



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

Northern Colorado Plateau Network (NCPN)

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/ARD/NRR—2011/366



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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Northern Colorado Plateau Network (NCPN)

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 five parks in the Northern Colorado Plateau Network that are larger than 100 square miles: Arches (ARCH), Canyonlands (CANY), Capitol Reef (CARE), Dinosaur (DINO), and Zion (ZION). There are also 11 smaller parks.

Total annual S and N emissions, by county, are shown in Maps E and F for lands in and surrounding the Northern Colorado Plateau Network. Annual county-level S emissions ranged from less than 1 ton per square mile to between 1 and 5 tons per square mile. Annual county-level N emissions within the network ranged from less than 1 ton per square mile to between 5 and 20 tons per square mile. In general, county-level S and N emissions were both less than 5 tons per square mile per year. Point source emissions of SO₂ and oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO_x) and reduced (ammonia, NH₃) N are shown in Maps G and H, respectively. There are scattered SO₂ point sources in the network; most emit less than 5,000 tons S per year. There are several relatively large (larger than about 4,000 tons per year) point sources of oxidized N in and around this network; point source emissions of reduced N are much lower.

Urban centers within the network and within a 300-mile buffer around the network are shown in Map I. All population centers of any magnitude (larger than 25,000 people) are found near the Great Salt Lake.

Total S and total 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 Northern Colorado Plateau Network is generally less than 2 kg S/ha/yr; there are only a few areas where it is slightly higher. Total N deposition within the network ranged from less than 2 kg N/ha/yr to as high as 5 to 10 kg N/ha/yr. Throughout most of the network, the estimated total N deposition was less than 5 kg N/ha/yr. The highest estimated N deposition within the network occurs around the Great Salt Lake.

Land cover in and around the network is shown in Map L. The predominant cover types within this network are generally shrubland, forest, and grassland/herbaceous. There are also pasture/hay, developed areas, and row crops at scattered locations.

Watershed slope for parks within the network is shown in Map M. Slope is quite variable in this network, ranging from less than 10° in some of the smaller parks to over 40° in parts of ZION.

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 include Class I designation under the

Clean Air Act Amendments and wilderness designation. There are numerous Class I and wilderness areas in this network, both in I&M parks and outside NPS jurisdiction.

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 Northern Colorado Plateau Network ranked at the bottom of the second lowest quintile among networks in Pollutant Exposure (Figure A). Emissions and deposition of both S and N within the network are low. The network Ecosystem Sensitivity ranking was fairly high, within the second highest quintile among networks (Figure B). This network ranked at the top of the third quintile in Park Protection, having moderately high 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 in the middle of the distribution among all networks (Figure D). The overall level of concern for acidification effects on I&M parks within this network is 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 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 five I&M parks in the Northern Colorado Plateau Network that are larger than 100 square miles were all in the lowest (four parks) or second lowest (DINO) quintile in Pollutant Exposure (Figure E). Among the smaller parks, Timpanogos Cave (TICA) and Hovenweep (HOVE) were ranked in the middle quintile and the remaining parks were ranked in the second lowest or lowest quintile for this theme. For Ecosystem Sensitivity, Curecanti (CURE) was the only park ranked in the highest quintile. Eight parks were ranked in the second highest quintile for this theme, including four of the larger parks (CANY, CARE, DINO and ZION; Figure F). For the rest of the parks, one was ranked Very Low, two were ranked Low, and four (including ARCH) were ranked Moderate (Table A). Four of the five large parks (all except DINO) were ranked in the highest quintile for Park Protection (Figure G); DINO was ranked Moderate. For the smaller parks, Bryce Canyon (BRCA) was ranked in the highest quintile, and three parks (Black Canyon of the Gunnison, BLCA; Cedar Breaks, CEBR; and TICA) were ranked in the second highest quintile. The rest of the parks were ranked in the middle quintile for this theme.

All of the larger parks in this network were ranked Moderate for the overall Summary Risk ranking, as were all but two of the smaller parks: Pipe Spring (PISP) was ranked Very Low and Golden Spike (GOSP) was ranked Low for the summary ranking (Table A). Thus, the overall risk of acidification for most of the parks in this network is generally 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 Parks ² in Network	Relative Ranking of Individual Parks ¹			
	Pollutant Exposure	Ecosystem Sensitivity	Park Protection	Summary Risk
Arches	Very Low	Moderate	Very High	Moderate
Black Canyon of the Gunnison	Very Low	High	High	Moderate
Bryce Canyon	Very Low	High	Very High	Moderate
Canyonlands	Very Low	High	Very High	Moderate
Capitol Reef	Very Low	High	Very High	Moderate
Cedar Breaks	Very Low	High	High	Moderate
Colorado	Low	High	Moderate	Moderate
Curecanti	Very Low	Very High	Moderate	Moderate
Dinosaur	Low	High	Moderate	Moderate
Fossil Butte	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Golden Spike	Low	Low	Moderate	Low
Hovenweep	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Natural Bridges	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Pipe Spring	Very Low	Very Low	Moderate	Very Low
Timpanogos Cave	Moderate	Moderate	High	Moderate
Zion	Very Low	High	Very High	Moderate

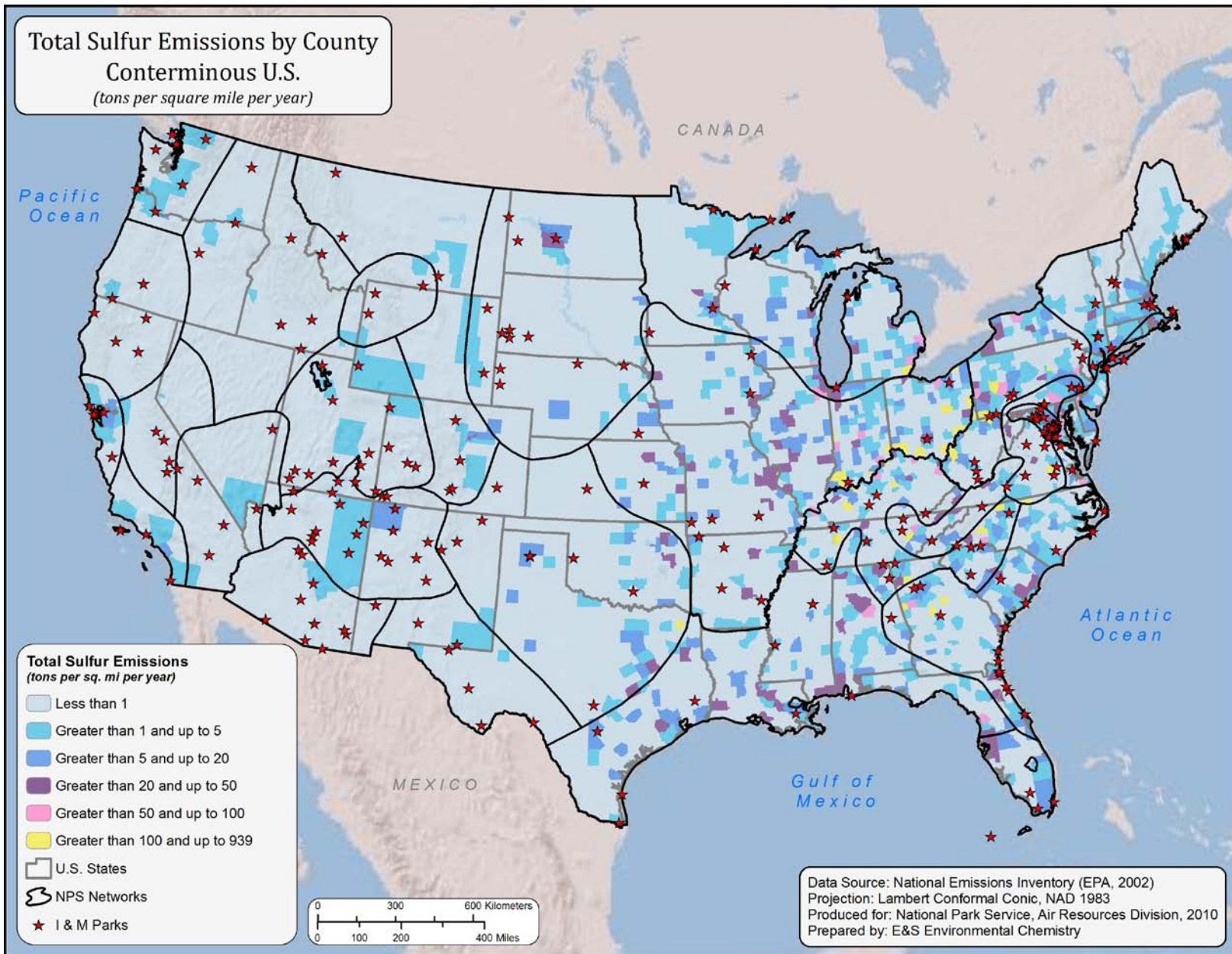
¹ Relative park rankings are designated according to quintile ranking, among all I&M Parks, from the lowest quintile (very low risk) to the highest quintile (very high risk).

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

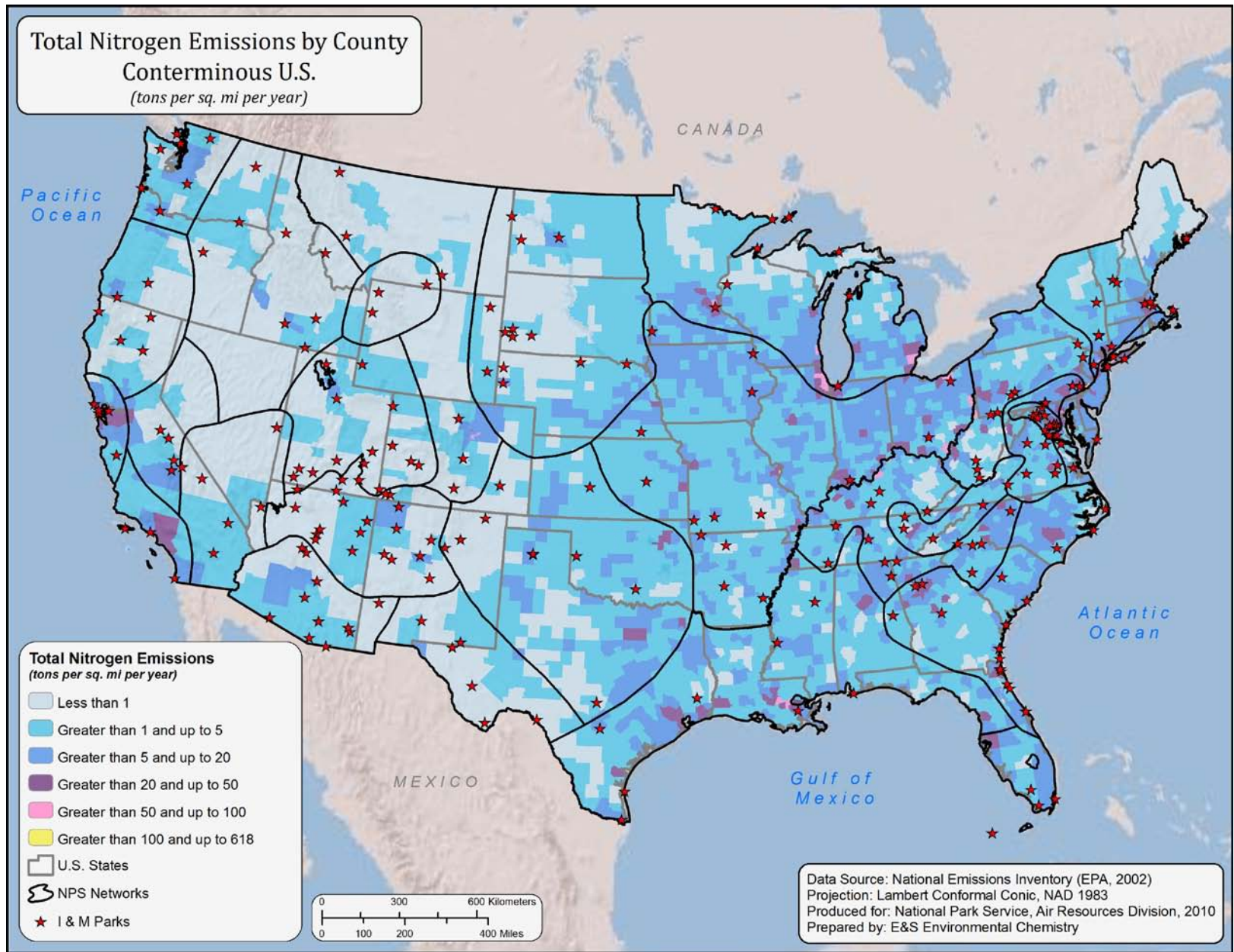
- Map A. National map of total S emissions by county for the year 2002, in units of tons of S per square mile per year. (Source of data: EPA National Emissions Inventory, <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html>)
- Map B. National map of total N emissions by county for the year 2002. Both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

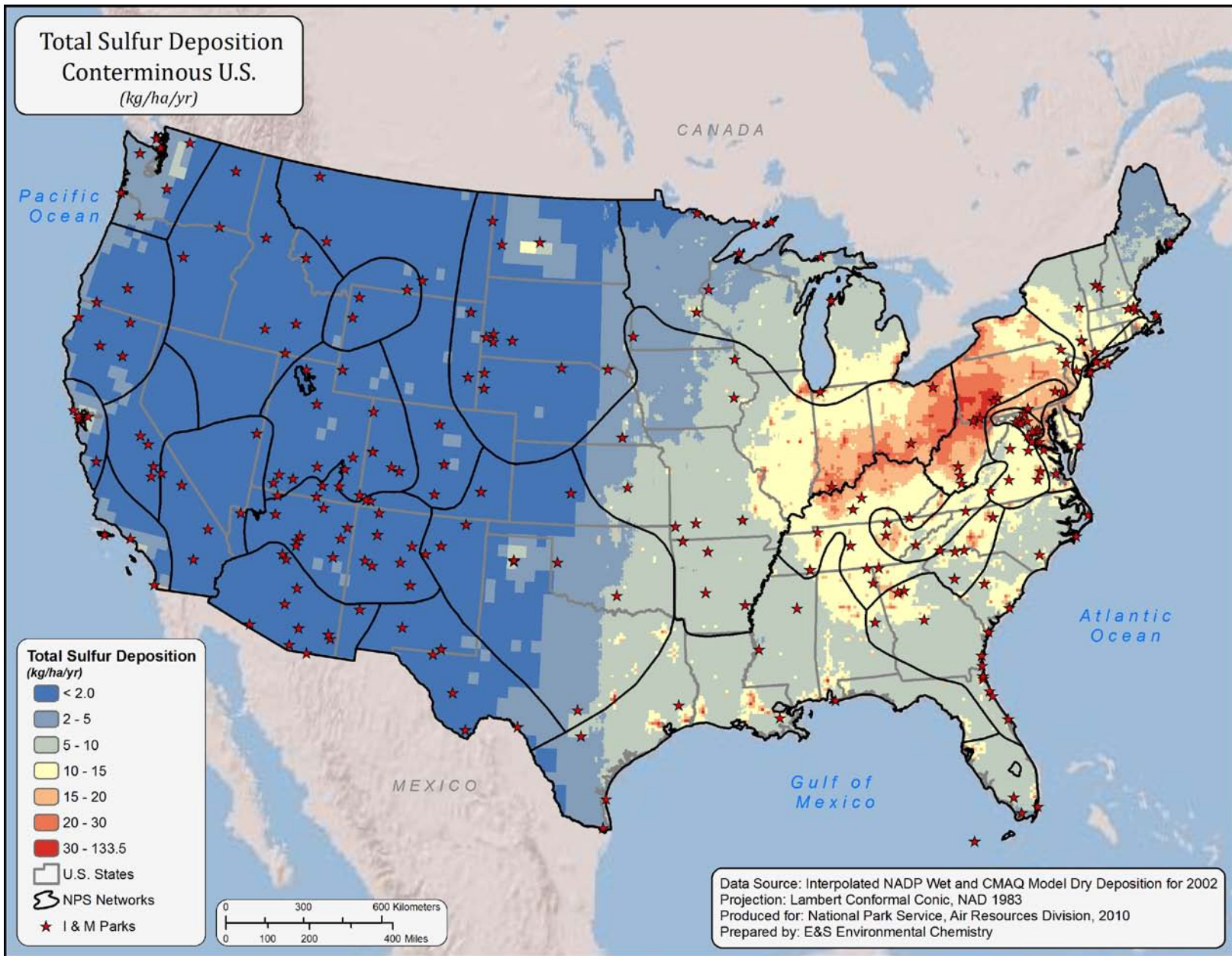


Map A

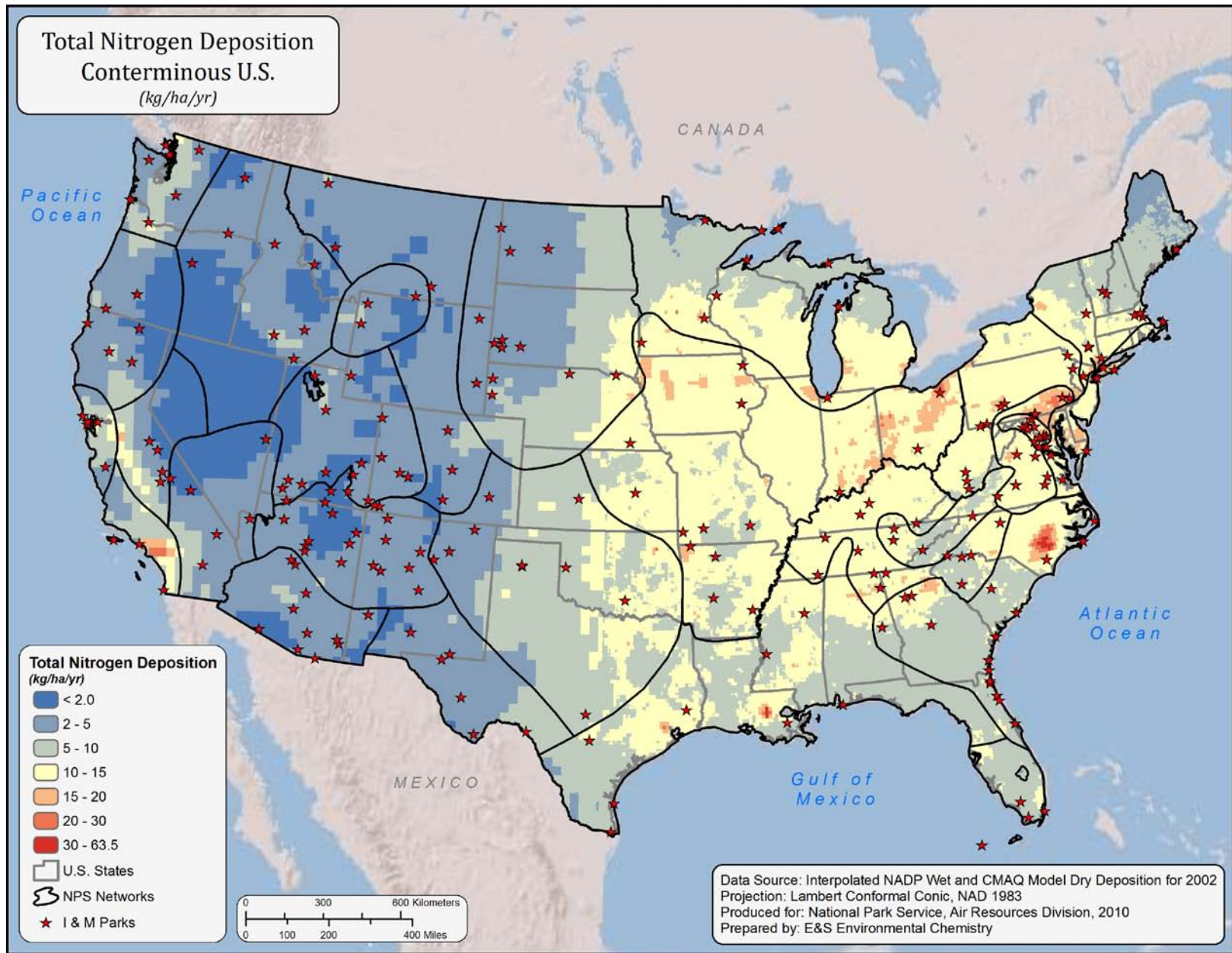


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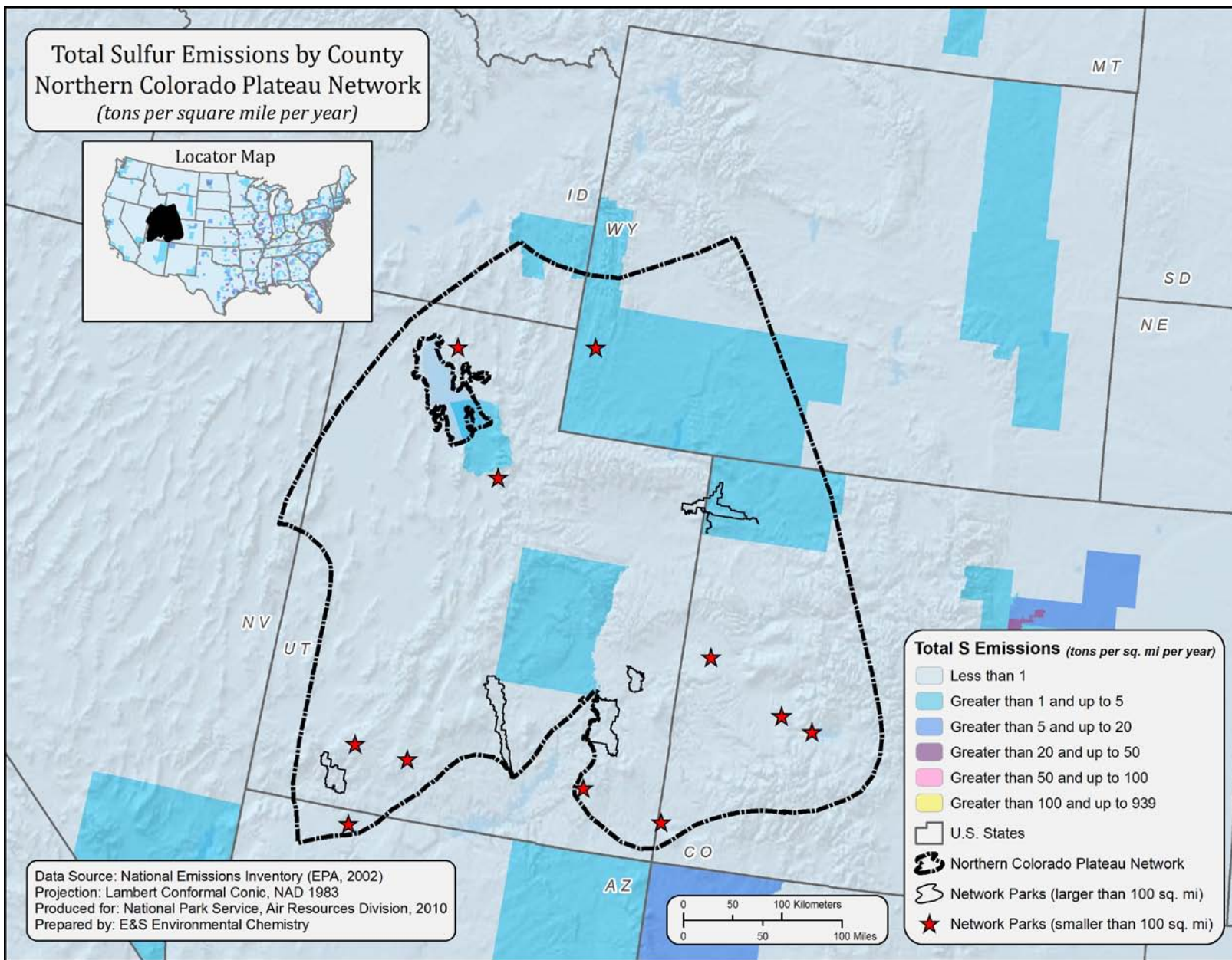
NCPN-8



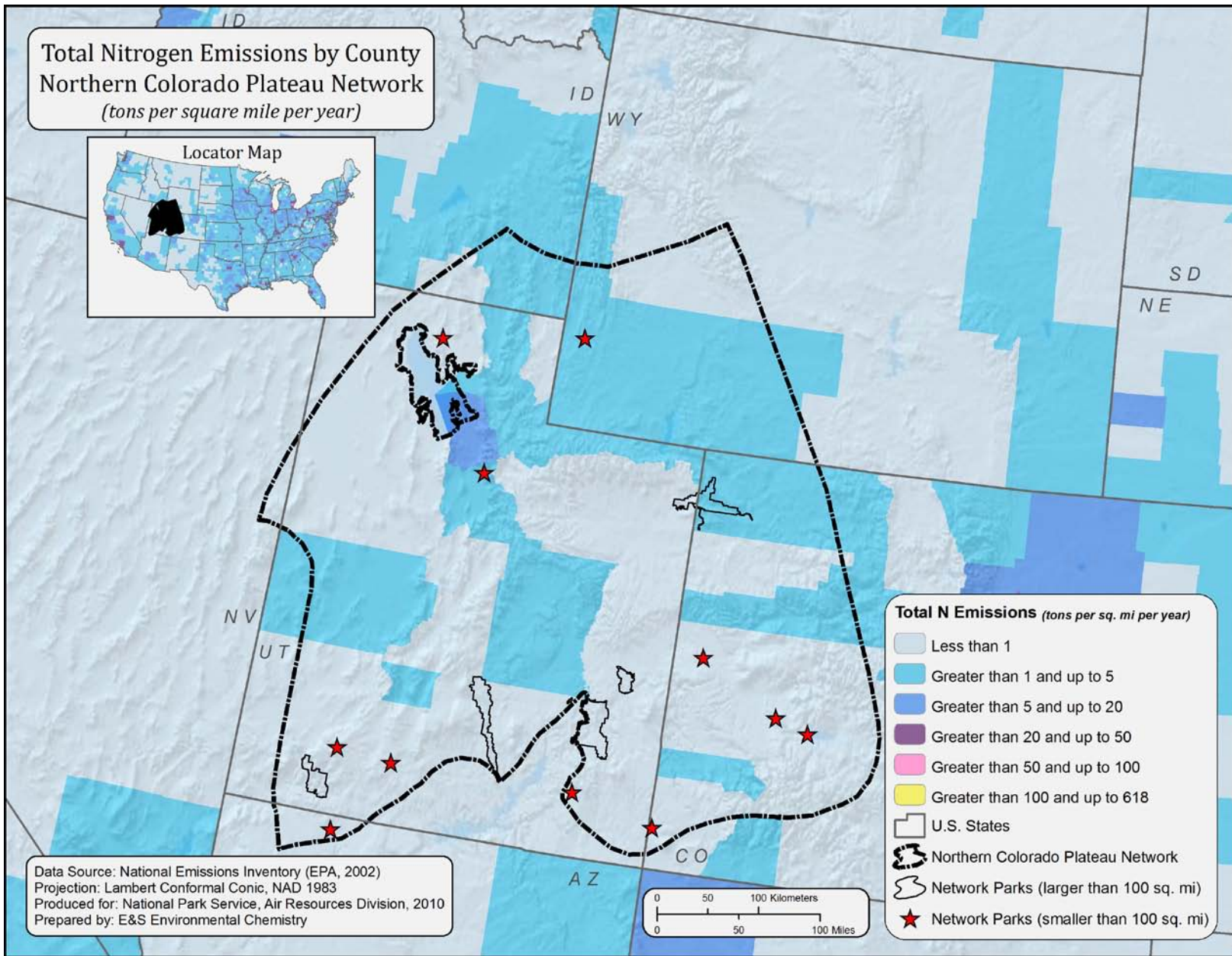
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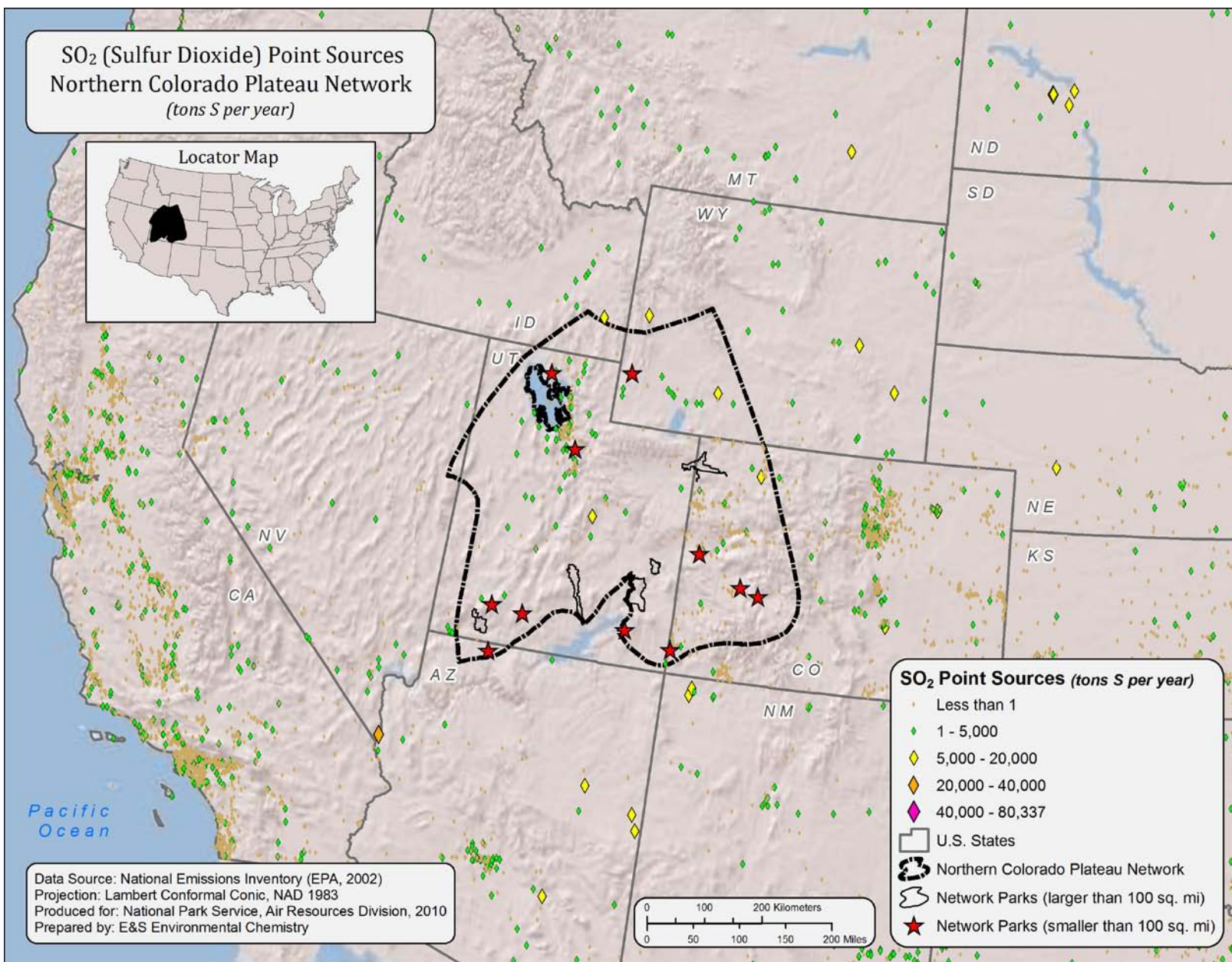
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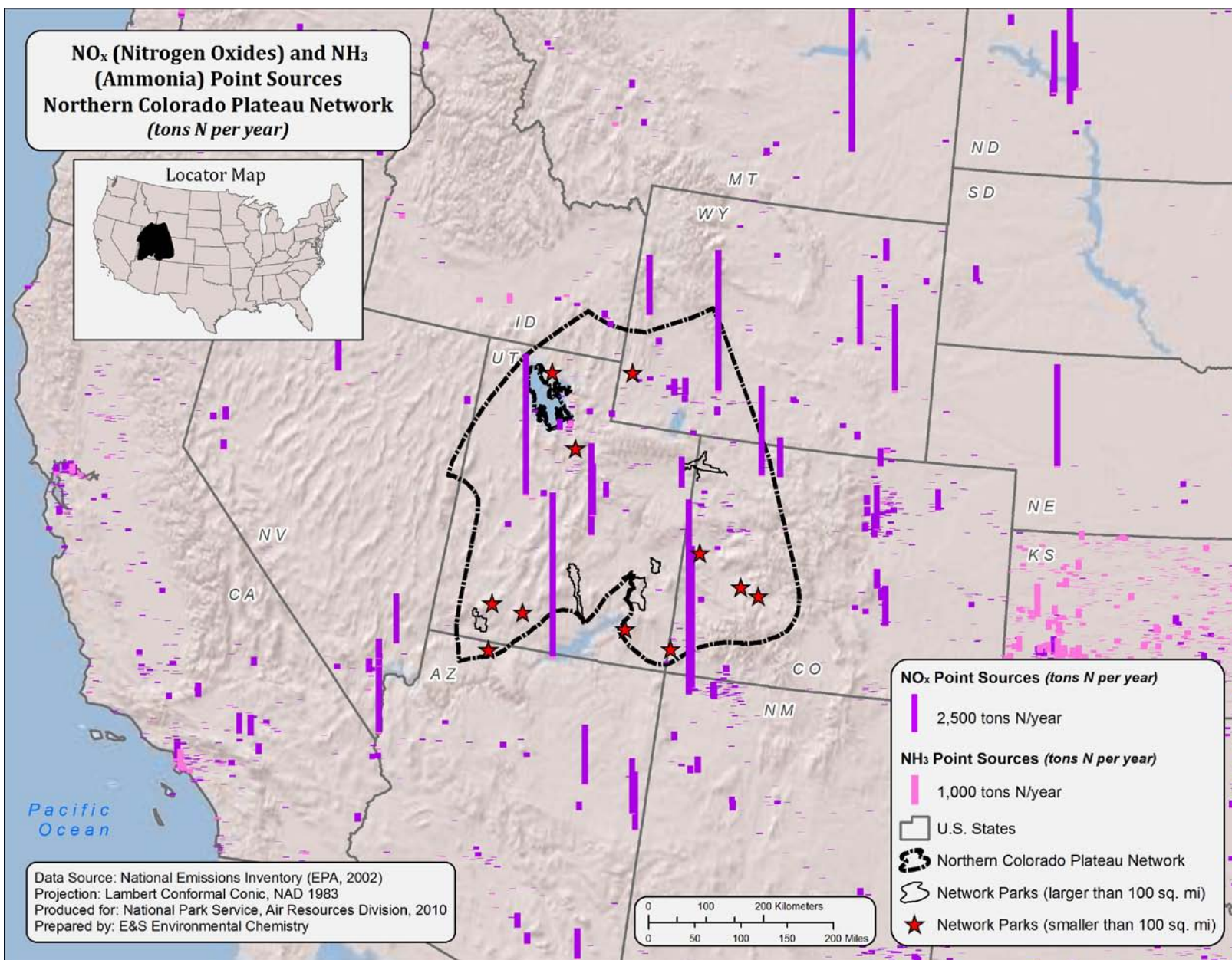
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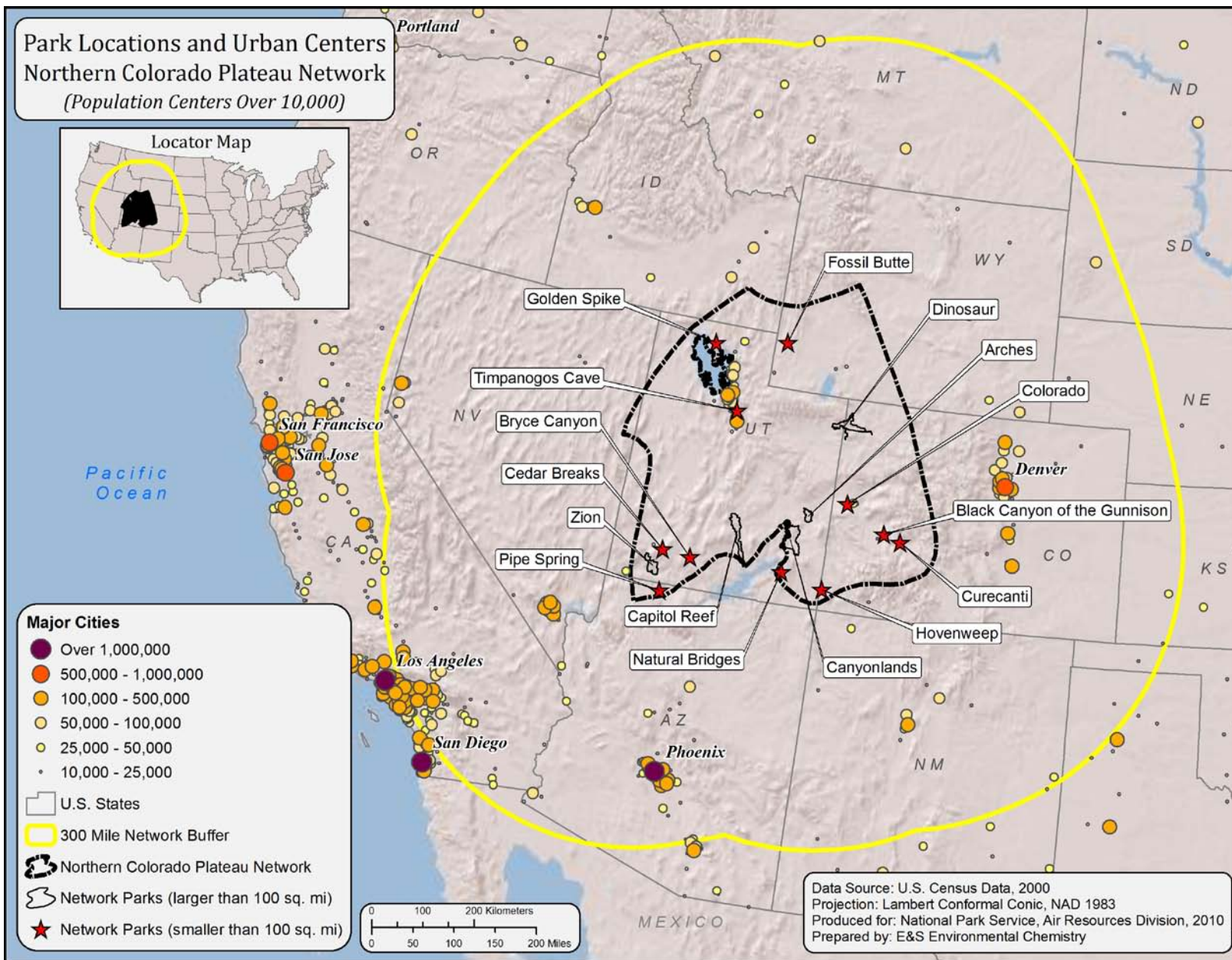
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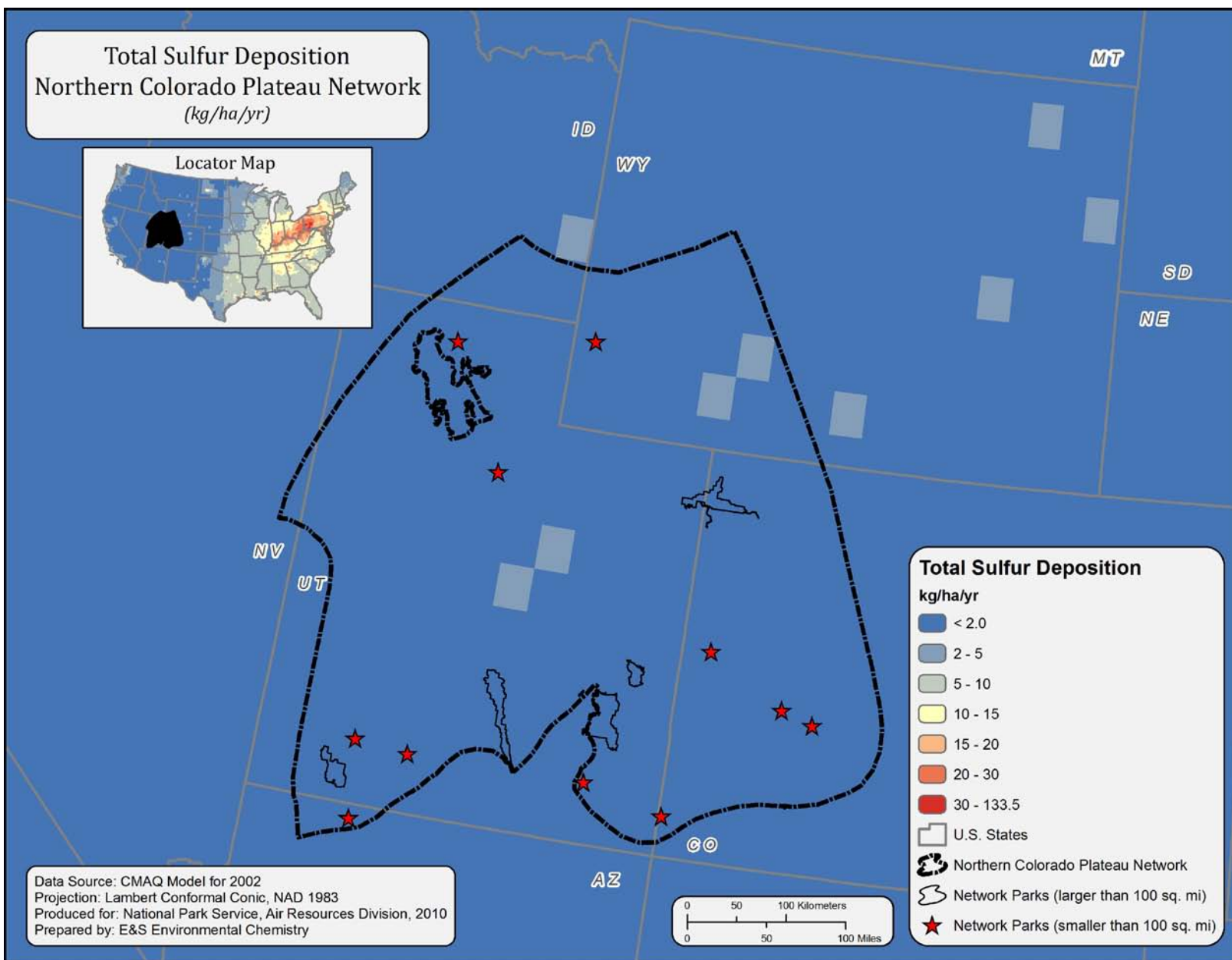
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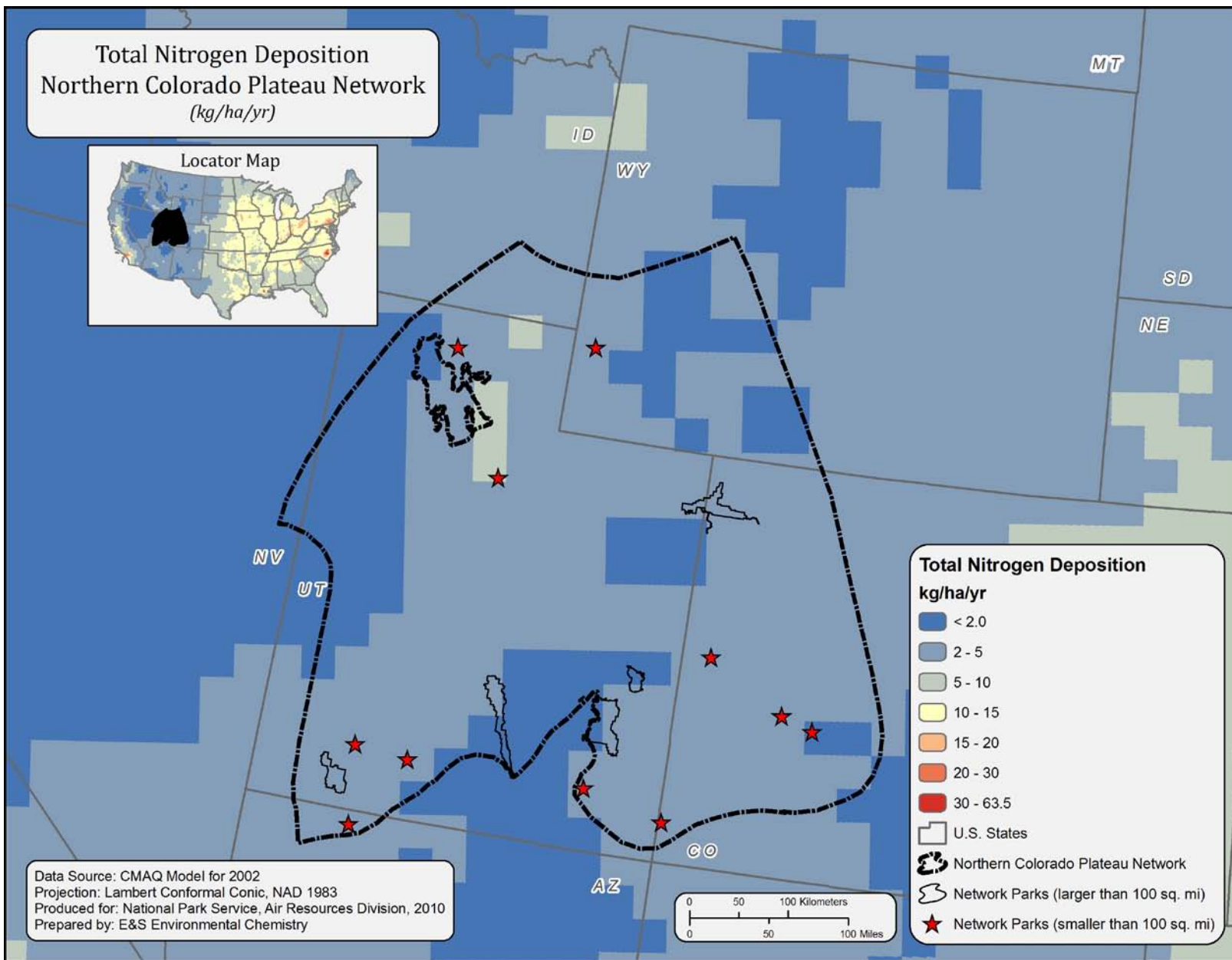
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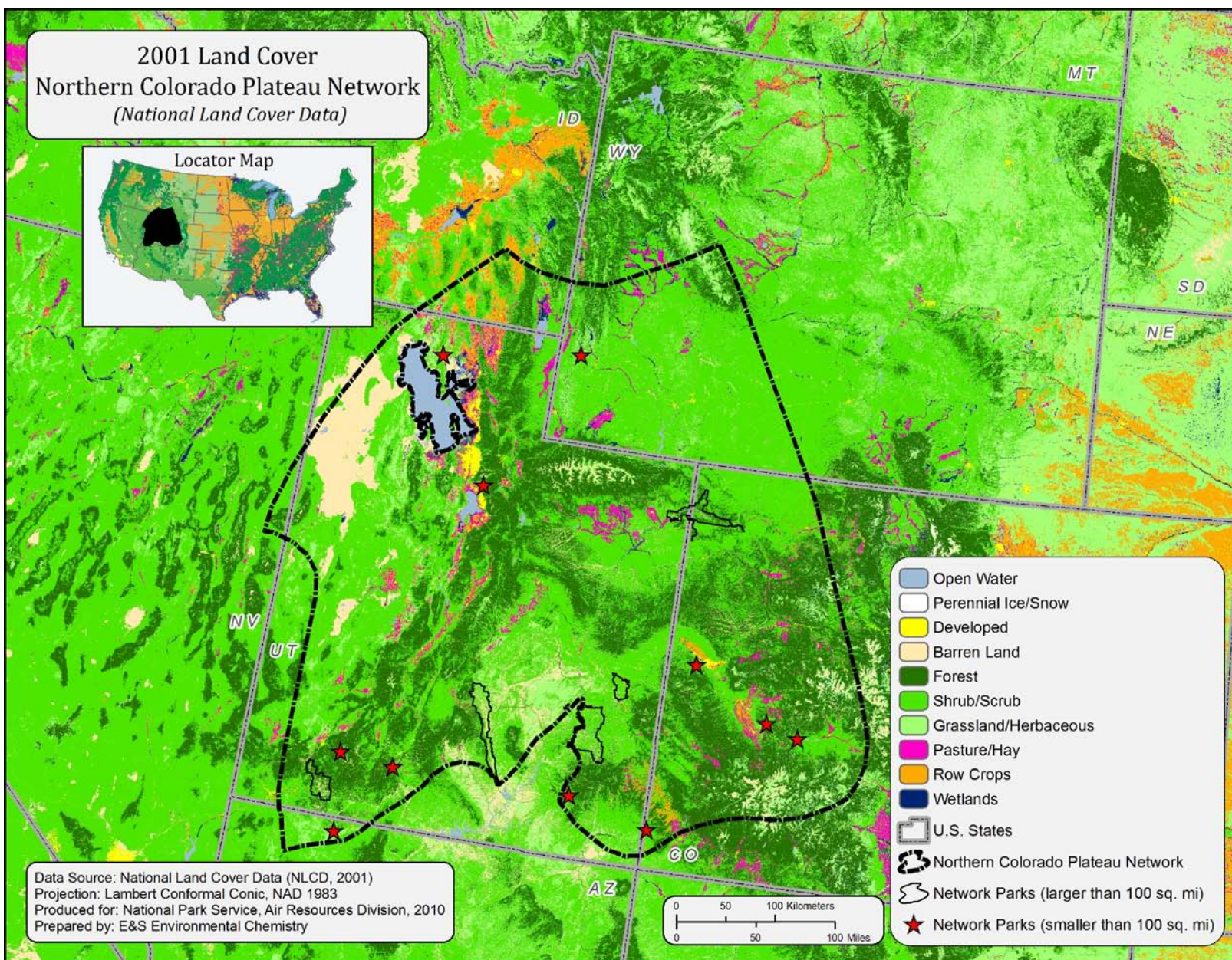
Map I



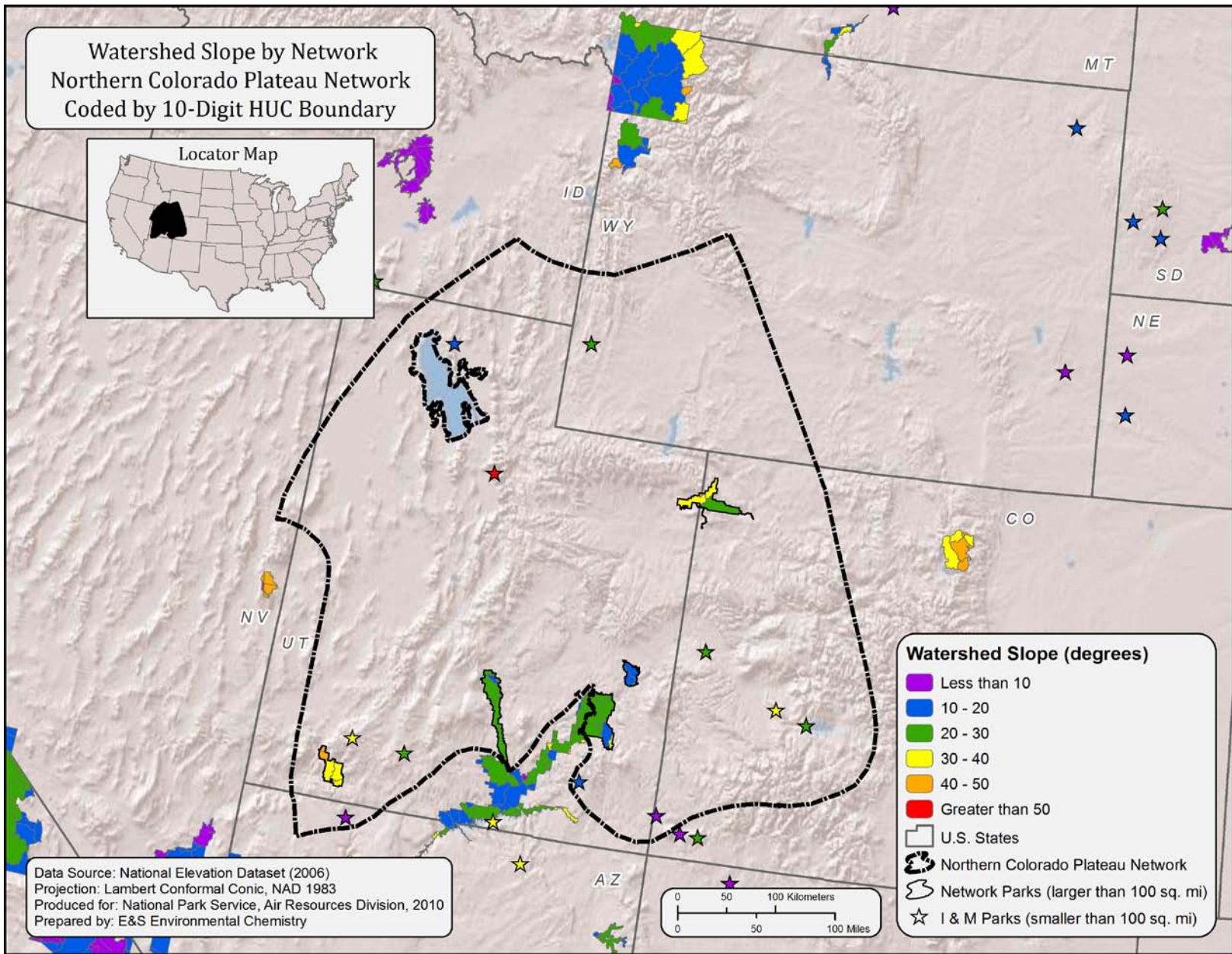
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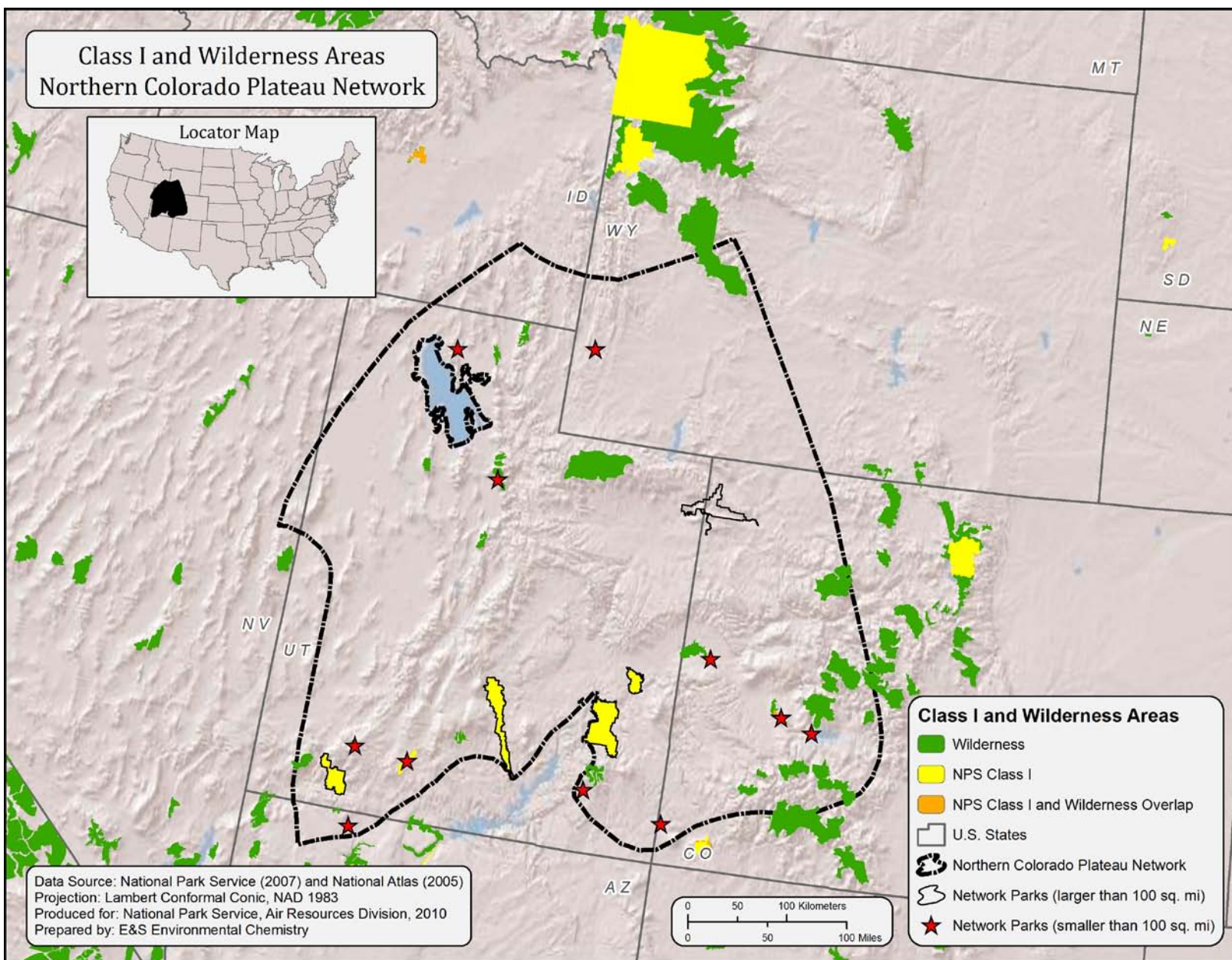
Map K



Map L



Map M



Map N

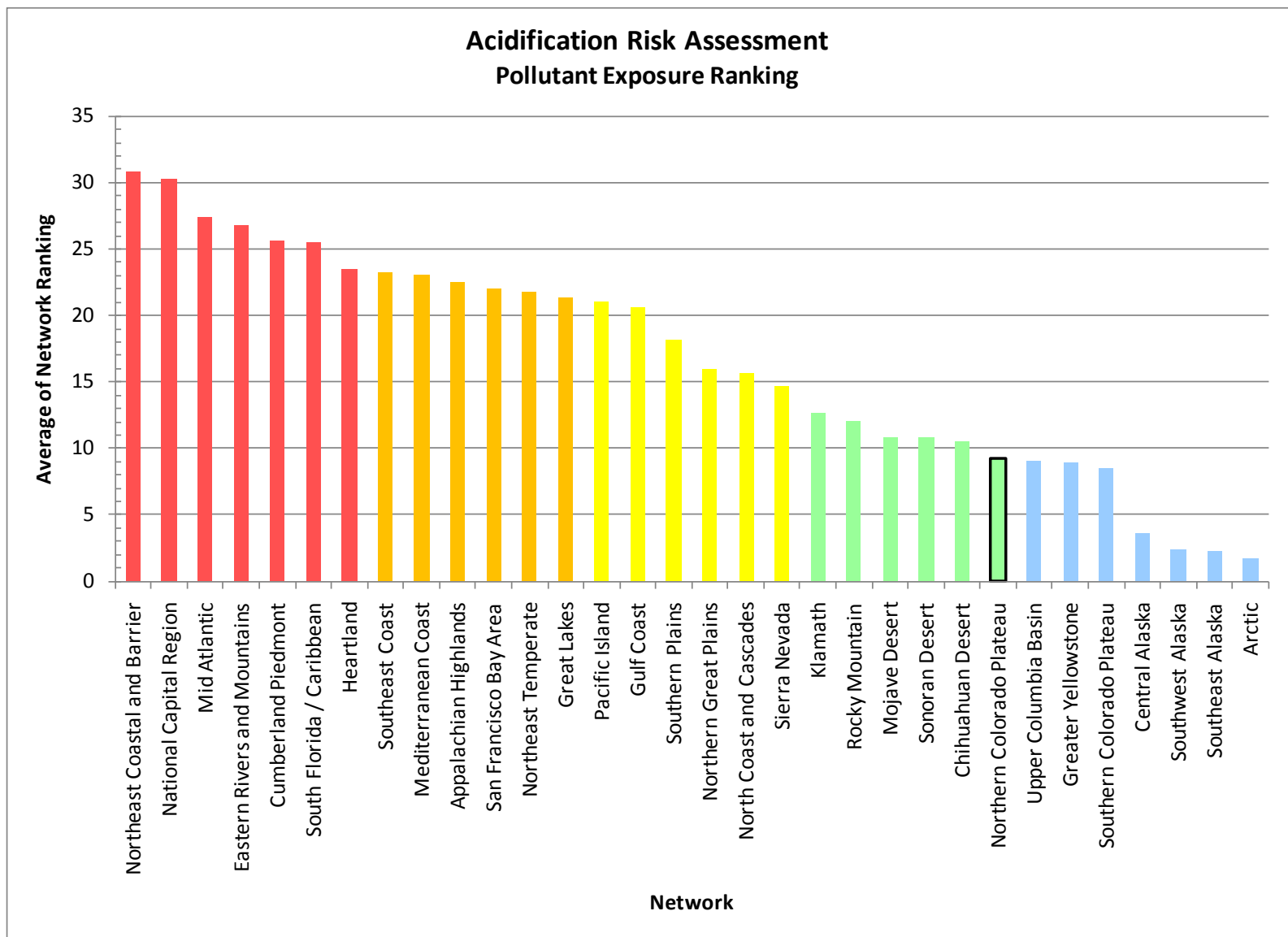


Figure A

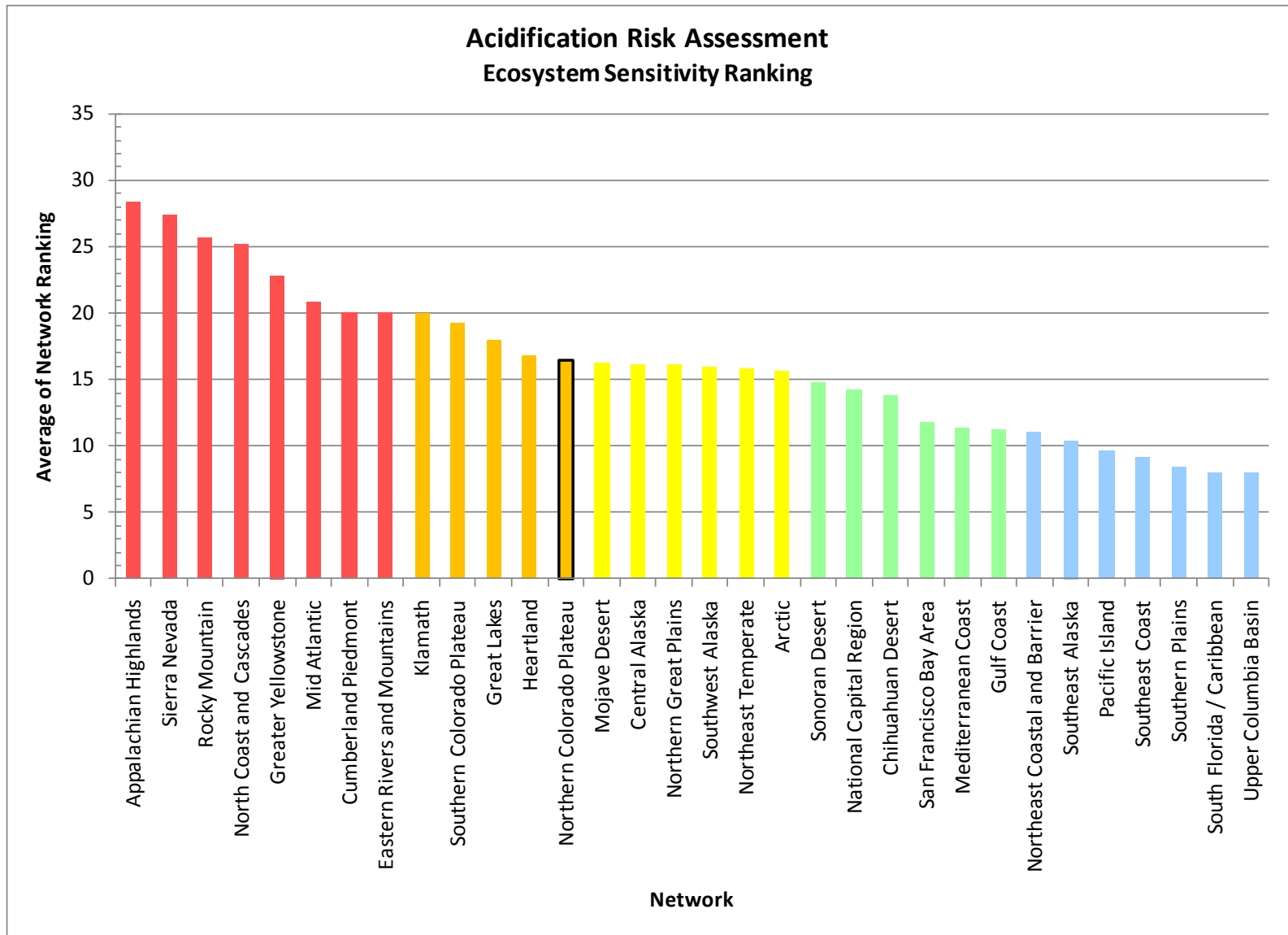


Figure B

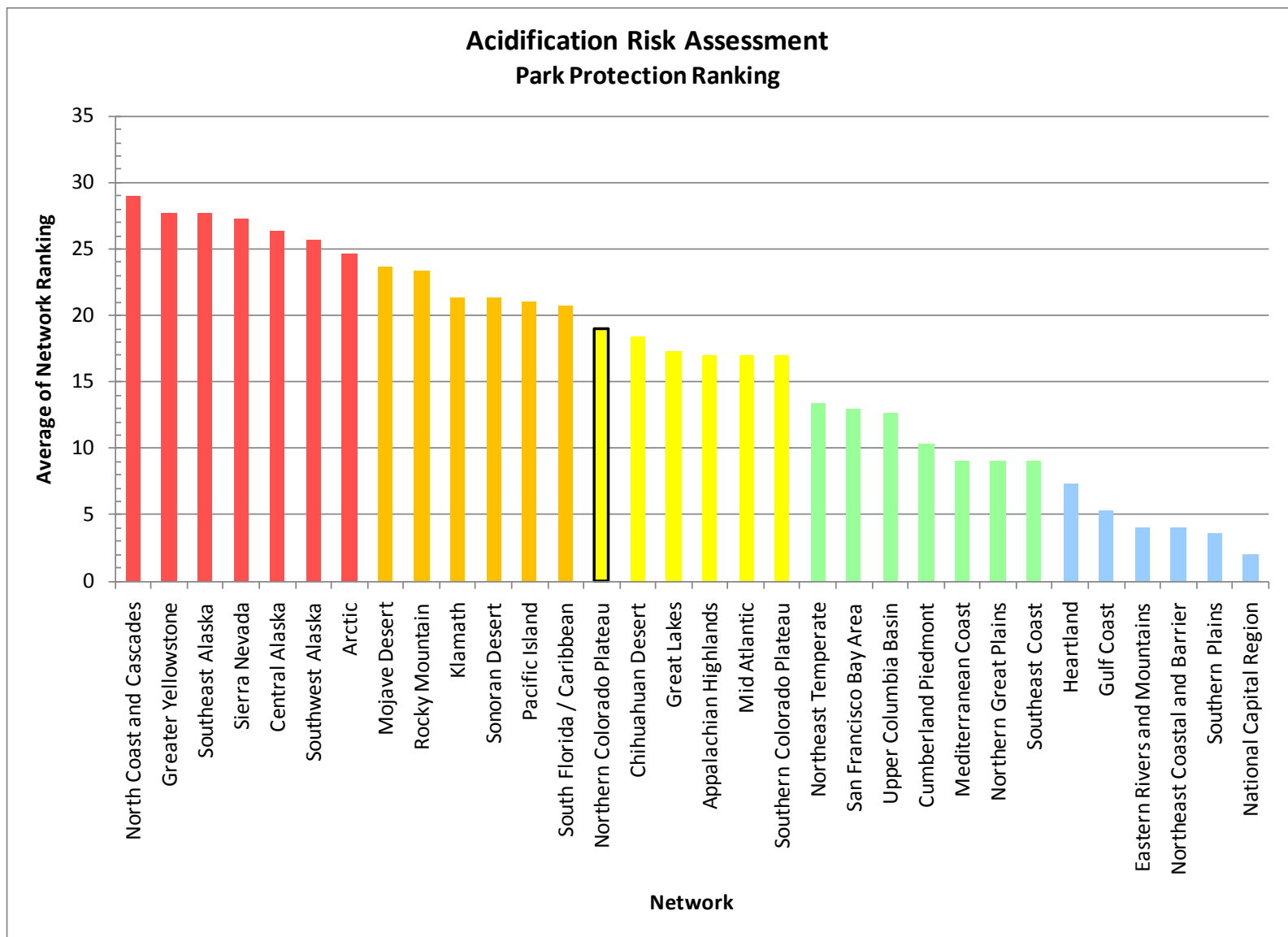


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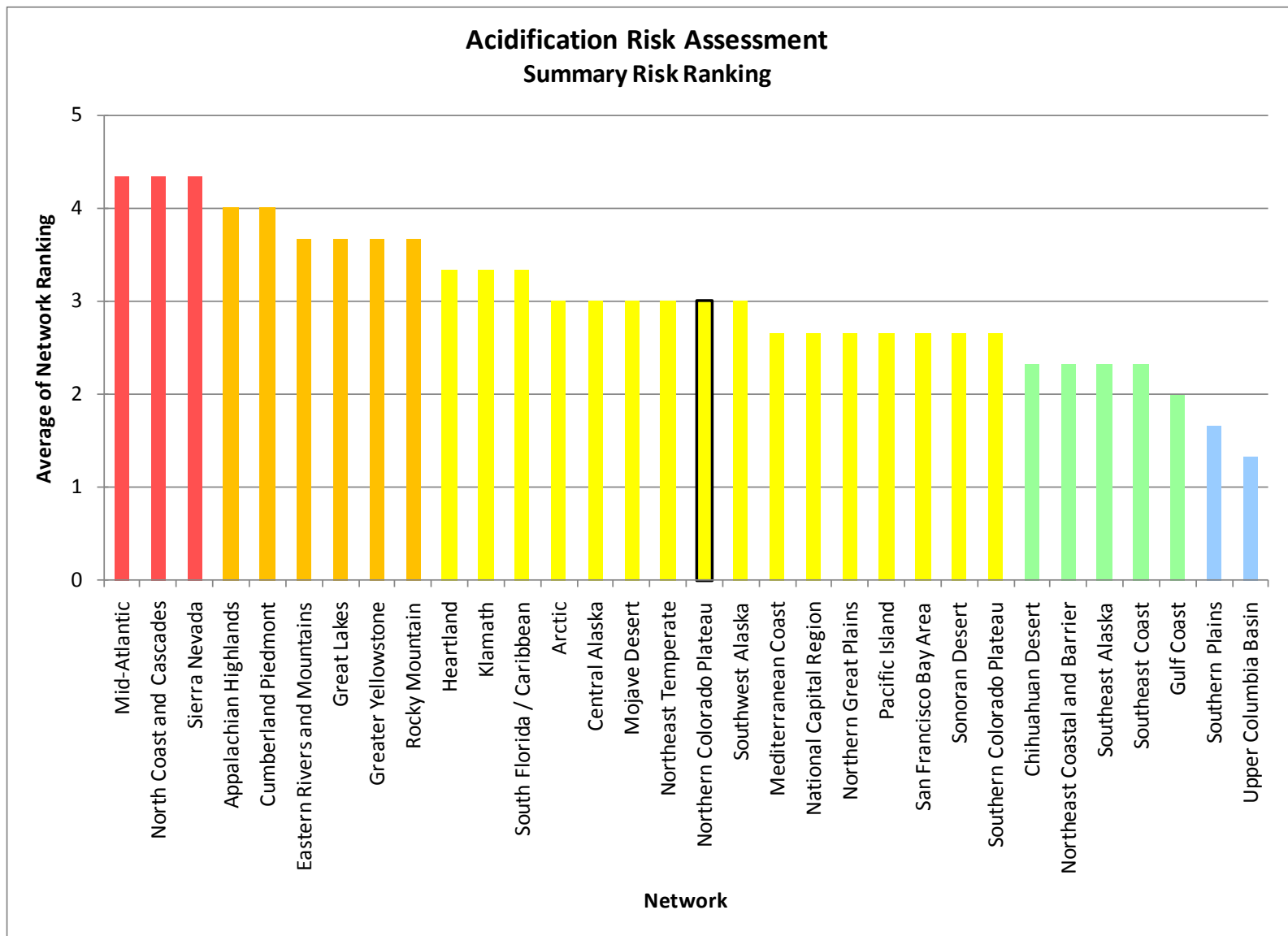


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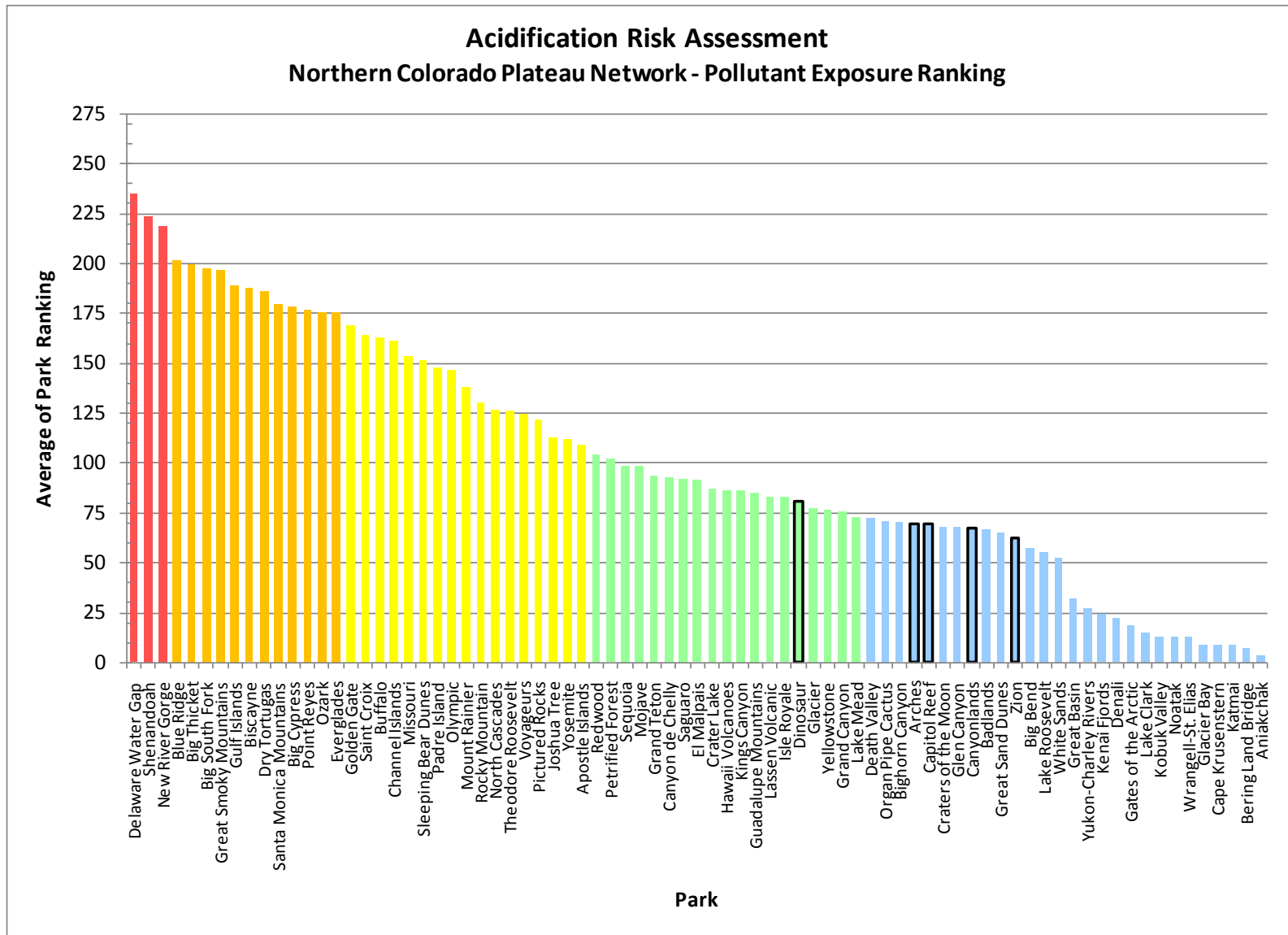


Figure E

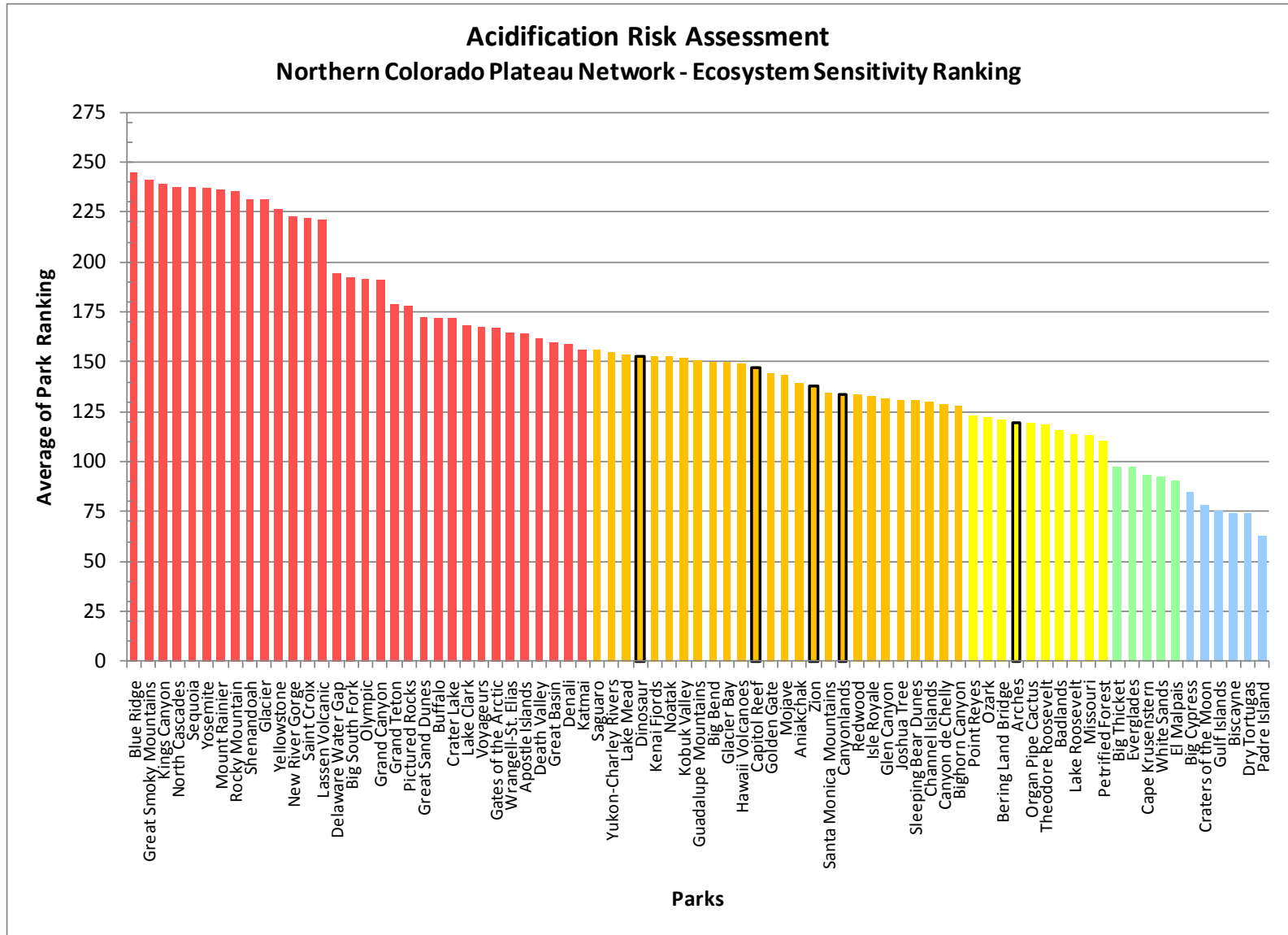


Figure F

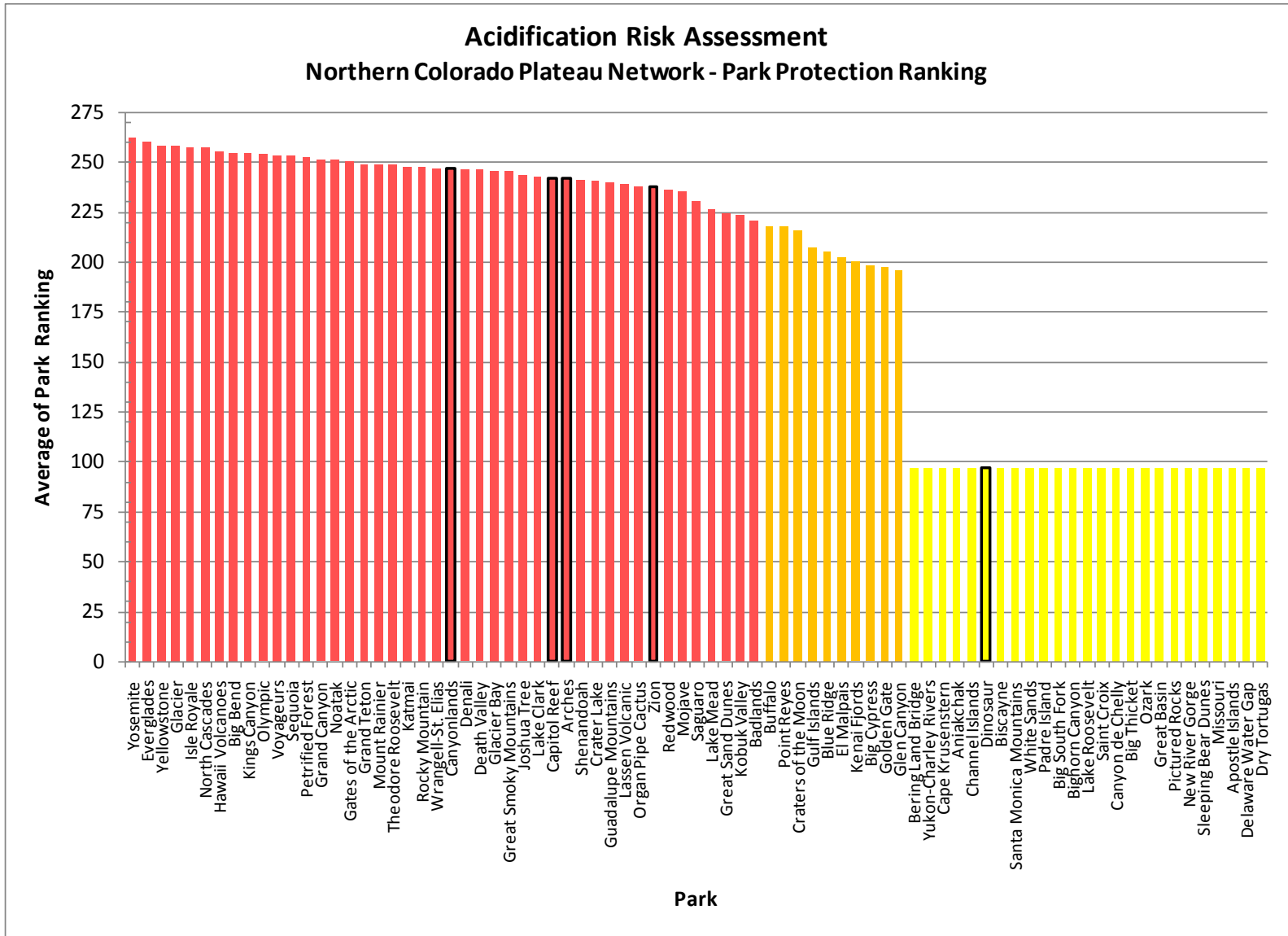


Figure G

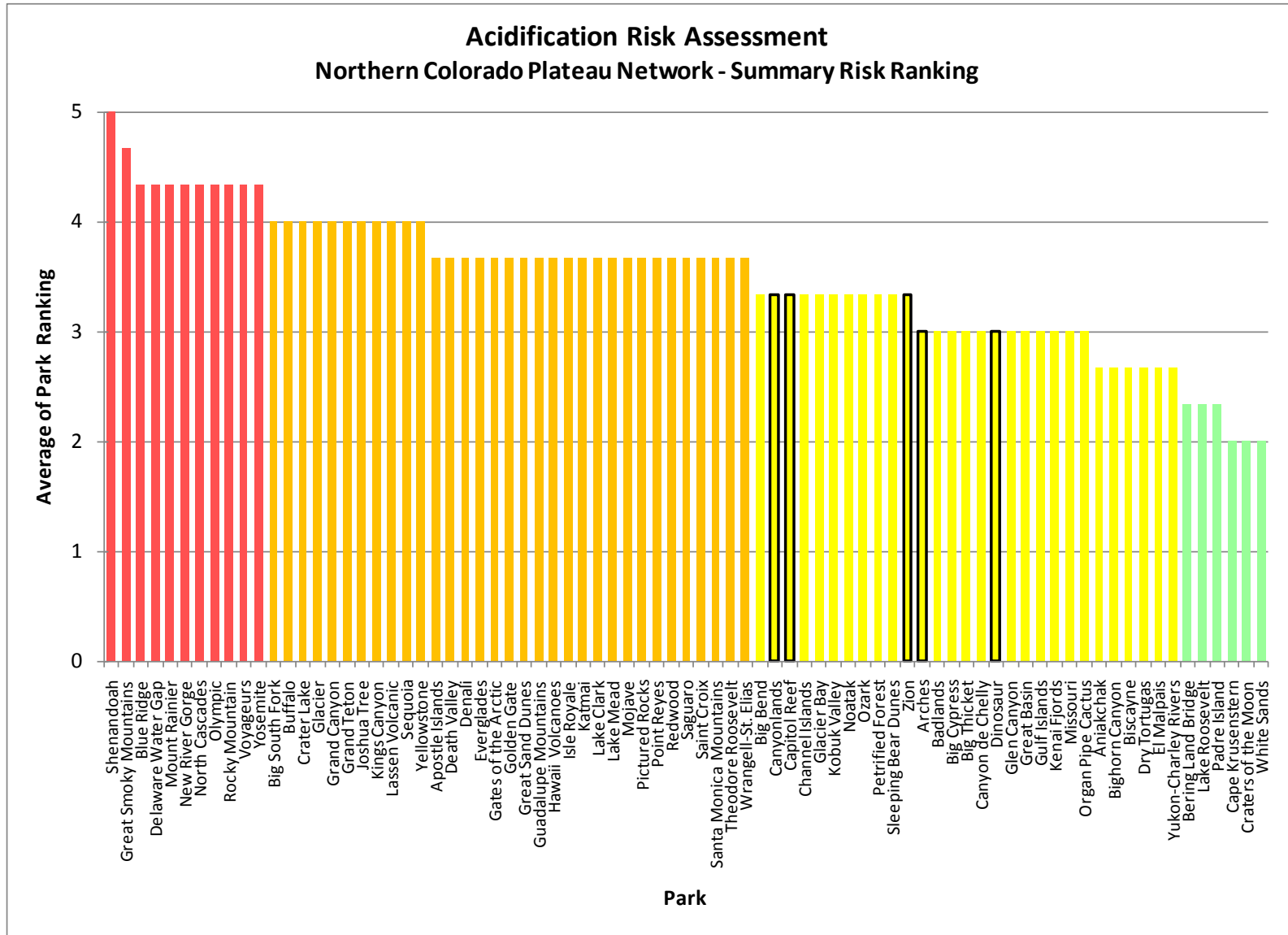


Figure H

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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