



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

## *Klamath Network (KLMN)*

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/ARD/NRR—2011/312



**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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## **Klamath Network (KLMN)**

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.

The Klamath Network contains three parks larger than 100 square miles: Crater Lake (CRLA), Lassen Volcanic (LAVO), and Redwood (REDW). There are also three smaller parks: Lava Beds (LABE), Oregon Caves (ORCA), and Whiskeytown (WHIS).

Total annual N emissions, by county, are shown in Map C for lands in and surrounding the Klamath Network. County-level emissions within the network ranged from less than 1 ton per square mile to greater than 5 tons per square mile. In general, annual county N emissions were less than 5 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 no large N point sources in this network. Urban centers within the network and within a 300-mile buffer around the network are shown in Map E. There are no human population centers in this network larger than 500,000 people, and only two larger than 100,000 people. However, San Francisco is located just outside the network boundaries to the south.

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 east to as high as 5 to 10 kg N/ha/yr in at scattered locations. Total N deposition is below 5 kg N/ha/yr throughout most of the network, including the locations of most of the national parks.

Land cover in and around the network is shown in Map G. The predominant cover type within this network is forest. There are also substantial areas of pasture/hay in the north and row crops in the south. The national parks are largely forested.

Map H shows the distribution within the larger (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). The sensitive vegetation types within these parks include alpine, wetland, grassland and meadow, and arid and semi-arid.

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. Each of the three large parks in the network is designated as Class I. There are also many wilderness areas, one of which (in LAVO) is managed by NPS.

Lakes within LAVO are shown in Map J. All lakes (n=37) within this park are classified as being at high 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 Klamath Network ranks at the top of the second lowest quintile, among networks, in N Pollutant Exposure (Figure A). Nitrogen emissions and N deposition within the network are both low to moderate. However, the network Ecosystem Sensitivity ranking is High compared with other networks (Figure B). This is because there are high-elevation lakes in some of the I&M parks that occur in this network (mainly LAVO), and because vegetation types in the parks in this network include many that are among those expected to be especially sensitive to nutrient enrichment effects from N deposition. This network ranks 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 yield an overall Network Risk ranking that is in the highest 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 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.

The three parks in the Klamath Network that are larger than 100 square miles all rank Low, in the second lowest quintile, in Pollutant Exposure (Figure E). The smaller parks have Pollutant Exposure rankings ranging from Very Low (LABE) to Moderate (ORCA; Table A). Ecosystem Sensitivity is more variable, with LABE ranking in the highest quintile and LAVO in the second highest quintile (High), but CRLA ranking in the middle quintile (Moderate) and REDW and ORCA ranking in the lowest quintile (Very Low; Figure F, Table A). Among-park differences in Ecosystem Sensitivity are due to differing coverages of vegetation types thought to be most sensitive to nutrient enrichment effects from N deposition, and to the presence of high elevation lakes. LABE is ranked especially high with regards to sensitive vegetation types; LAVO has a large number of high elevation lakes (37). Crater Lake itself, within CRLA, is a high elevation lake. The three larger parks all ranked Very High for Park Protection, and LABE ranked High (Figure G, Table A).

The Summary Park Risk ranking is Very High for CRLA and LAVO, and High for REDW and LABE, but Very Low for WHIS and ORCA (Figure H, 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
<b><i>Crater Lake</i></b>	Low	Moderate	Very High	Very High
<b><i>Lassen Volcanic</i></b>	Low	High	Very High	Very High
Lava Beds	Very Low	Very High	High	High
Oregon Caves	Moderate	Very Low	Moderate	Very Low
<b><i>Redwood</i></b>	Low	Very Low	Very High	High
Whiskeytown	Low	Low	Moderate	Very Low

<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.

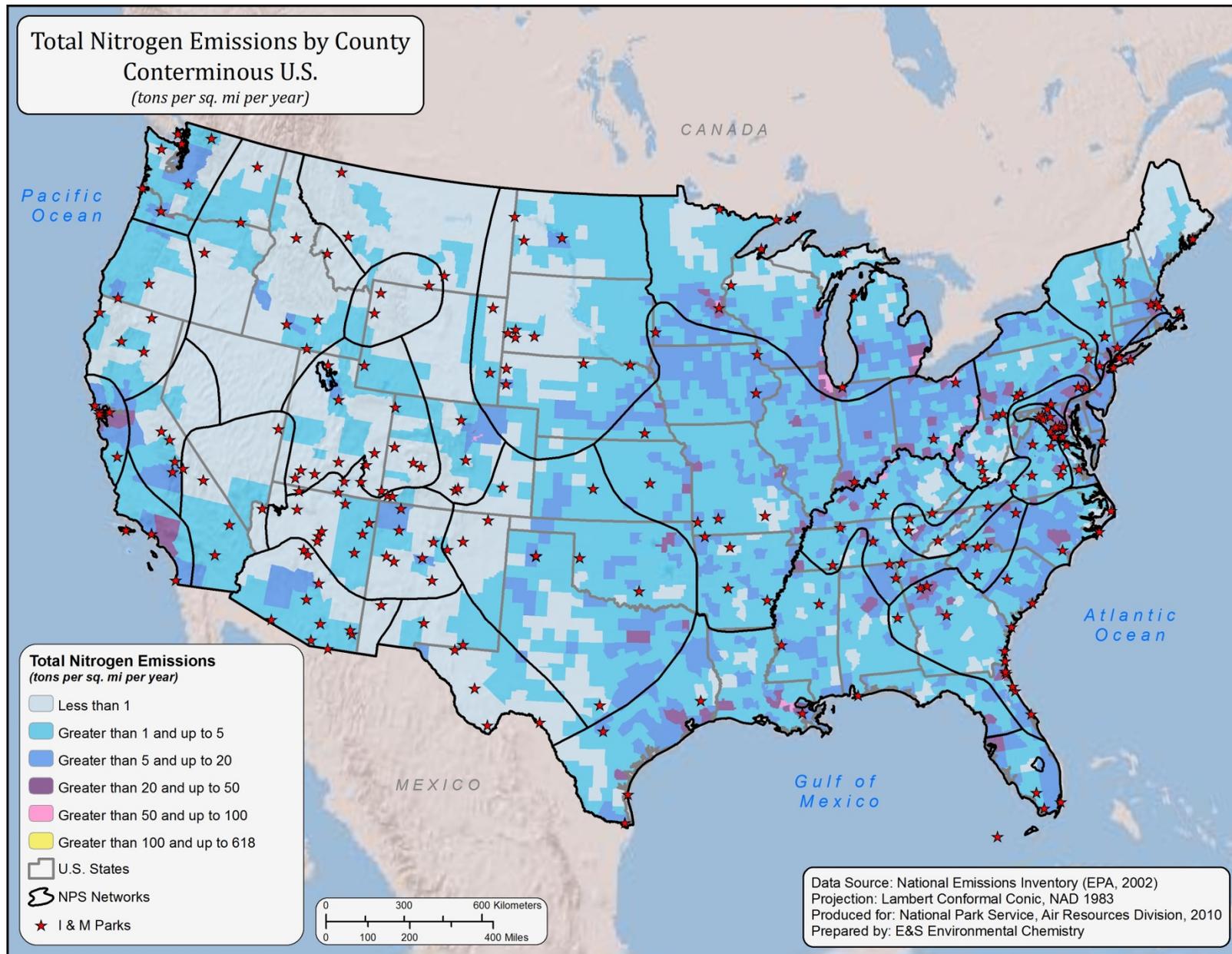
- Map A. National map of total N emissions by county for the year 2002. Both oxidized (nitrogen oxides, NO<sub>x</sub>) and reduced (ammonia, NH<sub>3</sub>) forms of N are included. The total is expressed in tons per square mile per year. (Source of data: EPA National Emissions Inventory, <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html>)
- 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: 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](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. (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. Lakes within LAVO. (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.

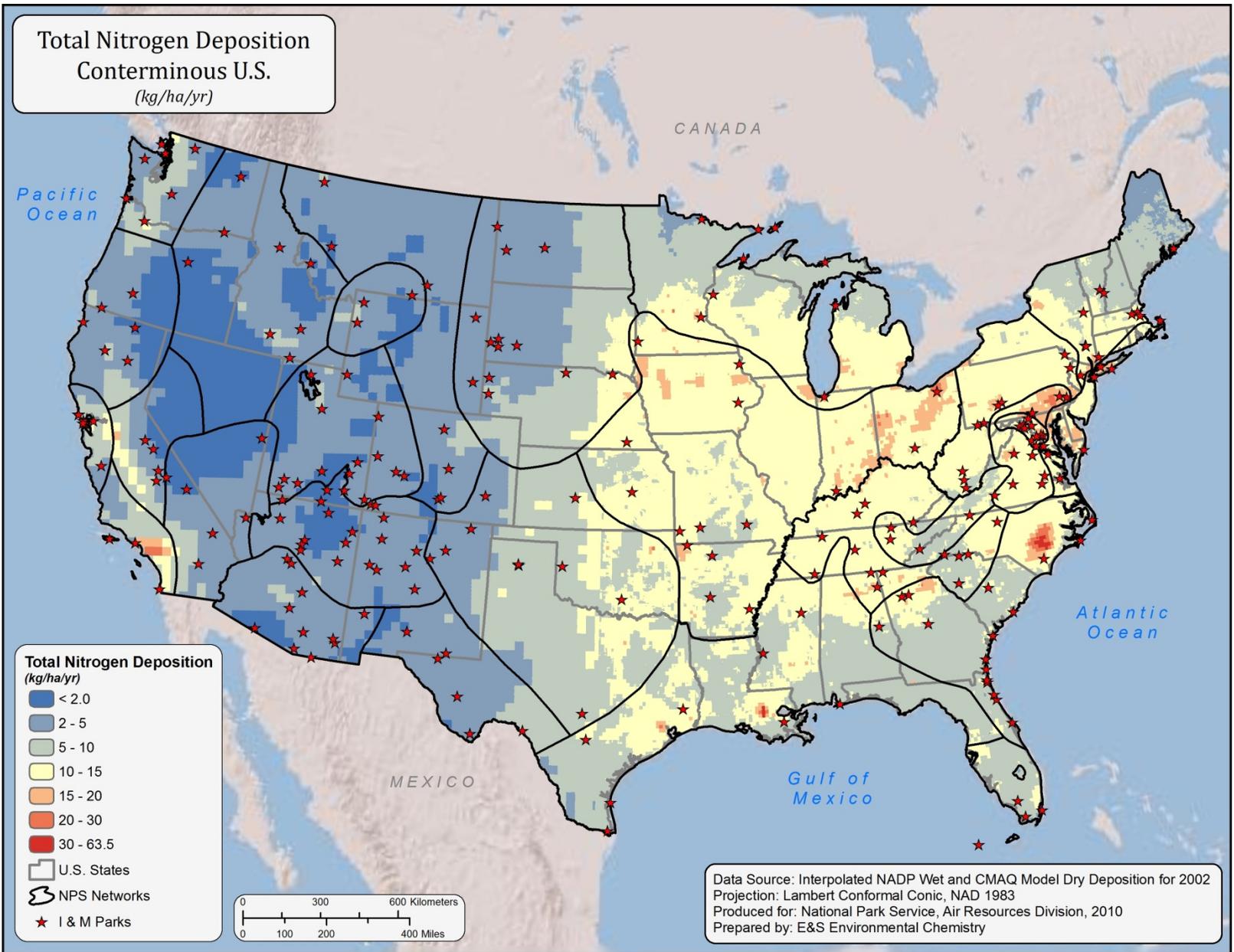
Figure G. Park rankings for Park Protection for all parks larger than 100 square miles. Ranks for each park were calculated relative to all parks, regardless of size, as the average of scores for all Park Protection variables.

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.

KLMN-6



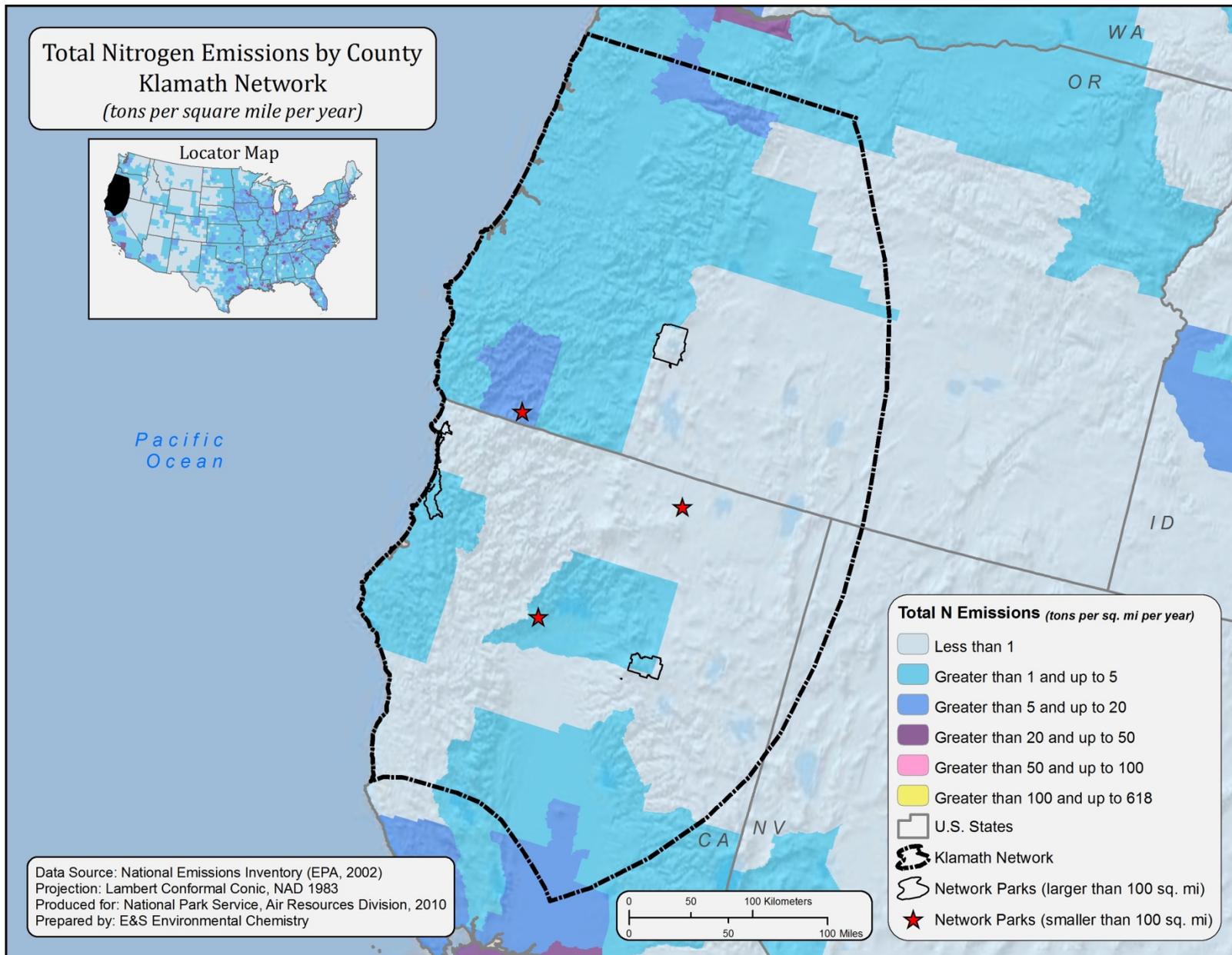
Map A



KLMN-7

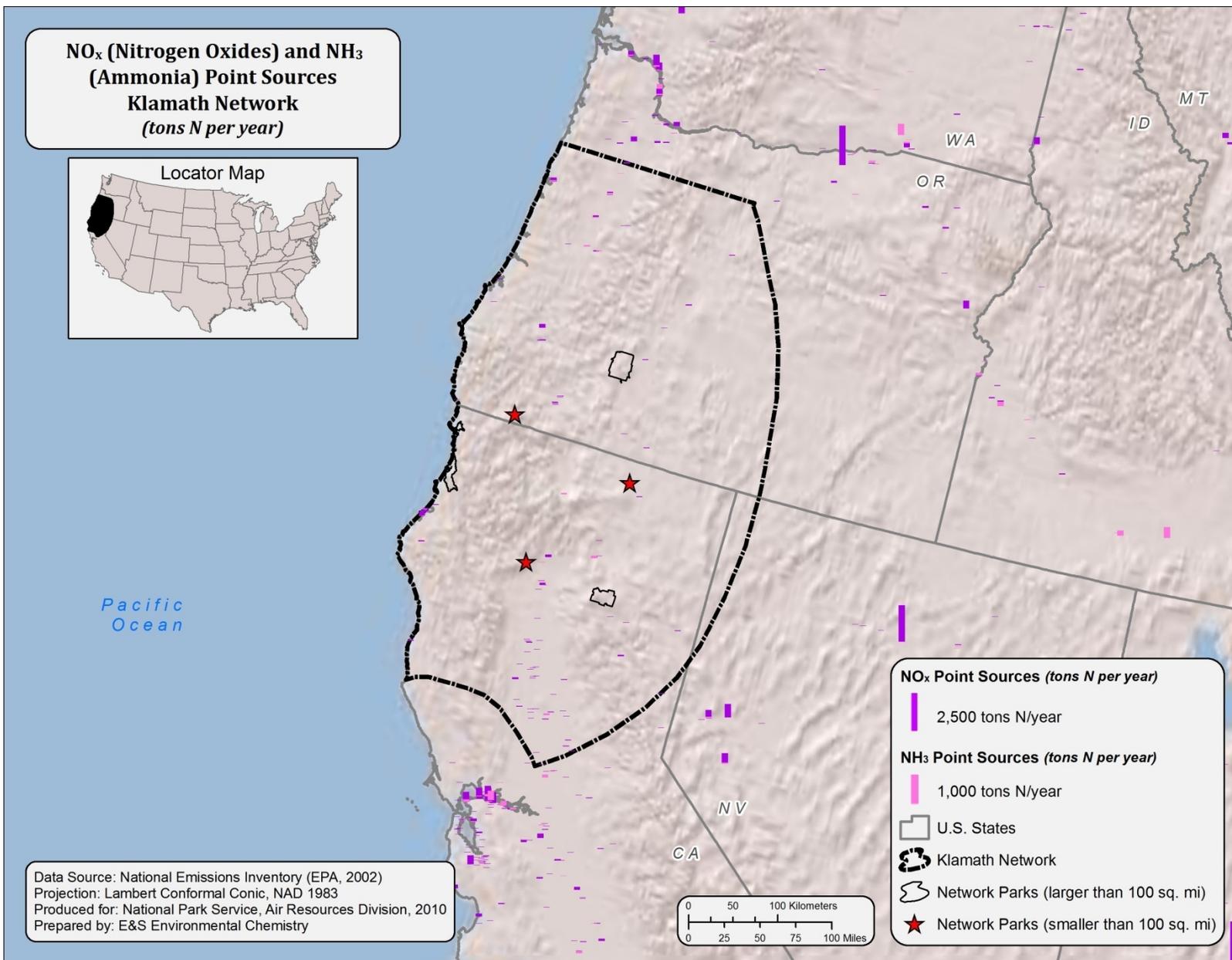
Map B

KLMN-8

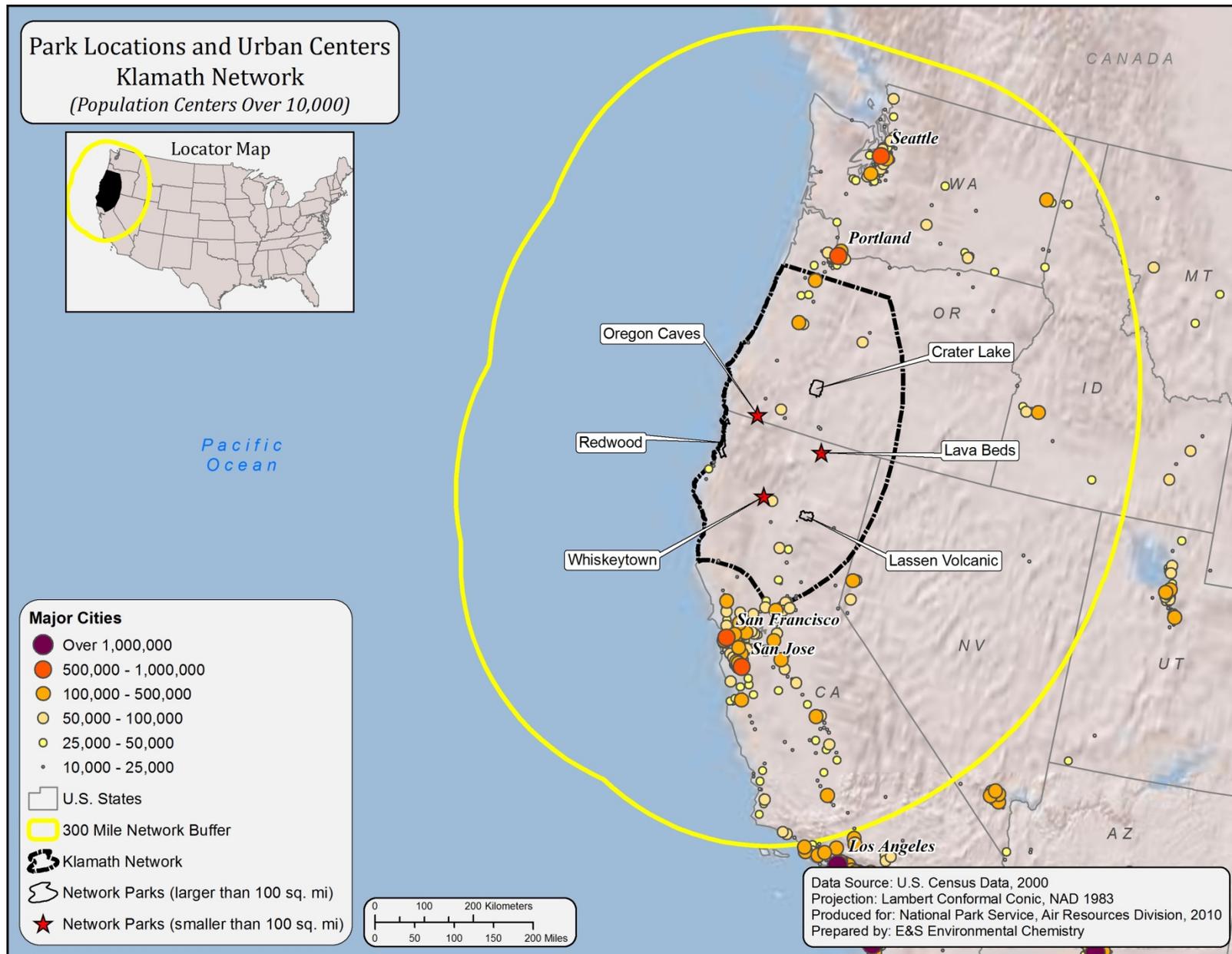


Map C

KLMN-9

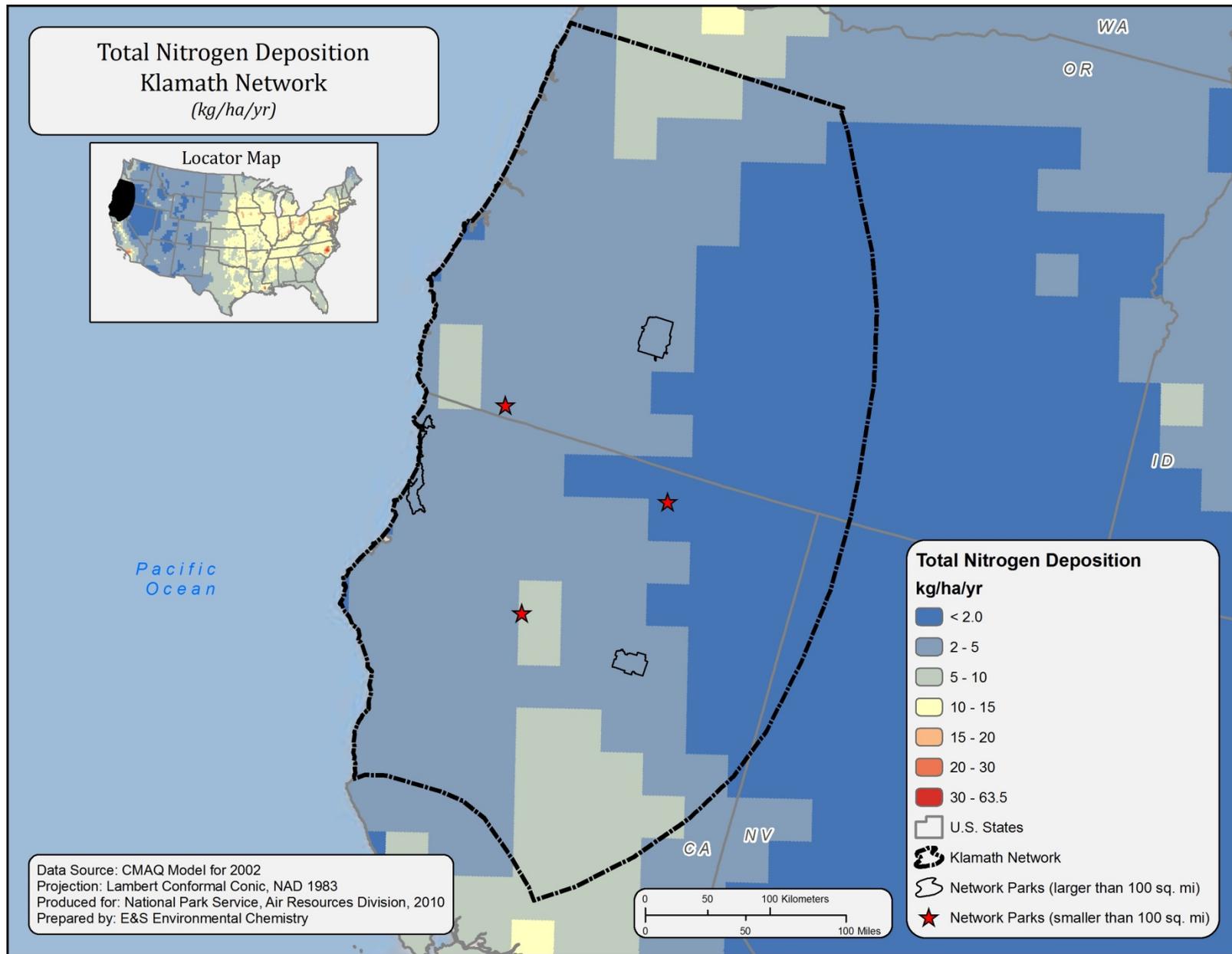


Map D

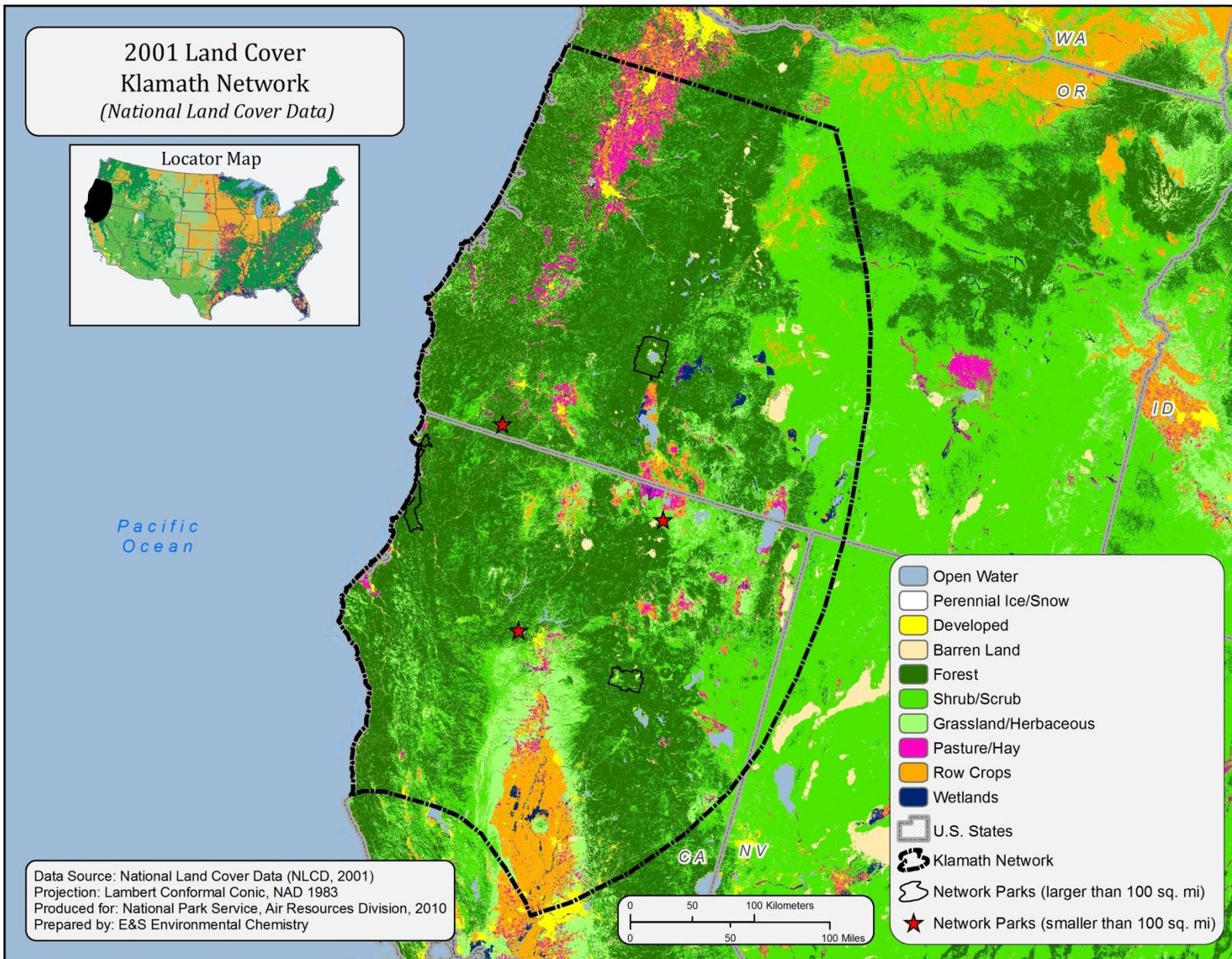


Map E

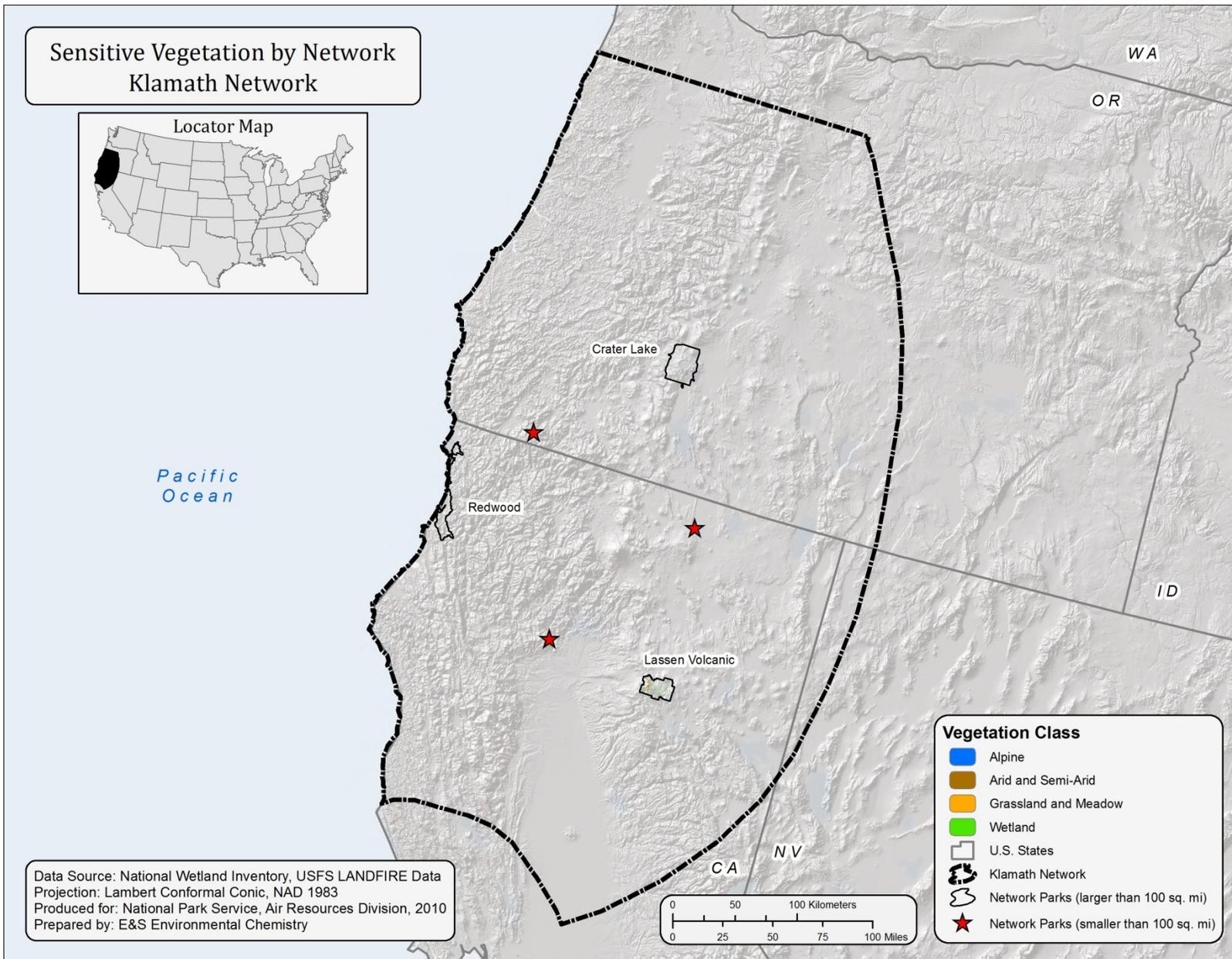
KLMN-11



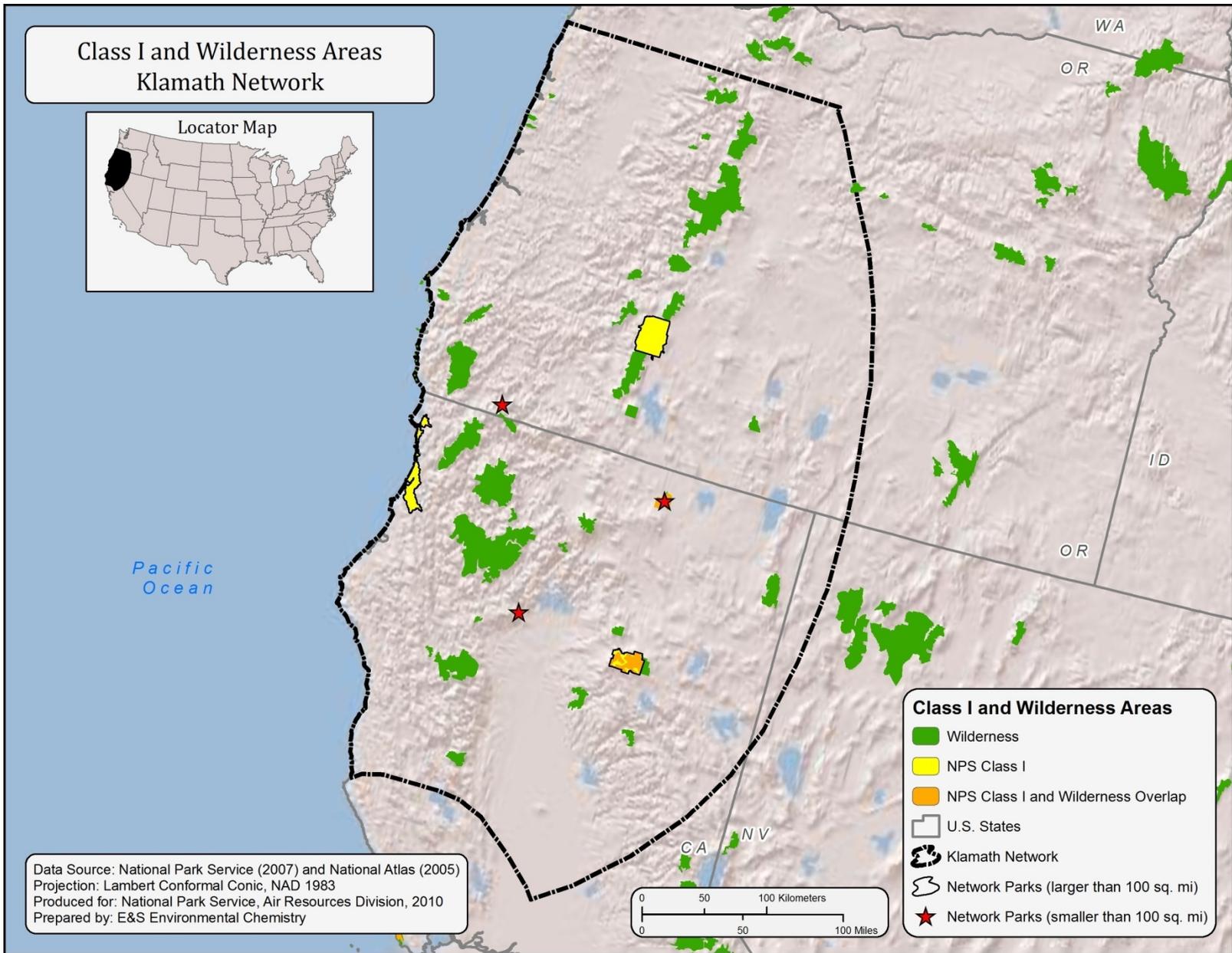
Map F



Map G

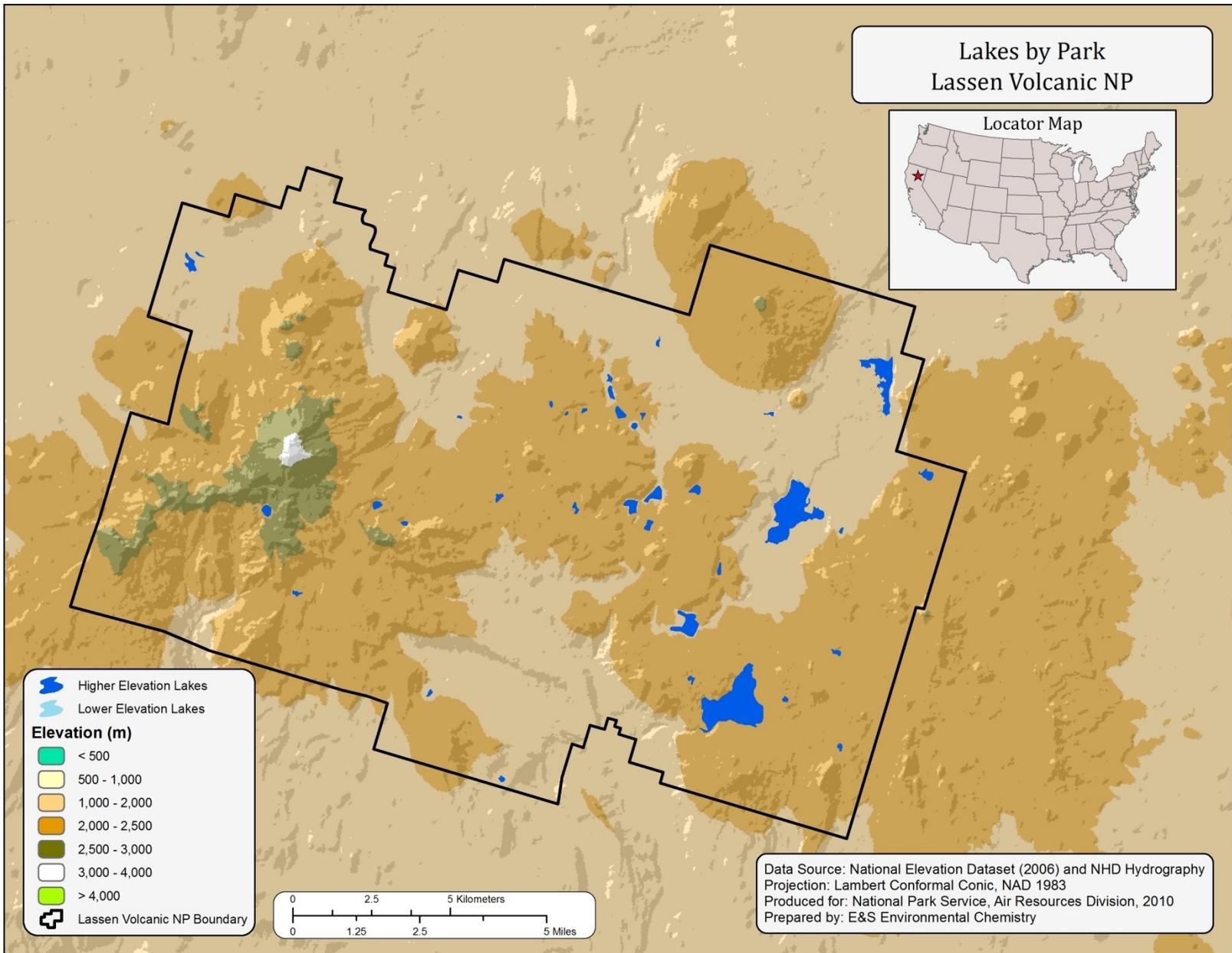


Map H



Map I

KLMN-15



Map J

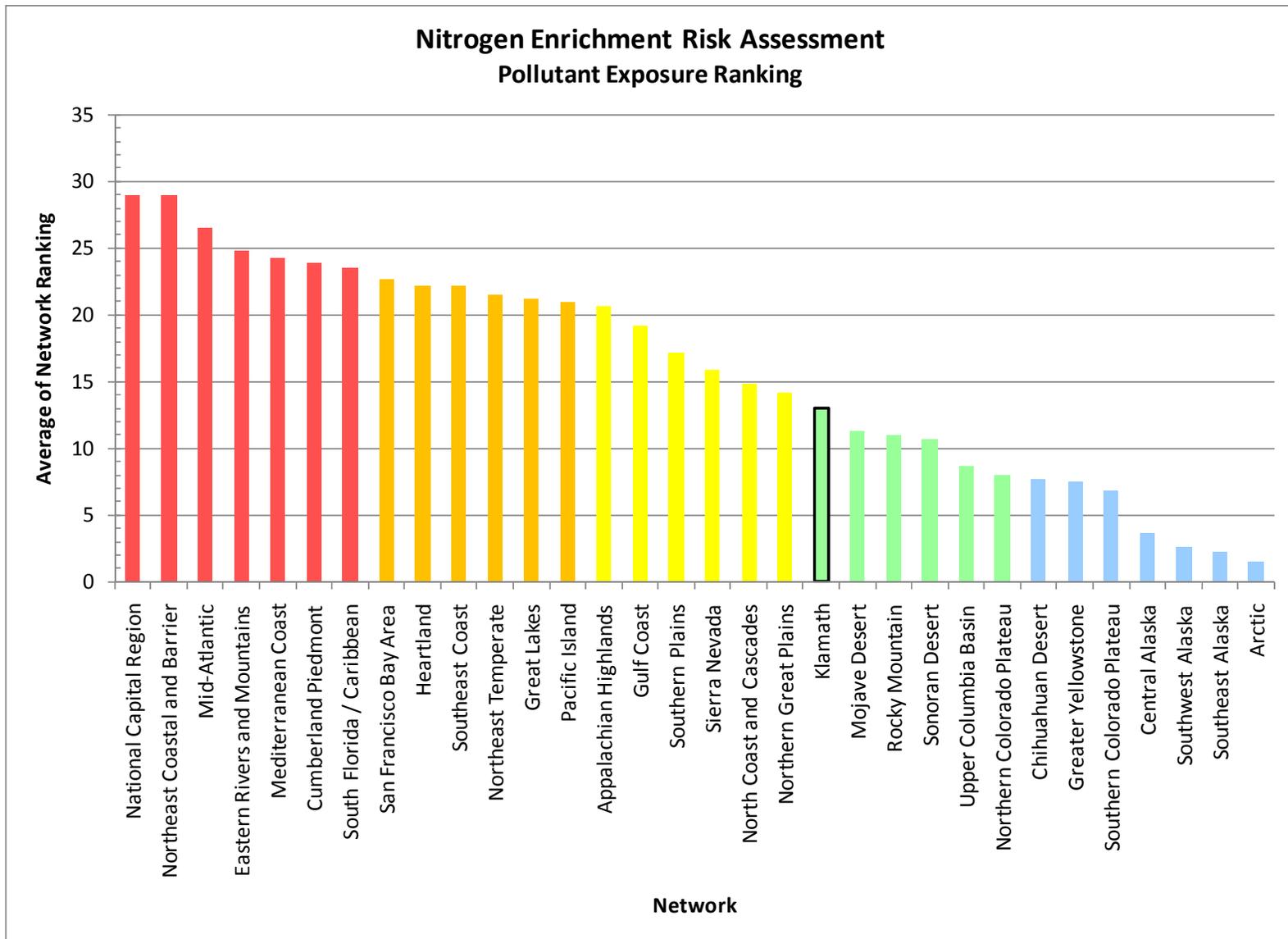


Figure A

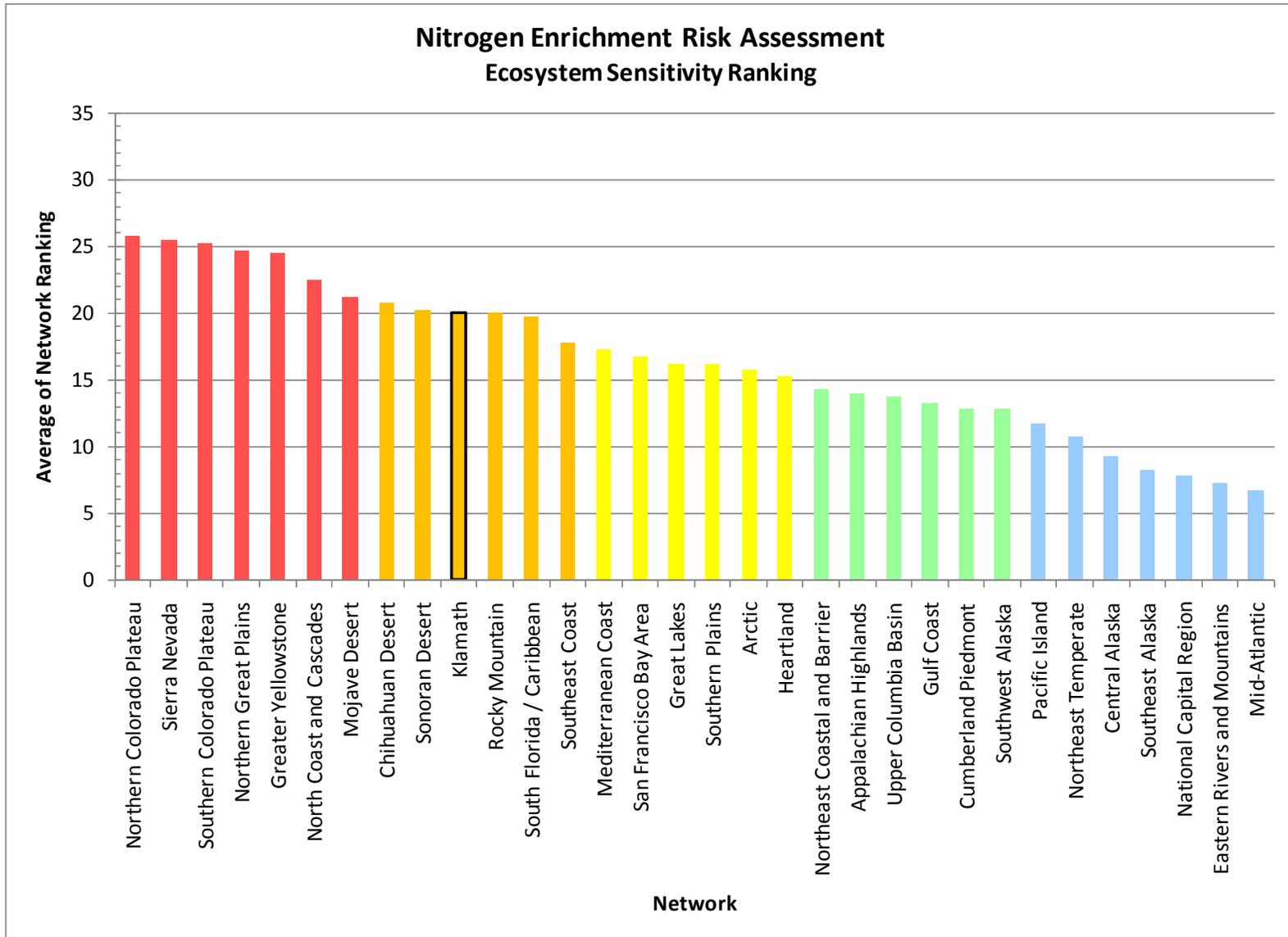


Figure B

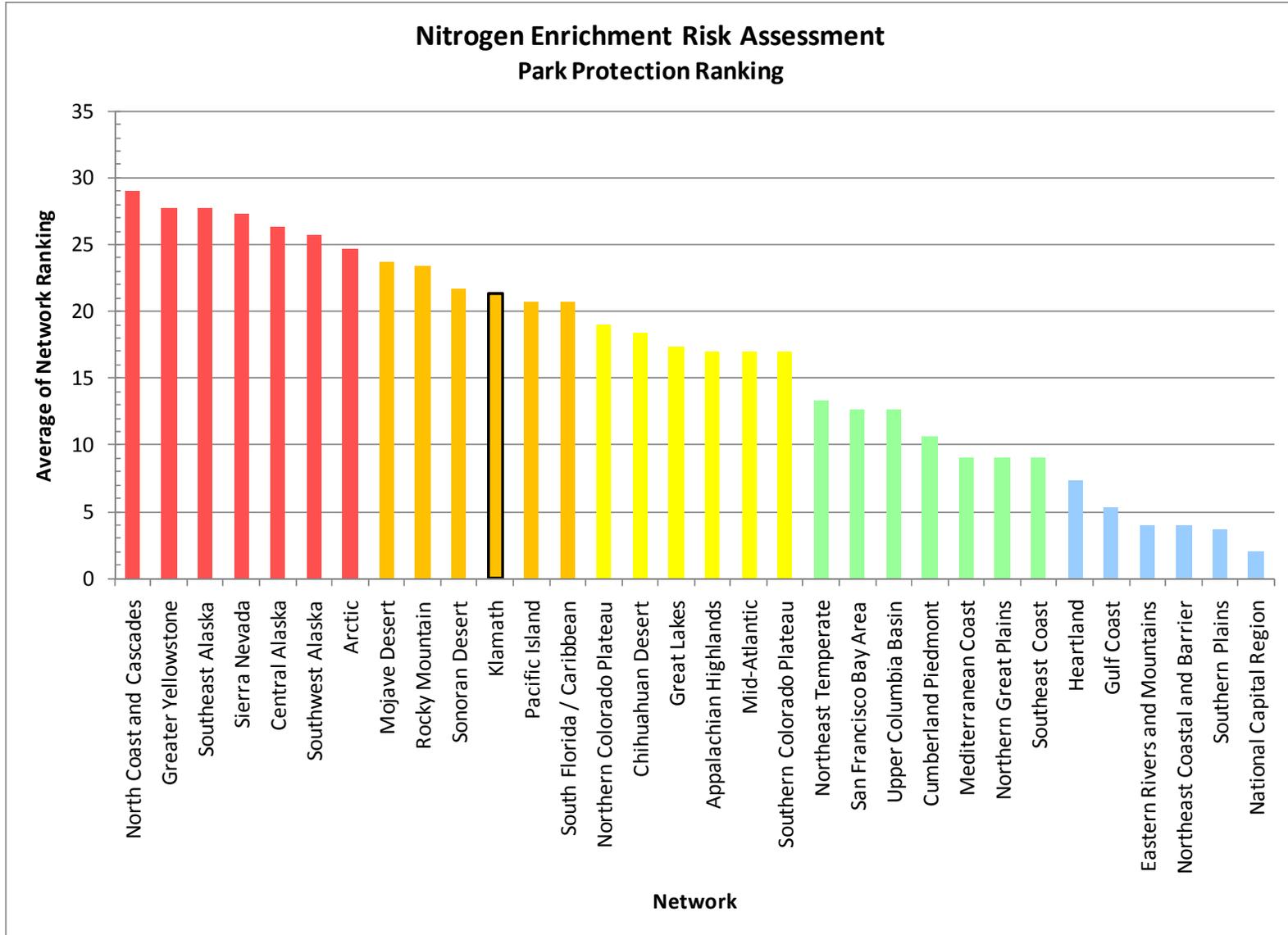


Figure C

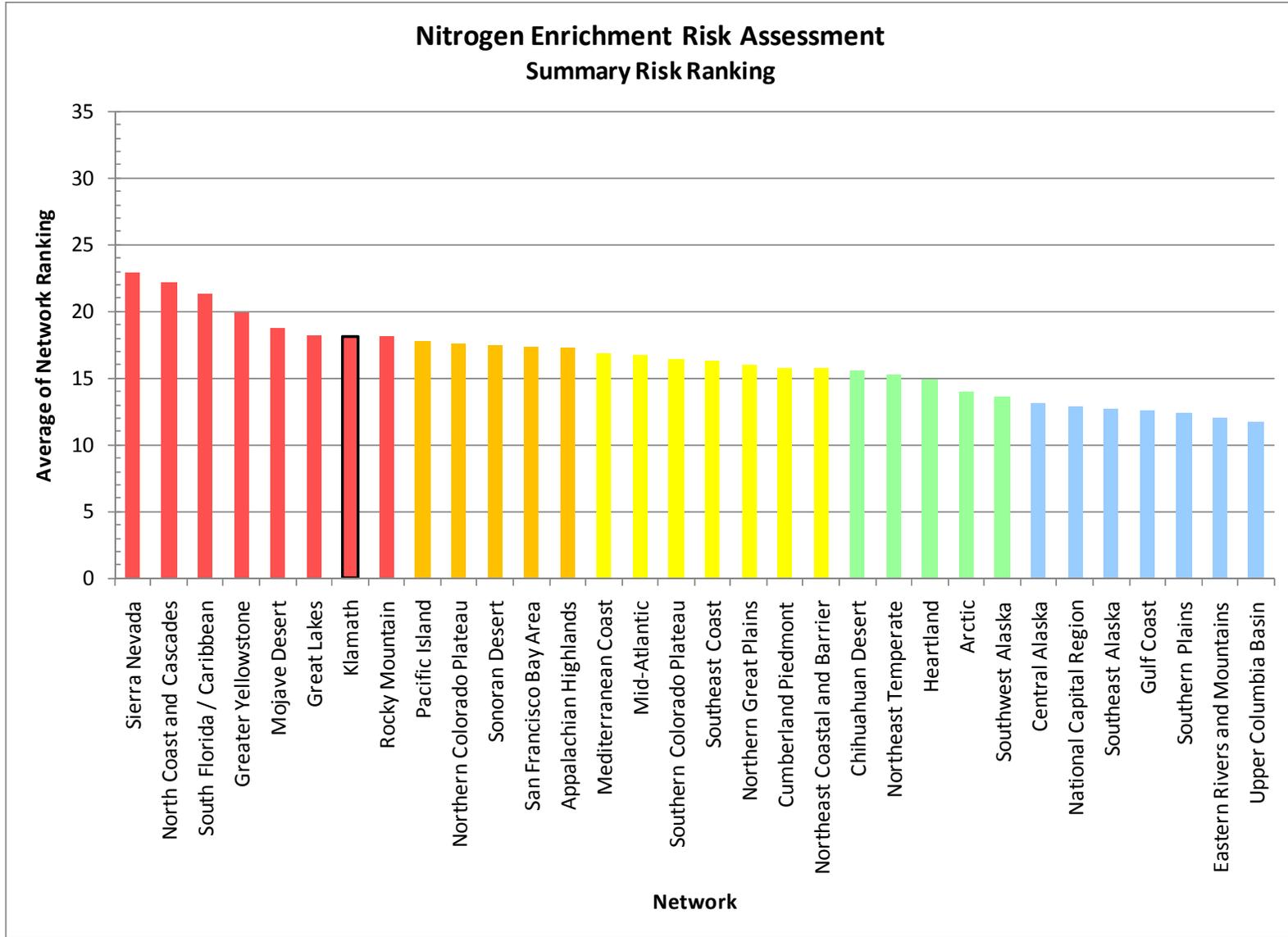


Figure D

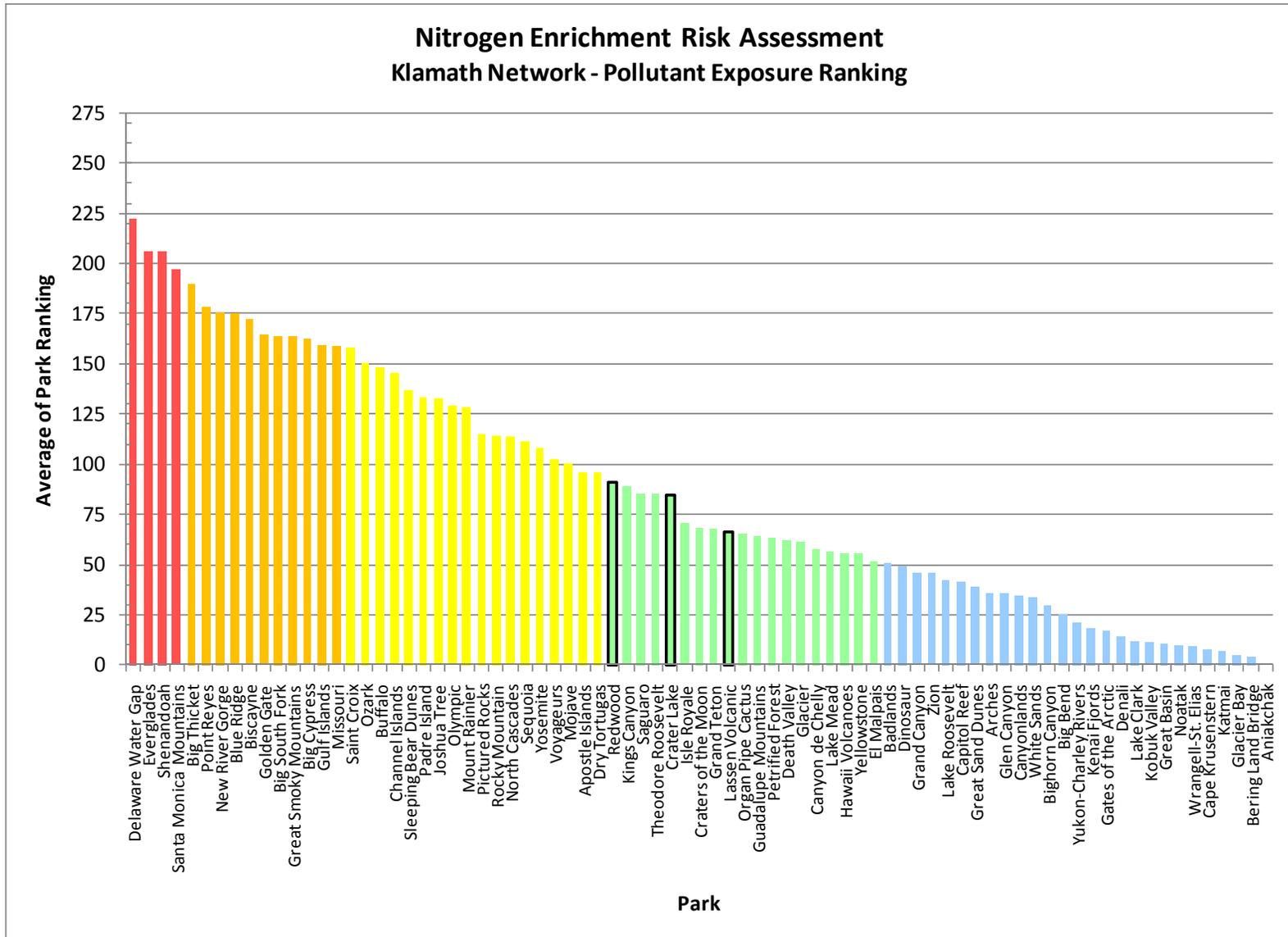


Figure E

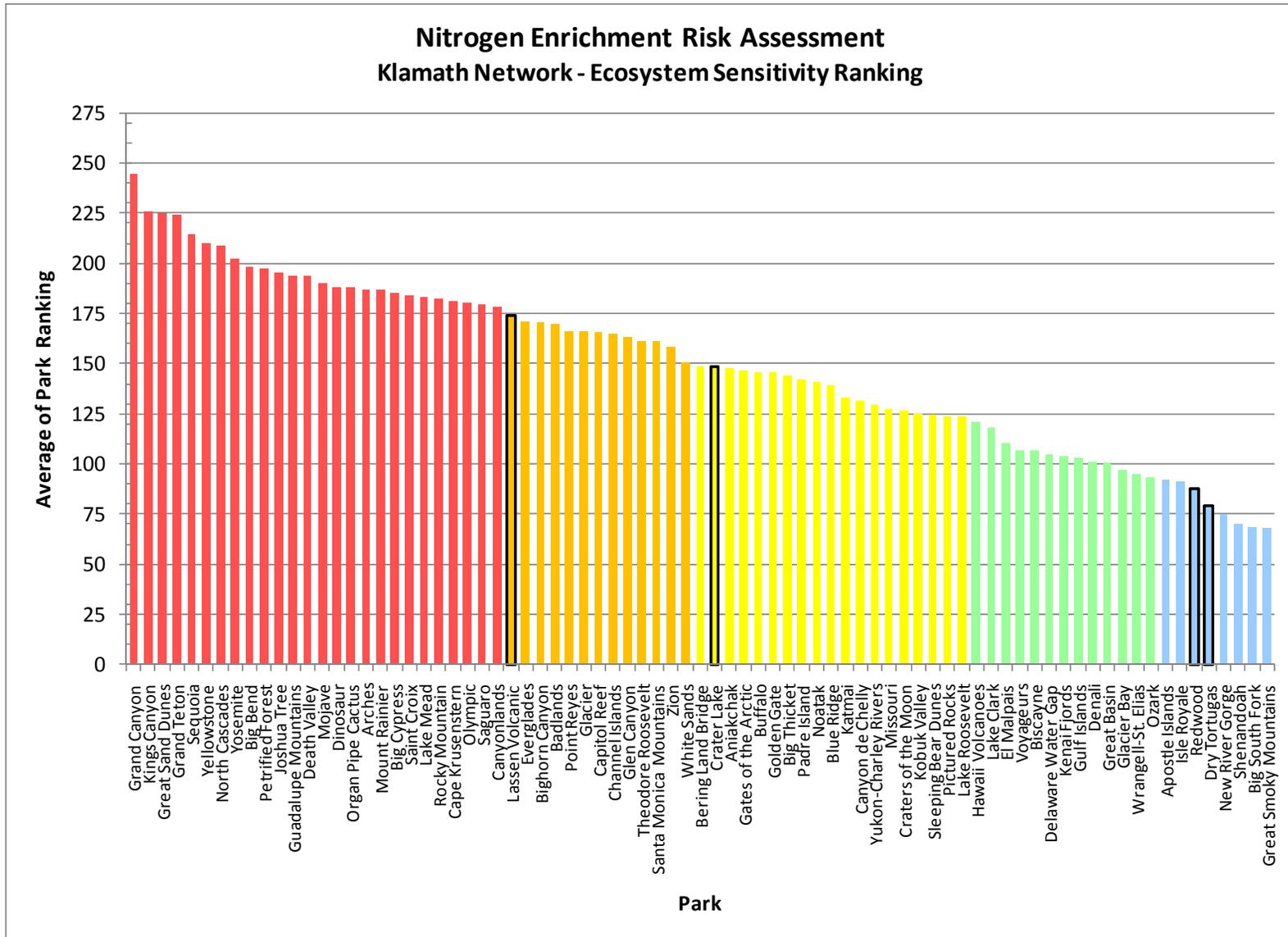


Figure F

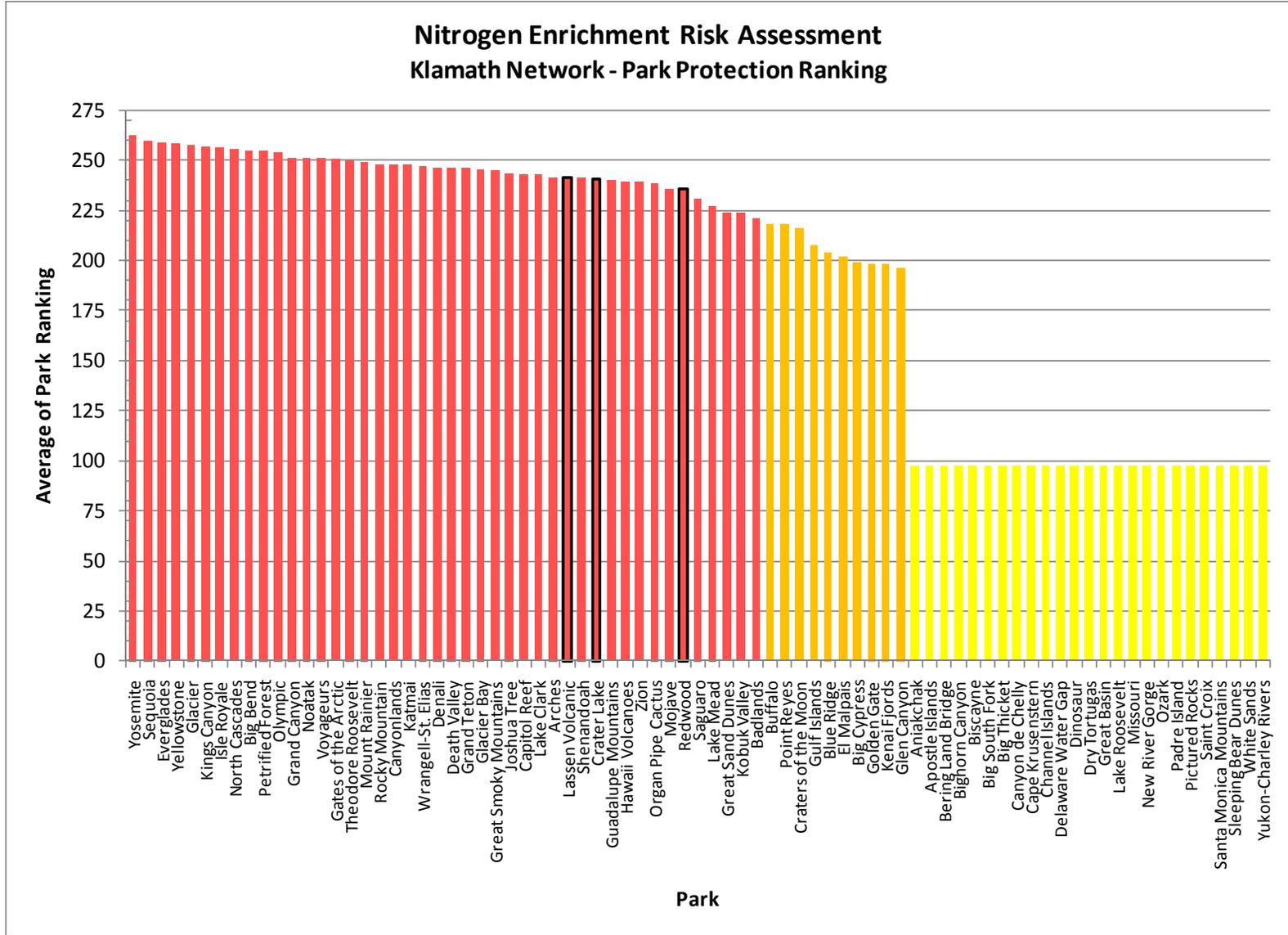


Figure G

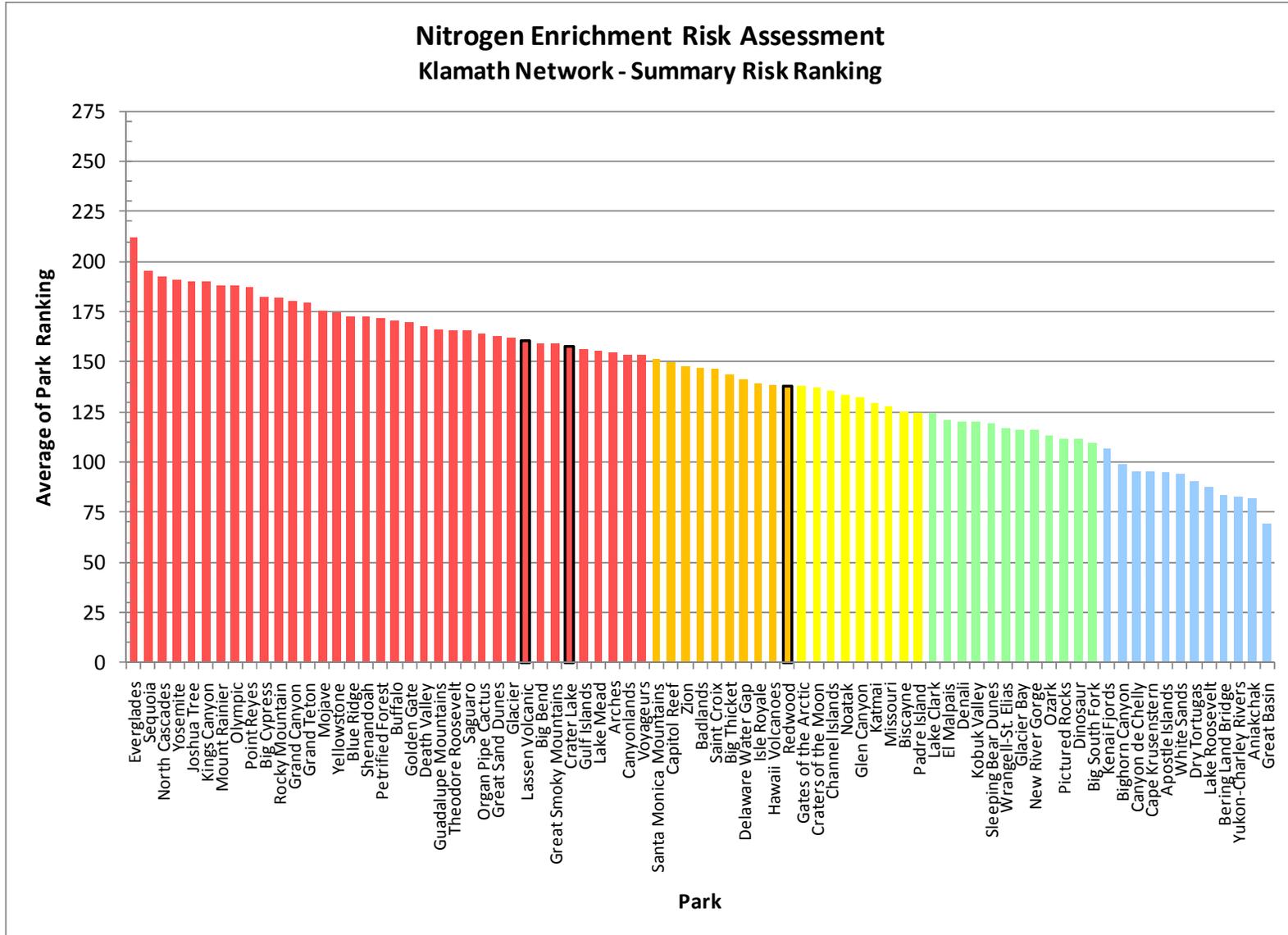


Figure H



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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