



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

San Francisco Bay Area Network (SFAN)

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/ARD/NRR—2011/376



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 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 two parks in the San Francisco Bay Area Network that are larger than 100 square miles: Golden Gate (GOGA) and Point Reyes (PORE). In addition, there are four smaller parks: Fort Point (FOPO), John Muir (JOMU), Muir Woods (MUWO), and Pinnacles (PINN).

Total annual S and N emissions, by county, are shown in Maps E and F for lands in and surrounding the San Francisco Bay Area Network. Annual county-level S emissions varied throughout the network, generally from less than 1 ton per square mile to 5 to 20 tons per square mile. There is one small pocket near San Francisco where county emissions were between 20 and 50 tons per square mile. County-level N emissions within the network were higher, ranging from less than 5 tons per square mile in both the north and the south to between 20 and 50 tons per square mile in the central portion of the network. Some small areas had N emissions levels higher than that (Map F). In general, annual county N emissions were between 1 and 50 tons per square mile, but were spatially quite variable. 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 few point sources of any magnitude in this network.

Urban centers within the network and within a 300-mile buffer around the network are shown in Map I. There is a high density of relatively large population centers in this network, but they are restricted to the middle half of the network, with none in the far north or south.

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 ranged from less than 2 kg S/ha/yr to between 5 and 10 kg S/ha/yr. Atmospheric S deposition was generally less than 5 kg S/ha/yr, except in the heavily populated areas in the central part of the network. Total N deposition within most of the network ranged from 2 kg N/ha/yr to 15 kg N/ha/yr. There were small areas with estimated N deposition less than 2 and more than 15 kg N/ha/yr. Atmospheric N deposition in and near the parks in this network was generally between 2 and 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 mixed, with substantial areas of forest, developed land, row crops, shrubland, and grassland/herbaceous. Scattered areas of pasture/hay are also found, especially in the eastern part of the network.

Map M shows the watershed slope of the parks in the network. Slope is generally fairly steep in these parks, between 20° and 30°. The terrain in the northern part of PORE is less steep, with average slope between 10° and 20°.

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. PORE is Class I and contains some wilderness area. The only other wilderness areas are located in the southern portion of the network, 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 San Francisco Bay Area Network ranked in the second highest quintile among networks in Pollutant Exposure (Figure A). Emissions and deposition of both S and N within the network are relatively high. The network Ecosystem Sensitivity ranking was Low, within the second lowest quintile among networks (Figure B). This is because there are no high elevation lakes, and no sugar maple or red spruce trees. Low-order and high-elevation streams are not prevalent. This network ranked in 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 in the lower half of the distribution among 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.

Three of the parks, including PORE, were in the second highest quintile in Pollutant Exposure (Table A). The other three parks were ranked Moderate for this theme. For Ecosystem Sensitivity, the rankings varied: two parks (GOGA and PINN) were ranked High, two parks were ranked Moderate (MUWO and PORE), and two parks were ranked Low (FOPO and JOMU). For Park Protection, the two larger parks (GOGA and PORE) were ranked high, along with one of the smaller parks (PINN; Figure G, Table A). The other three parks were ranked Moderate for Park Protection.

For park Summary Risk, GOGA, PINN, and PORE were ranked High (Figure H, Table A). The overall level of concern for acidification effects is High for these three parks. For the other three parks, the overall level of concern is Moderate (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.

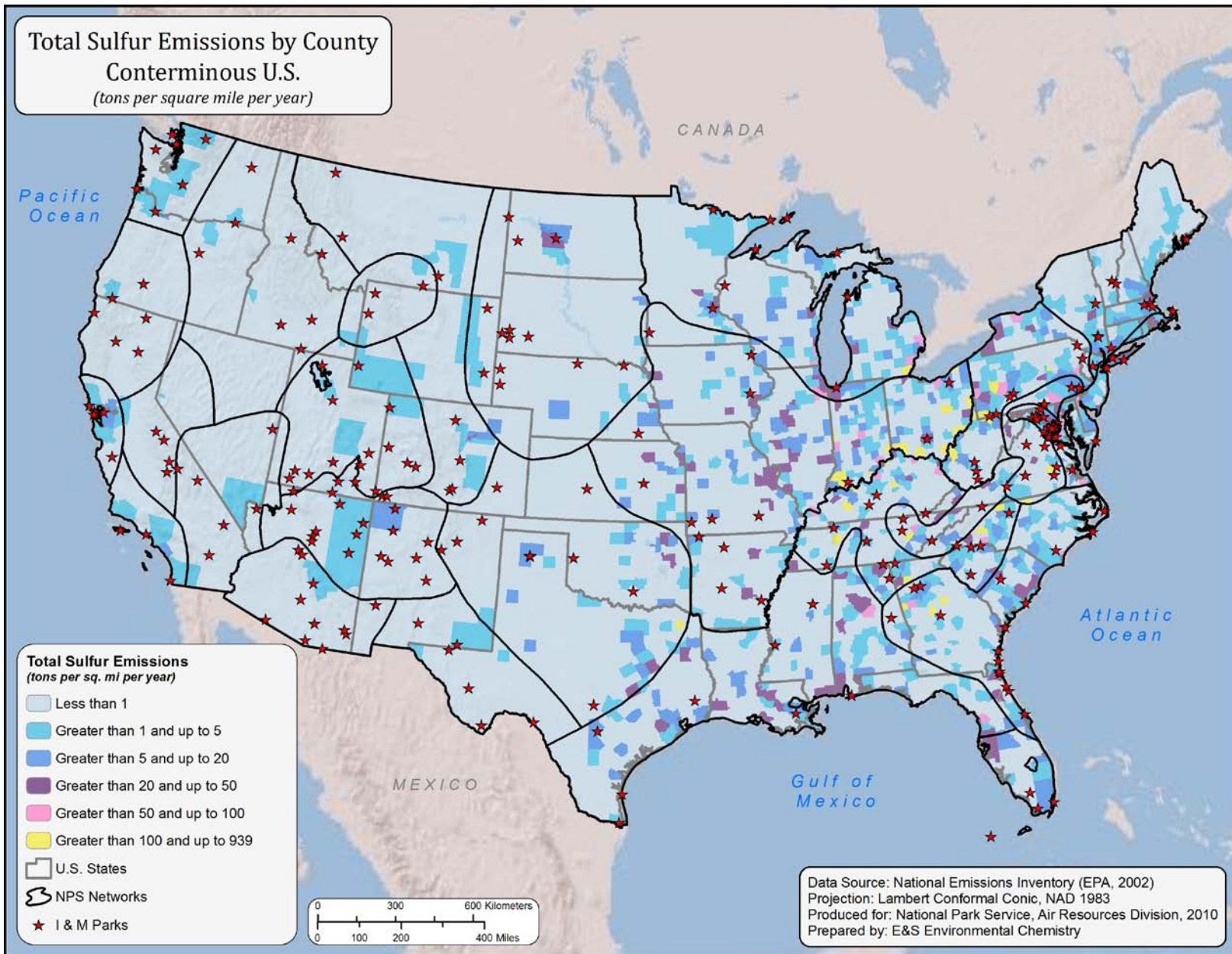
I&M Parks ² in Network	Relative Ranking of Individual Parks ¹			
	Pollutant Exposure	Ecosystem Sensitivity	Park Protection	Summary Risk
Fort Point	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Golden Gate	Moderate	High	High	High
John Muir	High	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Muir Woods	High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Pinnacles	Moderate	High	High	High
Point Reyes	High	Moderate	High	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.

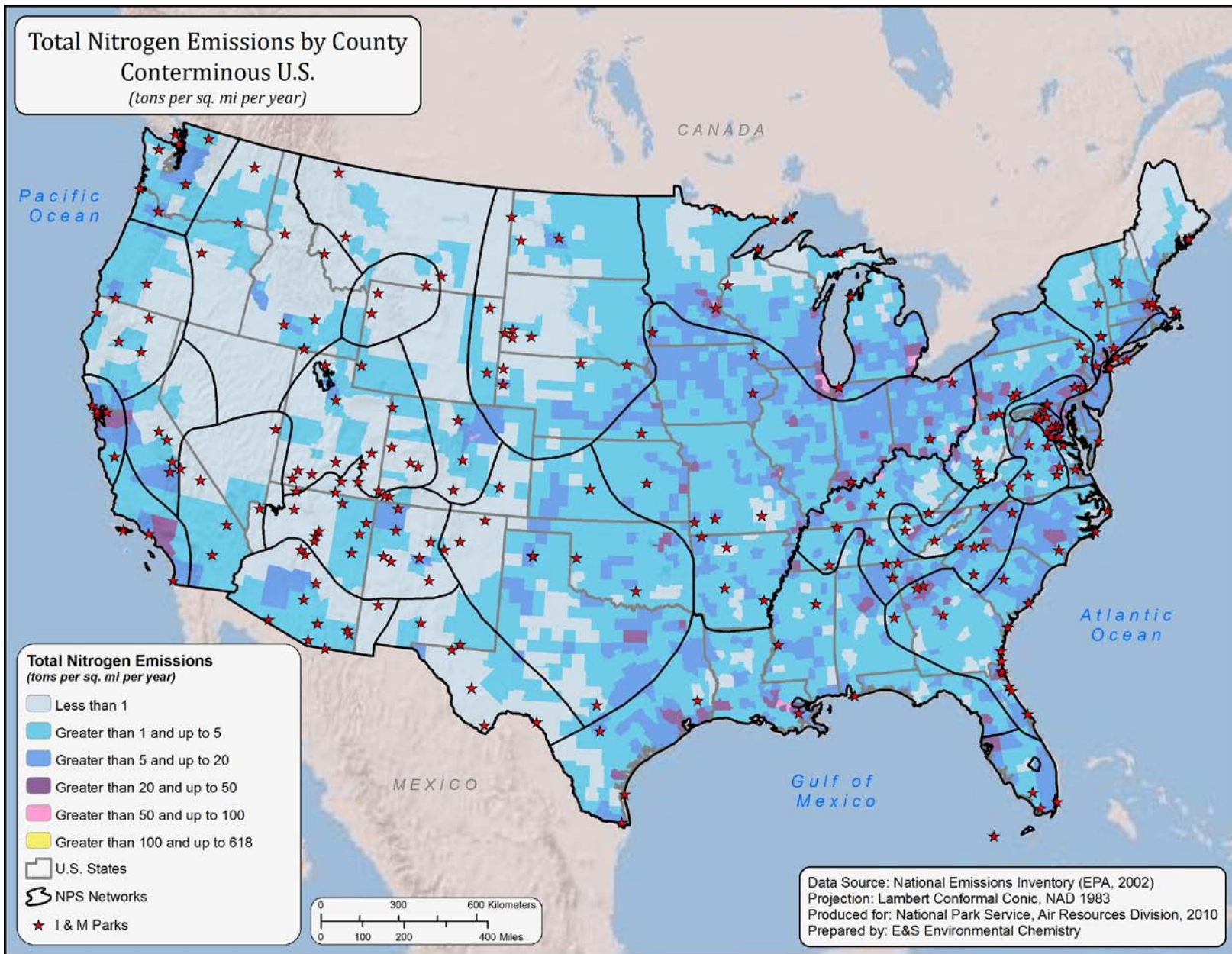
- Map A. National map of total S emissions by county for the year 2002, in units of tons of S per square mile per year. (Source of data: EPA National Emissions Inventory, <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html>)
- Map B. National map of total N emissions by county for the year 2002. Both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

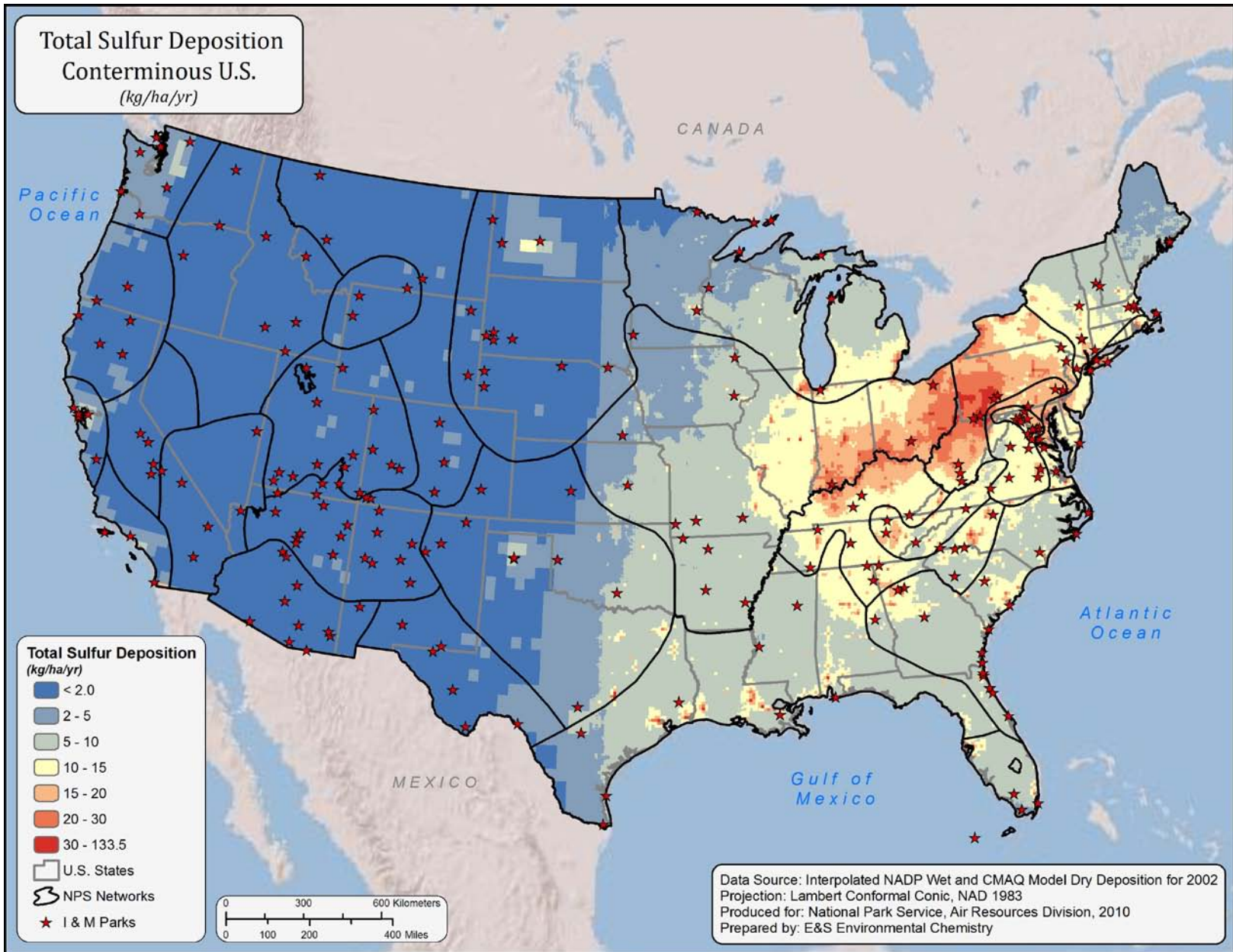
- Figure B. Network rankings for Ecosystem Sensitivity, calculated as the average of scores for all Ecosystem Sensitivity variables.
- Figure C. Network rankings for Park Protection, calculated as the average of scores for all Park Protection variables.
- Figure D. Network Summary Risk rankings, calculated 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.



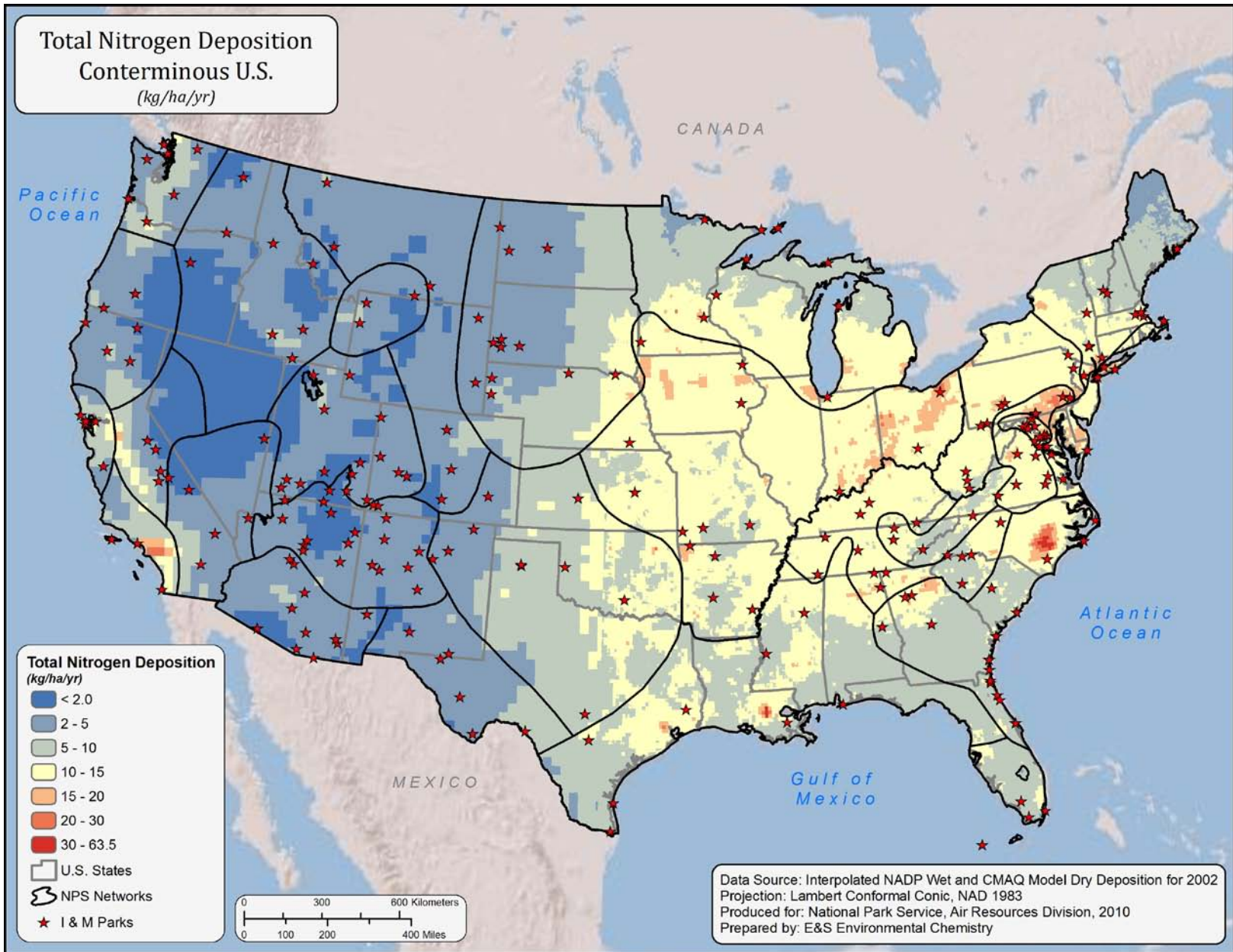
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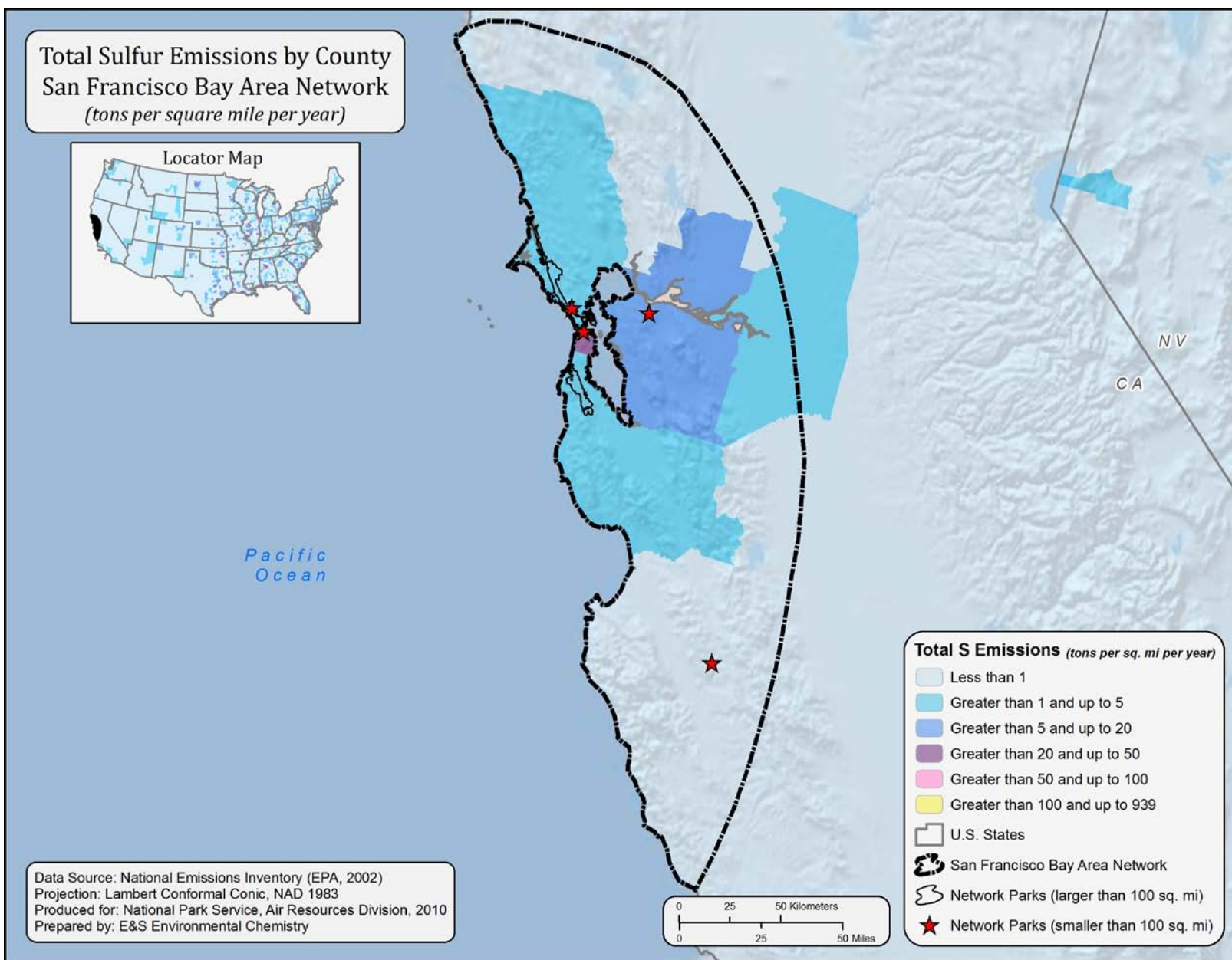
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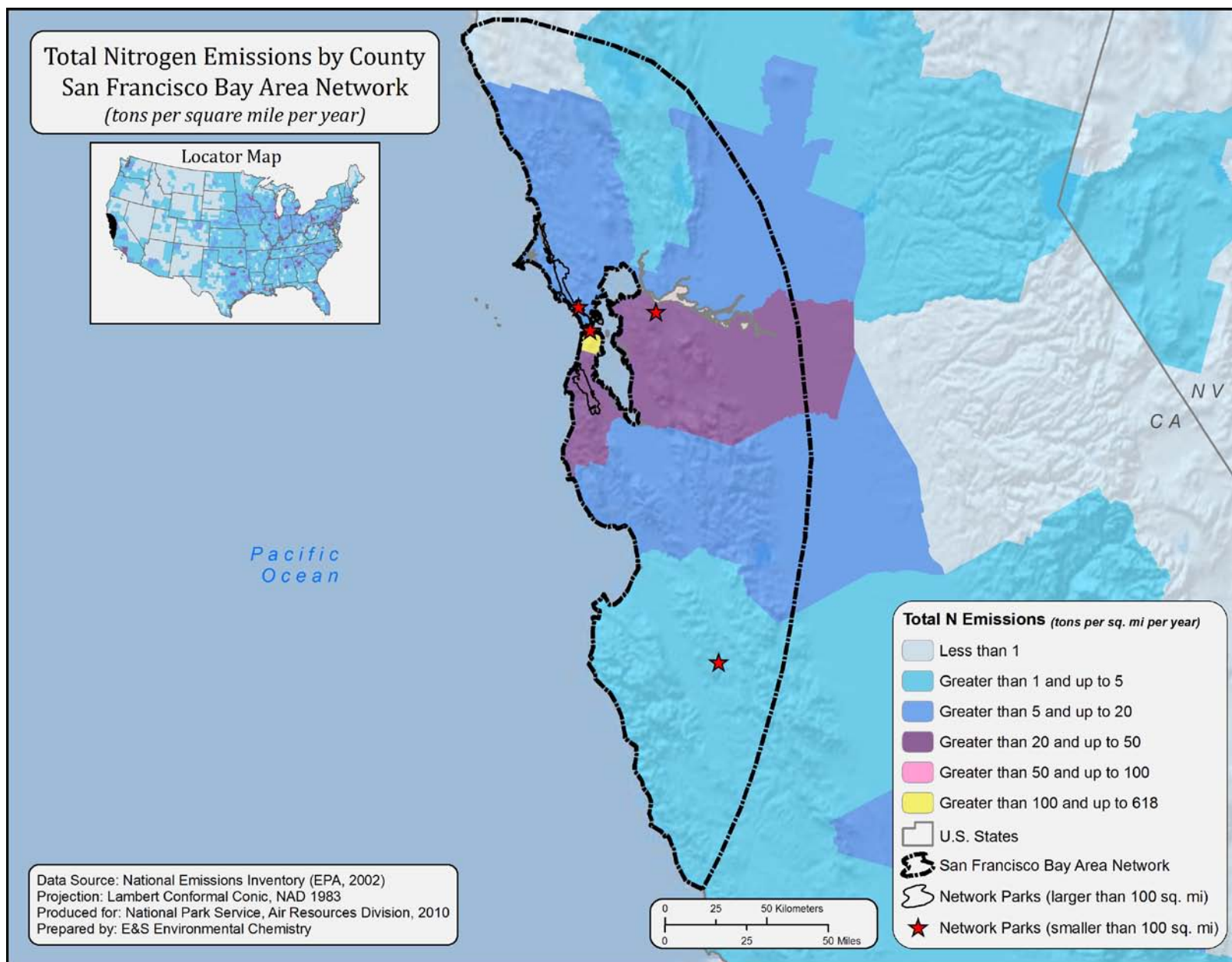
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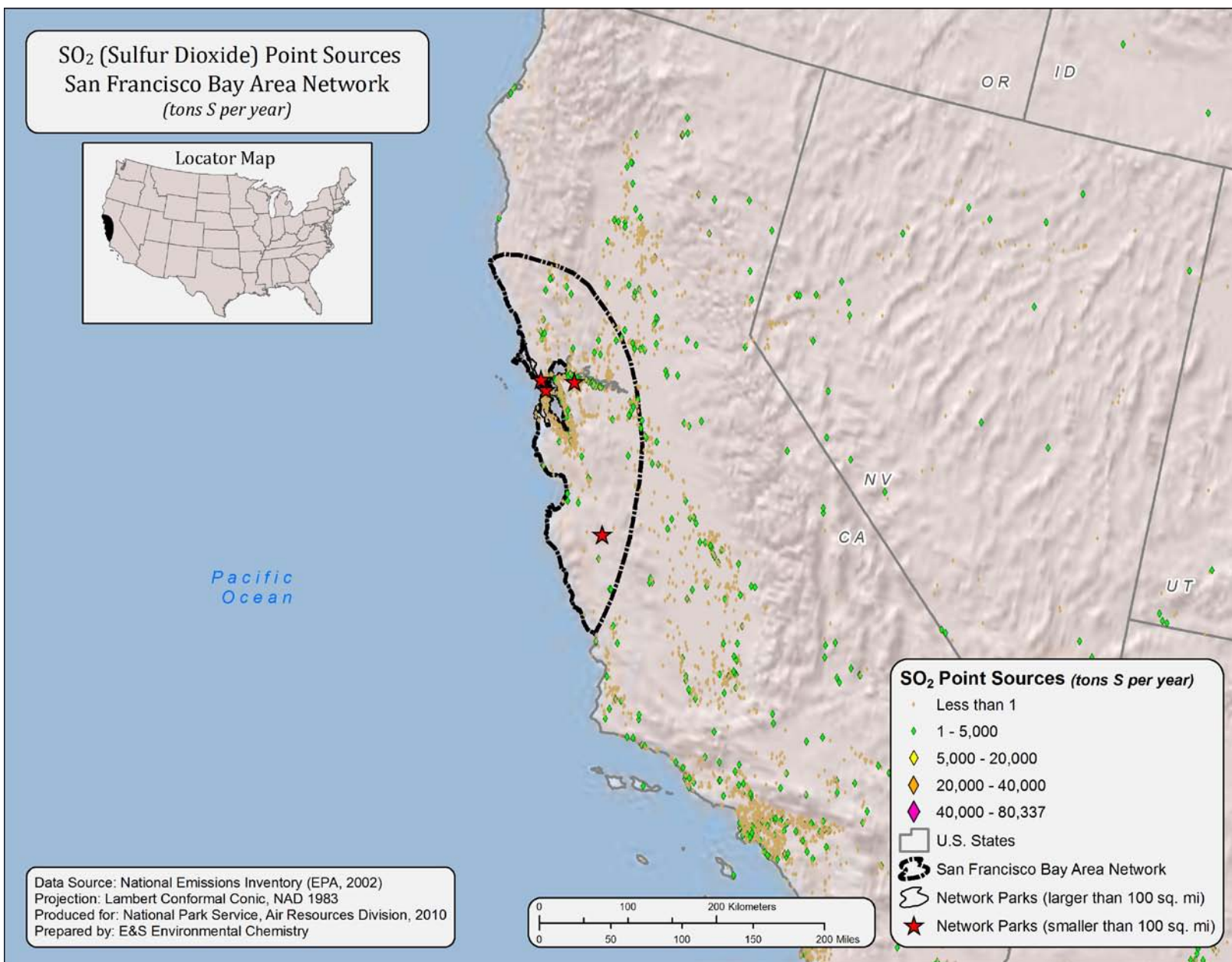
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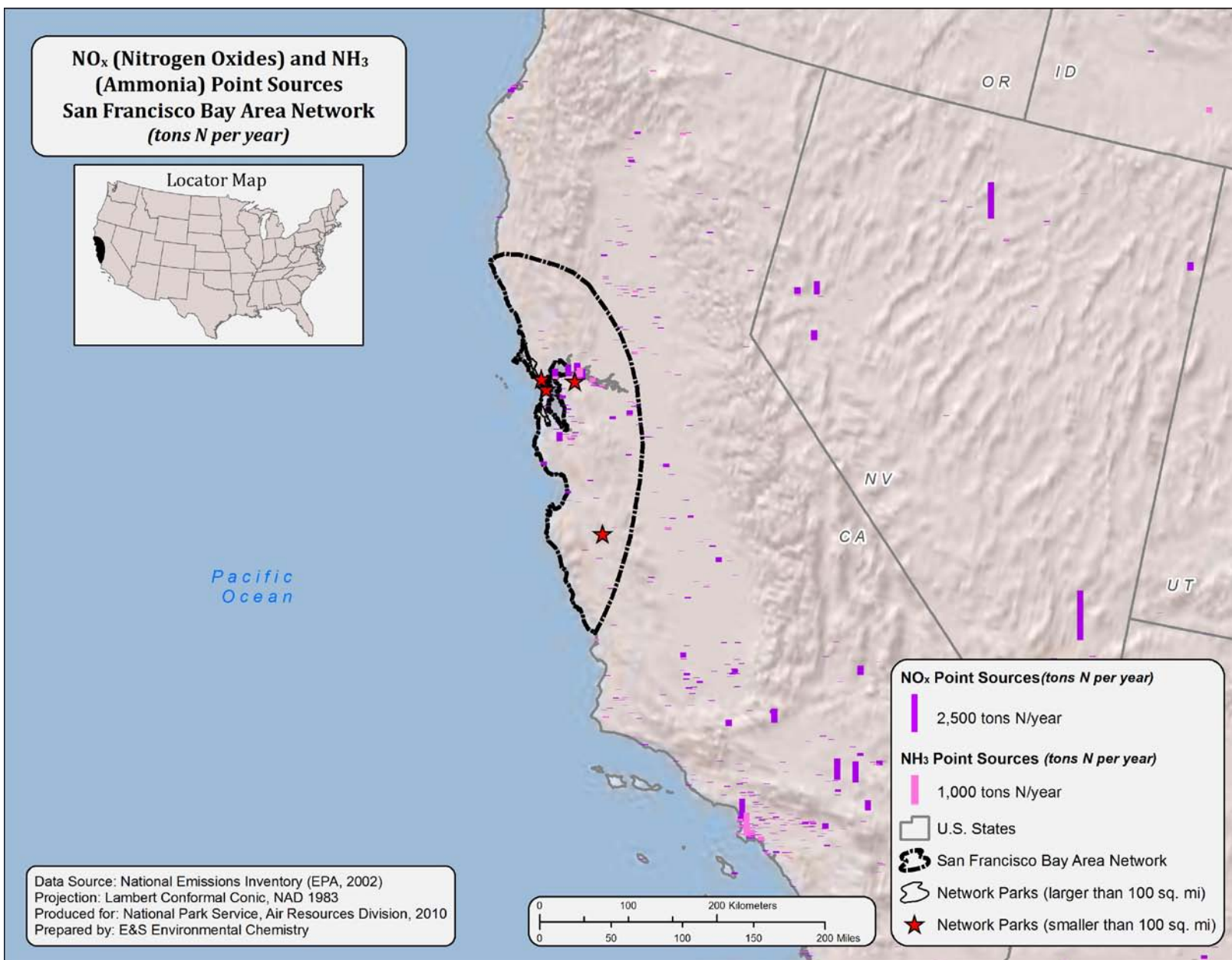
Map E



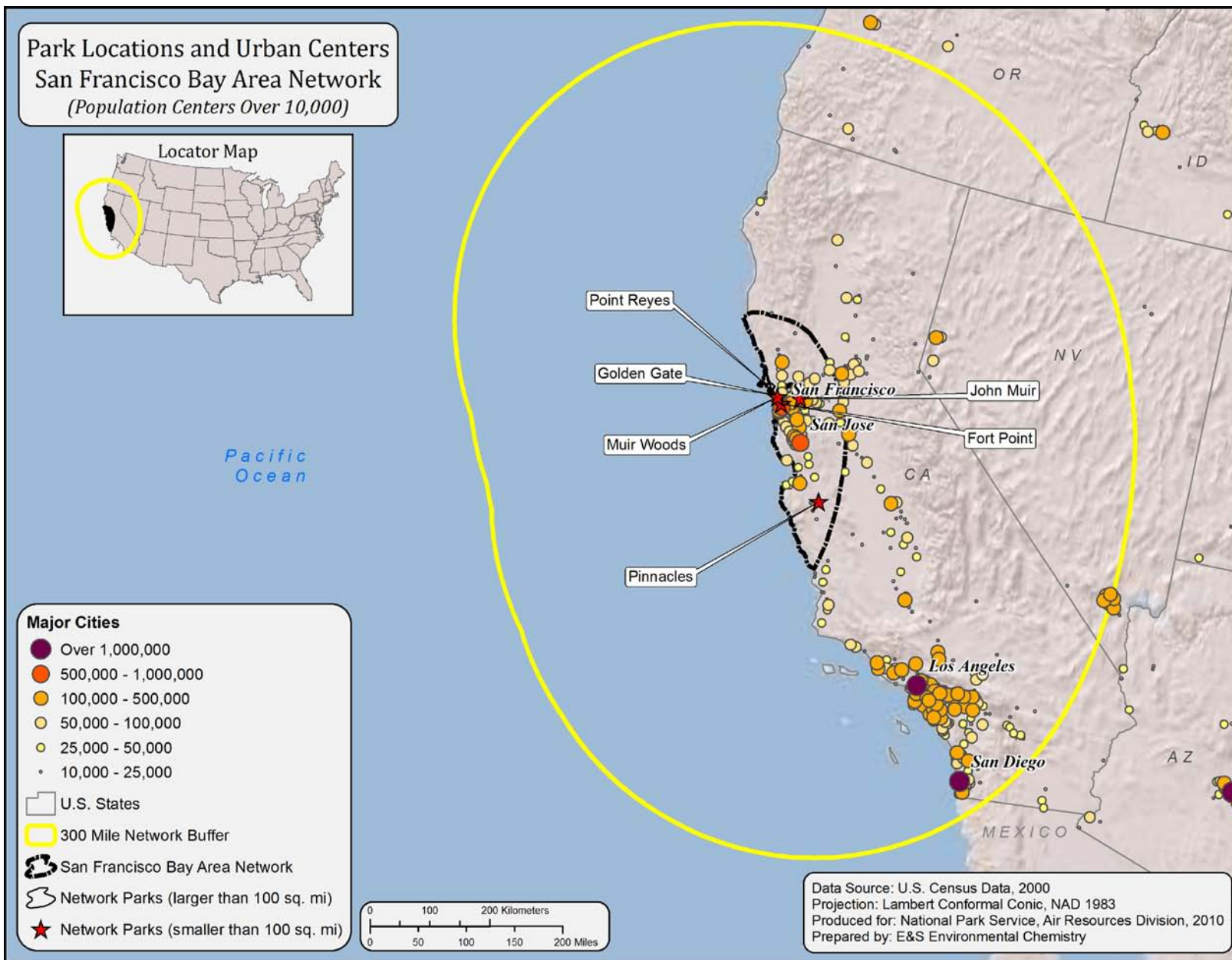
Map F



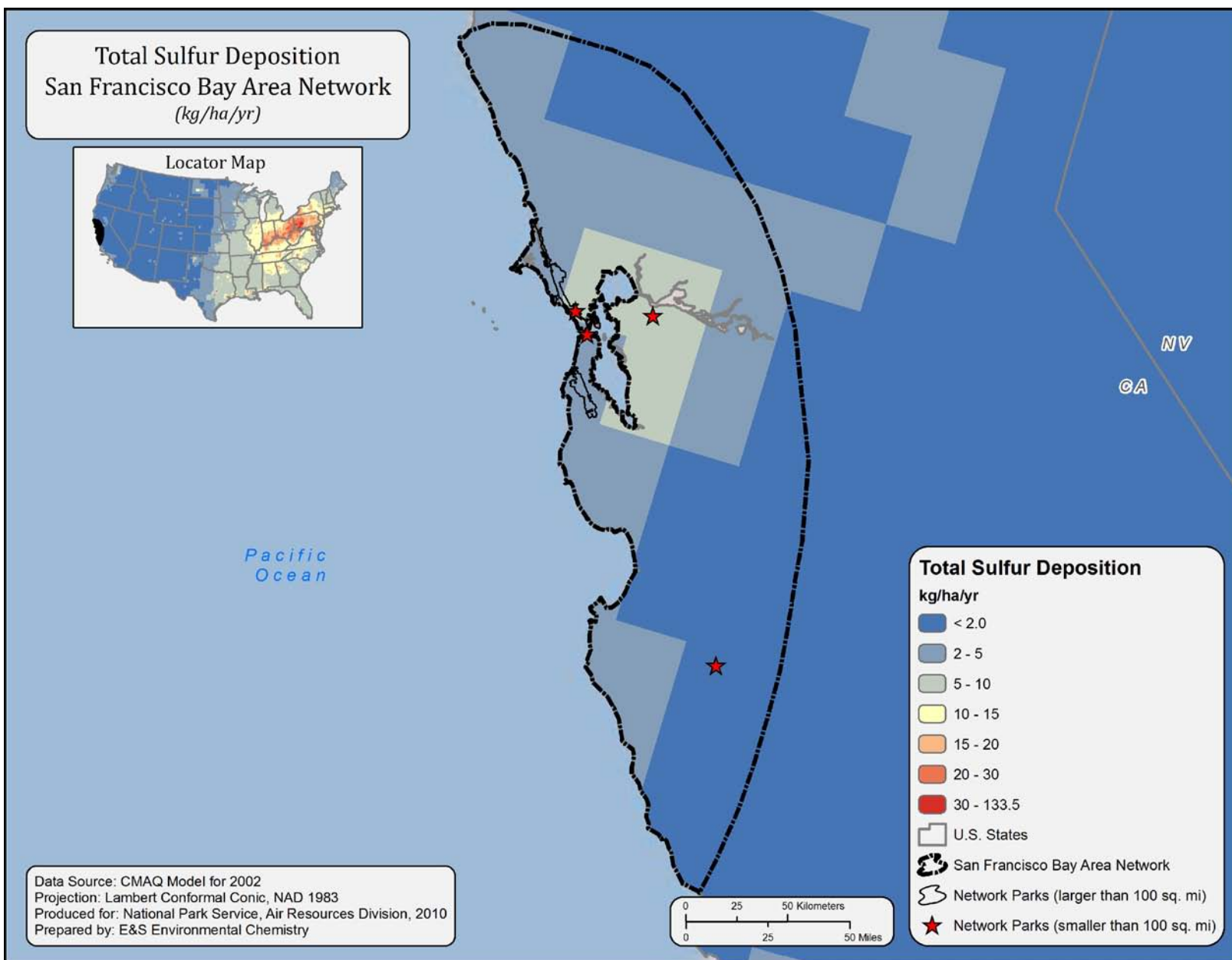
Map G



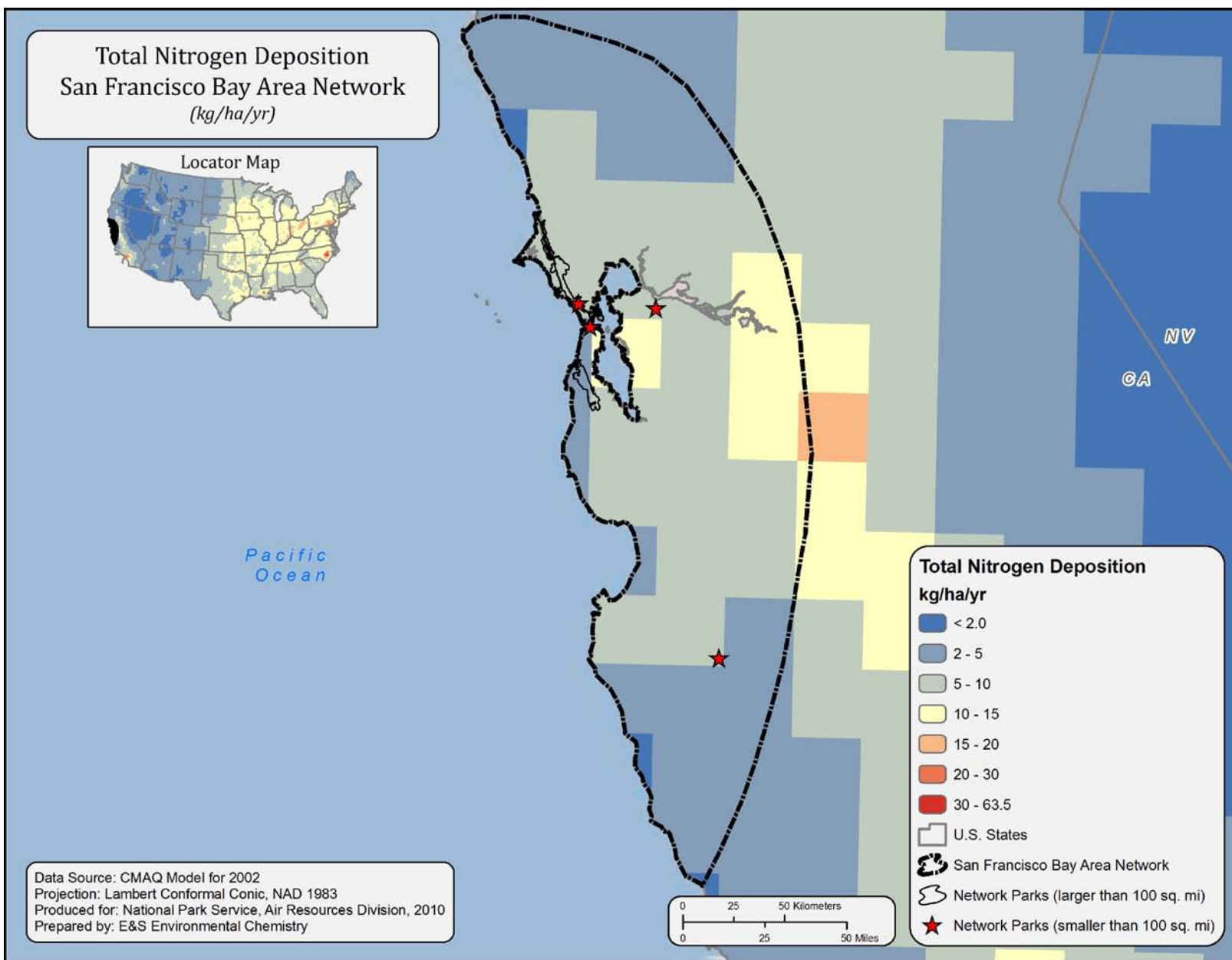
Map H



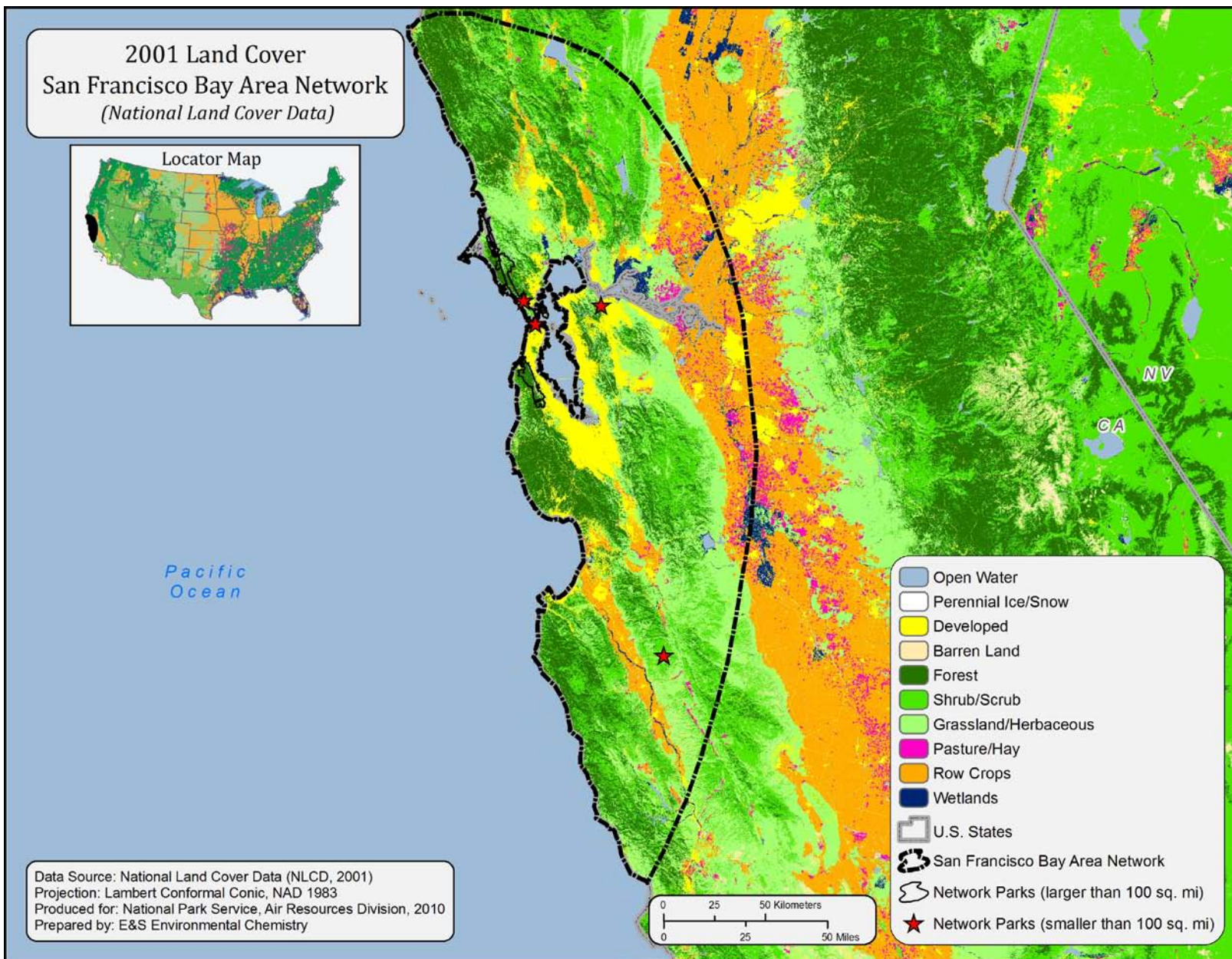
Map I



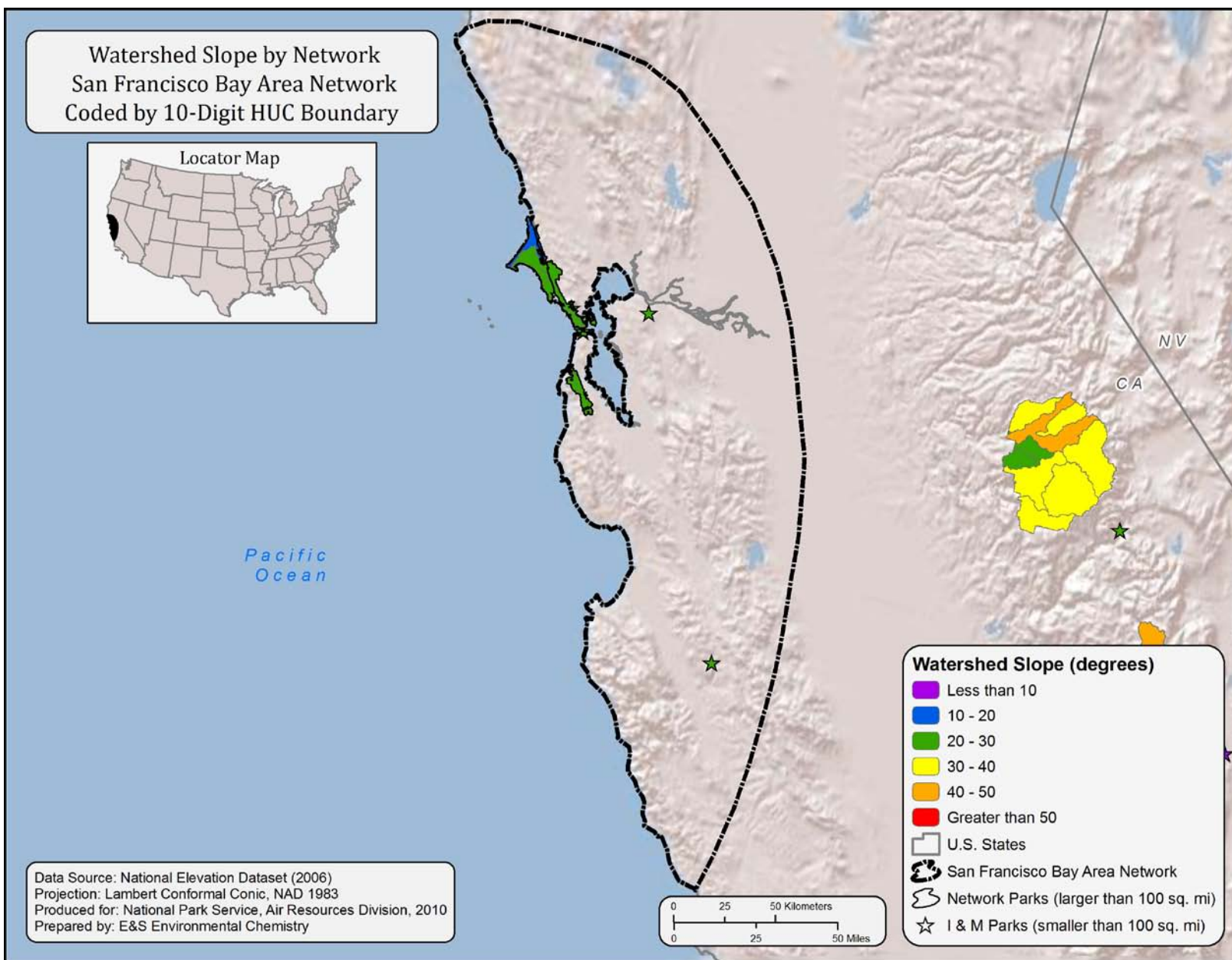
Map J



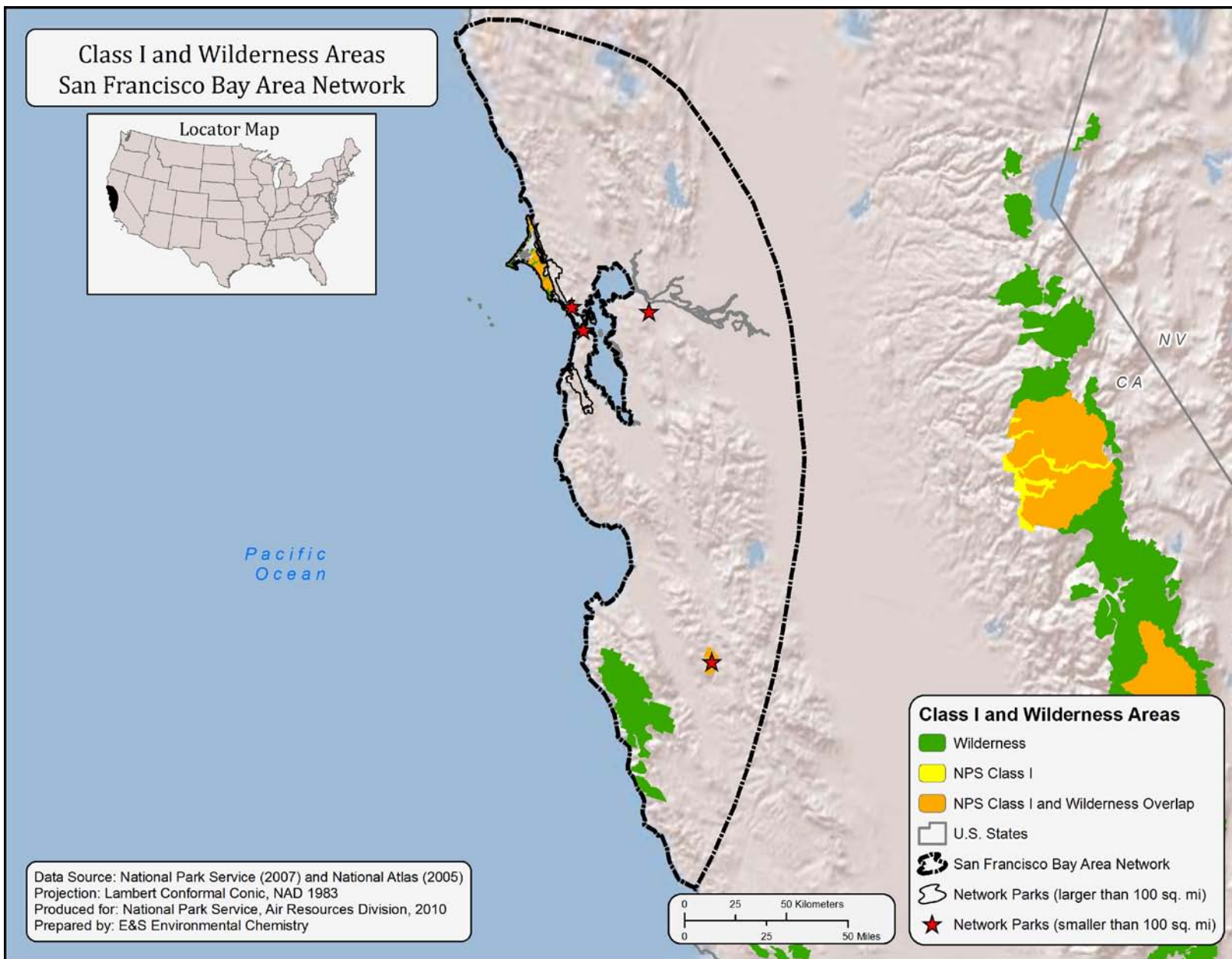
Map K



Map L



Map M



Map N

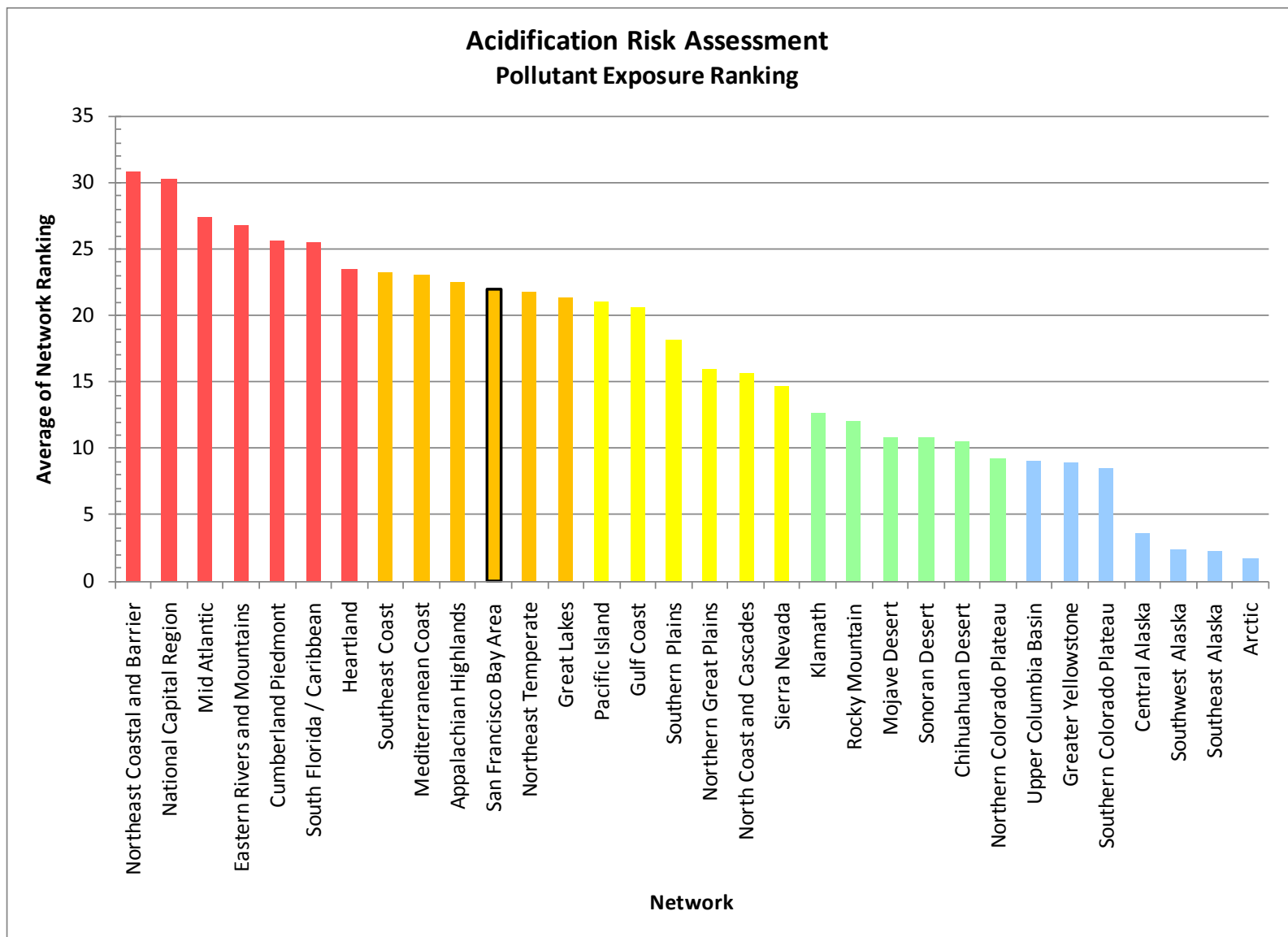


Figure A

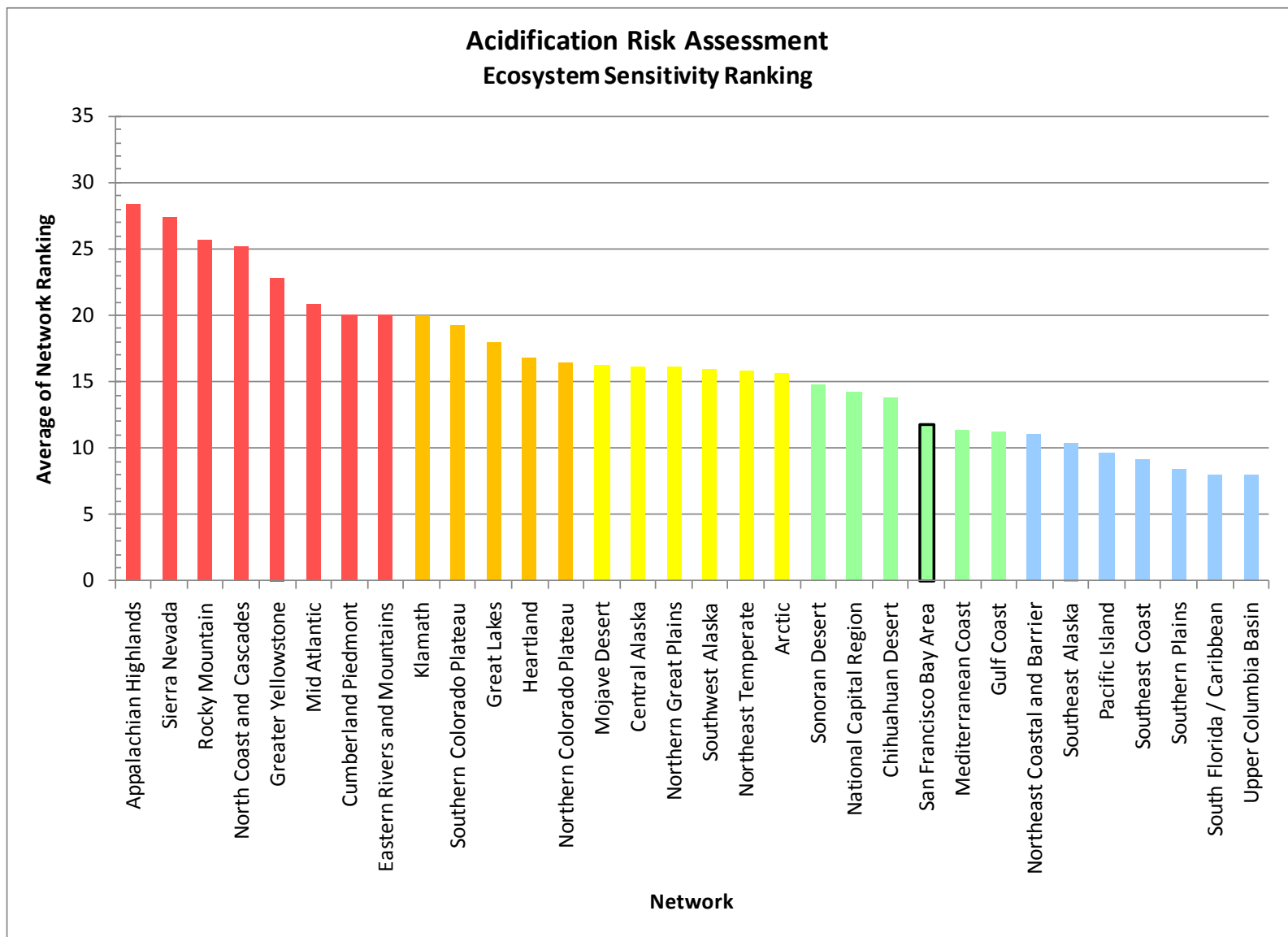


Figure B

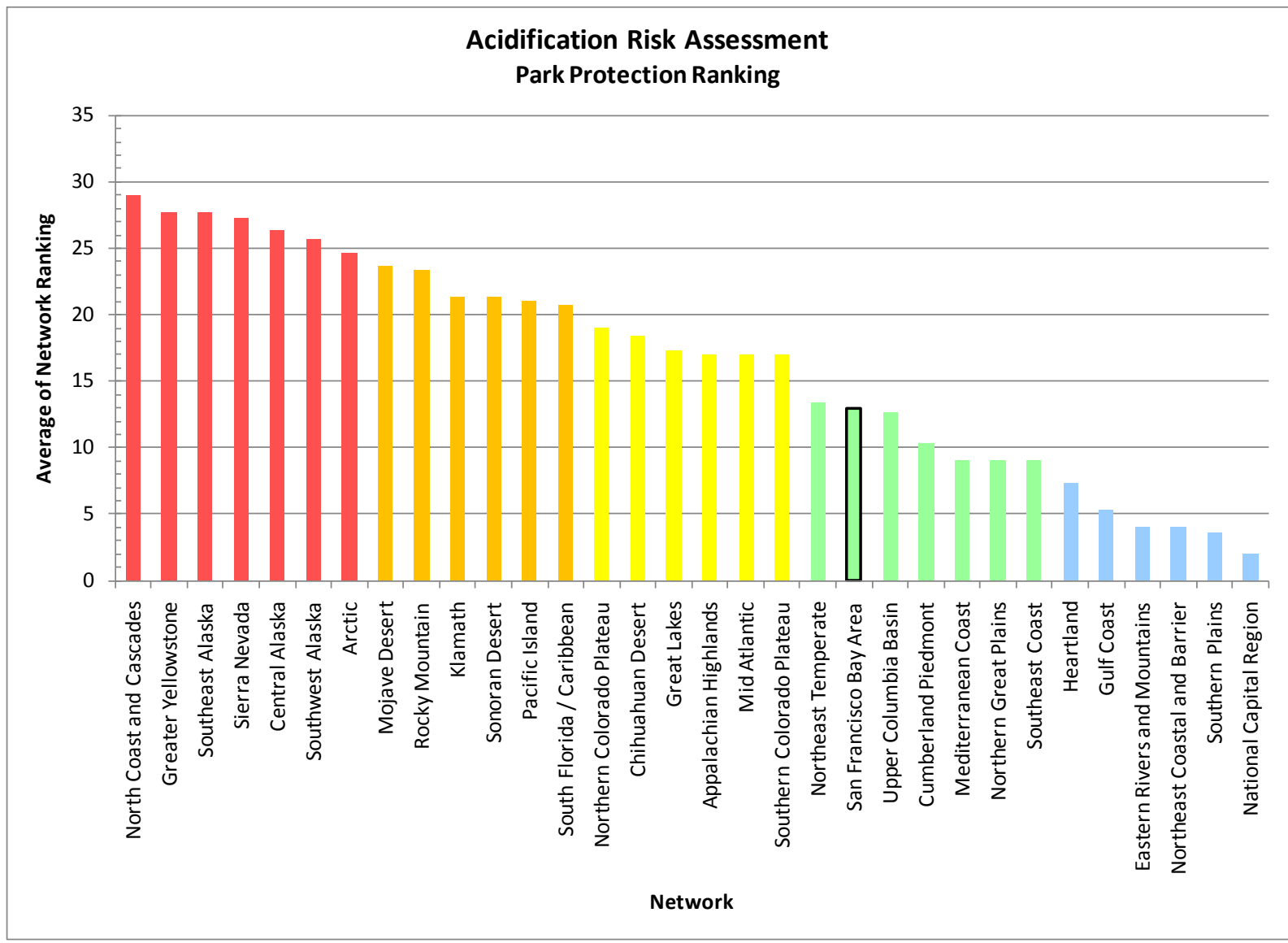


Figure C

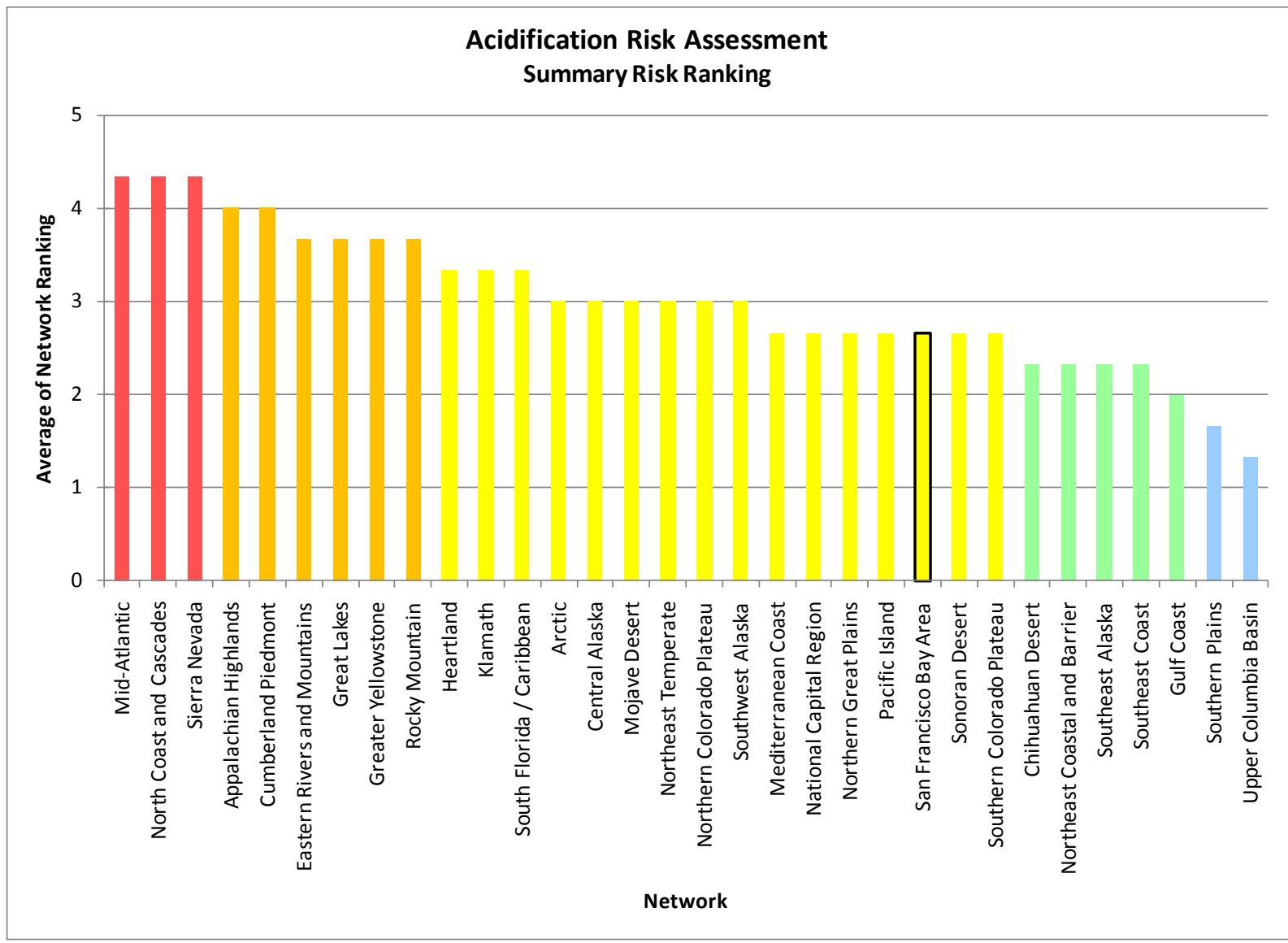


Figure D

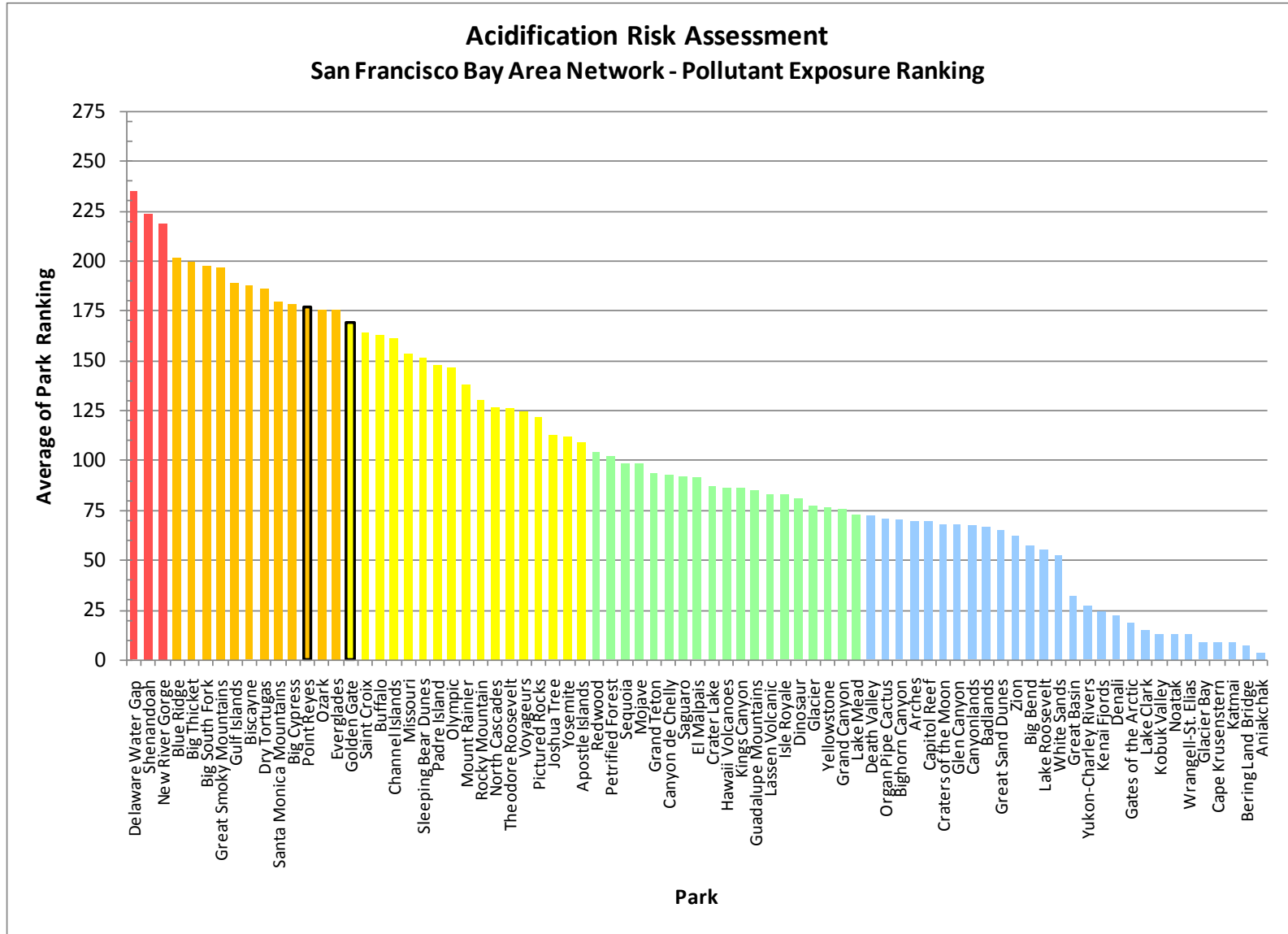


Figure E

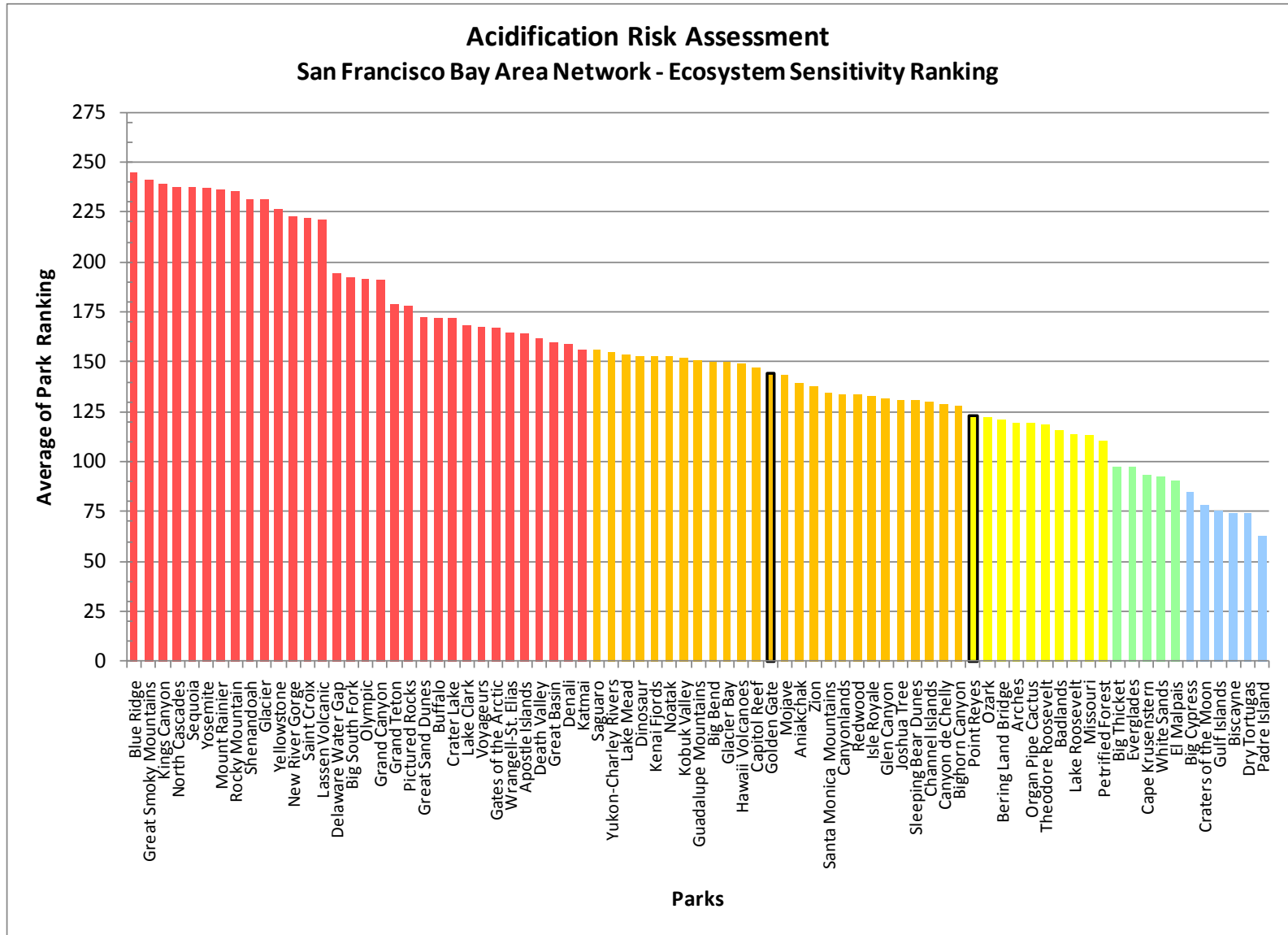


Figure F

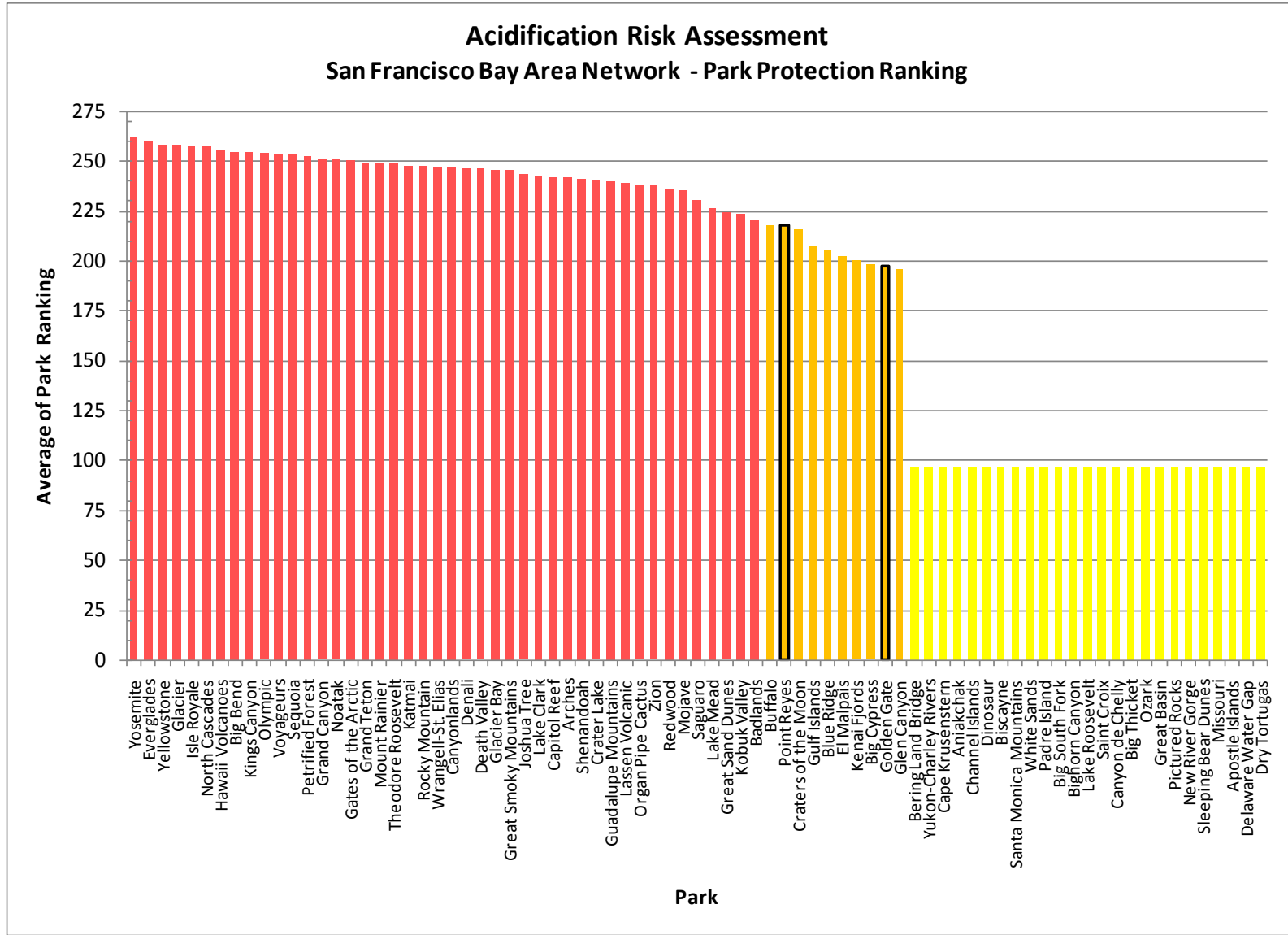


Figure G

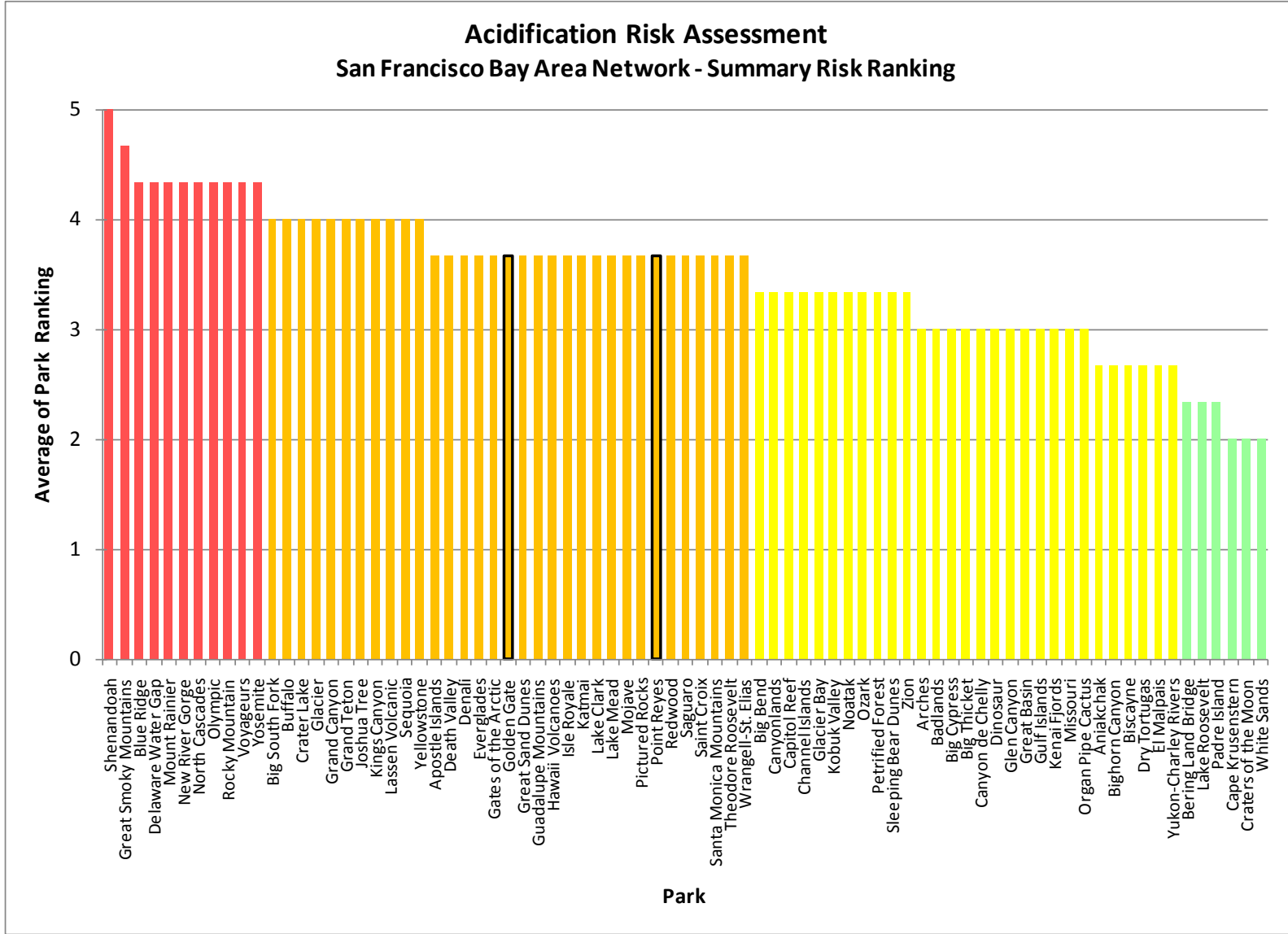


Figure H

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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