

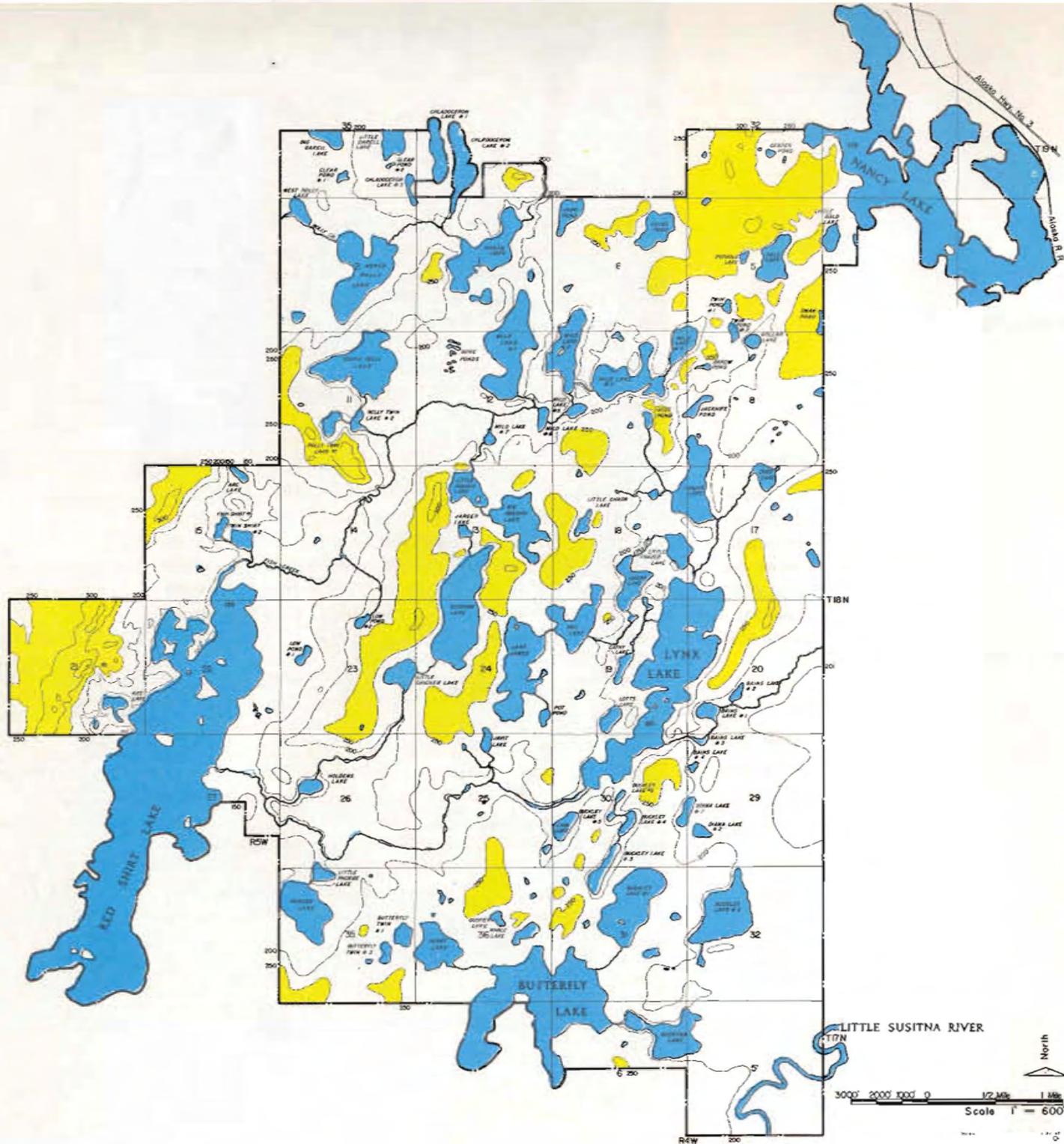
PART THREE

Analysis

Land And Landscape

GENERAL

Equivalent in importance to analysis of the numbers and recreation preferences of Nancy Lake users is analysis of the land so the planning can, without restricting its comprehensiveness, minimize the impact of man's unnatural facilities on the natural scene. **This is the critical factor** in providing future generations with unspoiled, open-space recreation of natural character. The natural character is particularly desired and appropriate in Alaska, a State regarded as the preserver of the last remnant of the unspoiled frontier.





ACREAGE, HIGH GROUND (above 250 elev.) WATER

The park presents an extremely attractive scene, pastoral rather than dramatic, of low wooded hills interspersed by many lakes, streams and grossy swamps. The hills are glacial moraines, oriented generally north-northeast, south-southwest with an elevation range from 123 feet to slightly over 400 feet above sea level. The vegetative cover consists of mature spruce-birch forest, heavily and variously undergrown with high grass, Devils Club and berry bushes. Total acreage is some 21,127. This includes all of the water surface but only part of the shoreline of 3 major lakes -- Nancy, Red Shirt and Butterfly. Dominating the physiography (and landscape) of the park are the many lakes. Total water area, excluding streams, is 5,016 acres (24%) or, in effect one acre out of every four. There are 131 bodies of water ranging in size from Nancy Lake - 807 acres, to Red Shirt Lake - 777 acres, Lynx Lake - 350, Butterfly - 320, on down to many patholes of less than one acre. In fact 64 of the total 131 water bodies are 5 acres or less in size.

Many of the lakes should be renamed. The system of using Milo No. 1, Milo No. 2 and ad infinitum is unappealing. It leads to excessively long and confusing names for use areas. It would be most desirable to drop the numbered sequence method and substitute attractive Eskimo or Indian terms or names derived from local natural history.

The only conclusion that can be drawn from this large water potential is that water recreations -- fishing, boating, water skiing, ice skating, ice fishing, float and ski planes, swimming, etc., will be the dominant recreation uses of the Nancy Lake Area. To capitalize on this potential, it follows that a basic criterion of the planning must be that the road system reach all four major lakes so that launching ramps can be provided at each. Using the same precept, it becomes a second basic planning criterion that, because of the magnetism the lakes will exercise on the recreationist, all possible activity areas but especially picnic and camp grounds, and the lodge and cabin areas **must** be located on the shores of lakes. The fishing analysis prepared by the Alaska Game and Fish Department, noted in part on page 12 emphasizes even further these two planning criteria.