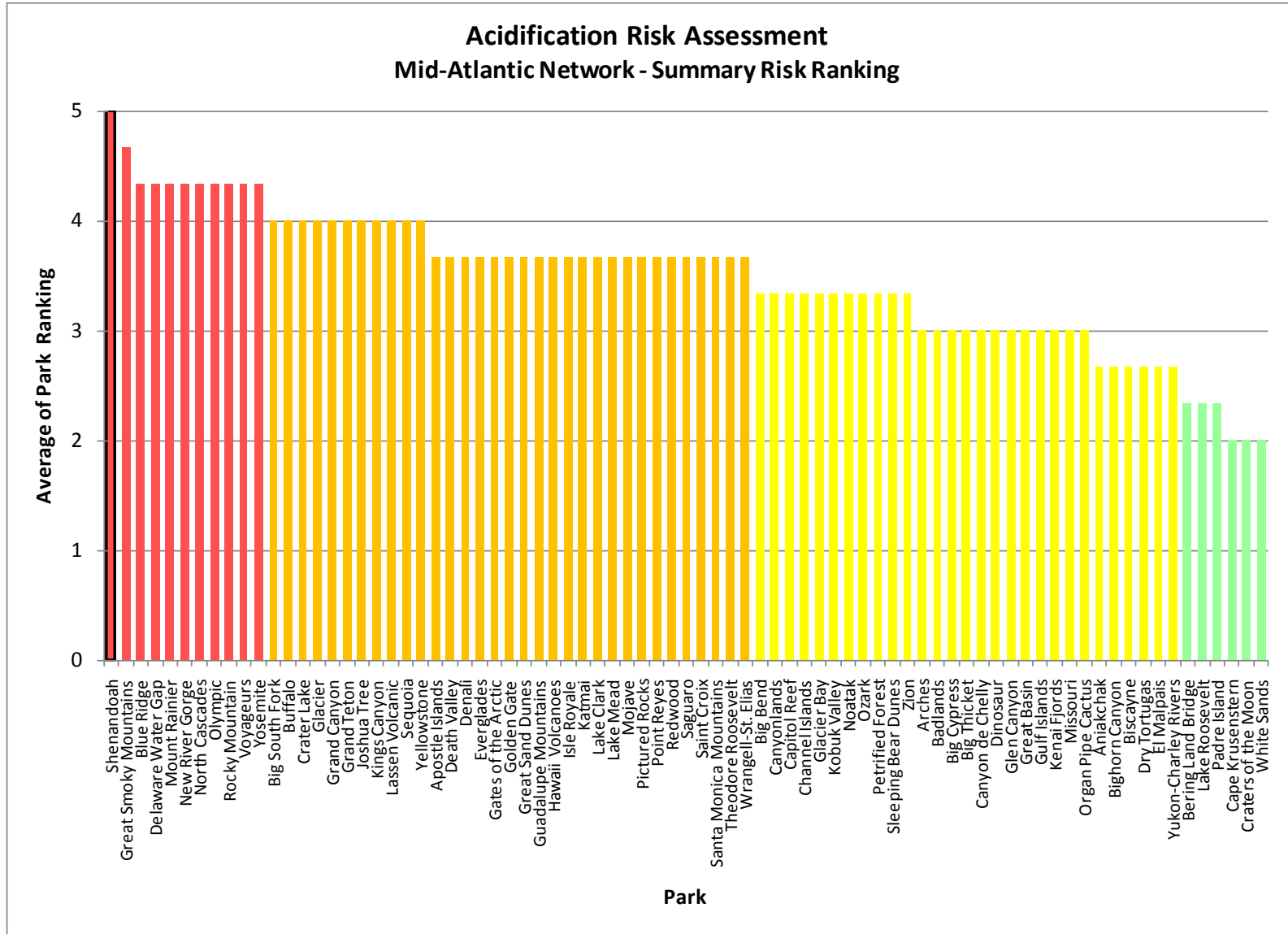


Figure H

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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