



Evaluation of the Sensitivity of Inventory and Monitoring National Parks to Nutrient Enrichment Effects from Atmospheric Nitrogen Deposition

North Coast and Cascades Network (NCCN)

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/ARD/NRR—2011/319



ON THE COVER

Some ecosystems, such as arid shrublands, subalpine meadows, remote high elevation lakes, and wetlands, are sensitive to the effects of nutrient enrichment from atmospheric nitrogen deposition.

Photograph by: National Park Service

Evaluation of the Sensitivity of Inventory and Monitoring National Parks to Nutrient Enrichment Effects from Atmospheric Nitrogen Deposition

North Coast and Cascades Network (NCCN)

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/ARD/NRR—2011/319

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

February 2011

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

The National Park Service, Natural Resource Program Center publishes a range of reports that address natural resource topics of interest and applicability to a broad audience in the National Park Service and others in natural resource management, including scientists, conservation and environmental constituencies, and the public.

The Natural Resource Report Series is used to disseminate high-priority, current natural resource management information with managerial application. The series targets a general, diverse audience, and may contain NPS policy considerations or address sensitive issues of management applicability.

All manuscripts in the series receive the appropriate level of peer review to ensure that the information is scientifically credible, technically accurate, appropriately written for the intended audience, and designed and published in a professional manner.

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/n-sensitivity.cfm>) and the Natural Resource Publications Management website (<http://www.nature.nps.gov/publications/nrpm/>).

Please cite this publication as:

Sullivan, T. J., T. C. McDonnell, G. T. McPherson, S. D. Mackey, and D. Moore. 2011. Evaluation of the sensitivity of inventory and monitoring national parks to nutrient enrichment effects from atmospheric nitrogen deposition: North Coast and Cascades Network (NCCN). Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/ARD/NRR—2011/319. National Park Service, Denver, Colorado.

North Coast and Cascades Network (NCCN)

National maps of atmospheric N emissions and deposition are provided in Maps A and B as context for subsequent network data presentations. Map A shows county level emissions of total N for the year 2002. Map B shows total N deposition, again for the year 2002.

There are three parks larger than 100 square miles in the North Coast and Cascades Network: Mount Rainier (MORA), North Cascades (NOCA), and Olympic (OLYM). There are also four smaller parks.

Total annual N emissions, by county, are shown in Map C for lands in and surrounding the North Coast and Cascades Network. County-level emissions within the network ranged from less than 1 ton per square mile to between 5 and 20 tons per square mile throughout most of the network. Annual county N emissions in the vicinity of the Columbia Gorge are higher than 20 tons per square mile, and are higher than 50 tons per square mile near the city of Olympia. In general, annual county N emissions were between 1 and 20 tons per square mile. Point source emissions of oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO_x) and reduced (ammonia, NH₃) N are shown in Map D. Only one relatively large N point source (larger than 500 tons per year) occurs in this network. Urban centers within the network and within a 300 mile buffer around the network are shown in Map E. The major urban centers (larger than 500,000 people) are Seattle and Portland.

Total N deposition in and around the network is shown in Map F. Included in this analysis are both wet and dry forms of N deposition and both the oxidized and reduced N species. Total N deposition within the network ranged from less than 2 kg N/ha/yr in the northeastern corner of the network to over 10 kg N/ha/yr in parts of the Columbia Gorge. Total N deposition ranges between 2 and 10 kg N/ha/yr throughout most of the network.

Land cover in and around the network is shown in Map G. The predominant cover type within this network is generally forest, but pasture/hay and row crops are common in the south and developed land is extensive around Portland and in the corridor between Seattle and Olympia.

Map H shows the distribution within the large (larger than 100 square miles) parks that occur in this network of the five vegetation types thought to be most responsive to nutrient N enrichment effects (arctic, alpine, grassland and meadow, wetland, and arid and semi-arid). In general, the predominant sensitive vegetation types within these parks are alpine and grassland and meadow vegetation.

Park lands requiring special protection against potential adverse impacts associated with nutrient N enrichment from atmospheric N deposition are shown in Map I. Also shown on Map I are all federal lands designated as wilderness, both lands managed by NPS and also lands managed by other federal agencies. The land designations used to identify this heightened protection included Class I designation under the CAAA and wilderness designation. There are many relatively large Class I and wilderness areas in this network. All of the larger (larger than 100 square miles) I&M parks are Class I and also contain substantial wilderness. Numerous wilderness areas outside NPS jurisdiction extend along the length of the Cascade Mountains that occurs within the network.

There are three large, and fairly sensitive, parks within this network: NOCA, MORA, and OLYM. Park-specific maps are shown for sensitive vegetation (maps J-1 through J-3) and high-elevation lakes (Maps J-4 through J-6).

High-elevation lakes within NOCA, MORA, and OLYM, which might be more prone than lakes at lower elevation to N-limitation, and therefore potentially more susceptible to eutrophication in response to atmospheric N input are common in all three of these parks. Each of these parks also contains extensive areas of alpine vegetation along with some meadow and wetland vegetation.

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 North Coast and Cascades Network ranks in the third quintile, just below the median, among networks, in N Pollutant Exposure (Figure A). Nitrogen emissions and N deposition within the network are both moderate. However, the network Ecosystem Sensitivity ranking is in the highest quintile among the 32 I&M networks (Figure B). This is because there are many high-elevation lakes in some of the parks that occur in this network and because there is substantial vegetation in this network that includes the vegetation types that are among those expected to be especially sensitive to nutrient enrichment effects from N deposition. This network ranks as the highest in Park Protection, having substantial amounts of protected lands (Figure C).

In combination, the network rankings for Pollutant Exposure, Ecosystem Sensitivity, and Park Protection yield an overall Network Risk ranking that is among the highest of all networks (Figure D). The overall level of concern for nutrient N enrichment effects on I&M parks within this network is considered Very 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 B. 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 of the I&M parks within this network except San Juan Island (SAJH) are in the third quintile in Pollutant Exposure (Figure E). SAJH is ranked High, probably due to its proximity to Seattle. The three large parks are all ranked in the highest quintile in Ecosystem Sensitivity (Figure F); the smaller parks are lower in Ecosystem Sensitivity, ranging from Low (Ebey's Landing, EBLA) to High (SAJH). All three of the large parks contain high elevation lakes. All three large parks in this network are ranked in the highest quintile in Park Protection (Figure G), and receive a Summary Park Risk ranking in the highest quintile among parks (Figure H). The smaller parks are ranked Moderate in Park Protection and Very Low to Moderate in Summary Risk.

Table A. Relative rankings of individual I&M parks within the network for Pollutant Exposure, Ecosystem Sensitivity, Park Protection, and Summary Risk from atmospheric nutrient N enrichment.

I&M Parks ² in Network	Relative Ranking of Individual Parks ¹			
	Pollutant Exposure	Ecosystem Sensitivity	Park Protection	Summary Risk
Ebey's Landing	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Very Low
Fort Vancouver	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Lewis and Clark	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low
<i>Mount Rainier</i>	Moderate	Very High	Very High	Very High
<i>North Cascades</i>	Moderate	Very High	Very High	Very High
<i>Olympic</i>	Moderate	Very High	Very High	Very High
San Juan Island	High	High	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).

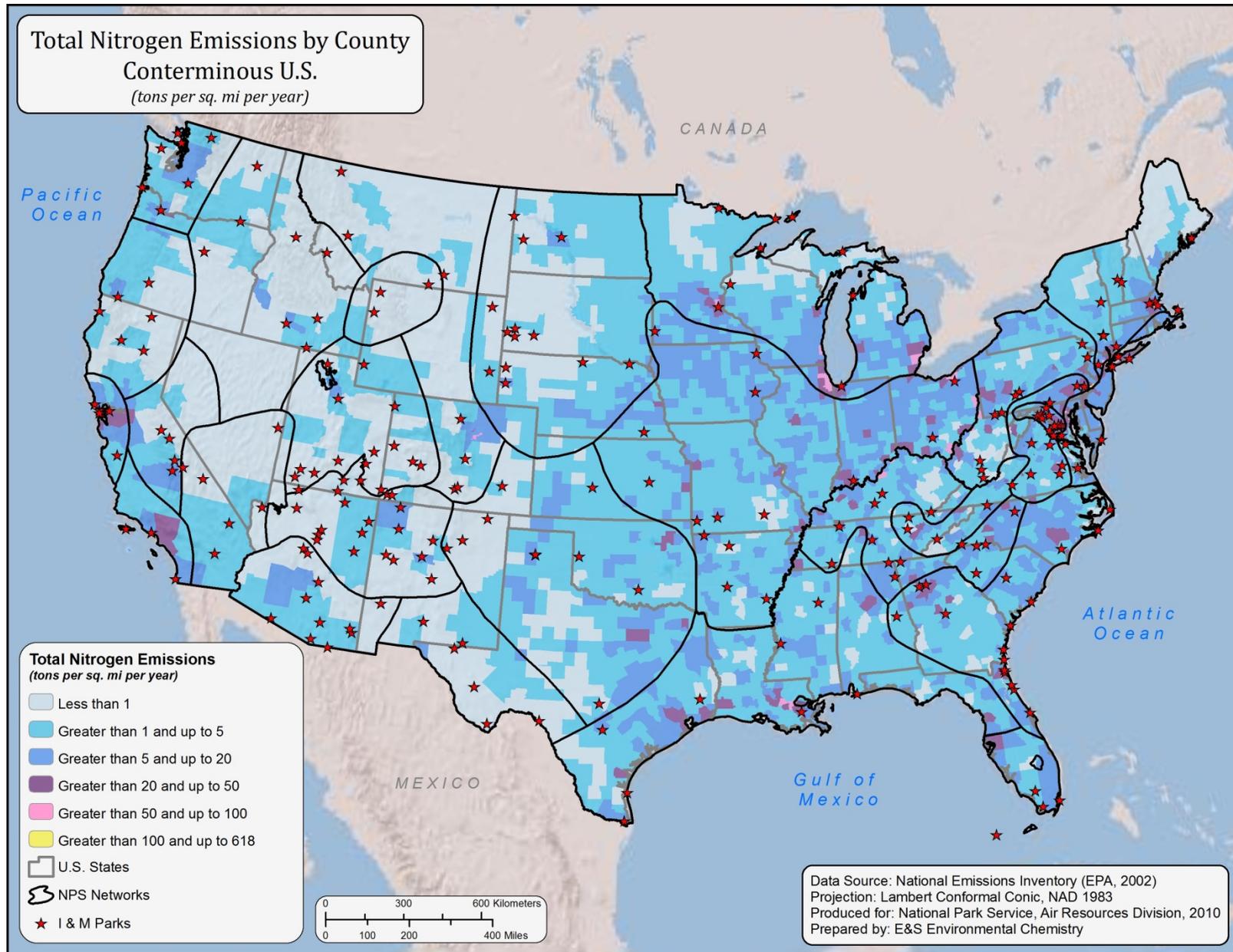
² Park name is printed in bold italic for parks larger than 100 square miles.

- Map A. National map of total 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 B. 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 C. 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 D. 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>)

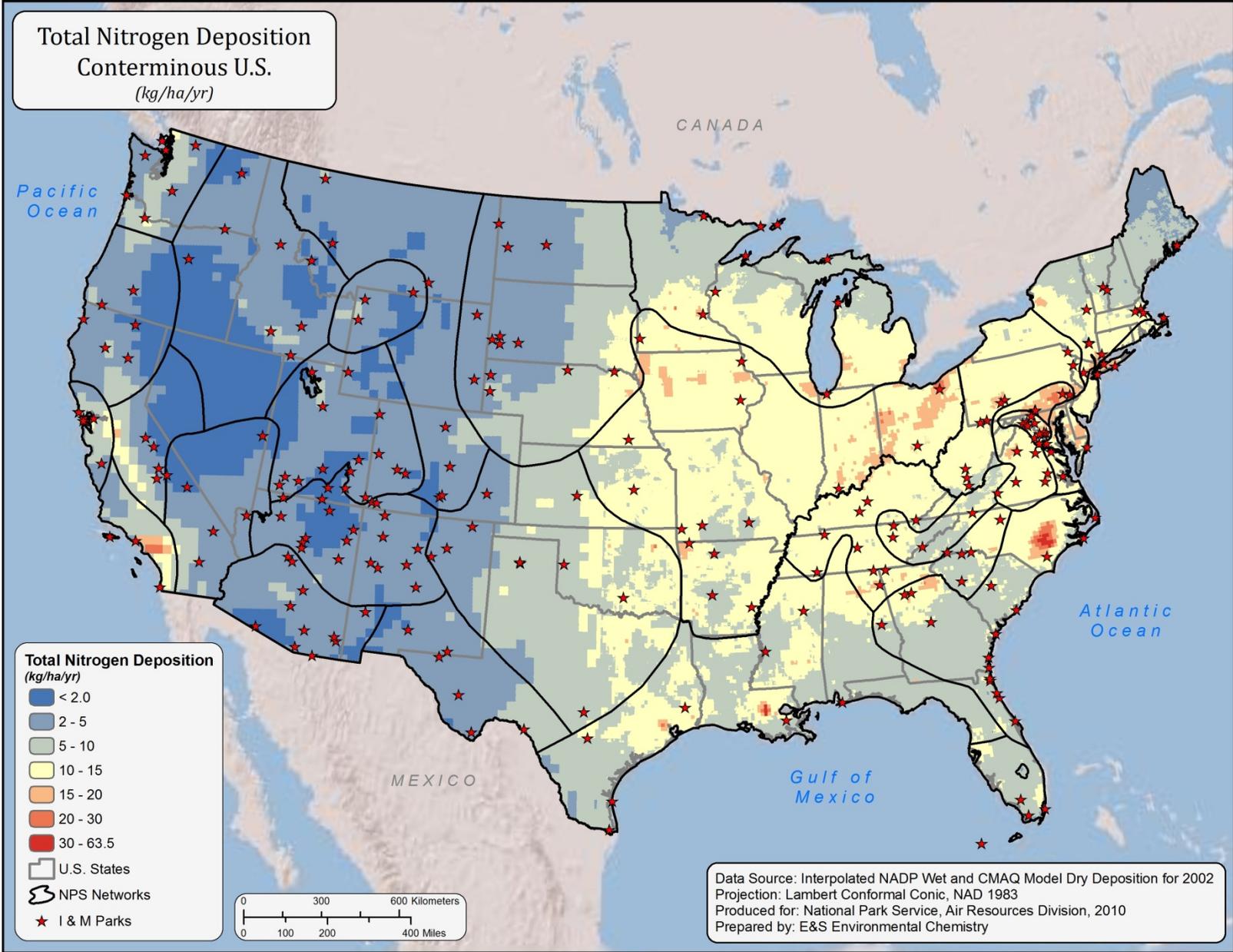
- Map E. Urban centers having more than 10,000 people within the network and within a 300-mile buffer around the perimeter of the network. (Source of data: U.S. Census 2000)
- Map F. Total N deposition in and around the network. Included in the total are wet plus dry forms of both oxidized (nitrogen 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 B above for details)
- Map G. 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 H. Distribution within the larger parks that occur in this network of the five terrestrial vegetation types thought to be most sensitive to N-nutrient enrichment effects: arctic, alpine, meadow, wetland, and arid and semi-arid. (Source of data: See Appendix A)
- Map I. 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 J. Park-specific map: Locations of high-elevation lakes within the principal park (GRSM) that occurs within this network. The method for designation as high elevation is explained in the text. (Source of data: U.S. EPA National Elevation Dataset and U.S. EPA/USGS National Hydrography Dataset Plus [<http://www.horizon-systems.com/nhdplus/>])
- Map J-1. Park-specific map: sensitive vegetation types in NOCA. (Source of data: See Appendix A)
- Map J-2. Park-specific map: sensitive vegetation types in MORA. (Source of data: See Appendix A)
- Map J-3. Park-specific map: sensitive vegetation types in OLYM. (Source of data: See Appendix A)
- Map J-4. Park-specific map: high-elevation lakes in NOCA. (Source of data: U.S. EPA National Elevation Dataset and U.S. EPA/USGS National Hydrography Dataset Plus [<http://www.horizon-systems.com/nhdplus/>])
- Map J-5. Park-specific map: high-elevation lakes in MORA. (Source of data: U.S. EPA National Elevation Dataset and U.S. EPA/USGS National Hydrography Dataset Plus [<http://www.horizon-systems.com/nhdplus/>])
- Map J-6. Park-specific map: high-elevation lakes in OLYM. (Source of data: U.S. EPA National Elevation Dataset and 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 ranking, calculated as the sum of the averages of the scores for Pollutant Exposure, Ecosystem Sensitivity, and Park Protection.
- 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 scores for all Summary Risk variables.

NCCN-6



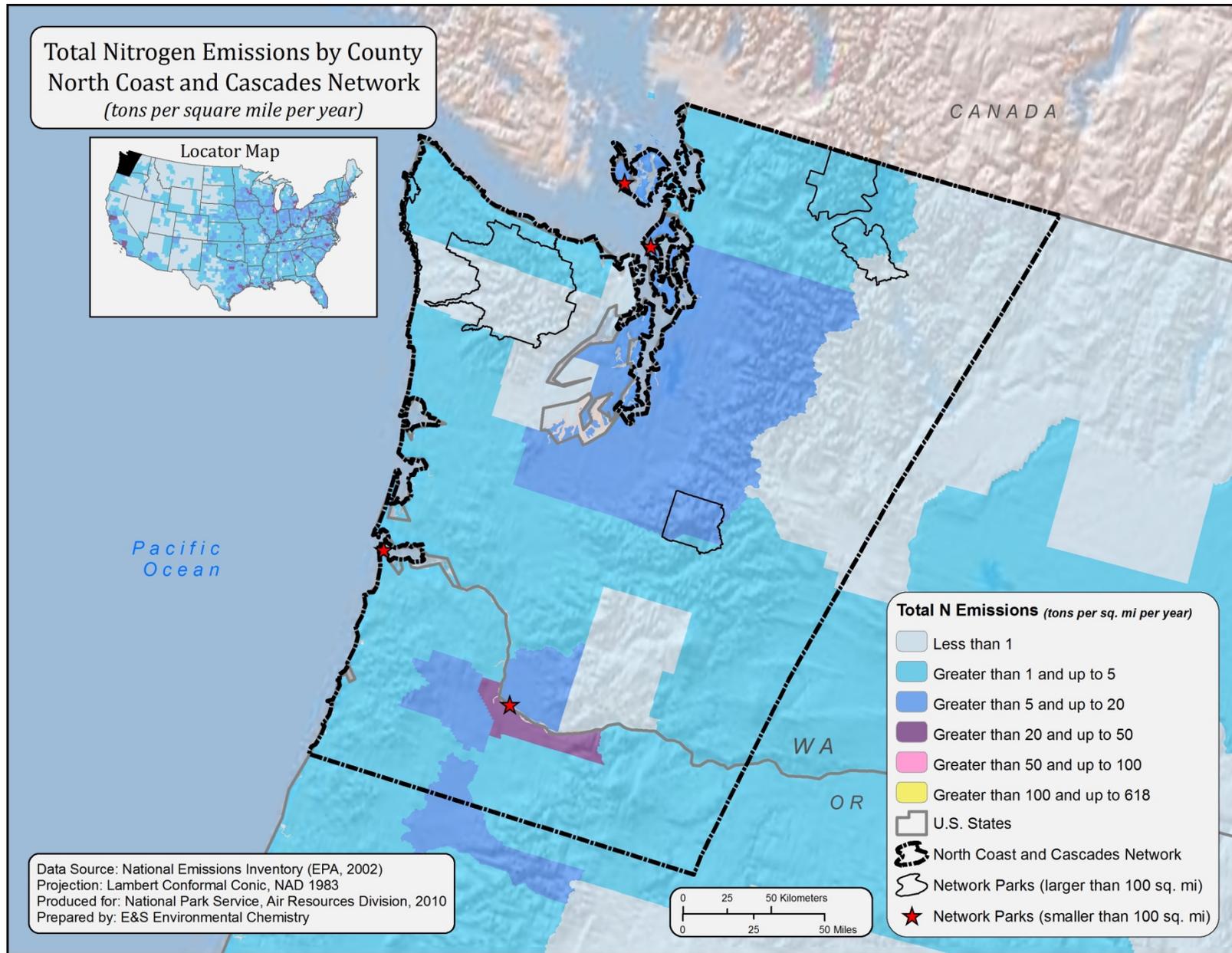
Map A



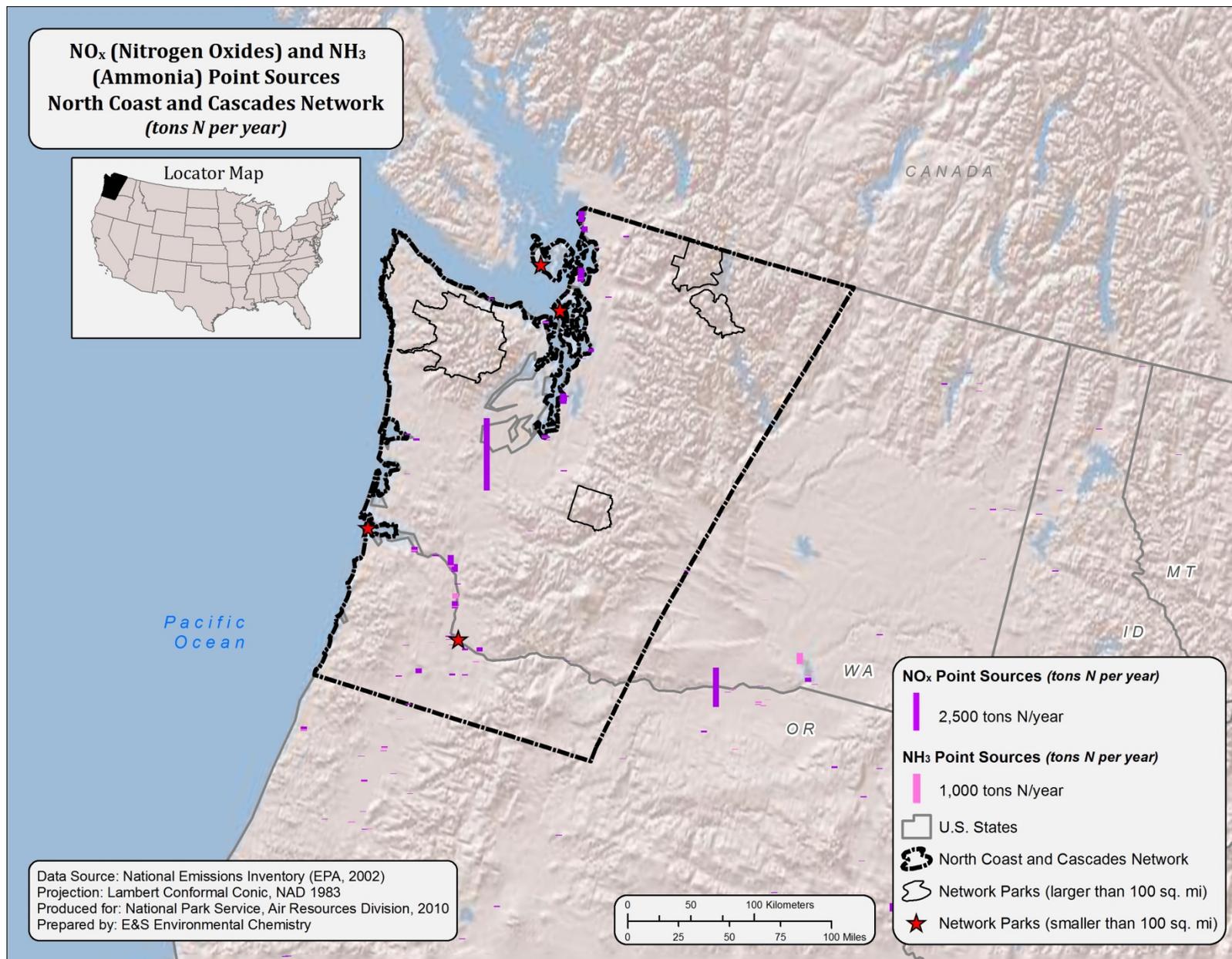
NCCN-7

Map B

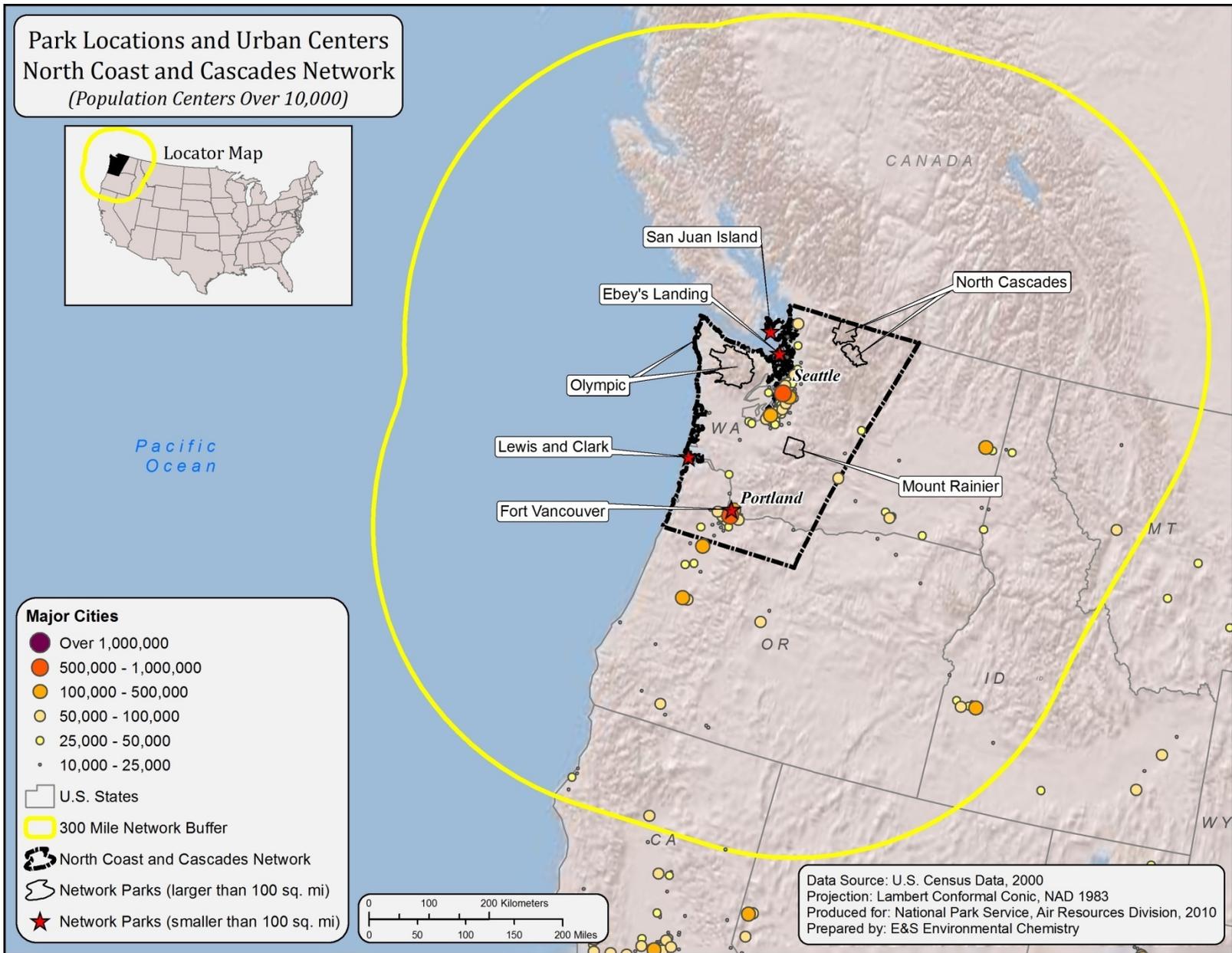
8-NCCN-8



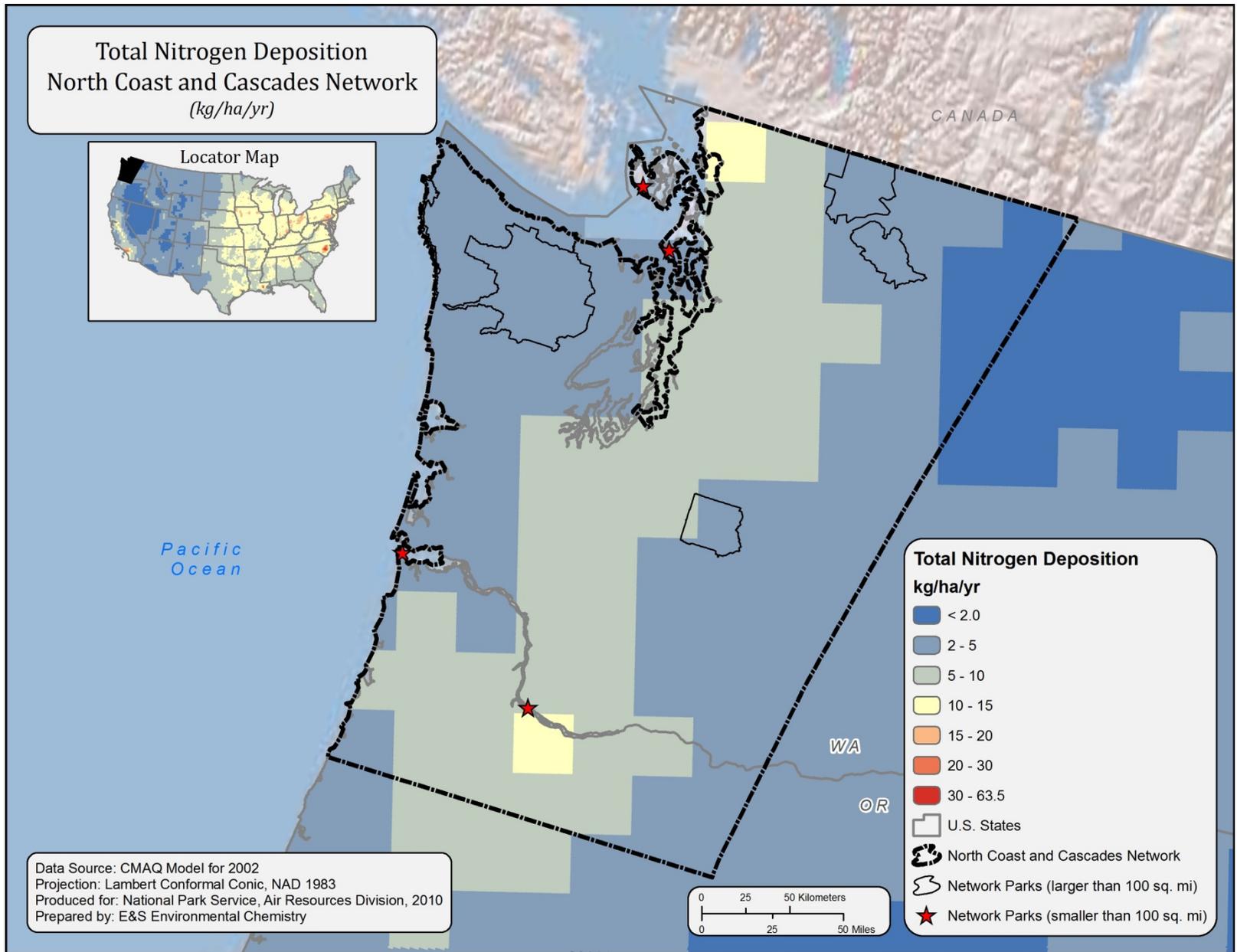
Map C



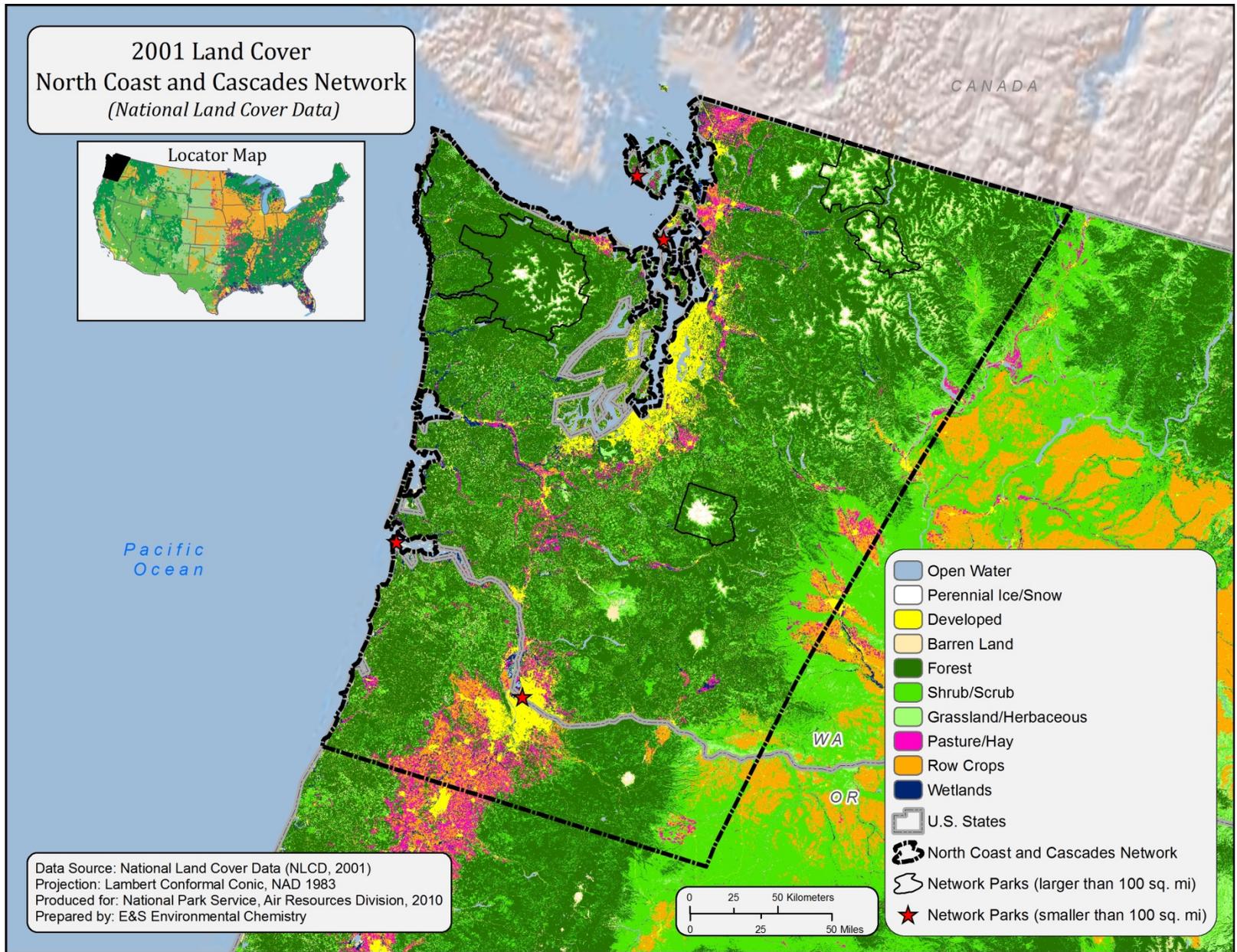
Map D



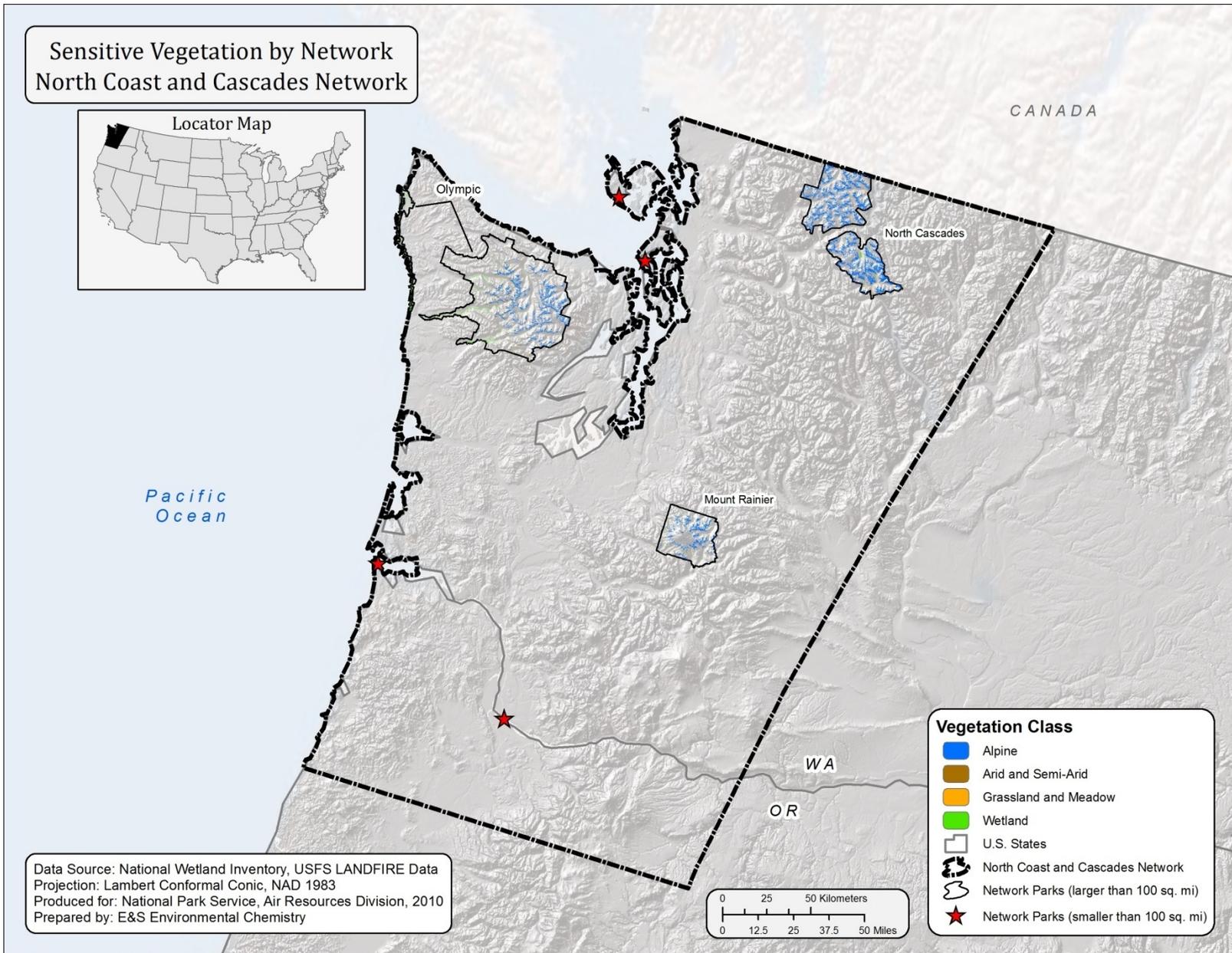
Map E



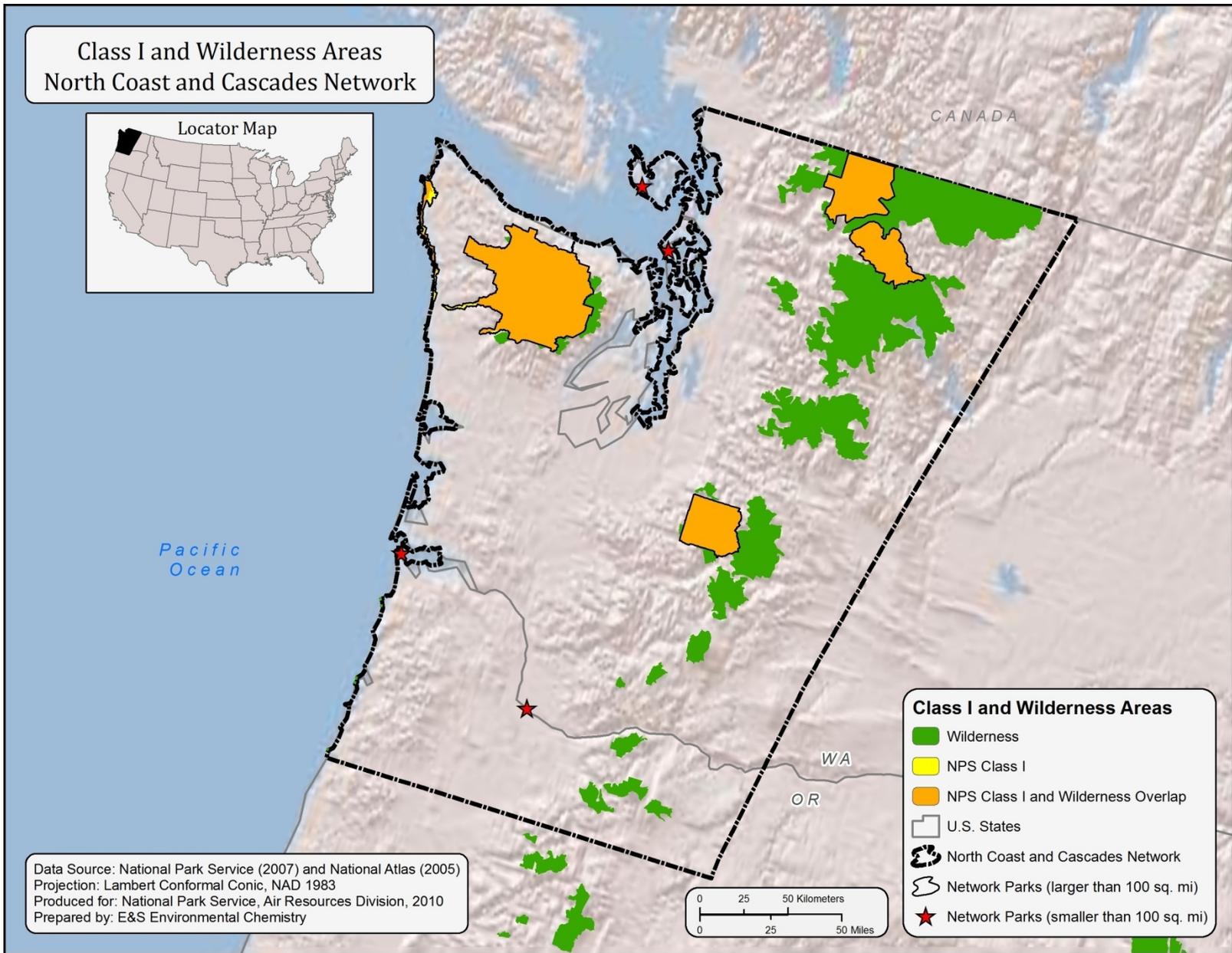
Map F



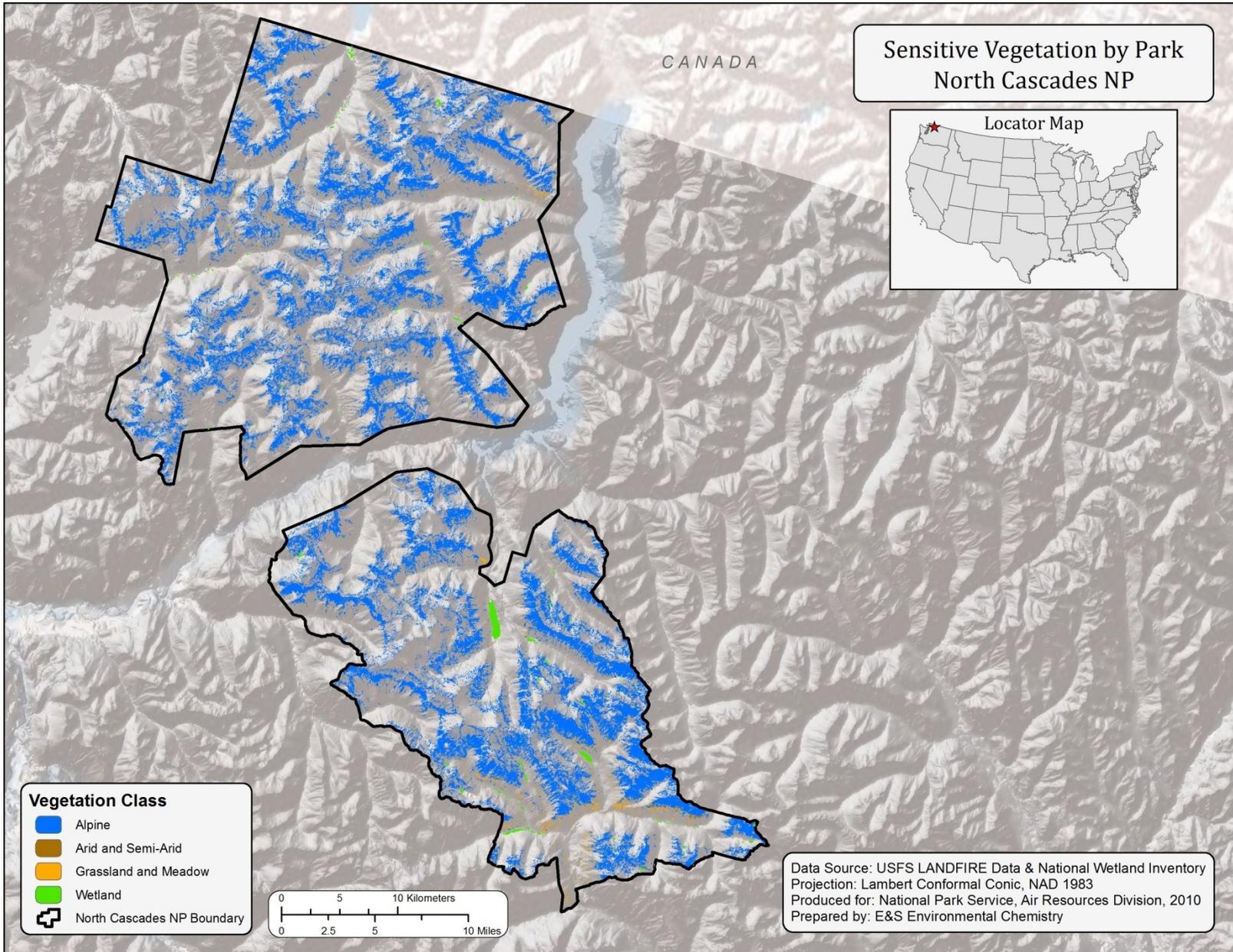
Map G



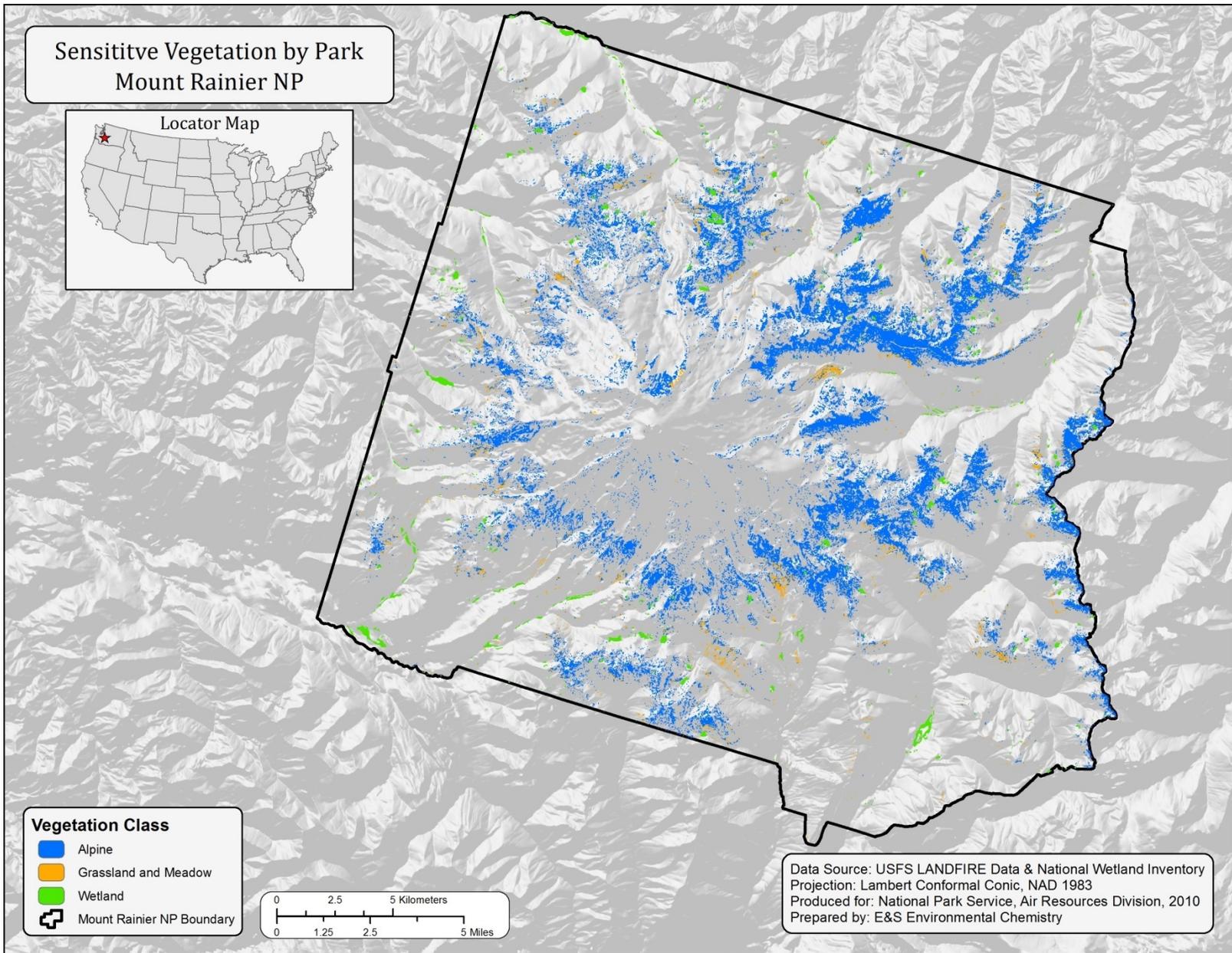
Map H



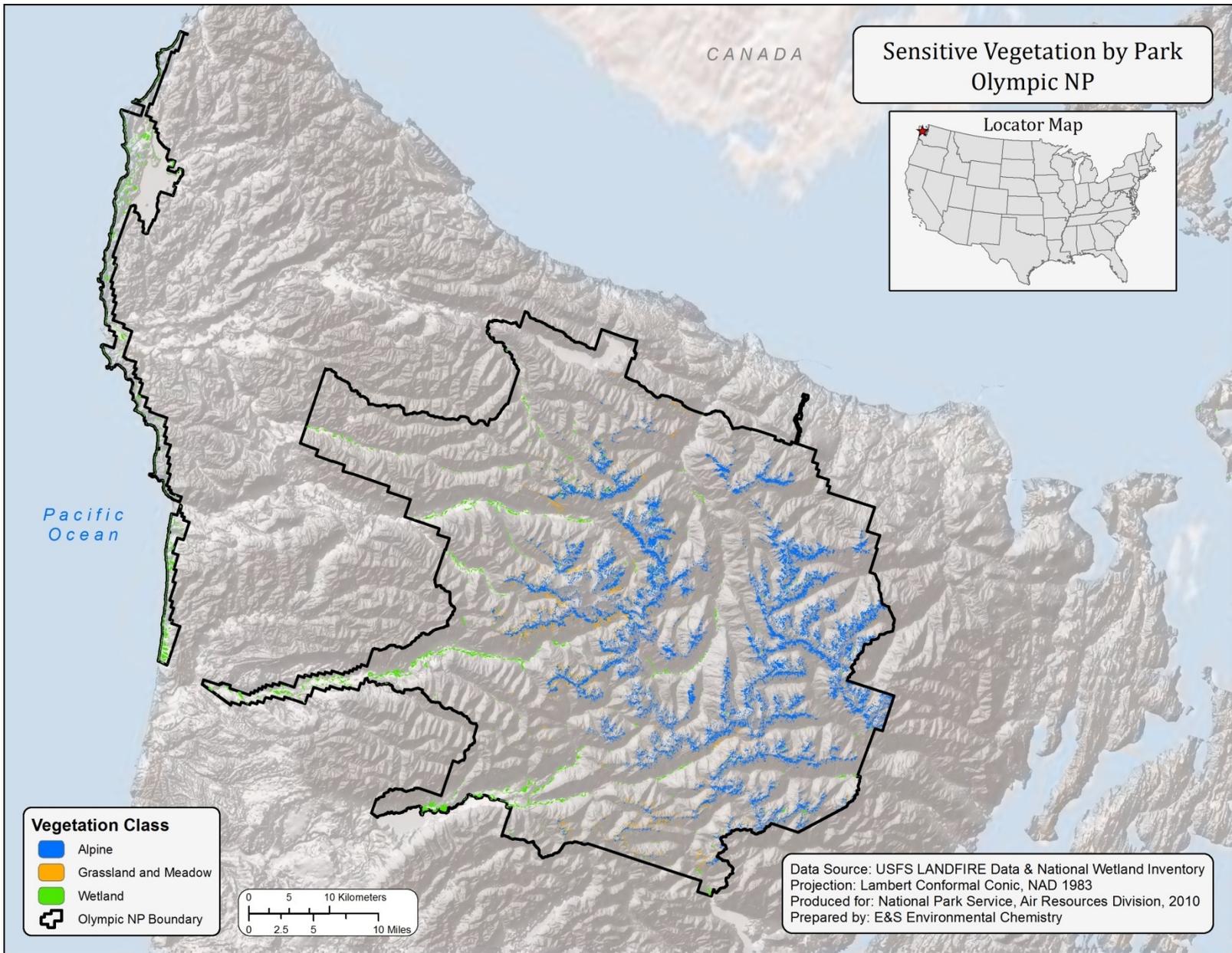
Map I



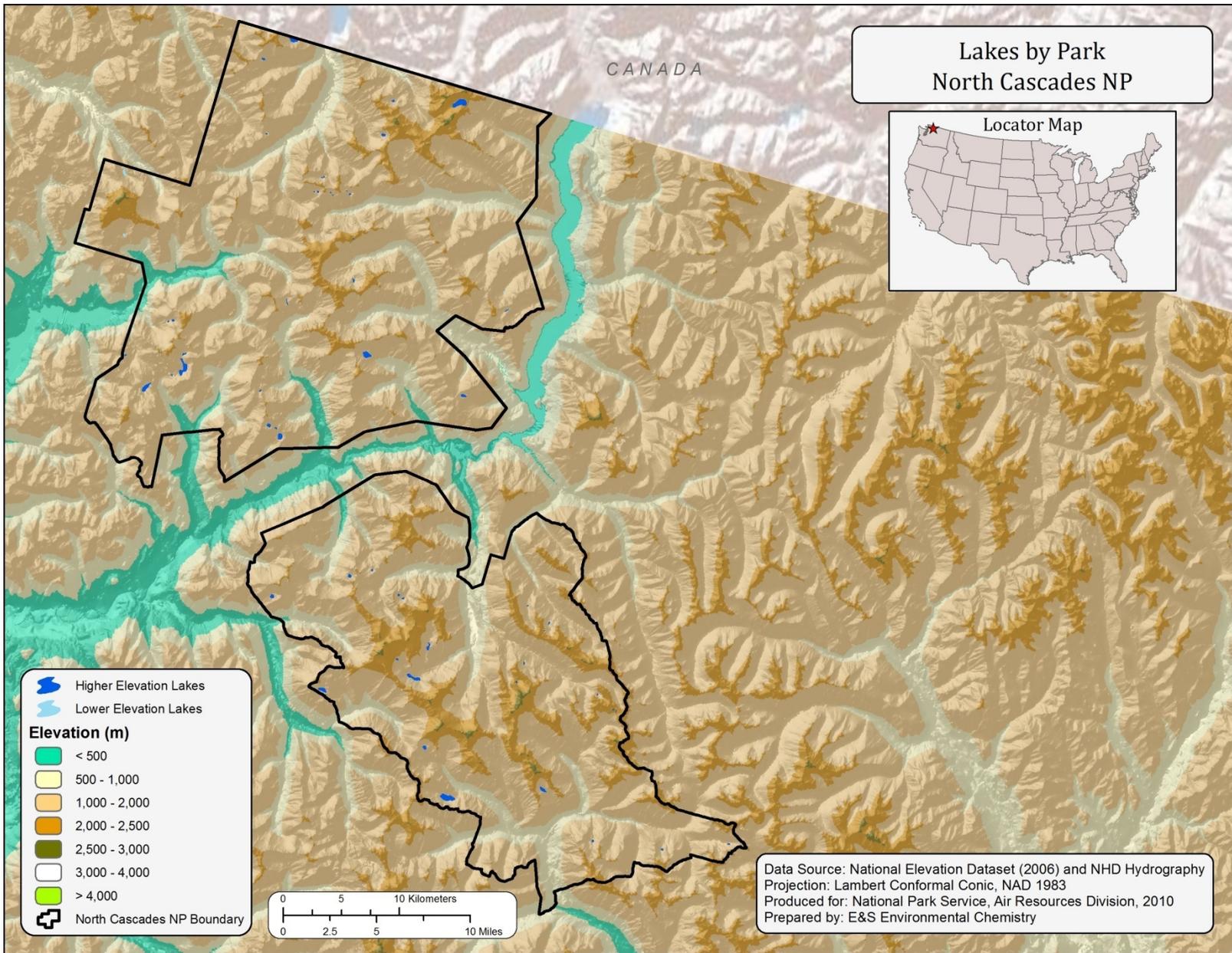
Map J-1



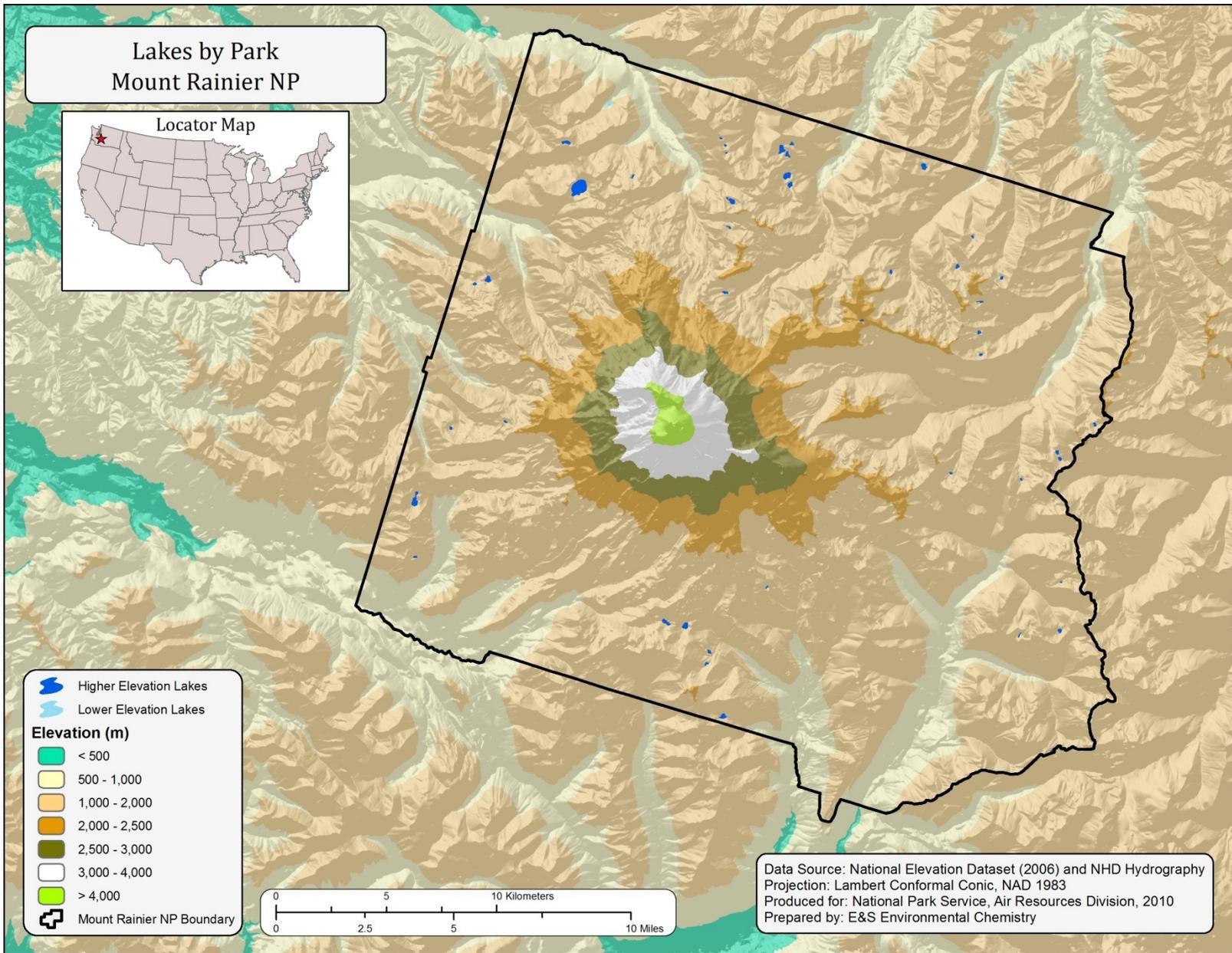
Map J-2



Map J-3

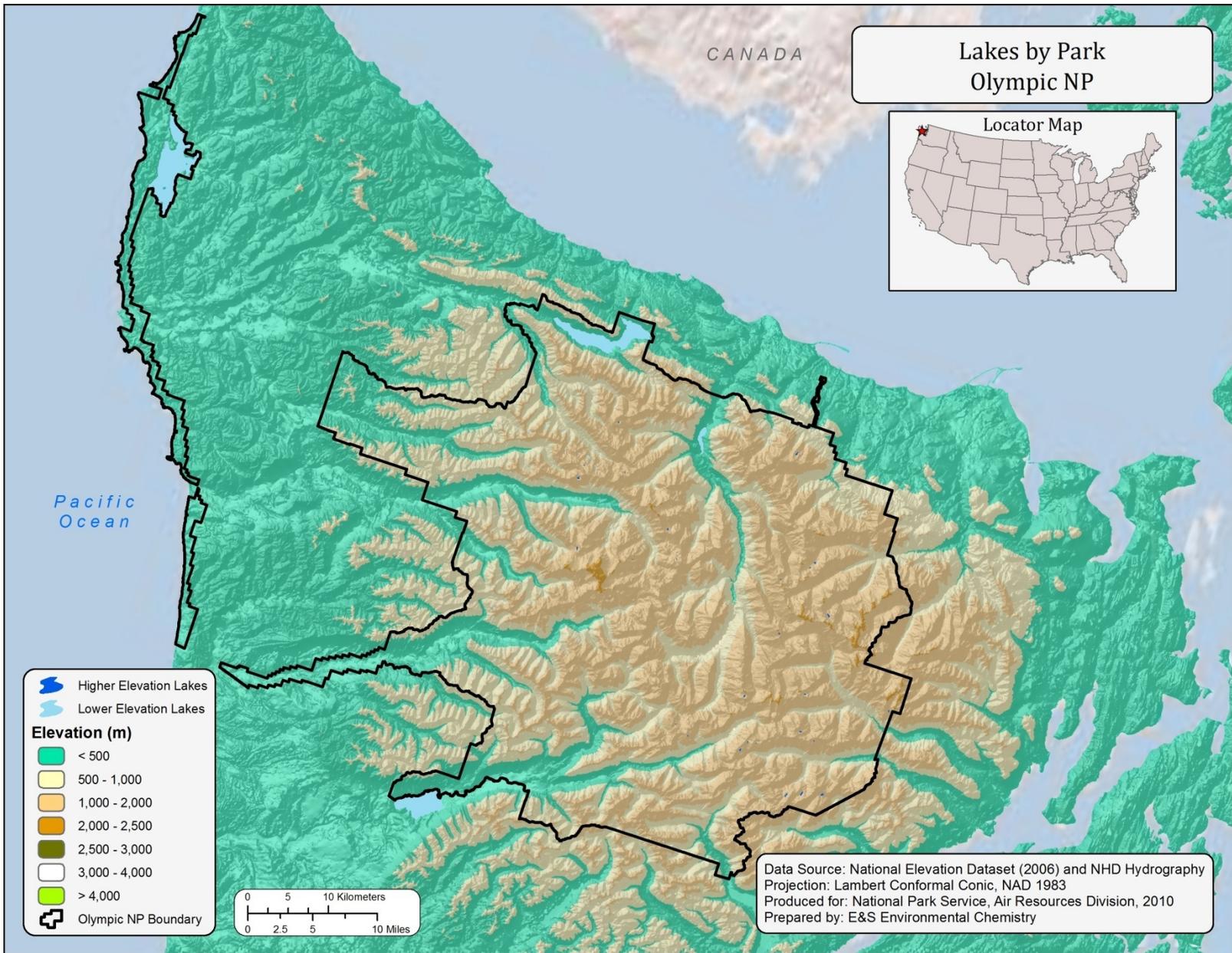


Map J-4



Map J-5

NCCN-20



Map J-6

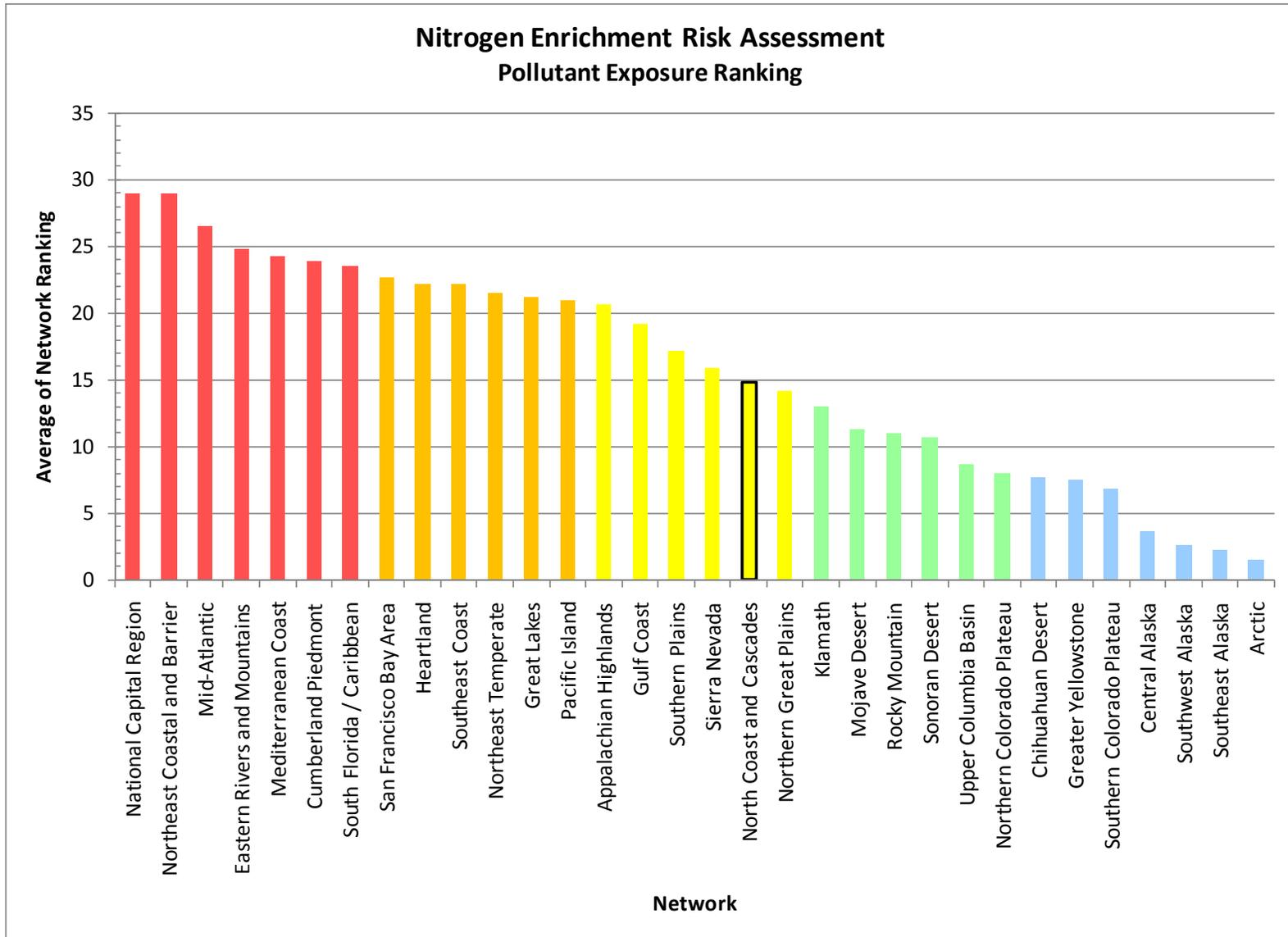


Figure A

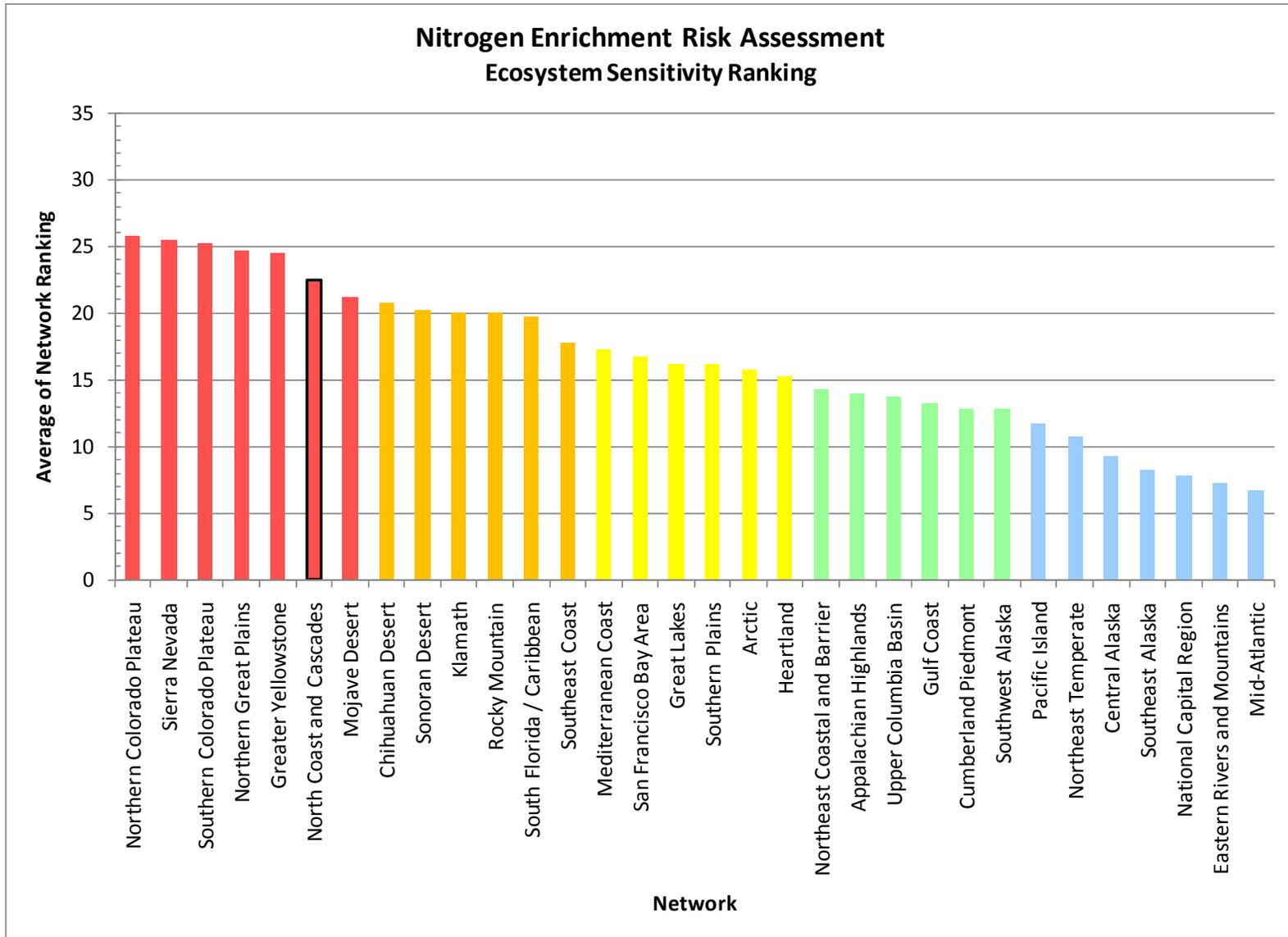


Figure B

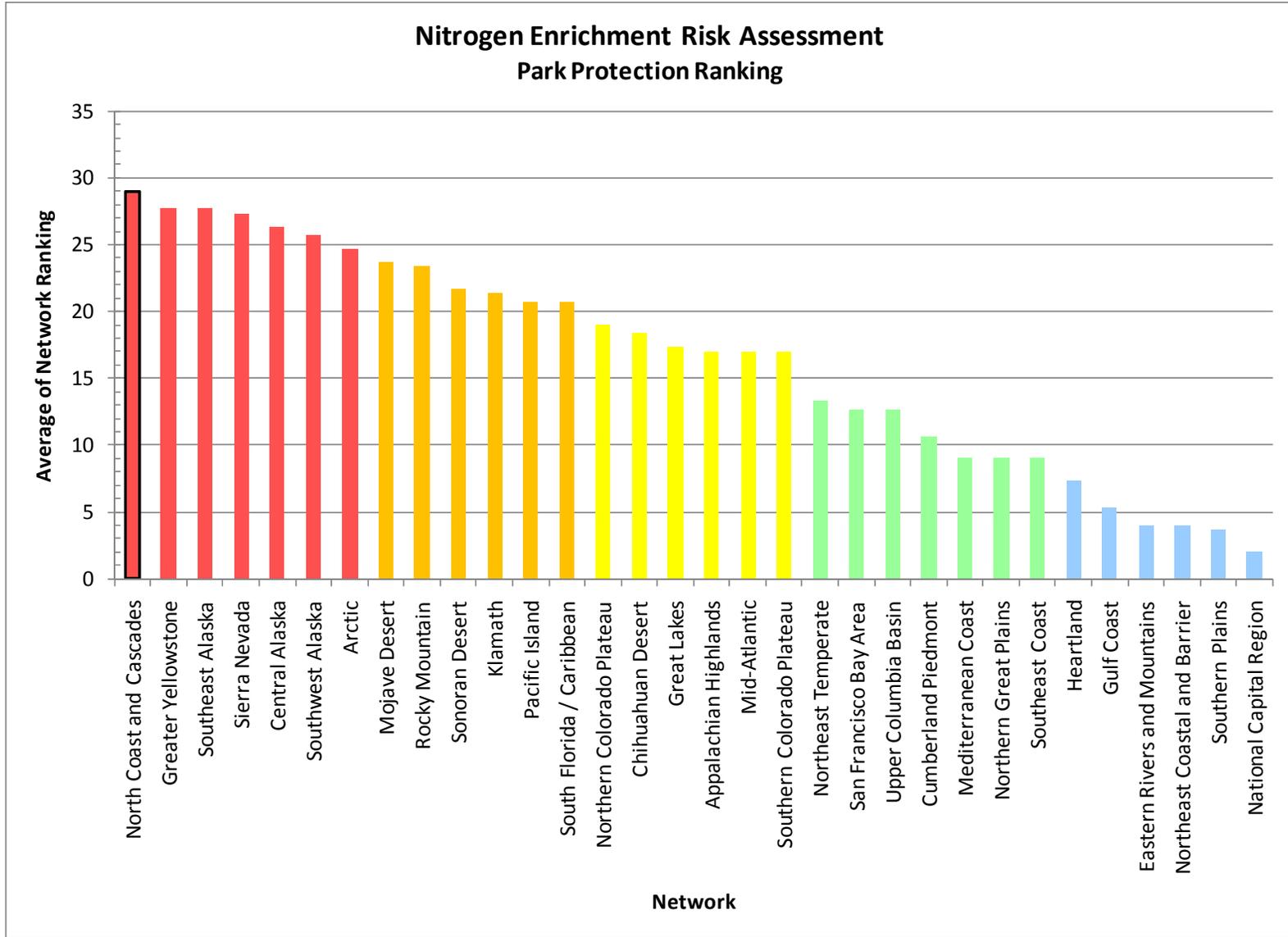


Figure C

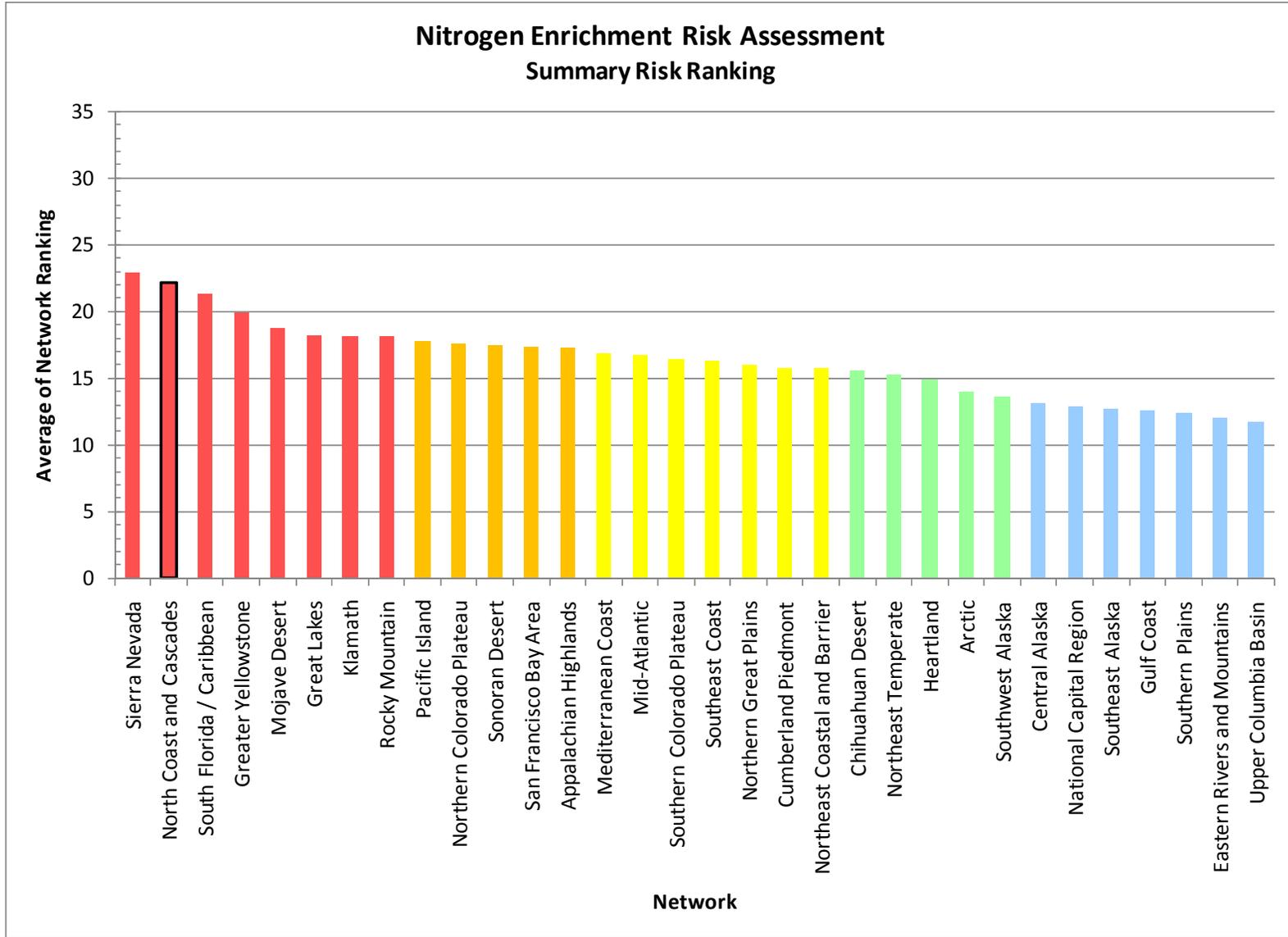


Figure D

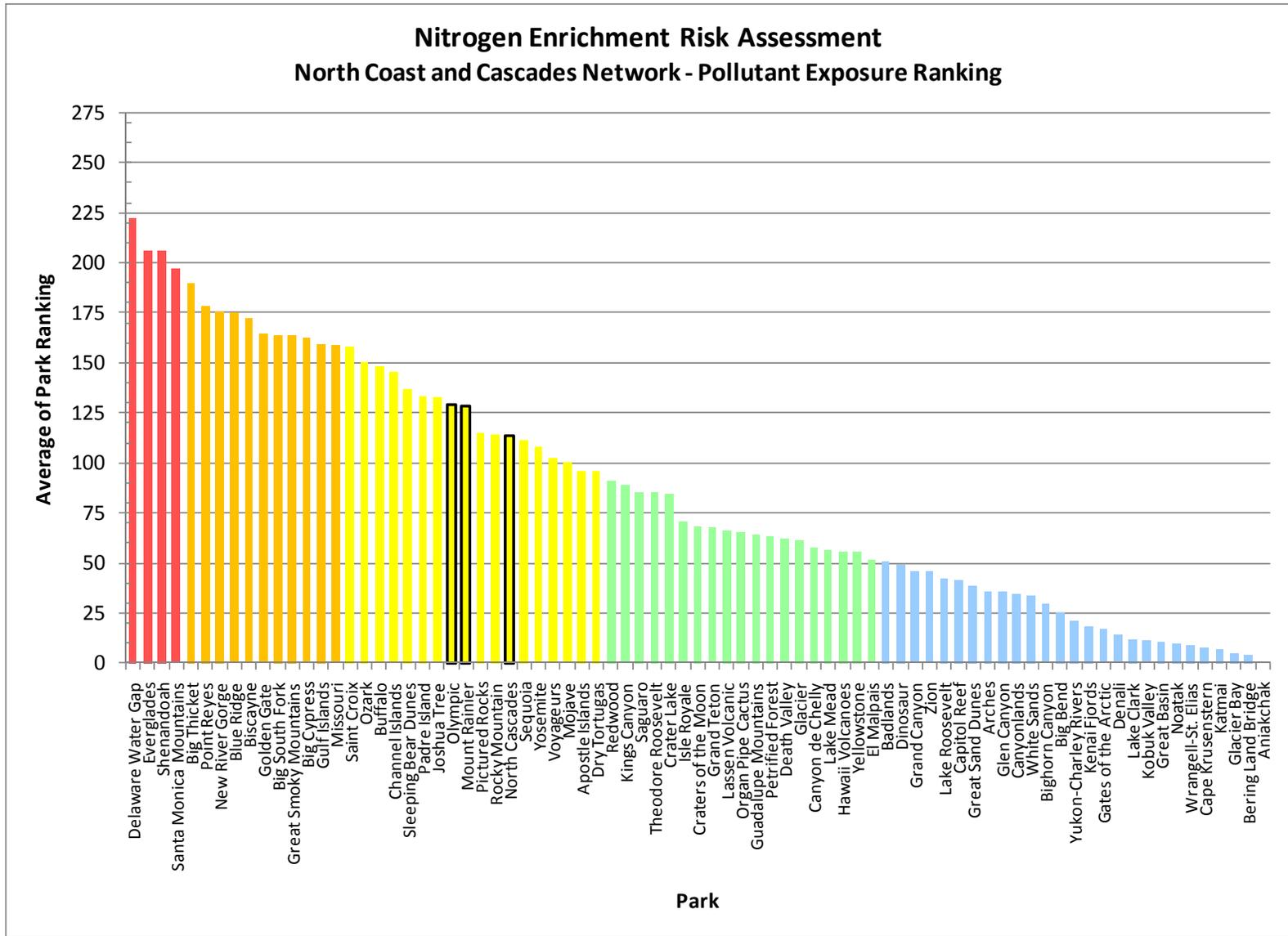


Figure E

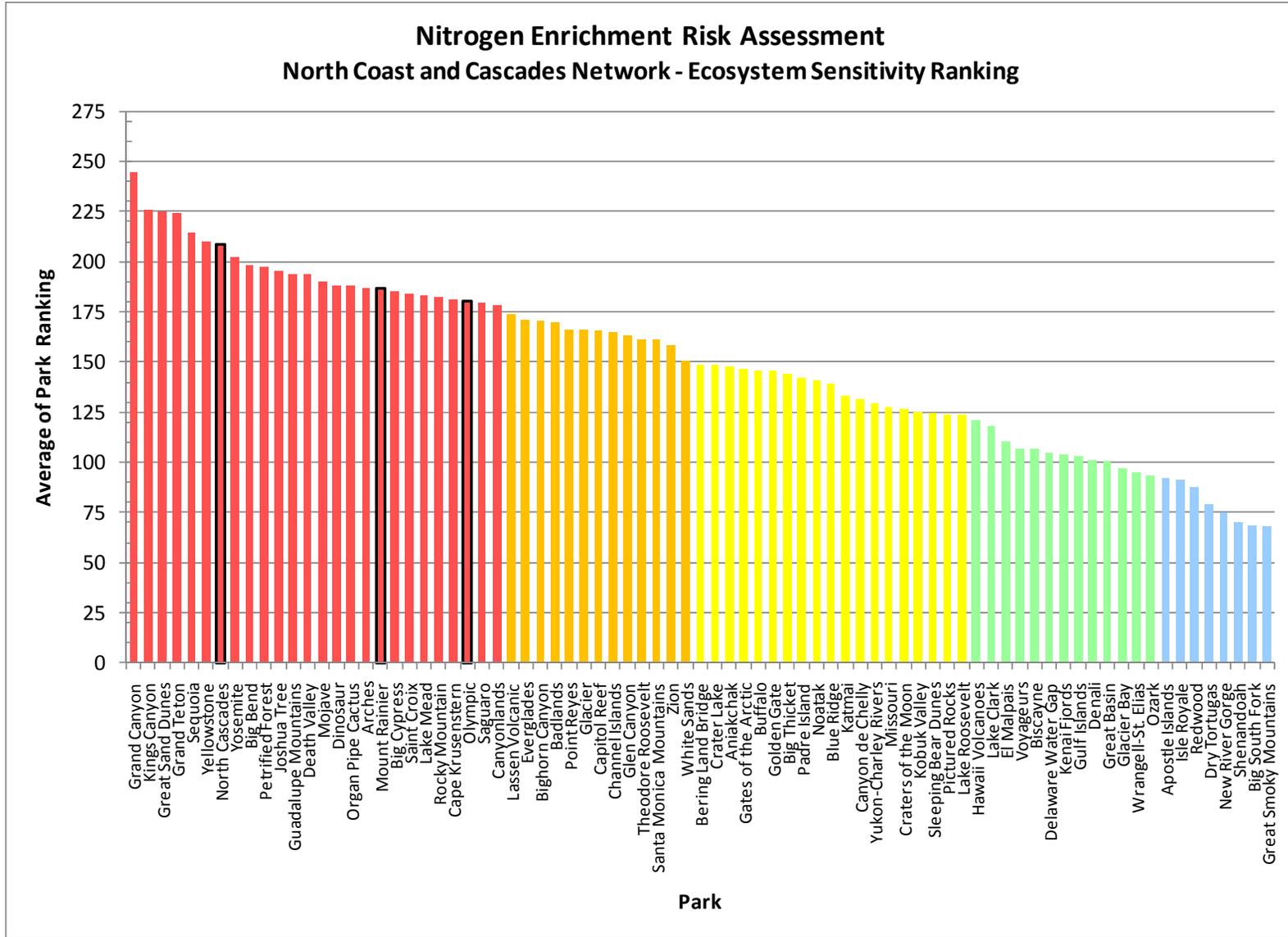


Figure F

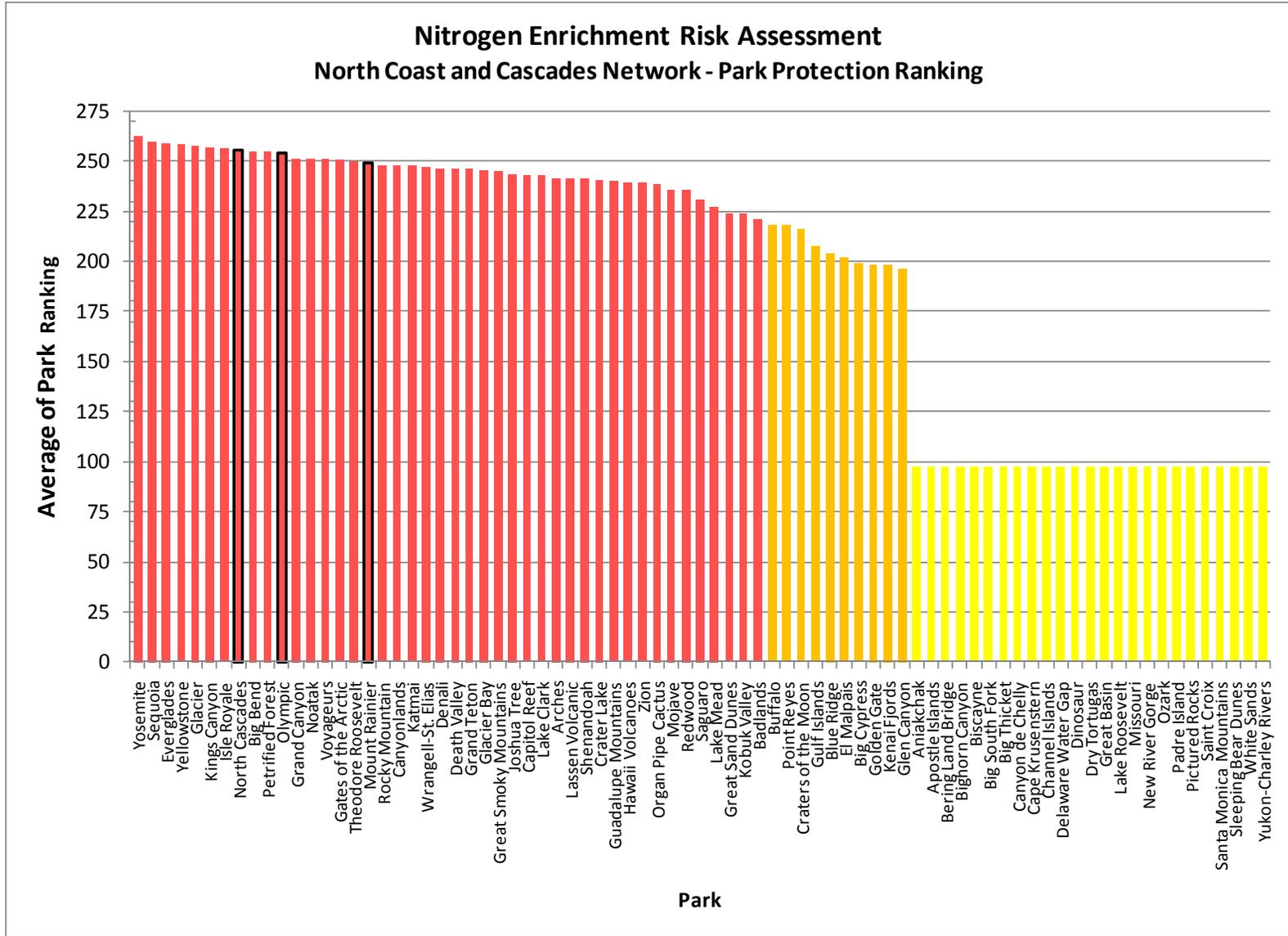


Figure G

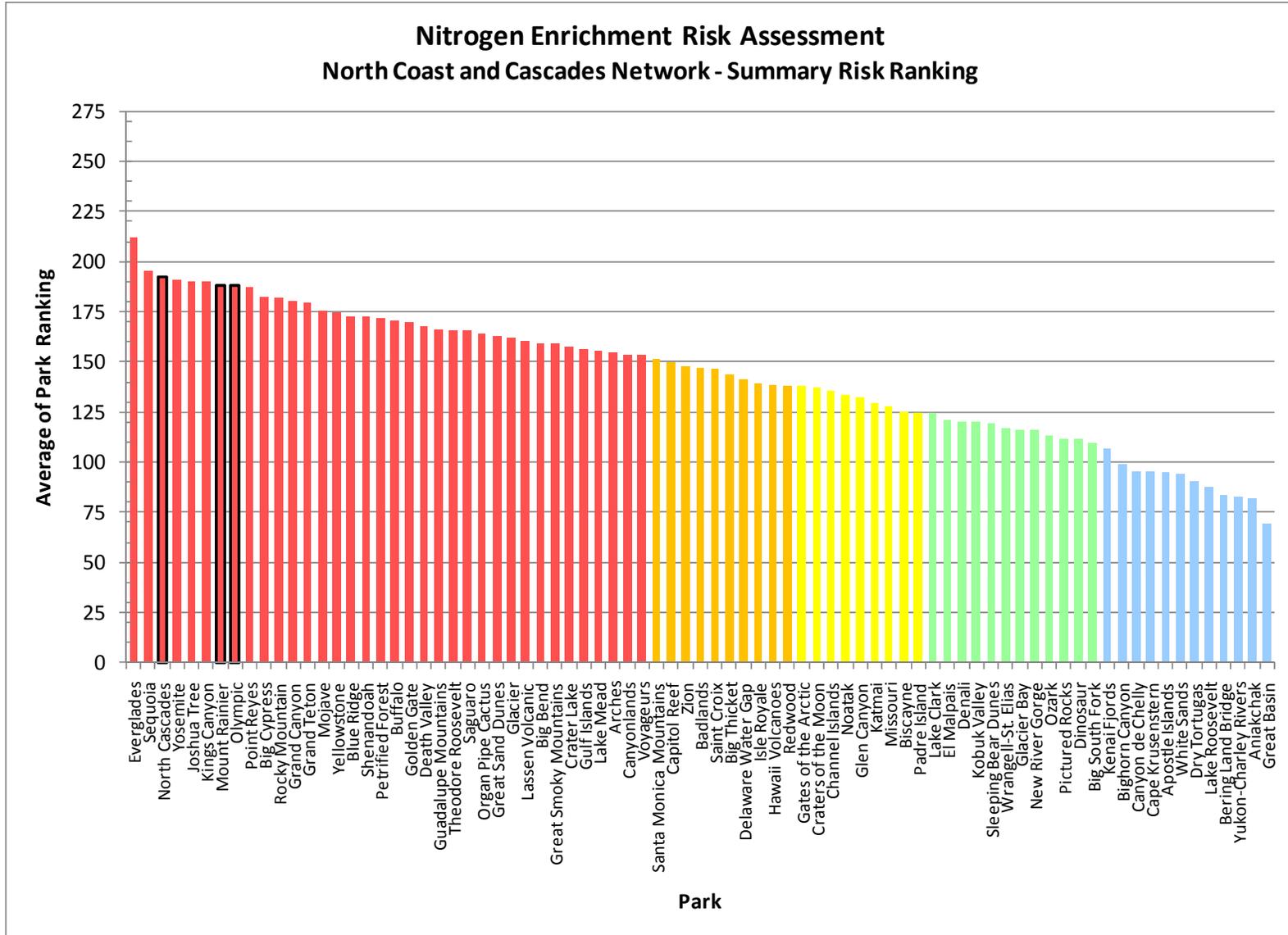


Figure H

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.

NPS 963/106683, February 2011

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Natural Resource Program Center

Air Resources Division
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225

www.nature.nps.gov/air