



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

Southeast Coast Network (SECN)

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/ARD/NRR—2011/375



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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April 2011

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Natural Resource Program Center
Denver, Colorado

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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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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/>).

Please cite this publication as:

Sullivan, T. J., G. T. McPherson, T. C. McDonnell, S. D. Mackey, and D. Moore. 2011. Evaluation of the sensitivity of inventory and monitoring national parks to acidification effects from atmospheric sulfur and nitrogen deposition: Southeast Coast Network (SECN). Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/ARD/NRR—2011/375. National Park Service, Denver, Colorado.

Southeast Coast Network (SECN)

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 17 parks in the Southeast Coast Network. None are larger than 100 square miles. The majority are located in close proximity to the Atlantic coastline.

Total annual S and N emissions, by county, are shown in Maps E and F, respectively, for lands in and surrounding the Southeast Coast Network. Annual county-level S emissions within the network varied substantially. A large portion of the network had emissions less than 1 ton per square mile. However, there were areas scattered throughout the network with higher emissions, including a few counties that emitted more than 100 tons of S per square mile. County-level N annual emissions within the network ranged from less than 1 ton per square mile to greater than 20 tons per square mile. In general, annual county N emissions were between 1 and 20 tons per square mile throughout most of the network, with scattered counties having both lower and higher emissions. There were many point sources of SO₂ in the network (Map G). Most emitted less than 5,000 tons of S per year, although there were a few that emitted larger amounts, ranging from 5,000 to over 40,000 tons of S per year. Point source emissions of oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO_x) and reduced (ammonia, NH₃) N are shown in Map H. There were many relatively large (i.e., larger than about 2,000 tons per year) point sources of oxidized N scattered throughout the network. Point sources of reduced N tended to be smaller than 1,000 tons per year.

Urban centers within the network and within a 300-mile buffer around the network are shown in Map I. The largest population center with the network is Jacksonville (more than 500,000 people). There are also a number of moderately sized population centers in the range of 100,000 to 500,000, mainly in the north.

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 for most of the network was between 5 and 10 kg S/ha/yr. There were large areas, however, where deposition was between 10 and 15 kg S/ha/yr, with scattered pockets of higher deposition (Map J). Total N deposition within the network ranged from as low as 5 to 10 kg N/ha/yr to over 30 kg N/ha/yr in some small areas. Estimated N deposition throughout most of the network was between 5 and 15 kg N/ha/yr.

Land cover in and around the network is shown in Map L. The cover types within this network are mixed, with forest, shrubland, wetland, row crops, pasture/hay, and developed lands all being common.

Watershed slope is shown in Map M. The average slope for all but one (Kennesaw Mountain [KEMO]) of the parks in this network is less than 10°.

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. There are no Class I areas in this network, and limited designated wilderness, all of it 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 Southeast Coast Network ranked at the top of the second highest quintile, among networks, in Pollutant Exposure (Figure A). Emissions and deposition of S and N within the network are fairly high. The network Ecosystem Sensitivity ranking was Very Low, in the bottom quintile among networks (Figure B). This network ranked at the bottom of the second lowest quintile in Park Protection, having 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 relatively low among networks (Figure D).

There are no I&M parks in this network that are larger than 100 square miles. Therefore, the figures to compare risks among the larger parks are not shown for parks in this network. Relative ranks for all parks, including the smaller parks, are given in Table A and Appendix A.

Three parks in this network (Chattahoochee River [CHAT], KEMO, and Moores Creek [MOCR]) were ranked in the highest quintile for Pollutant Exposure. The rest of the parks were ranked in the second highest quintile for this theme. Park rankings for Ecosystem Sensitivity were highly variable across the network, with rankings in the second highest quintile for one park (CHAT) and Moderate for two parks (Horseshoe Bend [HOBE] and KEMO). For the remaining parks, Ecosystem Sensitivity was in the lowest quintile for 11 parks and in the second lowest quintile for three parks (Table A). Most (15) of the parks were ranked in the middle quintile in Park Protection; two (Congaree [COSW] and Cumberland Island [CUIS]) were ranked in the second highest quintile.

The overall Summary Risk ranked two of the parks (CHAT and KEMO) in this network as High for risk of acidification. The other parks were ranked Moderate, indicating a moderate overall acidification risk (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
Canaveral	High	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate
Cape Hatteras	High	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate
Cape Lookout	High	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate
Castillo de San Marcos	High	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate
Chattahoochee River	Very High	High	Moderate	High
Congaree	High	Low	High	Moderate
Cumberland Island	High	Low	High	Moderate
Fort Caroline	High	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate
Fort Frederica	High	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate
Fort Matanzas	High	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate
Fort Pulaski	High	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate
Fort Sumter	High	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate
Horseshoe Bend	High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Kennesaw Mountain	Very High	Moderate	Moderate	High
Moore's Creek	Very High	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate
Ocmulgee	High	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate
Timucaun Ecological and Historical Preserve	High	Low	Moderate	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.

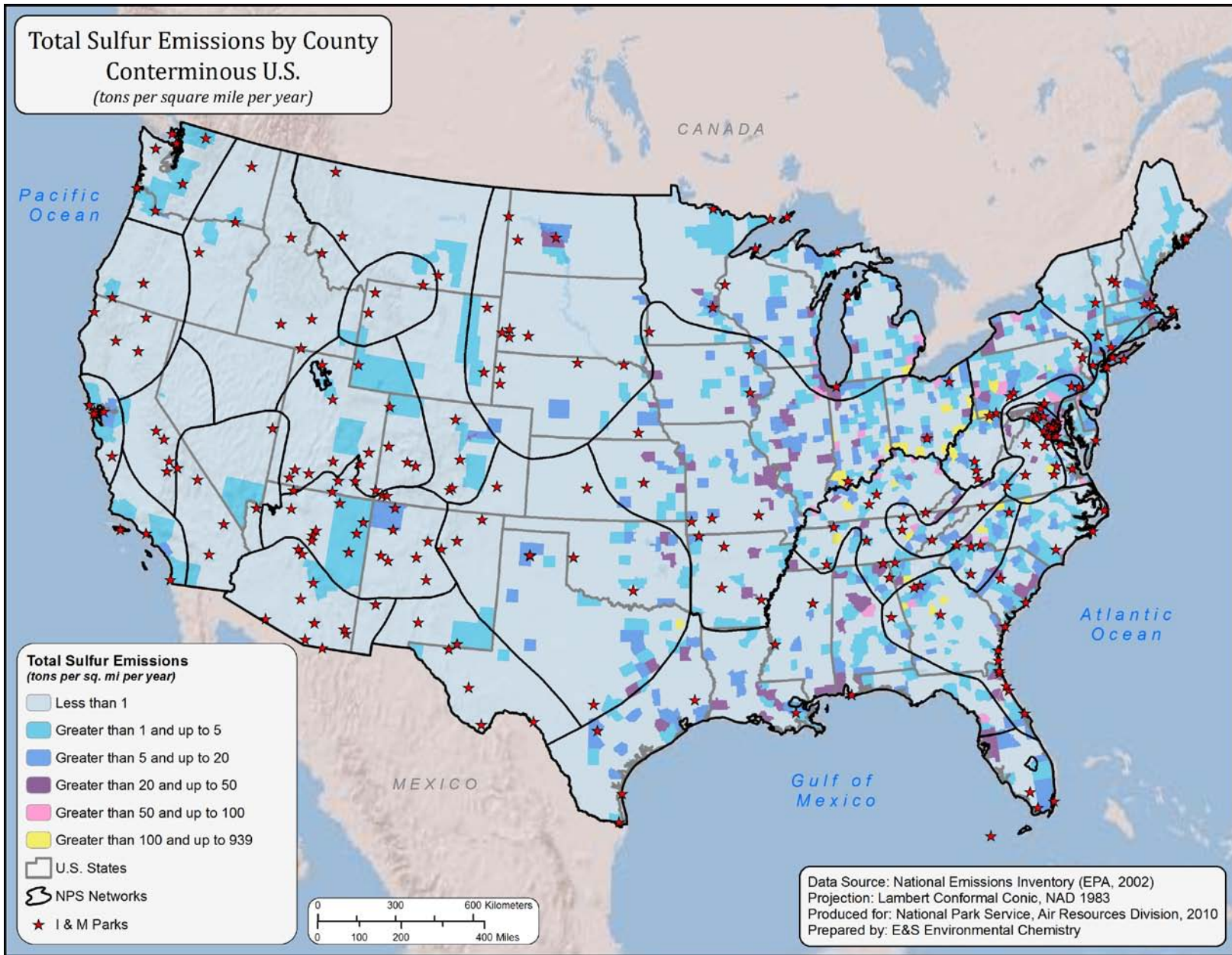
- Map A. National map of total S emissions by county for the year 2002, in units of tons of S per square mile per year. (Source of data: EPA National Emissions Inventory, <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html>)
- Map B. National map of total N emissions by county for the year 2002. Both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

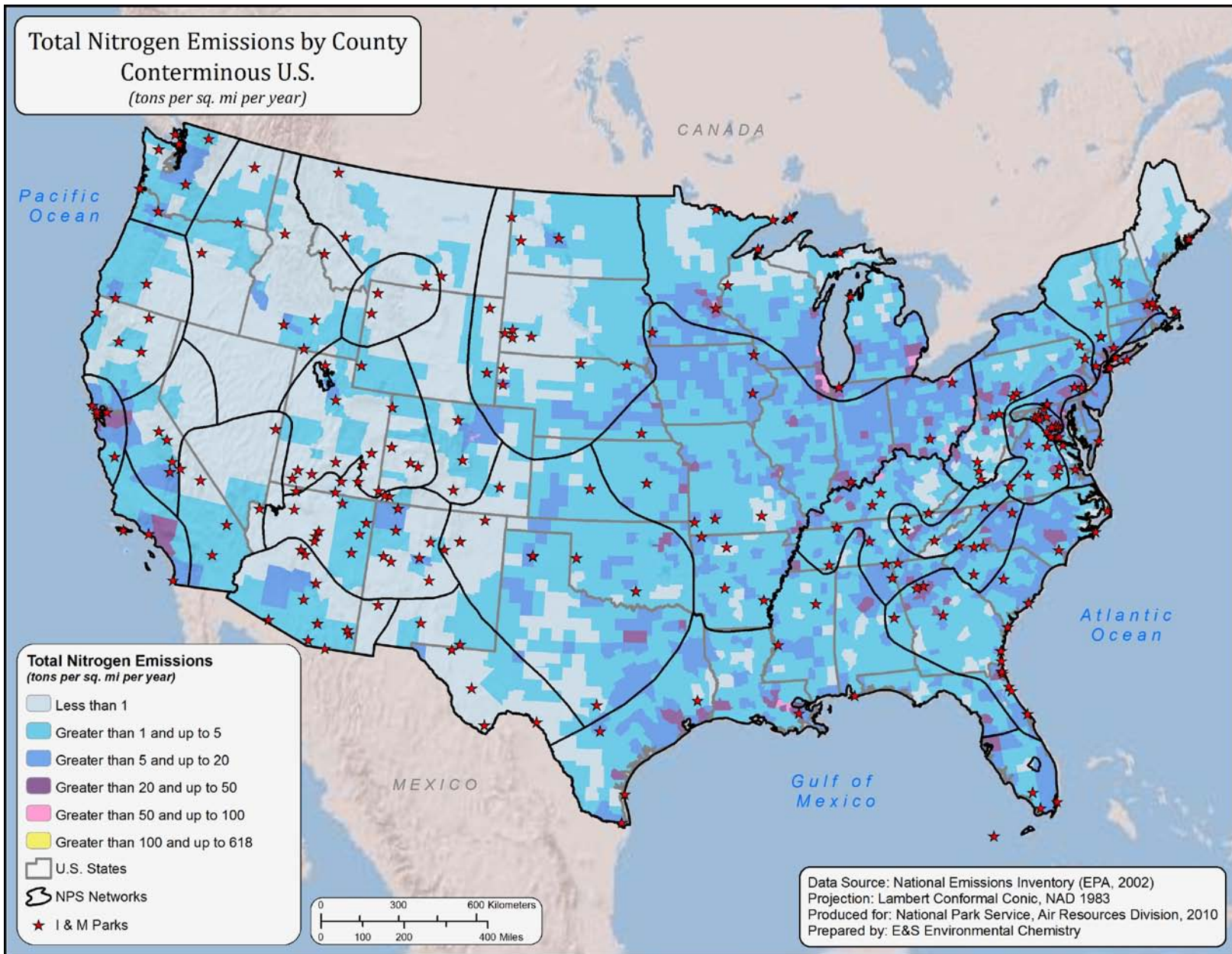
- Map D. Total N deposition for the conterminous United States for the year 2002, expressed in units of kilograms of N deposited from the atmosphere to the Earth surface per hectare per year. Wet and dry forms of both oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO_x) and reduced (ammonia, NH₃) N are included. For the 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: 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)

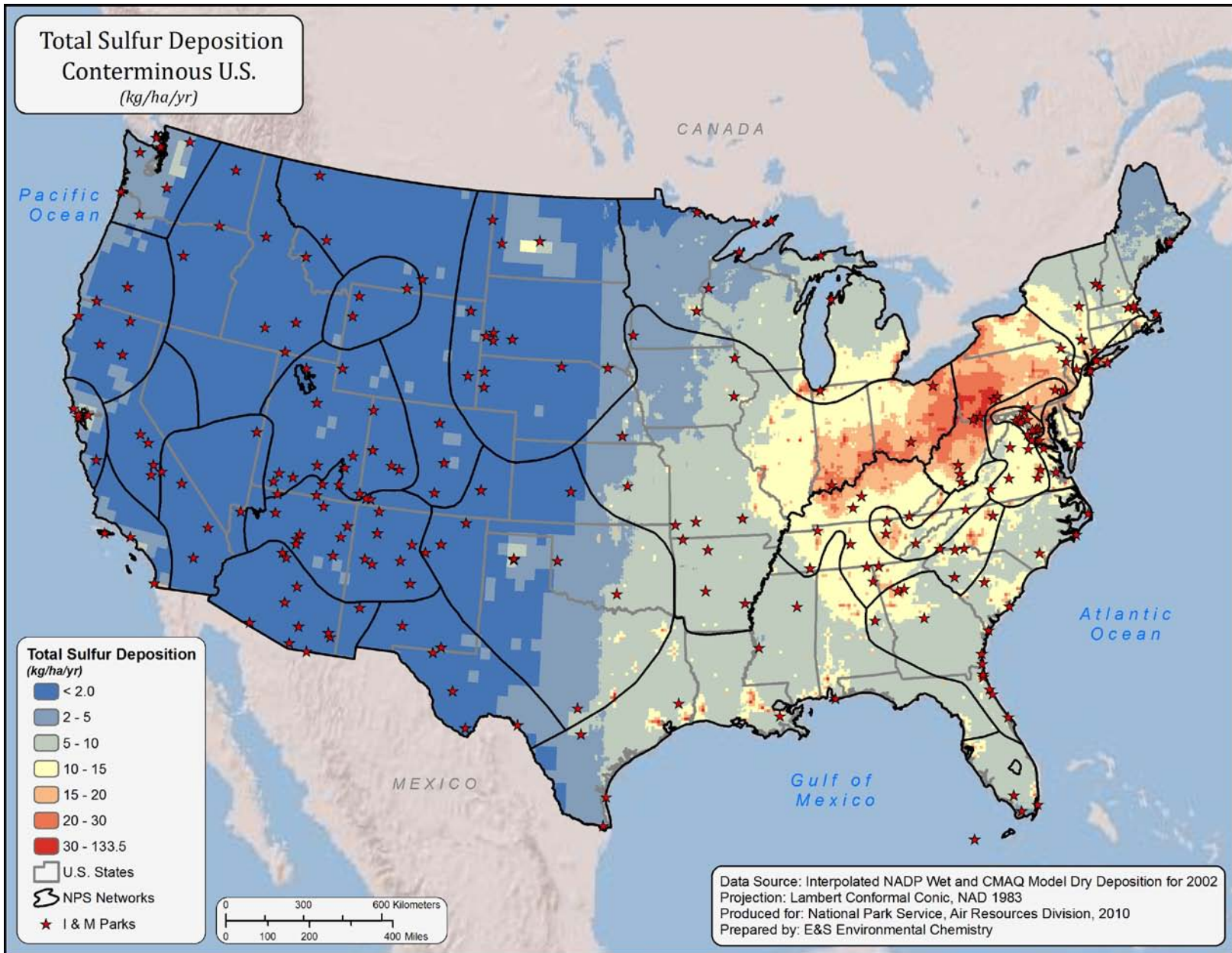
- Map L. Land cover types in and around the network, based on the National Land Cover dataset. (Source of data: National Land Cover Dataset, http://www.mrlc.gov/nlcd_multizone_map.php)
- Map M. Average land slope within park units that occur within the network, by 10-digit HUC. (Source of data: U.S.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



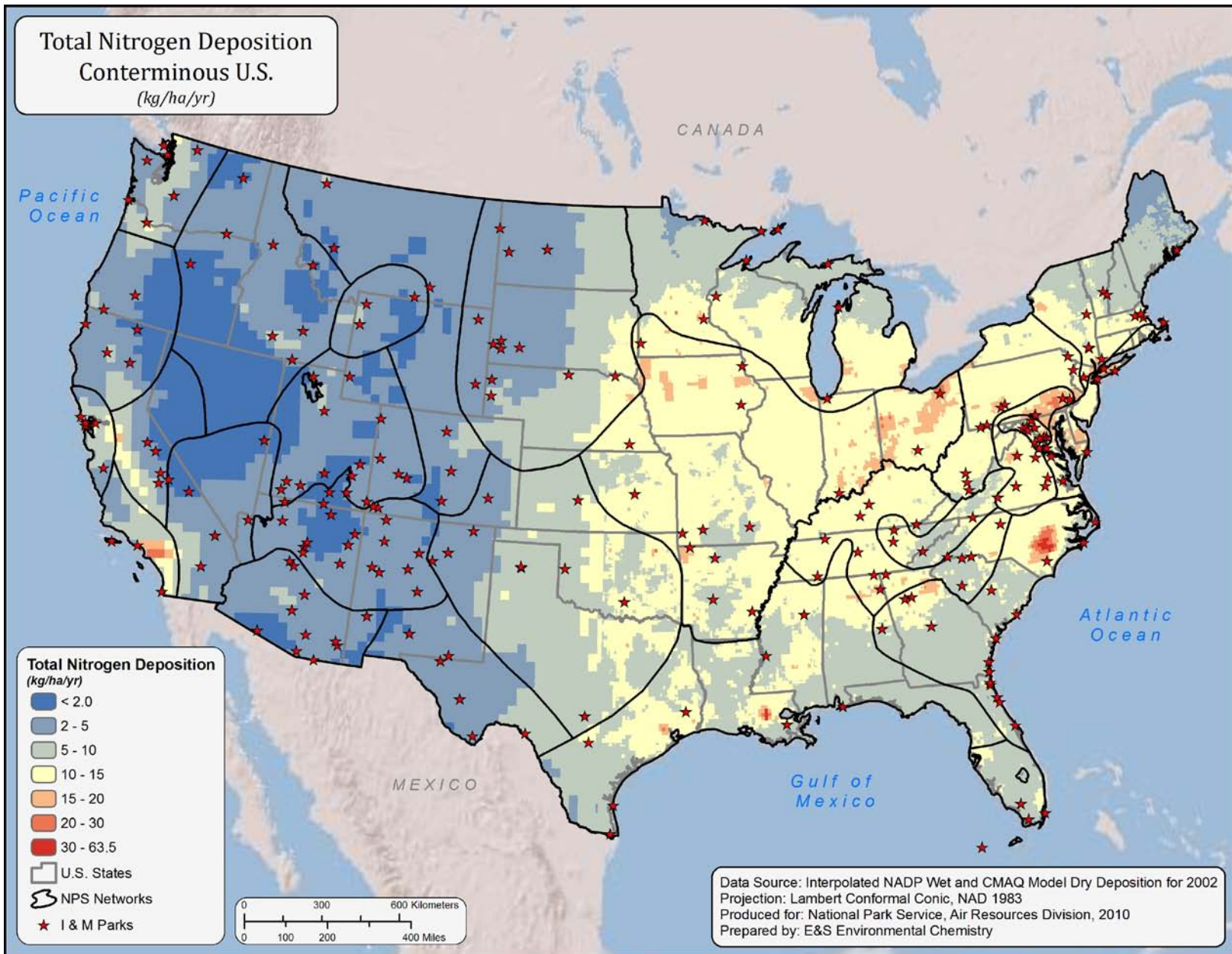
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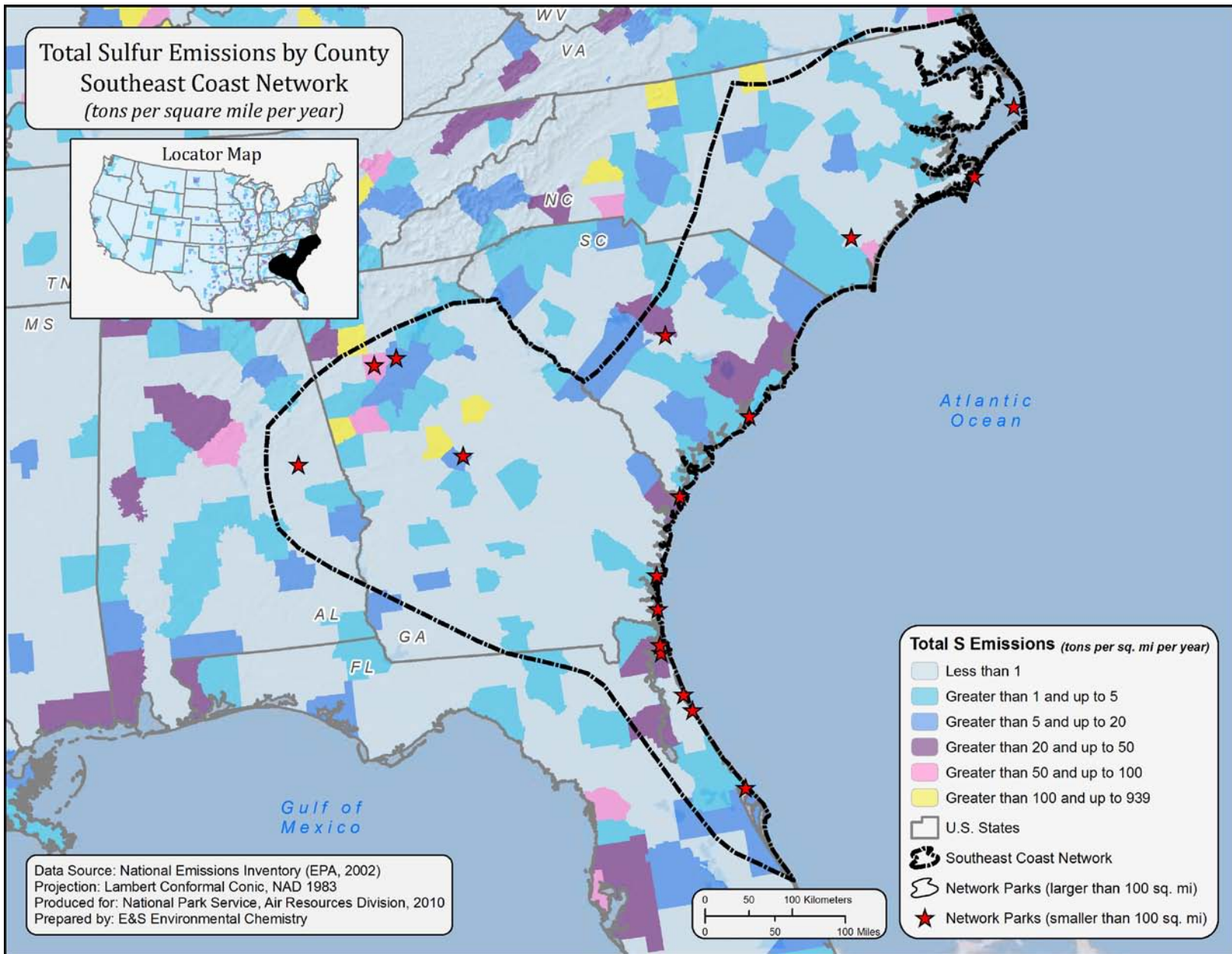
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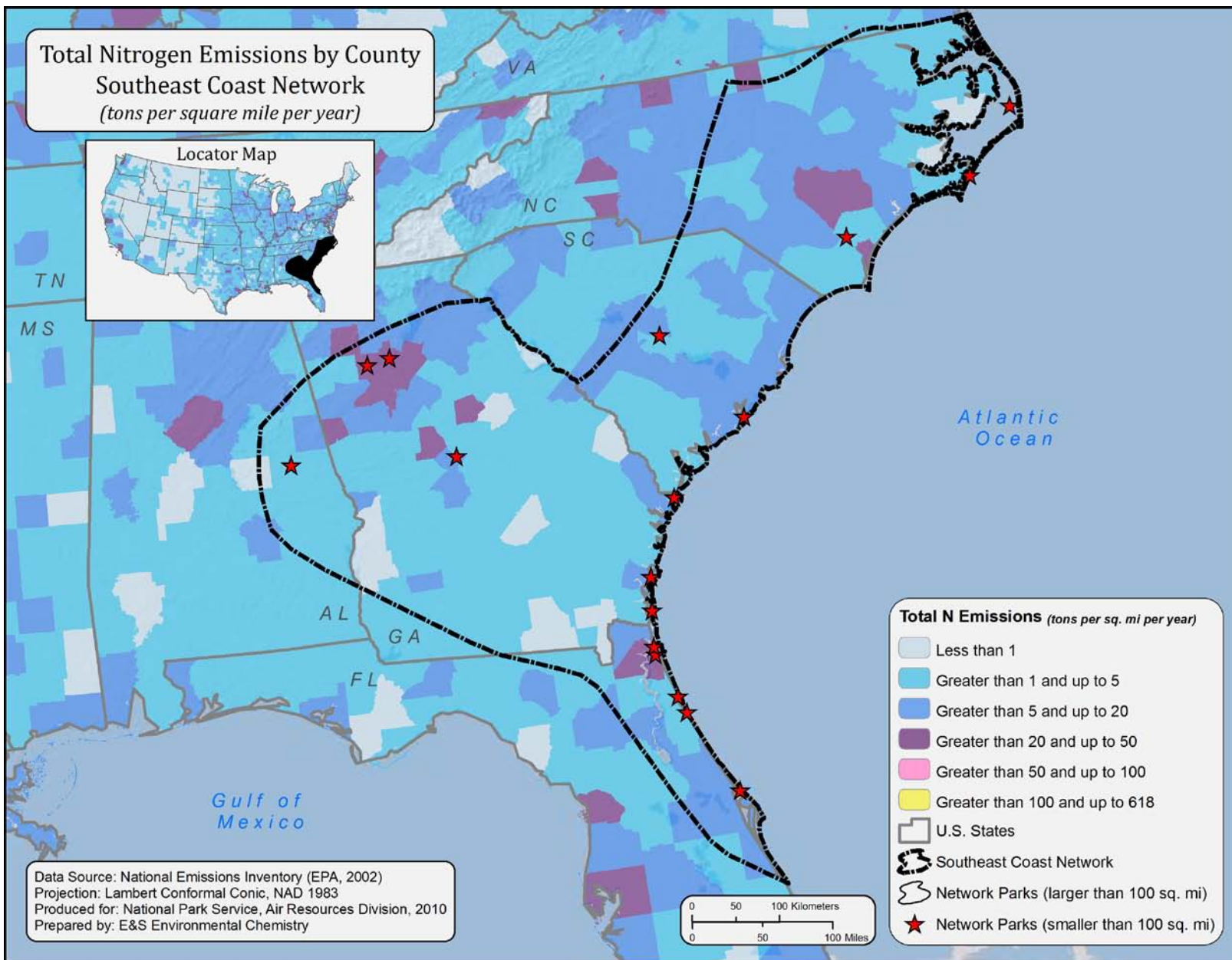
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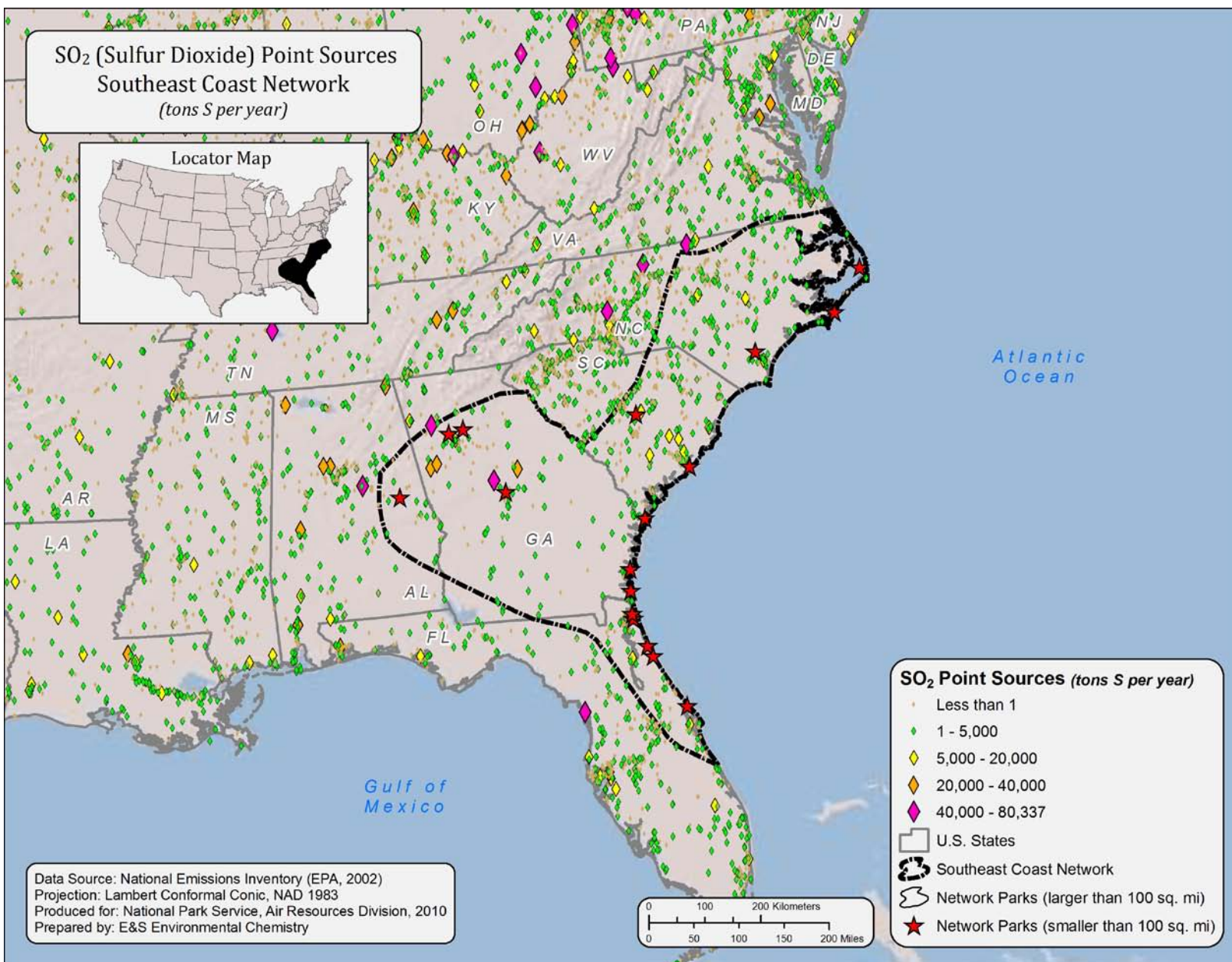
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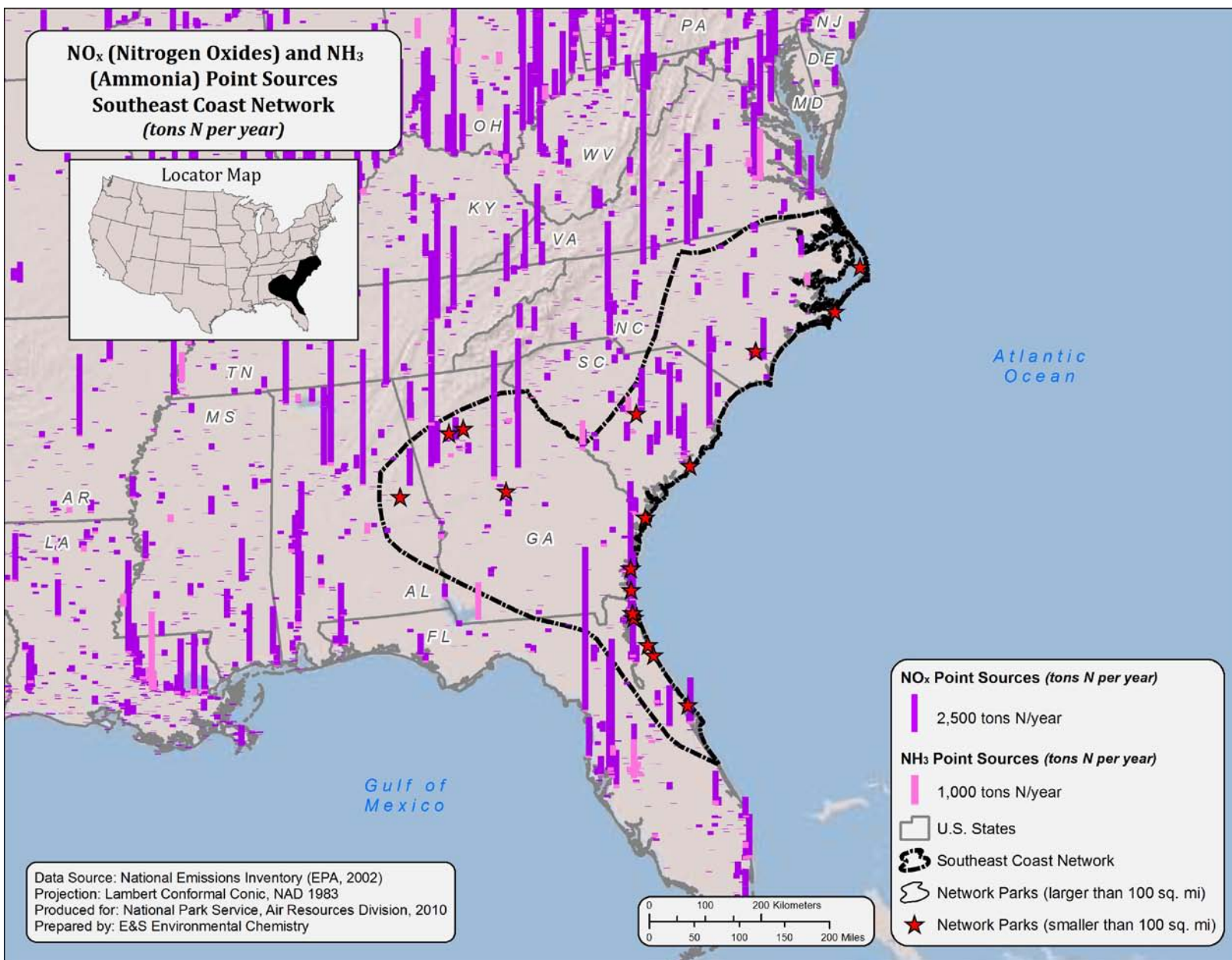
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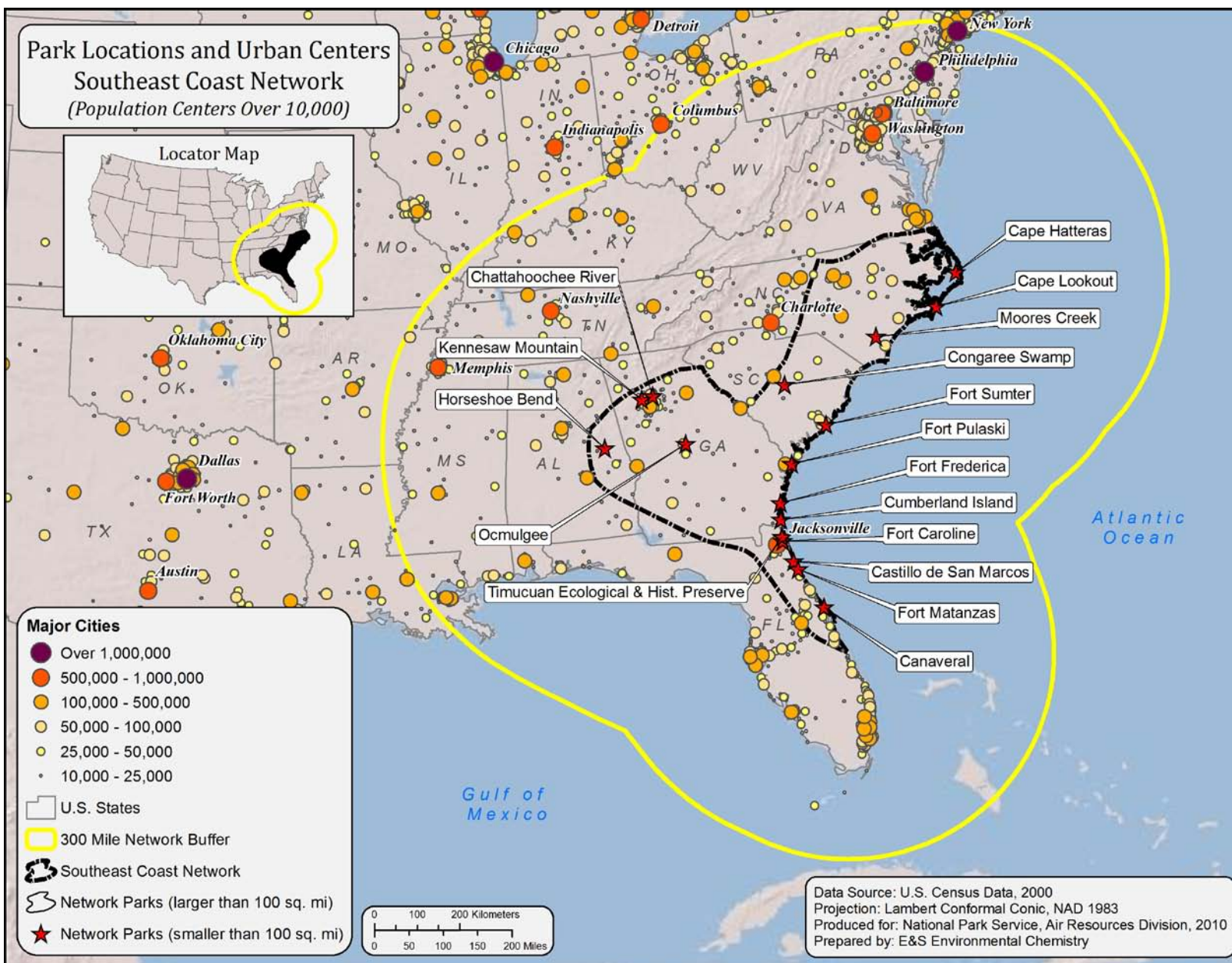
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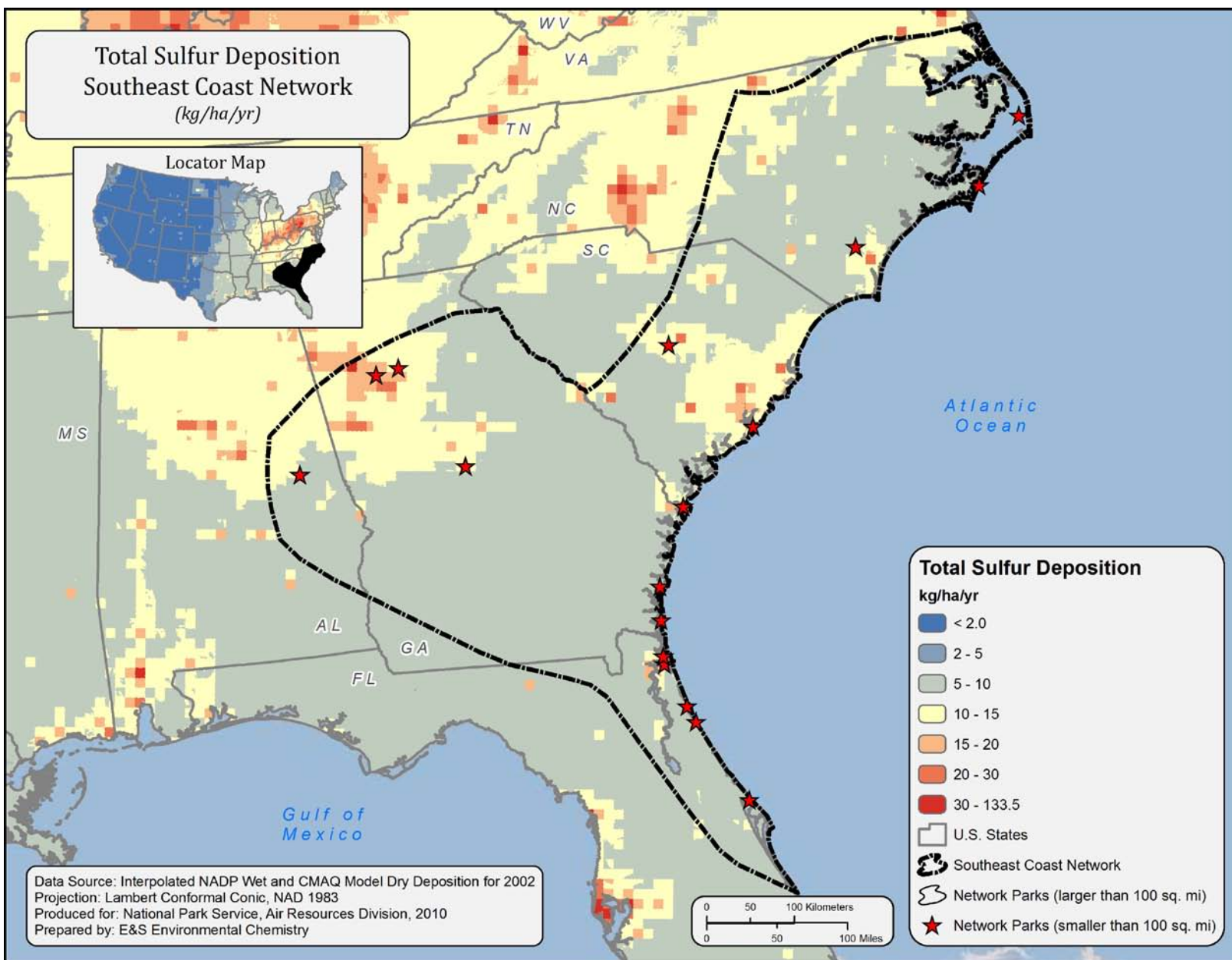
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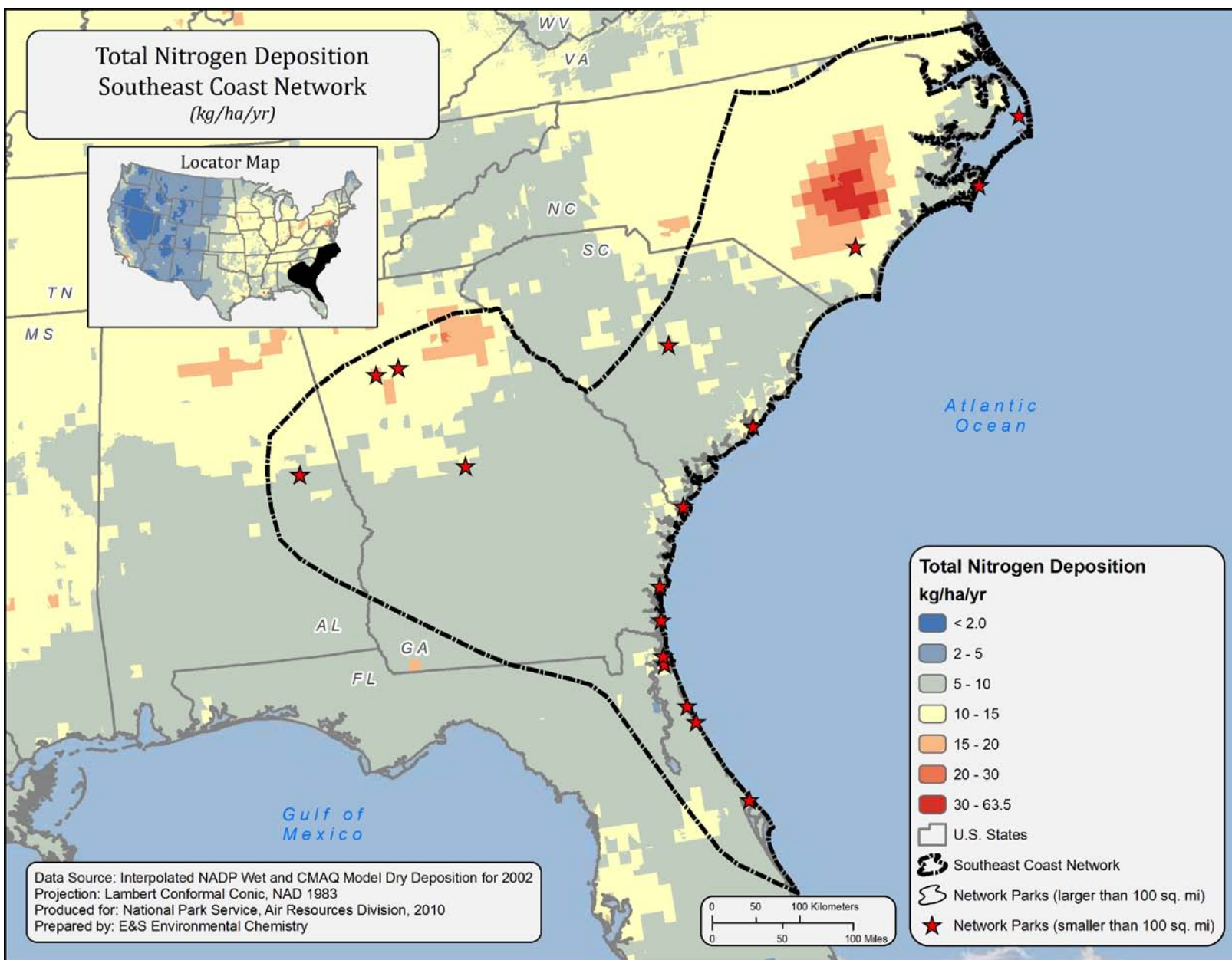
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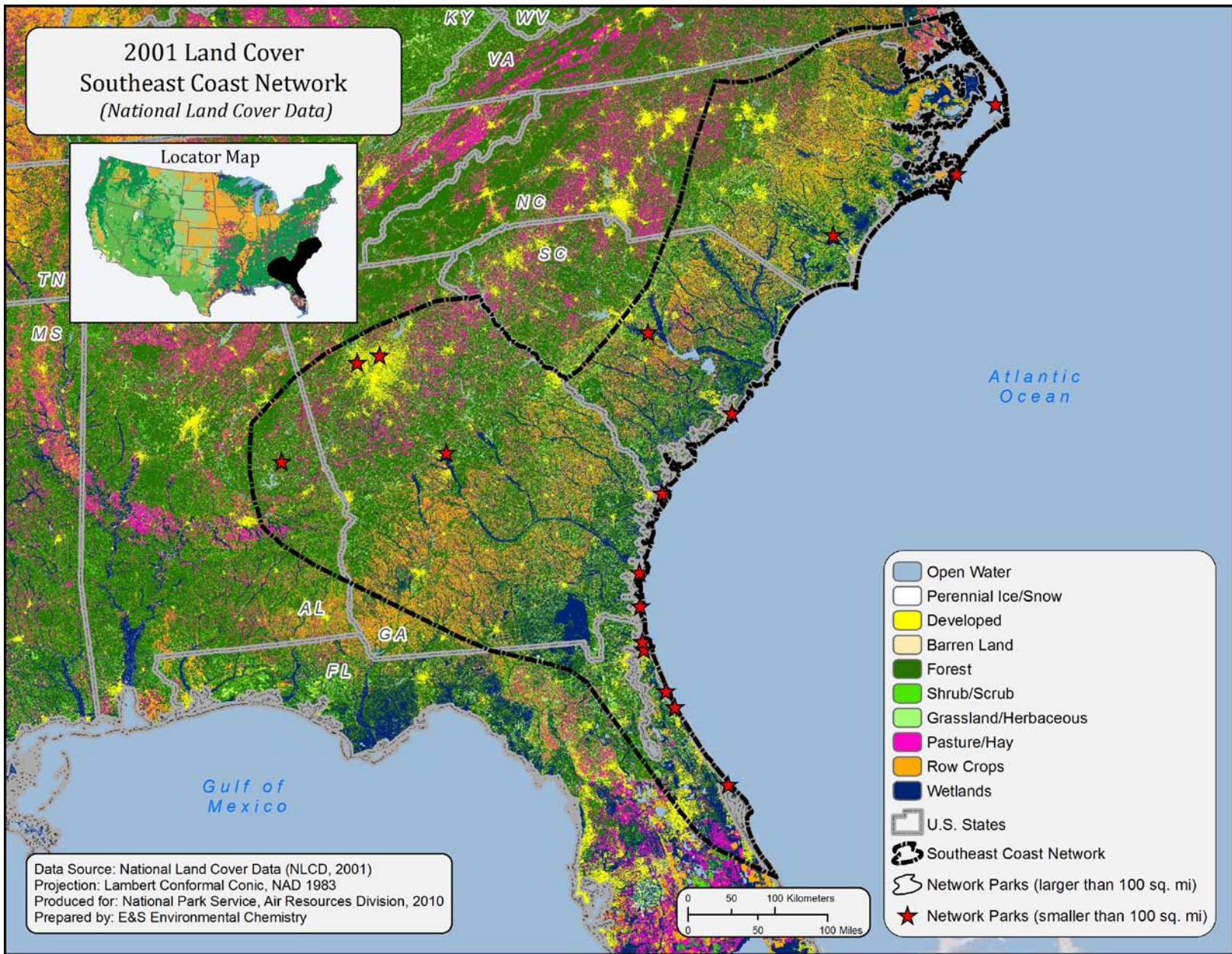
Map I



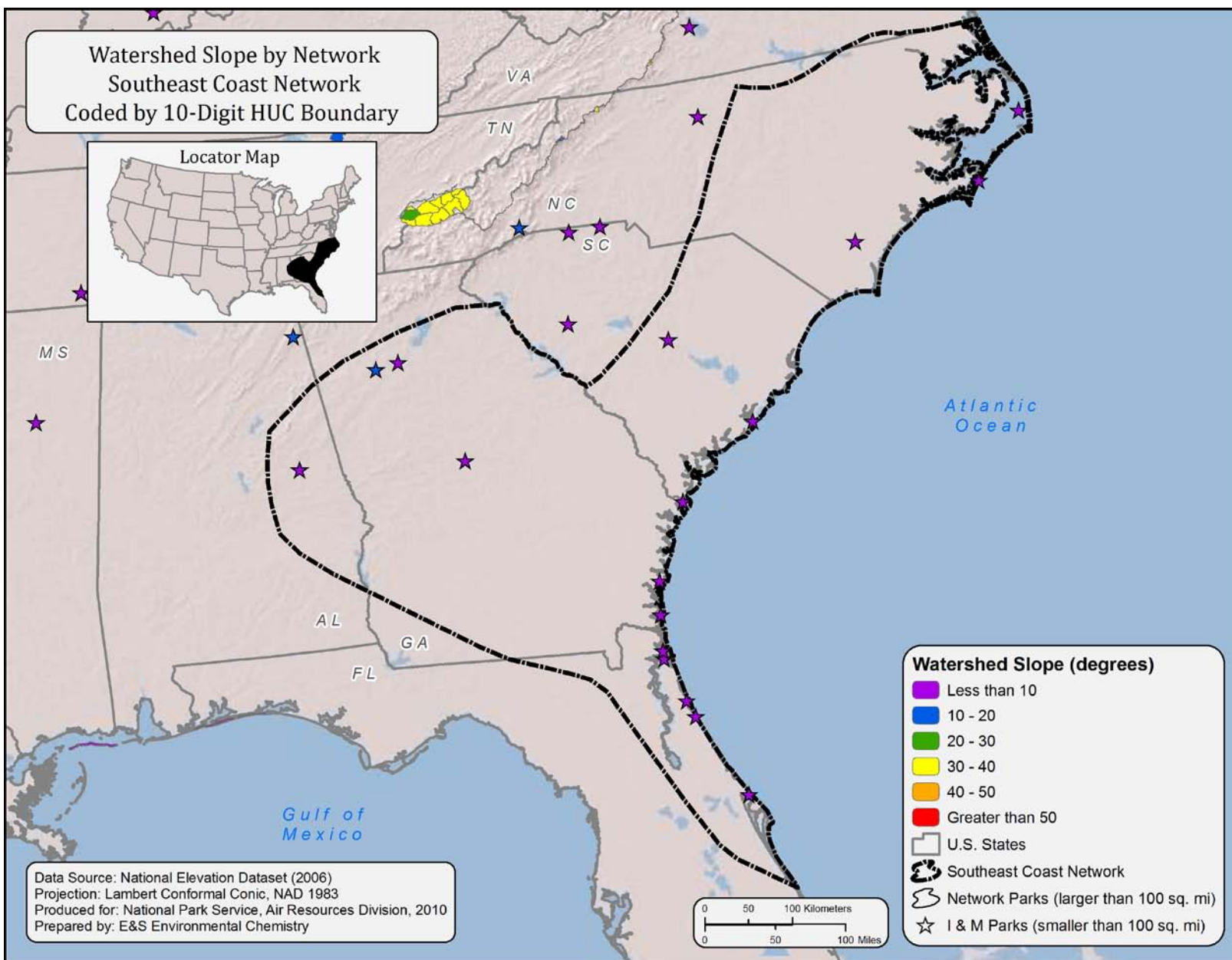
Map J



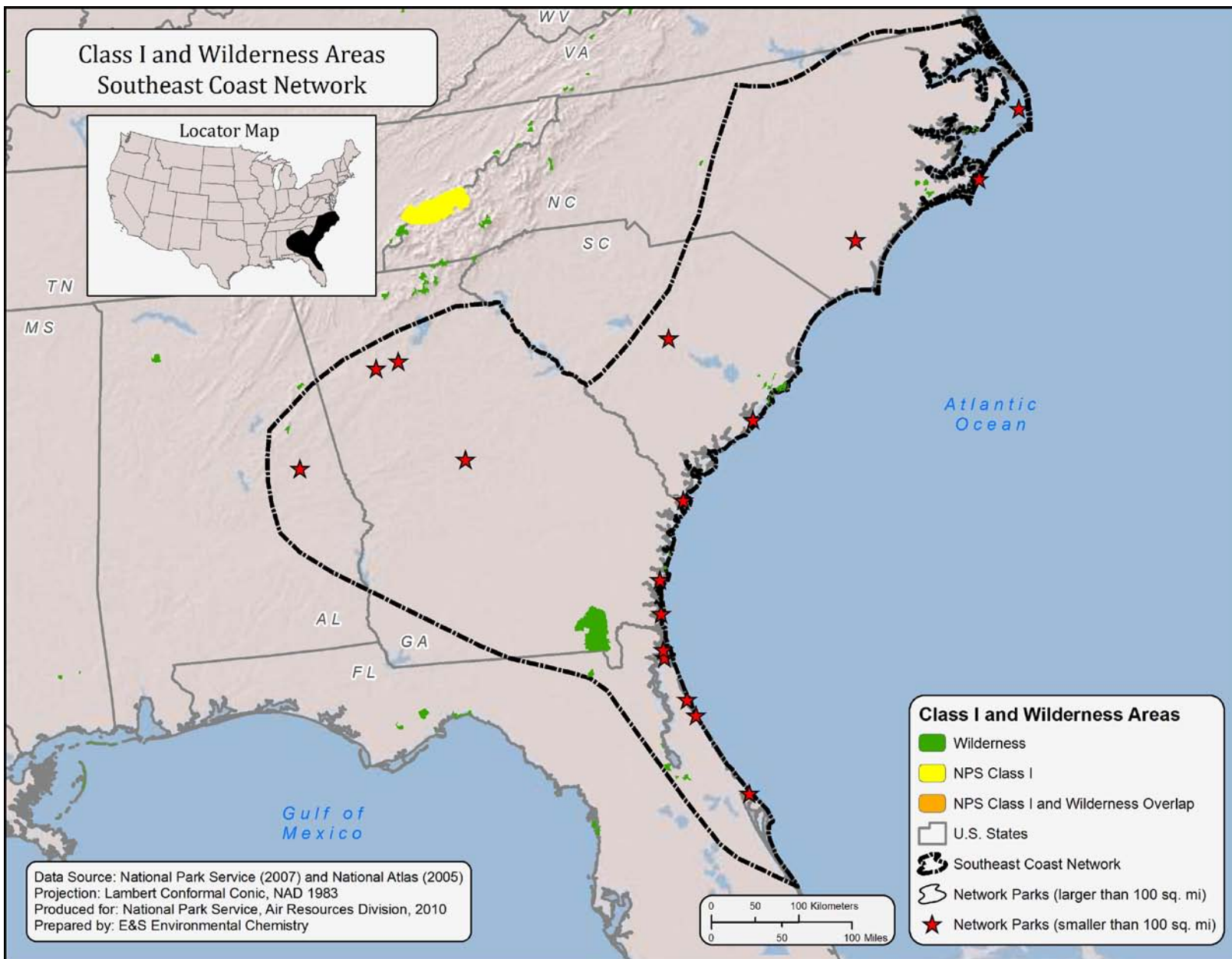
Map K



Map L



Map M



Map N

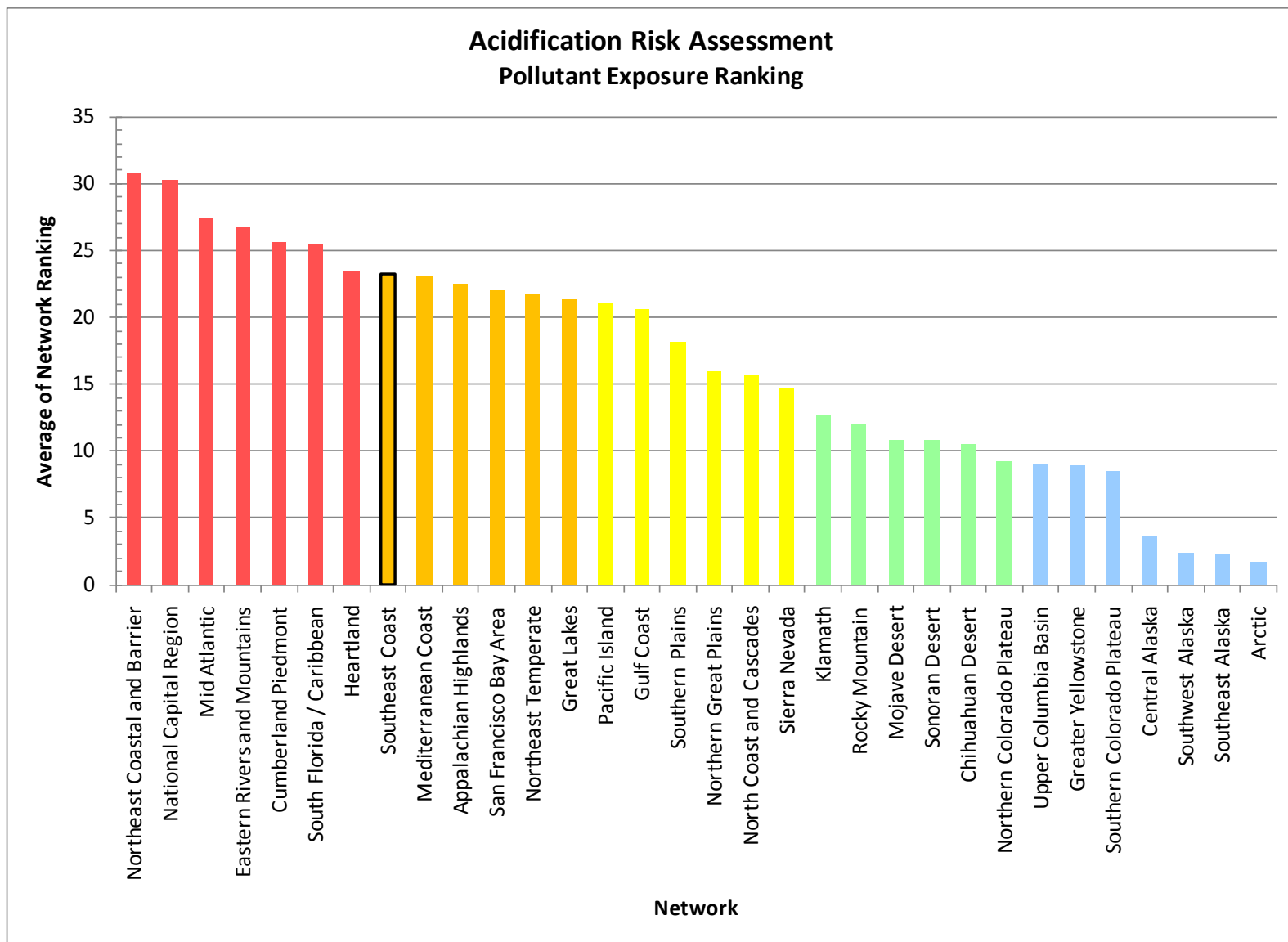


Figure A

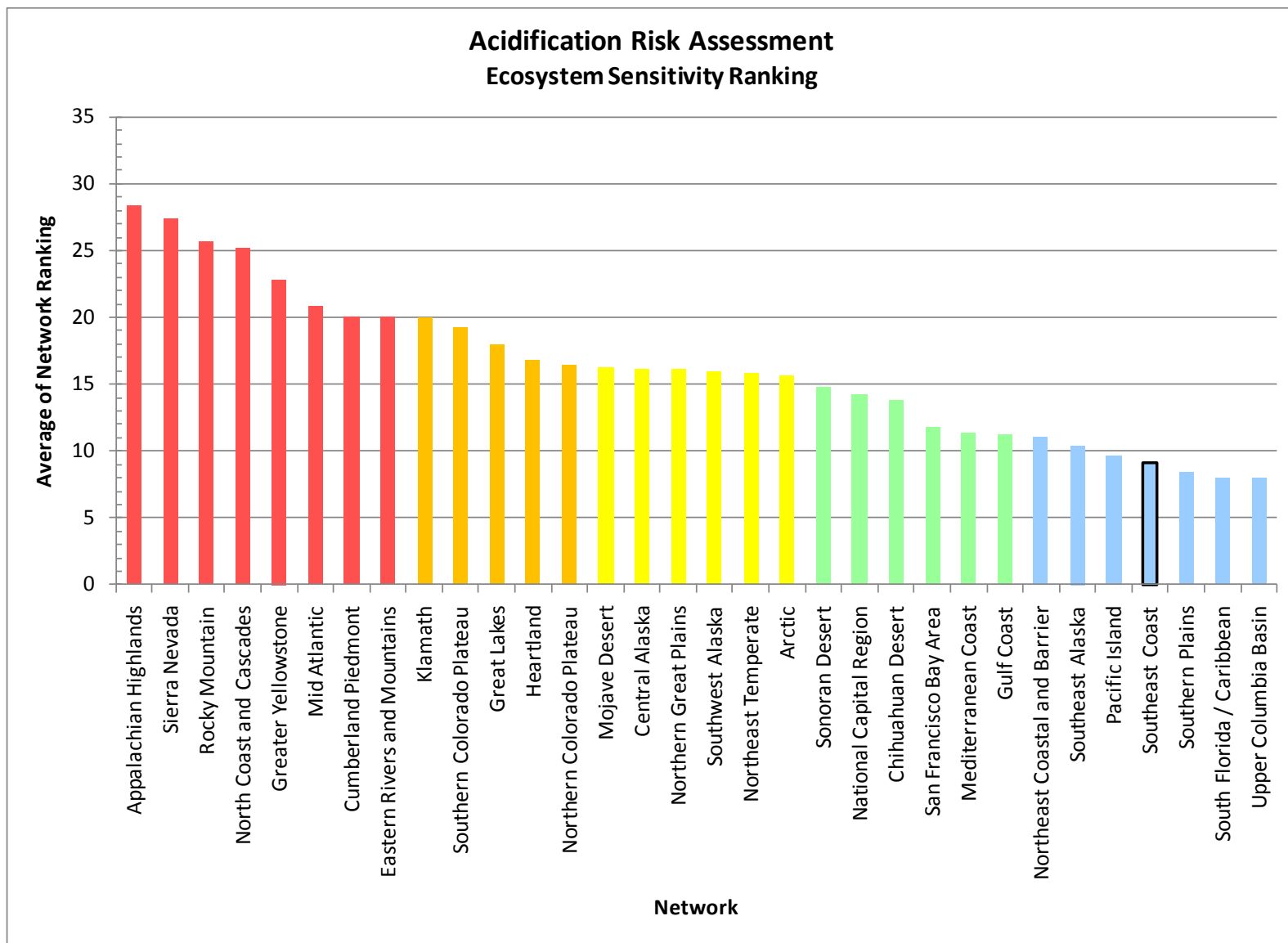


Figure B

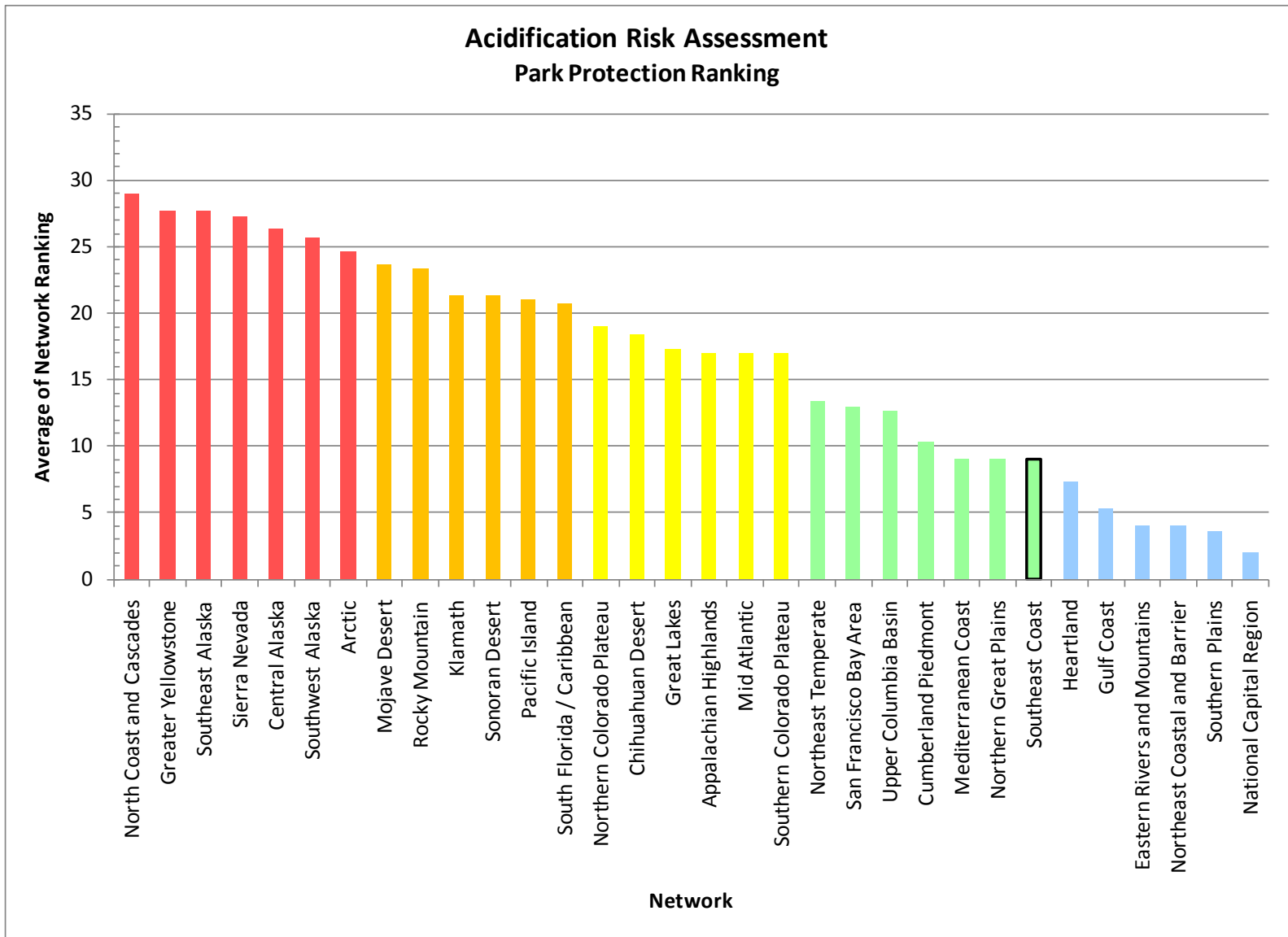


Figure C

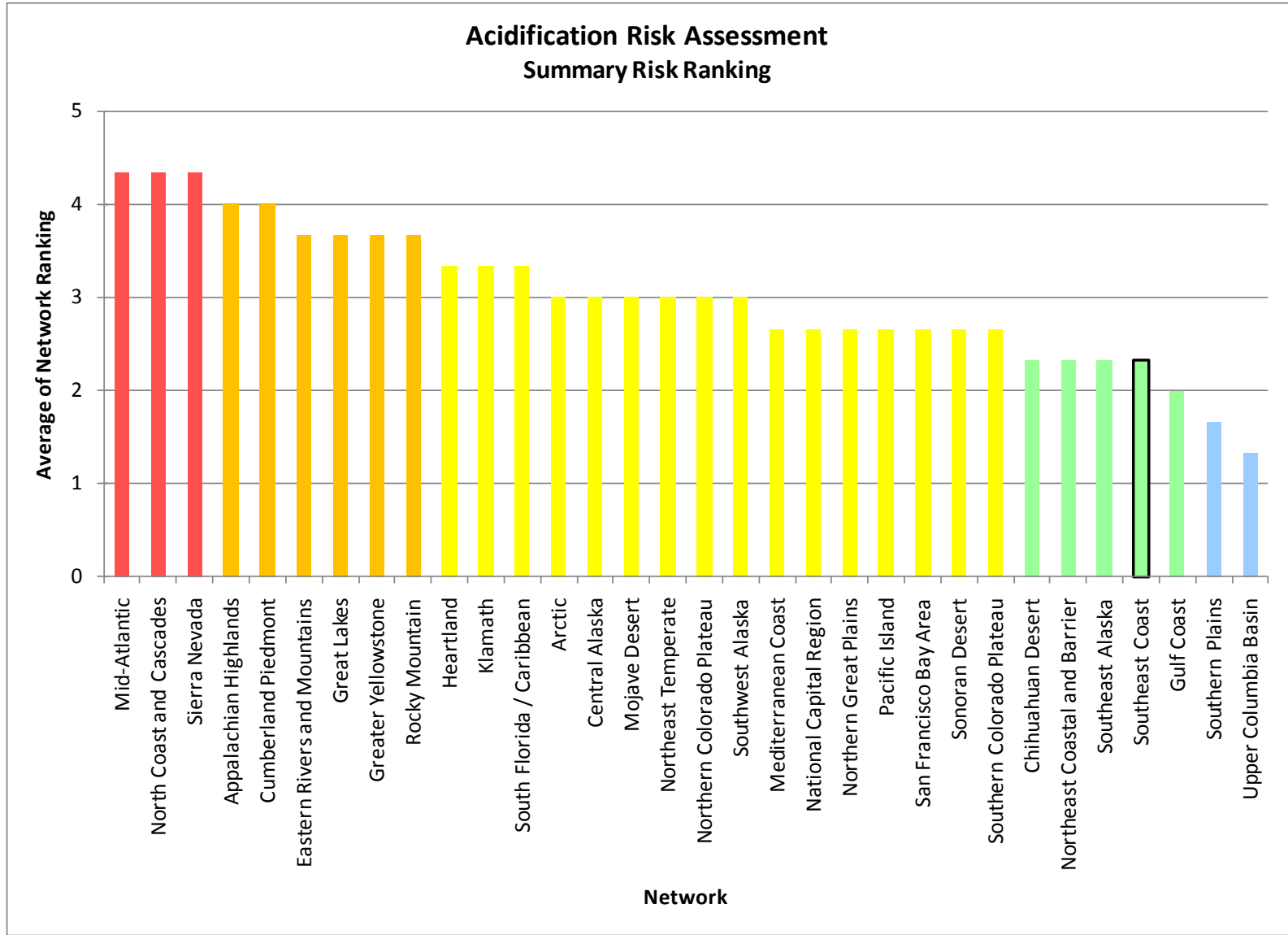


Figure D

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.

NPS 910/107413, April 2011

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