



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

Rocky Mountain Network (ROMN)

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/ARD/NRR—2011/371



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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Rocky Mountain Network (ROMN)

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 Rocky Mountain Network that are larger than 100 square miles: Glacier (GLAC), Great Sand Dunes (GRSA), and Rocky Mountain (ROMO). In addition, there are three smaller parks.

Total annual S and N emissions, by county, are shown in Maps E and F, respectively, for lands in and surrounding the Rocky Mountain Network. County-level emissions of both S and N within most of the network ranged from less than 1 ton per square mile per year to 5 to 20 tons per square mile per year. Limited small areas had higher emissions of both, but in general, annual county S and N emissions were each less than 5 tons per square mile throughout most of the network. Point source emissions of SO₂ and oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO_x) and reduced (ammonia, NH₃) N are shown in Maps G and H, respectively. Most of the SO₂ point sources were concentrated in the southern portion of the network; they generally emitted less than 5,000 tons of S per year each. There were several relatively large (larger than about 2,000 tons per year) sources of oxidized N within and near the network, especially in the southern half of the network. There were fewer point sources of reduced N and none of any magnitude.

Urban centers within the network and within a 300-mile buffer around the network are shown in Map I. Population centers within the network are sparse, except along the eastern edge of the Colorado Front Range. ROMO is located in closer proximity to several population centers than are GLAC and GRSA. There are several population centers over 100,000 to the south and west of the network, within the 300-mile buffer.

Total S and total N deposition in and around the network are shown in Maps J and K. Included in this analysis are both wet and dry forms of deposition and both the oxidized and reduced N species. Total S deposition was generally less than 2 kg S/ha/yr, with scattered small pockets receiving 2 to 5 kg S/ha/yr. 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, estimated total N deposition was in the range of 2 to 5 kg N/ha/yr.

Land cover in and around the network is shown in Map L. Much of the network is covered with shrubland and grassland/herbaceous vegetation. Forests predominate in the northwest and southwest. Row crops are also common in some areas.

Watershed slope for the parks in the network is shown on Map M. The terrain varies, with HUCs having average slope from less than 10° to as high as 40° to 50° in significant portions of GLAC and ROMO.

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. The three largest parks in this network are all Class I. There is also considerable wilderness area within the network, outside NPS jurisdiction.

Maps P-1 through P-4 are park-specific maps for GLAC and ROMO, which show high-elevation lakes and streams (Maps P-1 and P-2), and low-order streams (Maps P-3 and P-4). High-elevation lakes and streams within these national parks might be more prone to acidification than lakes and streams at lower elevation. There are many high-elevation lakes in both parks. Many of those might be expected to be acid-sensitive. Elevations of streams within the parks tend to be higher in ROMO than in GLAC. Nearly all streams in GLAC and ROMO are first through third order and occur on steep terrain (Maps P-3 and P-4). The vast majority are first-order streams, with relatively small drainage areas. Such streams tend to be more likely to be sensitive to acidification than the larger, higher-order streams found at lower elevation.

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 Rocky Mountain Network ranked in the second lowest quintile among networks in Pollutant Exposure (Figure A). Emissions and deposition of S and N within the network are both relatively low. However, the network Ecosystem Sensitivity ranking was in the highest quintile among networks (Figure B). This was because there are many low-order streams and high-elevation lakes and streams in some of the parks that occur in this network, and the waters and geology in some areas are known to be acid-sensitive. ROMO has 102 high-elevation lakes; GLAC has 9; and GRSA has 5. This network ranked in the second highest 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 Network Risk ranking that is relatively high among networks (Figure D). This is despite the relatively low levels of emissions and deposition. The overall level of concern for acidification effects on I&M parks within this network is considered High.

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.

All parks in this network were ranked in the lowest quintile (including GRSA) to the middle quintile (including ROMO) for Pollutant Exposure (Figure E, Table A). In contrast, the three large parks (GLAC, GRSA, and ROMO) in the network were all ranked in the top quintile for Ecosystem Sensitivity (Figure F). Florissant Fossil Beds (FLFO) was ranked in the second highest quintile for Ecosystem Sensitivity, whereas the other two small parks were ranked in the

lowest quintile for this theme. Park Protection rankings were variable by park size. The three large parks (GLAC, GRSA, ROMO) were all ranked in the highest quintile for this theme, whereas the smaller parks were all ranked in the middle quintile (Figure G, Table A).

The Summary Risk ranking also varied by park size. The three large parks were ranked as having Very High (ROMO) or High (GLAC, GRSA) risk of acidification (Figure H). The three smaller parks varied: one each was ranked Moderate, Low, and Very Low (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 Parks² in Network	Relative Ranking of Individual Parks¹			
	Pollutant Exposure	Ecosystem Sensitivity	Park Protection	Summary Risk
Florissant Fossil Beds	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate
<i>Glacier</i>	Low	Very High	Very High	High
Grant-Kohrs Ranch	Very Low	Very Low	Moderate	Very Low
<i>Great Sand Dunes</i>	Very Low	Very High	Very High	High
Little Bighorn Battlefield	Low	Very Low	Moderate	Low
<i>Rocky Mountain</i>	Moderate	Very High	Very High	Very 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.

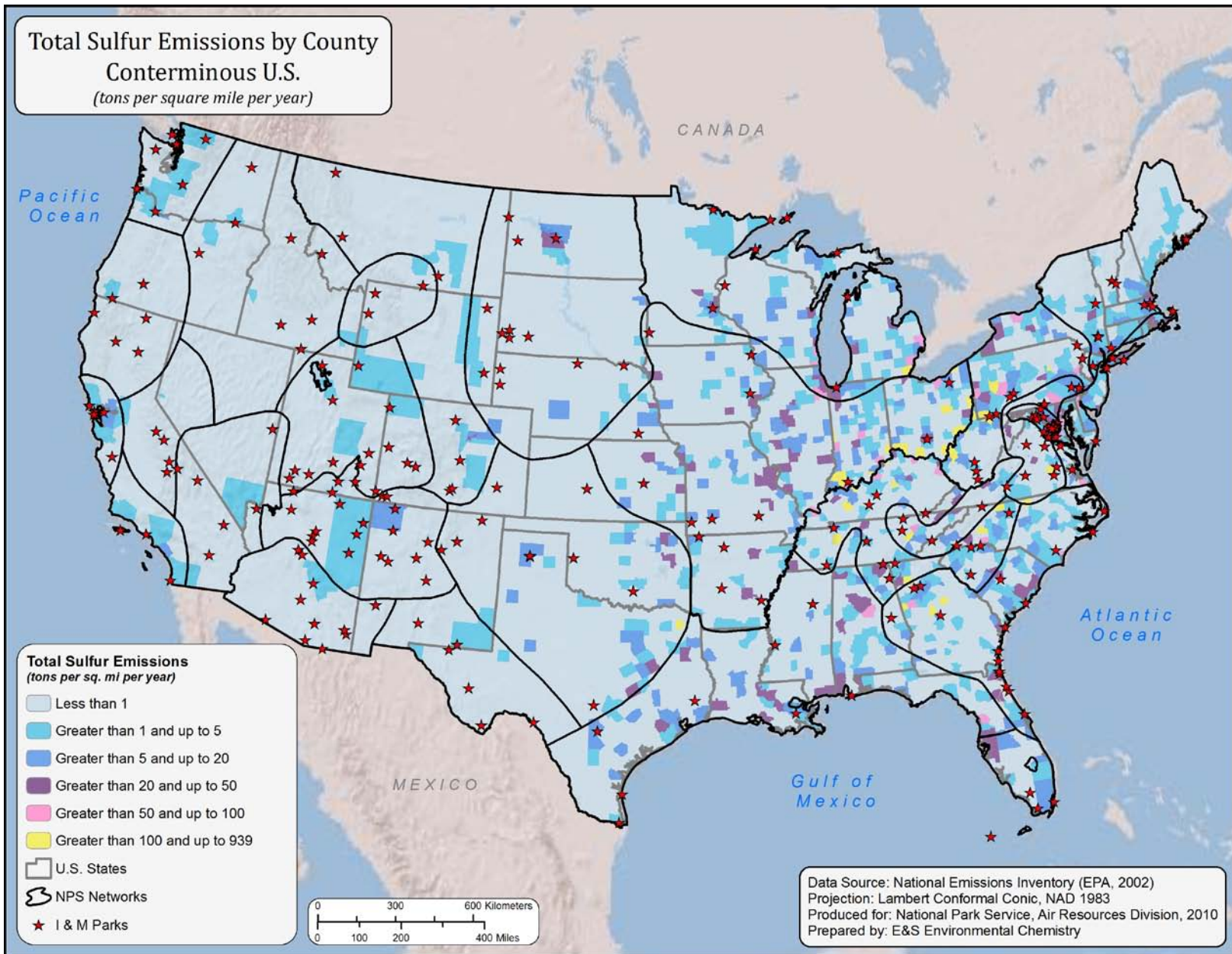
- Map A. National map of total S emissions by county for the year 2002, in units of tons of S per square mile per year. (Source of data: EPA National Emissions Inventory, <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html>)
- Map B. National map of total N emissions by county for the year 2002. Both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

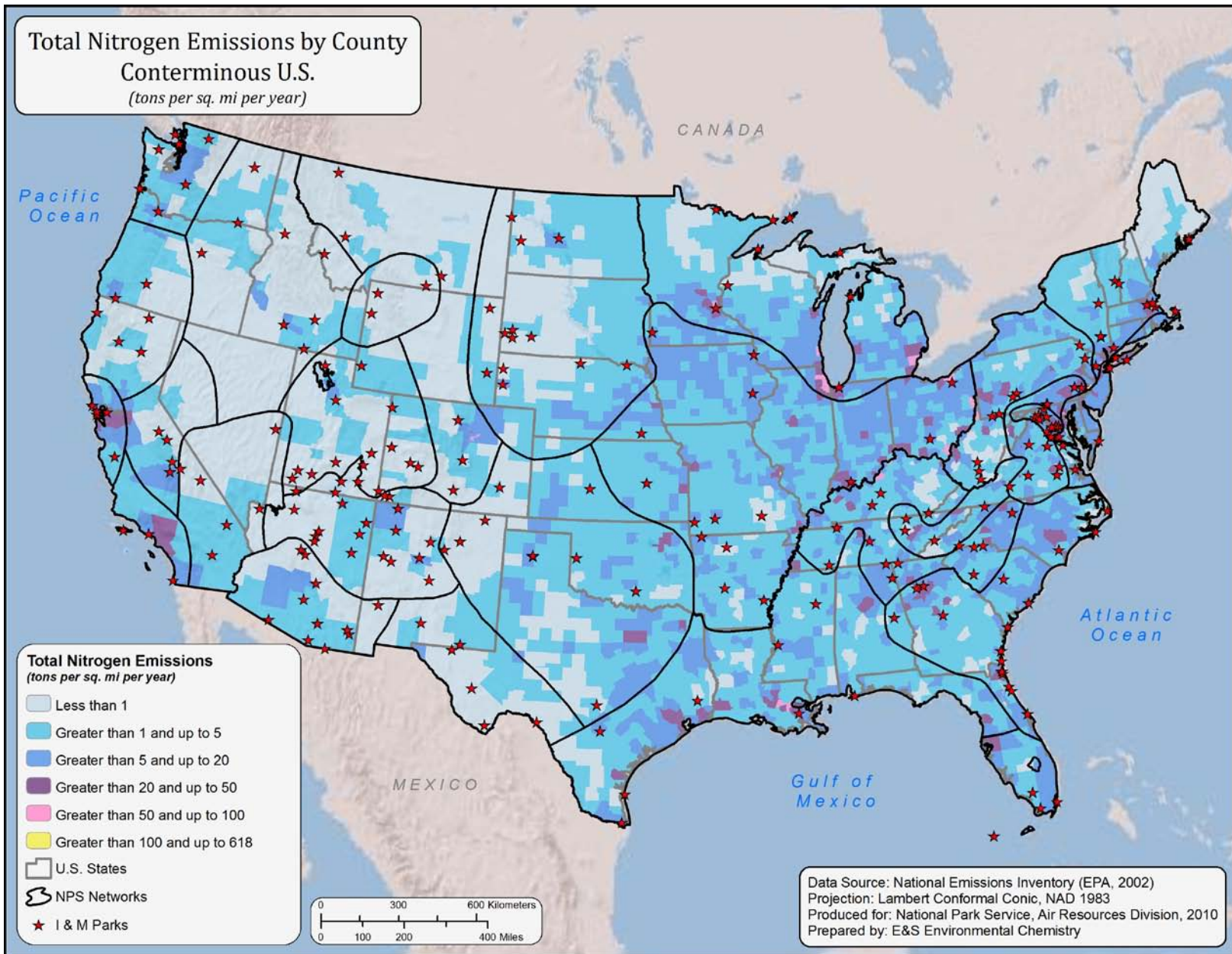
- Map L. Land cover types in and around the network, based on the National Land Cover dataset. (Source of data: National Land Cover Dataset, http://www.mrlc.gov/nlcd_multizone_map.php)
- Map M. Average land slope within park units that occur within the network, by 10-digit HUC. (Source of data: U.S. 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: high-elevation lakes and streams in GLAC. (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 ROMO. (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 GLAC. (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 ROMO. (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.

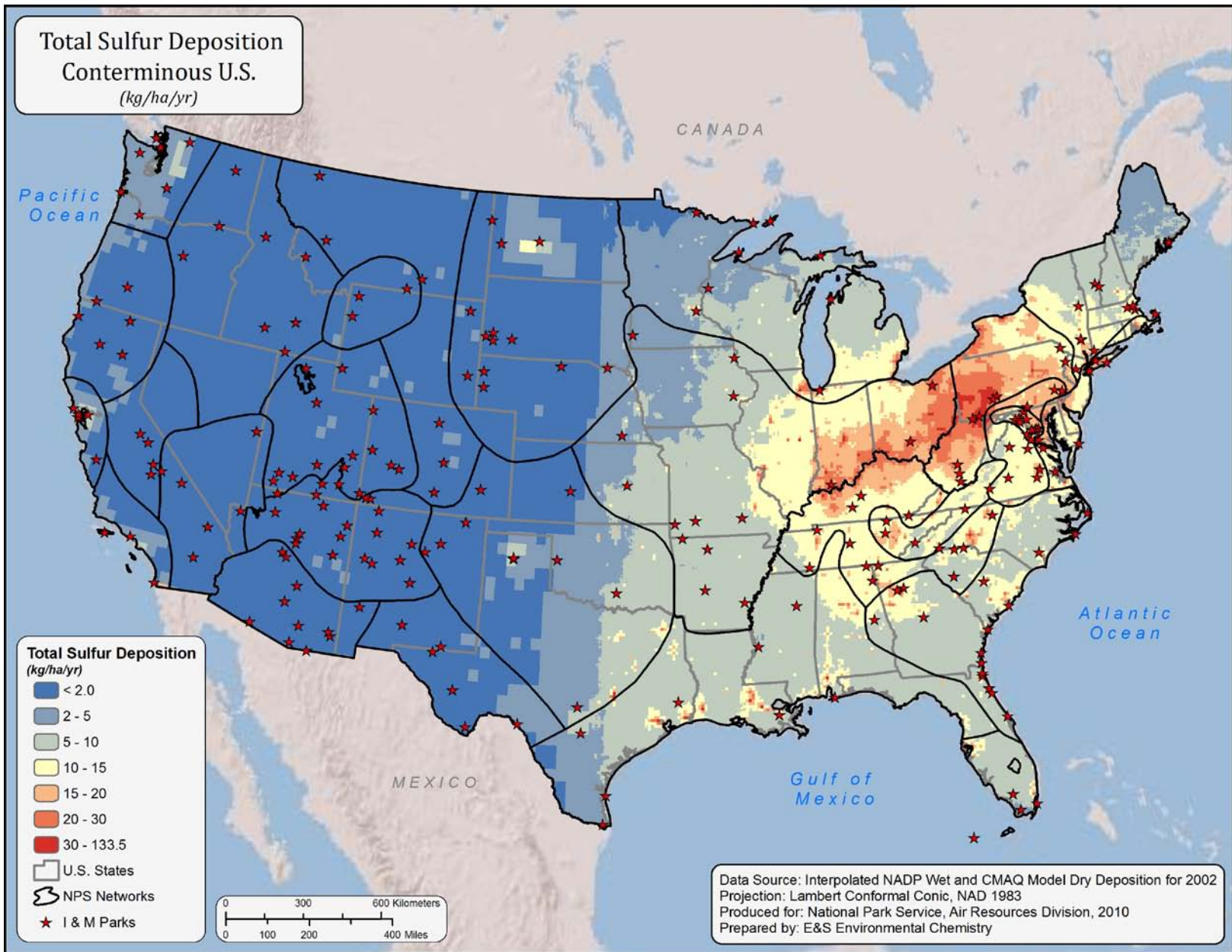
Figure H. Park rankings for Summary Risk for all parks larger than 100 square miles. Ranks for each park were calculated relative to all parks, regardless of size, as the average of the quintile ranks for the Pollutant Exposure, Ecosystem Sensitivity, and Park Protection themes.



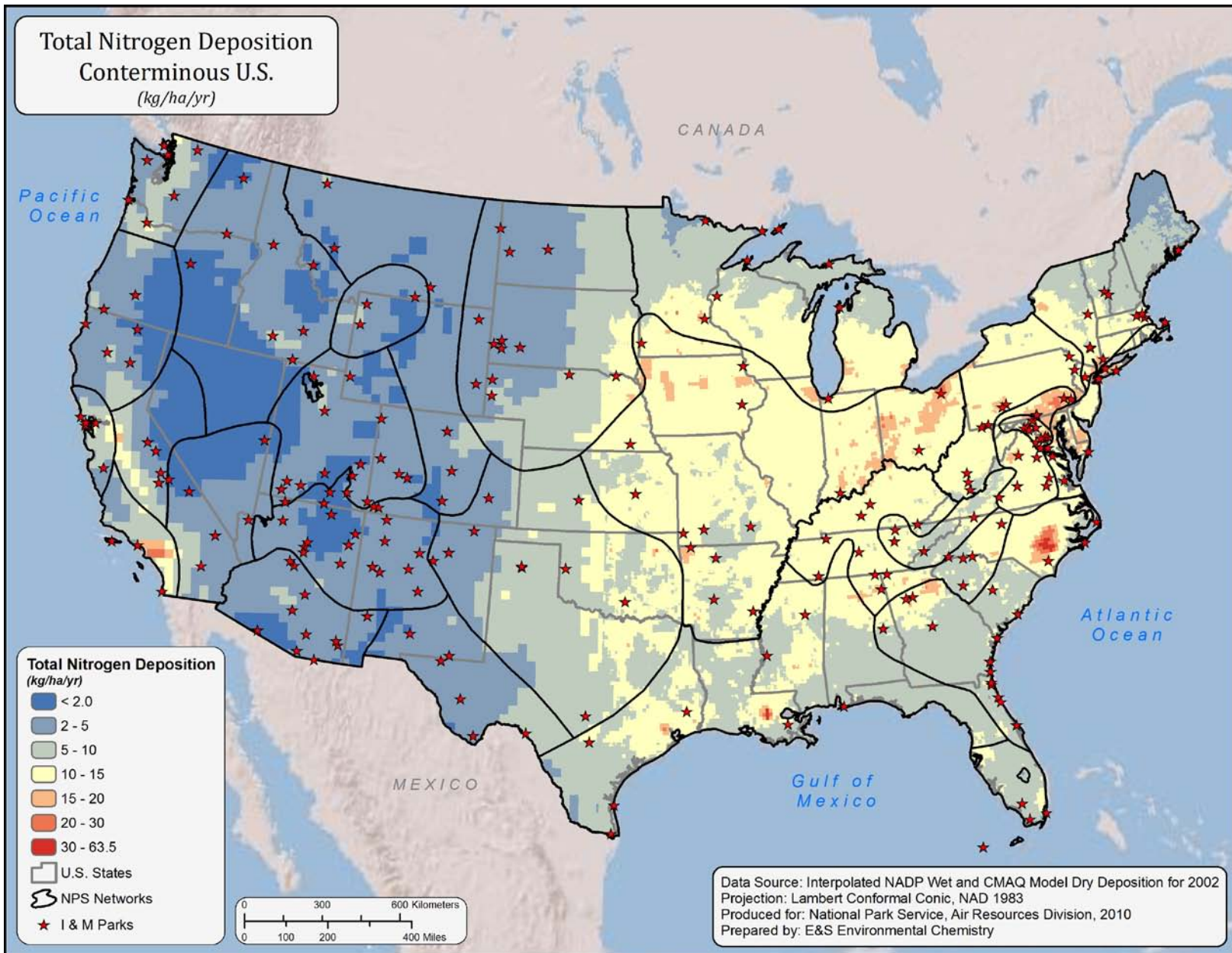
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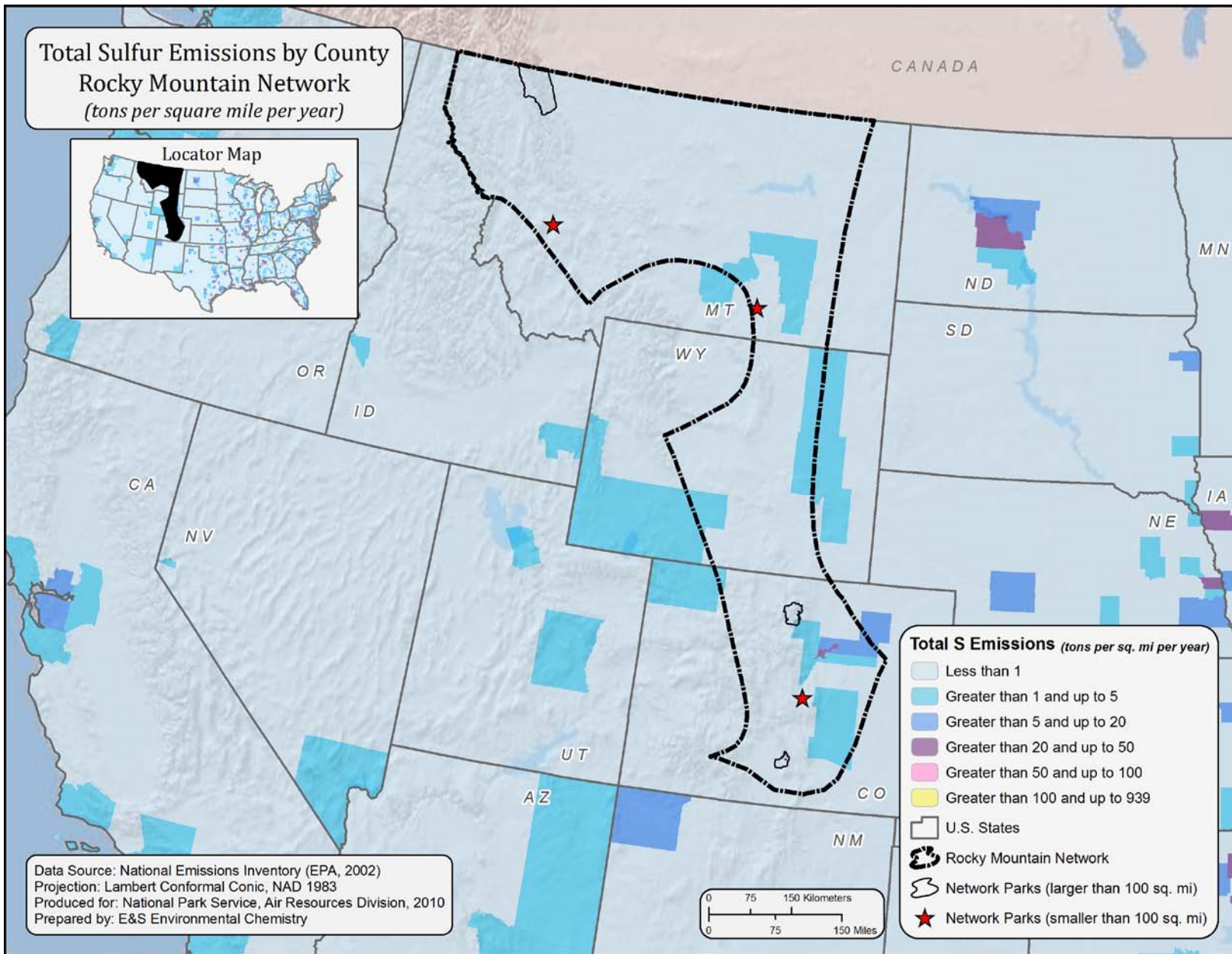
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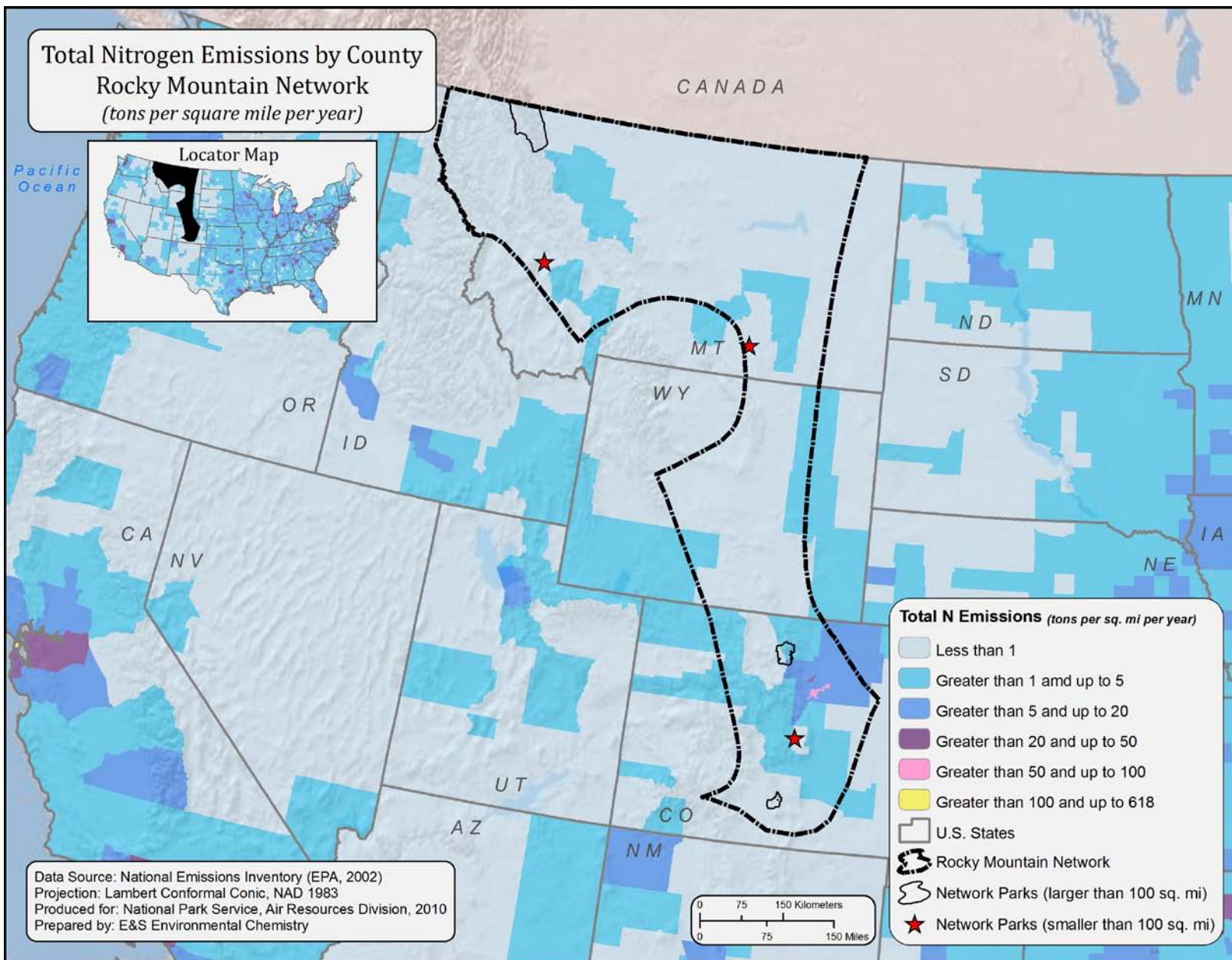
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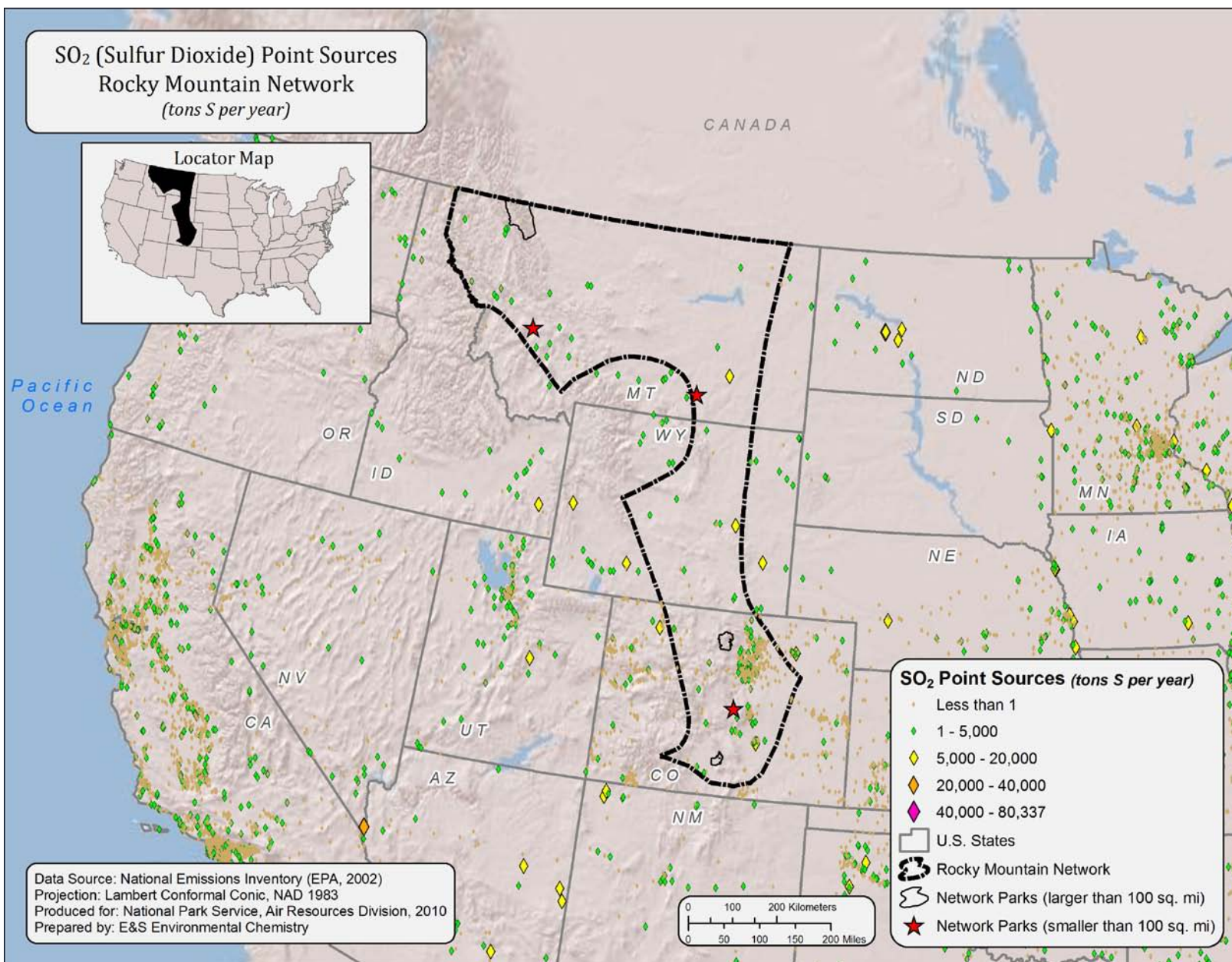
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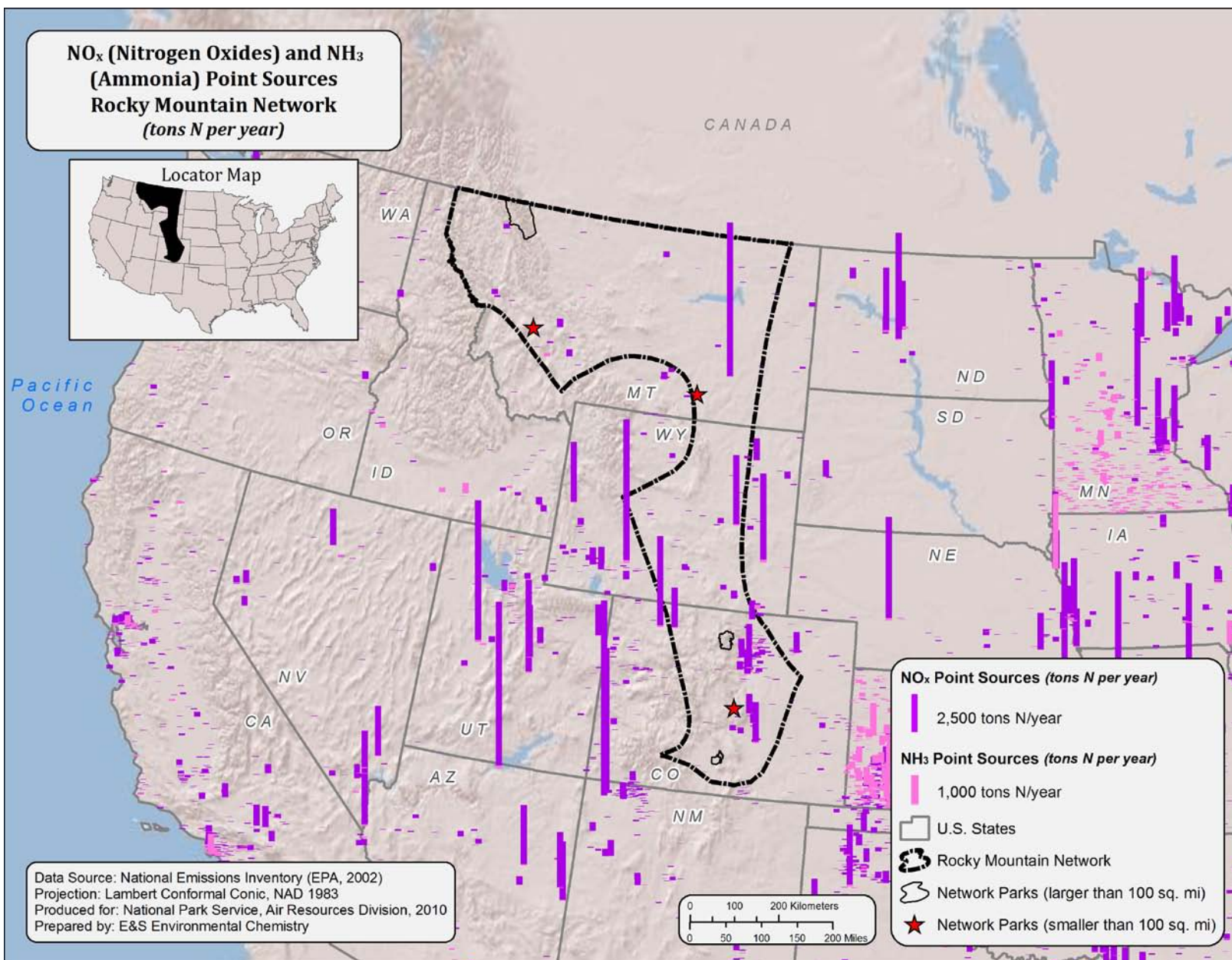
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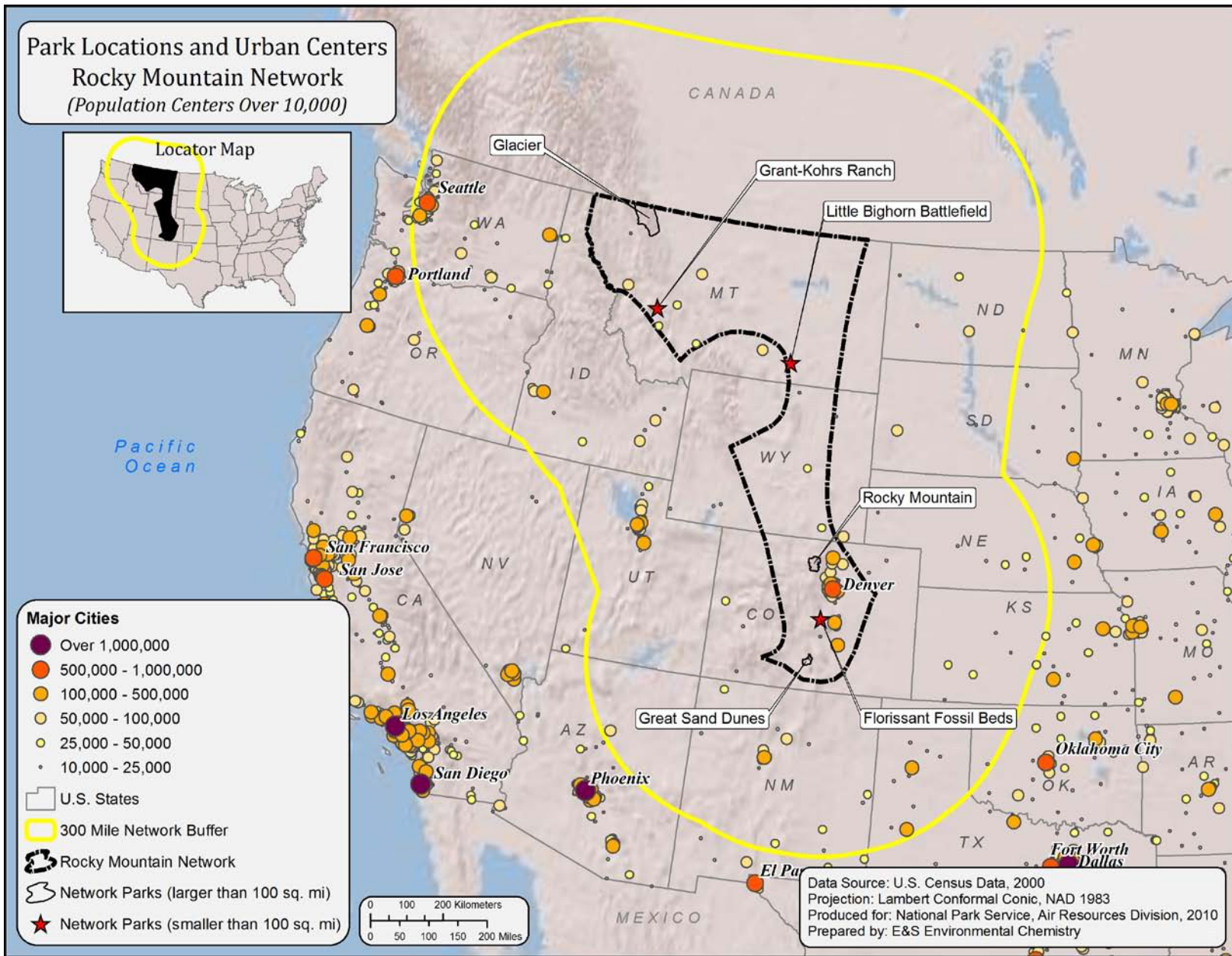
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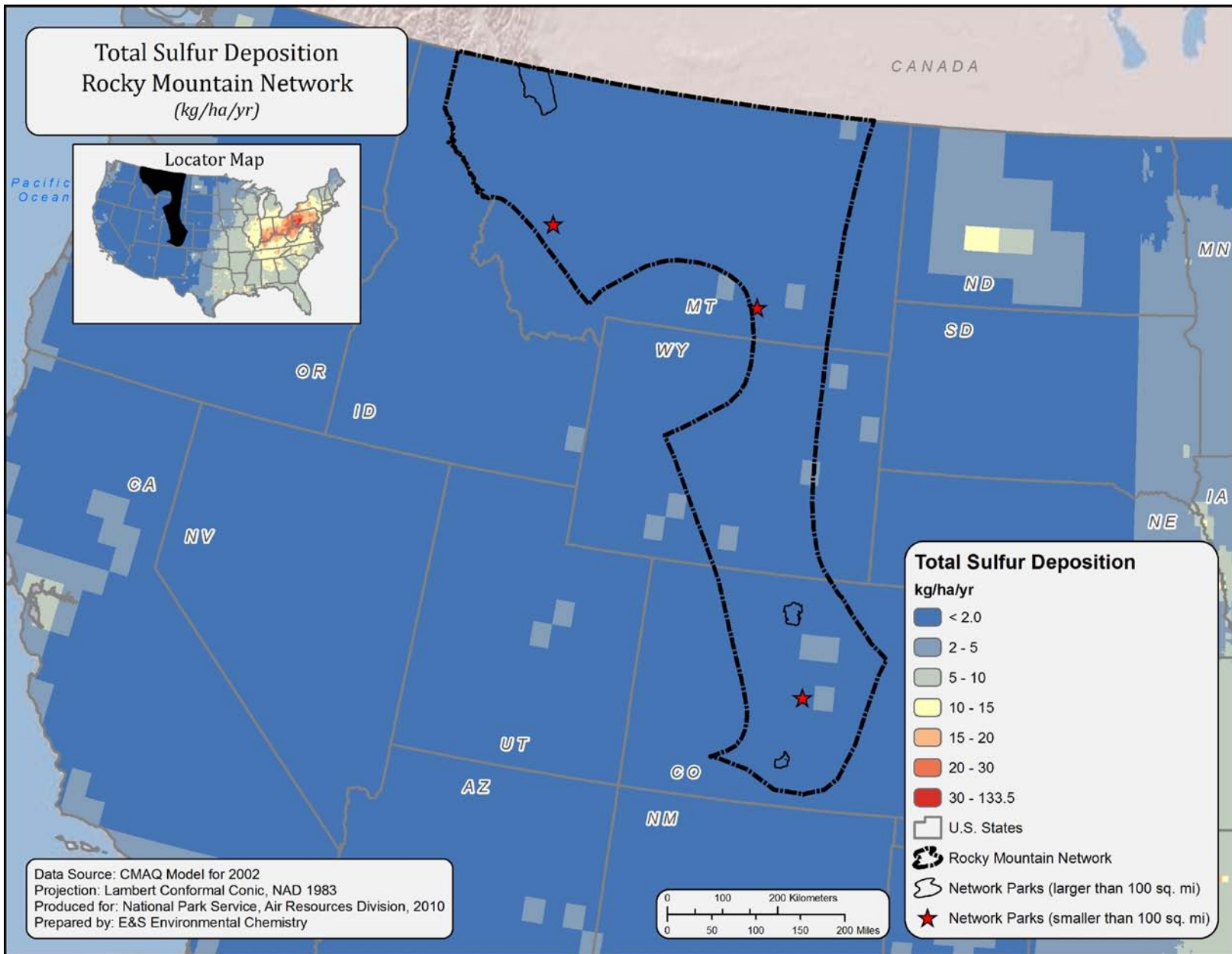
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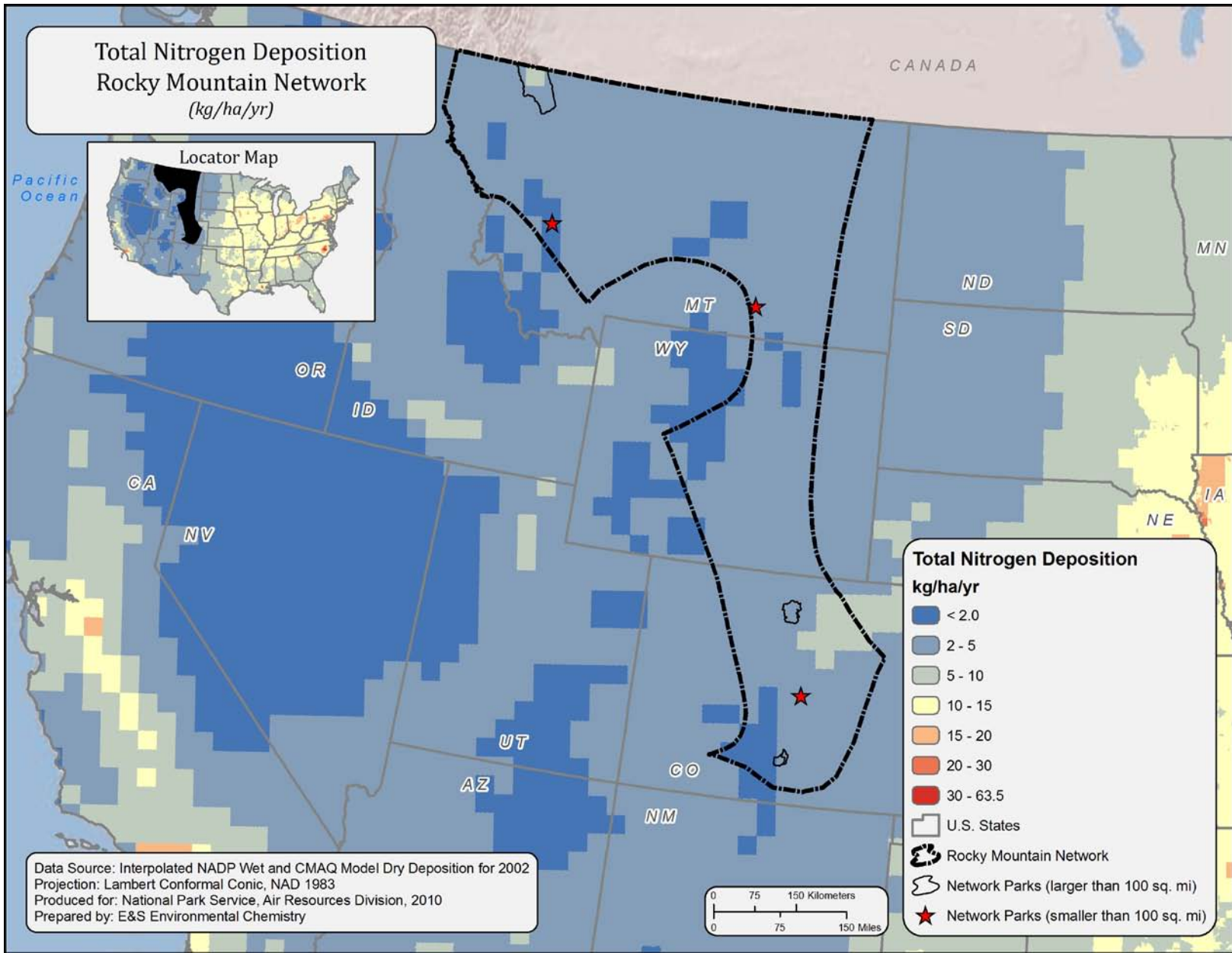
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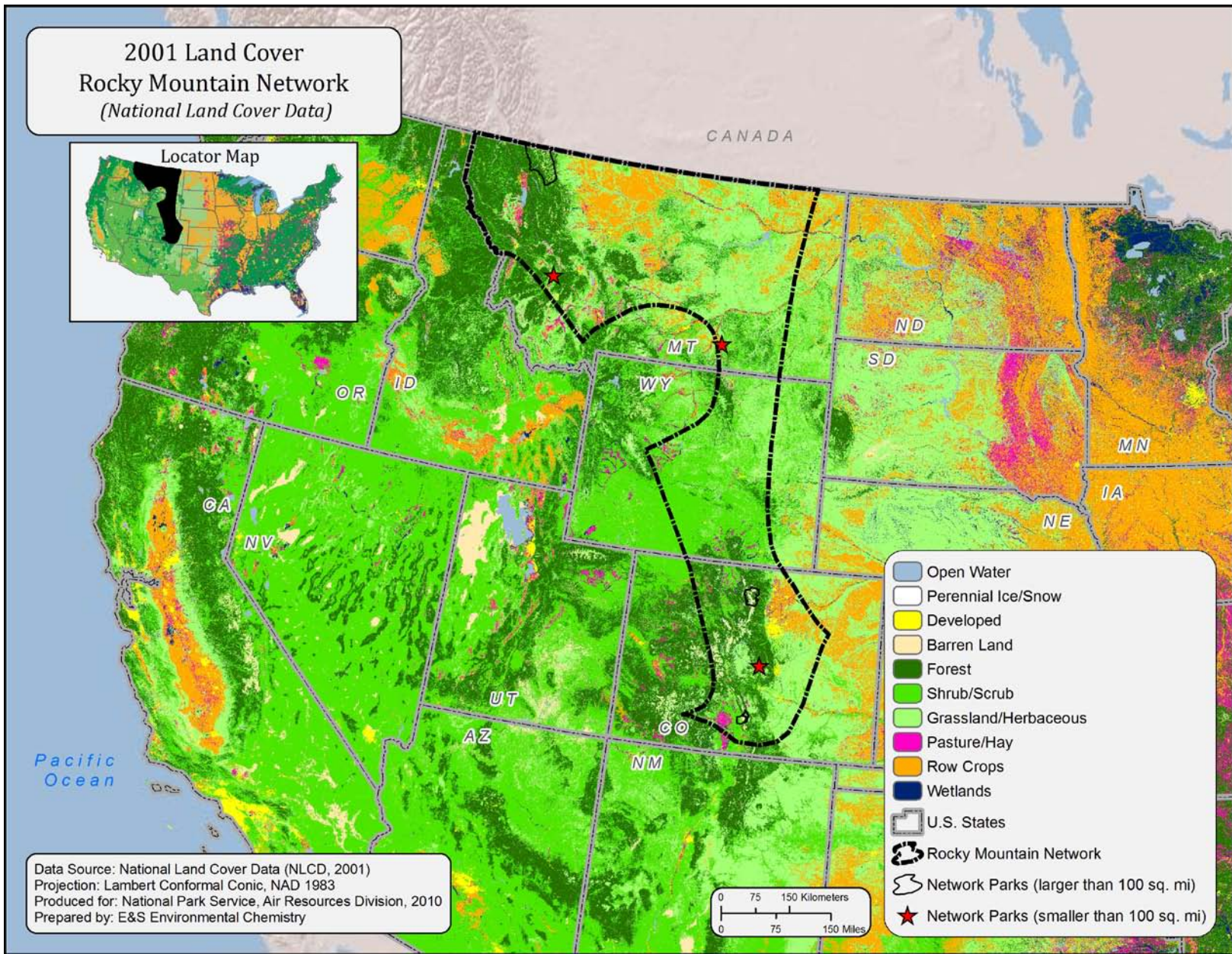
Map I



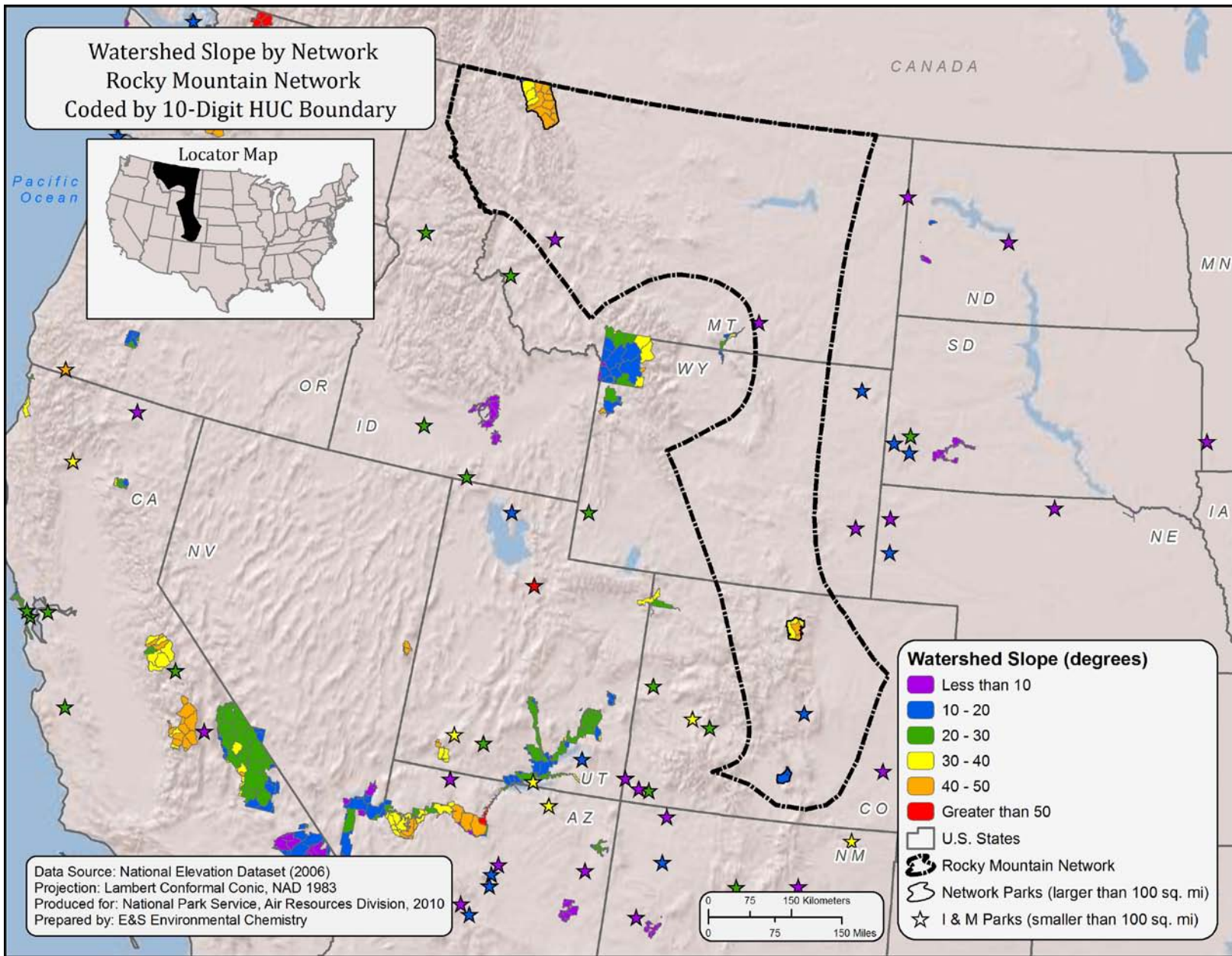
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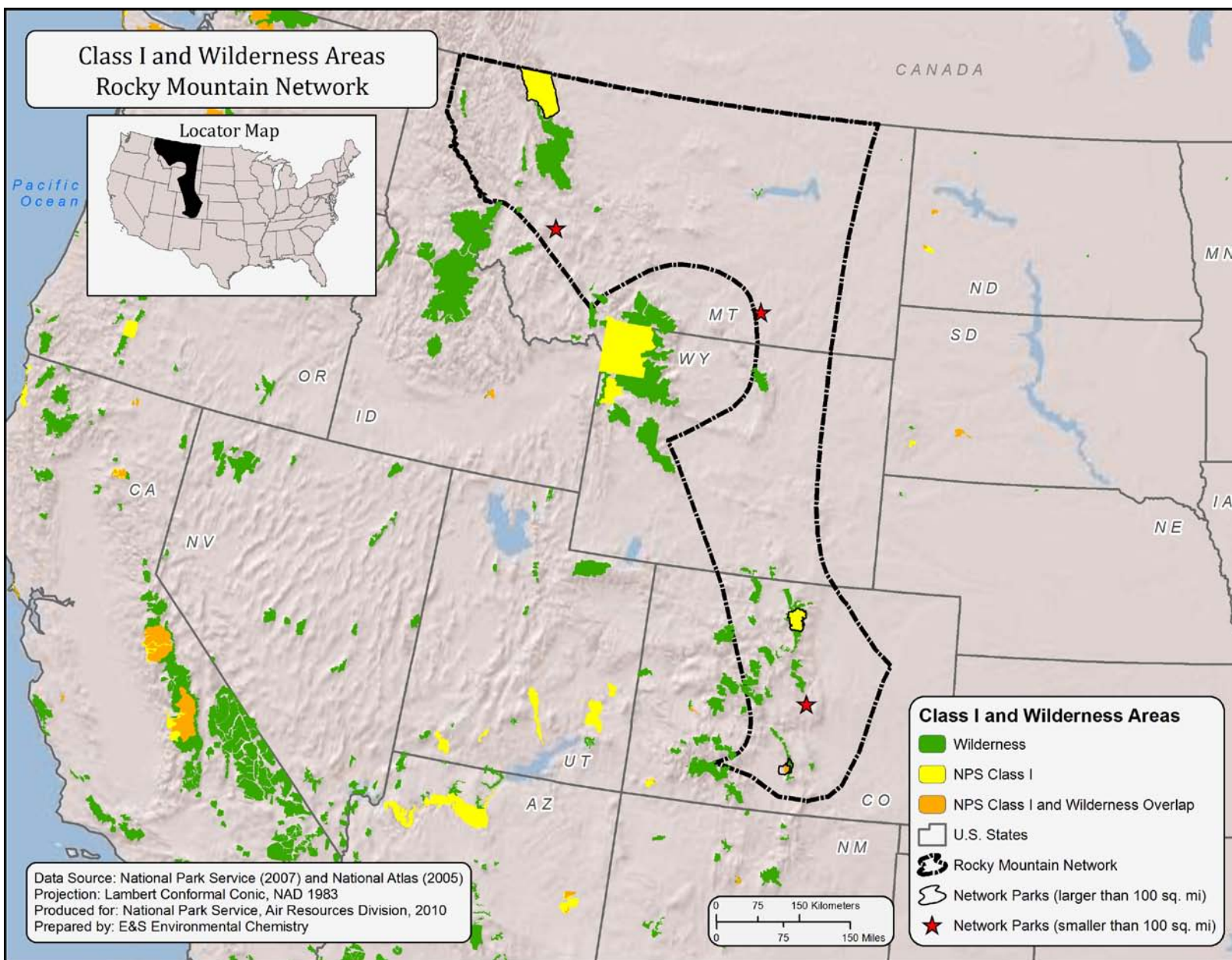
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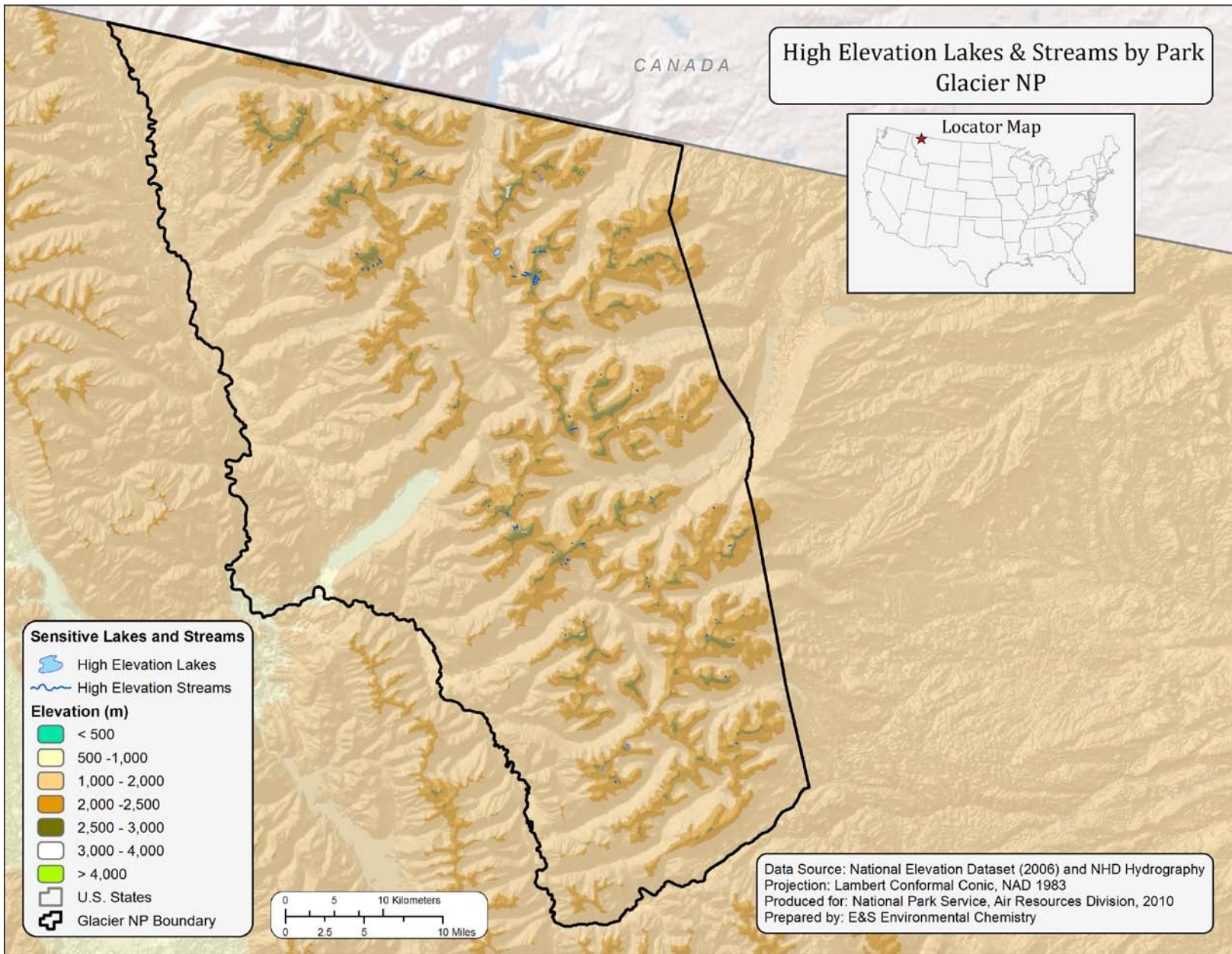
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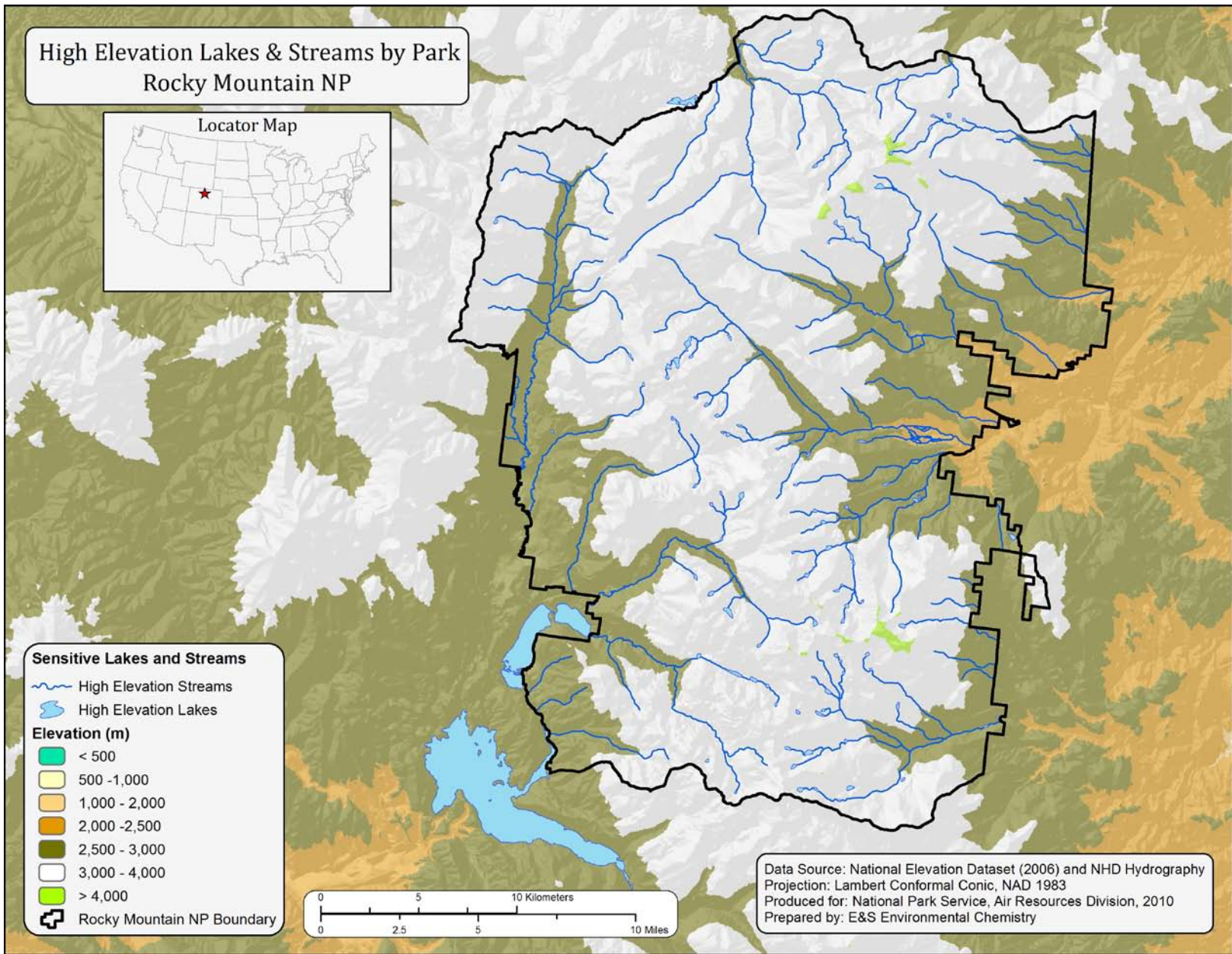
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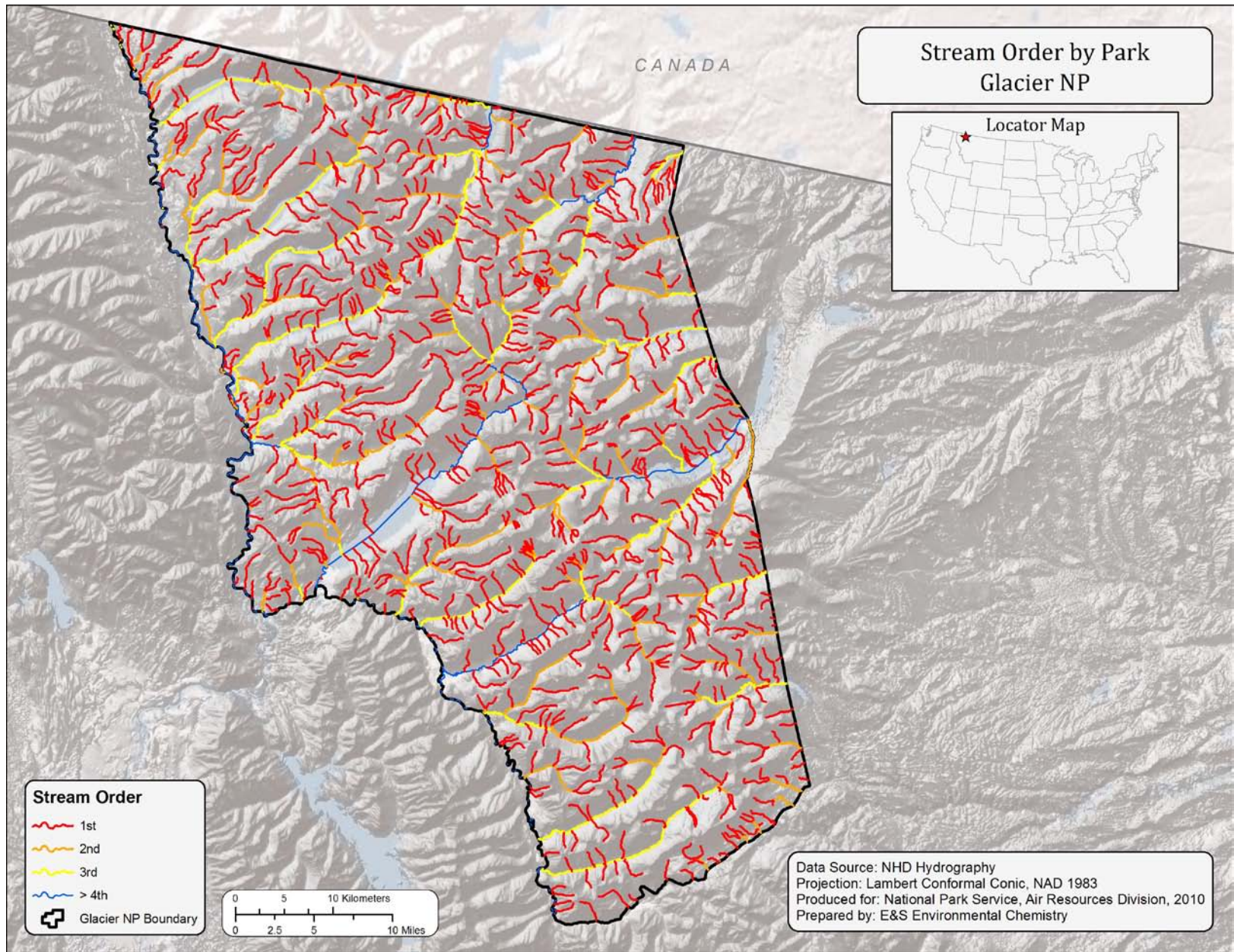
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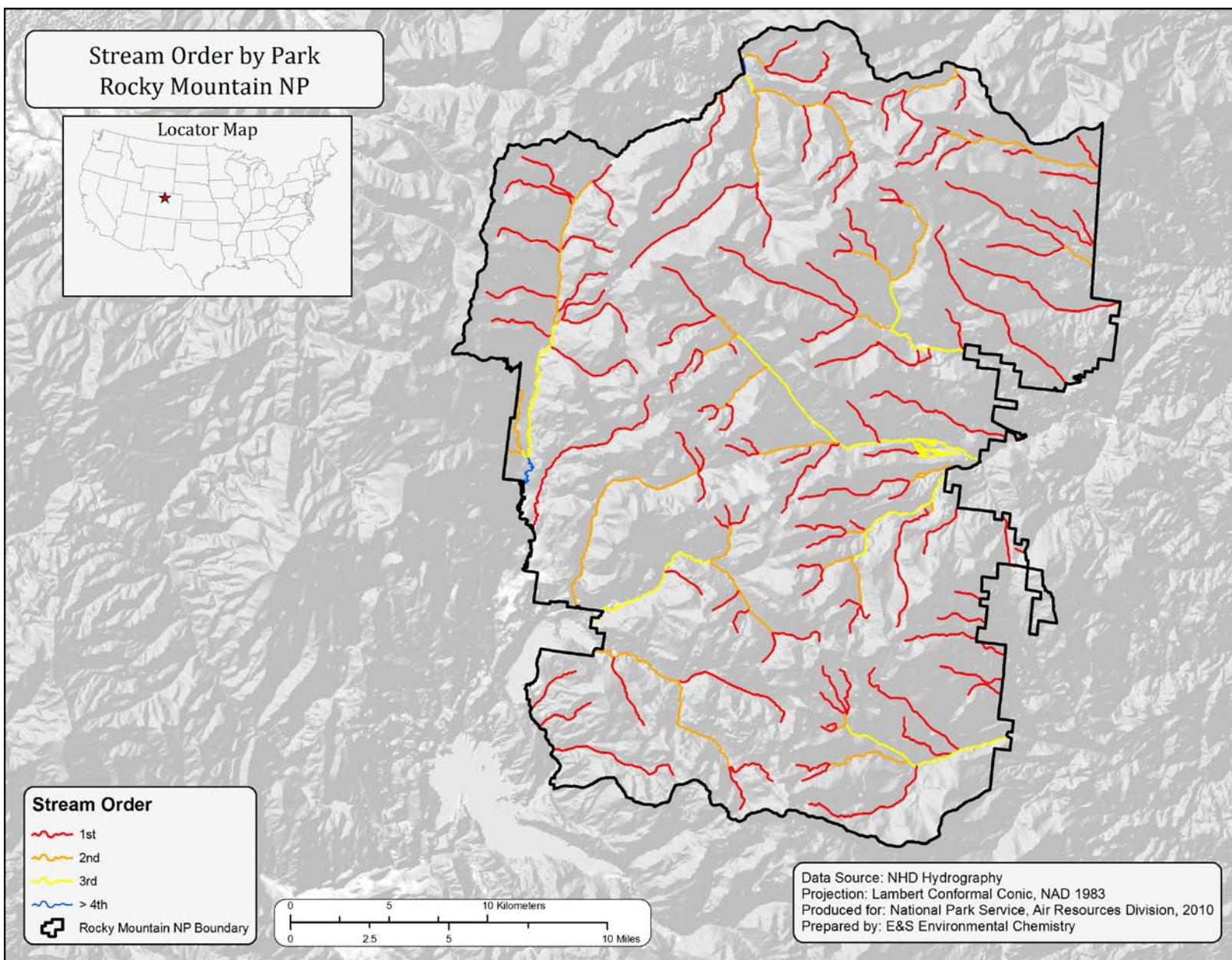
Map P-1



Map P-2



Map P-3



Map P-4

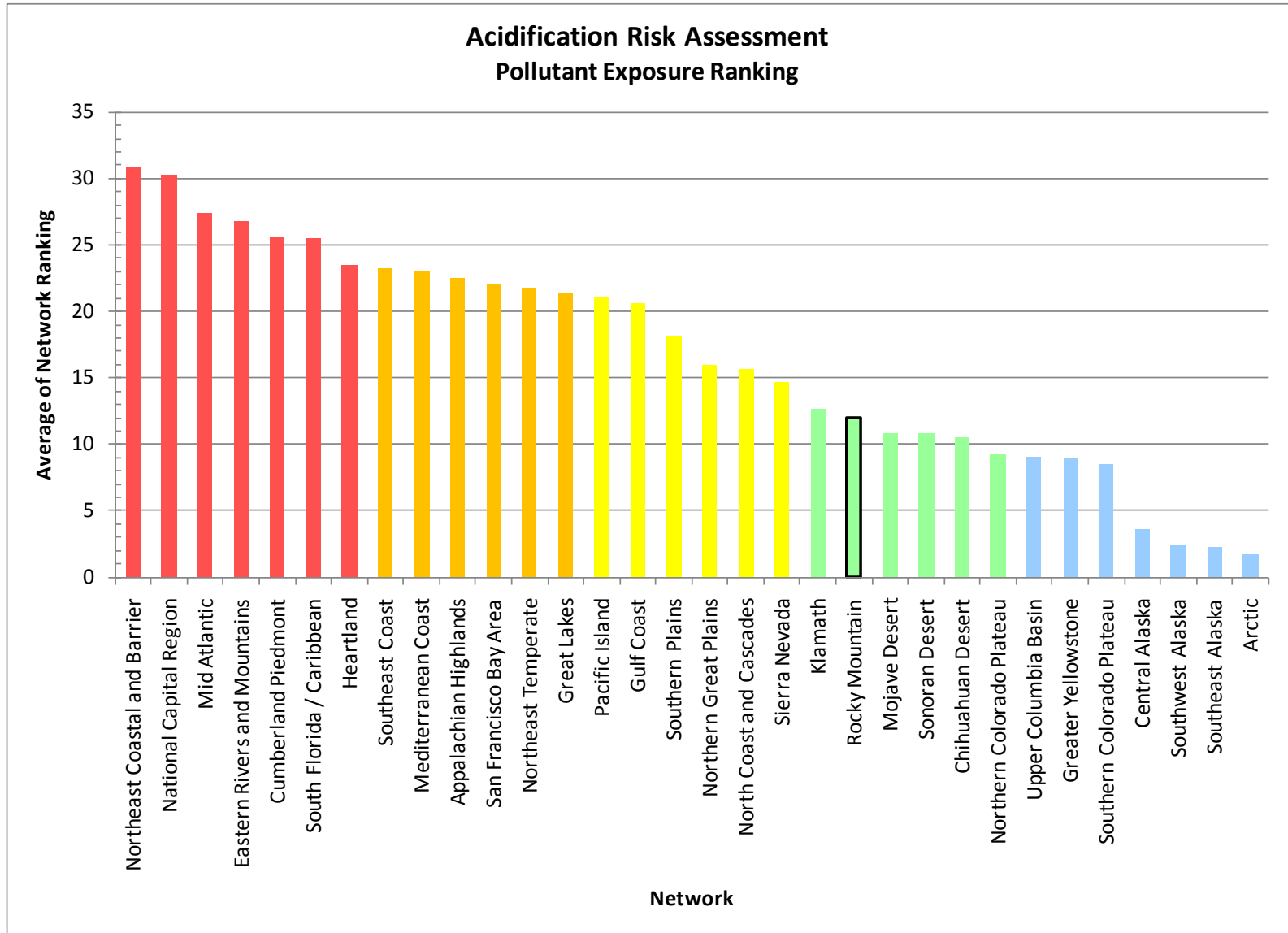


Figure A

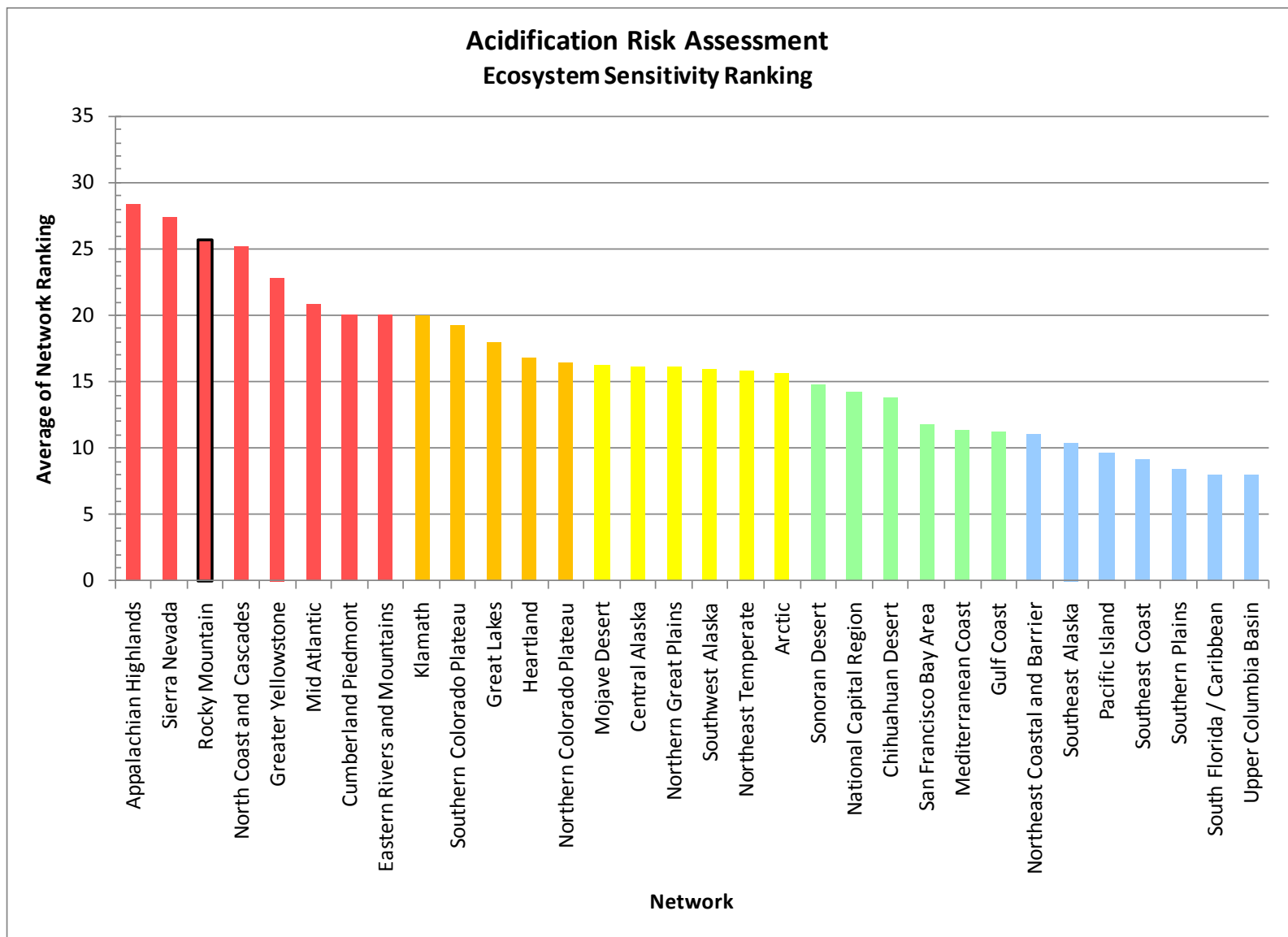


Figure B

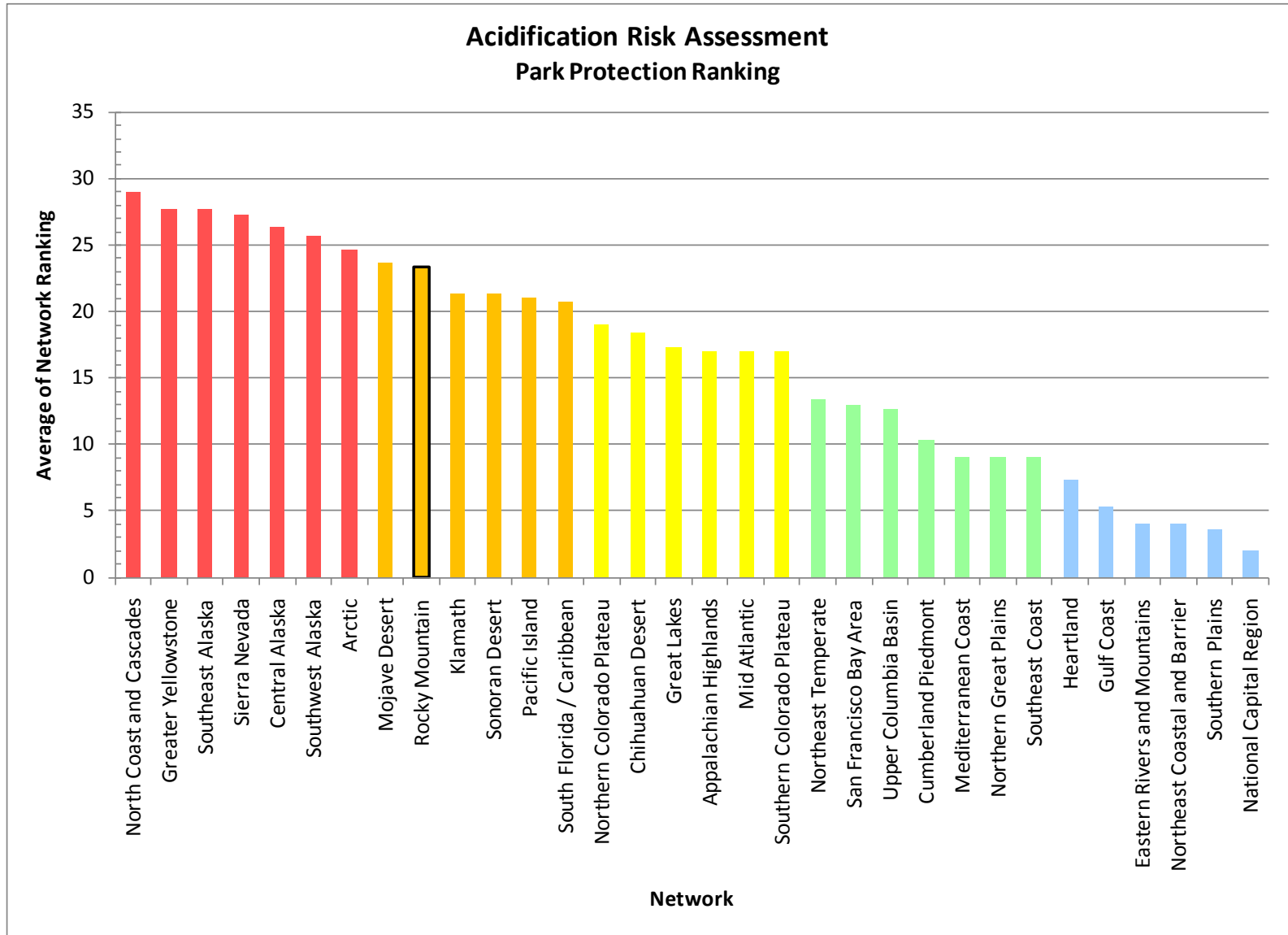


Figure C

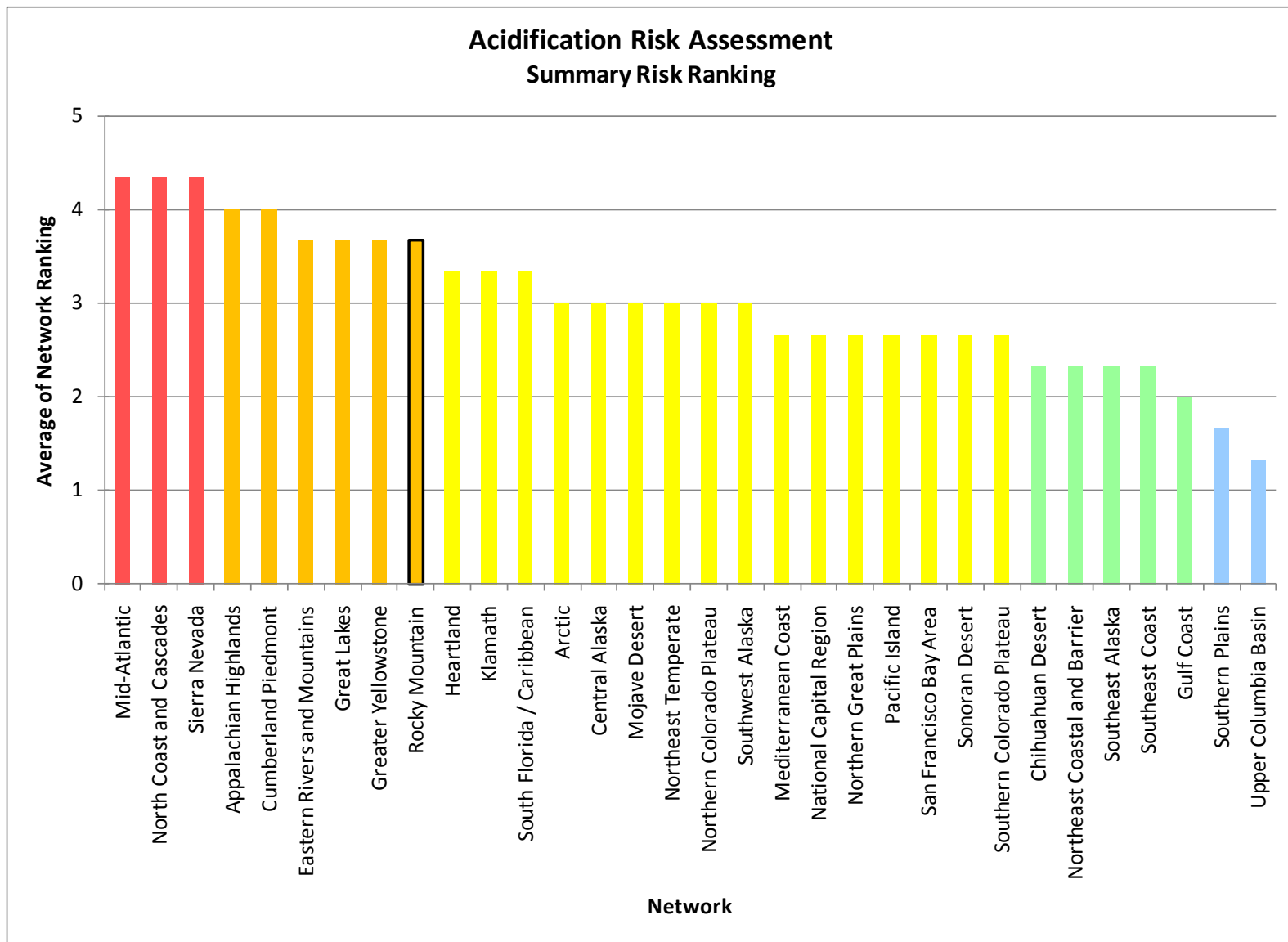


Figure D

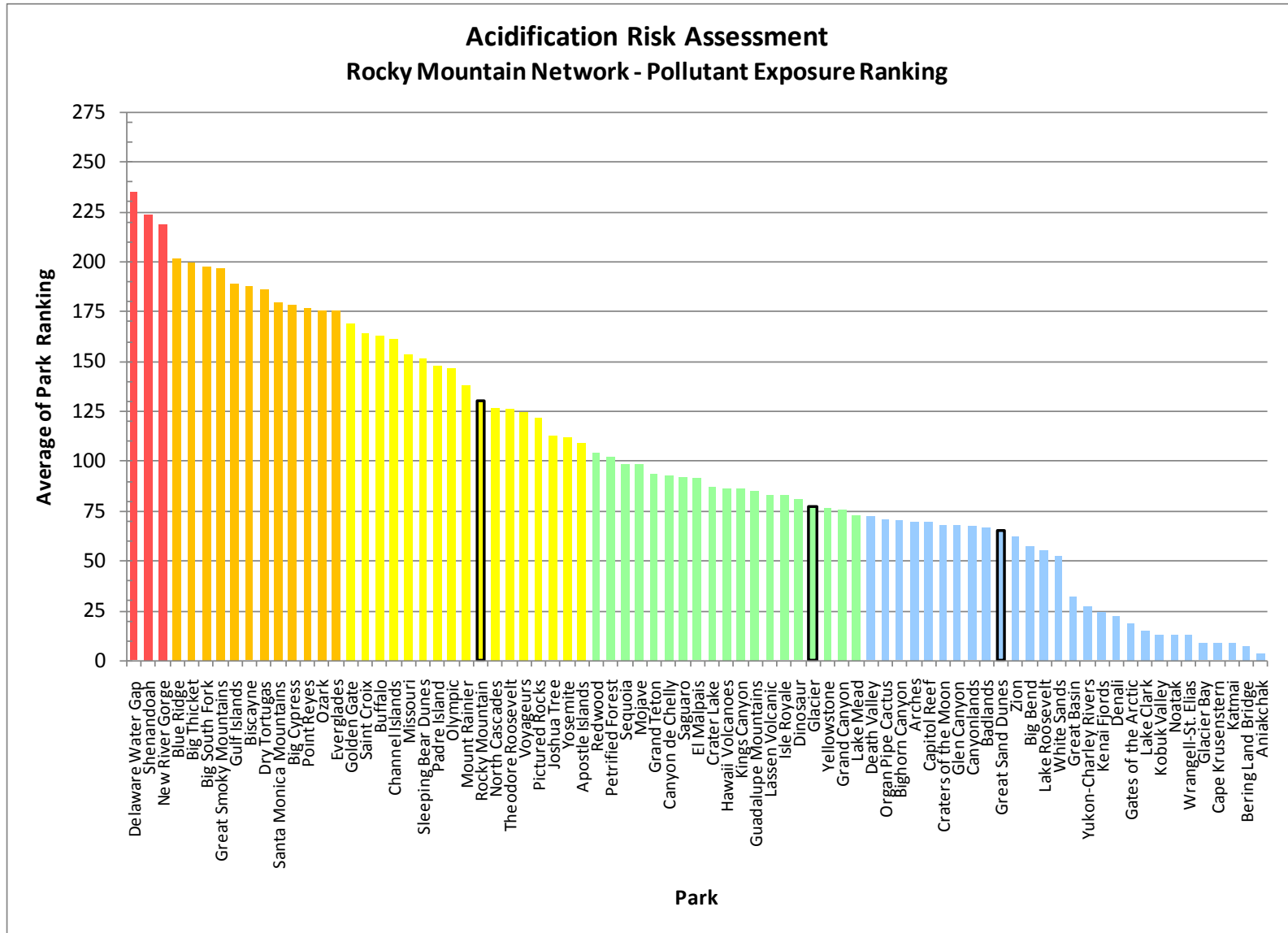


Figure E

ROMN-30

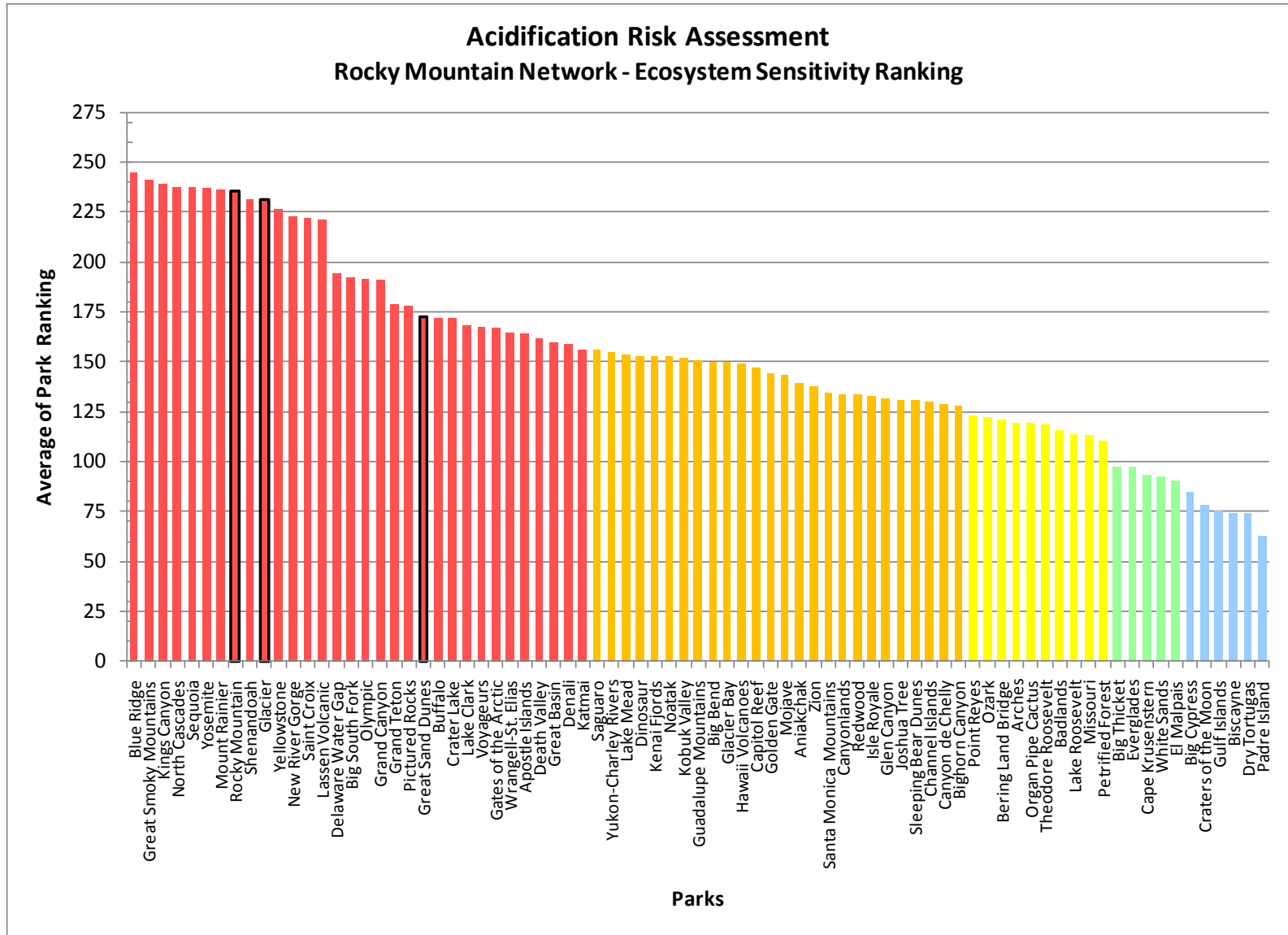


Figure F

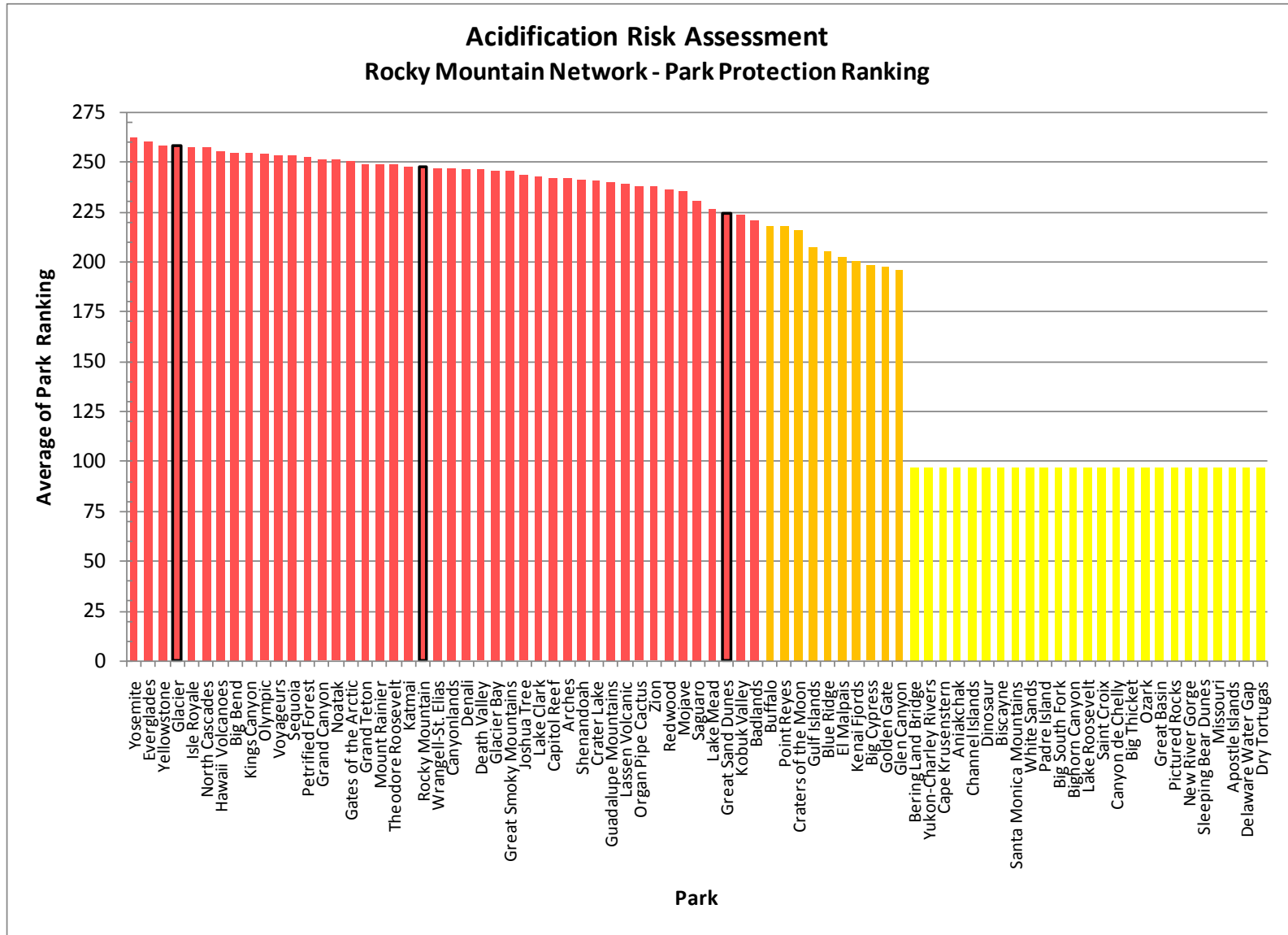


Figure G

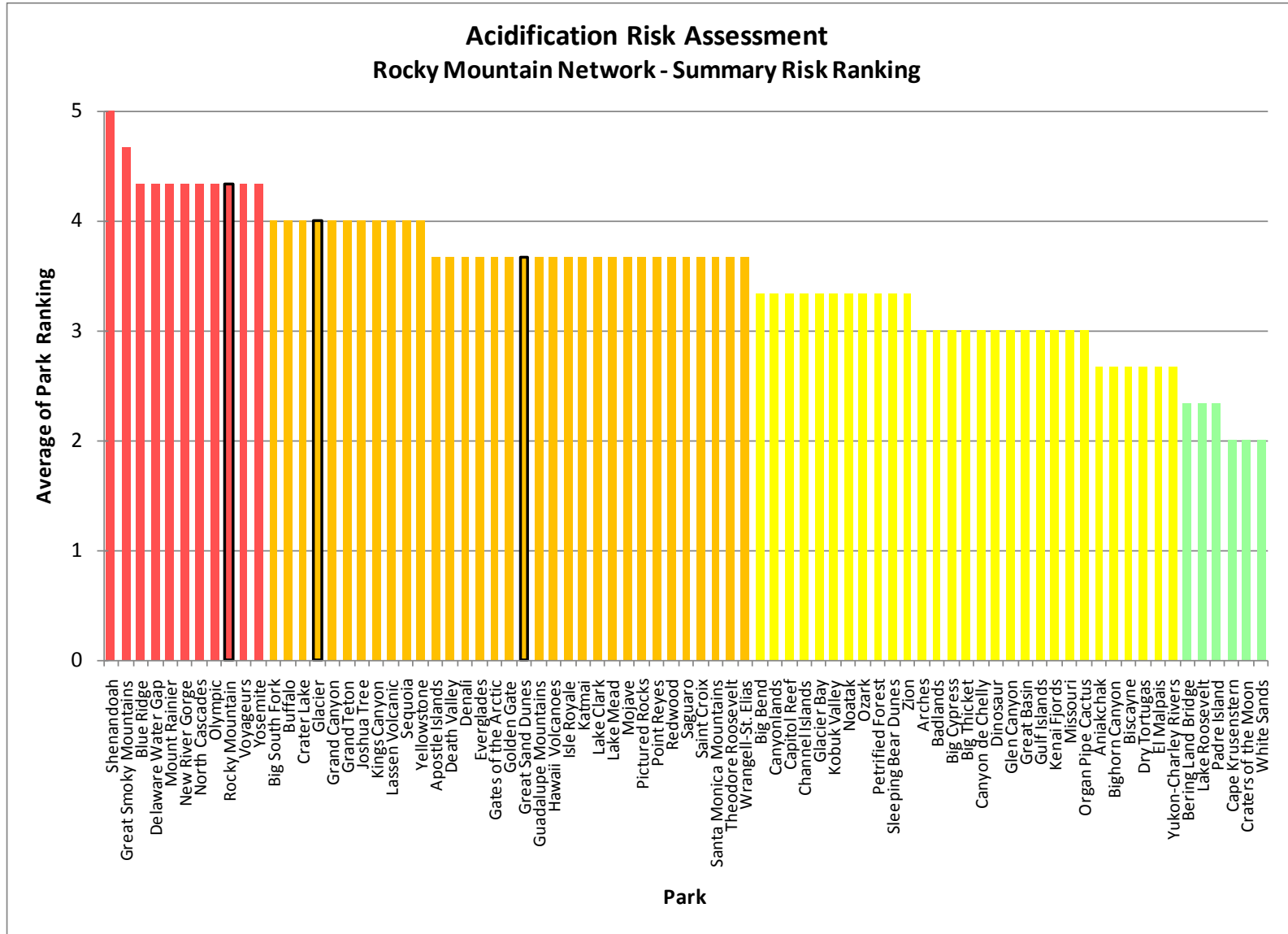


Figure H

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

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