



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

## *Mid-Atlantic Network (MIDN)*

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/ARD/NRR—2011/315



**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

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## Mid-Atlantic Network (MIDN)

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 is only one park in the Mid-Atlantic Network that is larger than 100 square miles: Shenandoah (SHEN). There are, however, also nine other smaller parks.

Total annual N emissions, by county, are shown in Map C for lands in and surrounding the Mid-Atlantic Network. County-level emissions within the network ranged from less than 1 ton per square mile to in the range of 50 to 100 tons per square mile. In general, N emissions were between 1 and 20 tons per square mile, but there were many pockets of higher emissions, in the range of 20 to 50 tons per square mile. Point source emissions of oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO<sub>x</sub>) and reduced (ammonia, NH<sub>3</sub>) N are shown in Map D. There are relatively few substantial (larger than 1,000 tons per year) N point sources within this network, and all except one of these emit oxidized N. There are, however, a number of point sources of oxidized N that are larger than 5,000 tons per year just to the west of the network boundary. Urban centers within the network and within a 300 mile buffer around the network are shown in Map E. There is only one urban center with the network that is larger than 500,000 people. However, there are many large urban centers to the east, very close to the network boundary. These include Washington, DC, Baltimore, and Philadelphia. Few population centers are found to the west within 200 miles of the network boundary.

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 as low as 5 to 10 kg N/ha/yr to greater than 15 kg N/ha/yr. Estimated total N deposition throughout much of the network, including most of SHEN, is in the range of 10 to 15 kg N/ha/yr.

Land cover in and around the network is shown in Map G. The predominant cover types within this network are highly variable spatially. SHEN is largely forested, but the surrounding land is a mix of pasture/hay and forest. Elsewhere within the network, land cover types consist mainly of a varied mix of pasture/hay, forest, row crops, and developed areas.

Map H is not shown for this network because 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) are generally lacking from parklands in this network. There are some relatively small areas of meadow and wetland in SHEN, but they are too small to see at the scales of the entire park or network.

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. SHEN is classified as Class I.

Large portions of SHEN, along with two small areas outside NPS jurisdiction, are designated as wilderness.

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 Mid-Atlantic Network ranks among the highest, among networks, in N Pollutant Exposure (Figure A). Nitrogen emissions and N deposition within the network are both very high. However, the network Ecosystem Sensitivity ranking is the lowest of all networks (Figure B). This is because there is limited vegetation coverage in the I&M parks in this network that includes the vegetation types expected to be especially sensitive to nutrient enrichment effects from N deposition and there are no high elevation lakes. This network ranks near the median in Park Protection (Figure C), having moderate amounts of protected lands.

In combination, the network rankings for Pollutant Exposure, Ecosystem Sensitivity, and Park Protection yield an overall Network Risk ranking that is near the top of the third quintile among all networks (Figure D). The overall level of concern for nutrient N enrichment 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 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.

SHEN ranks near the top among parks in Pollutant Exposure (Figure E), but in the lowest quintile (Very Low) in Ecosystem Sensitivity (Figure F), being largely forested. There are no high elevation lakes. The Park Protection ranking for SHEN is in the highest quintile among parks (Figure G). Overall, the Summary Park Risk ranking places SHEN in the highest quintile among parks (Figure H). Concern for nutrient N enrichment effects in SHEN is considered Very High.

Most of the smaller historical parks in this network are ranked Very High in Pollutant Exposure; the exceptions are Appomattox Court House (APCO), which is ranked High and Booker T. Washington (BOWA), which is ranked Moderate. The smaller parks are variable in Ecosystem Sensitivity, from Very Low in BOWA and Petersburg (PETE) to High in Valley Forge (VAFO). All of the smaller parks are ranked in the middle quintile in Park Protection. The Summary Risk ranking places some of the smaller parks in the highest quintile (Eisenhower, EISE; Gettysburg, GETT; Hopewell Furnace, HOFU; VAFO) or second highest quintile (Richmond, RICH) among all parks. Others show Very Low to Moderate Summary Risk (Table A).

**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 <sup>2</sup> in Network	Relative Ranking of Individual Parks <sup>1</sup>			
	Pollutant Exposure	Ecosystem Sensitivity	Park Protection	Summary Risk
Appomattox Court House	High	Low	Moderate	Low
Booker T. Washington	Moderate	Very Low	Moderate	Very Low
Eisenhower	Very High	Moderate	Moderate	Very High
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania	Very High	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Gettysburg	Very High	Moderate	Moderate	Very High
Hopewell Furnace	Very High	Moderate	Moderate	Very High
Petersburg	Very High	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate
Richmond	Very High	Low	Moderate	High
<b><i>Shenandoah</i></b>	Very High	Very Low	Very High	Very High
Valley Forge	Very High	High	Moderate	Very High

<sup>1</sup> 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).  
<sup>2</sup> 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<sub>x</sub>) and reduced (ammonia, NH<sub>3</sub>) 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>)

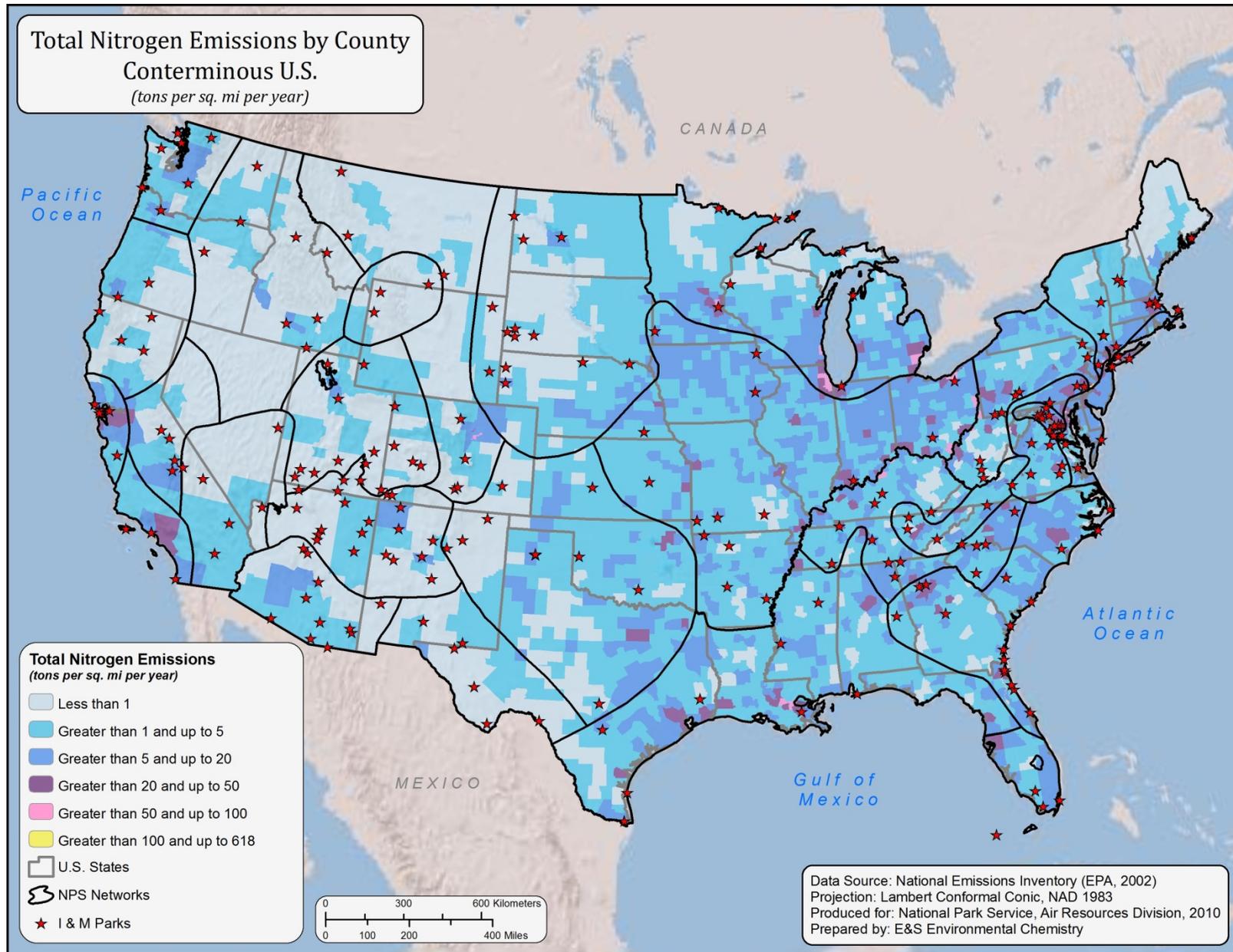
Map B. Total N deposition for the conterminous United States for the year 2002, expressed in units of kilograms of N deposited from the atmosphere to the earth surface per hectare per year. Wet and dry forms of both oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO<sub>x</sub>) and reduced (ammonia, NH<sub>3</sub>) N are 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<sub>x</sub>) and reduced (ammonia, NH<sub>3</sub>) 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<sub>x</sub>) and reduced (ammonia, NH<sub>3</sub>) 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<sub>x</sub>) and reduced (ammonia, NH<sub>3</sub>) 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 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](http://www.mrlc.gov/nlcd_multizone_map.php))
- 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)
- 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.

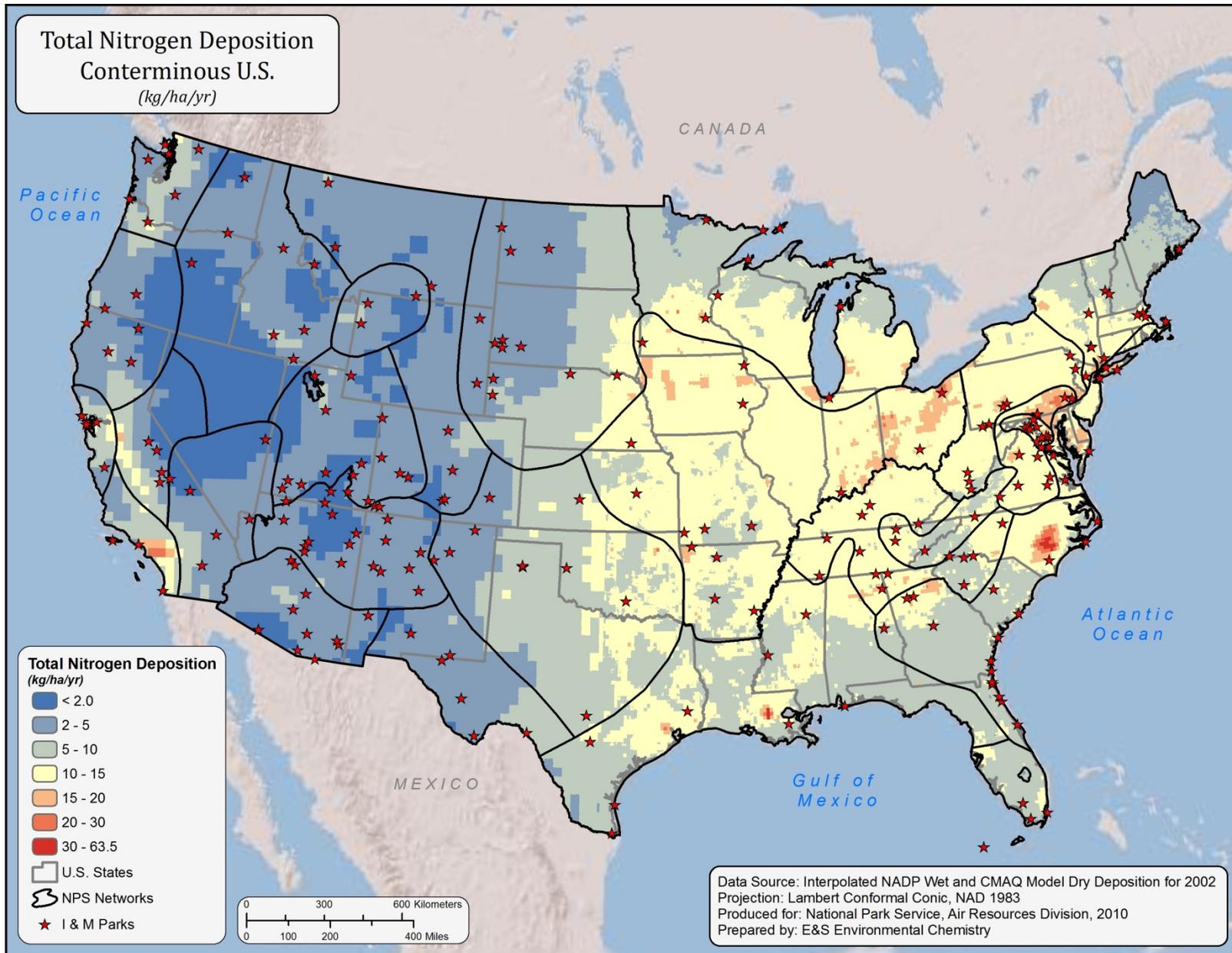
Figure H. Park rankings for Summary Risk for all parks larger than 100 square miles. Ranks for each park were calculated relative to all parks, regardless of size, as the average of scores for all Summary Risk variables.

MIDN-6

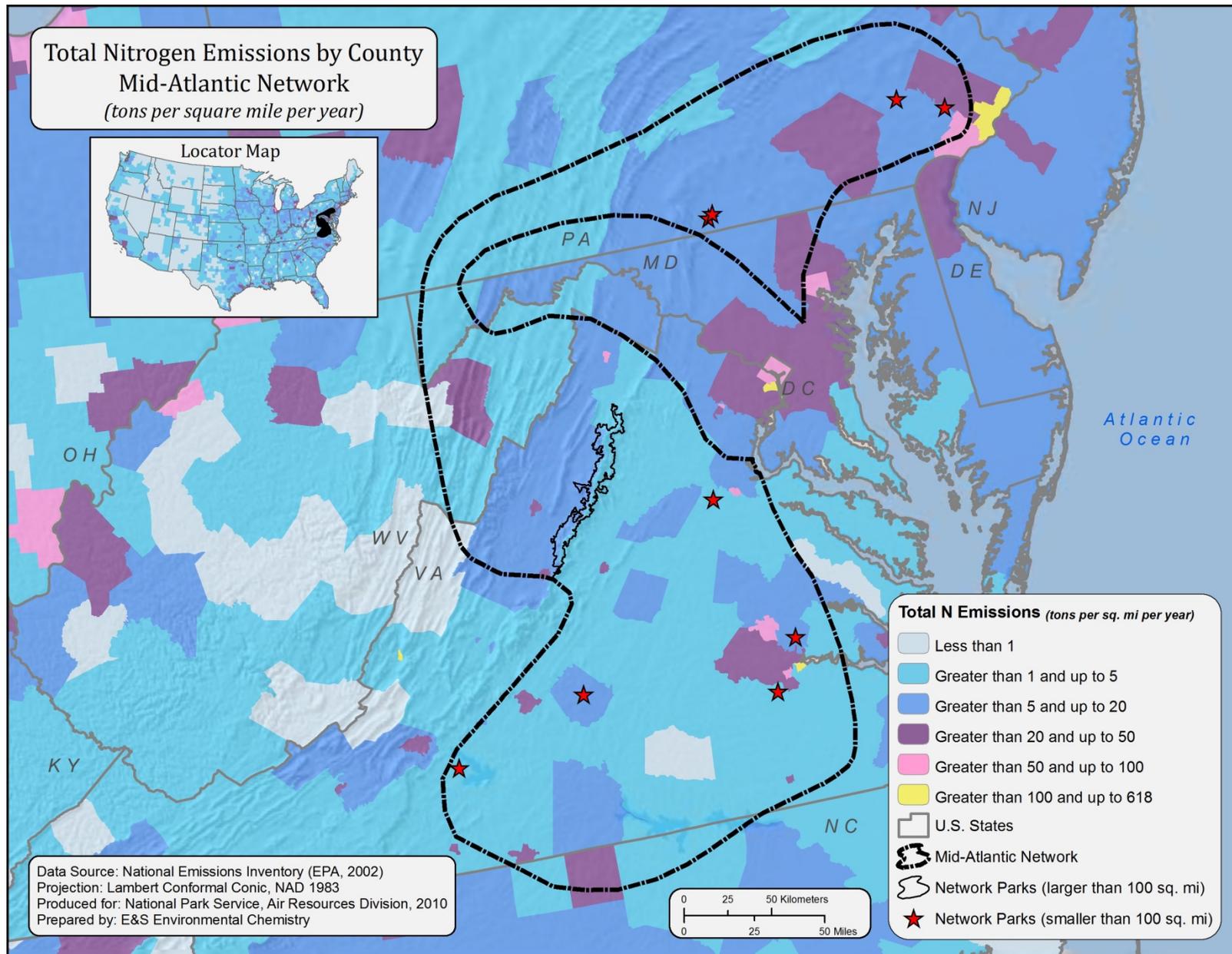


Map A

MIDN-7

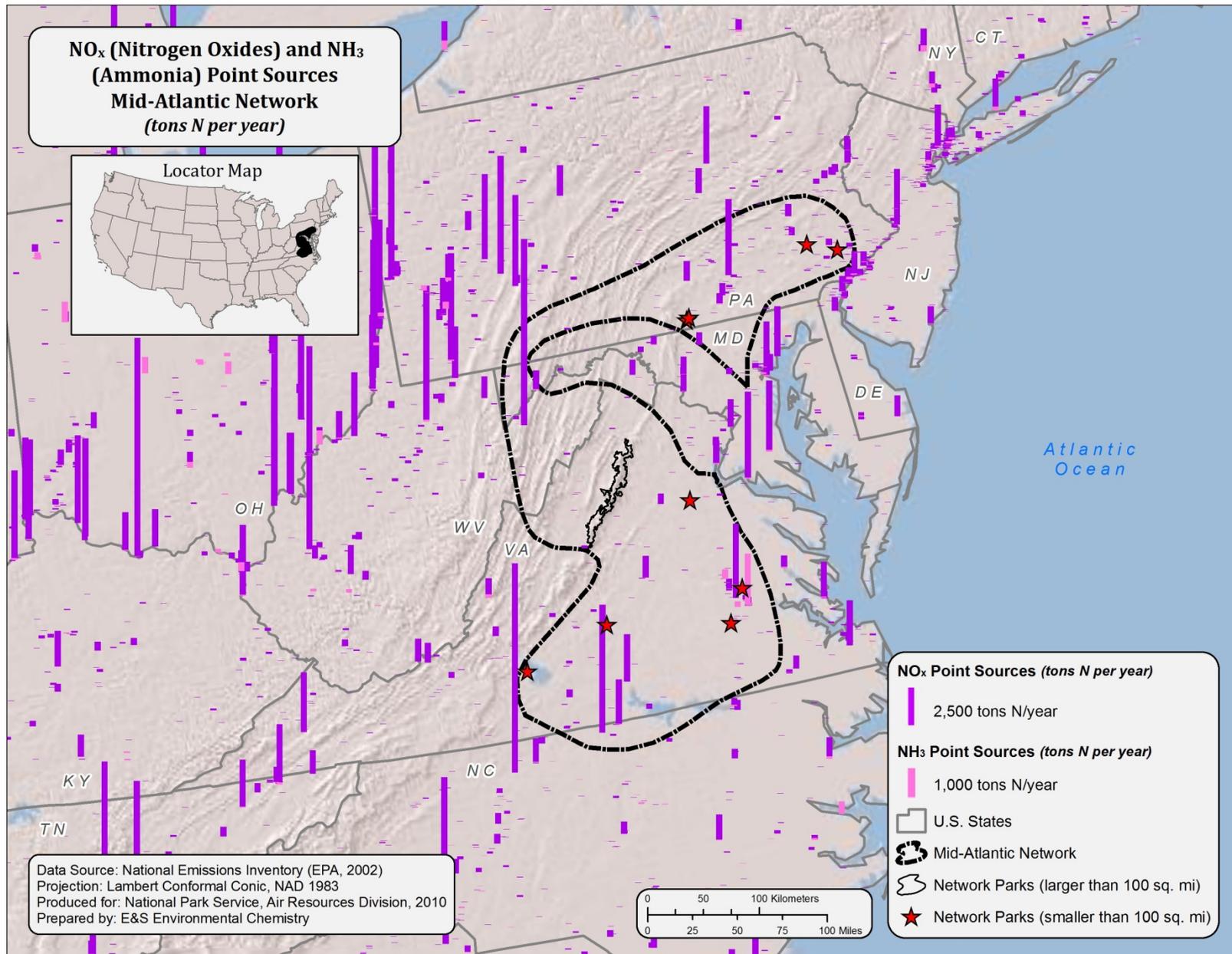


Map B



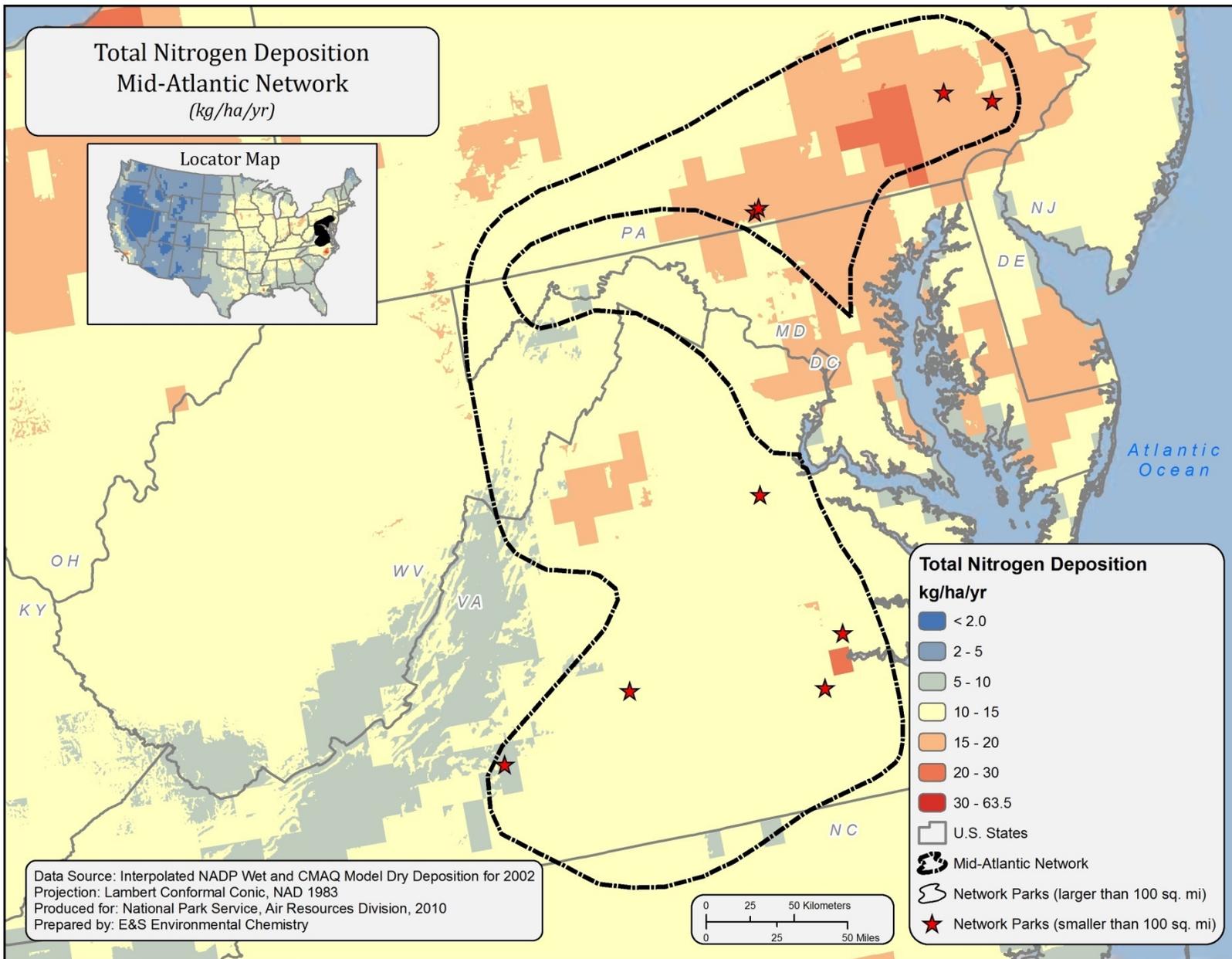
Map C

MIDN-9

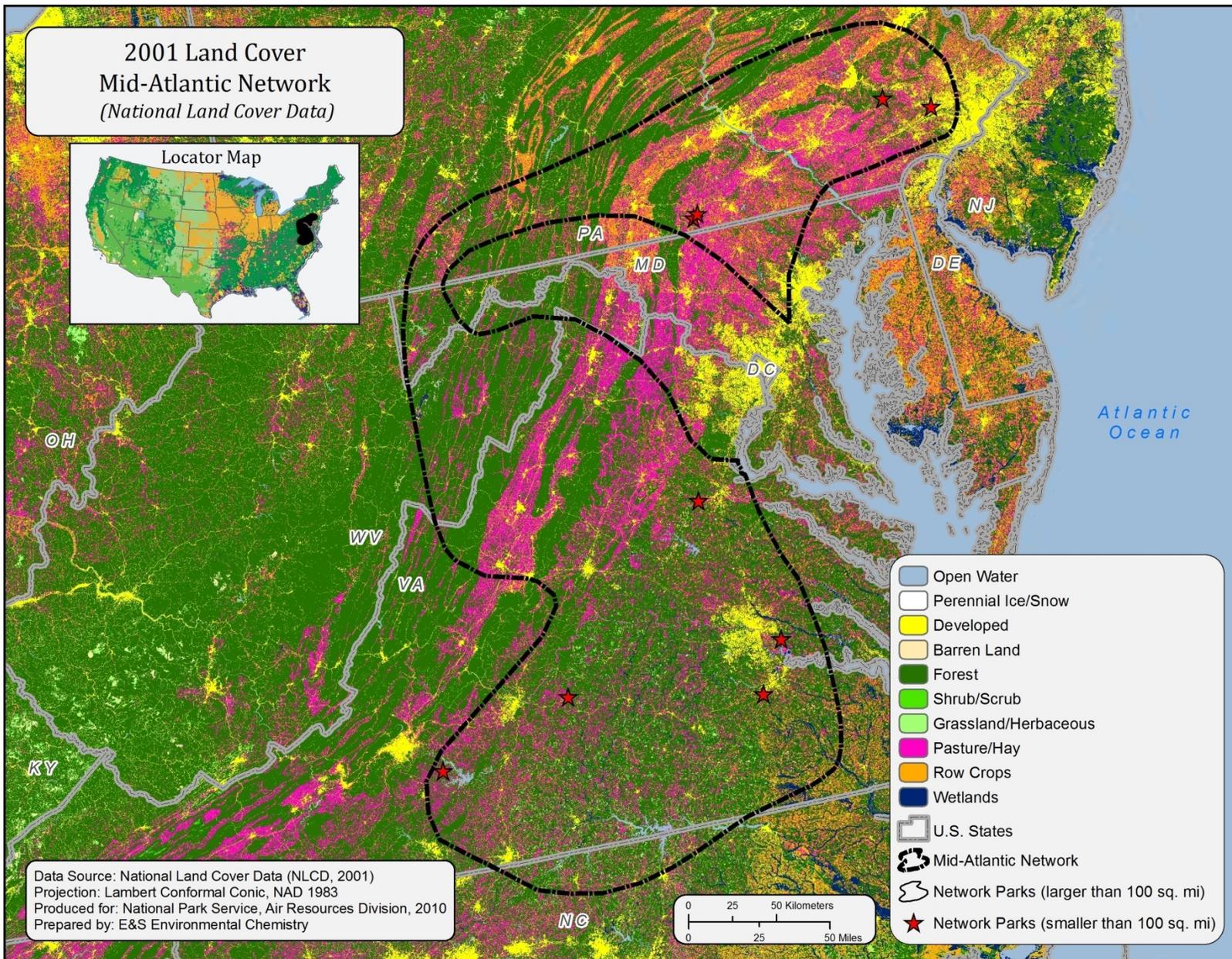


Map D

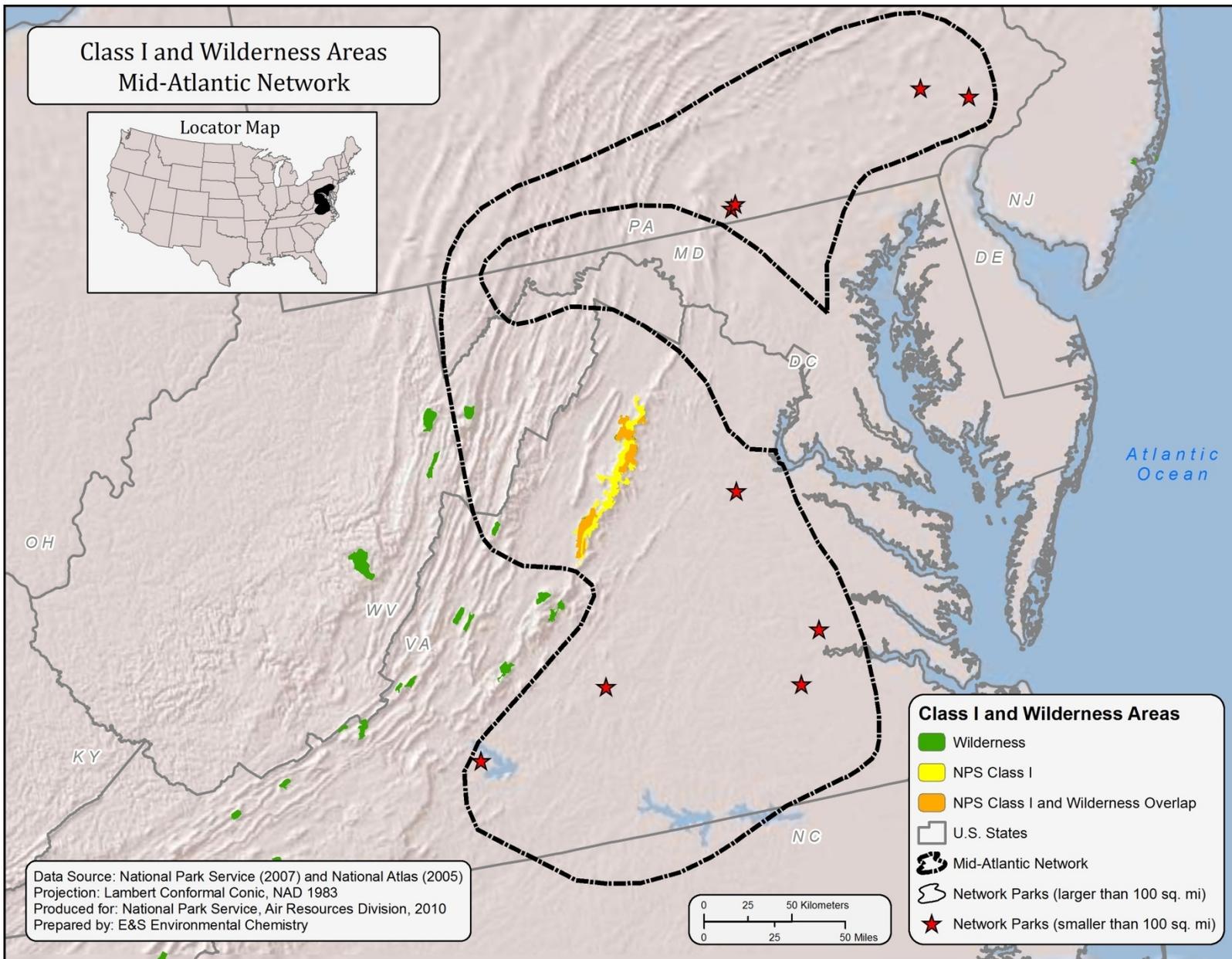




Map F



Map G



Map I

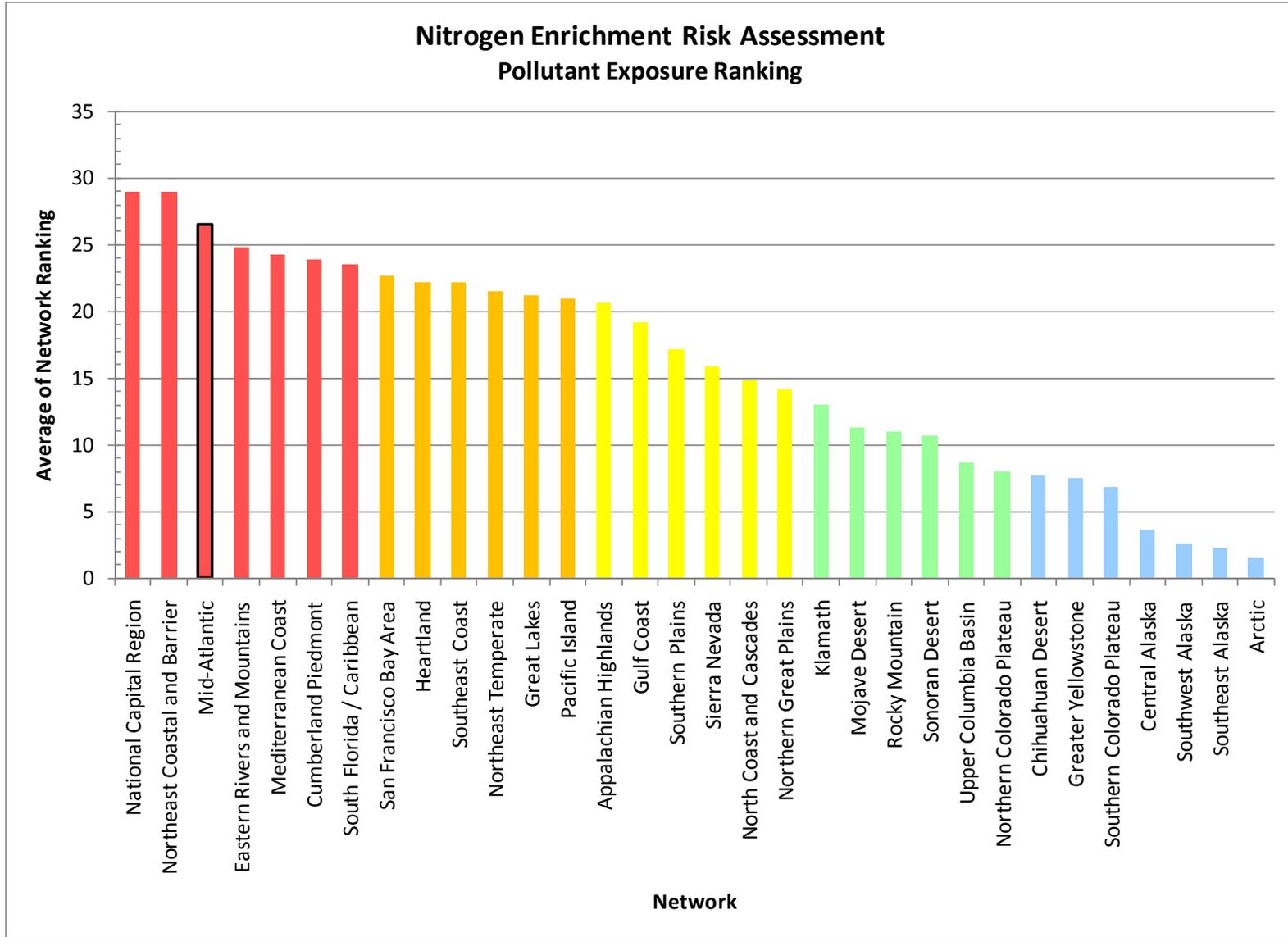


Figure A

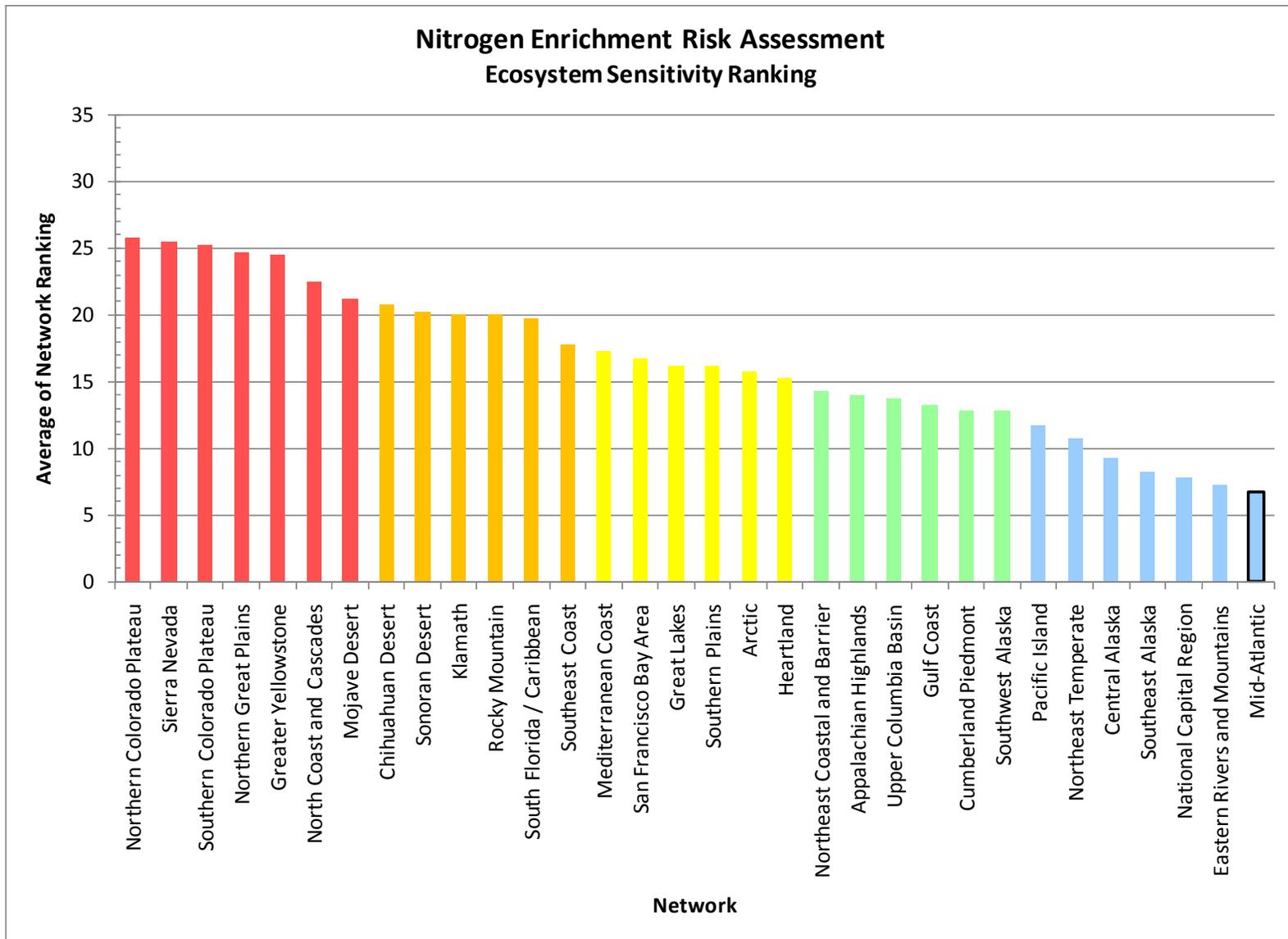


Figure B

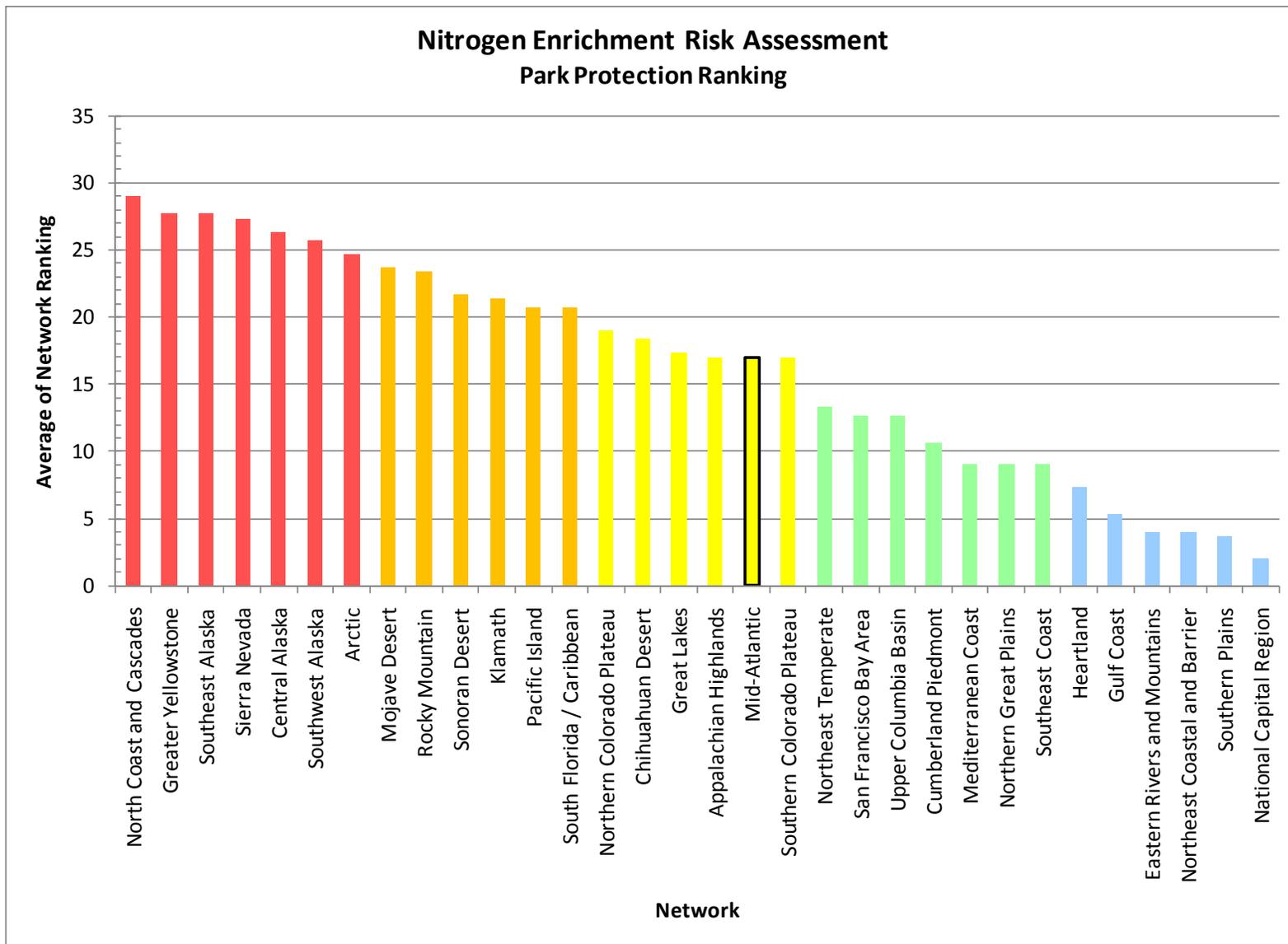


Figure C

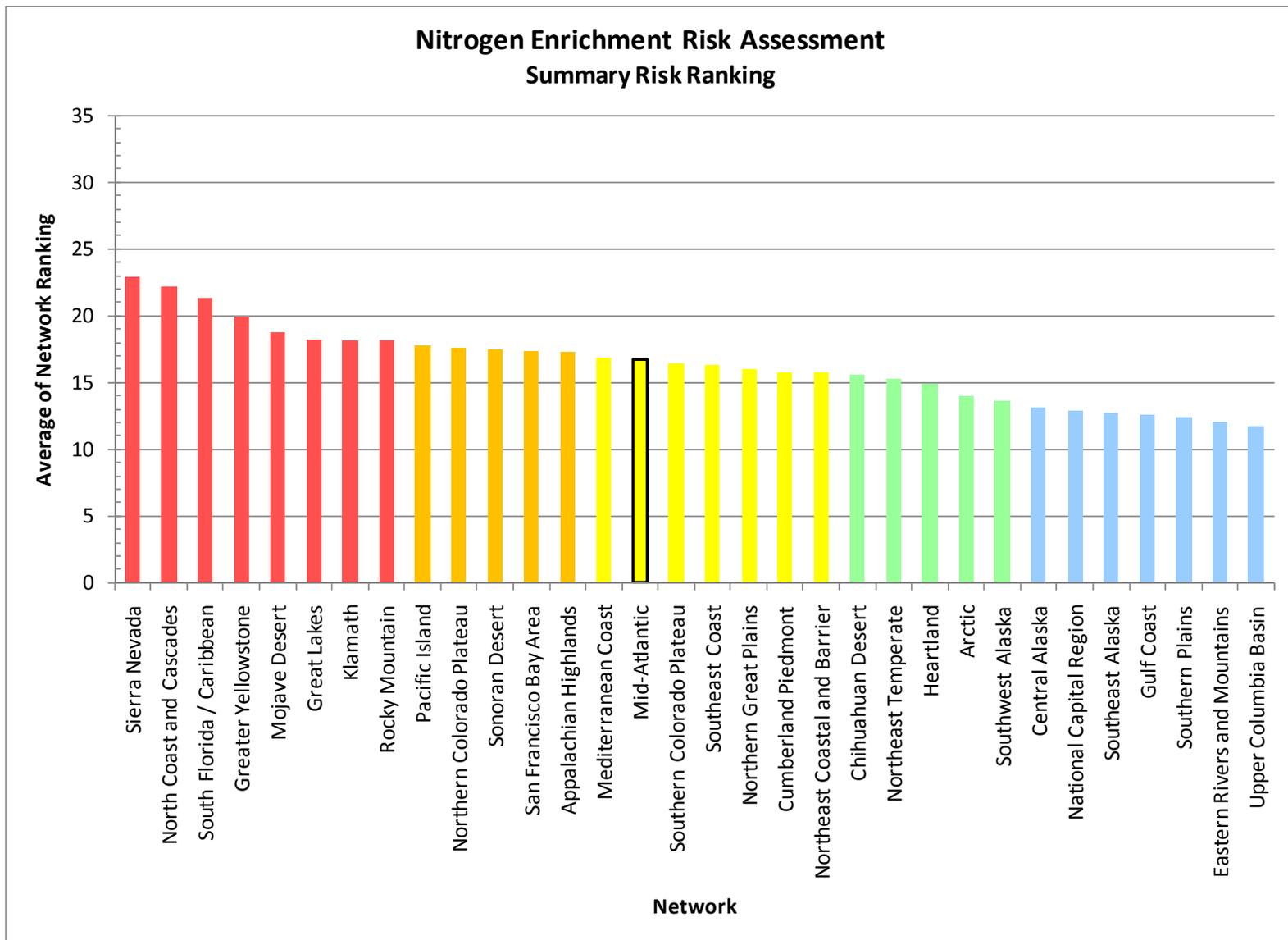


Figure D

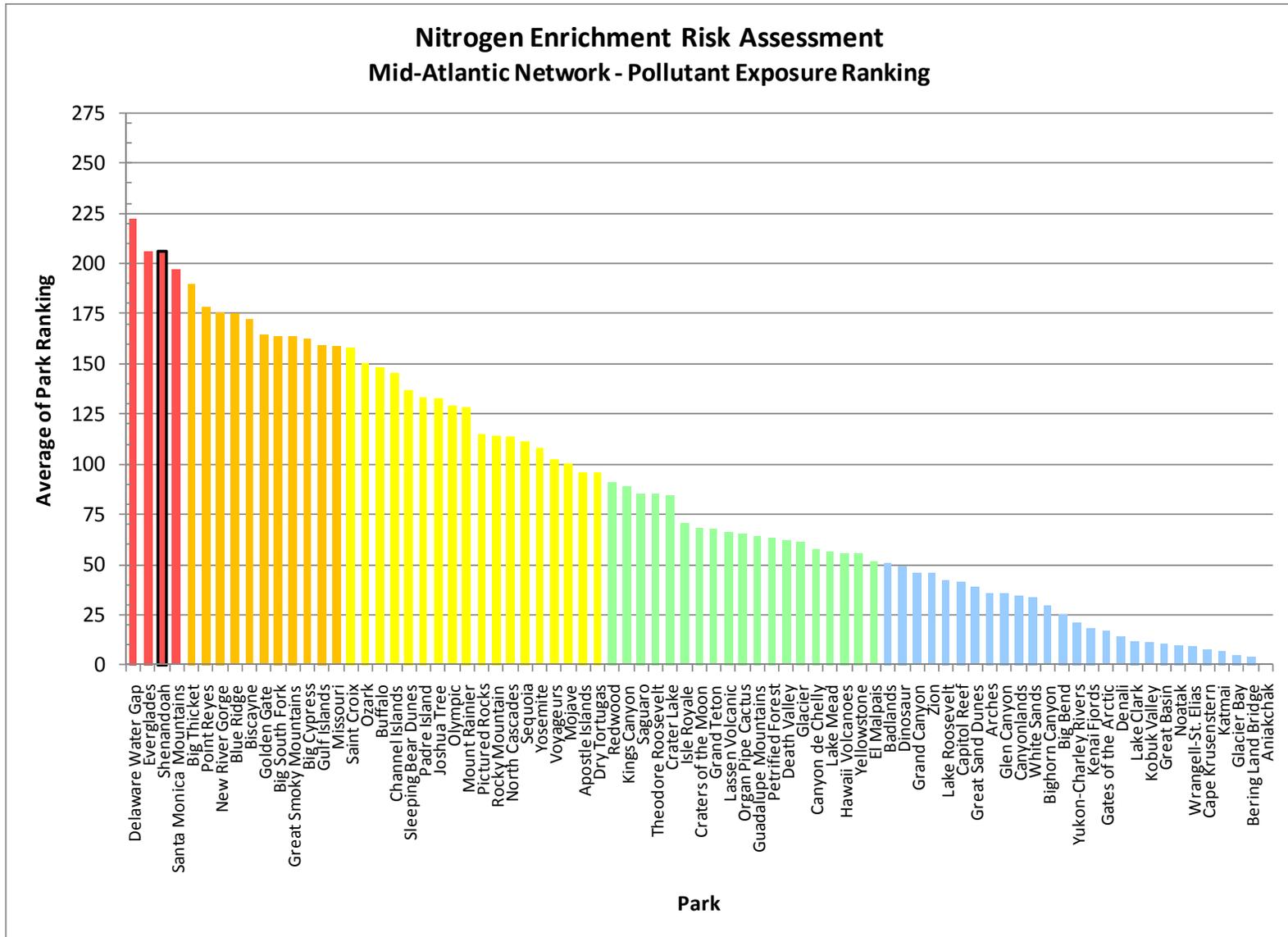


Figure E

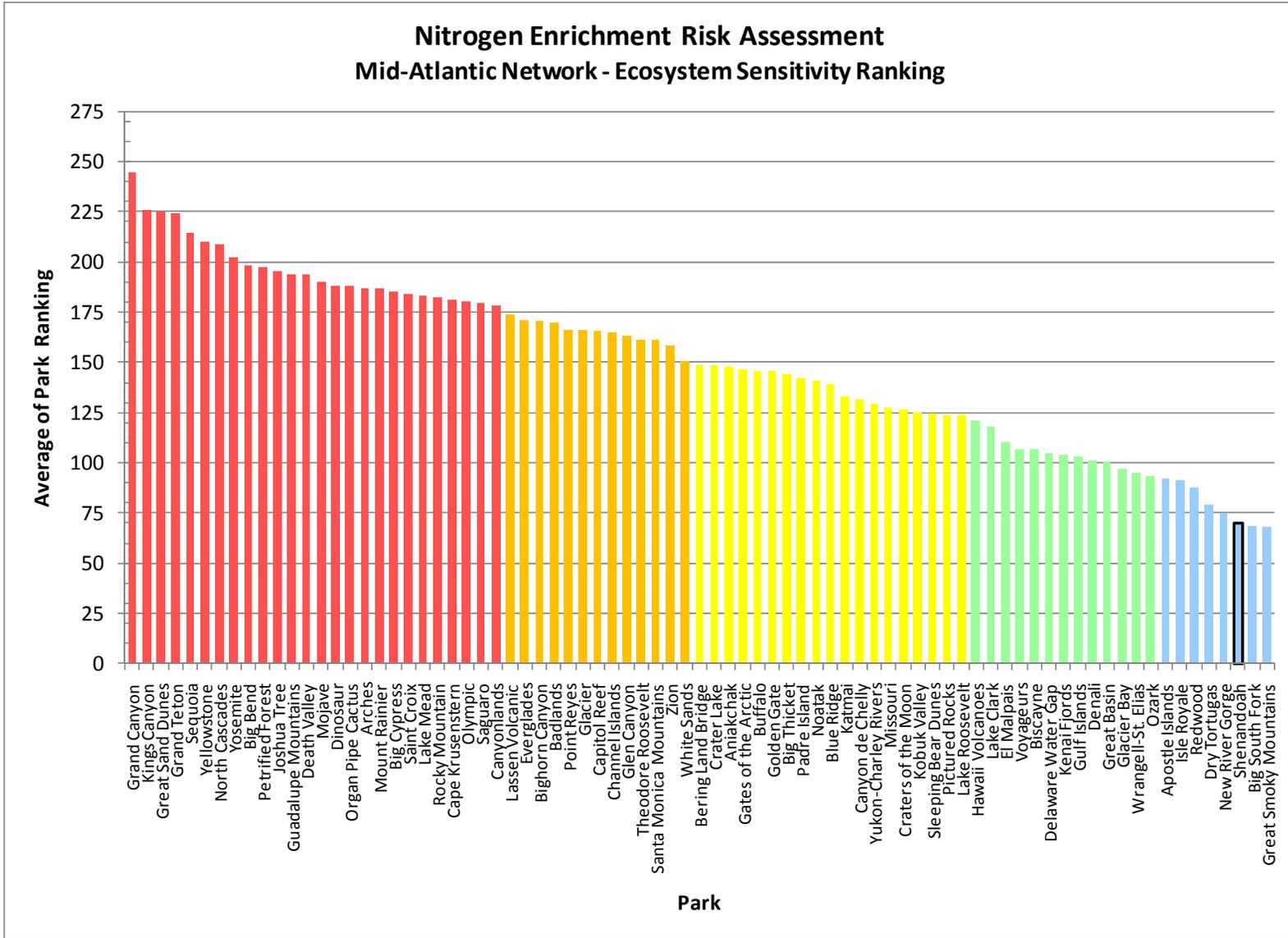


Figure F

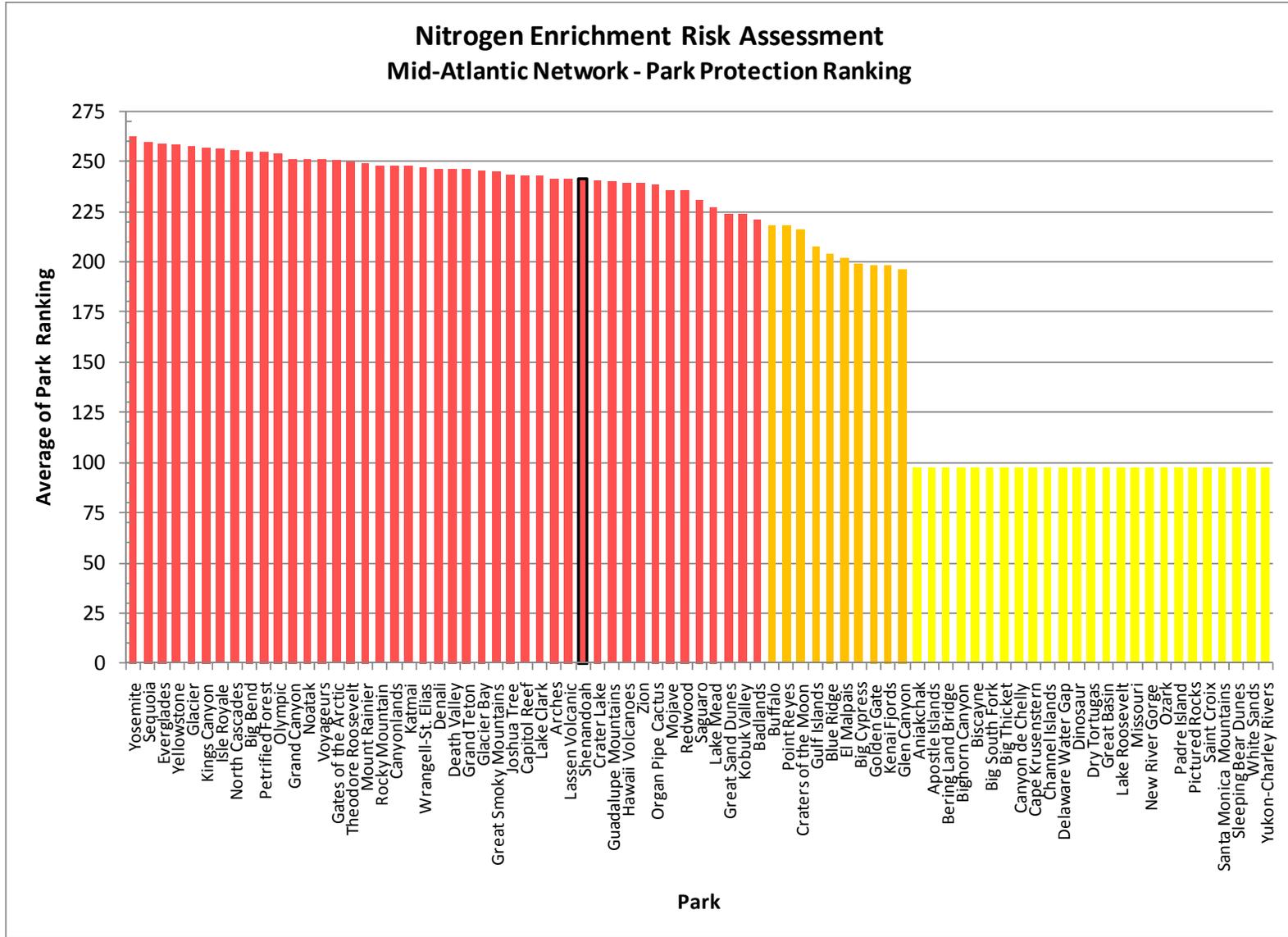


Figure G

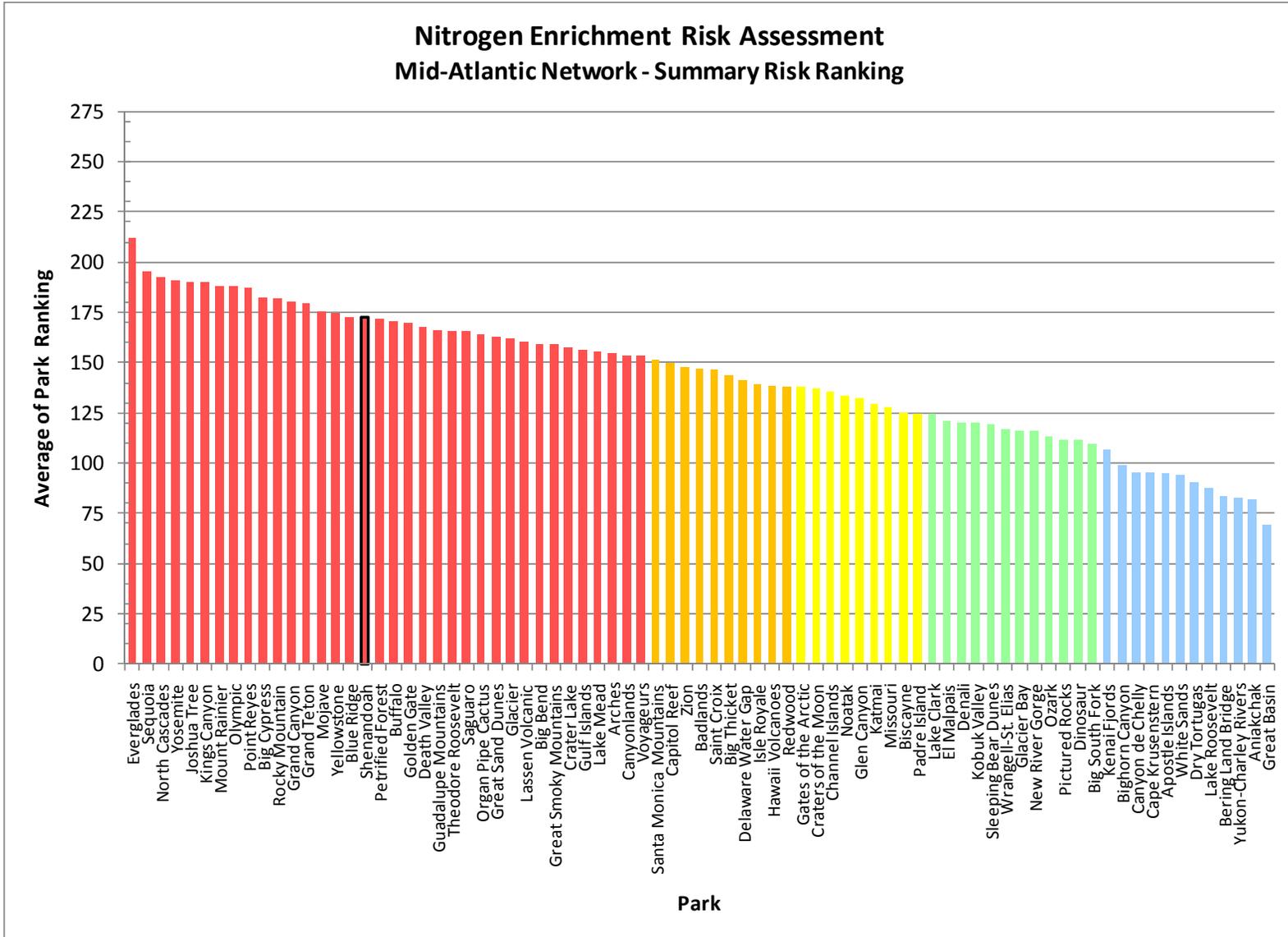


Figure H



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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