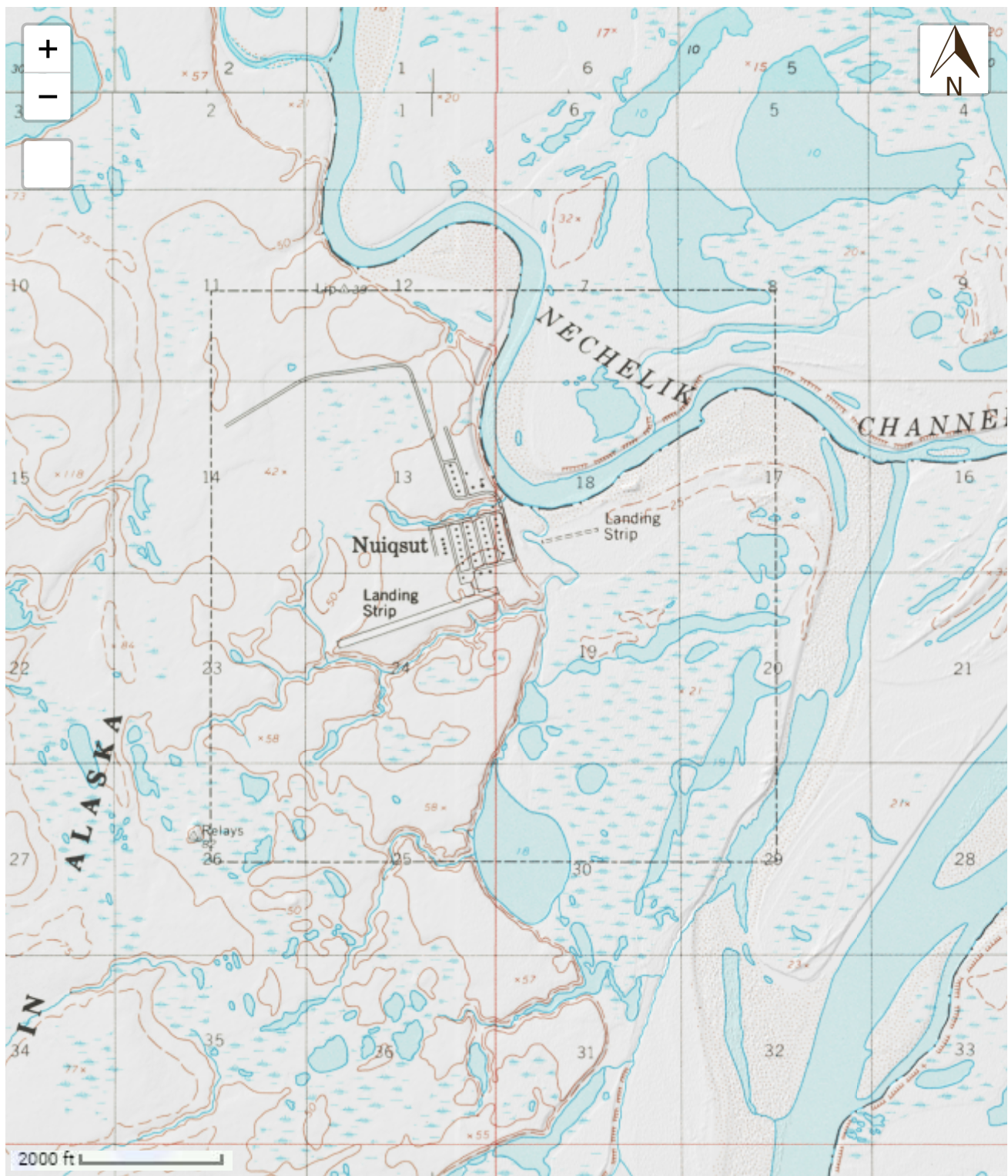


Nuiqsut Topo Map in North Slope County Alaska



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Map provided by TopoZone.com

Topographic Map Legend and Symbols

The **topographic maps** on TopoZone were created by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and have evolved for more than a century. Over time the maps became more detailed and new symbols were added for the different terrain, natural features, land boundaries, and man-made structures depicted by the surveyors. This legend is now a complex document that explains the subtleties within each category of features.

In general, these are the major color categories used on USGS topo maps.

- **Brown lines** – contours (note that intervals vary)
- **Black lines** – roads, railroads, trails, and boundaries
- **Blue areas** – streams and solid is for larger bodies of water
- **Pink or light gray areas** – cities and dense buildings (“built-up areas”)

RIVERS, LAKES, AND CANALS – *continued*

Perennial lake/pond	
Intermittent lake/pond	
Dry lake/pond	
Narrow wash	
Wide wash	

* USGS-USDA Forest Service Single-Edition Quadrangle maps only.

In August 1993, the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service signed an Interagency Agreement to begin a single-edition joint mapping program. This agreement established the coordination for producing and maintaining single-edition primary series topographic maps for quadrangles containing National Forest System lands. The joint mapping program eliminates duplication of effort by the agencies and results in a more frequent revision cycle for quadrangles containing National Forests. Maps are revised on the basis of jointly developed standards and contain normal features mapped by the USGS, as well as additional features required for efficient management of National Forest System lands. Single-edition maps look slightly different but meet the content, accuracy, and quality criteria of other USGS products.

BOUNDARIES

National	
State or territorial	
County or equivalent	
Civil township or equivalent	

Airport, paved landing strip, runway, taxiway, or apron	
Unpaved landing strip	

CONTOURS

Index	
Approximate or indefinite	
Intermediate	
Approximate or indefinite	
Supplementary	
Depression	

RIVERS, LAKES, AND CANALS

Perennial stream	
Perennial river	
Intermittent stream	
Intermittent river	
Disappearing stream	
Falls, small	
Falls, large	
Rapids, small	
Rapids, large	

SUBMERGED AREAS AND BOGS

Marsh or swamp	
Submerged marsh or swamp	
Wooded marsh or swamp	
Submerged wooded marsh or swamp	

** Provisional-Edition maps only.

Provisional-edition maps were established to expedite completion of the remaining large-scale topographic quadrangles of the conterminous United States. They contain essentially the same level of information as the standard series maps. This series can be easily recognized by the title “Provisional Edition” in the lower right-hand corner.

*** Topographic Bathymetric maps only.

Topographic Map Information

For more information about topographic maps produced by the USGS, please call:

1-888-ASK-USGS or visit us at <http://ask.usgs.gov/>