

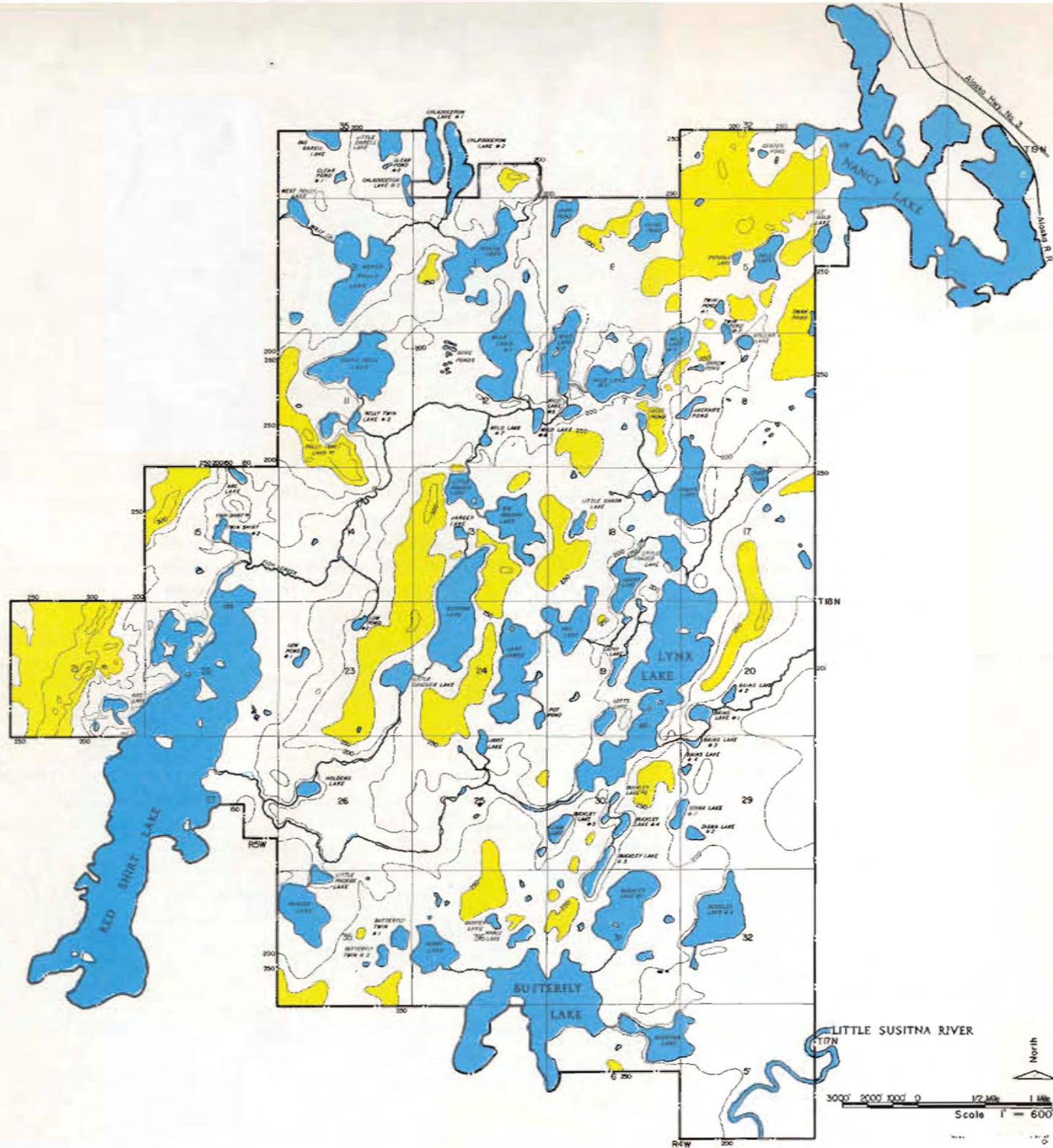
PART THREE

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.



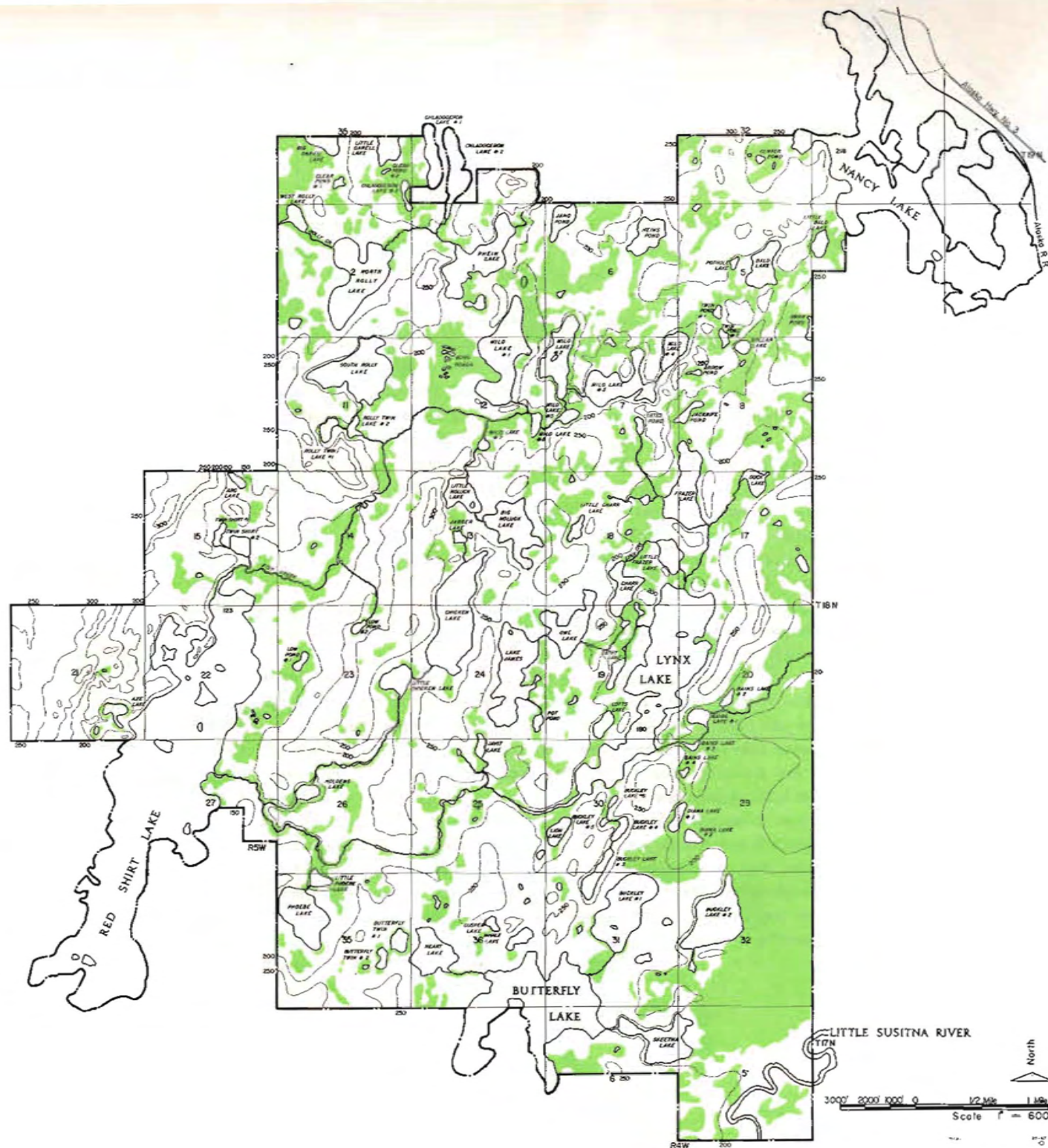


ACREAGE, HIGH GROUND (above 250 elev.) WATER

The park presents an extremely attractive scene, pastoral rather than dramatic, of low wooded hills interspersed by many lakes, streams and grassy 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.



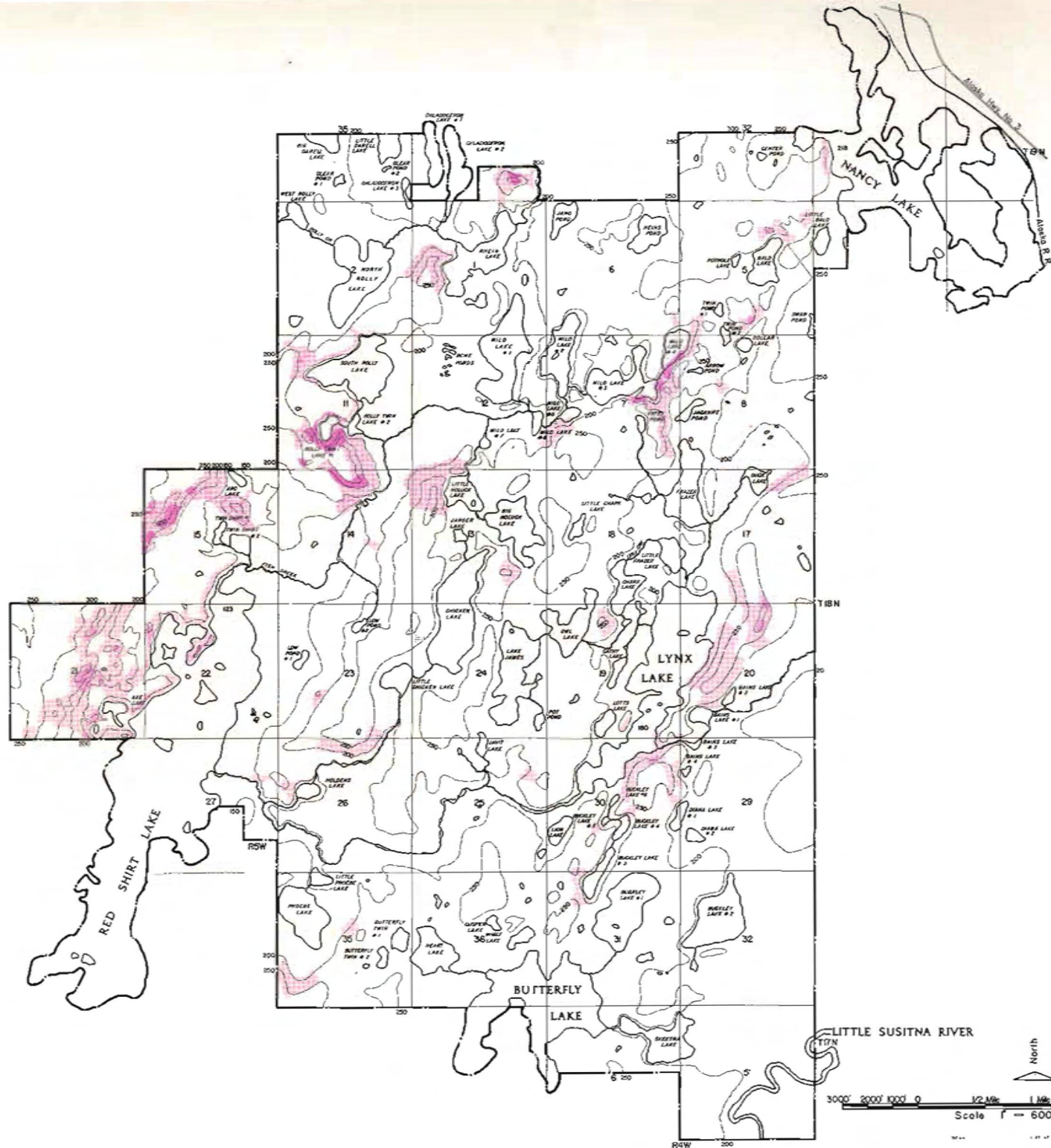


SWAMPS

Physiographically of equal importance to the lakes in the park landscape is the large part of the area in swamp. In 205 distinct areas, swamp occupies almost as much area as water -- 4,335 acres. Like the lakes, they range in size from tiny bags of little significance to narrow shore line strips bordering most streams and lakes on up to a very large one of 1,642 acres (over 2-1/2 square miles). Extending along the eastern boundary for two and one-half miles, this swamp protrudes over a mile into the park at its widest point.

Expensive to traverse with road or to locate even foot or horse trail on, the large swamp segment is especially important because it must be respected -- and **avoided**. Actually the swamp has great aesthetic value -- as an attractive open feature of the landscape. It enables views that would not exist were the terrain wholly wooded. Also it has major value as the habitat of special wildlife -- moose and beaver, for example, that might not otherwise be found in the area--wildlife that will greatly increase the enjoyment of park visitors.

It is interesting that if the water and swamp are deducted from total acreage, there remains only 10,124 acres -- a little less than half of the total suitable for location of "dry land" facilities.





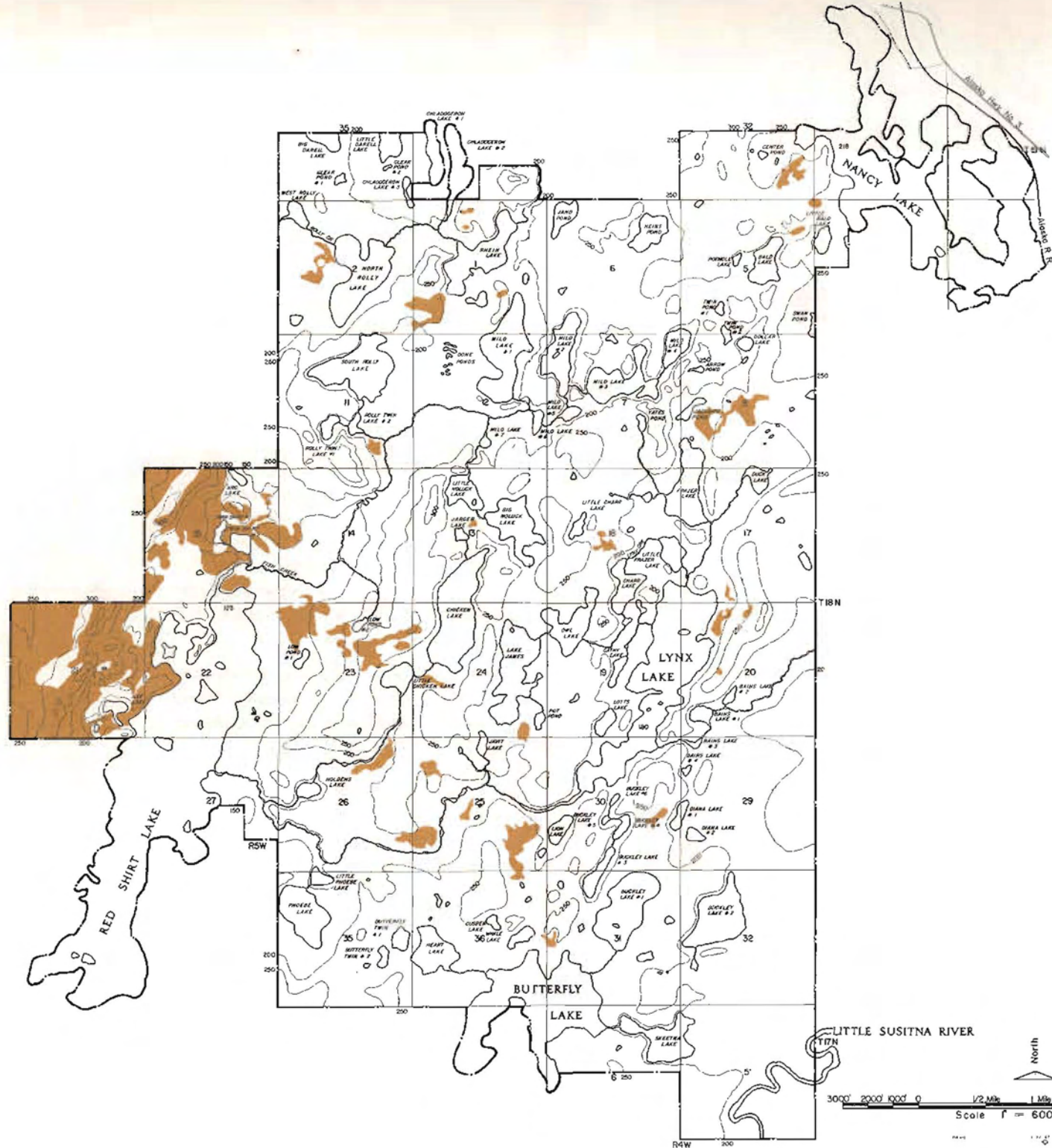
LAND SLOPE

There is still another limitation. It is important to determine "degree of land slope" partly because of erosion factors and partly because construction costs increase in direct relation to steepness of terrain.

Since the Noney Lake topsoil is so shallow (12 inches) as to be highly subject to erosion -- a further planning criterion becomes necessary -- that any facilities that concentrate people to the extent of wearing out the ground surface, but especially picnic and camp grounds, - must be located on terrain with a slope of less than 10:1. (1 foot vertical rise to 10 feet horizontally).

As the map opposite illustrates, the glacial moraines vary tremendously in ratio of side slope, with much area greater than 10:1. The total of slope 10:1 or steeper is 1,219 acres, with 137 acres of this 4:1 or steeper.

While serving to restrict the location of camp and picnic grounds, this particular part of the land analysis series, with its indication of 4:1 or steeper slopes, has the great value of revealing potential area suited to skiing, tobogganing and sledding -- activities where steep slopes are a must.





OPEN, DRY AREAS

One final analysis is conducted -- the locating of areas that are open, yet dry, as opposed to swamp. It is particularly important to scan the aerial photographs closely for these because a large open site for a golf course and an open site for the skiing-sledding-tobogganing slopes are needed. Not only will the expense of clearing (with consequent loss of topsoil) be unnecessary but the unnatural clearing of large wooded areas will be avoided also. As the map opposite shows, there are 1200 acres of open dry terrain. 867 acres of this lies on steep slopes west and north-west of Red Shirt Lake - an area that is ideal for the winter sports complex but not far the golf course. (Too far distant from the lodge). By this color coding method which pinpoints some areas and weans away from others, the Land Analysis begins to reveal what areas are useable for what purposes.

It is immediately obvious that the terrain is thoroughly chapped up by the lakes, swamp and steep slopes to the extent that useable areas are quite small as well as widely dispersed. Though this makes for an interesting and varied landscape, it distinctly narrows the choice of sites for almost all activities.