



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

National Capital Region Network (NCRN)

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/ARD/NRR—2011/367



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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National Capital Region Network (NCRN)

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 11 parks in the National Capital Region Network; none are larger than 100 square miles. Some parks are in and around the Washington, DC urban area; others are located to the south and west.

Total annual S and N emissions, by county, are shown on Maps E and F, respectively for lands in and surrounding the National Capital Region Network. County-level S emissions within the network were variable, ranging from less than 1 ton per square mile per year, mostly in the northwestern portion of the network, to more than 100 tons per square mile per year in one county near Washington, DC (Map E). Annual county-level N emissions within the network ranged from 1 to 5 tons per square mile in the west to more than 20 (and as high as more than 100) tons per square mile in the area surrounding Washington, DC (Map F). In general, annual county N emissions were between 1 and 20 tons per square mile throughout most of the network, with higher emissions in the eastern portion. Individual point source emissions of S are shown on Map G. There were no S point sources of great magnitude within the network, but there were several large point sources outside the network to the west. In general, S point sources were less than 5,000 tons per year throughout the network, with only two sources in the range of 5,000 to 20,000 tons per year (Map G). Point source emissions of oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO_x) and reduced (ammonia, NH₃) N are shown on Map F. There are no large (larger than 2,000 tons per square mile) point sources of N within the network, but several outside the network, especially to the west. Most point sources in and around the network are sources of oxidized N.

Urban centers within the network and within a 300-mile buffer around the network are shown in Map I. The eastern third of the network is densely populated; the western two-thirds is not.

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 acidic deposition and both the oxidized and reduced N species. Total S deposition within the network generally ranged from 10 to 20 kg/ha/yr, with several smaller areas in the range of 20 to 30 kg/ha/yr. Total N deposition within the network generally ranged from 10 to 15 kg N/ha/yr to as high as 15 to 20 kg N/ha/yr, with the higher values mainly in and around Washington, DC.

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

Land slope within the network is shown in Map M. Terrain within the park lands in the network tends to have fairly low relief, with most parks averaging less than 10° slope. One park has average slope between 10° and 20° and the slope in two of the parks is between 20° and 30°.

Map N, showing park lands requiring special protection against potential adverse impacts associated with acidic deposition is shown for this network, but there are no Class I or designated wilderness areas in the network. The closest park receiving special protection is Shenandoah to the south.

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 National Capital Region Network ranked in the highest quintile, second to the highest among networks, in Pollutant Exposure (Figure A). Emissions and deposition within the network are both very high. However, the network Ecosystem Sensitivity ranking was Low, within the second lowest quintile among networks (Figure B). This network ranked at the bottom of the lowest quintile in Park Protection, having no protected Class I or wilderness lands (Figure C).

In combination, the network rankings for Pollutant Exposure, Ecosystem Sensitivity, and Park Protection yielded an overall Network Risk ranking that was near the middle of the distribution among networks (Figure D). This is despite having one of the highest pollutant exposure rankings of all 32 I&M networks.

Because there are no parks in this network that are larger than 100 square miles, Figures E through H, that compare rankings among individual parks, are not presented for parks in this network. Relative ranks for all parks, including the smaller parks, are given in Table A and Appendix A.

All parks in this network were ranked in the top quintile for Pollutant Exposure. The parks were ranked either in the highest quintile (four parks), second highest quintile (one park) or middle quintile (six parks) for Ecosystem Sensitivity. All parks in the network were ranked in the middle quintile for Park Protection. The Summary Risk for individual parks in this network was High in seven parks and Very High in four parks.

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
Antietam	Very High	Very High	Moderate	Very High
Catoctin Mountain	Very High	Very High	Moderate	Very High
Chesapeake and Ohio Canal	Very High	Very High	Moderate	Very High
George Washington	Very High	Moderate	Moderate	High
Harpers Ferry	Very High	Very High	Moderate	Very High
Manassas	Very High	Moderate	Moderate	High
Monocacy	Very High	Moderate	Moderate	High
National Capital Parks - East	Very High	High	Moderate	High
Prince William Forest	Very High	Moderate	Moderate	High
Rock Creek Park	Very High	Moderate	Moderate	High
Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts	Very High	Moderate	Moderate	High

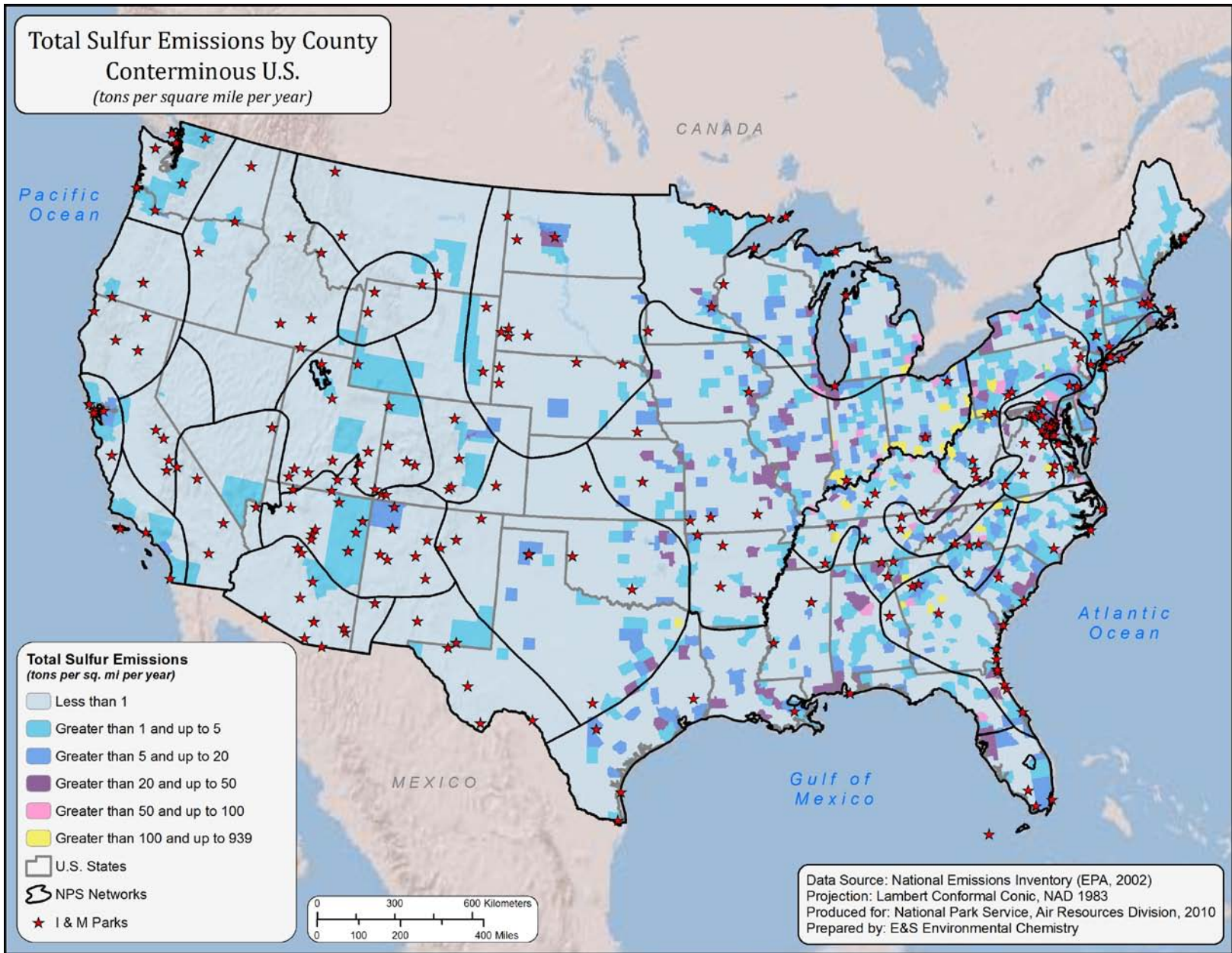
¹ Relative park rankings are designated according to quintile ranking, among all I&M Parks, from the lowest quintile (very low risk) to the highest quintile (very high risk).
² Park name is printed in bold italic for parks larger than 100 square miles.

- 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

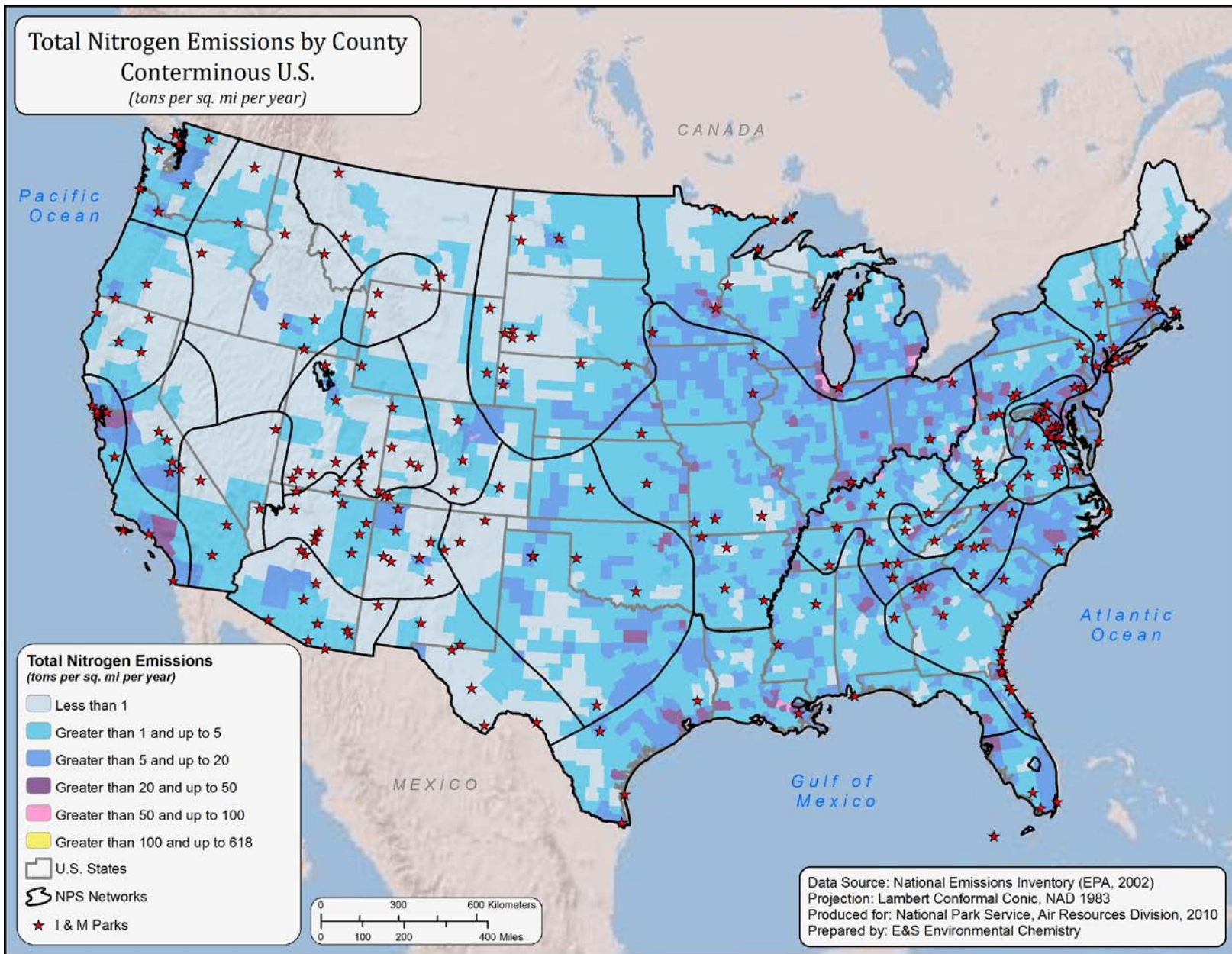
(three-year average centered on 2002) and dry deposition values were derived from 12-km CMAQ model projections for 2002. For the western half of the country, both wet and dry deposition values were derived from 36-km CMAQ model projections for 2002. NADP interpolations were performed using the approach 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/>])

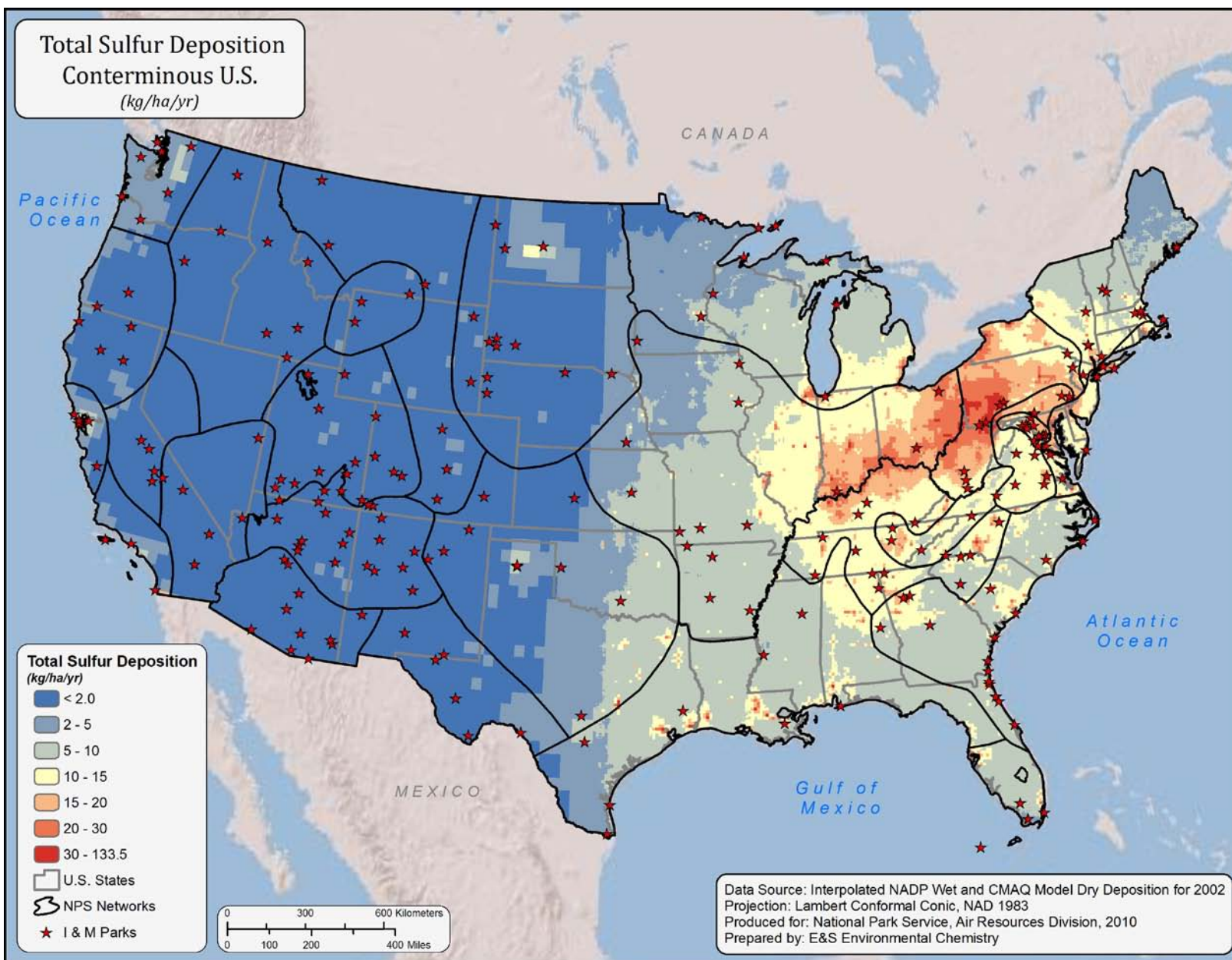
- Map N. Lands within the network that are classified as Class I or wilderness area. (Source of data: USGS 2005 [National Atlas; <http://nationalatlas.gov>] and NPS)
- Figure A. Network rankings for Pollutant Exposure, calculated as the average of scores for all Pollutant Exposure variables.
- Figure 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.



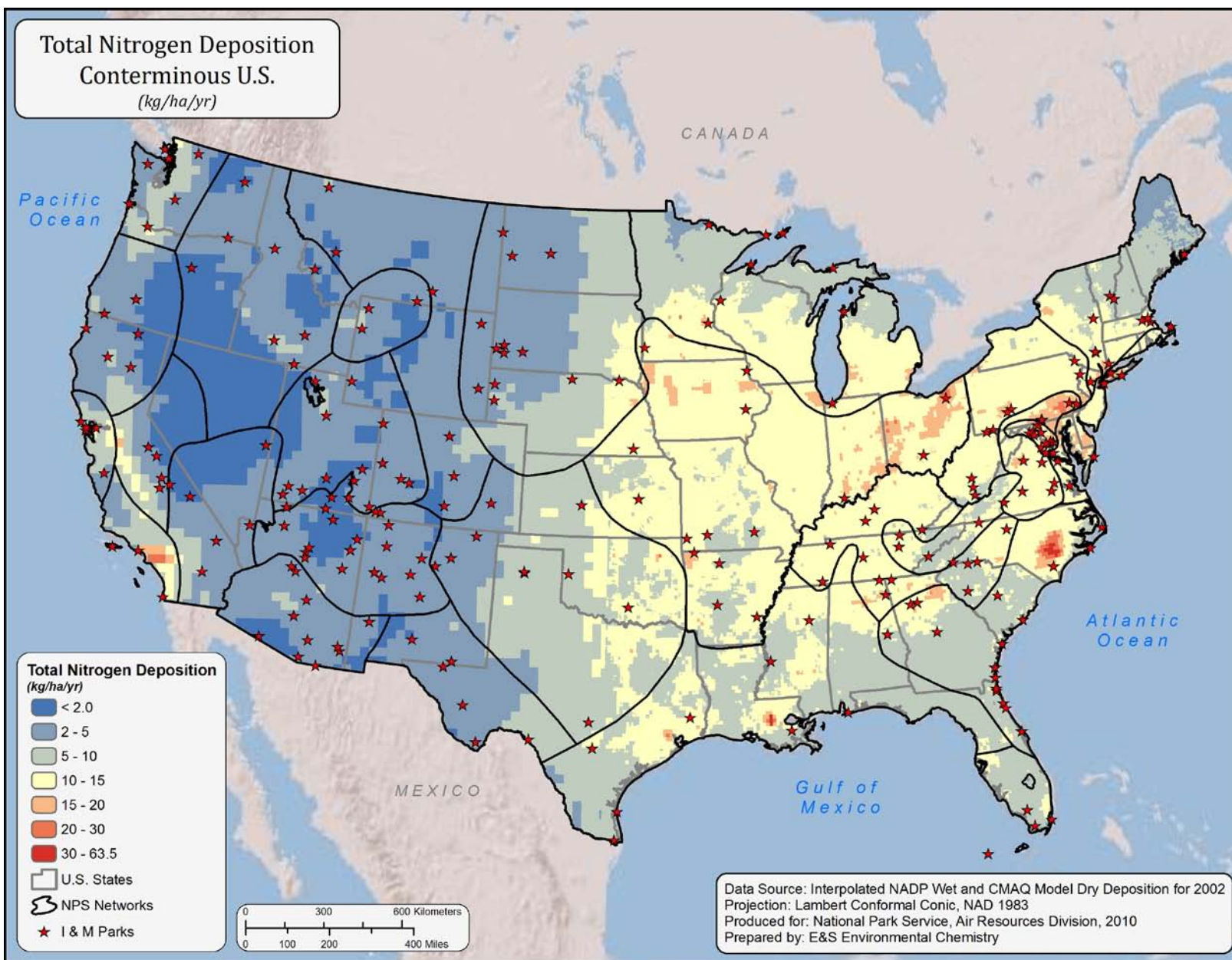
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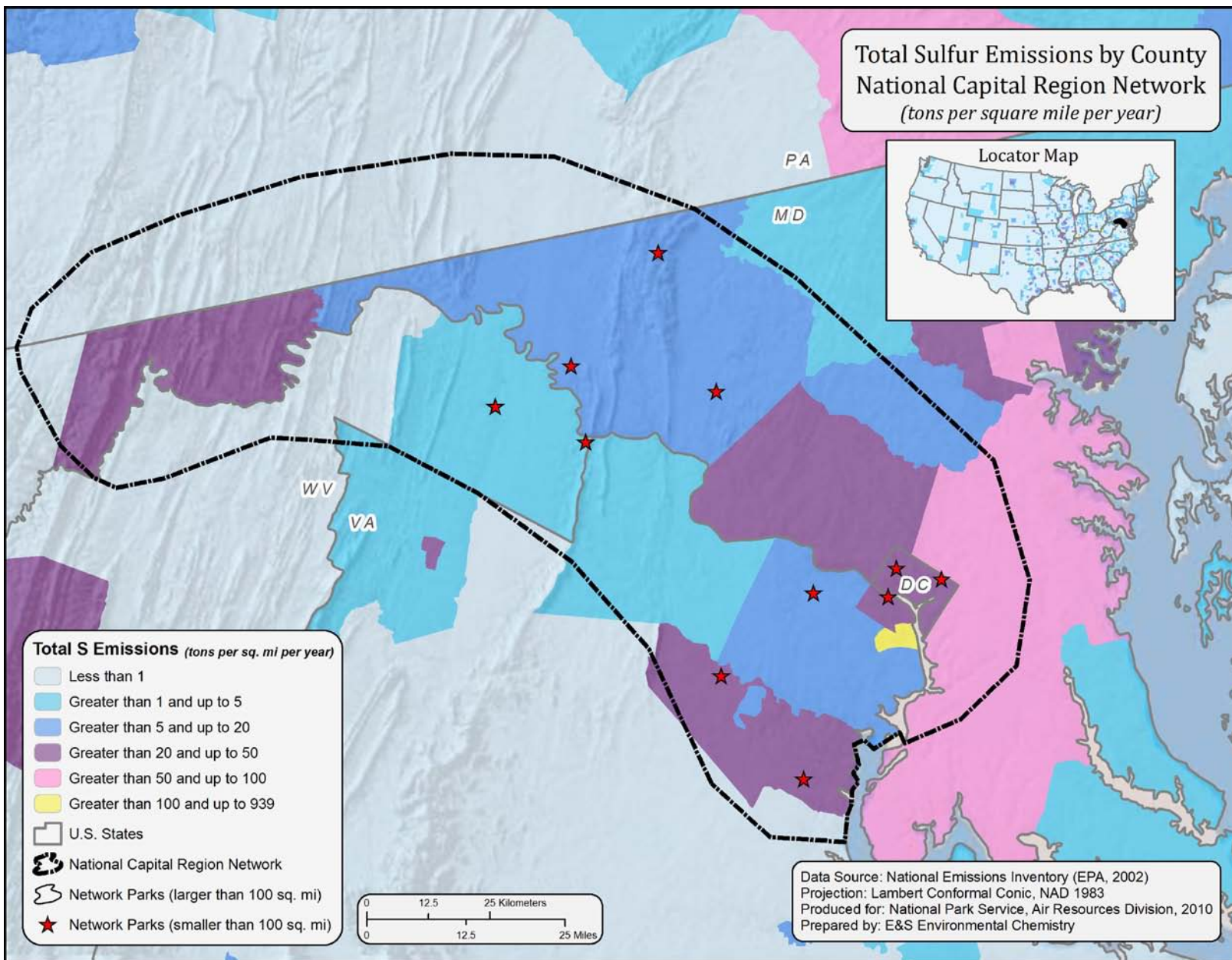
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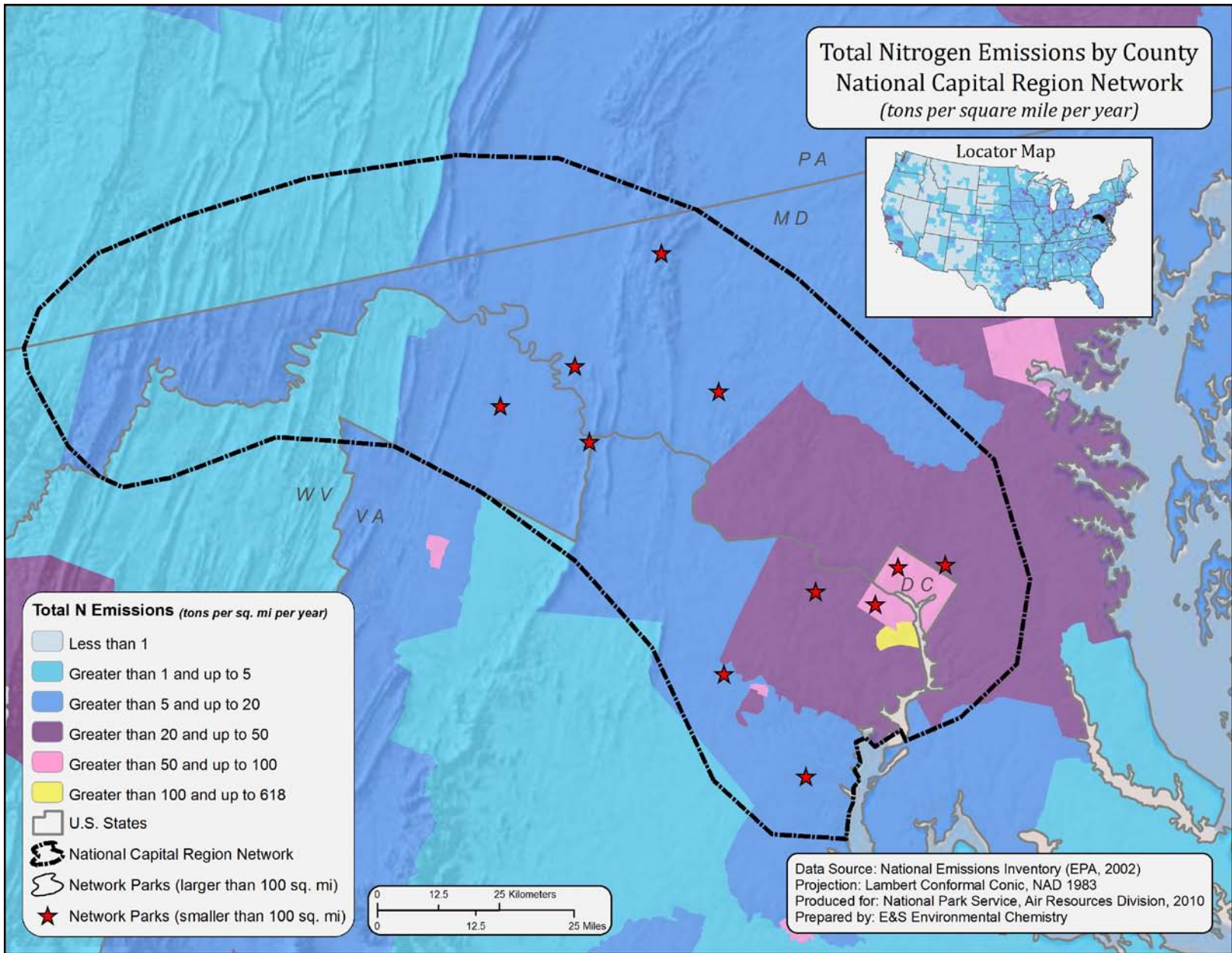
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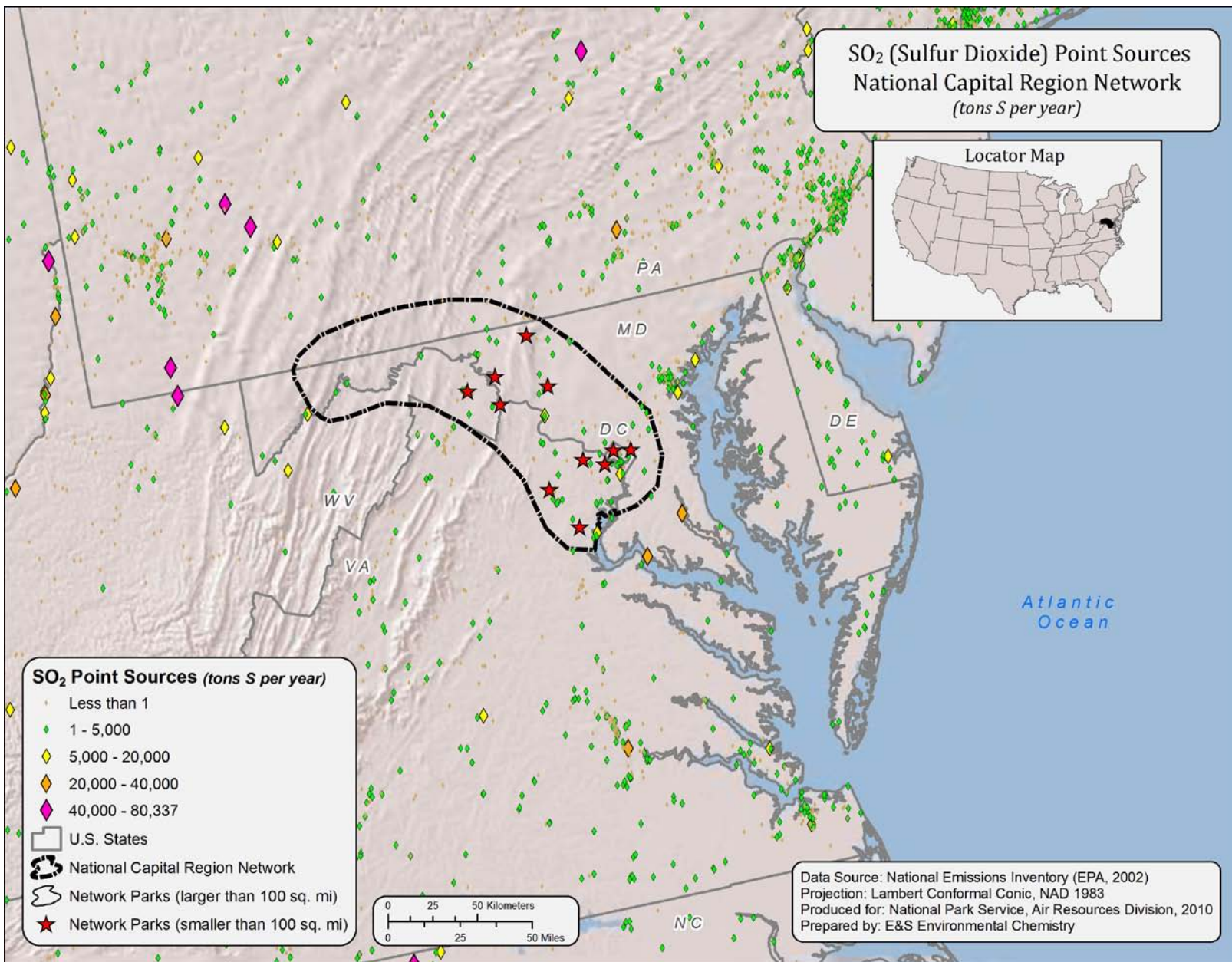
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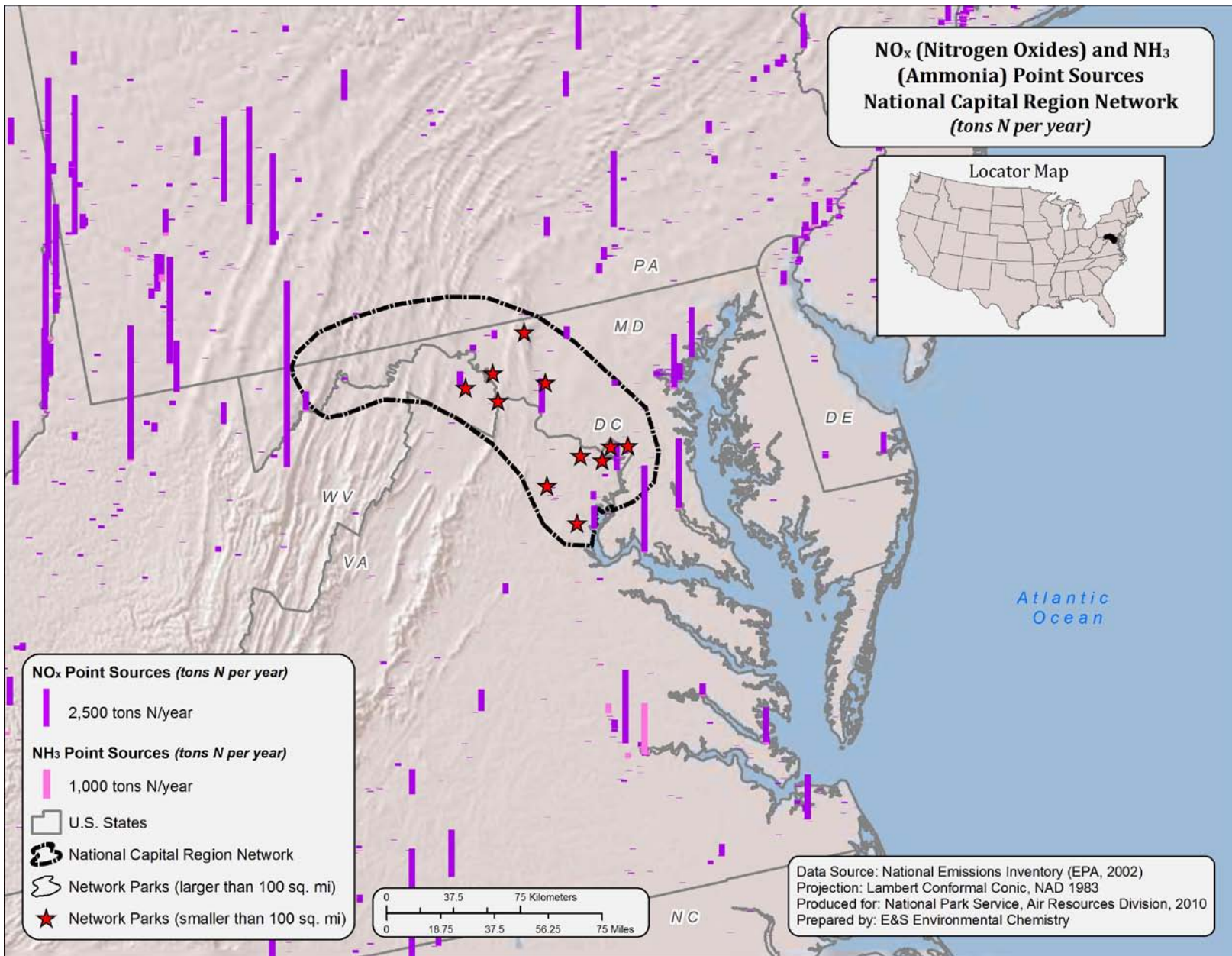
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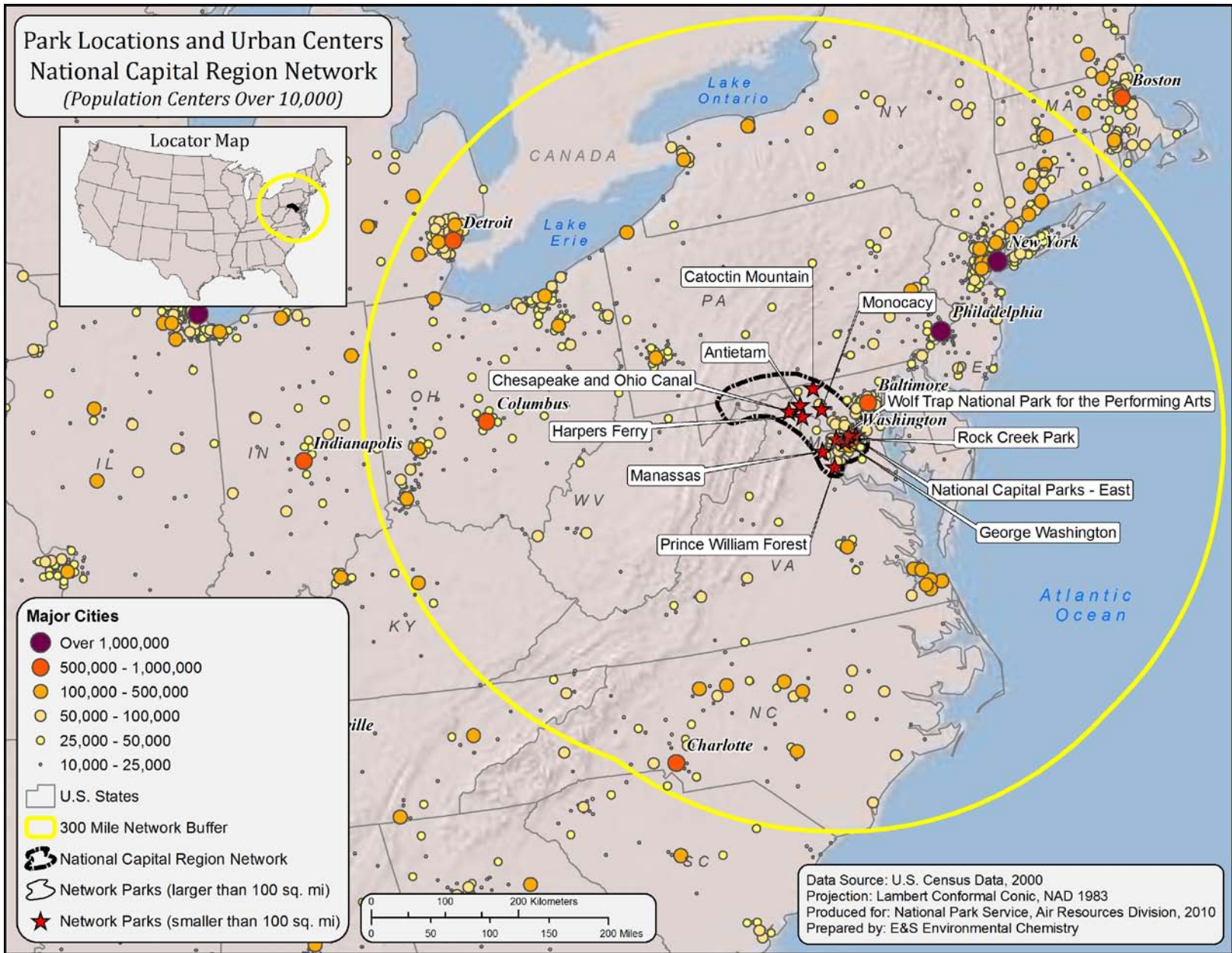
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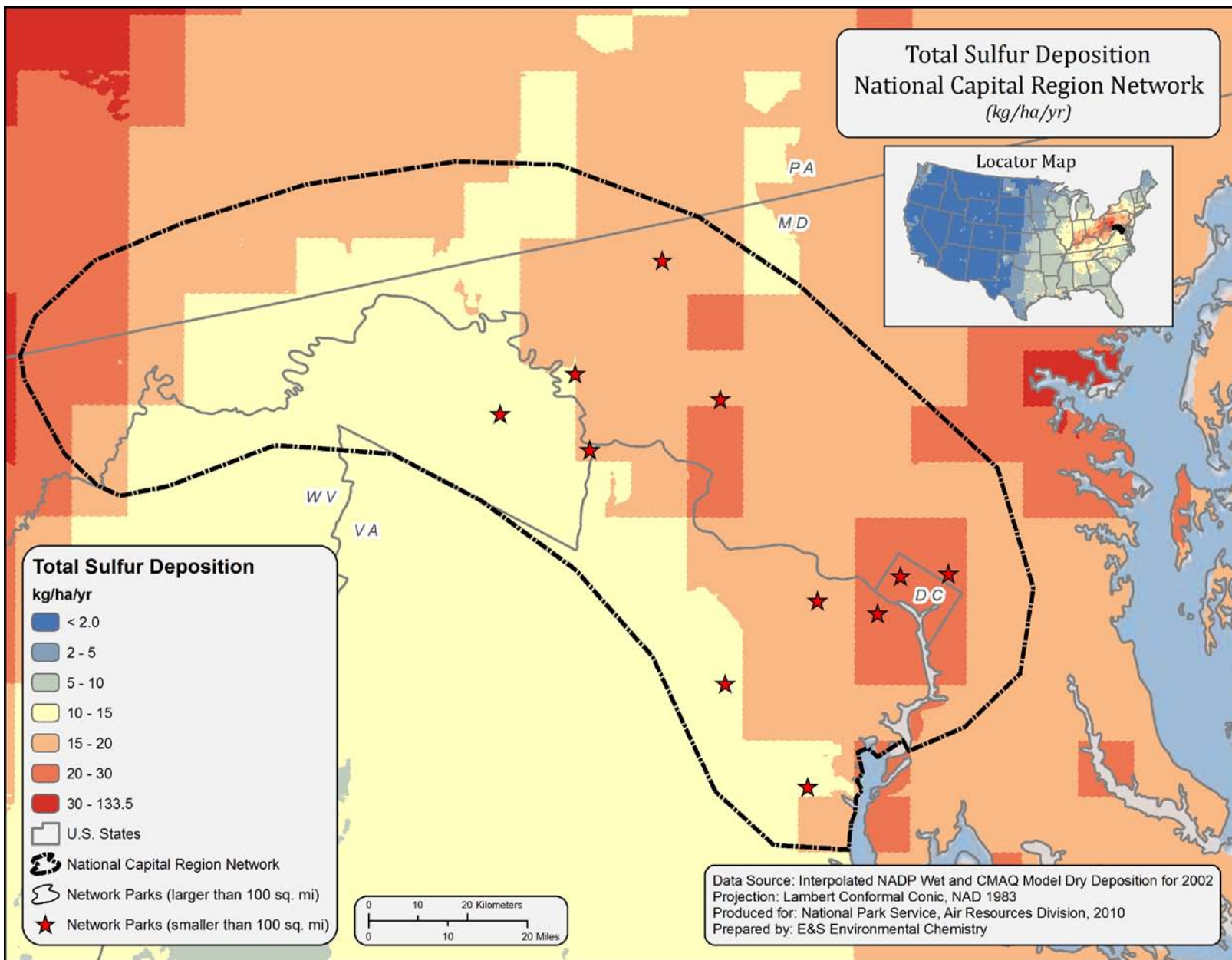
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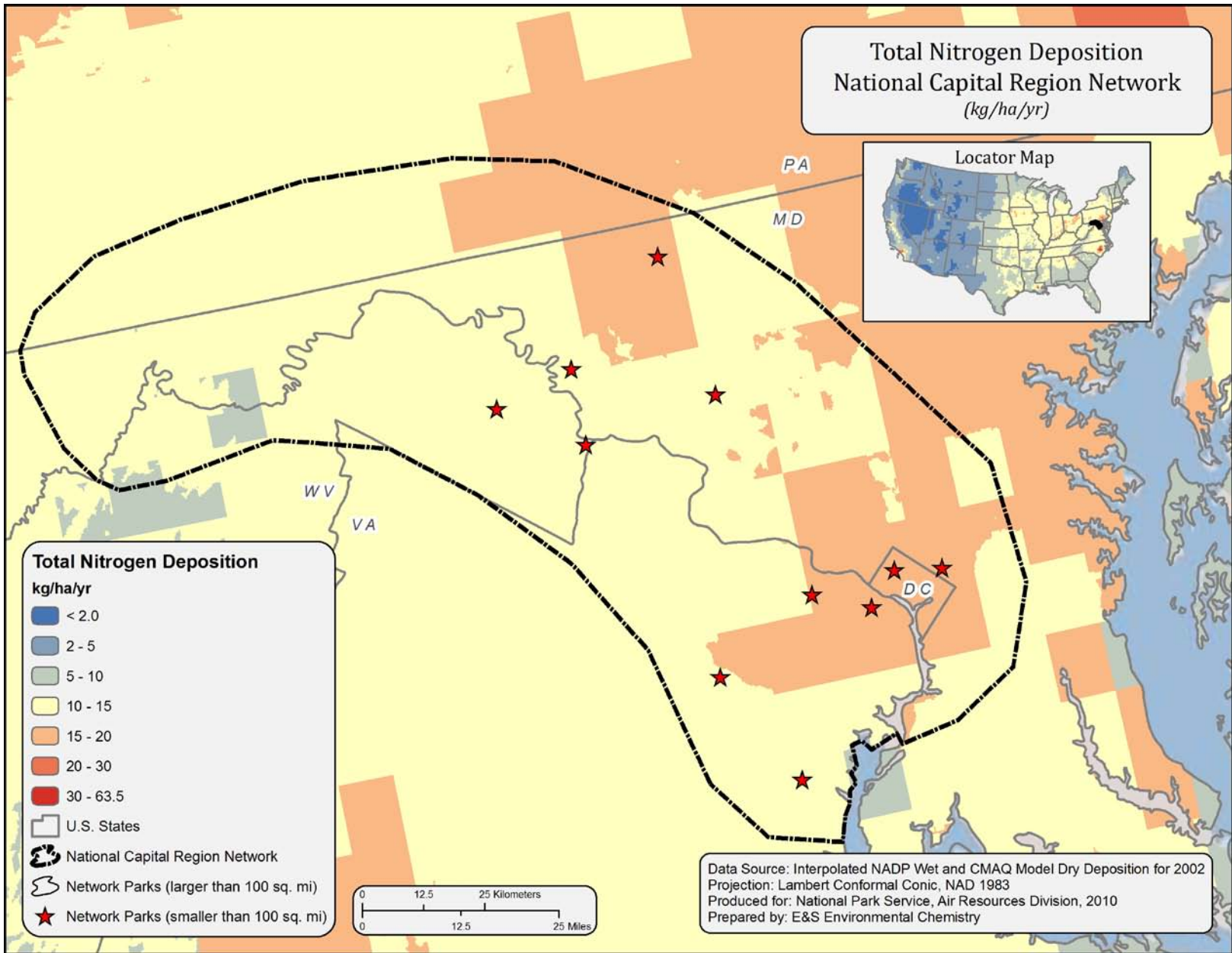
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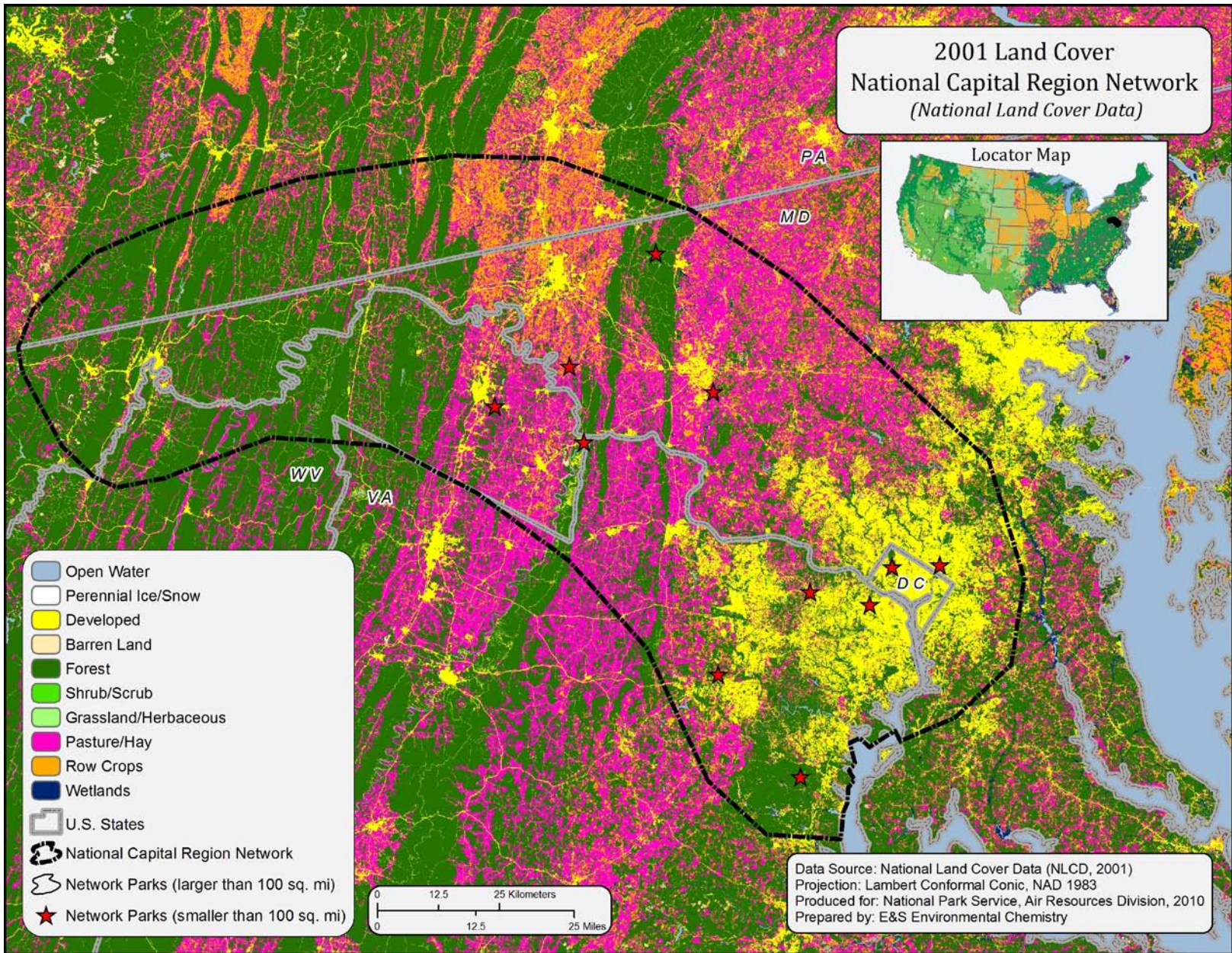
Map I



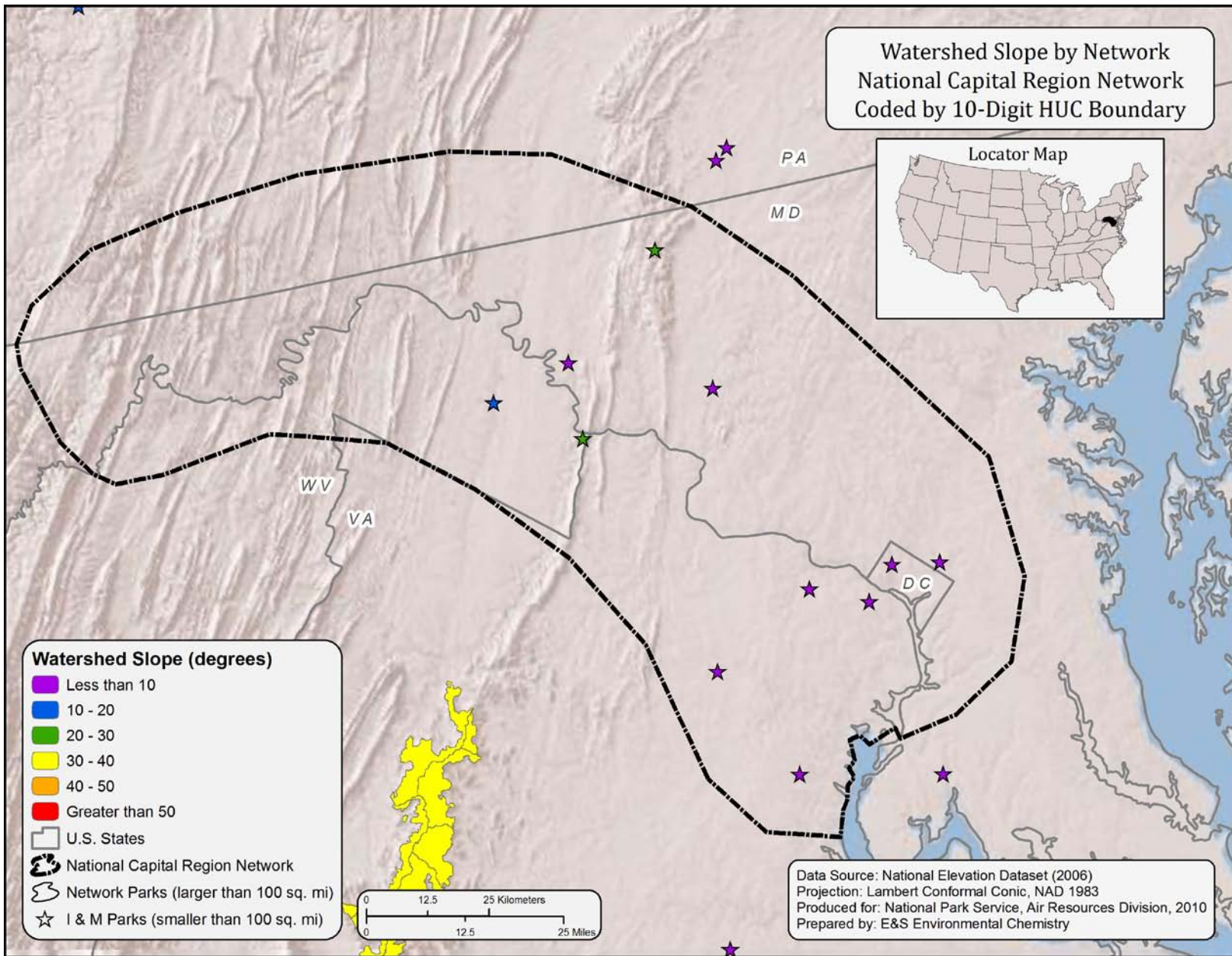
Map J



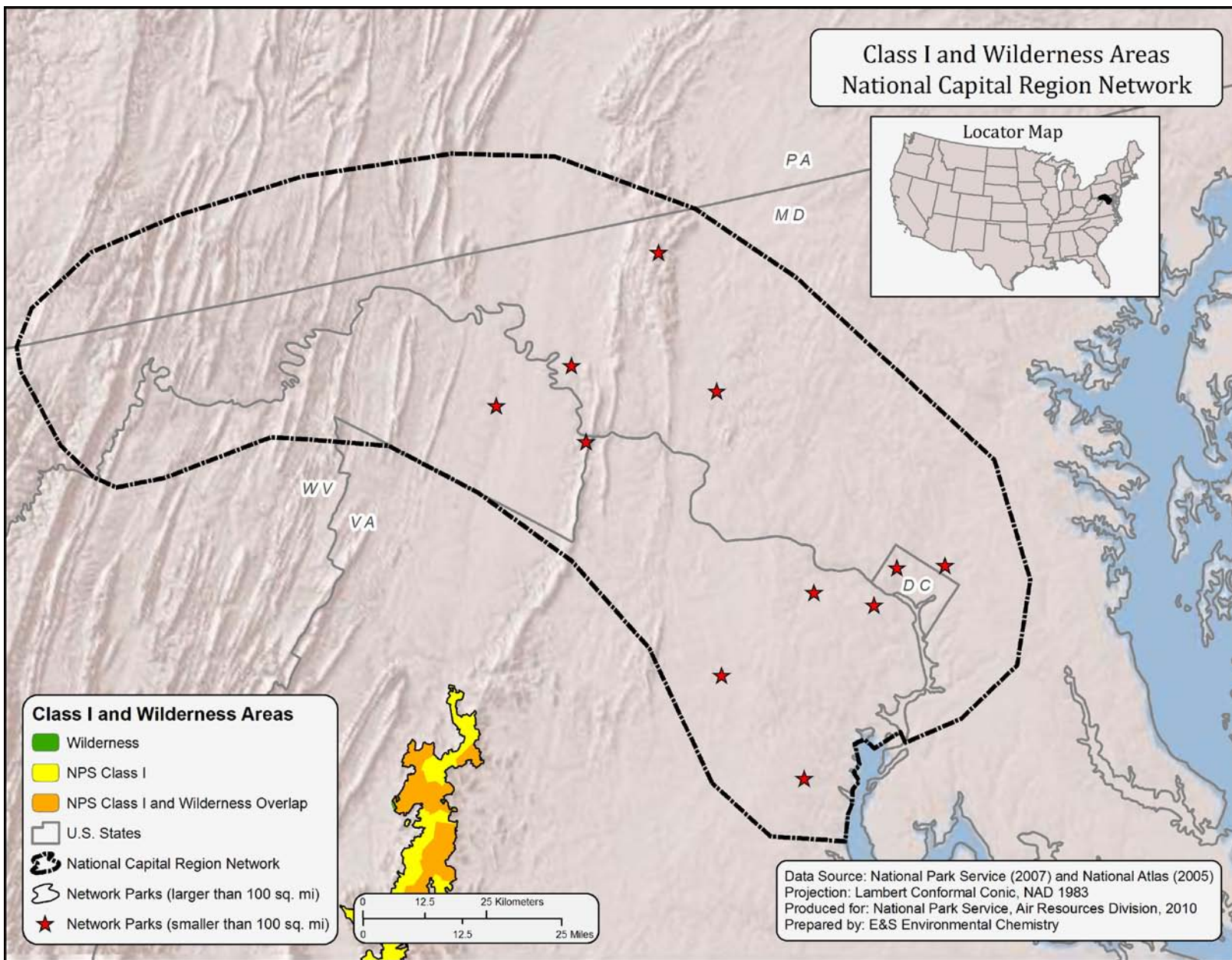
Map K



Map L



Map M



Map N

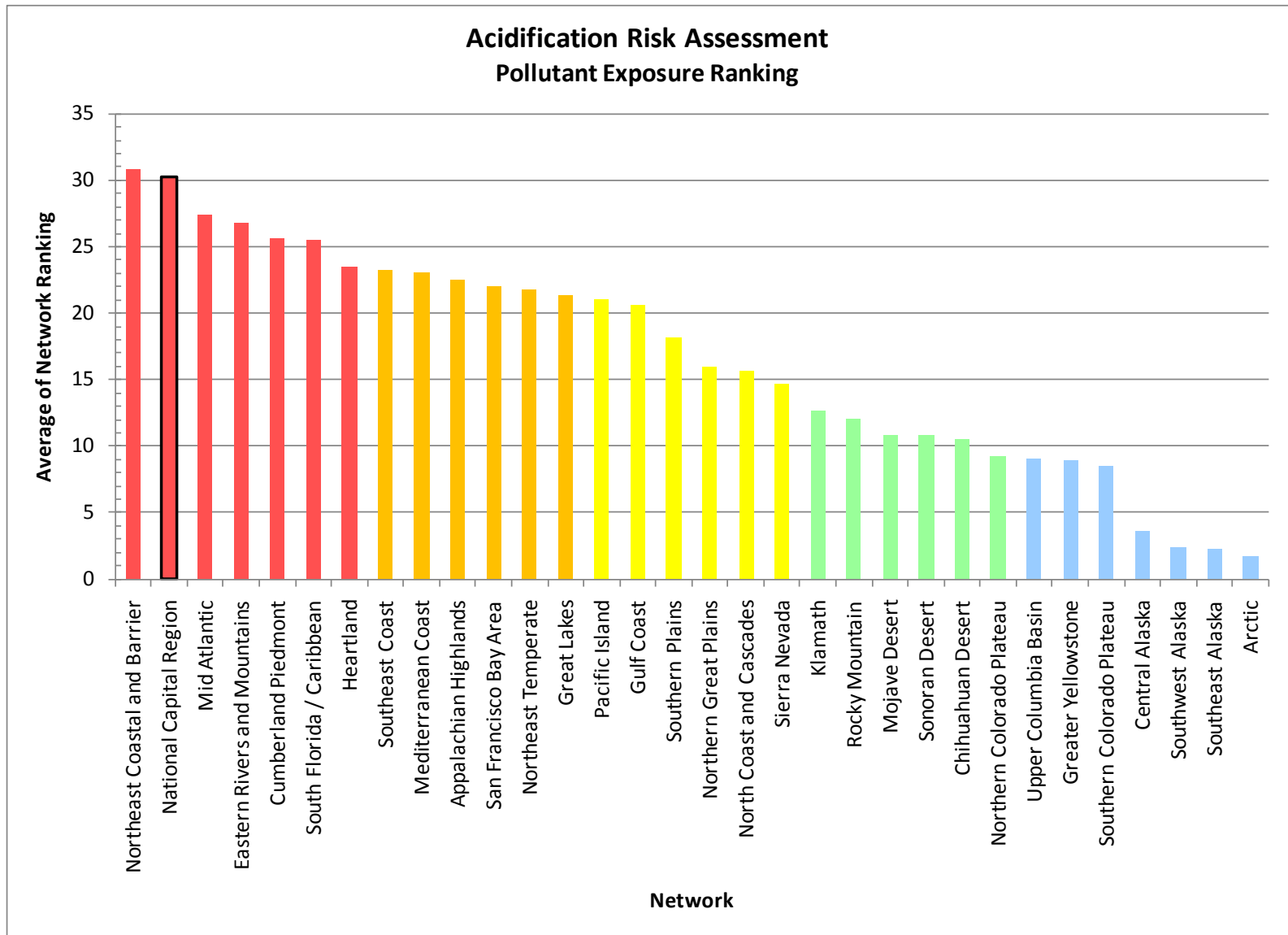


Figure A

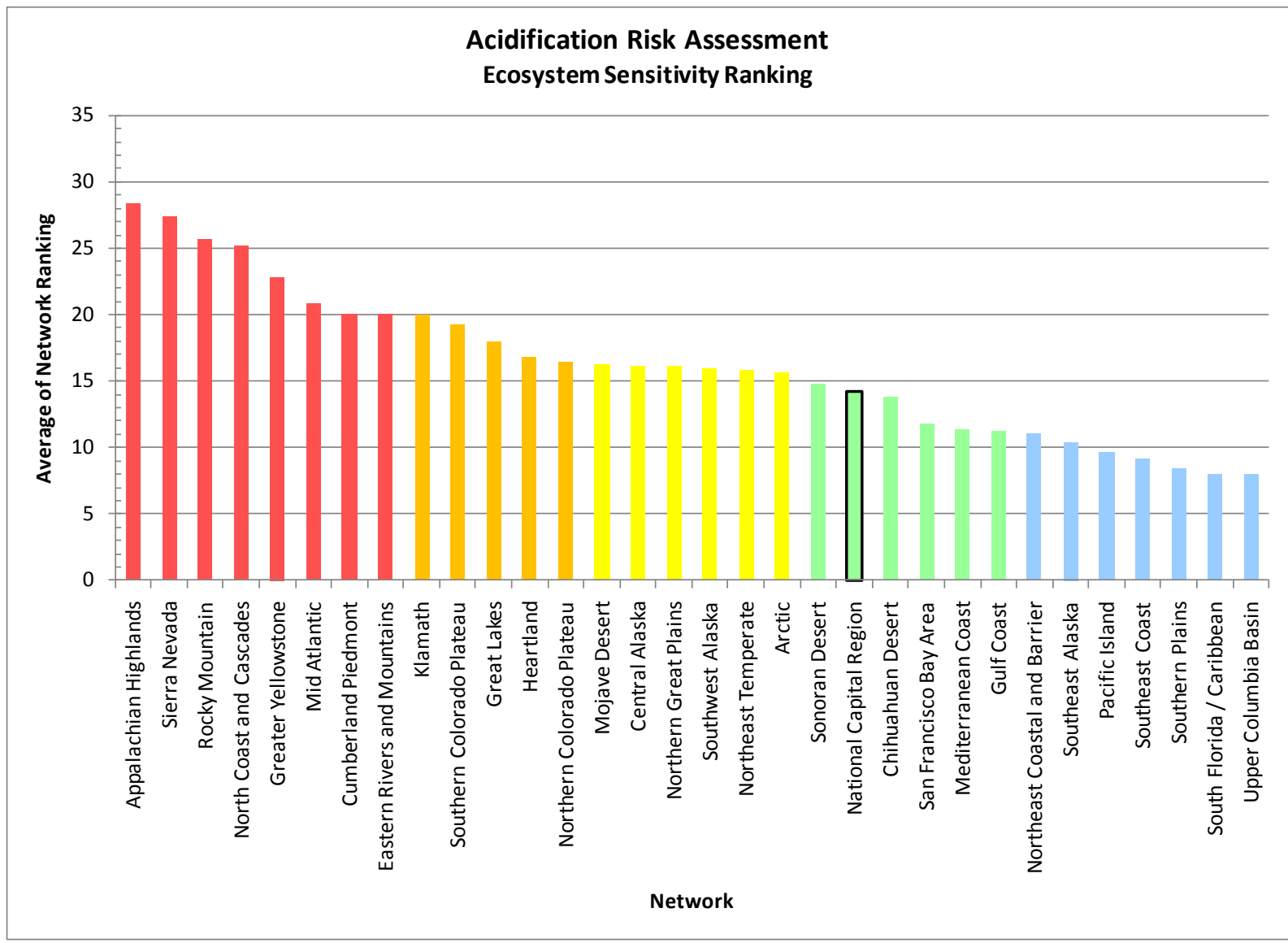


Figure B

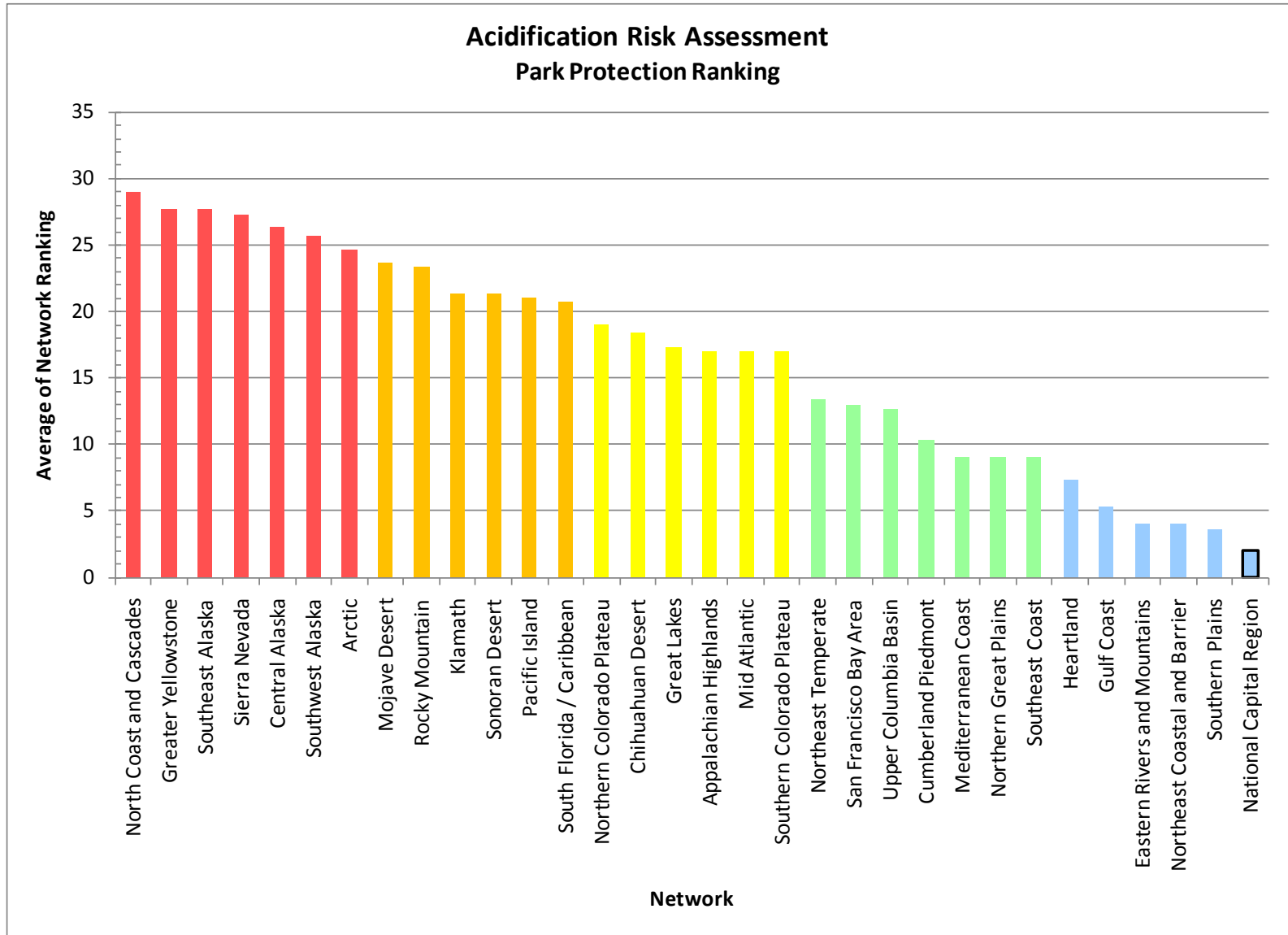


Figure C

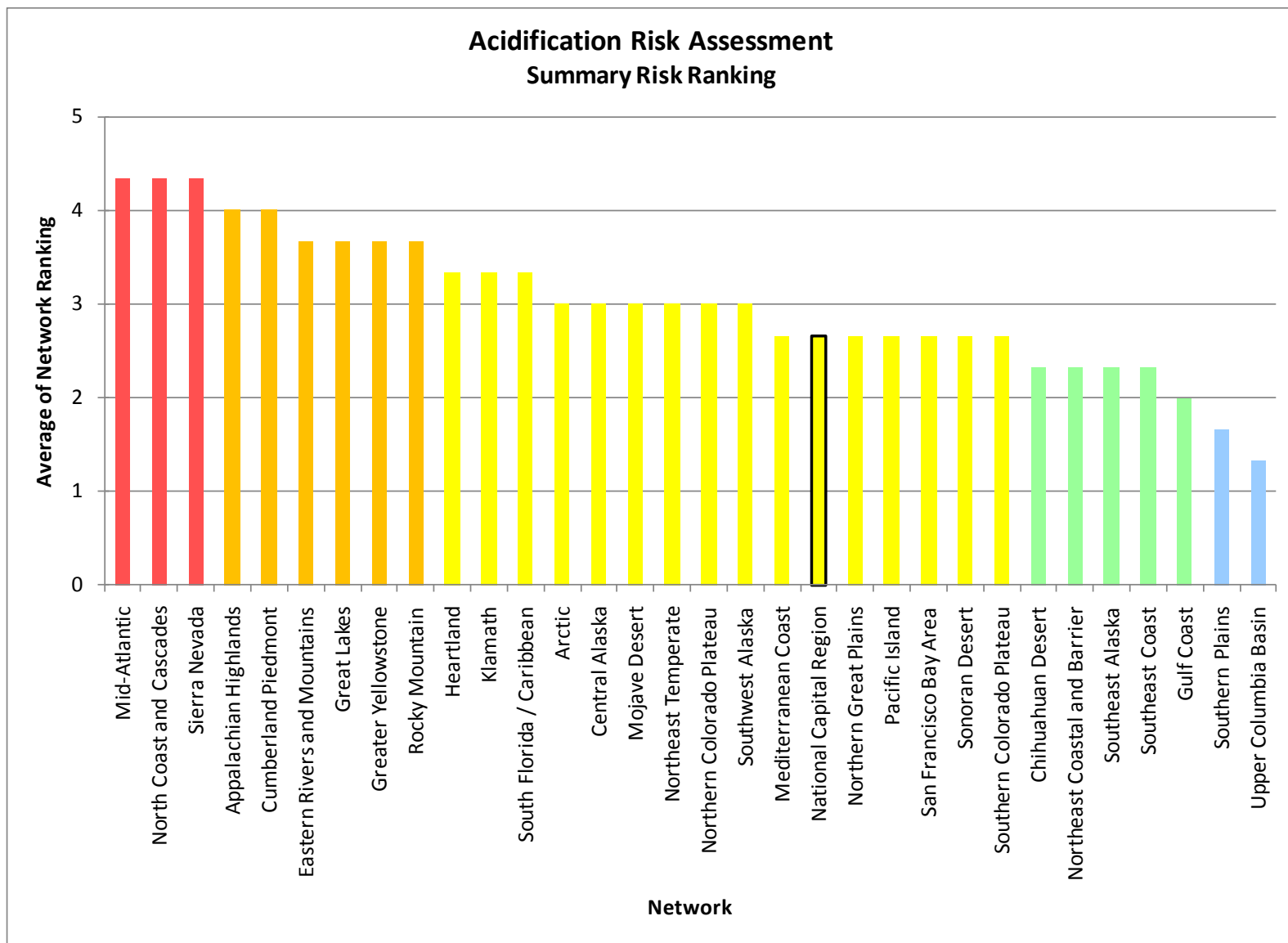


Figure D

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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