"The Michigan Land Economic Survey's activities are confined to (1) That portion of the forested area of the glaciated region that has a relatively low relief and embodies a confusing and intricate pattern of swamps, drainageways and water bodies, (2) on which the rectangular system of land survey has been laid down, (3) in which the human occupation has left its mark in the slash, burn and dense second growth that now occupies the site of present and former logging operations; in the islands, strips and mere spots of agricultural development; in the industrial development at mines, sawmills, quarries and power sites; and recreational development that ranges from the pretentious resorts on the attractive and accessible lakes to the isolated hunting and fishing cabins that are reached only by woodroads or foot trails, (4) a region possessing a few improved trunk-line highways connecting the principal cities and towns, and a limited mileage of good roads that extend to the margin of the farmed area to there fade into a network of used and abandoned logging railroads, woodroads and foot trails."

In areas of this character there are three recognized industries having a more or less direct relation to a soil survey (1) Agriculture, (2) Forestry, and (3) Recreational. The agriculturist is interested in the character and general distribution of soils suitable for production of crops and the farmer is concerned with the soils in each forty. The forester wants to know the relation between soils and tree growth in general and also in a particular portion of a particular forty. The recreationalist is asking whether the land bordering Thunder Lake in the N. E. of the N. E. of Section 16 is highland or swamp, suitable for a building site or not. Where the head of a certain stream is and how to get there. In other words accuracy is essential even in the remotest parts. A soil map, in this type of country should show, in addition to the soil areas and the usual base, the accurate location of lakes, streams, trails, isolated cabins, old lumber camp sites and any feature known by local name, for it is these things that are essential to many users of the map.