

NANCY LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA MASTER PLAN



Canoeing at NLSRA - Fun for the Entire Family.

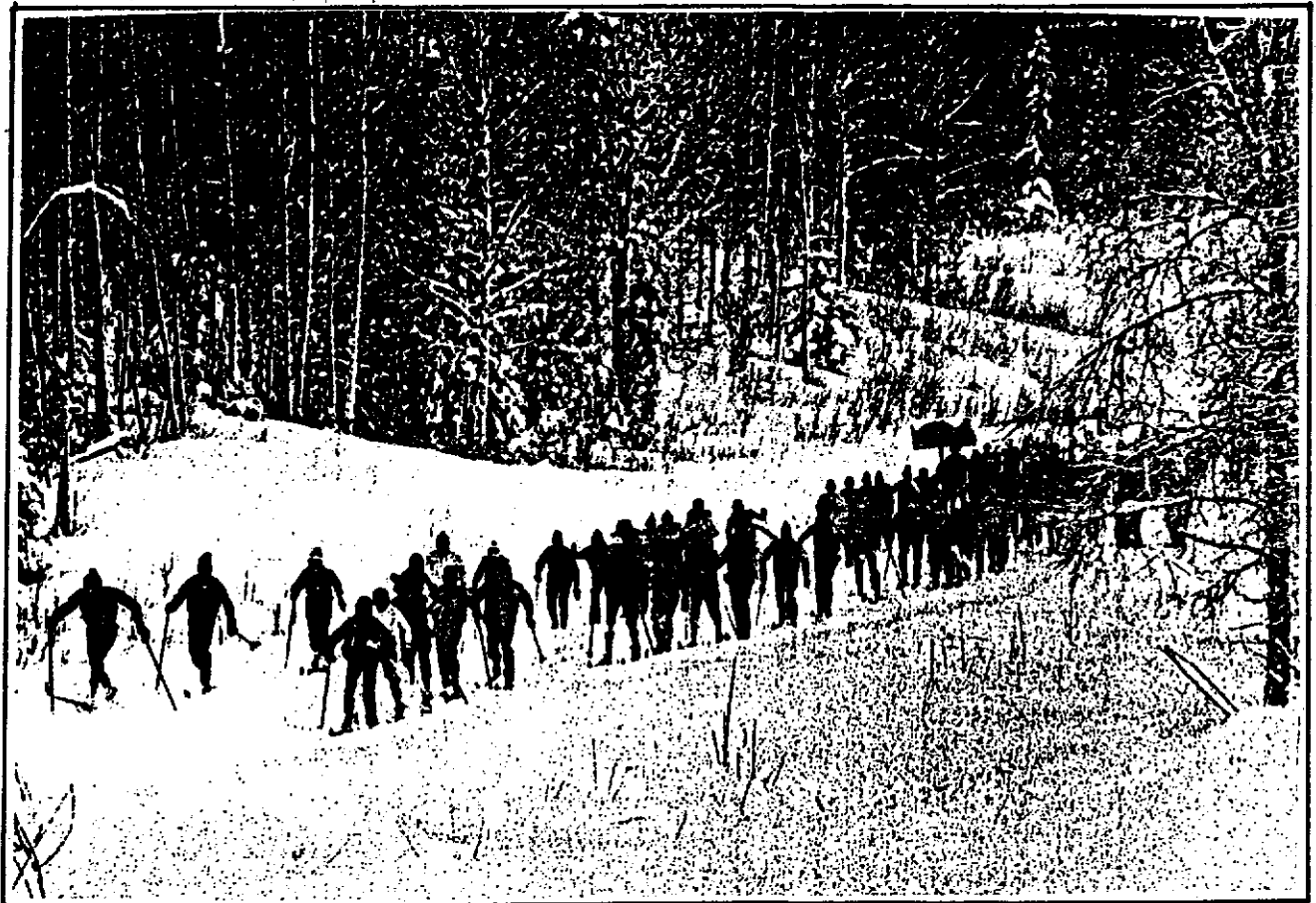
NANCY LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA MASTER PLAN

**Prepared by the Division of Parks
Park Planning Section**



**State of Alaska, Bill Sheffield, Governor
Department of Natural Resources,
Esther Wunnicke, Commissioner**

October 1983



Crosscountry Ski racing at NLSRA.

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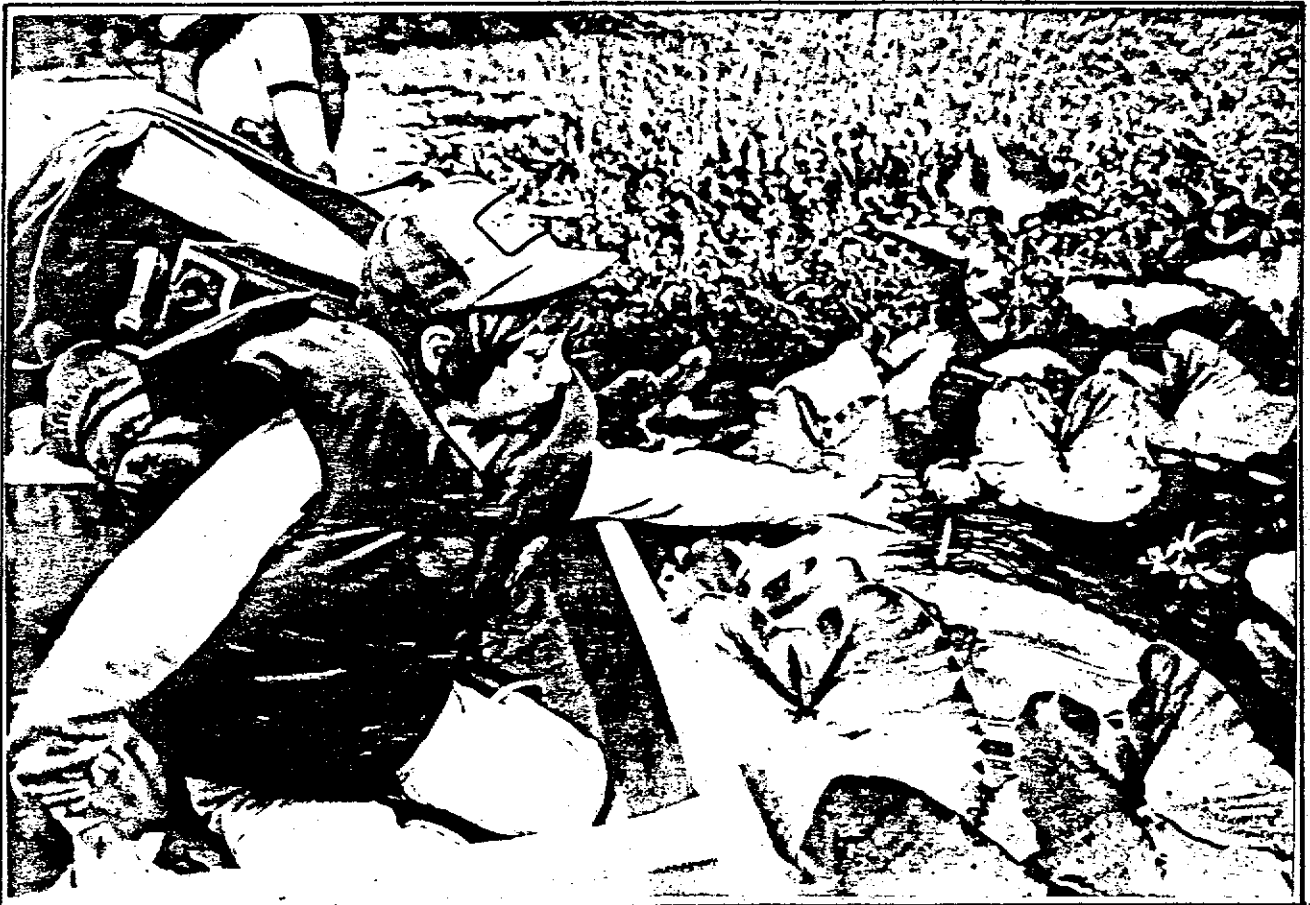


A Lucky Catch at No Luck Lake.

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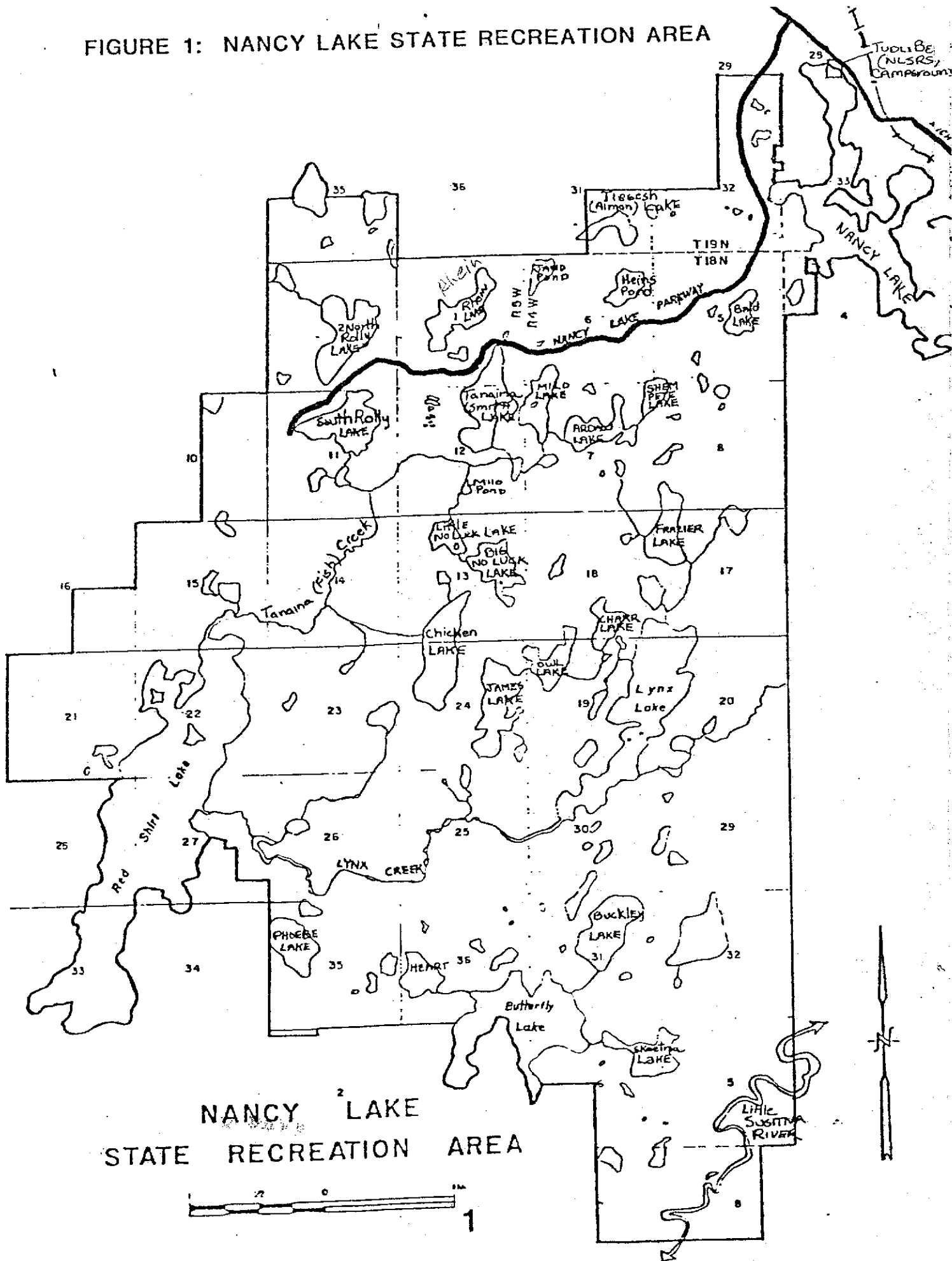
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A Placid Moment at Echo Pond.

SUMMARY

FIGURE 1: NANCY LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA



SUMMARY

An important contributor of outdoor recreational opportunities in the south-central region of Alaska is the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area (NLSRA). The 1966 legislature established the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area as a unit of the Alaska State Park System for the single purpose of recreation. The area consists of an interconnected system of freshwater lakes and rolling hillsides graced with spruce and paper birch. The NLSRA lies in the heart of the Matanuska-Susitna valley and is one of the more popular places for families and friends to spend a few days together in a quiet, natural setting.

The master plan for the NLSRA has been prepared to guarantee the continued use of the state park unit as a provider of outdoor recreational opportunities. The plan guides a continued expansion of facilities, trails, and management within the area while maintaining the quiet, natural beauty recreationists desire through proper development and operational procedures. The specific recommendations for the area have been grouped into phases, to be completed in an orderly fashion as funding and operational growth permit. These phases will allow a continuity of development to achieve public desires and state park objectives.

The NLSRA will be managed on a year-round basis. Key recommendations which are supported by the public include the development of a 75 person group camp facility, instituting a system of public use cabins, increasing the interpretive programs and staffing capabilities, expanding the back-country opportunities through the increased development of a trail network and campsites, and by expanding road accessible campground and day-use facilities.

Presently the NLSRA receives over 50,000 visitors each year. With the continued growth of the Matanuska-Susitna valley population, it can be foreseen that the NLSRA will play an even more important role as a state-wide provider of outdoor recreation opportunities.



Backcountry Camping at the No Lucks Lake Portage.

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area (NLSRA) is to provide a diversity of outdoor recreation activities appropriate to the area's resource character and regional setting. This master plan examines the regional recreation opportunities, resource capabilities, management capabilities, operational budgeting capabilities, public needs, and recommends management and development of the unit to maximize the public's recreational use and enjoyment.

The master plan will provide direction and justification for

- capital and operational budgeting,
- site planning and development,
- land acquisition,
- facility and trail construction,
- visitor information signing,
- programs for public education and enjoyment, and
- recreational activity management.

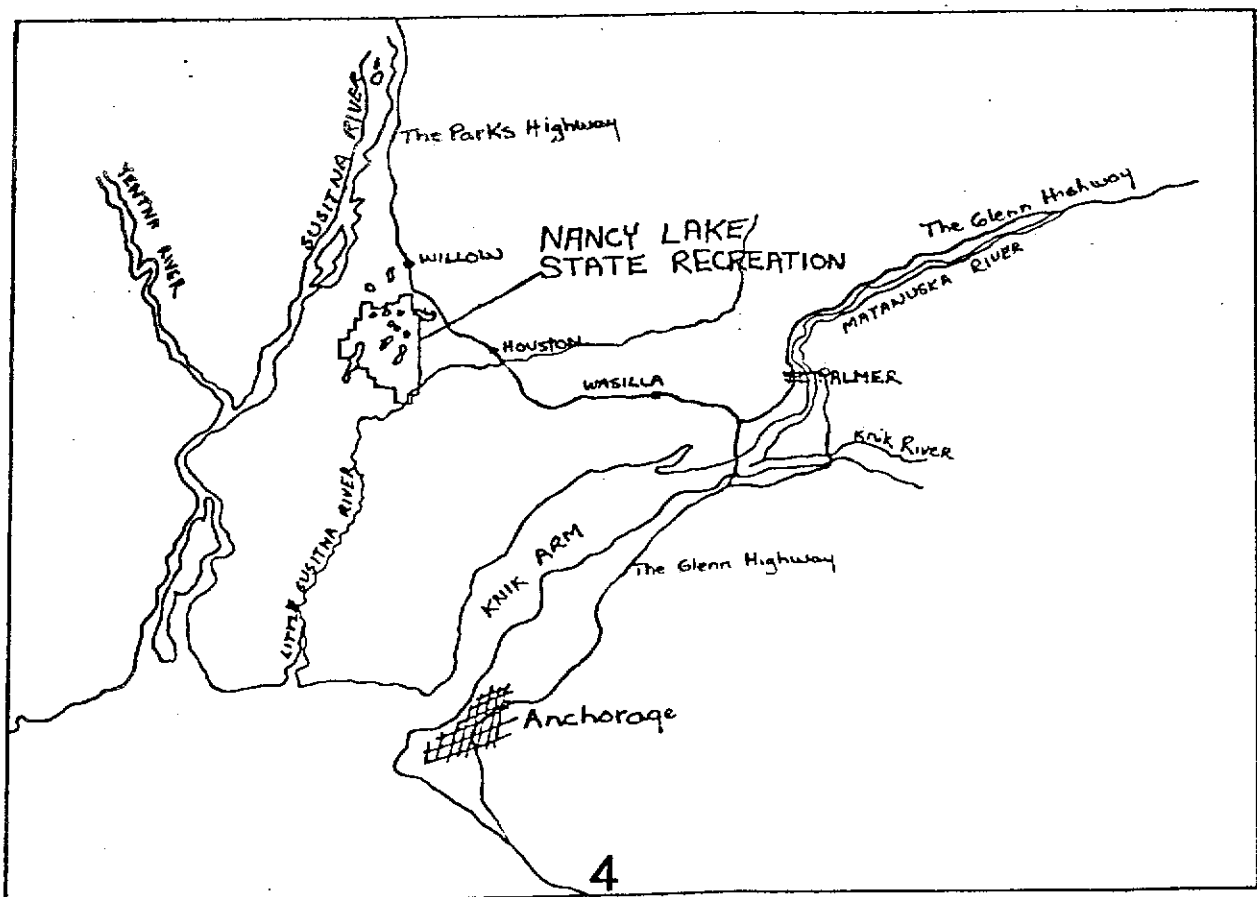
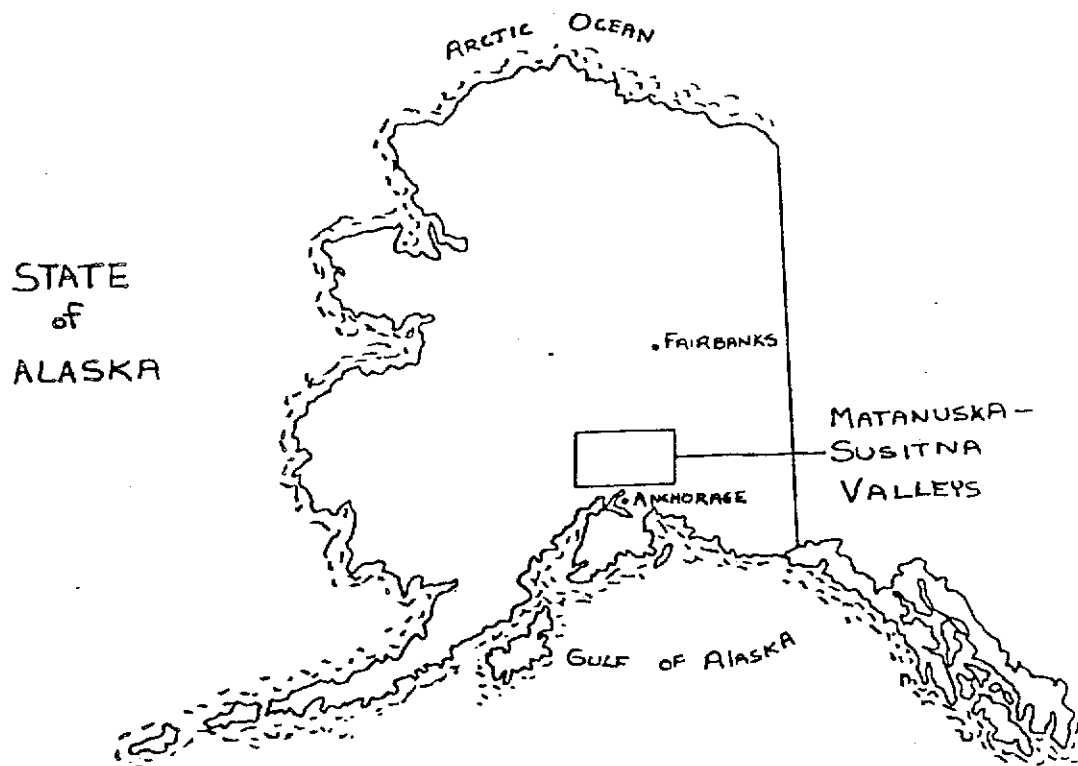
ESTABLISHMENT

The Nancy Lake State Recreation Area was established July 6, 1966 by the Alaska Legislature. The legislation is contained in the Alaska Statutes under Article 14, AS 41.20.491. In 1970, the legislation was amended to adjust park boundaries, which reduced park acreage, and to permit the borough to extract gravel from lands within the park which had been previously selected by the borough. By those acts, all state-owned lands and waters within the boundaries of the recreation area were reserved for public recreation and from all uses incompatible with public recreation.

One day prior to the establishment of NLSRA, on July 5, 1966, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough established a special land-use district within the boundaries of the recreation area (Borough Ordinance 66-2). Its purpose was to reinforce the legislation which established the area for recreational purposes; to superimpose borough zoning laws designed to discourage non-recreational developments and uses; and to prescribe penalties for violation of the zoning ordinance.

The Nancy Lake State Recreation Site, also included in this master plan, was established as a unit of the State Park System by administrative action (ILMT No. 37437) on December 15, 1967. By that action this 35.59 acre parcel of state land was transferred to the Division of Parks for management. This site provides the only developed public access to Nancy Lake.

FIGURE 2: LOCATION OF NLSRA



SIZE, LOCATION, SETTING, AND SIGNIFICANCE

The Nancy Lake State Recreation Area, which includes the waters of Nancy Lake, is located in the heart of the lower Susitna valley in Southcentral Alaska. The total acreage of the unit is 22,685 acres. The Susitna River flows four miles to the west, and the Little Susitna River traverses the southeastern corner of the recreation area. The Parks (Anchorage-Fairbanks) Highway, paralleling the Alaska Railroad route, passes by Nancy Lake to the northeast bringing over 80% of the recreation area's visitors from Anchorage, 67 miles to the south.

The Nancy Lake State Recreation Area is within the political jurisdiction of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and principally serves the communities of Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla, Willow and Houston. Approximately 200,000 residents are within two hours traveling time of the NLSRA.

Water is the dominant feature of NLSRA with lakes, ponds, streams, and wetlands occupying half of the recreation area. The elongated lakes oriented northeast-southwest, rolling hills, and discontinuous ridges were laid down by retreating glaciers over 9,000 years ago.

The significance of the area is its quiet, graceful, and natural beauty; ease of access; its close proximity to the Municipality of Anchorage where half the state's population lives; its dedication for the single purpose of recreation; and the diversity of outdoor, year-round, recreational opportunities.

DEFINITION OF A STATE RECREATION AREA

The following is an excerpt from the Alaska State Park System: Statewide Framework, published in 1982.

Definition and Purpose

A state recreation area is a relatively spacious unit and possesses a diversity of outdoor recreational opportunities. The dominant management objective of the unit is to provide a maximum level of outdoor recreational opportunities based on the natural values of the unit and its ability to sustain use without significant adverse effects on natural systems.

Developments and Activities

The management of a state recreation area allows for carefully planned and controlled resource modification to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities as long as the intensity of modification does not diminish the unit's natural and cultural values. Such

modifications must be based upon a formal decision to enhance public enjoyment of the state recreation area's natural values or to provide for site-appropriate outdoor recreational activities. Lands within the unit will be developed to provide diverse, high quality outdoor recreational experiences in keeping with regional use patterns and preferences. Other than state recreation sites, state recreation areas are generally the most intensively developed type of unit in the State Park System.

PLANNING PROCESS

In 1967, the original master plan for the NLSRA was prepared and identified the necessity "of providing future generations with unspoiled, open-space recreation of natural character" as a critical factor of NLSRA, a concept we are still in agreement with. The plan recommended by Sam L. Huddleston and Associates, called for the construction of 2900 picnic sites, 1750 campsites, a 160 unit lodge with heated pool, a marina with slips for 150 boats, a riding stable, a floatplane drome, a gas station, a grocery store, a 36-hole golf course, two group camps, and 20 miles of road. Not only are these recommendations far in excess of demand, as shown by visitor use and recreation data of NLSRA, they would overtax the capability of the recreation area to absorb these facilities and the use they would generate, as well as greatly increasing management and development costs. Such high usage would negate "providing future generations with unspoiled open-space recreation of natural character."

Therefore, the master plan has been rewritten, profiting by user surveys, budgetary constraints, site capabilities and park character, and is to be used as a tool for management, planning and development of the area. The planning process followed the guidance contained in the Division of Parks' standard operating procedure for master planning.

During the preparation of the master plan, emphasis was placed on making contacts with park visitors, individuals, organizations, and businesses. A mailing list of over 400 people was maintained. Approximately 190 people came to four public meetings in Willow and Anchorage to share information and opinions. Over 350 questionnaires were distributed to recreation area visitors, with 94 returned. The tabulated results are included in Appendix A.

At all times during the planning process, there has been active and continuous participation by the district superintendent and the chief ranger. This is to insure that management experience and the field personnel's special knowledge of the recreation area and its visitors have been incorporated into the recommendations.



Moose May Be Seen Throughout NLSRA.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

Natural resource elements within a state recreation area play a vital role in the master planning process. An inventory of the natural elements provides a clearer understanding of the resources within the area and how they are affected by, and influence human use. Following each element of the natural resource listed below, is a list of management implications. These implications need to be considered during park development phases.

CLIMATE

The Nancy Lake State Recreation Area lies within the transitional zone. This zone is bounded by the continental zone to the north, west, and east and the maritime zone to the south. Temperatures at NLSRA range between -49°F and 86°F with a July average daily maximum of 70°F and a January average daily minimum of 2°F.

Yearly precipitation at NLSRA averages 24 inches. The summer outdoor recreation season in southcentral Alaska is May through September, peaking in July and August. Unfortunately, the peak recreation season (most visitors) coincides with the months of heaviest rainfall.

Snow accumulation at NLSRA is more typical of the continental zone. Willow, just three miles north of NLSRA, receives 85 inches of snowfall and Talkeetna, 30 miles north, averages 102 inches of snowfall. Most of the snow occurs from November through March. December and January are the months most likely to get the heaviest snowfall. Continuous snow cover can be expected from December through March.

Prevailing winds generally blow in a north-south oriented direction. Extreme northeasterly winds in the NLSRA vicinity may reach 40 mph, but normally are from the north, between four and six mph. Summer winds are generally moderate, while winter winds from the north bring cold temperatures from the interior of the state.

Long days in summer and short days in winter have a strong influence on recreation in southcentral Alaska. While a recreationist in mid-summer can expect approximately 19 hours of daylight, mid-winter recreational activities which depend on natural daylight, are restricted to about five hours.

Implications

The short, winter daylight driving time may be a limiting factor in choosing close-to-home recreational opportunities, such as those at NLSRA.

Recommended public use cabins, if developed, may increase NLSRA visitor use as people choose to remove themselves from exposure to summer rains and cold winter temperatures.

Continuous snow cover at NLSRA is a popular drawing card. There is often unreliable snow cover in the Anchorage area to the south.

Overflow conditions on lakes in the winter cause hazardous situations.

TOPOGRAPHY

As the glaciers which once covered the area retreated in a north-northeasterly direction some 9,000 years ago, they left behind a series of low hills (drumlins) and ridges (eskers), which lie in a northeasterly-southwesterly direction. Most of the ridges are relatively short and discontinuous, and vary from a few feet to 250 feet above the surrounding land and water. Between the ridges are numerous lakes similarly oriented in a northeasterly-southwesterly direction. The lowest elevation in NLSRA is Red Shirt Lake at 123 feet above sea level. The extreme high point is on the ridge one-half mile west of Red Shirt Lake at 375 feet above sea level.

Implications

Evidence of receding glaciers offer interpretive opportunities for glacial geology.

Lack of high ground may limit site and trail selection possibilities.

SOIL

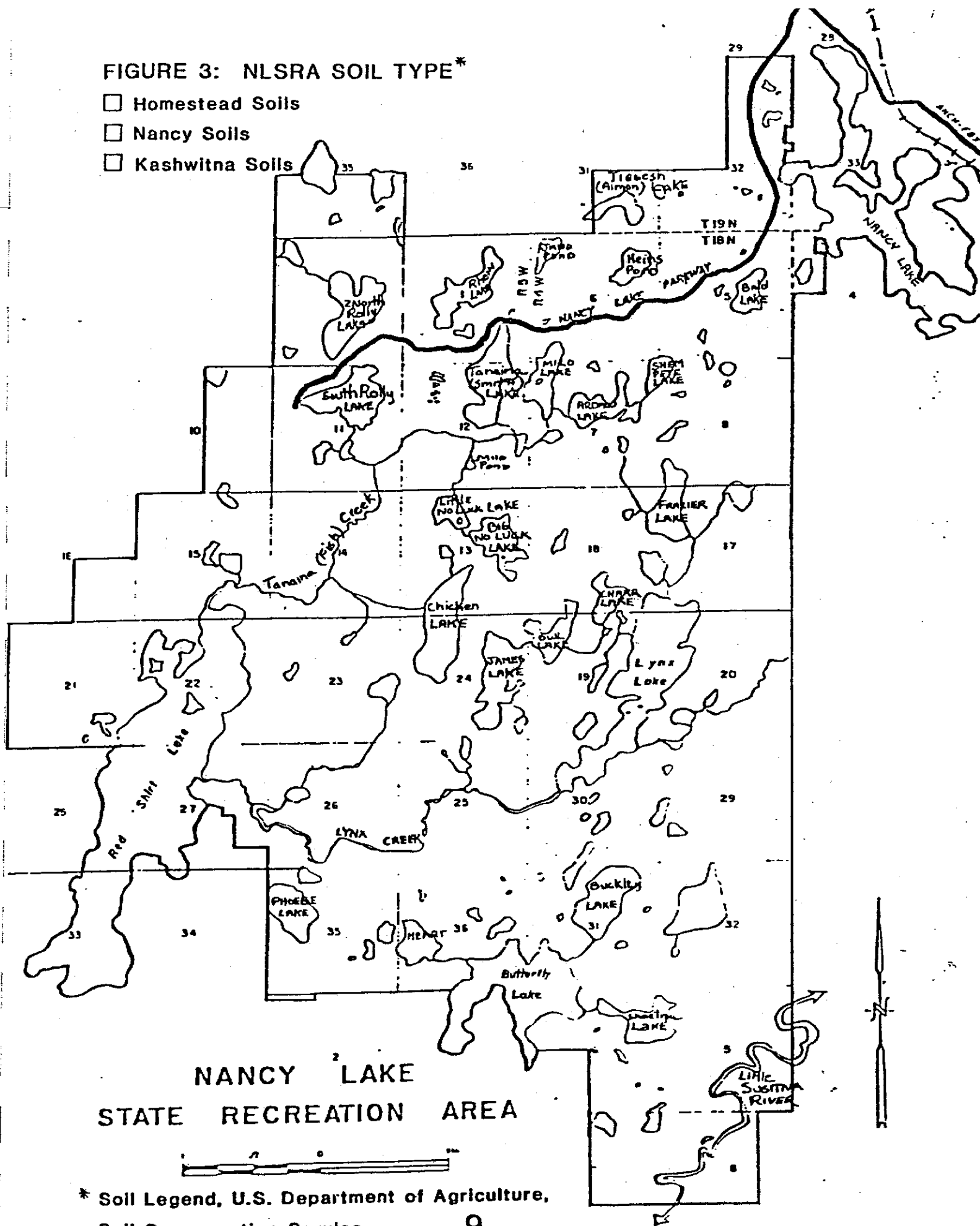
The Nancy Lake State Recreation Area and vicinity are underlain by coal-bearing bedrock. As the glaciers retreated the area in a north-northeasterly direction they left behind thick deposits of gravelly and sandy material. Over the thick deposits of this material lies a layer of wind deposited (loess) silt generally 10 to 20 inches thick. This topsoil is generally well-drained, except in poorly drained peat and Jacobsen series soils, a classification for soil used by the Soil Conservation Service for mapping. The Jacobsen series soils have a slight to moderate limitation for recreation facility development and intensive use. The more developable soils in the NLSRA are the Homestead, Nancy, and Kashwitna series soils. These soils are generally wooded and best used for wildlife habitat and limited recreational development, such as a few small camps and cabins. The sub-stratum is very gravelly material and is a good source of gravel, sand and roadfill. Figure 3 displays NLSRA soil type.

Implications

Development plans including soil compaction should consider all effects upon vegetation, erosion, water quality and wildlife.

FIGURE 3: NLSRA SOIL TYPE*

- ☐ Homestead Soils
- ☐ Nancy Soils
- ☐ Kashwitna Soils



* Soil Legend, U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Soil Conservation Service

Site location and facility development must consider soil characteristics, such as wetness, permeability, slope, surface texture, depth to bedrock and rockiness.

Areas of severe soil limitations used for facility development may require gravel importation or other materials to "harden" sites to withstand the pressure of intensive use.

Drainage of soils may be necessary prior to site development.

Increased cost of building facilities and trails may be due to poor soil conditions.

Since gravel and stone of suitable quality is limited within NLSRA and because its extraction would cause undesirable disturbance or alteration of the natural environment, a source for materials outside of NLSRA is preferable.

VEGETATION

The generally thin soils of NLSRA support typical vegetation for South-central Alaska. The principal woody vegetation of the area is a mixture of paper birch and white spruce. White spruce is the final, self-perpetuating species of tree, but few pure stands remain, largely because of past forest fires. Black spruce is common on level or gently rolling land, and cold slopes with north exposure and poor drainage. Black spruce may indicate the presence of permafrost just below the surface. Cottonwood trees generally grow along low-lying alluvial plains in NLSRA. Quaking aspen dominates on a few well-drained sites with specimens as tall as 70 feet.

The dense understory of NLSRA is generally low shrubs, devils club and high grass. The poorly drained areas, especially along the many small streams in NLSRA, are composed of thickets of alder and willow. The areas of muskeg in NLSRA are usually covered by a thick mat of sphagnum moss. Other plants in NLSRA include cotton grass, which is found along margins of swampy areas, labrador-tea, bog birch, dwarf willow, bog blueberry, low and high bush cranberry, and cloud berry. Tall grasses are especially abundant on the higher ridges in the western part of NLSRA.

Implications

Forest fire generally destroys the white and black spruce, while quaking aspen is more fire resistant. The character of NLSRA may change dramatically due to fire.

Black spruce bogs, muskeg areas, marshes and other poorly drained sites are costly to develop, and generally should be avoided.

Areas of wildflower and berries are a strong attraction to park visitors.

Low-lying forested areas of white spruce and paper birch are important winter habitat for many wildlife species. High impact recreation should avoid these areas, or should be restricted to designated trails or corridors.

SURFACE WATERS

Surface water is the most important attraction within NLSRA. Although freshwater lakes are abundant in the vicinity, nowhere else are so many lakes within such close proximity to one another, with the exception of the Kenai Peninsula or Lake Louise areas. There are 131 lakes within NLSRA. Sixty-seven are over five surface acres in size and 20 are over 40 acres in size. The largest lake in NLSRA is Nancy Lake with 807 surface acres of water. Nancy Lake is also the second largest clearwater lake in the Matanuska-Susitna valley. Three other large lakes within NLSRA are Red Shirt Lake (777 acres), Lynx Lake (315 acres), and East Butterfly Lake (310 acres).

There are three anadromous (salmon spawning) streams within NLSRA. They are the Little Susitna River in the extreme southeastern corner, Lynx Creek which flows from Lynx Lake into Red Shirt Lake, and Tenaina Creek which flows out of Tenaina Lake (formerly Smith Lake) into the north end of Red Shirt Lake. All the lakes and streams within NLSRA make up approximately 24% (5,016 acres) of the recreation area. When the swamps and muskegs (4,335 acres) are added, over 40% of NLSRA is either water or wetlands.

Surface waters generally drain southwesterly into the Susitna River. Only Nancy Lake and the lakes in the extreme southeastern corner of the recreation area drain into the Little Susitna River. The lakes north of Nancy Lake Parkway drain westerly into Rolly Creek and then into the Susitna, while those south of the parkway drain southwesterly into Red Shirt Lake, then into Fish Creek and the Susitna. Although flooding of the lakes and streams within NLSRA along natural rivers may pose some hazard problems, flooding from heavy rains or snows are not considered to be a significant hazard.

The water table in NLSRA is at the surface or within two feet of the surface for nearly half of the recreation area. The water table is relatively deep and does not pose these problems wherever Homestead, Nancy, and Kashwitna series soils are present.

On-site ground water from wells supply drinking water within the recreation area. Three wells of known depth have been drilled and are currently producing good supplies of water at South Rolly Lake Campground, at the NLSRA Office and Maintenance Building, and at the Nancy Lake State Recreation Site Campground. Based on the depth of water-producing wells in the area, it is safe to predict that new wells drilled at newly planned facilities within NLSRA should produce water at a rate of at least 10 gallons per minute at between 70 and 100 feet.

Implications

The interconnected system of surface waters within NLSRA offer a wide diversity of outdoor recreational opportunities.

The abundance of surface waters within NLSRA offer a variety of topics for interpretive opportunities, such as life in the lake systems, people's influence on the waterways, and natural progression of lakes in spruce forests.

Water and the proximity to water is a major visitor attraction. With over 40% of NLSRA comprised of water or wetlands, the ability to disperse users is good and should be utilized in establishing carrying capacity levels and acceptable levels of impacts. A monitoring and maintenance program to maintain water quality is critical. Protection of wetland areas must also be considered during development.

The shallow water table in NLSRA is significant because it has a strong influence on facility construction, activity concentration, and the susceptibility to groundwater and surface contamination.

ENERGY

Oil, gas, and coal are known to exist within the basin where NLSRA is located. Several oil and gas leases and coal prospecting permits within NLSRA were issued in the early 1970s. All have since expired. The well log from the Red Shirt Lake #1 wildcat oil well, drilled in 1968, shows that while no oil or gas were found to a depth of 2,074 feet, coal was found to be abundant in varying depths.

Recent testing in geothermal (hot water) energy in the vicinity of NLSRA by the University of Alaska's Geophysical Institute in Fairbanks, plus information obtained from the Red Shirt Lake #1 well log, have sparked optimism by scientists that geothermal energy may be present in significant quantity beneath and in the vicinity of NLSRA. In a September 23, 1982 letter from Eugene M. Wescott and Donald Turner, professors for the Geophysical Institute, it is noted that:

...geothermal waters may underlie large areas of the NLSRA at depths much shallower than the depth to basement in Red Shirt Lake #1 well (2,074 feet). 50°F water has been located within NLSRA at depths of only 40 feet. This warm water has risen from a geothermal reservoir at a greater depth...

Implications

NLSRA should be managed as a recreation area, and oil and gas leases and coal prospecting permits should no longer be issued.

Geothermal energy sources may be utilized for park facilities if feasible.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

Rainbow trout, dolly varden, coho (silver) salmon, landlocked coho salmon, sockeye (red) salmon, chinook (king) salmon, whitefish, northern pike, burbit, long-nose suckers and three-spined stickleback are found in the lakes and streams in NLSRA. Harvest data for sport fish caught within NLSRA, for 1977-1980 is shown in Figure 4. To help support the increase of game fish, a successful rainbow trout and silver salmon stocking program by the Department of Fish and Game has been underway within the recreation area since the mid-1970s. Lakes which have been stocked include South Rolly Lake, Tenaina Lake, Little Noluck Lake, and Big Noluck Lake. Lynx, Red Shirt, and Nancy Lakes have good native populations of rainbow trout and no trout stocking of these lakes is anticipated. A sockeye salmon planting program for Nancy Lake began in 1978. To the present, over 3½ million fry have been released. Although no count is available, it appears that the first adult salmon returned in significant numbers in the summer of 1981, to establish the run.

Nesting birds and common migrants common to Southcentral Alaska utilize NLSRA. Visitors to the recreation area are likely to see many different species including ravens, loons, magpies, diving and dabbling ducks, owls, eagles, and spruce hens. Sandhill cranes, hawks, geese and swans are occasionally spotted.

Nearly all of the mammals indigenous to Southcentral Alaska are likewise present, which include moose, black bear, beaver and rabbits. Other animals which have been seen in the recreation area include otter, mink, muskrat, lynx, wolverine, martin and fox. The lands within NLSRA serve as important habitat for these species.

FIGURE: 4: HARVEST DATA for SPORTFISH
CAUGHT WITHIN NLSRA, 1977-1980

	RT	LT	DV/AC	LL	BB	RS	SS
1977	2,642	336	277	76	148	56	56
1978	1,853	127	18	262	145	14	0
1979	2,909	145	118	227	9	0	0
1980	2,540	749	327	146	34	69	0

RT = rainbow trout; LT = lake trout; DV/AC = Dolly Varden/arctic char;
LL = landlocked coho salmon; BB = burbot; RS = sockeye salmon;
SS = coho salmon

Alaska Department of Fish and Game records

Implications

The Division of Parks should consult the Alaska Department of Fish and Game concerning fisheries management. Rainbow trout and other highly sought after game fish may be decreasing in number due to competition with stickleback and northern pike. It may be necessary to take management actions to prevent the reduction of numbers of game fish within NLSRA.

Fish predators are not the only cause for loss of game fish in NLSRA lakes. Natural infertility resulting from low nitrogen and phosphorus content of the water of many of the lakes can further inhibit fish growth. This process needs to be studied and managed.

The stocking of lakes and rivers within NLSRA of game fish should continue.

Riverine vegetation is an important source of wildlife habitat and sites should be protected.

Populations of mammals, such as beavers, should be managed within NLSRA and a game management plan should be prepared with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The diversity of fish and wildlife within NLSRA offer ample interpretation opportunities such as animal tracks and tales, night life of the forest, life cycles of beaver, and fish species interactions.

SCENIC VALUES

There are some quite spectacular views of the Chugach Mountains and the Alaska Range to be had from hilltops and ridges throughout the recreation area. Some of the best long vistas are gained from and across the many lakes and placid ponds. Scenic values of the recreation area also include views of seasonal changes, such as brilliant fall colors, or new snowfall; lily ponds; wetlands, bogs and lake reflections; and the overall quiet solitude that accentuates the beauty of NLSRA.

Implications

Development plans should incorporate and maintain scenic values.

NATURAL HAZARDS

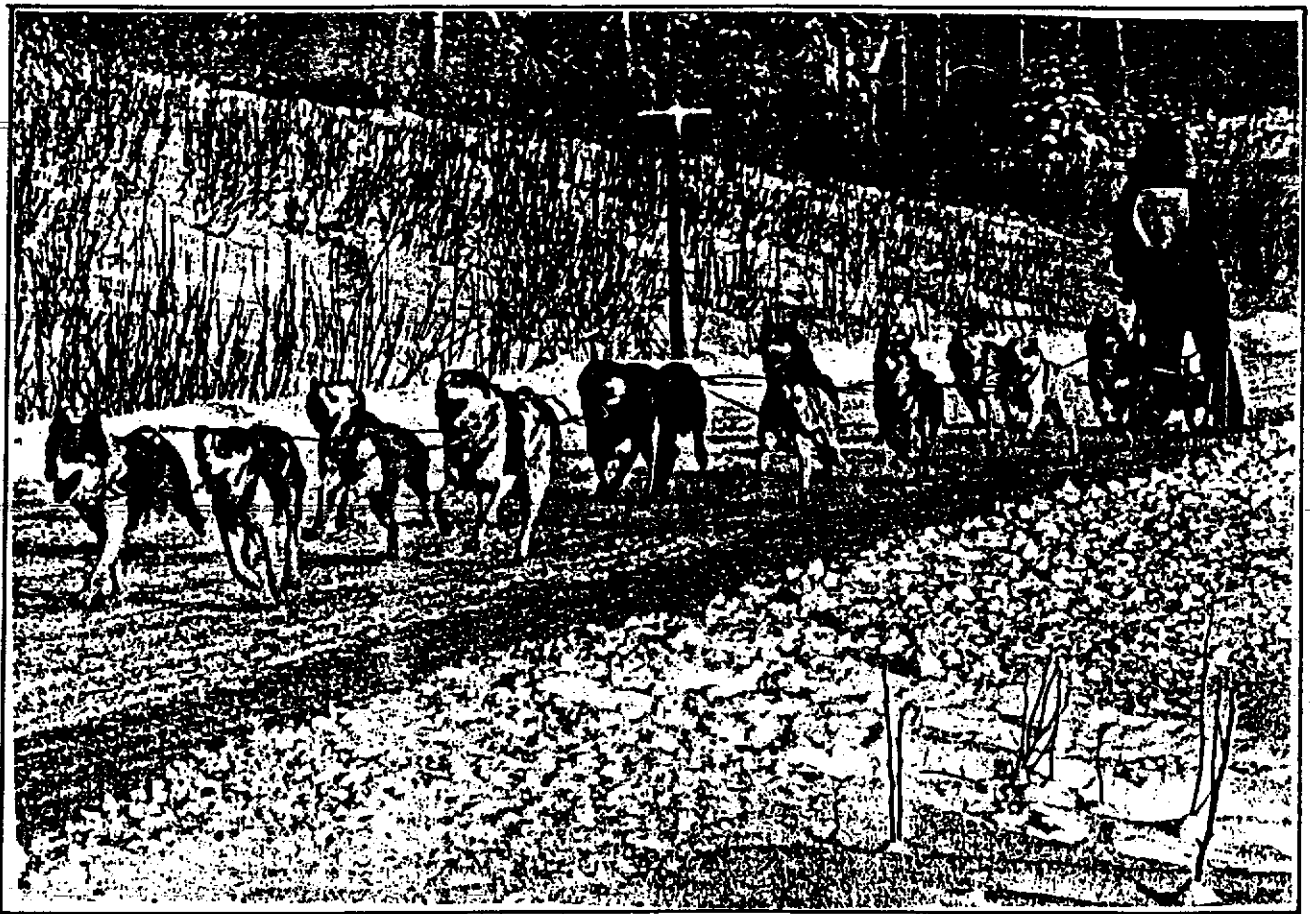
There are many natural hazards within NLSRA. These include fire; cold winter temperatures; cool, wet summer conditions; bears; rough water on large lakes; thin ice or lake overflow on ice; and soft muskegs and swamps.

Implications

An active public information program, including brochures, signing, public displays, and park ranger programs, should be used to inform park visitors of such hazards as weather, bears and other wildlife, winter travel, boating accidents, hypothermia, and winter conditions.

Fire has the potential to spread rapidly and come without warning, destroying everything in its path. A fire management plan should be used as an important management tool.

The site selection for facilities within the recreation area should consider all natural hazards.



One Route of the Historic Iditarod Trail Runs Through NLSRA.

CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

HISTORY

Inhabitants of the Cook Inlet area are believed to have arrived approximately 8,000 years ago. It is believed that the Tanaina Indian groups entered the Cook Inlet subregion from the west and moved southwestwardly to village locations on or near the salmon producing streams of Cook Inlet. Adapting to their new coastal homelands, the Tanaina Indians became the only Athapaskan-speaking peoples of Alaska who hunted sea mammals. Settlements of Athapaskan Indian origin have been documented in the NLSRA. Several Tanaina Indian settlements and activities occurred within and around the boundaries of NLSRA as recently as 75 years ago.

The first Caucasian contact in the area occurred in the 1790s. The Russian American Company and the Russians explored the Cook Inlet country with one trip up the Susitna River. The mid-century produced an expansion of trading settlements near the mouth of the Knik River, and by the mid-1800s the numbers of white settlers were increasing due to the gold prospecting expansions.

Implications

Presently, not enough is known about the historic sites within NLSRA. A more exhaustive historical survey with recommendations for restoration and interpretation of the cultural heritage of NLSRA should be accomplished.

Prior to the construction of new facilities, the site should be surveyed by the Department of Geological and Geophysical Surveys.

POPULATION

The population most influenced by, and having the greatest influence on NLSRA, includes residents of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough with a population of 17,766 (1980 census) and the Municipality of Anchorage with a population of 173,017 (1980 census). The median age of Anchorage residents is young - 25 - compared to the national median age of 30 (1980 U.S. Census). Communities within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough nearest NLSRA for which census figures are published are Palmer (36 miles to the east) with 2,141, Wasilla (25 miles to the east) with 1,559, and Houston (8 miles to the east) with 370. The Institute of Social and Economic Research projects population growth to continue at a more steady rate, as shown in Figure 5.

FIGURE 5: POPULATION PROJECTION for ANCHORAGE
and the MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

	1980 (census)	1984	1988	1992	1996	2000
Anchorage	179,118	202,708	237,418	245,945	263,903	285,821
Mat-Su Borough	17,766	29,000	46,000	72,000	102,000*	No Pro- jection
*1995 projection						
Sources:						
Anchorage projections by the <u>Institute of Social and Economic Research</u> , December 1981. Matanuska-Susitna Borough projections by CH2M-Hill for the <u>Overall Economic Development Program, Inc., Report, Volume II</u> , for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, July 1980.						

Implications

Many factors could dramatically influence the population of Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in an upward direction. Examples are:

- oil and gas discovery and development;
- coal and associated port development;
- agricultural development;
- recreational development;
- industrial development following hydroelectric development;
- construction of a bridge across Knik Arm; and
- petrochemical development.

TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION

The Parks Highway is the primary route of access to NLSRA. The amount of average daily traffic near the entrance to NLSRA from 1970 through 1980 correlates with the monthly use patterns of the recreation area.

The Alaska Railroad currently operates two trains a week between Anchorage and Fairbanks during the winter and offers daily passenger service during the summer. The train passes by the entrance to NLSRA and is a potential access mode to the recreation area. Presently, people may use the train via whistle stop procedures to access NLSRA. There is an annual ridership of approximately 70,000 passengers on this route.

Float plane access into NLSRA presently occurs on Nancy, Lynx, Red Shirt and Butterfly lakes. No additional float plane access is planned for the area. Access to NLSRA is also provided by the Little Susitna River, at MP 57 of the Parks Highway. Boaters may enter the recreation area from a portage trail on the river 12 miles from the highway put-in.

Implications

Improved rail access, and upgraded highway conditions could increase the numbers of visitors using NLSRA.

Should float plane access endanger the safety of visitors, or the public demand should request lake access closures, the Director of the Division of Parks has the capability of closing the lakes to float plane access.

LAND OWNERSHIP

There are 29 separate parcels containing 304.63 acres of private land within the boundaries of the recreation area. Figure 6 shows the public and private land within and adjacent to NLSRA. Private land within NLSRA is not open to the public. All the waters and all the public land have been patented to the state. The state retains the subsurface estate beneath all land and water.

Implications

Private lands within NLSRA need to be clearly identified to the public to help eliminate trespass situations.

Private lands within NLSRA should be purchased on a willing seller basis.

LOCAL, REGIONAL ECONOMY

The economy of the area surrounding NLSRA is diverse. Employment tends to be related to services, government and retail sales businesses. Tourism is a supporting economic base of the area, with recreationalists contributing to local businesses, through the purchase of groceries, gasoline, and camping supplies; chartering guide services; and utilizing lodging or camping opportunities and prepared meals. In 1980, the State's Division of Tourism estimates that the 566,100 tourists visiting Alaska spent \$260 million.

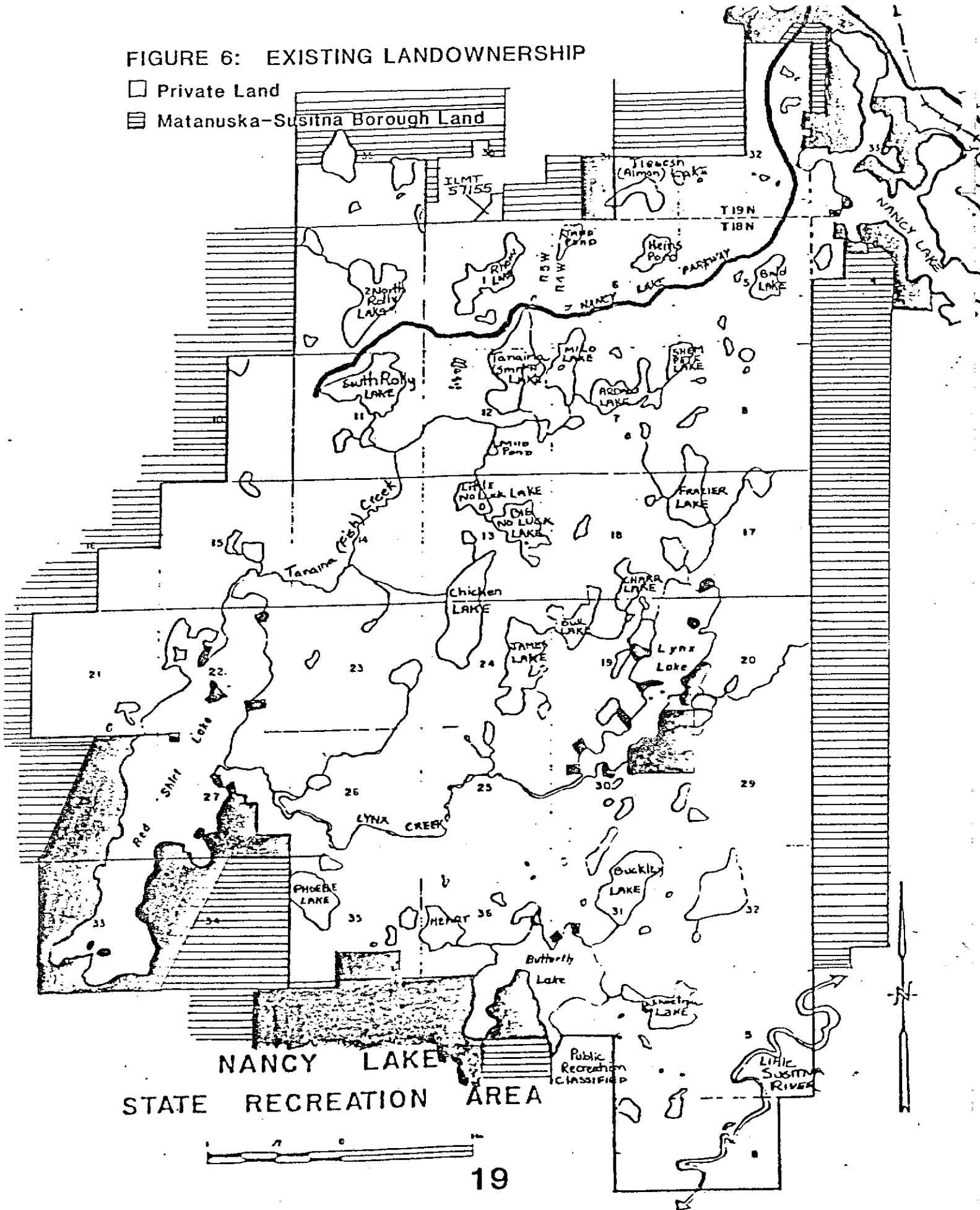
Implications

Recreational activities and tourism are expected to grow in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough area and continue to provide an economic base for the area surrounding NLSRA.

FIGURE 6: EXISTING LANDOWNERSHIP

□ Private Land

▨ Matanuska-Susitna Borough Land





Family Camping at the South Rolly Campground.

REGIONAL RECREATION PROVIDERS

REGIONAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND PROVIDERS

STATE OF ALASKA

The major provider of outdoor recreational opportunities in the region including Nancy Lake State Recreation Area is the State of Alaska. Opportunities include using developed campgrounds, picnic areas, interpretive centers, lakes and trails, for picnicking, camping, hunting, fishing, boating and hiking. The state also provides undeveloped open-space for wildlife habitat, allowing recreationalists to pursue photography, bird-watching, and nature study.

Alaska Division of Parks

1. Rocky Lake SRS, East and South Big Lake SRSs, Finger Lake SRS, and Kepler-Bradley SRA. These smaller sized units of the State Park System provide day-use and overnight facilities on freshwater lakes in the region. Picnicking, boating, swimming and fishing are popular activities at these sites.
2. Willow Creek State Recreation Site. This unit contains day-use and overnight facilities along the creek shoreline. Although the creek is closed to the taking of salmon at this site, some sport fishing does occur. Picnicking and camping are popular activities.
3. Independence Mine State Historic Park. This historic park, located in the popular Hatcher Pass area, portrays the mining era. Interpretive displays and preservation of original buildings offer unique opportunities in the region for historic commemoration.
4. Chugach State Park. This accessible, wilderness park encompasses many of the spectacular mountain areas in the background of Anchorage. A mixture of developed facilities and untouched wilderness, provide an ample supply of outdoor recreational opportunities.

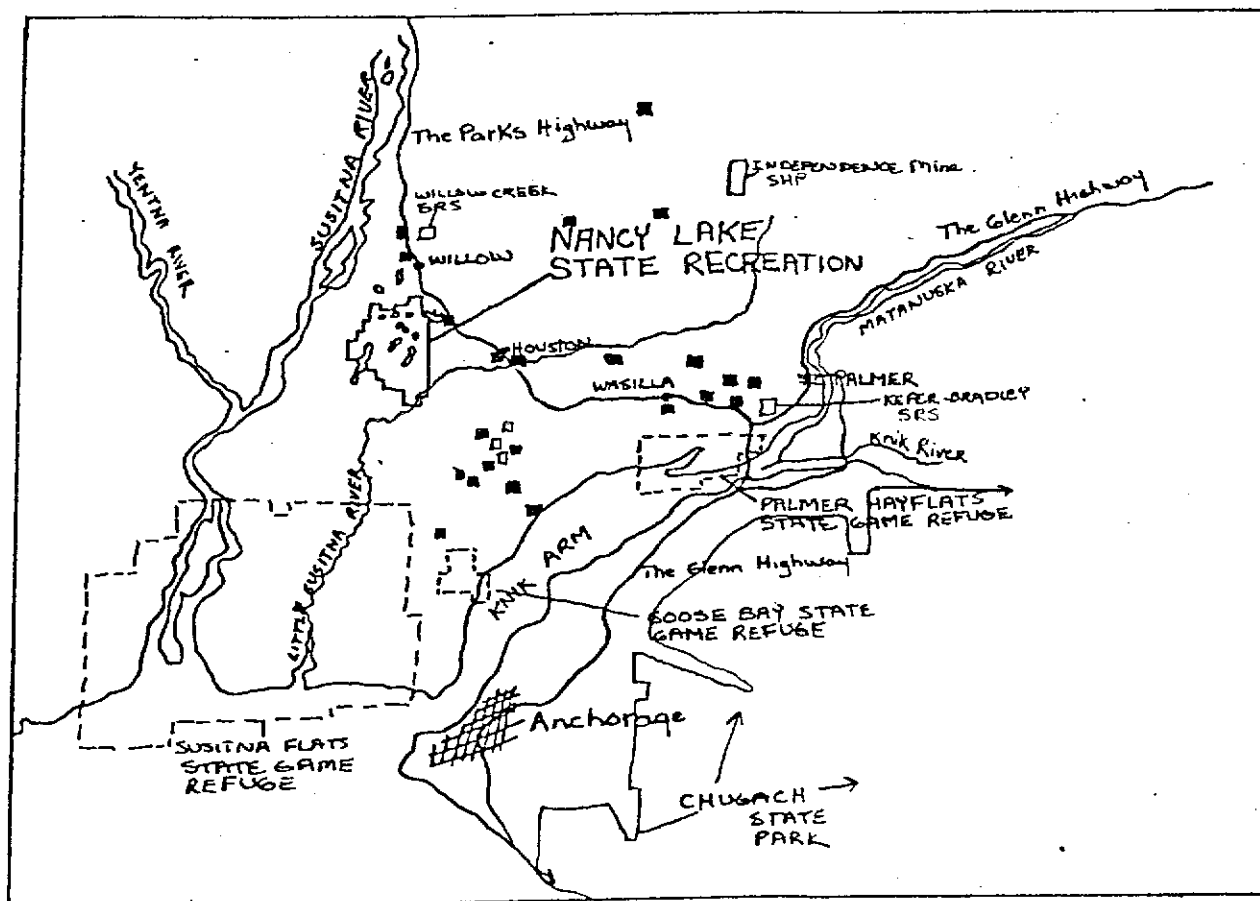
Alaska Division of Fish and Game

1. State Game Refuges. The Susitna Flats State Game Refuge, Goose Bay State Game Refuge, and Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuges. These areas of generally undeveloped open-space are designated as areas essential to wildlife and fisheries resources. Hunting, photography, bird-watching and nature study are popular activities.
2. The ADF&G is interested in protecting access to lakes and streams, and will only stock lakes when public access is guaranteed.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

The parks and recreational powers of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough include levying taxes, maintaining staff and designating areas for recreational purposes. Currently the goal of the borough is to maintain public access to recreational areas. A trial program has been initiated. The Borough manages a recreation site on Long Lake. A high priority for recreational management in the Borough includes stream corridors which are accessible from the Parks Highway, including the Little Susitna River and Willow Creek.

FIGURE 7: REGIONAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES



--- State Game Refuges

— State Park Units

■ Non-state Recreation Areas and Campgrounds

CITY OF HOUSTON AND WASILLA

The City of Houston has the only municipal operated campground in the region. The campground is located 15 miles south of Willow and borders the Little Susitna River and Parks Highway. The City of Wasilla manages a day-use recreation area along Wasilla Lake.

PRIVATE SECTOR

Individuals operating private outdoor recreational facilities are located throughout the region. Guiding and flying services, campgrounds, boat launching, fishing and camping supply stores, and equipment rental services are dispersed throughout the vicinity. Private winter lodges and cross-country skiing centers are also growing in the region due to reliable snow conditions. The private sector provides a variety of public services related to recreation opportunities including showers, fuel, stores, food, and supplies.

NANCY LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA OPPORTUNITIES

Although there are many areas within the region that offer some of the opportunities readily available at NLSRA, no other recreation area offers the diversity as NLSRA.

At its present level of facility development and management, NLSRA provides people with the opportunities to

- camp in developed campground sites;
- picnic at scenic overlooks;
- partake in a canoeing adventure along the interconnected lake system with developed portage trails and backcountry campsites;
- fish for a variety of freshwater species;
- hike along a self-guided nature trail;
- ski on a series of groomed loop trails;
- mush through spruce forests and frozen waterways on cleared trails;
- snowmachine on trails with reliable snowfall; and
- partake in ranger-guided interpretive programs.

Upon completion of the development and management recommendations in the NLSRA Master Plan, even more opportunities will be available within the single unit. Recreationalists will be able to pursue opportunities to

- hike, ski, mush, snowmachine, and snowshoe along even more miles of developed and specialized all-season trails;
- use the 75 person group camp for sharing outdoor recreation experiences with large groups;
- view Denali from high ridgeline towers;

hike along additional guided nature trails;
participate in newly developed programs guided by park rangers; and
stay in public cabins located throughout the recreation area.

Looking at an overall regional perspective, NLSRA provides water based recreational opportunities, with a moderate intensity level of development, and accessible back-country. The recreation area does not provide the high intensity, over-developed type of water based activity.

PUBLIC RECREATION ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES

An issue is a topic of concern which needs a solution. An objective, is the means for solving the problem. Below are the issues addressed; followed by the objectives to be met by implementation of this master plan.

Issues:

1. User Group Conflicts. In many areas of the state, including NLSRA, there are conflicts between different types of user groups. Motorized and non-motorized outdoor recreationalists often disagree upon methods of regulating activities and have difficulties in sharing resource space. The NLSRA master plan will address the issues of user rights, safety concerns and separation of user groups as a management technique, with the hopes of resolving conflicts between snowmachiners, skiers and dog mushers; motorboat users with canoeists, and airplane and three-wheeler users with people accessing lake areas by foot.
2. Providing Access. NLSRA has been accessed traditionally through the main park entrance, airplane landings on four major lakes, the railroad, and private roads which were used prior to 1966. Additional access to NLSRA has been requested by individuals owning land within the recreation area and developers on the western boundary. Some interested parties feel that any increased access to NLSRA will destroy its "quiet, natural beauty". The master plan will deal with all issues of access to resolve these conflicts.
3. Resource Management. NLSRA is an area of vast natural resources which require proper regulations and management to maintain the species number and diversity. Issues need to be resolved including decisions about fish and wildlife enhancement programs, forest production techniques, hunting and trapping regulations, gravel extraction permits and other land use management decisions.

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4. Recreational Trespass. There are over 300 acres of private land within NLSRA. It is often difficult for recreationalists to distinguish between public park lands and private inholdings. Park visitors are frequent trespassers. Options for proper management techniques and the purchase of private lands need to be reviewed to resolve conflicts between landowners and park users.

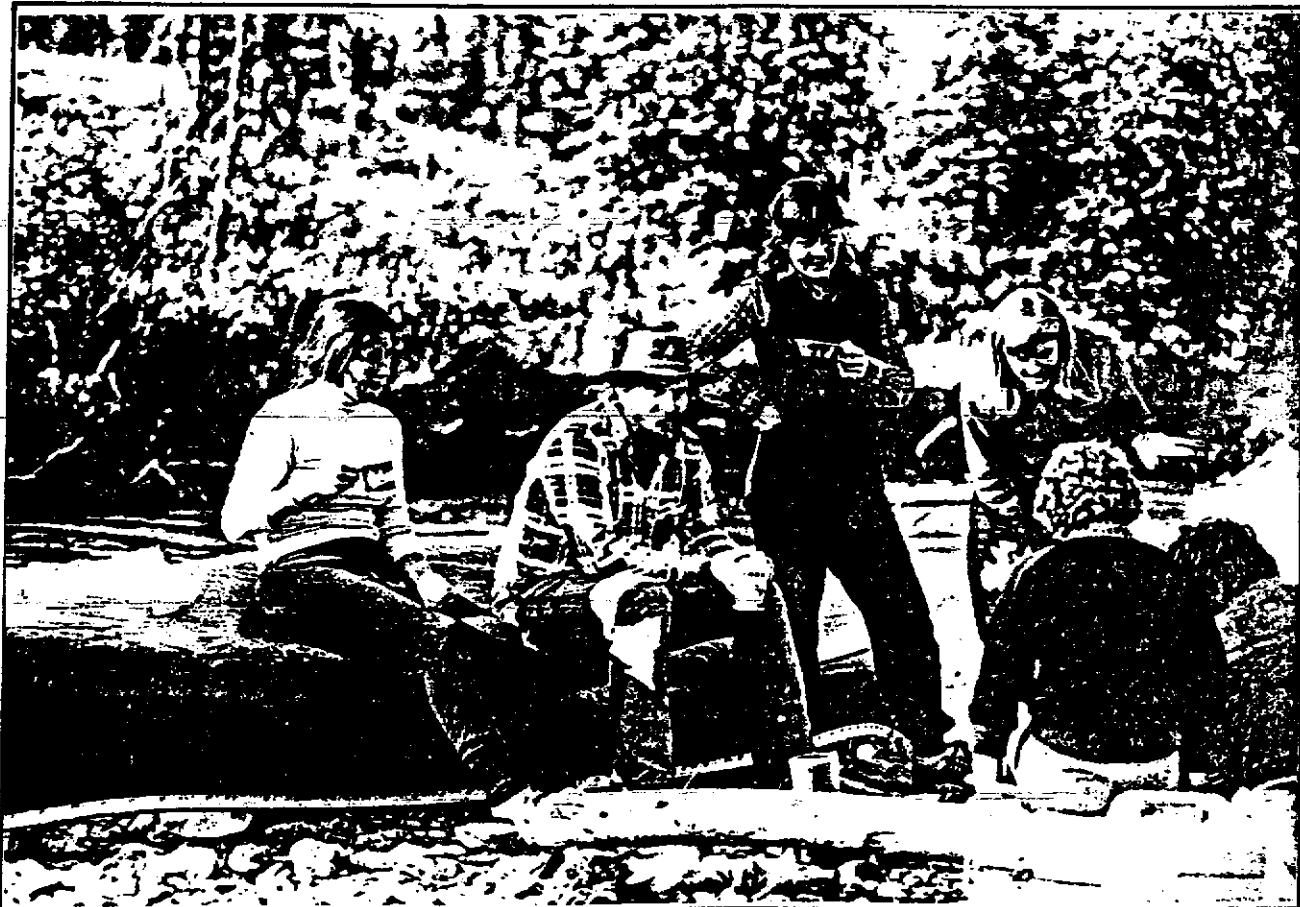
5. Other Issues:

The needs of special populations.
Location of power transmission lines.
Preservation of archaeological resources.
State competition with private recreation providers.
Pursuing alternative energy sources.
Needs and influences of large population centers.
Extent of specialized facility development.

Objectives:

1. To develop facilities whose size, design, location, number and groupings consider long-term maintenance and operation costs.
2. To locate facilities in relation to each other and to natural features so as to maximize visitor's options for diversity, variety and enjoyment of the natural surroundings.
3. To retain the area's quiet, natural beauty, the attribute most sought by NLSRA visitors, while providing recreational opportunities most appropriate to NLSRA and most desired by the public.
4. To mitigate potential conflicts between private and public use of NLSRA.
5. To maintain water quality at or above its present level.
6. To employ management practices and carry out development that minimizes impact on wildlife and vegetation.
7. To initiate a pilot project within NLSRA to design, construct and administer a concession contract for public recreation cabins.
8. To initiate management techniques which resolve outdoor recreation user group conflicts.

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9. To develop and implement resource management techniques which maintain species diversity and numbers.
 10. To maximize management efficiency through the use of volunteers, campground hosts, concessionaires, and fee schedules.
 11. To help stimulate the local economy through the investment of the private sector in providing visitor services and attractions outside of the recreation area.



Friendly Companions Enjoy the Backcountry Canoe Trail System at NLSRA.

VISITOR USE, PREFERENCES AND PROJECTIONS

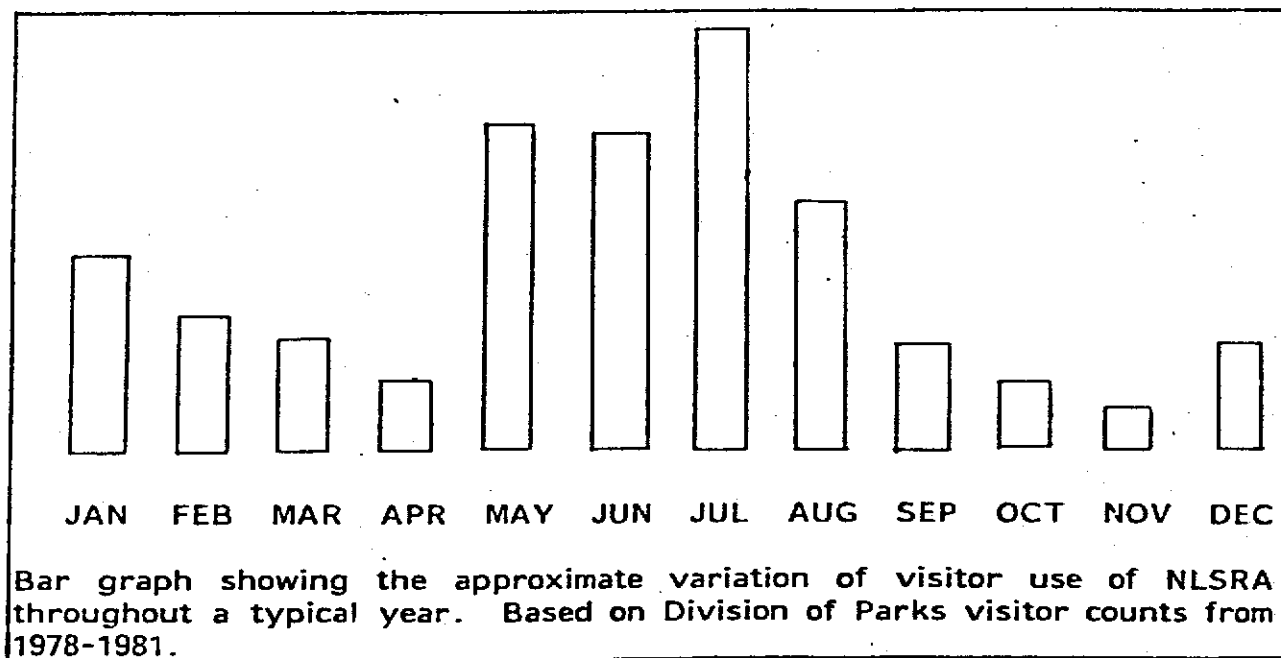
VISITOR USE, PREFERENCES AND PROJECTIONS

EXISTING RECREATIONAL USE

Since visitor count methodology is still undergoing refinement within the Division of Parks, data is not available of sufficient reliability to accurately compare current and past numbers of visitors. It can be estimated from available data, however, that for the years 1978 through 1981, there have been between 50,000 and 70,000 combined annual visitors to NLSRA and NLSRS, with NLSRA receiving approximately three times more visitors than NLSRS. The number of rainy and cool days during the peak of the summer camping season probably account for most of the fluctuations since facility construction and other visitor attractions have remained fairly static over this period.

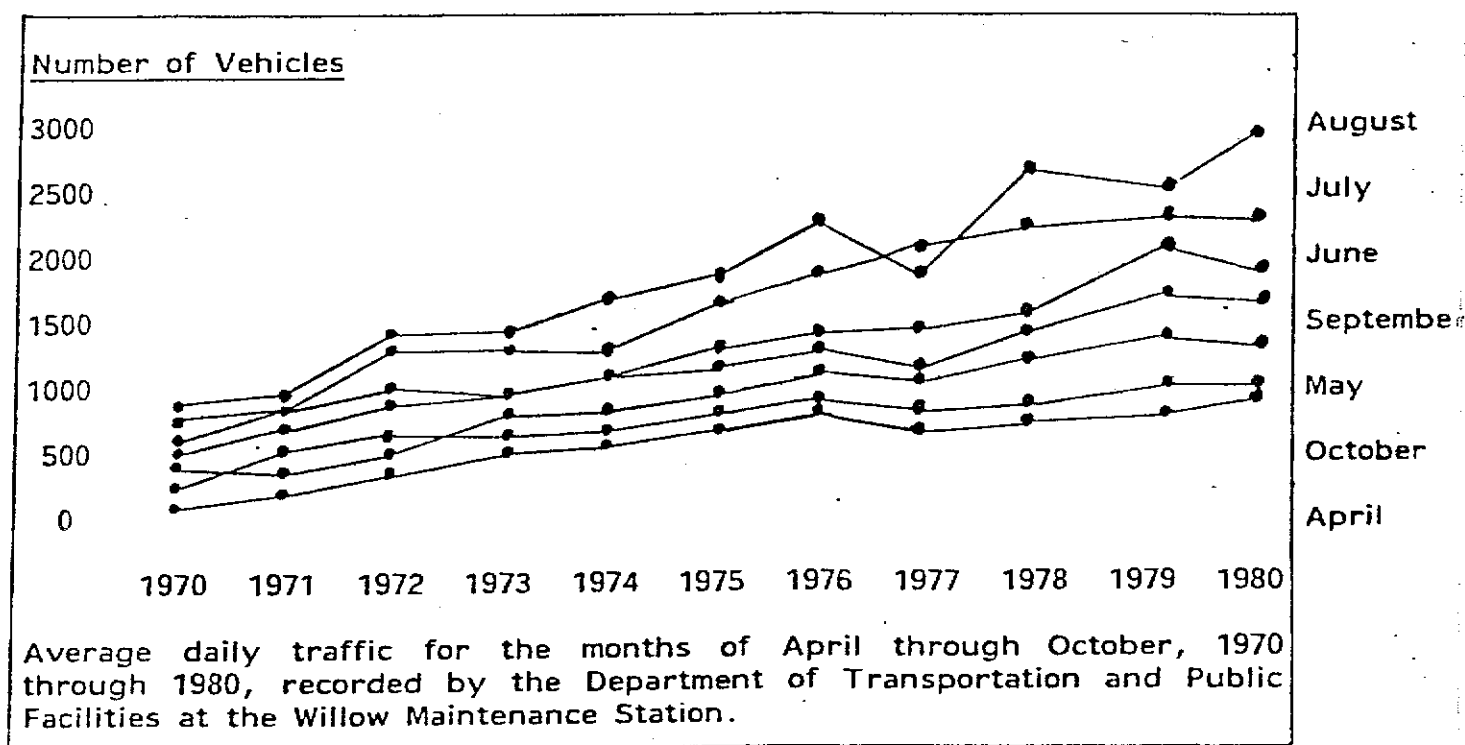
The existing campgrounds at NLSRA and NLSRS, and the canoe trail system in NLSRA are the attractions responsible for most of the current visitation. The months with heaviest visitation are May through August, with July being the busiest. With the coming of snow and the winter recreational season in November, visitation to the recreation area again increases through March. October, November, and April are the months with lowest visitation. Campground facilities have been traditionally closed and gated during November through March. This relationship of use to season is shown best by the bar graph in Figure 8.

FIGURE 8: NLSRA VISITOR USE MONTHLY VARIATIONS



The amount of average daily traffic (ADT) recorded at the Willow maintenance station near the NLSRA entrance, for the busiest months (May through September), between 1970 and 1980 are shown in Figure 9. This ebb and flow of vehicular traffic corresponds with NLSRA visitor use. The heaviest amount of vehicle traffic and campground visitation occur during July and August.

**FIGURE 9: AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC at
the WILLOW MAINTENANCE STATION**



LOCAL RECREATION PREFERENCES

The attitudes of people who visit NLSRA and those affected by its presence, such as private landowners and local business owners, were sampled during July and August of 1981. The surveys determined what people liked best about NLSRA, what people would like to see more of, and what people disliked.

Approximately 350 questionnaires were distributed over several weeks to people recreating within NLSRA and mailed to nearby residents, businesses, inholders and interested individuals and organizations. See Appendix A for results. Four public meetings were held, two in July, 1981,

and two in November, 1981, to exchange information and solicit the same type of information the questionnaires were designed to obtain. Approximately 190 people attended the meetings. Ninety-four questionnaires were returned.

The results of surveys revealed the following attitudes, preferences and other data that affect this master plan.

1. Fifty-nine percent (59%) of the visitors to NLSRA who remained overnight stayed at South Rolly Campground. Just over half of those slept in a vehicle (59%) while the remainder (41%) slept in a tent. Seven percent (7%) slept at one of the 11 designated campsites along the canoe trails. Thirty percent (30%) slept in a private cabin within or adjacent to NLSRA.
2. The average (mean) party size is 2.7. The most frequent number in a party (mode) is 2.
3. The average party spent \$51.49 (includes transportation, but not major equipment) on their visit to NLSRA. That equates to \$19.07 per person.
4. Eighty-one percent (81%) of the visitors are from the Anchorage area, 8% are from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 3% are from the Kenai Peninsula, 3% are from Southeast or Interior Alaska, and 5% are from out-of-state. A similar survey done by the Division of Parks in 1981 on Willow Creek, four miles north of NLSRA showed an even split between Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Borough residents visitation.
5. The most frequently given reason for coming to NLSRA was to enjoy the quiet natural setting. Convenience or nearness to home was second.
6. The five most frequently mentioned items visitors want more of in NLSRA were hiking trails; fishing; canoeing; campgrounds and associated facilities; and public cabins.
7. The five most frequently mentioned facilities or activities considered inappropriate for NLSRA were motor boats; commercial establishments; snowmobiles; more roads; and motorized vehicles.
8. The five most frequently mentioned existing qualities of NLSRA appreciated most were natural beauty, open space and quiet; campgrounds; easy access and convenience; canoe trails; and good maintenance.

-
9. The five most frequently mentioned existing conditions liked least were overcrowding, overdevelopment and noise; poor fishing; motor boats and planes; lack of firewood; and poor maintenance.

Paralleling closely to the above responses are the results of a questionnaire distributed by the Division of Parks in 1977 and published in January, 1978, under the title Alaska State Park Visitors. It showed that the two most popular activities in NLSRA were camping and freshwater fishing, followed at a considerable distance by canoeing, picnicking, and hiking.

REGIONAL RECREATION PREFERENCES

The following regional recreation preferences for Southcentral Alaska, were obtained from the Alaska Outdoor Recreation Plan, published in 1981 by the Alaska Division of Parks.

1. When people were asked to judge as "good", "fair", or "poor" the adequacy of outdoor recreation opportunities available to them in Southcentral Alaska, those under 60 (including children under 13) most frequently said "good". Adults 60 and older were evenly split between "good", "fair", and "poor". Those with physical or mental disabilities rated them as "poor".
2. Recreation opportunities were given by 87% of respondents as an "important" or "very important reason" for their coming to or staying in Alaska. Being self reliant was also mentioned by 87% of the respondents. Being close to a wilderness environment was cited by 84%. Economic opportunity was mentioned by 80% of the respondents.
3. Fifty-eight percent (58%) wanted more recreation areas within reach on a weekend. Although there wasn't much reluctance to traveling six (6) or more hours to get to a weekend recreation area, the traveling time preferred was to (2) hours.
4. Most desired features in out-of-town recreation areas were fishing, listed by 95% of the respondents; swimming or boating, 91%; picnic tables, campsites, drinking water and restrooms, 91%; and undisturbed natural areas, 88%. (See Figure 10.)
5. A question asking what new types of recreation opportunities the state should provide found "remote cabins" being the most frequently mentioned (mentioned by 58% of respondents), followed by "areas accessible by boat only" (49%), "community parks" (47%), and "areas accessible by plane only" (43%).

6. The three most preferred outdoor recreation activities were "fishing" (24% rated it their top preference), "trail related activities" (19%), and tent camping (9%). Hunting was next with 6%.
7. The following inland outdoor recreation activities were the highest vote getters for percent of population actually participating: Driving for pleasure (59%); walking or running (53%); freshwater fishing (42%); attending sports and entertainment (37%); tent camping (31%); motor boating (30%); and bicycling (29%).
8. Most people listed "fishing" (25% rated it first), "tent camping" (12%) and trail related activities (10%) as the activities they would like to do more often.

**FIGURE 10: DESIRED FEATURES in
OUT-OF-TOWN RECREATION AREAS**

<u>Features</u>	<u>Southcentral</u>
1. Fishing areas	95%
2. Access to water for swimming or boating	91%
3. Areas for hunting	87%
4. Picnic tables, campsites, drinking water, restrooms	91%
5. Undisturbed natural areas	88%
6. Bicycle, walking, skiing, or horseback riding trails	84%
7. Motorcycle, snowmachine and other ORV trails	76%
8. Paved roads	69%
9. Unpaved roads	66%
10. Overnight lodging	66%
11. Electrical hook-ups, showers, general store	65%
12. Playfields	60%
13. Lawns and benches	49%

Percentage of Population
in Favor of Features

Alaska Outdoor Recreation Plan, Division of Parks, 1981.

-
9. The most frequently given reason for not participating more often in outdoor recreation activities was "weather". Close behind was "not enough free time".
 10. The number of visitors coming to Alaska for pleasure is growing at an annual rate of 13-15%. In 1977, the 1981 Alaska Outdoor Recreation Plan shows that number to be 389,000; estimates 600,000 for 1980; and 1,000,000 by 1985.
 11. Recreation equipment that is necessary for using NLSRA was owned by the following percent of households: fishing equipment 78%; camping tent 50%; cross-country skis 39%; boat 26%; camper, trailer, or motorhome 26%; and snowmachine 22%.

The recommendations for facility and operational development and changes within NLSRA will utilize these regional recreational preferences to try and create an area which will meet the needs of its users.

NATIONAL RECREATION PREFERENCES

The results of a nationwide outdoor recreation survey taken in 1977 and published in 1979 as part of The Third Nationwide Outdoor Recreation Plan, closely parallel those published in the 1981 Alaska Outdoor Recreation Plan for Southcentral Alaska, and the responses received from the NLSRA master plan questionnaires. The national survey cited the following examples.

1. "Convenience" was a major reason people visited a particular recreation area. "Sightseeing", "camping", "swimming/sunbathing", "nature walks", "fishing", "picnicking", "driving for pleasure", and "hiking", in that order, were the most popular activities. The most frequently mentioned deterrents to park use were "lack of time", "too crowded", "lack of money", and "lack of information on outdoor recreation areas".
2. Eight percent (80%) cited the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities as being "very important" in their lives.
3. Although satisfaction with recreation areas was generally very high nationally, the most frequent reasons for dissatisfaction were "inadequate facilities" and "unattractive appearance/maintenance".
4. Young people (12-34) were the most active participants in outdoor recreation activities.

TRENDS

Because Alaskans as a population are young, affluent, very outdoor recreationally oriented, and live close to outdoor recreation opportunities, their participation in these activities will likely continue at a greater rate than in the "lower 48". In states other than Alaska, the population is older, less affluent, and therefore more likely to be affected by current and forecasted economic hard times and the shortening of energy supplies.

Since preferences for certain activities and opportunities are so similar between NLSRA visitors, Alaskans in general, and the national population, it should be a relatively easy matter to plan for future developments within NLSRA and be confident that they will meet the public's expectations.

Population forecasts for Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough indicate a rapid and steady growth for the next 15 years. Since approximately 90 percent of NLSRA visitors reside in these two areas, visitation is expected to increase with the population. Only the limits of the natural resources, management practices and policies, and the rate and amount of facility development within NLSRA will limit the amount of visitation. The Matanuska-Susitna region is also attracting many people who have traditionally used the Kenai Peninsula region due to the ease of access, travel distance, increase in fisheries enhancement programs, tourism development and the availability of private landownership in the Mat-Su area. Possible development of the Knik Crossing will bring the region even closer to half of the State's population which resides in Anchorage.



Ranger Guided Interpretive Walks Offer Visitors the Chance to Enjoy the Natural Surroundings at NLSRA.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

An analysis and evaluation of the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area (NLSRA) looks at the unit in terms of its most appropriate role in providing outdoor recreational opportunities in Southcentral Alaska. The data from the preceeding chapters - issues; objectives; cultural and natural resources; current and forecasted demand and; recreational preferences - are all interrelated. When analyzed in light of each other and the goals and policies of the Division of Parks, several conclusions are drawn. The conclusions drawn from the analysis and evaluation of NLSRA, lead to specific recommendations and the process for implementation of the Master Plan objectives.

The analysis is presented under the following seven major headings.

- Recreational opportunities
- Recreational facilities
- Access and circulation
- Historical preservation and interpretation
- Interpretation
- Economics
- Land-use conflicts

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Camping, boating (includes canoeing), fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, nature appreciation, and swimming are the most desired and most suited recreational activities for NLSRA. Limits to the amount of public participation in these and associated activities will be set by the amount, location and quality of facility development, fishery enhancement, maintenance of water quality, management practices, maintenance of a park-like environment, the cost of personal or family recreation equipment and the competition for use of leisure time.

The Nancy Lake State Recreation Area is waiting to be discovered. It is a special recreation area, not only valuable because of its proximity to a quarter million people, but because it contains a large diversity of recreational opportunities in one contiguous area that has been set aside for public recreation. The casual visitor to NLSRA may be unaware of the opportunities that lie beyond either side of the Nancy Lake Parkway. They cannot see the 15 mile canoe trail system linking over 20 clear lakes. They can't see the high grassy ridges which yield panoramic views in all directions. They can't see the beaver lodges and dams which abound throughout NLSRA. They can't see the thousands of spawning salmon in the small streams, or the rainbow trout in several of the lakes and streams within the recreation area. Nor can they feel the quiet natural solitude, view wildlife, walk in the birch forests and enjoy the backcountry of NLSRA. People need to experience these recreational opportunities to gain a true feeling for NLSRA.

A road development, settlement and conversion to private uses remove most of the valley lands from the public domain, the value and use of NLSRA for public recreation, will only increase.

Because of the large size and diversity of land and water forms within NLSRA, many different recreational activities can occur simultaneously without interfering with each other. For example, snowmobiling can go on in one area while in another separated by a ridge line or natural forest buffer, cross-country skiing can be enjoyed in a quiet setting. Water skiing may be occurring on Nancy Lake while on the canoe trails quiet recreation can be enjoyed by others. While 200 people are enjoying themselves and the social interaction with others in a campground, an individual can be not far away at a quiet lake swimming, fishing or canoeing alone. While one person is enjoying a self-guided nature trail, another can be on a self-discovery hike through the back-country.

Because this area has consistently good and predictable snow conditions throughout the winter, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and dog mushing are well suited activities. Staging and warm-up facilities which enhance the enjoyment of winter recreation will also increase participation in winter use of the recreation area.

Fishing is a popular activity in NLSRA. While rainbow trout do not reproduce in most of the lakes, a successful fishery has been maintained by an active stocking program. Further enhancement can be realized by installing fish traps to prevent stickleback from getting into some lakes, introducing a new trout strain which competes more successfully with the stickleback, and stocking with larger fish. Recent destruction of beaver dams on Fish Creek to allow spawning salmon to return to Red Shirt and other lakes within NLSRA, has also resulted in the migration of northern pike, a predator of rainbow trout, into the lake system. If the trout fishery is to be maintained, an aggressive program must be initiated to block further migration of the pike. The occurrence of pike in Red Shirt Lake has been documented, but not in other lakes within NLSRA.

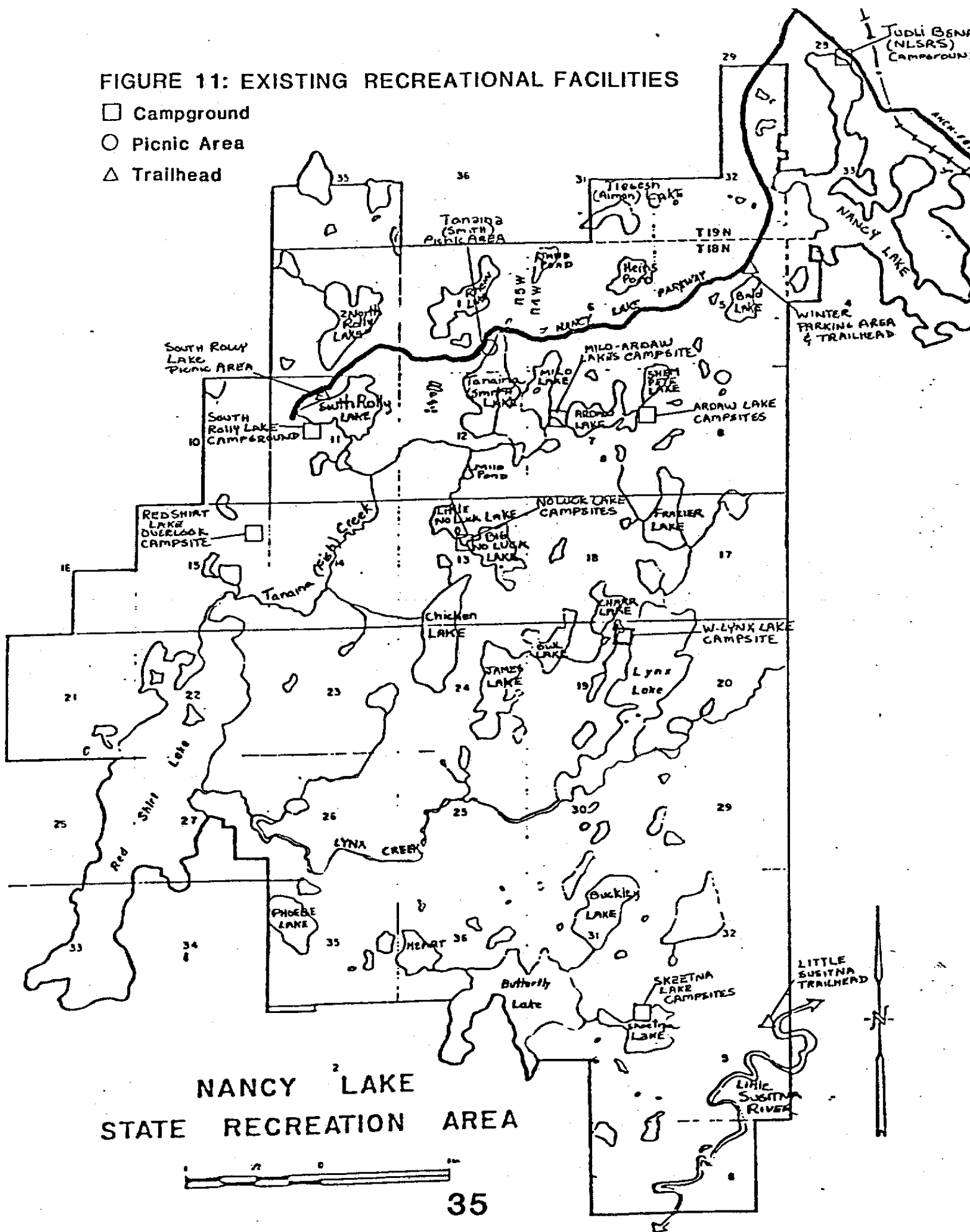
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The proper placement, design, type, and amount of facilities are important factors in distributing public use, controlling use patterns and behavior, providing access to and enjoyment of recreation opportunities, protecting the natural environment, creating new opportunities, providing a safe environment and limiting development, maintenance and operation costs. For purposes of this plan, facilities include buildings, boardwalks, trails, signs, fireplaces, campsites, structures, and roads.

Shallow soils, extensive wetlands, a high watertable, the lack of large contiguous areas of dry land, and discontinuous ridges interrupted by wet

FIGURE 11: EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

- Campground
- Picnic Area
- △ Trailhead



areas, make the placement of facilities very difficult in NLSRA. Most areas such as campgrounds, picnic areas, trails and roads, where intense activities occur, will require special hardening to provide a dry, well-drained surface for people's activities and to protect vegetation, minimize damage from compaction, and to reduce erosion. Hardening materials that should be considered are wood chips, boardwalk, fabric, corduroy, asphalt, sand, and gravel.

The most expensive facility ever built or ever likely to be built within NLSRA, and the one having the most influence on the environment and public use of NLSRA, is the six mile long Nancy Lake Parkway. In lieu of constructing additional roads, this master plan focuses on a more cost-effective approach to facility development. Maximum utilization from the existing parkway is gained by developing additional campgrounds, trail-heads and facilities along the existing road 'spine', thereby filling in existing "gaps" and concentrating future development and management. Not only is this approach most cost effective, it reflects a spectrum of opportunities from the public's desire to have more road-accessible campgrounds and associated facilities, to keep the backcountry canoe trails quiet and in a natural state, to have a relatively undisturbed natural area for backcountry trails, remote cabins and wildlife viewing, and to avoid conflicts between private landowners and park users.

Land Suitability

Some of the most suitable land for new facilities is along the existing parkway. The amount of suitable land however is very limited and careful soils analysis must precede development of the facilities recommended. An over development of facilities - beyond the capacity of the immediate and surrounding area to withstand anticipated new use - would quickly result in a deterioration of the environment and the quality of the recreational experience. Therefore, the number and size of new facilities should be in a scale in proportion to the carrying capacity of the site and the influence of the recreational development on the use of the area.

Location of Sites

Finding suitable new intensive use sites within the parkway "envelope" is complicated by the need to place them in close proximity to the largest possible number of different recreational opportunities. This facility placement is important for increasing the opportunity for visitors to participate in a variety of road-accessible recreational activities. The location of the site is also directed toward increasing visitor satisfaction and avoiding the problems associated with having to pick up and drive down the road two miles from the campground to get to a trailhead, go for a nature walk, go swimming or boating, or just to get out of the campground.

Campgrounds

There are two new campgrounds recommended in this plan which will approximately double existing camping capacity. The Shem Pete Campground should be built as soon as funds are available. The Nancy Lake Campground should be built only when demand warrants and after use again approaches the capacity of existing camping space.

Major new campgrounds should be separated from picnic areas but linked together by trails. Campgrounds should have separated vehicle and tent areas, linked by trail. Campground design should permit group camping to occur in an area separated from other campers. Each campground should be linked to a nature trail and one of the trails that is part of the long distance backcountry trail system. Each campground should have one or more shelters for rain protection and foul weather cooking. Each campground should also have a natural environment play area for small children.

Because Nancy Lake, the largest lake in the recreation area, offers such a diversity of recreational opportunity in itself and because there is no existing public recreational facility on the lake that is accessible from the parkway, a campground should be established near the parkway with trail access and a view of Nancy Lake. No vehicle accessible boat launch is recommended since one public boat launch already exists on the north shore of Nancy Lake, and the lake is already crowded with power boats.

Trails

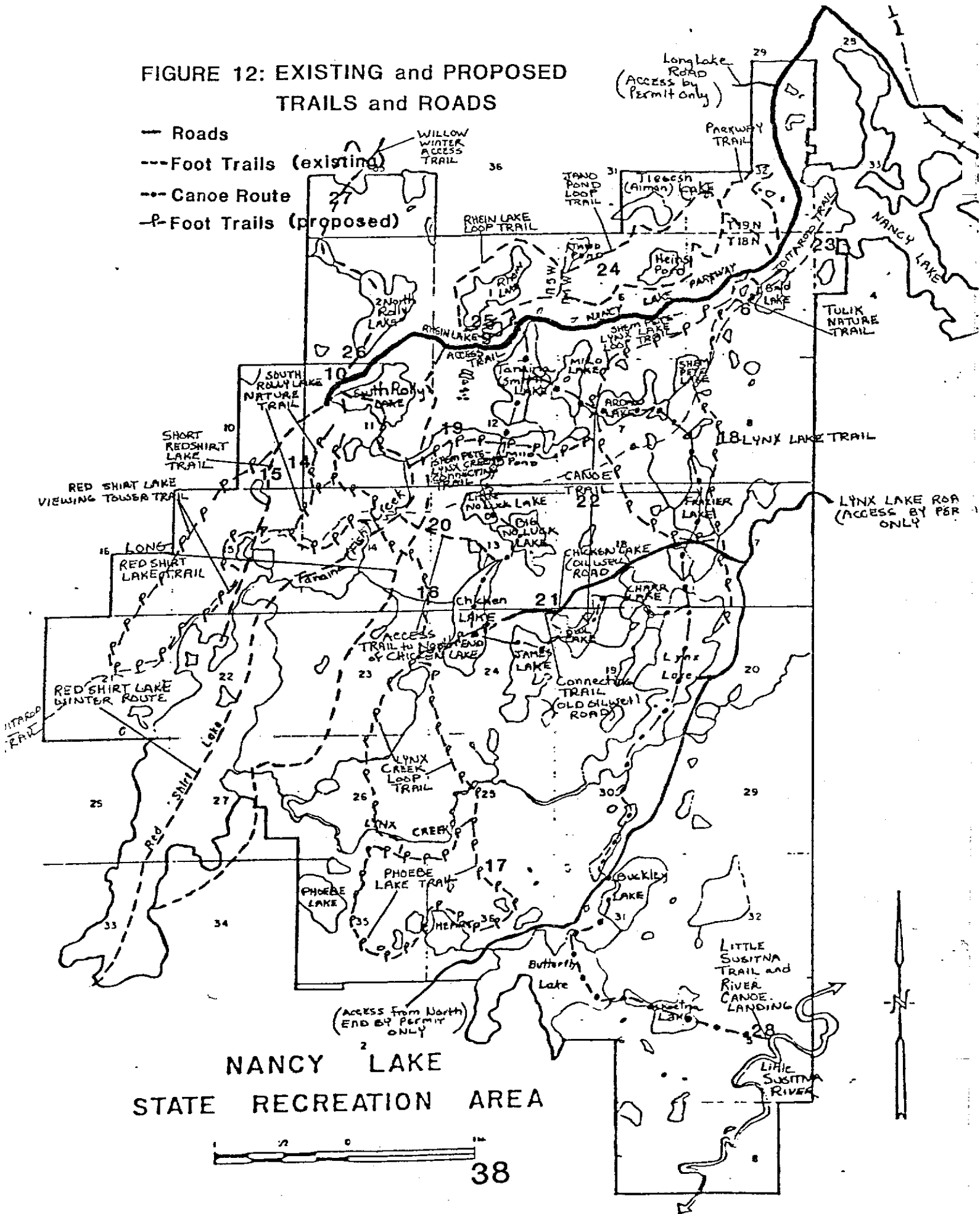
Hiking trails were the most frequently requested facility. Trails are cost effective to construct and maintain compared to other facilities. New trail construction is a high priority of this master plan. Trails will be built as a looping, interconnected system reaching most of the major lakes and creeks within the recreation area, and connecting with other facilities. Surface materials may range from asphalt to soil. The objective will be to maximize access to all areas within NLSRA while minimizing disturbance to the natural environment.

The routing, design and construction of trails will reflect the following six objectives and be in accordance with the Alaska Division of Parks Trail Classification System:

1. Year-round use,
2. multiple use,
3. layout which avoids private property and other potential conflicts,
4. interest and variety of terrain, views, and conditions through which the trail passes,

FIGURE 12: EXISTING and PROPOSED
TRAILS and ROADS

- Roads
- Foot Trails (existing)
- - - Canoe Route
- P- Foot Trails (proposed)



-
5. safety, and
 6. convenience of the user.

Because the canoe trails and overland trails take the trail user far from their departure point where cold temperatures, rain and other adverse weather can catch a person unprepared, hypothermia is a constant threat. Therefore, for the safety and convenience of trail users, backcountry shelters should be strategically placed along the trail system where shelter and warmth can be sought. These shelters should be inexpensive, yet efficient three-sided shelters like the Adirondack type. Not every backcountry trail campsite will have such a shelter. Some campsites should be constructed with one or more fireplaces, a pit latrine, and a place for tents to be pitched - either on a wooden platform if terrain is uneven or wet, or on the ground. Where hiking trails and canoe trails come in close proximity to each other, an effort should be made to either develop joint use campsites, or provide individuals with the choice of moving on to a nearby, yet separate site.

Canoe rests should be constructed at convenient intervals along the canoe trail system to provide people who are portaging boats with an opportunity to rest.

Signing by symbol of trail routes, portage locations, access points and all facilities should be conspicuous but unobtrusive.

Canoe Trailhead

The existing canoe trailhead along the parkway is frequently overcrowded. Expansion should include opening up a launch area along the northwest shore for canoe launching and additional parking spaces. This expansion will allow for easier launching of boats. Development of "beach areas" which will encourage high density day-use similar to an urban park setting should be discouraged at this location.

Viewing Towers

Viewing towers can greatly enhance the recreational experience, provide a sense of exploration, be a feature of attraction and satisfy people's natural curiosity to view the landscape. Because NLSRA has relatively low rolling hills, there are only a few good vantage points from which long views can be enjoyed. Placed properly and at a sufficient height, towers will provide destinations and new opportunities for visitors where panoramic views can be gained that are equal to or surpass any others in the valley.

Group Camp

A full-facility (electricity, sewage, water, showers, heat, phone) group camp with year-round accommodations for approximately 75 people is needed. In a survey of potential user groups within the area that would be served, it was determined that such a facility, if available at moderate cost, would be occupied at least 80 percent of the year. It would be used as an outdoor education support facility. It would extend group-oriented outdoor recreational opportunities in terms of both diversity and year-round availability. To reduce costs for utilities, winter road maintenance, and conflicts with other recreation area users, the group camp should be visually and audibly separated from other facilities, close to the existing parkway, and within one mile of the existing ranger office and maintenance facility where power and phone lines are already in place.

Public Use Cabins

Presently, as private cabins within NLSRA are purchased, those of suitable quality are offered to the public on a one year competitive bid basis. It has been a popular program over the years, in spite of the fact that the program has not been well publicized, and many of the cabins are old, of poor structural quality and in various states of disrepair. As implementation of this master plan occurs, most of these cabins should be replaced with new cabins. The new cabins should be built with the lessons learned by the U.S. Forest Service in mind, including the following:

- They should be located a distance from the road system to reduce the threat of vandalism.

- They should be associated with the backcountry trail system or lake system for ease of access and maintenance.

- They should be signed and of standard design and materials to be readily identifiable as state park cabins and not private cabins.

- At least one of the cabins should be close to the road system and along a hard surfaced trail to be accessible by those with disabilities or otherwise unable to walk long distances.

- The public use cabins should be available for reservation on a daily or weekly basis to allow maximum public use.

- A reservation system operated by the private sector on a concession contract should be considered for added economy and efficiency. The concessionaire would be responsible for routine maintenance, repair and replacement.

Visitor Display

A visitor display is needed along the parkway as an information station for orienting park users as to opportunities that are available. A kiosk, or information display, will be constructed at the existing entrance pull-out. The pull-out will be expanded to hold 15-20 vehicles. Once the area has been expanded it can serve as a winter cross-country skiing and summer hiking trailhead. This would eliminate present and future conflicts at the existing winter trailhead between skiers, dog mushers and snowmachiners by more clearly separating user groups.

Facility Construction

All structural facilities should be constructed of indigenous appearing stone or wood to blend with surrounding vegetation and be screened from the Nancy Lake Parkway by low hills, mounding or vegetation as possible.

Trail Bikes

An area for summer use of trail bikes or three-wheelers will not be built in NLSRA. The use of these bikes will be encouraged to take place outside of the park, at some other more appropriate location in the region.

ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

Roads

No new access roads, through roads, connection to roads outside of the unit boundaries, or major improvements to existing roads are planned for the life of this master plan. Development of facilities along the Parkway will guarantee greater traffic volumes and lead to deterioration of the roadbed. The anticipated increase of visitors is projected to be 100,000 annual user days when the Parkway is fully developed. To reduce road hazards, dust levels and provide for a more enjoyable visitor experience, the Parkway road should be paved. Such expenditures were not requested during the public involvement process and at this time would be an unnecessary diversion of recreation dollars from projects that would contribute more directly to the enhancement of recreational opportunities.

Extension of the Nancy Lake Parkway to access lands to the west was rejected during the planning process as an unacceptable impact affecting the integrity of the recreation area. The Knik Arm Causeway will link either the Houston or Wasilla/Big Lake areas to Anchorage. The preferred study alternative was the economic and population link to the Big Lake/Wasilla area. A link via the Nancy Lake area was rejected. There remains, however, an interest in obtaining access to agriculture, forestry and residential lands along the Big Susitna River. These lands are best

accessed from links to the Knik Arm Causeway, Wasilla and Willow rather than a link via Nancy Lake.

Extending the Nancy Lake Parkway would result in a change in the type, volume and loads of traffic, remove Nancy Lake from a recreation destination road to a high speed highway thruway, create safety hazards and change the management character of the recreation area.

Tudli Bena Campground (NLSRS) Access

The continued access to Tudli Bena Campground, formerly NLSRS, is dependent upon a lease with the Alaska Railroad of a portion of their right-of-way between the campground and the Parks Highway. The lease expires in 1993. The appearance of this entrance is also a problem. Land acquisition at the entrance is necessary to create a more aesthetically pleasing and inviting entrance for park visitors and to insure long-term physical access.

Nancy Lake Parkway

Similarly, the land on either side of the Nancy Lake Parkway for the first three quarters of a mile between the Parks Highway and NLSRA, is in private and Borough ownership. To insure that this entrance remains aesthetically inviting and "parklike", appropriate acquisition action must be pursued.

Lynx Lake Access

The Lynx Lake road provides private access to authorized users who lived within and beyond NLSRA and were using the road for access to their property at the time of the recreation area's establishment in 1966. This is not now, nor planned to be, a public access. Use of the unimproved pioneer road by the landowners will be allowed to continue on a permit basis. The gate will be locked and individual keys issued. Entry and use is controlled by the Division of Parks. In addition to limited private use, the road is available for firefighting and stocking of trout in some of the backcountry lakes.

Red Shirt Lake Access

A trail from the end of the Nancy Lake Parkway to Red Shirt Lake provides overland access to park visitors and landowners choosing to recreate at Red Shirt Lake or surrounding area. The consensus of the public meeting participants and the Red Shirt Lake Homeowners Association was to upgrade the trail for ease of access. People preferred not to develop a road into the lake so as to maintain the quiet, natural beauty of the recreation area, to protect resource values, to provide more hiking opportuni-

ities, and to keep the lake less developed. Increased vehicular traffic along the existing Parkway and an extension of the road would change the use patterns on the lake, create greater development opportunities and open the lake to motorized activity. The change in management character was not warranted at this time and other regional opportunities such as those at Nancy Lake, Wasilla Lake, and Larson Lake could better meet the more intensive development and use spectrum.

Circulation

Dispersion of people off the Parkway spine will be dependent upon an expanded multi-purpose motorized and non-motorized trail system. By emphasizing trail dependent circulation, more people can be absorbed into an area with less impact on each other and the environment - and at relatively low cost. Trails are far more cost-effective than roads, provide a means of association with the physical environment, can access sensitive wetland environments, are useable by all age groups and special populations, require little maintenance costs, can be 'adopted' by volunteer groups and can best meet the backcountry management objectives for NLSRA. Trails could also be built to adequate standards to support vehicle access in case of life threatening emergencies and for firefighting.

Access by Air

Four of the major lakes within the recreation area are open to airplane landing - Nancy Lake, Lynx Lake, Red Shirt Lake and Butterfly Lake. The public will continue to have landing rights, and air access will continue to be the homeowners legal access to their land. Should the public recreation experience change, the resource becomes degraded or the public's safety becomes endangered, alternative actions may be needed. The Director of the Division of Parks may close the lakes to airplane landings, or landings may be limited to specific times and locations.

Access by River

A canoe portage trail, connecting the Little Susitna River and Skeetna Lake is located 12 miles downriver from MP 57 of the Parks Highway. The linkage of the Little Susitna River to the Nancy Lake canoe trail system allows visitors to experience a wider diversity of recreational opportunities and resource values.

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

Several Tanaina Indian settlements and activities occurred within and around the boundaries of NLSRA as recently as 75 years ago. Some of the locations are shown in Figure 13, Historic Sites. There is little this early settlement in the area, either in structural remains or in landmarks bearing Indian names. An effort should be undertaken to reestablish historical names, protect and preserve historical sites, and document historical events.

INTERPRETATION

Interpretation is a means of involving park visitors and enhancing their enjoyment and understanding of the area's natural and cultural resources. To facilitate interpretation at NLSRA, the development and implementation of programs and facilities for year-round public involvement is recommended. Program and facility development will emphasize those features unique or special to NLSRA, including natural, historical and cultural features, include information on seasonal recreation opportunities, enhance public safety and satisfy people's desire to learn while stimulating them on to more self-discovery.

Some of the themes that can be interpreted to the public at NLSRA include the following:

The natural progression of the forest.

The life of the Tanaina within NLSRA. Translations of language and cultural meanings and traditions.

Wildfire - foe or friend? How fire would effect NLSRA.

Water, water. How lake hydrology changes in the surface waters of NLSRA would dramatically effect the area.

A fishy tale. The types of fish within NLSRA and how they interact.

Birds of a feather. Follow the trails of NLSRA to locate a variety of bird life in different habitat areas, and identify common calls.

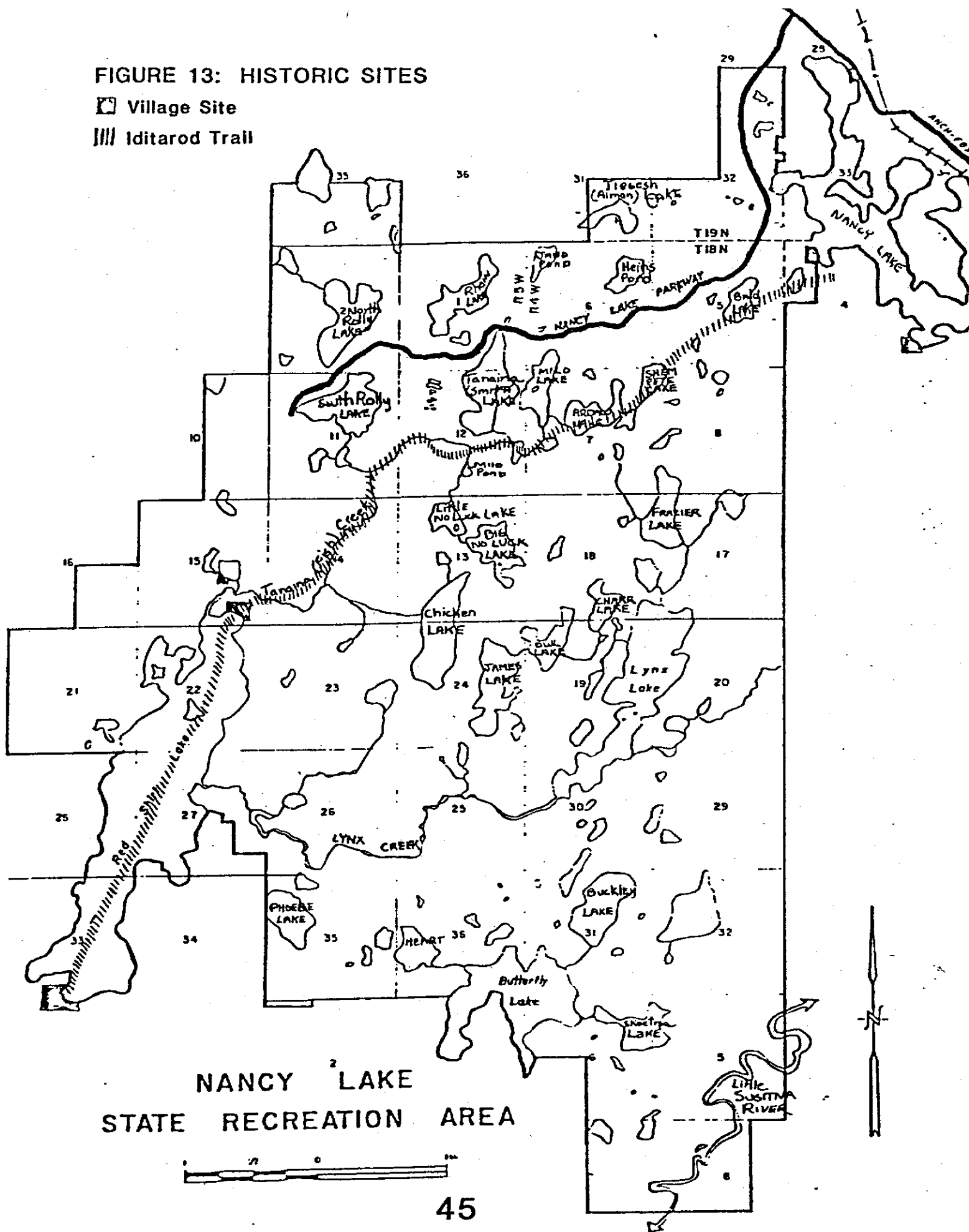
Free food from the forest. An edible foods class.

Sounds in the night. A chance to explore the night environs of NLSRA.

To machine or not to machine? A look at the pros and cons of vehicle use within NLSRA.

FIGURE 13: HISTORIC SITES

 Village Site
 Iditarod Trail



Back-country know-how. How to deal with the wet, cold, Alaskan weather.

Man and the balance of nature.

Who's land is it? How a person can prevent recreational trespass.

Bountiful beaver. How man and beaver interact within the park.

Life in a lily pond.

Form and function of plants and animals at NLSRA.

Lake formation - reading the landscape.

What is a muskeg?

Natures steam. Exploring the geothermal potential at NLSRA.

Lake ecosystem. Nutrients, temperature stratification and other events found in NLSRA waters.

ECONOMICS

Based on the questionnaire results obtained as part of this master planning effort, the average visitor to NLSRA in 1981 spent \$19.07 directly attributable to their visit. The average (mean) length of stay per visitor is 2.5 days (Alaska State Park Visitors, 1977). NLSRA receives between 50,000 and 70,000 visitor days (Division of Parks statistics), with visitors to NLSRA contributing to between \$400,000 and \$560,000 per year to the local economy. Although, at present, no fees are paid by the public to use NLSRA, and therefore no money returns directly to the state's treasury, the economic contribution of NLSRA to the private sector is considerable. The possibility of levying visitor use fees could return money directly to the state treasury. An analysis of a campground fee system is recommended.

To defray the costs of construction, operation, and maintenance of the group camp and public use cabins, a charge for their use is recommended. The charge, paid by the users, should be high enough to offset their maintenance and operation costs. Since the private sector does offer similar group camp facilities at various locations in the region, the fees charged to the users should not be so low as to compete with or otherwise interfere with those private facilities. In the event that the public use cabin system is operated by a private concession, the fee charged to the user should be high enough to make the rental system economically feasible to the concessionaire.

It is expected that the combined effect of adding new facilities and programs recommended herein will result in a possible rapid increase in use of the recreation area. Such additional use will have a positive economic influence on local businesses, possible employment for local residents, potential concessionaires, and influence other segments of the private sector.

LAND USE CONFLICTS

People who attended the public meetings and responded to the questionnaires placed strong emphasis on retaining one quality of NLSRA above all others - its quiet natural beauty. That management setting will be maintained, in part, by separating motorized and non-motorized activities. The natural beauty will be managed through the careful design of new facilities to blend naturally into the landscape, minimizing facility development on lakeshores and avoiding areas that are sensitive to or would be adversely affected by encroachment of facilities or intense use.

Land Use

More intensive uses such as the group camp, swimming beach, vehicle camping areas, paved trails, visitor contact sites, parking areas and picnic sites, will be concentrated along the existing parkway. Low impact uses, that is those activities which depend on a quiet natural setting and in turn leave little evidence of their occurrence, will be separated from the parkway and further removed from its influence.

Private Land

The presence of private land within the boundaries of NLSRA is a management consideration. Conflicts can be reduced by the following:

- Acquiring those parcels which are in close proximity to areas planned for intensive public use.

- Avoiding public recreation facility development adjacent to private land.

- Restricting high impact uses such as power boat, aircraft and snowmobile operations.

- Educating park visitors to the rights of private landowners and existing park boundaries.

Outside Development

Another potential conflict exists between maintaining a parklike setting within NLSRA and development which may occur on land outside the recreation area. Adjacent private development could result in improved access to private land, obtrusive development along the entrances to NLSRA, undesirable changes in land use, and other encroachment problems that could significantly reduce the value and enjoyment of public recreation. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough will be encouraged to address the issue of land use zoning, development and access to maintain the character of NLSRA.

Powerlines

Overhead powerlines being planned as part of power delivery from the Susitna and Watana Dams to Anchorage would cause significant impact if routed through NLSRA. Alternative routing should be found which avoids the recreation area.

Future Roads

Future road networks will be required to serve those areas surrounding NLSRA being planned for agricultural, timber, residential and industrial development. The Division of Parks management of NLSRA could be seriously affected by the location of these future roads. Linkages to new roads could open up undesirable new accesses and introduce visible and audible transportation corridors that would change the management character and public options for recreational development and use of the recreation area. Increased road systems will also increase public safety concerns. Safety of park visitors, who are participating in quiet, recreational activities such as hiking, jogging or berry picking along the road could be jeopardized by increased vehicle traffic. The Nancy Lake Parkway should not be extended to the west end of the park. Opening the road would seriously destroy the quiet nature of the recreation area for which so many visitors cite as the unit's major attraction. The NLSRA is a park, not a highway thoroughfare.

The criteria for extending the Nancy Lake Parkway should meet the following tests:

1. Compatibility
Extension of the Parkway road must show that any change in use patterns, traffic flow, vehicle loads, type of vehicles, noise levels, dust and other vehicular impacts are compatible to the park's character and purpose and management objectives.

2. Negative Impacts versus Benefits

The social, economic and environmental impacts of the Parkway extension must be assessed. A comparison of the benefit and impact on the park must be made. If the primary benefit of the Parkway extension is to serve user groups outside the park, then alternative access routes outside the park should be developed. An alternate road outside the park which would provide access to other state, borough, and private lands along the entire road corridor should be compared to the existing single purpose use of the Parkway for recreation.

3. Management

Any extension of the Parkway must include an assessment of the resulting change in management of Nancy Lake State Recreation Area. The management assessment should include public safety, maintenance, operations, visitor services, change in visitor use and behavior, investment in new facilities, replacement of facilities, and frequency and intensity of management activities.

4. LWCF Conversion of Use

Any extension of the Parkway must comply with federal Land and Water Conservation standards for conversion of use and with Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act. The LWCF Act provides that "No property acquired or developed with assistance under this section shall, without the approval of the Secretary, be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses. The Secretary shall approve such conversion only if he finds it to be in accord with the then existing comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan and only upon such conditions as he deems necessary to assure the substitution of other recreation properties of at least equal fair market value and reasonably equivalent usefulness and location.

In accordance with Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act, a project alignment cannot impact significant publicly owned parks, recreation areas...unless a determination is made that (1) there is no feasible and prudent alternative to use of above properties, and (2) the project includes all possible planning to minimize harm to those properties.



Alaska. Conservation Corps Enrollees Constructing Boardwalk Trails at Buckley Lake.

MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following actions to be adopted by this plan include new facility and trail development, existing facility redesign, resource enhancement and modification, management actions, and programs intended to improve management capability and public enjoyment.

LAND USE ZONING

Zoning park lands is a process of classifying lands in one or more of four land use zones to clarify management intent and guide facility and program development. Each zone permits different levels of development and intensity of use, responds to existing conditions and uses, and directs future use patterns. The four zones are Recreational Development, Natural, Cultural, and Wilderness. Only the first two zones, Recreational Development and Natural, have been applied to NLSRA. (A detailed description of these two zones appears in the Alaska State Park System: Statewide Framework - 1982).

Figure 14 shows the location of these two zones within Nancy Lake State Recreation Area. The Recreational Development Zone is primarily within one half mile of the parkway, but also includes a corridor extending to Red Shirt Lake. Although this master plan does not recommend the extension of the parkway or other high impact development between South Rolly Lake and Red Shirt Lake, this is the area best able to support additional development if future demand dictates. Figure 15 displays the characteristics of a State Recreation Area.

☐ Development Zone
☐ Natural Zone

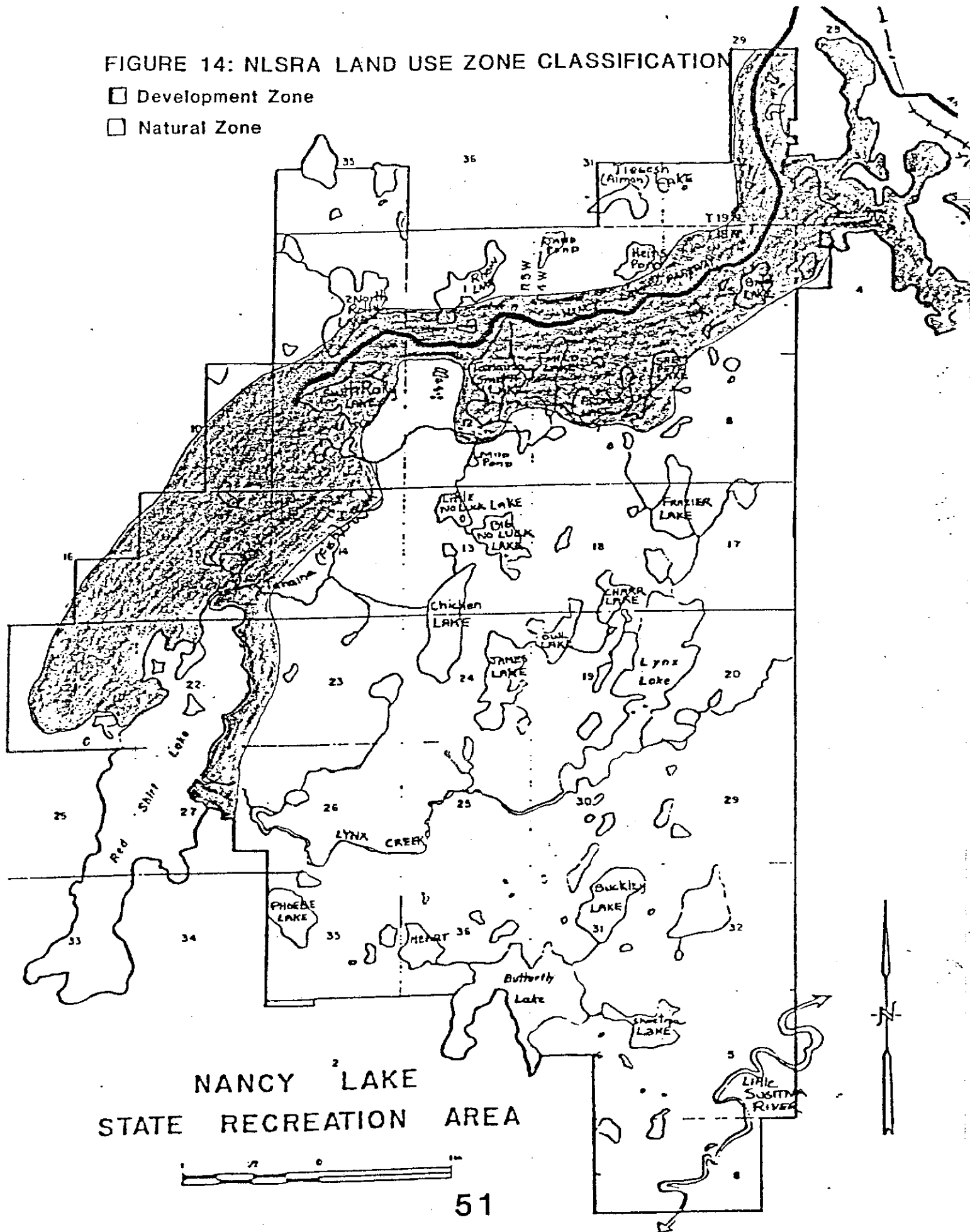


FIGURE 15: CHARACTERISTICS of a STATE RECREATION AREA

STATE RECREATION AREA



DESCRIPTION

A spacious area possessing a diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Provide the maximum level of outdoor recreation opportunities in a high quality natural setting.

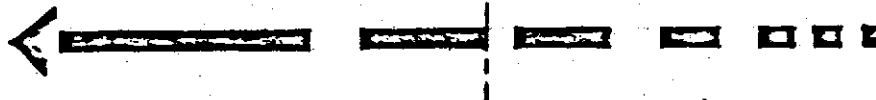
OVERALL INTENSITY OF DEVELOPMENT

Moderate to high.

MANAGEMENT ORIENTATION

INTENSIVE PUBLIC USE
Management Emphasis

RESOURCE PRESERVATION
Management Emphasis



CHARACTERISTICS

A state recreation area possesses recreational and/or natural resources of statewide or regional significance. Geographical distribution of these units and their relationships to population centers are important factors in the designation of an area as a state recreation area. The minimum size of a unit should be 200 acres so that the unit may have diverse natural landscapes capable of supporting a wide variety of outdoor recreational activities. The uniqueness and significance of an area's natural and cultural resources are not key criteria for the establishment of state recreation areas as is the case with state parks.

The majority of the lands within a state recreation area will be classified as natural and recreational development. Cultural zones will be established where appropriate. Only in special cases will any lands be classified as wilderness. Wilderness zones, if established, will be based upon documented public desire for wilderness-oriented recreation within the unit.

RECOMMENDATION CHARTS

FACILITY RECOMMENDATION	Pg. No.	No. on Map	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES
NLSRS Campground Tudli Bena Campground (NLSRS)	85	1	Redesign and rename. Maintain existing visitor capacity. Improve trail and shoreline access to Nancy Lake from picnic area and campground. Improve appearance and visitor satisfaction. Incorporate Lily Creek into site. Eliminate dependence on access agreement with the Alaska Railroad. Rename as Tudli Bena Campground.
NANCY LAKE PARKWAY FACILITIES			
Visitor Contact Kiosk and Station (MP 1.3 Nancy Lake Parkway)	41	2	Improve visitor information, safety, and satisfaction. Provide one location for dissemination of information.
Nancy Lake Camp- ground (MP 1.8 Nancy Lake Parkway)	37	3	Accommodate anticipated and necessary demand for more camping opportunity within NLSRA. Provide public access to Nancy Lake from Nancy Lake Parkway. Expand recreational opportunities within NLSRA.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	Phase
<p>Redesign, resign, and landscaping of entire area needed. One large rain shelter, incorporating cooking area and seating, should be constructed as part of redesign for all visitors. Entrance needs special attention to insure permanent and visually appealing access.</p>	<p>Acquire approximately nine (9) acres of Nanlow Park Subdivision on southwest corner of entrance at Parks Highway. Right-of-way agreement with Alaska Railroad for access expires September 30, 1993.</p>	B
<p>Construct a visitor information kiosk, on west side of parkway at entrance gate (may need to move location or redesign). Include parking for 15 cars. This site will also serve as a trailhead for summer and winter access to the North Parkway Trail System and as a turnaround when gate is closed.</p>	<p>If necessary, construct a 300 square foot log building to serve as a visitor center, registration site, and ranger contact area.</p>	A
<p>Locate approximately 30 drive-to campsites and 10-15 walk-to/boat-to tent campsites within this area. Other facilities include an amphitheater; interpretive display; rain shelters - one for walk-to and one for drive-to visitors; small day-use area near lake; trails interconnecting all facilities and the lake; 2 water wells; latrines; picnic tables; fire pits; beach area for hand boat launching and swimming; a parking area for 20 cars near the parkway; and open-space activity area.</p>	<p>All campsites and facilities should be well back from the shoreline and private property so as to reduce visitor impacts on both. No vehicle access to the lake. Drive-to campground should be to the south with the walk-to camping area to the north to reduce impact on quiet bay immediately north of the area.</p>	D

RECOMMENDATION CHARTS

FACILITY RECOMMENDATION	Pg. No.	No. on Map	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES
Winter Parking Area and Trailhead (MP 2.2 Nancy Lake Parkway)	41	4	Provide multi-purpose parking and staging area for year-round use of a large number of vehicles in an unobtrusive and functional manner. Reduce winter maintenance costs. Use existing winter parking area to the maximum extent possible.
Bald Lake Group Camp (MP 2.2 Nancy Lake Parkway)	40	5	Promote year-round educational and recreational opportunities within NLSRA for large groups.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	Phase
<p>Redesign, enlarge, recontour and landscape existing winter parking area to serve as summer and winter trailhead and staging area for dog teams and snowmobiles and year-round parking for 75 person capacity group camp. Provide contour or vegetative screening from parkway. Revegetate all existing or resulting cuts and fills.</p>	<p>Remain as close to parkway as feasible for maximum separation and minimum encroachment on group camp activity. Only one entrance should be provided onto parkway for safety.</p>	B
<p>Construct a full facility accessible group camp on the east shore of Bald Lake. Design and layout must accommodate approximately 75 people to serve anticipated user groups and to be economical to operate. Parking will be accommodated within the year-round parking area immediately north of the site. Only supply and emergency vehicles should be allowed on-site. Facilities will include 10, 6-8 person heated cabins; one 1140 square foot wash house with 4 shower heads and related facilities; one 2000 square foot combination mess hall and meeting room; one on-site water well with a capacity of at least 10 gallons per minute; a sewage system appropriate for the site; electricity and phone. Accessible boardwalks and trails will connect buildings and provide lake access. A wooden dock or float will be required for swimming, diving, fishing and canoe tie-up. Trails will connect with Nancy Lake and Bald Lake Nature Trail.</p>	<p>This site chosen because of its suitability and because it is close to existing utilities, is within existing winter road maintenance service, close to existing nature trail and lakes, and will not adversely impact other activities in the recreation area. Siting of trails, boardwalks, floats or docks, buildings, and sewage system will require utmost care to avoid wet areas and find suitable soils. YCC use of the facility should not displace scheduled group camp activities.</p>	A

RECOMMENDATION CHARTS

FACILITY RECOMMENDATION	Pg. No.	No. on Map	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES
Tulik Nature Trail (MP 2.6 Nancy Lake Parkway)	37	6	Retain existing nature trail in pre- sent location and extend its usefulness by connecting to proposed campground and group camp. Redesign entrance to reduce parking area, give a more na- tural appearance and increase visitor satisfaction.
Shem Pete Campground (MP 3.4 Nancy Lake Parkway)	37	7	Provide additional camping and asso- ciated opportunities along parkway with water, trail and canoe trail access. Increase utilization of existing parkway by dispersing uses along it. Integrate new campground with existing facilities to diversify and maximize recreational enjoyment and opportunities and to im- prove management efficiency.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Phase

Remove existing cabin from entrance to temporary location at main gate to serve as interim visitor contact center if necessary, or a camp host shelter in South Rolly Lake Campground. Install latrine and redesign entrance for reduced parking and additional landscaping. Improve trail surface to eliminate wet spots and conceal drainage pipes. Block old road entrance to lake and revegetate.

Natural appearance of entrance and trail should be emphasized. Design entry so trails from Bald Lake Group Camp and Shem Pete Campground merge with nature trail. Appropriate youth program project.

C

Provide approximately 50 drive-to campsites between parkway and Shem Pete Lake. Provide approximately 20 walk-to tent campsites between Shem Pete and Ardaw Lakes. All campsites should be well back from lake with trail access to lakes only. Boat docks or floats may be provided as necessary for swimming, fishing, and canoe tie-up. Parking area for 25 vehicles should be provided near parkway for tent campers and trailhead parking. Accessible trails will connect campgrounds and parking area with Bald Lake Nature trail and regular trails to Frazier, Lynx and other recreation area trails. Both drive-to and walk-to campgrounds will have a water well, rain shelter and latrines. An amphitheater and interpretive display will be constructed in drive-to campground for group programs. A sewage dumping station should be incorporated into the drive-to campsite area.

Careful siting of roads, campsites and trails will be necessary on account of intermittent wet areas. Selective filling of small wet pockets should be considered to reduce mosquitoes. Tree thinning should be considered to increase exposure to sunlight and breezes.

A

RECOMMENDATION CHARTS

FACILITY RECOMMENDATION	Pg. No.	No. on Map	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES
Tanaina Lake Picnic Area (Smith Lake Picnic Area, MP 4.7 Nancy Lake Parkway)	39	8	Improve canoe trail access and parking. Diversify and expand day-use opportunities by providing a beach area near parkway for playing, swimming, fishing and picnicking. Expand use on deepest lake along parkway, as warranted by demand.
Rhein Lake Trailhead (MP 5.1 Nancy Lake Parkway)	37	9	Provide safe and convenient off-roadway parking for visitors to Rhein Lake, Rhein Lake cabin, and Rhein Lake trailhead.
North Rolly Lake Trailhead (MP 5.9 Nancy Lake Parkway)	37	10	Provide safe and convenient off-roadway parking for visitors to North Rolly Lake and associated summer trails.
North Rolly Lake Viewing Tower (MP 6.0-6.2 Nancy Lake Parkway)	39	11	Provide views of the Denali massif, Talkeetna and Chugach mountains.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Phase

<p>Provide a large grass and sand beach area along north-west shore of Smith Lake. Parking for 50 vehicles near parkway. Other facilities include 10 picnic sites, latrine, canoe launch area with canoe rests, trailhead register, rain shelter, and trail system across parkway to the north. At north end of Tanaina (Smith) Lake where parkway is visible provide enough fill and new vegetation south of roadway shoulder to screen roadway surface from the lake and partially screen vehicular traffic while not totally obstructing motorists' lake views.</p>		A
<p>Parking off north side of parkway for 5 to 8 cars with trailhead sign.</p>	<p>Special populations access including wheelchair, necessary to and via trail to Rhein Lake cabin on west shore of Rhein Lake. Establish accessible canoe launch site on south shore of Rhein Lake.</p>	C
<p>Parking off north side of parkway for 5 cars with trailhead sign. Combine with viewing tower parking if possible.</p>	<p>Trail to North Rolly is for canoe and small boat portaging so trail will have to be carefully laid out to avoid steep grades and tight corners.</p>	C
<p>Construct a viewing tower that is above most of the trees downslope and pull-out with parking for 6 vehicles. Develop a trail to connect these facilities.</p>	<p>Design of tower and parking area must blend in with the surrounding vegetation and not be an eyesore. Natural materials should be used wherever possible.</p>	A

RECOMMENDATION CHARTS

FACILITY RECOMMENDATION	Pg. No.	No. on Map	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES
South Rolly Lake Overlook (MP 6.1 Nancy Lake Parkway)	36	12	Redesign overlook to improve function and scale. Expand and diversify recreational opportunities. Emphasize this area's natural assets and connect by trail to South Rolly Campground and the trail system north of parkway.
South Rolly Lake Campground (MP 6.6 Nancy Lake Parkway)	37	13	Redesign or remove lakeshore campsites to arrest shoreline erosion. Expand and diversify recreational opportunity. Provide for group activities and shelter.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	Phase
<p>Reduce parking capacity to 15 to 20 cars and 5 picnic sites near bluff south of parkway. Leave trees to screen vehicles from South Rolly Campground. Route a loop trail along bluff for best views to the south and down along northwest lake-shore for fishing and walking. Additional picnic sites may be located along loop trail where views, soils and vegetation are favorable. Picnic sites should all have fire pits. Loop trail should continue around west shore and connect with a trail to South Rolly Lake campground. Loop trail should also connect with the North Rolly Lake trailhead. Latrine, signs and trash receptacle needed. Revegetate exposed cuts and fills.</p>	<p>No attempt should be made to expand trail around east shore of South Rolly Lake because of soft quicksand-like soils reported. A total redesign of the overlook area is suggested.</p>	C
<p>Maintain approximately the same drive-to camping capacity except redesign or remove sites close to water which are creating erosion and compaction problems, to provide an open space water front area for all campers to use. Add an amphitheater and interpretive display for group programs and a rain shelter. Provide 10 to 15 walk-to camping sites west of West Rolly Twin Lake separated from drive-to campground. A separate water well plus rain shelter, latrine and trash receptacles should be provided. Provide an activity area, constructed of natural forms, away from campsites, to provide an area</p>	<p>Besides a trailhead at the parking area, a second trailhead should begin in campground for additional access to nature and other trails. The Tulik Nature trail cabin could be located at the campground to serve as a shelter for the campground host.</p>	A

RECOMMENDATION CHARTS

FACILITY RECOMMENDATION	Pg. No.	No. on Map	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES
TRAILS			
South Rolly Nature Trail	37	14	Expand recreational and educational opportunities at South Rolly Campground - the largest campground in the recreation area. Preclude the necessity of visitors having to drive to Tulik (Bald Lake) Nature Trail (4 miles) for a similar experience.
Red Shirt Lake Trail	42 86	15	Improve year-round access to Red Shirt Lake and existing and planned facilities there. Reroute existing trail to avoid wetlands to protect wetlands and to improve visitor enjoyment and safety. Trail routing should offer a great variety of experiences. Expand the number of trails available for use by non-motorized means.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	Phase
<p>for physical activity. Improve waste water and sewage disposal. Provide a few picnic sites, parking and waterfront beach area for swimming and other day-use activities that are separated from the camping sites. Provide a parking and trailhead area for 20 cars for access to nature trail, other trails and walk-to camping area. Include latrine, trash receptacle, signs and trail register.</p> <p>One to two miles of self-guiding nature trail with surface material, widths and grades suitable for exercise trail, bicycle trail, and use by special populations. West leg will be used for X-C skiing. East leg will be used for snowmobile and dog sled.</p> <p>Improve the trail to a high standard. Route a loop trail on well drained soils between South Rolly Campground and Red Shirt Lake. Achieve maximum enjoyment of trail use by careful routing of trail over varying terrain, through a vareity of vegetation types and changing views. West side of loop follows ridge to highest point in recreation area in the center of section 21, then drops down to lake and returns over lower elevation to rejoin nature trail. Improve the trailhead parking area.</p>	<p>If asphalt paving is used for the trail surface, an unpaved trail next to bike trail should be considered where nature trail passes an observation station to reduce possible pedestrian/bicycle conflicts. Nature trail must serve several purposes, both summer and winter, so must be carefully laid out to best adapt to multiple use for multiple objectives. Appropriate youth program project.</p> <p>Trail alignment, turns and grades must consider winter use by X-C skiers. Public cabins on Red Shirt Lake should be off of the main trail on a separate loop or spur trail.</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A</p>

RECOMMENDATION CHARTS

FACILITY RECOMMENDATION	Pg. No.	No. on Map	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES
Lynx Creek Trail	37	16	Provide access to Lynx Creek, the largest creek in the recreation area, from South Rolly Lake campground. Provide trails for long distance hiking to remote areas. Improve winter access and increase the number of trails for winter use. To take visitors to a remote area of NLSRA where they can observe a disproportionately high amount of spawning salmon, working beavers, and other wildlife activity.
Phoebe Lake Trail	37	17	Provide trail access to Phoebe and Heart Lakes.
Lynx Lake Trail	37	18	Provide trail access to Lynx Lake from Shem Pete Lake campground.
Shem Pete - Lynx Creek Connecting Trail	37	19	Provide trail access to connect Shem Pete campground with the Lynx Creek and Phoebe Lake trails.
Chicken Lake Trail	37	20	Provides access to Chicken and No Luck Lakes from the winter Red Shirt Lake and south Rolly Lake Nature Trails.
Connecting Trail (old oilwell road)	37	21	Provide optional trail routes so user doesn't have to retrace their steps returning to starting point. Improve access. Expand route options for traveling through the backcountry.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	Phase
<p>Trail begins at South Rolly Lake campground and follows ridgelines for the most part, past Chicken and Little Chicken Lakes, to Lynx Creek. This loop trail crosses to the south side of Lynx Creek on a wooden bridge and continues along the creek and completes the loop by crossing Lynx Creek on a second wooden bridge.</p> <p>Departs south from the Lynx Creek Trail in two locations and follows high ground in a loop which provides access to Phoebe and Heart Lakes.</p> <p>Trail originates in Shem Pete Lake drive-to campground and follows the highest ground south along the east shore of Shem Pete Lake. Remains on high ground along east shore of Frazier Lake and terminates at north-east corner of Lynx Lake.</p> <p>Follow Shem Pete-Lynx Lake trail in a southwesterly direction until intercepting the winter route to Red Shirt Lake and the Lynx Creek Trail.</p> <p>Follow high ground from the winter Red Shirt Lake trail to the north end of Chicken Lake.</p> <p>Begins where Red Shirt #1 well road crosses the Lynx Lake trail. Follows old road bed west until reaching a good connecting point with the Lynx Creek Loop Trails. Place latrine at latter intersection.</p>	<p>Two foot bridges required to span Lynx Creek in two locations. Must not impede snowmobile access. Carefully route trail along Lynx Creek for best observation and access to creek while at the same time not encroaching too closely on sensitive areas like beaver houses and dams. Trail should be set back from creek bank to avoid causing erosion and to reduce conflicts with small game.</p> <p>Stay on dry ground. Use bridges across small streams and boardwalk where wet areas must be crossed.</p> <p>Keep trail back from canoe trail lakes so users of the canoe trails will not be able to see pedestrians on the trail. Cross any existing trails at right angles.</p>	<p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>C</p> <p>C</p> <p>D</p>

RECOMMENDATION CHARTS

FACILITY RECOMMENDATION	Pg. No.	No. on Map	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES
Canoe Trails	37	22	Maintain an environment of quiet solitude through which to paddle.
Iditarod National Historic Trail	37	23	Recognize the existence of a branch route of the Iditarod National Historic Trail through NLSRA.
North Parkway Ski and Hike Trails (Rhein Lake Loop Trail, Jano Pond Loop Trail and Parkway Trail)	37	24	Upgrade and expand a series of interconnecting loop trails designed exclusively for use by foot and cross-country skiing.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	Phase
<p>The only major rerouting of existing canoe trail system is to by-pass the small lake immediately south of Tanaina (Smith) Lake by routing the portage onto high ground west of the lake. General repair of many of the portage trails and launch/landing sites is needed to reduce trail and bank erosion and to improve user safety, convenience and enjoyment. Canoe rests are needed for each 10-15 minute walking interval, or top of uphill grade. A trail register should be placed at each end of the system: one at the Little Susitna River takeout and one at Tanaina (Smith) Lake.</p>	<p>Experimentation is encouraged with petroleum based fabrics to hold the banks and wet portage areas from erosion caused by hauling out canoes and trampling on wet ground. Emphasis should be placed on maintaining the natural appearance of all portage trails and canoe launch/landing sites. Any structural modification such as boardwalks, corduroy, punchin or bridges must not impede winter use of the trail.</p>	A
<p>Identify the historic trail route as accurately as possible from its origin on Nancy Lake to the point where it exits NLSRA. Where exact alignment is in question, align as much of the trail as practical with existing winter trail routes, selecting an alignment which requires minimum maintenance. Minimize crossings of or travel on creek beds which are subject to overflow and soft ice conditions.</p>	<p>Sign intersections of the Iditarod Trail where it crosses other summer and winter trails. Nominate to the National Register of Historic Places.</p>	D
<p>Realign existing winter ski trails north of parkway as necessary to accommodate summer hiking, where possible. Install bridges and harden trails as necessary for all-season use. Access to the trails will be from</p>	<p>Trails should be set back far enough from water bodies to prevent bank erosion, visual impact on the lake, and disturbance of nesting waterfowl and small game activity. Tract setter and packer should be used in winter to maintain ski trails. That por-</p>	A

RECOMMENDATION CHARTS

FACILITY RECOMMENDATION	Pg. No.	No. on Map	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES
Rhein Lake Access Trail	37	25	Provide easy access for people in wheelchairs and other disabled persons between the Rhein Lake trailhead and the proposed public cabin on Rhein Lake.
North Rolly Lake Access Trail	37	26	Provide a convenient summer canoe portage trail between North Rolly Lake trailhead and North Rolly Lake.
Willow Winter Access Trail	37 86	27	Provide a single corridor through which both motorized and non-motorized trail access to NLSRA can be gained from areas north of the recreation area.
REMOTE FACILITIES			
Little Susitna River Canoe Landing	43	28	Improve Little Susitna River access to the Nancy Lake Canoe Trail System.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	Phase
<p>the visitor contact kiosk; Bald Lake Group Camp parking area; Tanaina (Smith) Lake Picnic Area; Rhein Lake trailhead; and North Rolly lake trailhead.</p> <p>Approximately ¼ mile of hard surfaced trail of appropriate design to accommodate wheel-chairs between the Rhein Lake trailhead and proposed public cabin on Rhein Lake. Same trailhead will be used as part of the ski/hike trails system north of the parkway.</p> <p>Establish a trail for small boat portaging between North Rolly Lake trailhead and the southeast shore of North Rolly Lake. Grades should be gentle. Lake shore stabilization should be considered to control erosion from trampling.</p> <p>Brush and sign a winter only trail that begins at MP 6.2 on the parkway and proceeds north across North Rolly Lake, Rolly Creek, West Rolly Lake, and Big Darrell Lake.</p> <p>Identify a site best suited for canoe landing and launching. Bank stabilization may be required to preclude erosion from heavy use. Facilities will include a trail register, latrine, canoe rests and signing.</p>	<p>tion of the trail from Rhein Lake trailhead to the public cabin on Rhein Lake should be of high standard construction with grades permitting access by the disabled.</p> <p>Trailhead and trail should be barrier free to accommodate persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Sign trail at north boundary of NLSRA, at the parkway, and at other places as necessary.</p> <p>Site selection criteria include a low bank, slow water or eddy, well drained soils and visible from long distance upstream.</p>	<p></p> <p>C</p> <p>C</p> <p>D</p> <p>A</p>

RECOMMENDATION CHARTS

FACILITY RECOMMENDATION	Pg. No.	No. on Map	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES
Skeetna Lake Campsite	82	29	Upgrade existing site on north shore of Skeetna Lake and locate additional sites.
Butterfly Lake Campsite	82	30	Provide an area for camping and shelter near the lower, remote portion of the canoe trail.
Phoebe Lake Campsite	82	31	Provide emergency shelter and campsite on Phoebe Lake for trail users.
West Lynx Creek Campsite	82	32	Provide a destination campsite on Lynx Creek for remote camping, fishing and wildlife observation.
East Lynx Creek Campsite	82	33	Provide a destination campsite on Lynx Creek for remote camping, fishing and wildlife observation.
Lynx Lake Campsite (East Shore)	82	34	Provide shelter and tent camping area on Lynx Lake, largest lake on canoe trail system, accessible to both paddlers and hikers.
Lynx Lake Campsite (West Shore)	82	35	Consolidate public campsites on Lynx Lake to reduce user impacts and improve maintenance efficiency.
Charr Lake Campsite	82	36	Provide additional campsites along canoe trail near midpoint.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	Phase
Develop and harden campsites with latrines, fire pits and tent platforms.		A
Provide 3 to 5 campsites with latrine, fire pits, and backcountry, Adirondack style shelter on the best drained soils along canoe portage between Skeetna and Butterfly Lake.		A
Select a suitable site on the east shore of Phoebe Lake for 3 to 5 campsites, a backcountry Adirondack style shelter, latrine and fire pits.		B
Select a suitable site north of Lynx Creek for 2 campsites, fire pits and latrine.		C
Select a suitable site north of Lynx Creek for 2 campsites, fire pits and latrine.		C
On suitable soils near the northeast shore of Lynx Lake, install 5 to 10 campsites, fire pits, latrine, and and backcountry Adirondack style shelter. Select best location on bank for canoe launching and landing. Provide canoe rests.	Be aware of proximity to private property and avoid use and visual conflicts between campsite and private property.	A
Remove existing facilities at canoe portage on northwest shore of Lynx Lake. Restore and revegetate as necessary.		A
Provide 3 to 5 campsites near west shore of Charr Lake near canoe portage. Facilities should include fire pits, latrine, backcountry Adirondack style shelter, and canoe rests.		D

RECOMMENDATION CHARTS

FACILITY RECOMMENDATION	Pg. No.	No. on Map	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES
No Luck Lakes Campsite	82	37	Refurbish existing campsites to improve appearance and function. Develop new, hardened sites on the lake.
Tanaina (Smith) Lake Campsite	82	38	Provide easily accessible tent camping site on canoe trail that can be reached without portaging.
Milo-Ardaw Lakes Campsite	82	39	Remove poorly located campsites to a more suitable location on the canoe trail. Reduce number of crossings of hiking trails and canoe portages.
Ardaw Lake Campsite	82	40	Provide additional campsites with suitable soils and vegetation at convenient intervals along canoe trail.
Red Shirt Lake Campsite	82	41	Provide campground facilities on Red Shirt Lake that can accommodate walk-in and fly-in users and provide shelter.
Tanlhtun Ridge (Red Shirt Ridge) Viewing Tower	39	42	Emphasize and maximize 360 degree views from highest point in NLSRA.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	Phase
<p>A total of 8 to 10 campsites should be constructed away from portage and lake shore, with fire pits, latrine and canoe rests. Widen and rehabilitate launch and landing areas on Big and Little No Luck Lakes. Locate and develop 3 campsites on the lake.</p>	<p>This is a heavily used area between the two lakes and needs considerable "hardening" to accommodate day-use fishing pressure, canoe parking/tie-up, and overnight use.</p>	A
<p>Provide 2 or 3 campsites with fire pits and latrine on southwest end of Smith Lake. Sites should be made accessible to those with disabilities or reduced mobility.</p>		D
<p>Remove existing campsites and facilities between Milo and Ardaw Lakes. Restore area to natural appearance.</p>	<p>Soils and vegetation are not suited for intensive uses at this location.</p>	D
<p>Select most suitable site near extreme eastern shore of Ardaw Lake and canoe portage for 3 to 5 campsites, latrine and fire pits.</p>		C
<p>Identify most suitable area near west shore of bay at northwest end of Red Shirt Lake and construct 10 campsites with latrine, fire pits, and backcountry Adirondack style shelter.</p>		B
<p>Construct a wooden viewing tower of sufficient height to permit unobstructed viewing from the highest point in NLSRA (375.4 feet) west of Red Shirt Lake. Access to and from tower will be via the Red Shirt Lake Trail. No facilities other than the trail and tower are to be provided at this site.</p>		B

RECOMMENDATION CHARTS

FACILITY RECOMMENDATION	Pg. No.	No. on Map	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES
Other Remote Campsites	82	43	Over-used existing campsites, established by Parks staff or the public should be hardened and developed, or revegetated if appropriate.
CABINS			
Red Shirt Lake Public Cabins	40	44	Initiate a pilot program similar to the Forest Service's public cabin reservation system. Objective is to encourage and enable year-round use of high amenity remote areas for public recreation by a large segment of the population. Develop a concession policy to allow for possible private operation of the system within NLSRA.
Chicken Lake Public Cabins	40	45	Initiate a pilot program similar to the Forest Service's public cabin reservation system. Objective is to encourage and enable year-round use of high amenity remote areas for public recreation by a large segment of the population. Develop a concession policy

PROJECT DESCRIPTION**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Phase

Sites receiving resource damage should be developed to withstand use, or be posted for 'no camping' if the site cannot withstand use.

Construct three cabins, approximately 170 square feet each, near northwest shore of Red Shirt Lake. Cabins should be set back from lakeshore with trail access to lake for float plane tie-up, fishing, swimming, and the like. Select sites with well drained soils which have access to beach area suited for the activities above. Dock or float construction may be desirable. Two cabins will be clustered within sight of each other. While this may reduce the feeling of privacy, it is believed that maintenance capability, security and safety will be enhanced. The third cabin will replace the existing cabin #5 to standardize design and replace with a more safe, sound and functional cabin. Cabins will be approximately 12x14 feet plus a porch. Each will be heated and contain table, seating, counter and bunks.

Construct a cluster of two cabins, approximately 175 square feet each, back from the west shore of Chicken Lake. Cabins should be set back from lakeshore with trail access to lake for water activities such as swimming,

The park management staff needs to carefully monitor ongoing back-country conditions and establish a carrying capacity for the back-country area.

Cabin construction and reservations on a daily or weekly basis are dependent on adequate staffing to administer the program and maintain the cabins, or operation by a private concessionaire.

Cabin construction and reservations on a daily or weekly basis are dependent on adequate staffing to administer the program and maintain cabins, or operation by a private concessionaire.

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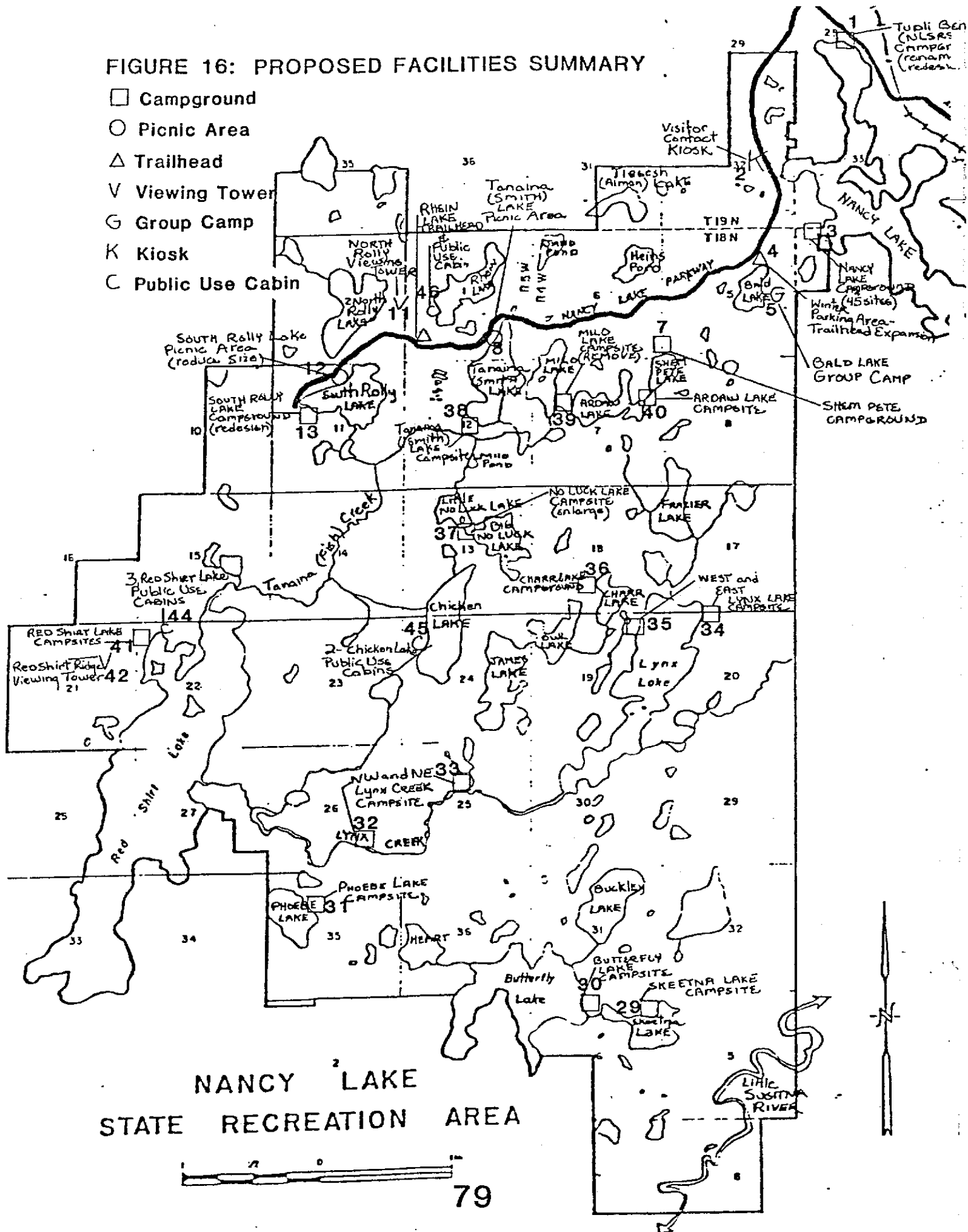
RECOMMENDATION CHARTS

FACILITY RECOMMENDATION	Pg. No.	No. on Map	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES
Rhein Lake Public Cabin	40	46	to allow for possible private operation of the system within NLSRA.
			Initiate a pilot program similar to the Forest Service's public cabin reservation system. An objective is to encourage and enable use of high amenity areas for public recreation by people with disabilities or with limited mobility. Develop concession policy to allow for possible private operation of the system within NLSRA.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	Phase
<p>fishing and boating. Select sites with well drained soils which have access to good beach area. Dock or float construction may be required. Two cabins will be clustered within sight of each other for efficiency of maintenance and for safety and security of occupants. Each cabin will be heated and contain a table, seating, counter and bunks.</p> <p>Construct a single cabin near the southwest shore of Rhein Lake that is accessible by wheelchair from the Rhein Lake trailhead. Cabin should be sited on well-drained soil and positioned so as to be inconspicuous from the ski/hike trail system.</p>	<p>Adaptation for handicapped use of the cabin required.</p>	<p>C</p>

FIGURE 16: PROPOSED FACILITIES SUMMARY

- Campground
- Picnic Area
- △ Trailhead
- V Viewing Tower
- G Group Camp
- K Kiosk
- C Public Use Cabin



OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Aircraft Operation

It is recommended that all lakes within NLSRA be closed to aircraft operation except Nancy Lake, Red Shirt Lake, Lynx Lake and Butterfly Lake. Practice touch-and-go landings should be prohibited from all lakes. The closures are for the purpose of enhancing public safety and enjoyment. The following message will be requested to be published in the Alaska Supplement to the Airmens' Information Manual.

Message: "All lakes within Nancy Lake State Recreation Area (NLSRA) are closed to aircraft operation except Nancy Lake, Red Shirt Lake, Lynx Lake, and Butterfly Lake. Touch-and-go landing practice is prohibited on all lakes within NLSRA (under authority of Alaska Statutes 38.05.295 and 41.20.020, and the Alaska Administrative Code 11 AAC 12.030)."

In the event that aircraft operation on any of the four approved lakes results in unreconcilable conflicts with other users of the recreation area, endangers visitor safety, or results in a reduction of water quality, the Division of Parks will either 1) issue a permit for individual operation of aircraft under stipulated times or conditions, 2) impose restrictions on all aircraft on specified lakes, or 3) prohibit the use of all aircraft.

Fishery Management

With the recent discovery of northern pike in Red Shirt Lake, an immediate study is necessary to determine their potential spread to other lakes and streams, possible impact on other fish and food sources, and to recommend remedial action as necessary.

Rainbow trout fingerling stocking programs should concentrate on producing higher numbers of catchable trout in Tanaina (Smith) Lake (outlet structure needed), South Rolly Lake, North Rolly Lake, Little No Luck Lake, Big No Luck Lake, and Chicken Lake.

Experimentation with a new hardy strain of trout and fish control structures by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is strongly encouraged. Fertilization experiments and poisoning programs to enhance the game fish environment are also encouraged so long as side effects are carefully monitored to prevent undesirable changes or adverse affects to the water quality and plant animal communities.

Wildlife Management

All procedures for improving wildlife habitat, stream enhancement, fish stocking, trapping or hunting should be coordinated with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). Any regulation change in fish or game harvest must be prescribed by ADF&G. Any major policy changes dealing with wildlife or fisheries management should involve the public and appropriate agency staff before any final decision is made.

Gravel Sites

Due to the low quality of gravel within NLSRA and resulting adversity of taking gravel on site, all gravel needed for trail, road or other facility construction shall be obtained from commercial sources outside the recreation area when possible. The only exceptions would be 1) permitting the use of gravel produced as a by-product of grading, foundation or other excavation required for facility construction, or 2) the necessity of utilizing small amounts of on-site gravel for remote trail, portage, or tent platform construction or maintenance projects for which hauling gravel from outside sources would be too costly or logistically difficult. Old gravel pits should be reclaimed where feasible. These sites should not be used for trail bikes. Use of trail bikes should occur outside of NLSRA in more appropriate areas.

Forestry Management

A fire management plan within NLSRA should be developed with the consultation of the Division of Forestry by the management and planning staff of the Division of Parks.

Firearm and Explosive Discharge

Discharge of firearms and explosives will be regulated according to the Division of Parks standard regulations. Any change in the current procedures will be through a revision of park regulations.

Sewage Disposal

Disposal of raw sewage and waste water should occur only at specific disposal locations within campgrounds. Backcountry waste water should be filtered through sand or rocky soil, well away from any source of fresh-water. Backcountry latrines will be constructed at developed sites to reduce sewage disposal problems.

Backcountry Campsites

As the backcountry becomes more popular, specific campsites receiving heavy use will need hardening. This includes placing of a firering, latrine, tent platform, and in some cases a three-sided Adirondack style shelter. The Division of Parks must pursue a carrying capacity study of the canoe and hiking trail systems to establish a plan of action for controlling increased use. Sites may need to be hardened, the use of sites may be based on a reservation system and specified use limitations, the use of fires may be limited, and camping in non-designated, undeveloped sites may need to be eliminated. The "optimum" capacity level established will allow for quality recreational experiences, yet protect the park resources by following established procedures.

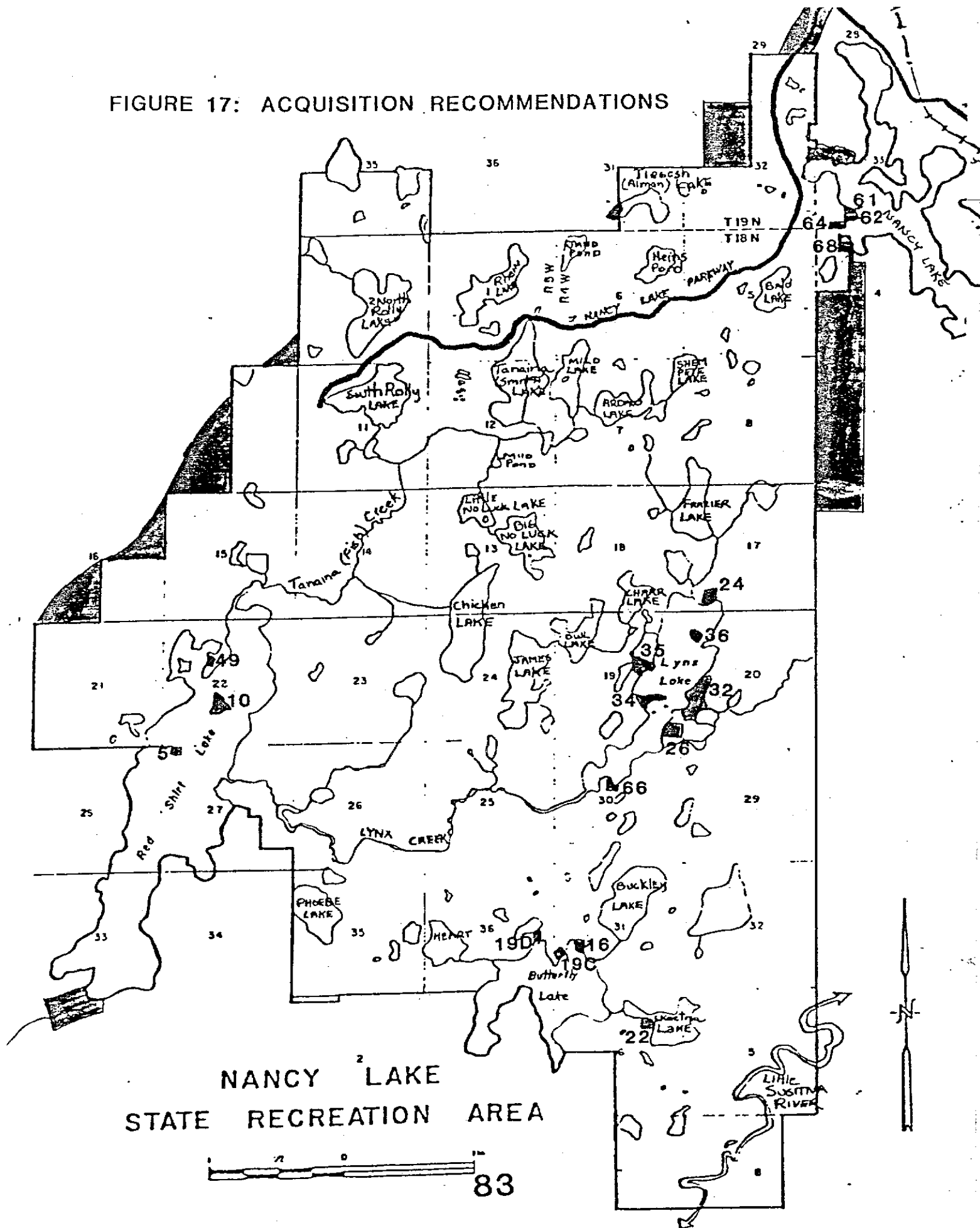
Information and Education

Informational and educational programs and facilities should be designed and carried out on a year-round, continuing basis. Focus should be on those natural and cultural values which are present within or influence the recreation area. Programs may relate to local native culture, historic sites and events, geologic features, plant communities, birds, terrestrial animals, environmental interrelationships and others. Bald Lake Group Camp; campground amphitheaters and shelters; nature trails; and the visitor contact Kiosk are facilities which have been recommended to enhance these information and education programs.

Land Acquisition

Several parcels of private land within and adjacent to NLSRA are recommended for acquisition. Acquisition is recommended to enhance public use and enjoyment of NLSRA and to reduce conflicts that would otherwise likely arise from future development and increased public use. Acquisitions will be made on a willing owner basis. It is also recommended that the Division of Parks establishes cooperative relationships with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough on all acquisitions and easement proposals. Figure 17 shows those parcels of land that are recommended for acquisition. The Implementation chapter refers to this figure in establishing priorities for each acquisition. Facility redesign, or relocation may be necessary in the event a critical acquisition cannot be made.

FIGURE 17: ACQUISITION RECOMMENDATIONS



Little Susitna River

The Willow Subbasin Plan, adopted in 1982 by the Department of Natural Resources, the resolution passed by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Resolution No. 82-17), and recommendation of the Alaska State Park System: Southcentral Region Plan, adopted by the Division of Parks in February, 1982, all advocate the legislative designation and management of a corridor of land encompassing the Little Susitna River between the Parks Highway and the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge as part of the State Park System. That portion (approximately 1½ miles) flowing through NLSRA will continue to be managed as part of the recreation area. The remaining sections of the Little Susitna River should be considered for inclusion into the State Park System as a State Recreation River.

Long Lake Road

Access to the NLSRA along the Long Lake Road should be continued on a permit basis only, and phased out as alternative access to subdivided land is provided by land development outside NLSRA.

Lynx Lake Road

The Division of Parks shall not contribute to the maintenance of the Lynx Lake Road. It shall remain gated at the recreation area boundary and its use restricted to existing property owners authorized and holding access permits issued by the Director or designee; or by official vehicles authorized entry for management of NLSRA. A signed turnaround area shall be established within the recreation area prior to reaching the gate.

Geothermal Energy

Continue research for using geothermal energy as a heating source for NLSRA facilities.

Water Craft Operation

It is recommended that water craft with motors be restricted from use on all lakes within NLSRA except Nancy Lake, Red Shirt Lake, Butterfly Lake, and Lynx Lake. In the event that operation of boats with motors on any of these lakes results in unreconcilable conflicts with other users of the recreation area, endangers visitor safety, or results in a reduction of water quality, the Division of Parks will either 1) issue a permit for individual operation of boats with motors under stipulated times or conditions, 2) zone the lakes and impose restrictions on all boats with motors on specified lakes, or 3) prohibit the use of boats with motors.

Name Changes

Presently, the public is often confused by two existing facility names, 1) Nancy Lake State Recreation Area and 2) Nancy Lake State Recreation Site. Visitors trying to locate the larger recreation area often follow highway signs into the recreation area site. Since the smaller site is only a part of the entire recreation area, it is recommended that the site be incorporated as a single facility within NLSRA and be renamed. Tudli Bena, the original name used for Nancy Lake, is recommended as the new name for this campground and picnic area.

Before white settlement in the area, the Tanaina Indians had given names to many of the dominant features (islands, ridges, lakes, streams) that lie within NLSRA. With respect to these early inhabitants and in memory of their presence which predated our own, several aboriginal names are suggested to replace contemporary ones. Additional name changes to reflect local names are also suggested. Below are the existing names followed by the proposed names.

<u>Existing Name</u>	<u>Proposed Name</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Nancy Lake State Recreation Site	Tudli Bena Campground	Original name for Nancy Lake
Alman Lake	Tlegesh Lake	Leech
Smith Lake	Tanaina Lake	Athapaskan Indians inhabiting upper Cook Inlet
Unnamed ridge west of Red Shirt Lake	Tanlhtun Ridge	Athapaskan name for this ridge
Unnamed pond between Smith and Little No Luck Lakes	Milo Pond	
Creek between Smith and Red Shirt Lake	Tanaina Creek	Athapaskan Indians inhabiting upper Cook Inlet
Unnamed creek be- tween North Rolly Lake and Susitna River	Tutitnu Creek	Athapaskan name for this creek
Unnamed lake north- west of West Rolly Lake	Tutitnu Lake	Athapaskan name for this lake

These names, along with locally used names of other major water bodies within NLSRA, should be submitted in accordance with official procedures for adoption and become recorded on all USGS maps.

Public Cabins

Initiate a pilot program for providing public rental cabins within NLSRA. Such a program will consider standardized cabin design; rental on a daily or weekly basis; staffing to administer the program; interfacing reservations similar to the U.S. Forest Service procedures; construction and maintenance costs; their contribution to public recreation; and cabin siting and spacing for user enjoyment, safety, and economy. Six such cabins are recommended, and their location is shown in Figure 16, Proposed Facility Summary. All six existing cabins are recommended for demolition or salvage, and reconstruction. All proposed cabin locations consider site amenities; access; remoteness; security; and avoidance of conflict with other public facilities or private property. Depending on the success of this pilot program, an expansion of the state public use cabin system could be made on other state park land or other state public lands. Initiating a concession operation for this program will be considered.

Section Line Vacation

The state should reinstitute vacation procedures for all section lines in NLSRA. Although vacation procedures were initiated in September, 1967, by memorandum signed by the Commissioners of Natural Resources and Highways (memo dated August 22, 1967) the procedure should be completed. Vacation of section lines is necessary to avoid future claims of right to access through NLSRA which could affect management, resource values, public use and enjoyment of the recreation area. Section line use will be vacated when alternative access exists, including water and air access. The vacating of section lines will not prevent private landowners from obtaining legal access to their lands.

Signing

A signing plan should be prepared to insure appropriate signing of existing facilities and new developments as they are added to the recreation area. This will insure standardization, avoid confusion and over-signing, and improve the public safety and enjoyment. Areas needing special attention are Lynx Lake Road, Parks Highway, Nancy Lake Parkway, and the trails system.

Trail Design for Multiple Use

All trail routing and design should consider multiple use to avoid over building and over signing. Winter as well as summer use should be considered when redesigning each trail. Cross-country ski trails should be suitable hiking trails in the summer, wherever feasible. Hiking and canoe trails south of the parkway and east of the Red Shirt Lake Trail should be

designed for snowmobile use in winter. Specialized trails for equestrian use can be considered for development on suitable soils out of the Red Shirt Lake parking area, if local horse riding groups are willing to volunteer labor to construct and maintain the trails. Trail construction by other specialized user groups volunteering services can also be considered, as long as the overall trail plan is followed.

Tree Thinning to Improve Views

Selective hand thinning of forest trees near mile 5.9 and 6.1 of the Parkway should be done to improve or open distant vistas and views of lakes along the parkway. Forest trees located near the proposed viewing towers and along the Red Shirt Lake Trail may also require selective hand thinning to improve views.

Utility and Transportation Corridors

Corridors which would alter the landscape or otherwise detract from the enjoyment of recreation area visitors shall not be routed through NLSRA. Corridors adjacent to the recreation area should be planned to avoid or minimize their impact. All utility lines within or through NLSRA will be placed underground with vegetation being restored to a natural appearance. All new and existing roadways will be designed to follow existing contours, and any necessary cuts or fills will be revegetated and returned to a natural appearing condition.

Visitor Count

Accurate and complete visitor statistics must be maintained for the recreation area. Attendance figures are necessary to measure user preferences and trends so the construction of new facilities and the redesign of existing facilities can be carried out to meet real demand. Trail registers should be kept at the beginning and end of the canoe trail system. Trail registers should be placed at all major trailheads. A method of counting visitors who enter at the main gate should be devised. The methodology developed should also be applied to other units within the State Park System.

Water Quality

Water quality should be measured and ongoing records kept for all lakes within NLSRA. The highest priority for testing should be those lakes which receive the most human use. A system for establishing, maintaining and utilizing base line data on water quality must be devised.

Winter Separation of Motorized from Non-Motorized Uses

The present system of separating winter uses by restricting snowmobiles to the area south of the parkway has worked well and should be continued. Access into NLSRA by snowmachine from the north is allowed only on the Willow winter access trail.

Concessions

Private enterprise is encouraged to partake in business dealings outside of the recreation area. The unit should be used as a conduit for these private enterprises. Should a concession policy be developed within NLSRA boundaries for competitive, exclusive use of the unit, the appropriate concession opportunities will be identified and bids will be issued for proposals. All concession operations will follow state park regulations and procedures. General guiding opportunities will be dealt with by use permits.

ATV's

Access by hunters using ATV's to lands west of NLSRA is prohibited. ATV use in the park is closed by park regulations and any changes in these procedures require the Director's approval. This plan does not recommend any ATV improvements or access.



A Local Trapper Meets With a NLSRA Ranger on a Snowmachine Trail.

IMPLEMENTATION

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the recommendations in this master plan should occur in an orderly fashion based on need and availability of funding for development and staffing for administration, operation and maintenance. As the area population increases and as use patterns change and detailed site planning begins, priorities may need to be altered. This plan is a guide based on present knowledge and is intended to be flexible. Regular review by the Division of Parks Planning, Design and Development, and Operations Sections, and by the District Managers is essential throughout implementation to continuously analyze changing public needs and to insure that those needs are being met. Changes will be made in consultation with the Nancy Lake Association, Red Shirt Lake Homeowners Association and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Land Management Division.

PHASING

Implementation of this plan is intended to occur in four phases. All phase "A" developments should be given priority to phase "B", phase "B" prior to phase "C", and so on. Availability of funding will determine the time frame within which each phase will be completed.

PHASE A

<u>RECOMMENDATION TITLE</u>	<u>DEVELOPMENT TYPE</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>NO. ON MAP</u>
Visitor Contact Kiosk and Station	Information distribution	41	2
Bald Lake Group Camp	Indoor group camping facilities	40	5
Shem Pete Campground	Camping	37	7
Tanaina (Smith) Lake Picnic Area	Day-use, boat launch	39	8
North Rolly Lake Viewing Tower	Day-use, spectacular views	39	11
South Rolly Lake Campground	Upgrade existing camping	37	13
South Rolly Nature Trail	Interpretive walks	37	14
Red Shirt Lake Trail	Access	42, 86	15

PHASE A

<u>RECOMMENDATION TITLE</u>	<u>DEVELOPMENT TYPE</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>NO. ON MAP</u>
Canoe Trails	Trail improvement	37	22
North Parkway Ski and Hike Trails	Trail improvement	37	24
Little Susitna River Canoe Landing	Access	43	28
Skeetna Lake Campsite	Camping	82	29
Butterfly Lake Campsite	Camping	82	30
Lynx Lake Campsite (east shore)	Camping	82	34
Lynx Lake Campsite (west shore)	Camping	82	35
No Luck Lakes Campsite	Camping	82	37
Northern Pike Intrusion Study	Improve resource management		
Tanlhtun (Red Shirt Lake) Ridge	Acquisition		
Entrance Ridge	Acquisition		
Entrance Scenic Easement	Acquisition		
Nanlow Park Subdivision (Tract A)	Acquisition		
Inholdings #19C - Butterfly Lake #61, 62, 64, 68 - Nancy Lake	Acquisition		

PHASE A
PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

To provide increased visitor information services.

To reduce overcrowding of existing facilities.

To provide a larger diversity of recreational opportunities.

- indoor group camping
- viewing towers
- nature trails
- improve boating
- improve trail system

To improve efficiency of operations and maintenance.

To improve safety.

- improved boat access
- upgrade existing facilities

To improve resource management actions.

To solve access problems.

To solve recreational trespass situations.

PHASE B

<u>RECOMMENDATION TITLE</u>	<u>DEVELOPMENT TYPE</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>NO. ON MAP</u>
Tudli Bena (NLSRS) Campground	Camping	85	1
Winter Parking Area and Trailhead	Access	41	4
Lynx Creek Trail	Trail development	37	16
Phoebe Lake Trail	Trail development	37	17
Lynx Lake Trail	Trail development	37	18
Phoebe Lake Campsite	Camping	82	31
Red Shirt Lake Campsite	Camping	82	41
Tanlhtun Ridge Viewing Tower	Day-use, spectacular views	39	42
Little Susitna State Recreation River Legislation	Access, river opportunities		
Nanlow Park Subdivision (Tract B, Block) (Tract B, Lot 1) (Tract B, Lot 2)	Acquisition		
Inholding #16 - Butterfly Lake #24 - Lynx Lake #49 - Red Shirt Lake	Acquisition		

PHASE B
PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

To improve existing facilities.

To expand and connect trail system
and related opportunities.

To solve access problems.

To expand backcountry opportunities.

PHASE C

<u>RECOMMENDATION TITLE</u>	<u>DEVELOPMENT TYPE</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>NO. ON MAP</u>
Tulik Nature Trail	Interpretive walks	37	6
Rhein Lake Trailhead	Special populations access	37	9
North Rolly Lake Trailhead	Access, trail development	37	10
South Rolly Lake Overlook	Day-use, scenic views	36	12
Shem Pete - Lynx Creek Connecting Trail	Improve trail connections	37	19
Chicken Lake Trail	Access, improve trail connections	37	20
Rhein Lake Access Trail	Access, special populations	37	25
North Rolly Lake Access Trail	Access	37	26
Lynx Creek Campsite (West)	Camping	82	32
Lynx Creek Campsite (East)	Camping	82	33
Ardaw Lake Campsite	Camping	82	40

PHASE C

<u>RECOMMENDATION TITLE</u>	<u>DEVELOPMENT TYPE</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>NO. ON MAP</u>
Rhein Lake Public Cabin	Indoor camping, special populations	40	46
Inholding #22 - Skeetna Lake	Acquisition		

PHASE C
PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

To expand opportunities for special populations.

To expand interpretive opportunities.

To expand connecting trail systems.

To expand backcountry camping opportunities.

To resolve recreational trespass.

PHASE D

<u>RECOMMENDATION TITLE</u>	<u>DEVELOPMENT TYPE</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>NO. ON MAP</u>
Nancy Lake Campground	Camping	37	3
Connecting Trail (old oil well road)	Trail improvement	37	21
Iditarod National Historic Trail	Trail improvement	37	23
Willow Winter Access Trail	Trail improvement	37, 86	27
Charr Lake Campsite	Camping	82	36
Tanaina (Smith) Lake Campsite	Camping	82	38

PHASE D

<u>RECOMMENDATION TITLE</u>	<u>DEVELOPMENT TYPE</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>NO. ON MAP</u>
Milo-Ardaw Lakes Campsite	Camping	82	39
Other Remote Campsites	Camping	82	43
Red Shirt Lake Public Cabins	Indoor camping	40	44
Chicken Lake Public Cabins	Indoor camping	40	45
Inholdings	Acquisitions		
#5-10 - Red Shirt Lake			
#14, 19D - Butterfly Lake			
#26, 32, 34, 35, 36, 66 - Lynx Lake			

**PHASE D
PROGRAM OBJECTIVE**

To expand road accessible camping opportunities.

To complete the trail connections.

To complete backcountry camping needs.

To initiate a concession operated, public use cabin system.

To resolve recreational trespass situations.



Playing at the South Rolly Lake Campground.

MODIFICATION AND DEVIATIONS

MODIFICATIONS AND DEVIATIONS

The master plan provides guidance for management and development of park units within the State Park System. At the time of publication the master plan represented the best efforts of the Division in analyzing the park unit's capability to provide outdoor recreational opportunities and historic preservation; suggesting how the park unit could best provide these opportunities with respect to local, regional and statewide needs; and suggesting a program for development of facilities, programs and management within the unit.

Although the adopted master plan is a policy statement for the unit, requiring that developments, uses and management must be in accordance with it, it must be able to adjust and adapt to changing circumstances, new information, and built in errors and oversights.

The following excerpt from the draft standard operating procedures for state park master planning will guide periodic review and any revision or modification of the adopted plan:

1. Periodic Review

The planning section will coordinate periodic review of the master plan when the director considers it necessary and so directs. The decision to review the master plan may be triggered by

- a. written public or agency requests for review,
- b. policy changes within the Division of Parks,
- c. availability of new data,
- d. availability of new technology, or
- e. changing social or economic conditions that place different demands on the park or affect the division's capabilities.

The master plan review will include meetings, as appropriate, with interested groups, the general public, affected agencies, the district superintendent and other Division of Parks personnel. The periodic review will lead to one of the following actions:

- a. no modification of the plan,
- b. modification of the plan,
- c. granting of a special exception.

Items "b" and "c" are explained in detail below.

2. Modification of the Plan

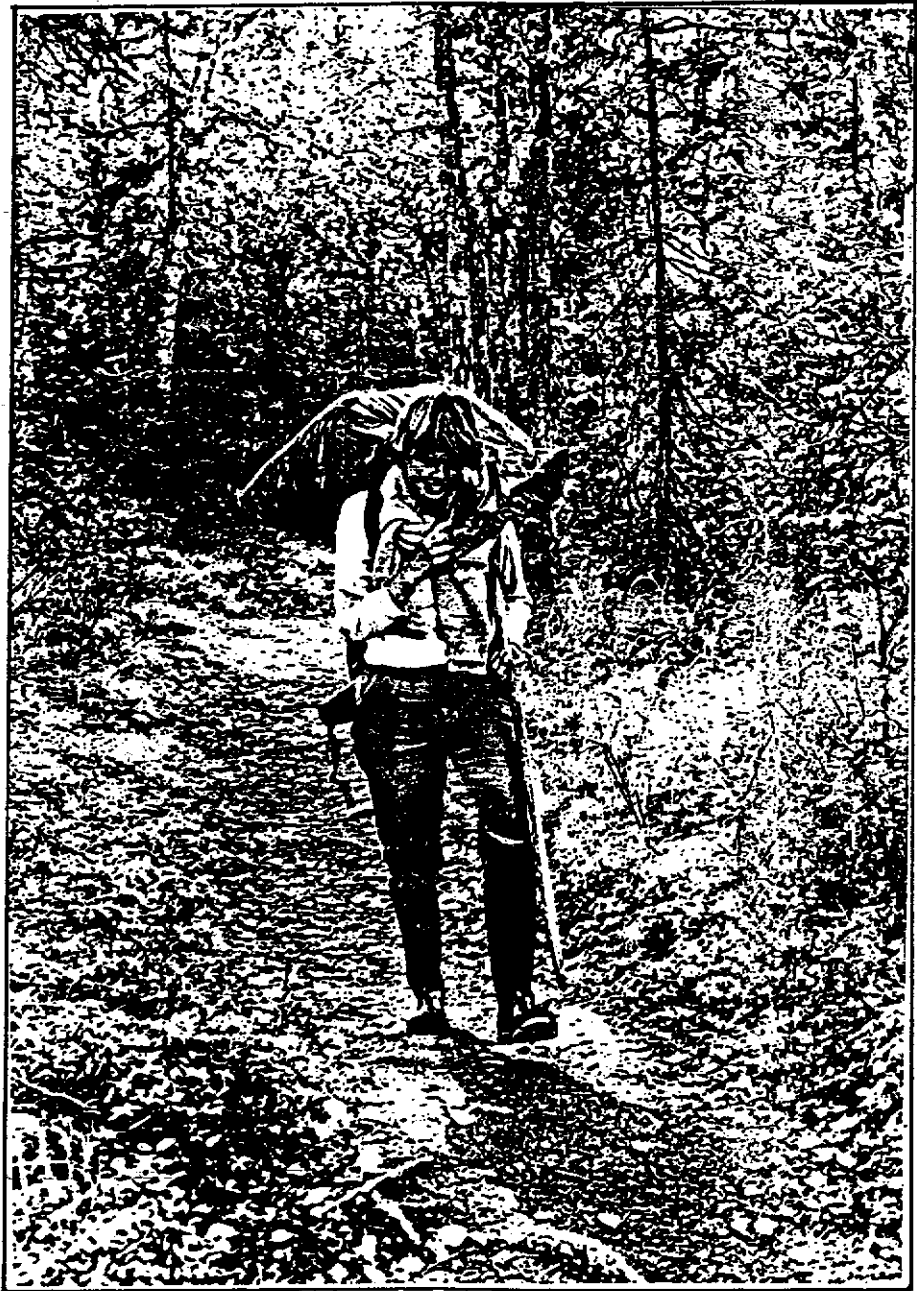
- a. Minor changes -- These are changes which, if accomplished, would not cause a deviation from the original intent of the master plan. Minor changes may be necessary for clarification, consistency, or to facilitate implementation of the master plan. Minor changes do not require public review but must be coordinated with the district superintendent and appropriate staff.
- b. Major changes -- These are changes which, if accomplished, would cause a deviation from the original intent of the master plan. Major changes require public notice and review prior to adoption.

3. Granting of a Special Exception

Exceptions to the provisions of the master plan may be made without modification of the plan. Special exceptions shall occur only when compliance with the plan is excessively difficult or impractical, and an alternative procedure can be implemented which adheres to the purposes and spirit of the plan.

The Division of Parks may make a special exception in the implementation of the plan through the following procedures:

- a. The person or agency requesting the special exception shall prepare a written finding which specifies
 1. the nature of the special exception requested,
 2. the extenuating conditions which require a special exception,
 3. the alternative course of action to be followed, and
 4. how the intent of the plan will be met by the alternative.
- b. The director will review the findings and issue a determination. If warranted by the degree of controversy or the potential impact, the director will hold a public hearing before reaching a decision.
- c. The decision of the director may be appealed to the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources whose decision will be final.



Portaging Into Butterfly Lake.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

NANCY LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA USER SURVEY RESULTS

Approximately 350 questionnaires were distributed in July and August, 1981 to recreation and conservation organizations, homeowners' associations, politicians, the Mat-Su Borough, local businesses, interested individuals and to property owners within and adjacent to Nancy Lake State Recreation Area. There were 46 of these questionnaires returned to the Division of Parks.

An additional distribution of questionnaires was made by the Nancy Lake rangers within the Recreation Area during the same period. There were 48 of these returned which represent the opinions of people actually in the process of recreating within the Recreation Area.

Since this was a "cluster" type sample targeting a rather specific audience on a specific topic, the results should not be interpreted as representing the whole "population".

The results of the 94 returned questionnaires are summarized below.

All returned questionnaires with detailed responses are on file with the Division of Parks, Anchorage, Alaska. Results compiled by Ron Crenshaw, Park Planner.

QUESTION

Is the area (check one)

- A. ☐ too developed?
- B. ☐ about right as is?
- C. ☐ not developed enough?

Percent of Responses

- A. 7%
- B. 72%
- C. 21%
- 100%

QUESTION

Why did you choose Nancy Lake State Recreation Area over other public or private recreation areas in the vicinity?

- Quiet natural setting
- Nearby and convenient
- Nice campground and amenities
- Trying new area
- Own property
- Near water

Percent of responses in diminishing order

- 43%
- 23%
- 10%
- 8%
- 8%
- 8%
- 100%

QUESTION

From the following list of activities and facilities which may or may not be presently available in NLSRA, check which ones you would like to see more of?

- A. ☐ snowmachining
- B. ☐ bike trails
- C. ☐ hike trails
- D. ☐ camping
- E. ☐ fishing
- F. ☐ hunting
- G. ☐ dog mushing
- H. ☐ picnic areas
- I. ☐ public cabins
- J. ☐ year-round sheltered group camp
- K. ☐ canoeing
- L. ☐ motorboating
- M. ☐ sightseeing/photography opportunities
- N. ☐ lodges/hotels/motels
- O. ☐ public shelters
- P. ☐ campground facilities
- Q. ☐ more organized activities (ranger talks, films, tours, etc.)
- R. ☐ access roads
- S. ☐ better publicity to attract visitors to area
- T. ☐ better signing at entrance
- U. ☐ better signing within NLSRA
- V. ☐ playgrounds
- W. ☐ open grassy areas
- X. ☐ observation viewpoints

Percent of responses in diminishing order

hike trails (C.) 64%
 fishing (E.) 46%
 canoeing (K.) 38%
 campground facilities (P.) 34%
 sightseeing/photography (M.) 29%
 camping (D.) 27%
 cabins (I.) 19%
 playgrounds (V.) 17%
 access roads (R.) 17%
 organized activities (Q.) 17%
 picnic areas (H.) 15%
 shelters (O.) 15%
 observation points (X.) 15%
 open grassy areas (W.) 14%
 better signing in NLSRA (U.) 14%
 snowmachining (A.) 13%
 bike trails (B.) 13%
 hunting (F.) 12%
 entrance signs (T.) 12%
 group camp (J.) 10%
 publicity (S.) 6%
 dog mushing (G.) 5%
 motorboating (L.) 3%

QUESTION

What activities or facilities that may or may not be presently available do you feel are inappropriate for NLSRA?

motorboats
 commercial establishments and concessions
 snowmobiles

Percent of responses in diminishing order

26%
 19%
 10%

more roads	9%
motorized vehicles	7%
hunting	5%
running water and other modernizations	4%
fishing (including stocking)	3%
float planes	2%
playgrounds	2%
advertising	2%
large group areas (includes "Crends")	2%
large wilderness areas	2%
public housing	1%
landscape modification	1%
trapping	1%

QUESTION

Please estimate the cost of your party's visit to the recreation area? (include transportation)

	Percent of responses
Less than \$25	20%
\$25 - 49	17%
\$50 - 74	23%
\$75 - 100	10%
More than \$100	3%
Average amount: \$51.49	

QUESTION

What do you like most about Nancy Lake State Recreation Area?

	Percent of responses in diminishing order
natural beauty/open space/quiet	63%
campgrounds	14%
easy access/convenient	11%
maintenance	6%
canoe trails	6%
trails	4%
wildlife	4%
variety	2%
fishing	1%
motorcycles	1%
snowmobiles	1%
Nancy Lake	1%
warm clear lakes	1%
ranger talks	1%

QUESTION

What do you like least about
Nancy Lake State Recreation Area?

overcrowding/overdeveloped/noisy
motorboats and planes
lack of firewood
maintenance
poor fishing
threat of more roads/development
not enough good trails
not enough water wells
poor access (summer/winter)
dogs
uneven campsite parking
mosquitoes
lack of lakefront campsites
no showers
underdevelopment
rain
boggy
no central area
too few bathrooms

Percent of responses in
diminishing order

10%
9%
9%
9%
9%
5%
5%
5%
3%
3%
3%
2%
2%
1%
1%
1%
1%
1%

QUESTION

Please rank, in order of personal
preference, what you feel is the
most appropriate development con-
cept for NLSRA.

- A. [] More intensive recreation de-
velopment to include access
roads, landscape modification,
public use cabins, camp-
grounds, visitor services,
group facilities and boating
facilities.
- B. [] Dispersed recreation devel-
opment and backcountry de-
velopment to include walk-in
campsites, trail system shel-
ters, and self-discovery areas.
- C. [] More primitive backcountry
use with limited services and
facilities.

percent of responses
high 2nd 3rd low
prior- priority
ity
9% 3% 5% 40%

34% 18% 14% 2%
17% 21% 15% 6%

D. ☐ Balance between intensive recreation development, dispersed recreation and primitive backcountry use.

30% 15% 17% 6%

QUESTION

Will you visit NLSRA again?

A. ☐ Yes

A. 99%

B. ☐ No

B. 0

Uncertain

C. 1%

QUESTION

Where is your permanent residence?

State _____

City _____

Percent of responses

Alaska Residents

81%

Municipality of Anchorage

8%

Mat-Su Borough

2%

Interior

1%

Southeast

3%

Kenai Peninsula

5%

Lower 48

100%

Note: The percentages represent parties, not individuals.

QUESTION

How many in your party? _____

Range:

2-6

Mean (average)

2.7

Mode (most frequent)

2

