

25. D. L. BLISS STATE PARK

The D. L. Bliss State Park is located on the east shore of the lake just north of Emerald Bay off Highway 89. The park is operated by the California State Parks Department and is open for camping, swimming, and picnicking from Memorial Day to October.

D. L. Bliss is a large park with approximately two and a half miles of shoreline. Most of the developed recreation facilities are located in the northern third of the park; the rest of the park has remained in its natural condition. The majority of the park is covered with relatively dense forest which limits the views out. The shoreline provides good external views and a great deal of variety and visual interest, e.g., the sandy beaches, rocky cliffs, and sheltered coves along the lake's edge.

The main beach area is located at the northern tip of the park. Private residences line the shore just north of the beach. The wide sandy beach affords a sweeping view of the lake with the mountains of the east shore forming the backdrop. The view to the south is terminated by the rocky peninsula of Calawee Cove and the view to the north is terminated by the north shore of Rubicon Bay. The shoreline along Rubicon Bay reveals a great deal of residential development, especially on the sparsely vegetated slopes above the bay. Farther out toward the tip of the peninsula light-colored road-cuts zigzagging across the face of the slope are visible.

The southern portion of the park is reached via the Rubicon Trail which runs down the eastern side of the park close to the lake edge. This trail reveals a rugged shoreline with dramatic rock formations and high cliffs that provide elevated views of the lake. Views are primarily of the southern end and eastern shore of the lake, with only natural shoreline visible to the north and south. Most of the development visible from this trail is too distant to have much impact on the scenic quality.

A nature trail illustrating some of the elements that make up this landscape has been developed in the northwestern section of the park. Occasional glimpses of the hills to the west are visible from this trail. These hills are lightly covered with conifers and are not particularly distinctive in form. They lie within the Desolation Wilderness and therefore show no signs of human development or alteration.

D. L. Bliss State Park--Components

Views from the Recreation Area

- 25-1. Panoramic views of lake from Lester Beach (Photos #6-12).  
Rating: 14. Unity 4; Vividness 3; Variety 3; Intactness 4.
- 25-2. Panoramic view of lake from Rubicon Point (Photos #25-30).  
Rating: 19. Unity 4; Vividness 5; Variety 5; Intactness 5.

- 25-3. Panoramic view of lake from Calawee Cove (Photos #16-20).  
Rating: 16. Unity 4; Vividness 4; Variety 4; Intactness 4.

Natural Features of D. L. Bliss State Park

- 25-4. Lester Beach (Photos #6, 7, 12).  
Rating: 13. Unity 3; Vividness 3; Variety 3; Intactness 4.
- 25-5. Rocky peninsula at Calawee Cove (Photos #14, 16).  
Rating: 17. Unity 4; Vividness 4; Variety 4; Intactness 5.
- 25-6. Forest cover (Photos #13, 31).  
Rating: 14. Unity 3; Vividness 4; Variety 3; Intactness 4.
- 25-7. Rock formations (Photos #31, 32, 35).  
Rating: 17. Unity 3; Vividness 5; Variety 4; Intactness 5.

Man-Made Features of D. L. Bliss State Park

- 25-a. Parking areas (Photos #33).  
Rating: 15. Coherence 4; Condition 5; Compatibility 3; Design Quality 3.
- 25-b. Signage (Photos #34, 38).  
Rating: 18. Coherence 5; Condition 5; Compatibility 4; Design Quality 4.
- 25-c. Ranger's residence (Photo #38).  
Rating: 12. Coherence 3; Condition 3; Compatibility 3; Design Quality 3.

Summary:

D. L. Bliss State Park affords a highly scenic and well preserved natural environment from which to view the southern portion of the lake. Although the views of the lake are of high scenic value in themselves, the uniqueness of the area lies in the combination of these views and the natural features within the recreation area. The Rubicon Bay area north of the park is the only area close to the recreation area which shows significant deterioration of the natural landscape.





Elements That Contribute to the Scenic Quality of D. L. Bliss State Park

- A. Panoramic views of the lake from along the shore line.
- B. The wide sandy expanse of Lester Beach.
- C. The several small secluded beaches along the shoreline.
- D. The dramatic cliffs and rock outcroppings along the shore.
- E. The thick forest that encompasses the majority of the park.
- F. The mature specimen trees that attract attention by their size, their unique structure, or their isolated position.
- G. Distinctive rock formations such as Balancing Rock.

Elements That Detract from the Scenic Quality of D. L. Bliss State Park

- A. The development around Rubicon Bay stands out as the only alteration of the natural environment clearly visible from the park. The most heavily developed area is also the area with the least amount of tree cover, i.e., development has been located where it has the lowest chance of being visually absorbed. Consequently, this residential district stands out as distinctly different from the surrounding landscape. The structures are not well integrated into the landscape and the contrast in color and texture of the developed area with the natural landscape attracts the viewer's eye. In addition to the high visibility of the structures, the light-colored subgrade is highly evident where grading has been done. Not only does the light color boldly contrast with the dark green color of the vegetation, but the patterns created by the grading are obviously man-made and compete visually with the lines of the natural forms.
- B. The placement of the ranger's residence at the only major intersection in the park draws a disproportionate amount of attention to this facility. Although the residence does not have particularly negative visual characteristics, it does not possess the positive qualities which would justify its placement in such a focal position.

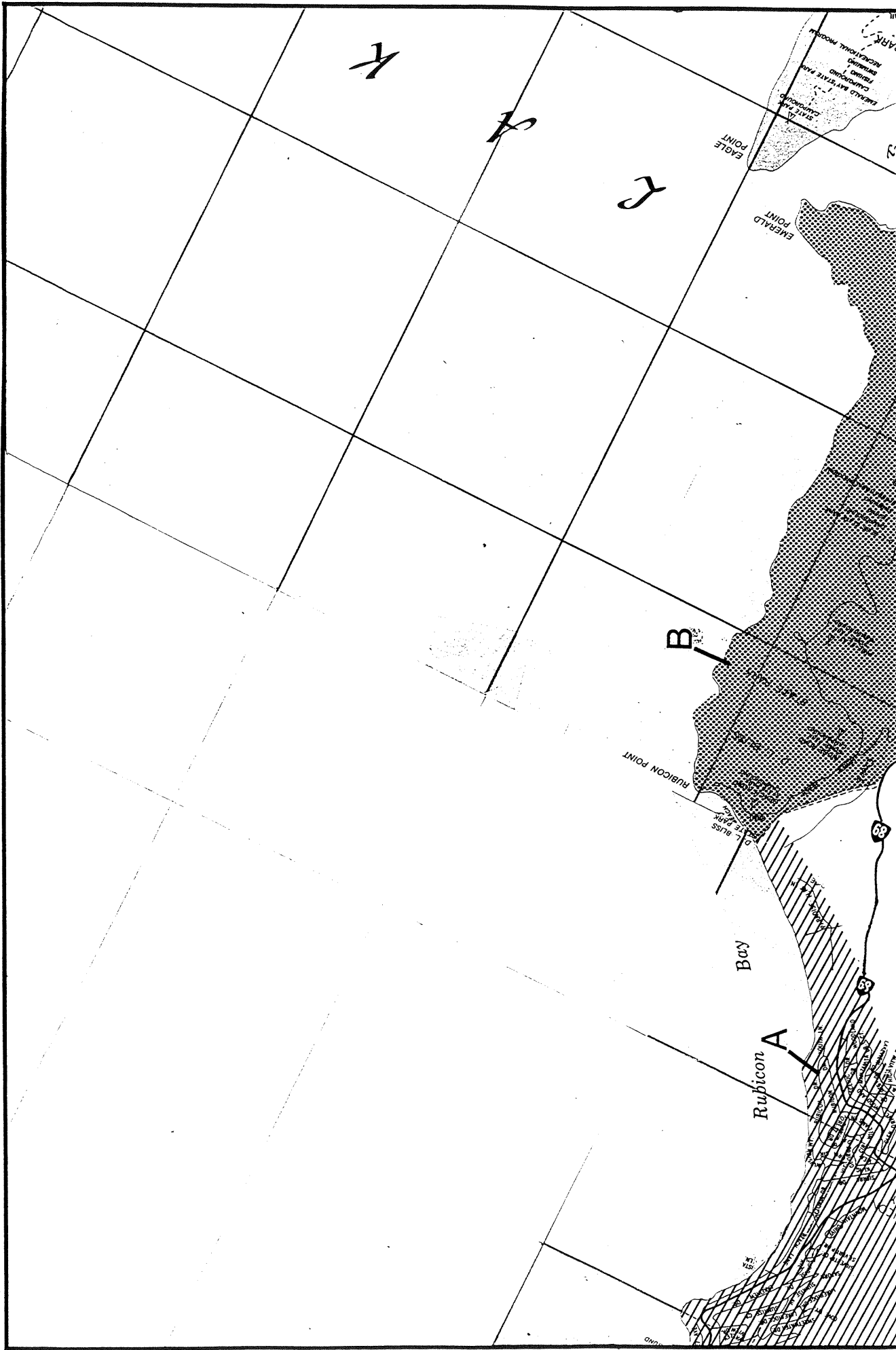
Recommendations for Preserving the Scenic Quality of D. L. Bliss State Park

- A. Rubicon Bay
  - 1. Exposed cut-banks along existing roadways should be revegetated to decrease the visual disruption caused by grading, as well as to reduce potential for erosion. New development should include a requirement to revegetate all slopes exposed by grading.
  - 2. Structures should not extend above the ridgeline. Tree removal for structures should not create gaps in the vegetation along the ridge top.

3. Existing trees should be preserved as a visual screen between structure(s) and major public use areas.
4. Structures should not be allowed to rise above the forest canopy.
5. Use of reflective building materials should be restricted and use of materials which blend into the surrounding landscape encouraged. Hues should fall within a range of natural colors that complements rather than contrasts with the existing vegetation and earth tones. Values should be equal to or darker than those of surrounding colors. The recommendations should apply to all visible surfaces of structures including roofs, siding, fences, etc.
6. Development should not be permitted where tree cover is too sparse to visually absorb new structures, road cuts, and other attendant improvements.
7. On the piers directly north of the beach, the addition of structures (i.e., boathouses) out over the lake which would obstruct views should not be permitted. (Photos #6, 7, 8, 22, 23)

B. D. L. Bliss State Park

1. Although the impact of the ranger's residence is not large enough to justify removal or remodeling, it should be recognized as a highly visible feature and made as attractive and as unobtrusive as possible. For instance, the corrugated metal roofing material could be replaced with one more compatible with the natural environment. (Photo #38)



NORTH

Figure 25b Visually Sensitive Areas

# D.L. BLISS STATE PARK

NOT TO SCALE



26. VIKINGSHOLM/EMERALD BAY PICNIC AREA

The Emerald Bay Picnic Area is located at the western end of Emerald Bay at Vikingsholm. There are facilities for picnicking and camping as well as tours of the historic Vikingsholm Castle. The recreation area is accessible by foot or boat. The automobile parking lot is approximately a mile up the hill in an area just off Highway 89.

The recreation area is very closed and visually limited. The viewshed is defined by the ridgeline that surrounds Emerald Bay, and allows only a brief glimpse of the lake and its far shore through the opening between Eagle and Emerald Points. The view is not as dramatic as the elevated prospect from Eagle Falls above; rather, it has a more placid, sheltered quality. The visual focus is along an east/west axis with Fannette Island and the narrow opening of the straits directing the eye to the east. The Vikingsholm Castle acts as the third element of this axis and also has strong visual appeal. The northern and southern slopes that frame the bay have less visual interest; they are forested slopes with fairly regular color and texture and no distinguishing natural features. The one feature that stands out boldly on the slopes is the large slide area southwest of the lake. Here the light colored, unvegetated subgrade creates a highly visible scar running vertically along the slope. The only signs of development visible from this area are recreation area amenities such as historic buildings, piers, and boats.

Vikingsholm/Emerald Bay Picnic Area--Components

Views from the Recreation Area

- 26-1. View from beach in front of Vikingsholm (Photos #2-7).  
Rating: 17. Unity 5; Vividness 4; Variety 4; Intactness 4.

Natural Features of Vikingsholm

- 26-2. Thick conifer woodland which engulfs Vikingsholm (Photos #2, 3, 7).  
Rating: 13. Unity 3; Vividness 3; Variety 3; Intactness 4.
- 26-3. Beach in front of Vikingsholm.  
Rating: 13. Unity 3; Vividness 3; Variety 3; Intactness 4.
- 26-4. Fannette Island (Photo #4).  
Rating: 17. Unity 4; Vividness 5; Variety 4; Intactness 4.

Man-Made Features of Vikingsholm

- 26-a. Vikingsholm Castle (Photos #8, 9).  
Rating: 17. Coherence 4; Condition 4; Compatibility 4; Design Quality 5.
- 26-b. Other structures in the area (i.e., cabins and storage).  
Rating: 11. Coherence 3; Condition 2; Compatibility 3; Design Quality 3.

Lake Tahoe Scenic Resource Evaluation  
26. Vikingsholm/Emerald Bay Picnic Area

26-c. Pier (Photo #2).

Rating: 12. Coherence 3; Condition 3; Compatibility 3; Design Quality 3.

26-d. Parking area just off Highway 89 (Photo #1).\*

Rating: 11. Coherence 2; Condition 4; Compatibility 2; Design Quality 3.

Summary:

Though not quite as dramatic as that from above, the view of Emerald Bay from Vikingsholm nevertheless presents a scenic landscape of very high quality. The cohesion and completeness of the well defined viewshed gives the enclosed bay a peaceful, sheltered character. Instead of detracting from the natural environment, the historic Vikingsholm adds a touch of visual interest to this quiet cove. Other structures do not add much scenically, but are sensitive to the surroundings and do not detract.

\* Change in resource since 1983.

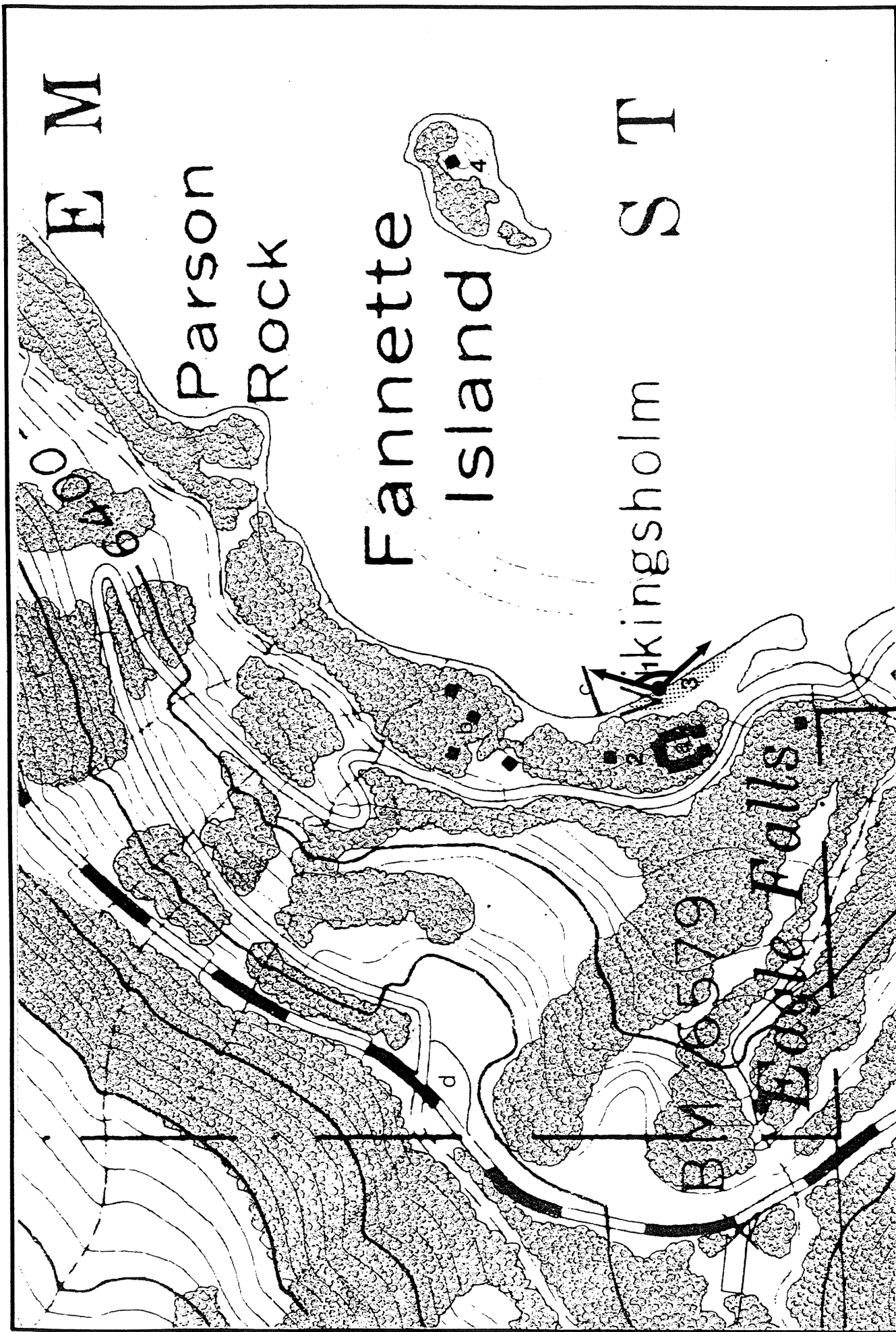


Figure 26a Scenic Resources

VIKINGSHOLM/EMERALD BAY

NORTH ↑

SCALE: 1"=400'



Elements That Contribute to the Scenic Quality of Vikingsholm

- A. Emerald Bay which stretches placidly in front of Vikingsholm Castle.
- B. The framed view of the lake and east shore at the east end of the bay.
- C. The historic Vikingsholm Castle.
- D. The forest-covered peninsulas which enclose the bay.
- E. Fannette Island and its fortress structure.
- F. The mature trees that tower over the Vikingsholm Castle.
- G. The small beach in front of Vikingsholm.

Elements That Detract from the Scenic Quality of Vikingsholm

- A. The portable restroom facilities contrast sharply to the permanence and quality represented by Vikingsholm Castle. They are, however, sited away from the Castle so their impact is minimal.
- B. The path which winds down from the parking area at the top of the hill is easily distinguishable and therefore detracts somewhat from the sense of a completely natural landscape.
- C. The large slide area on the slope southwest of Vikingsholm is scenically disruptive to the color, texture, and forms which predominate in the area.
- D. The parking area at the top of the hill is little more than a large open flat space. It has few positive aesthetic qualities, and when it is full of vehicles it creates a distracting contrast to the high scenic quality of the surrounding landscape. The demand appears often to exceed the available space, so that vehicles must be parked along the edges of the highway, extending their disruptive influence. However, the visual impact of the parking area affects only the entry to the recreation area and is not visible after one begins to descend the hill.

Recommendations for Preserving the Scenic Quality of Vikingsholm

- A. Emerald Bay
  - 1. In the absence of dramatic natural features, one of the characteristics which most contributes to the overall scenic quality of the area is the undisturbed natural condition of the bay. It is therefore important to preserve this natural character and to prohibit development within the Vikingsholm viewshed.

2. The problem of inadequate parking will be difficult to solve since space along the road is so limited. The general appearance of the parking area and its efficiency can be improved, however. The parking area should be redesigned to formalize circulation and parking patterns. Regrading and paving of the area would increase the number of spaces available and improve drainage.
3. The slide area southwest of Vikingsholm presents a difficult problem that will probably be mitigated only by nature in time. Revegetation of this slope is the only mitigation measure which might be recommended; however, the Forest Service has no plans for such action because of the steepness and instability of the slope and the cost of such a project.

B. Vikingsholm

1. Revegetation along the path leading down to Vikingsholm should be considered, specifically to decrease its visibility from points around Emerald Bay. This would include planting of cut-banks and drainage areas where vegetation is sparse.
2. The problem of inadequate parking will be difficult to solve since space along the road is so limited. The general appearance of the parking area and its efficiency can be improved, however. The parking area should be redesigned to formalize circulation and parking patterns. Regrading and paving of the area would increase the number of spaces available and improve drainage.
3. The function, condition, and compatibility with surrounding environment of structures within the recreation area should be evaluated. The buildings closest to the bay are empty and appear to be in disrepair. If these buildings have a function, their condition should be upgraded; if not, their removal should be considered. The portable restrooms should be replaced with a more permanent facility whose character is more in keeping with the natural and historical setting. (Photos #2-7)





## 27. EAGLE FALLS PICNIC AREA

The Eagle Falls picnic area is located on the west shore of the lake just off Highway 89 at the western tip of Emerald Bay. The picnic area is on the edge of the Desolation Wilderness area and is operated by the U.S. Forest Service. This recreation area has facilities for picnicking and sightseeing.

The recreation area consists of two parts. The main portion is on the west side of the highway and includes a parking lot, fire pits, picnic tables, and portable restroom facilities. The other part is the falls itself which is on the east side of the road. This is primarily a vista point to view the falls and to take in the scenic vista of Emerald Bay far below.

Each area has its own focus of attention. The picnic area focuses on the stream and on the towering rocky peaks that enclose it on three sides. Looking back to the east from the picnic area, one cannot actually see Emerald Bay. The views to the west from the picnic area are closed off by the tall peaks.

From the east side of the road the focus is to the east over Emerald Bay and beyond. The views from the falls are expansive and open. The only signs of development visible are the road, the improvements within the recreation area itself, and the castle structure on the small island below.

### Eagle Falls Picnic Area--Components

#### Views from the Recreation Area

- 27-1. View of Emerald Bay from top of falls (Photos #14, 15, 16).  
Rating: 19. Unity 5; Vividness 5; Variety 5; Intactness 4.
- 27-2. View to west from picnic area (Photos #4, 6, 3).  
Rating: 18. Unity 4; Vividness 5; Variety 5; Intactness 4.

#### Natural Features of the Recreation Area

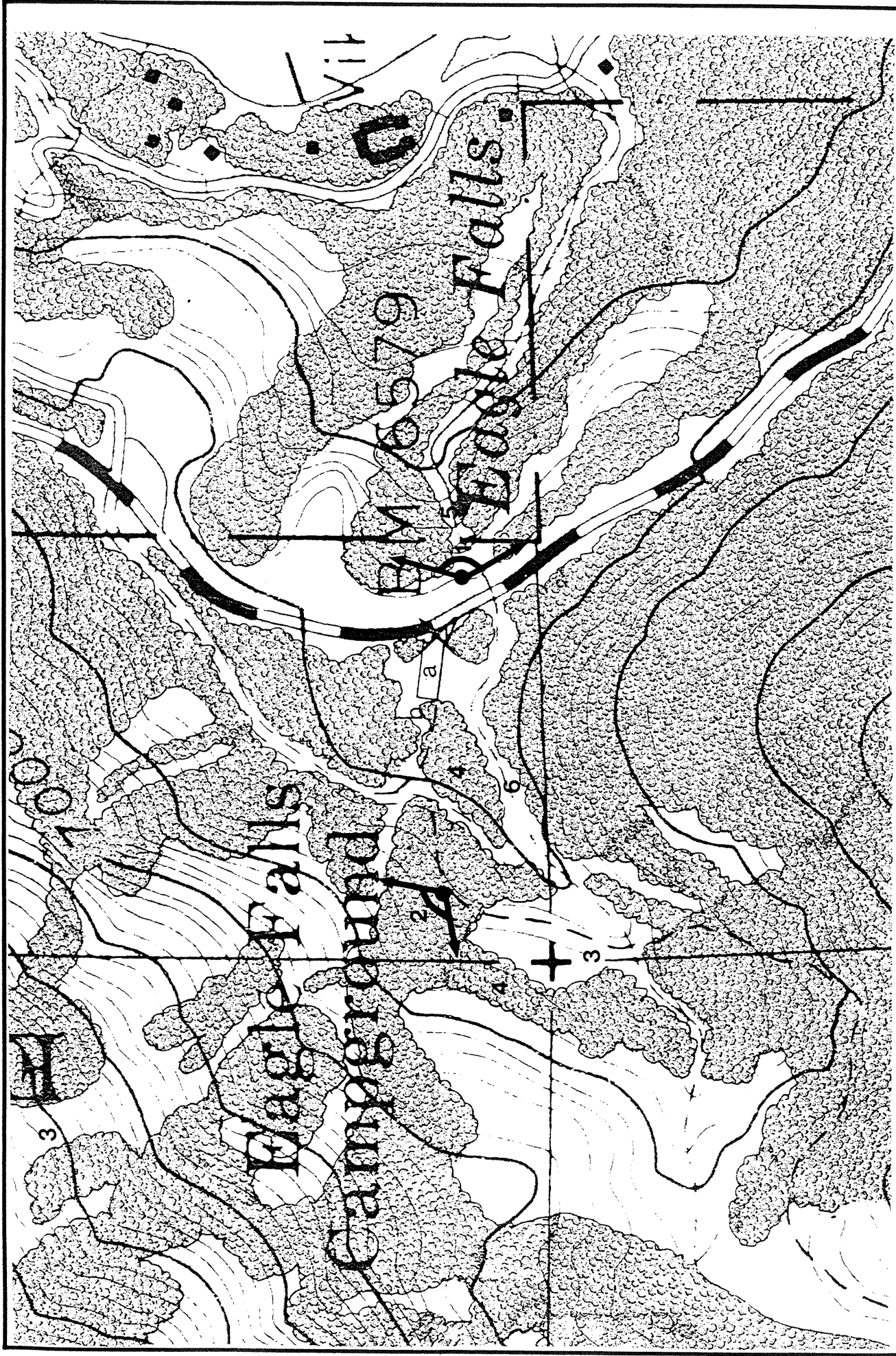
- 27-3. Rock formations both along the stream and along the peaks above (Photos #5, 8, 10, 13).  
Rating: 19. Unity 4; Vividness 5; Variety 5; Intactness 5.
- 27-4. Forest cover, including distinctive specimen trees (Photos #2, 12, 13).  
Rating: 16. Unity 3; Vividness 4; Variety 4; Intactness 5.
- 27-5. Eagle Falls (Photos #14, 17).  
Rating: 19. Unity 5; Vividness 5; Variety 5; Intactness 4.
- 27-6. The stream feeding Eagle Falls (Photos #7, 9, 11).  
Rating: 20. Unity 5; Vividness 5; Variety 5; Intactness 5.

Man-Made Features of Eagle Falls Picnic Area

- 27-a. Parking lot (Photos #1, 21).  
Rating: 13. Coherence 3; Condition 4; Compatibility 3; Design Quality 3.
- 27-b. Restrooms (Photo #19).  
Rating: 8. Coherence 2; Condition 3; Compatibility 2; Design Quality 1.

Summary:

The Eagle Falls picnic area has two distinctly different viewsheds that are both of extremely high scenic quality. Both possess an abundance of natural features that contribute to this overall quality. There is only a minimal amount of disturbance by man; those few visible manmade elements are needed to make these viewsheds available to the general public and create very little scenic degradation.



NORTH ↑

SCALE: 1"=400'

Figure 27a Scenic Resources

# EAGLE FALLS PICNIC AREA



Elements That Contribute to the Scenic Quality of Eagle Falls Picnic Area

- A. The dramatic rocky peaks that tower over the picnic area.
- B. The diverse and distinctive woodland vegetation.
- C. The turbulent stream.
- D. The gushing, white water of Eagle Falls as it descends the cliff.
- E. The bird's eye view of Emerald Bay with the lake and east shore forming the backdrop.
- F. Fannette Island with its picturesque fortress structure.

Elements That Detract from the Scenic Quality of the Eagle Falls Picnic Area

- A. Parking along the side of Highway 89 is distracting primarily as one approaches the area along the highway. From within the recreation area, the parked cars are much less visible. This is such a popular vista point that parking space is at a premium; to decrease it for visual purposes would thwart efforts to make the spectacular natural beauty of the area available to visitors.
- B. The portable restroom facilities stand out against the natural backdrop; however, their size and location create only temporary distraction.

Recommendations for Preserving the Scenic Quality of Eagle Falls Picnic Area

A. Area west of Highway 89

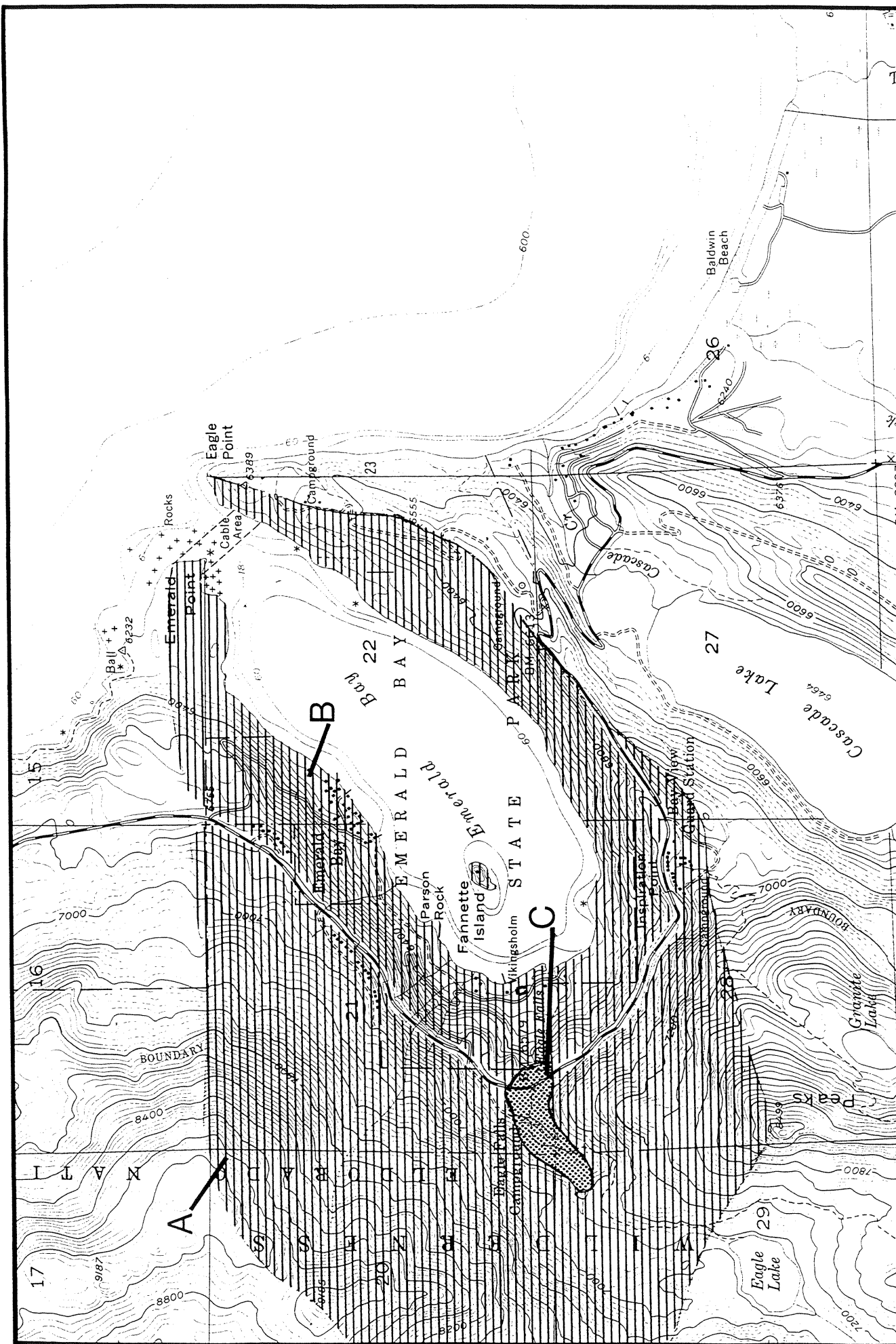
This area is already designated a wilderness area because of the quality and abundance of its natural features. To maintain this wilderness character, no development should be allowed. (Photos #1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 13)

B. Area east of Highway 89

The steep slopes that encompass Emerald Bay are predominantly natural in character. The few visible structures are quite isolated and they are usually state park facilities whose purpose is to enhance the enjoyment of the natural landscape. To preserve the pristine character, no new development should be allowed in this area. (Photos #14, 15, 16, 18, 20)

C. Eagle Falls Picnic Area

Permanent restroom facilities built with colors and materials that blend into the natural environment would cause less visual distraction than do the light green portable toilets. The facility should not become a focal point i.e., the existing toilets are situated at the end of the parking lot where the trail upstream begins. Visitors should not have to walk past the structure unless they want to use it. (Photo #19)



NORTH ↑

Figure 27b Visually Sensitive Areas  
EAGLE FALLS PICNIC AREA

SCALE: 1"=2000'



28. EAGLE POINT CAMPGROUND

Eagle Point Campground is located on the west shore of the lake about four miles north of the Visitor Center on the southern tip of Emerald Bay. The recreation area is operated by the California State Parks Department and is open for camping from mid-June to Labor Day.

The Eagle Point Campground is part of the larger Emerald Bay State Park. Eagle Point is surrounded on three sides by water and affords sweeping views of Emerald Bay and the southern portion of the lake. Since most of the campsites are below the ridgeline among tree cover, these views are accessible only from certain high points. The elevated position of the viewer and the sweeping panorama thus afforded contribute greatly to the distinctiveness of the viewshed. There are actually two distinct viewsheds from Eagle Point. To the east there is a sweeping panorama of the lake with the mountains of the east shore forming the background. This viewshed gains its uniqueness from its openness rather than from a series of distinctive features. The opposite is true of the Emerald Bay viewshed, which is visible from the northern side of the Eagle Point peninsula. Here the emerald green bay is hemmed in by tall, striking peaks which form a well-defined visual unit. In all directions only the most limited amount of human presence can be detected. The road that circumscribes the bay can be seen in various places and from Stateline around to Baldwin Beach areas of development can be made out, although not in detail. The ski slope clearings across the lake at Heavenly Valley are visible.

Eagle Point Campground--Components

Views from the Recreation Area

- 28-1. View from point looking east across lake (Photos #16-22).  
Rating: 19. Unity 5; Vividness 5; Variety 5; Intactness 4.
- 28-2. View from north side of Eagle Point looking west and north (Photos #1-3).  
Rating: 19. Unity 5; Vividness 5; Variety 5; Intactness 4.
- 28-3. View of Emerald Bay from beach area (Photos #10-14).  
Rating: 18. Unity 5; Vividness 4; Variety 4; Intactness 5.

Natural Features of Eagle Point

- 28-4. Forest (Photos #7, 8).  
Rating: 17. Unity 4; Vividness 4; Variety 5; Intactness 4.
- 28-5. Small beach along northern edge of point.  
Rating: 16. Unity 5; Vividness 3; Variety 3; Intactness 5.

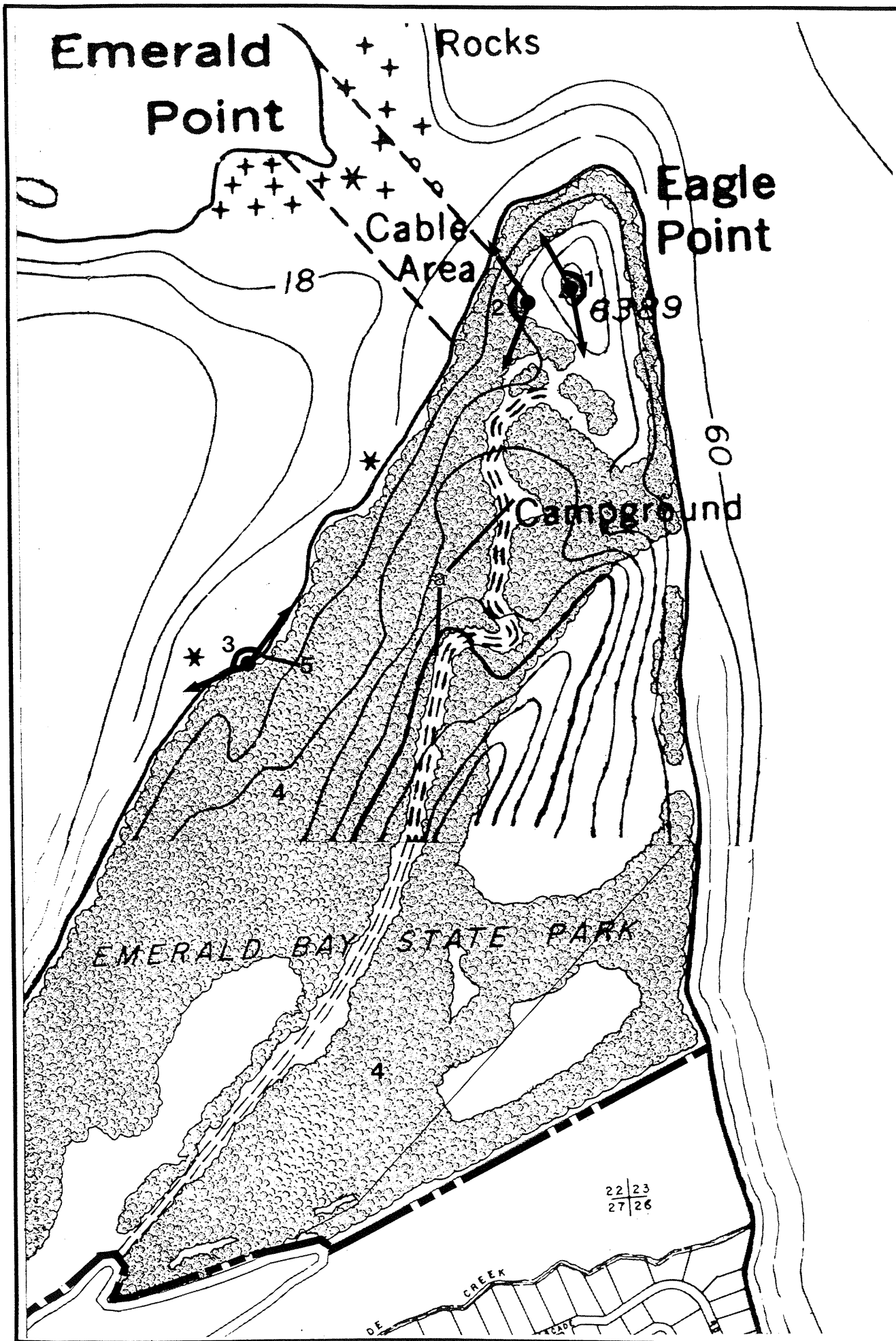
Man-Made Features of Eagle Point

28-a. Restroom facilities (Photo #9).

Rating: 14. Coherence 4; Condition 4; Compatibility 3; Design Quality 3.

Summary:

The Eagle Point Campground is located in one of the most scenic areas of the lake. Emerald Bay and the mountain peaks that surround it are unique scenic features not duplicated in other parts of the basin. The panoramic lake views, dramatic mountain peaks, and unspoiled forest lands combine to give the area a high scenic rating.



NORTH ↑

NOT TO SCALE

Figure 28a Scenic Resources

# EAGLE POINT CAMPGROUND



Elements That Contribute to the Scenic Quality of Eagle Point Campground

- A. The sweeping panorama of the lake.
- B. The rugged peaks that rise to the west of Eagle Point.
- C. The clear, green water of the enclosed Emerald Bay.
- D. The conifer forest and undergrowth that cover Eagle Point.
- E. The small beach on the north edge of the point.
- F. The small rocky isle at the west end of Emerald Bay.

Elements That Detract from the Scenic Quality of Eagle Point Campground

- A. The road cut along the north side of the bay is distracting in that it is the only visible evidence of human alteration of the landscape. The light-colored subgrade stands out against the green backdrop particularly where the road zig-zags across sparsely vegetated areas.
- B. Development along the south shore is visible from the point but distant. Only the metal-clad buildings at Camp Richardson, which stand out boldly as they reflect the sun, detract significantly from the grandeur of the view.
- C. The large slide area at the west end of Emerald Bay stands out as a large scar on the face of the mountain slope. This feature, although natural, is scenically disruptive to the color, texture, and forms which predominate in the area.

Recommendations for Preserving the Scenic Quality of Eagle Point Campground

A. Area to the north and west of Emerald Point

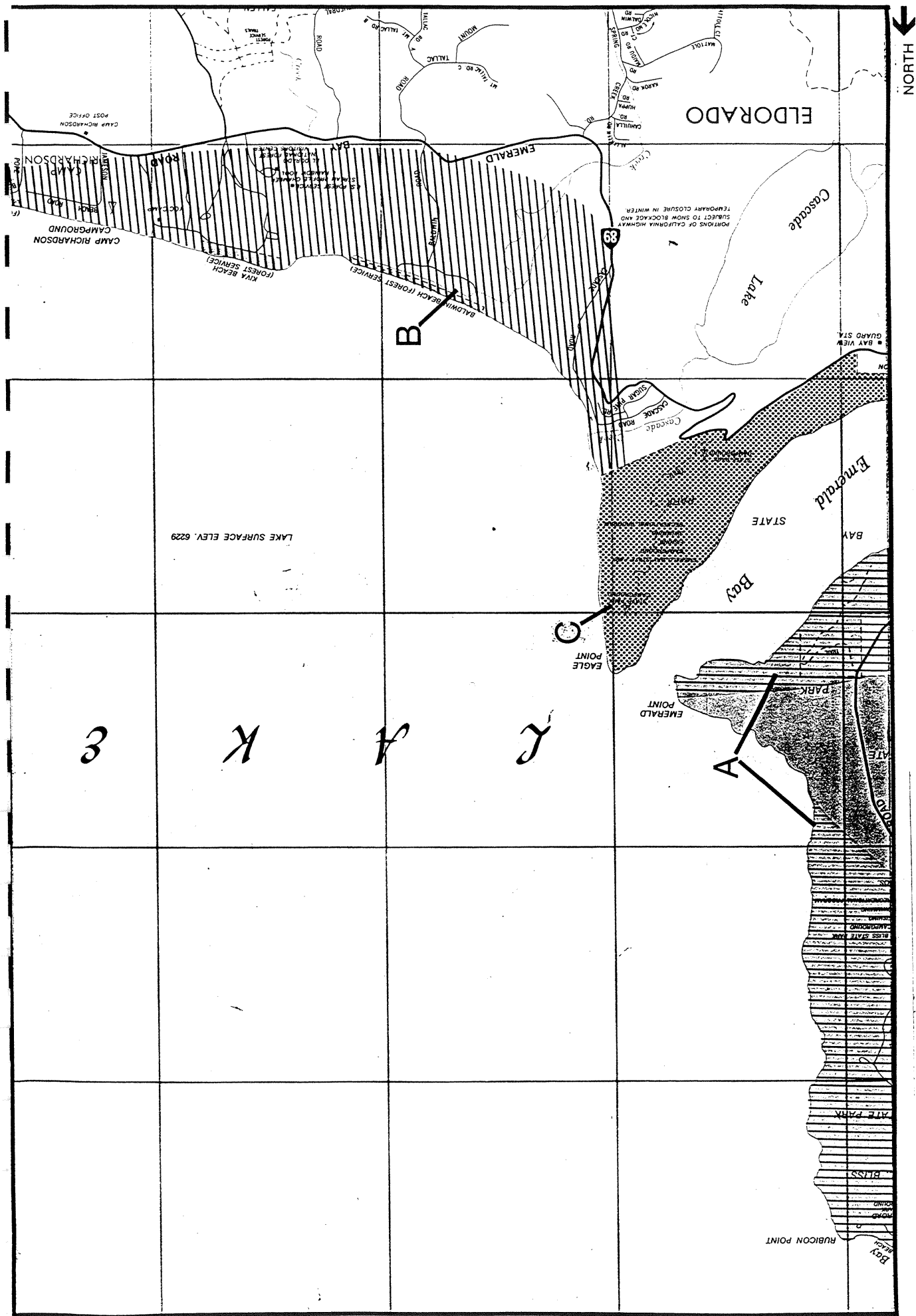
The character of this area is of undisturbed natural landscape, which, along with the numerous scenic features, contributes to the viewer's enjoyment. There are very few areas directly on the lake that have remained so close to their natural condition and development in this area would greatly compromise its natural, undisturbed character. It should be considered a unique viewshed and preserved as such. (Photos #1-6, 21, 22)

B. South shore of the lake

This area is distant enough from the recreation area so that most development will not have an impact upon the scenic quality. However, the use of reflective materials, which can create visual distractions even at this distance should be restricted. In areas such as Camp Richardson materials which are more complementary to the natural environment could replace those currently in use. (Photos #16, 17)

C. Eagle Point Campground

The campground is well designed and creates very little visual disruption of the natural environment. The siting and overall design treatment of the restroom structures might be improved to enable them to blend into their natural surroundings more effectively. The light color value of the structures, while complementary in hue, makes the buildings stand out against the darker back-drop rather than recede into it. Also, the siting of these structures in open areas away from major vegetation has the similar effect of making the buildings more evident than necessary. (Photos #7, 8, 9)



### Figure 28b Visually Sensitive Areas

# EAGLE POINT CAMPGROUND

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## 29. FALLEN LEAF LAKE CAMPGROUND

Fallen Leaf Lake Campground is located at the north end of Fallen Leaf Lake off Highway 89. The campground is operated by the U.S. Forest Service and is open for camping, fishing, swimming, and biking from the end of May to the middle of October.

Dense conifer woodland surrounding the campground gives the area a very enclosed feeling and restricts viewing distances. No significant viewsheds are visible from within the campground area itself; however, from lakeside, where the forest no longer obstructs the views, there are spectacular views.

From the north end of the lake there is an unobstructed view of Fallen Leaf Lake and the surrounding mountains. A rugged set of peaks, of which Mt. Tallac is the most dramatic and distinctive, towers over the lake along its west side. As they descend, the rocky peaks change to rolling grass covered slopes and then become dense forest as they reach the shore. At the far end of the lake Angora Peak rises abruptly, forming a distinctive visual terminus. The east side of the lake, which is much less dramatic in its contours, is lined with very low, gently sloping hills that are densely and evenly covered forest land. The easily identifiable, rounded form of Tahoe Mountain helps define the north end of the lake.

The lake appears to be substantially in its natural, undisturbed state. Closer inspection of the south end of the lake shows various structures along the shoreline, which, although too distant to attract much attention, are visible primarily because of their reflective metal roofs. The other significant visible feature is a large vertical scar on the slope directly above the heaviest concentration of development. From this distance the lighter colored earth, which is revealed where trees have been removed, stands out against the dark green forest cover. From this distance the cause of the scar cannot be determined.

### Fallen Leaf Lake--Components

#### Views from the Recreation Area

- 29-1. View from the dam looking south (Photos #5-7).  
Rating: 18. Unity 5; Vividness 4; Variety 4; Intactness 5.
- 29-2. View from north end of lake (Photos #8-12).  
Rating: 19. Unity 5; Vividness 5; Variety 5; Intactness 4.

#### Natural Features of Fallen Leaf Lake Campground

- 29-3. Fallen Leaf Lake (Photos #8-12).  
Rating: 19. Unity 5; Vividness 5; Variety 5; Intactness 4.
- 29-4. Taylor Creek (Photos #1, 2).  
Rating: 19. Unity 4; Vividness 5; Variety 5; Intactness 5.

Lake Tahoe Scenic Resource Evaluation  
29. Fallen Leaf Lake Campground

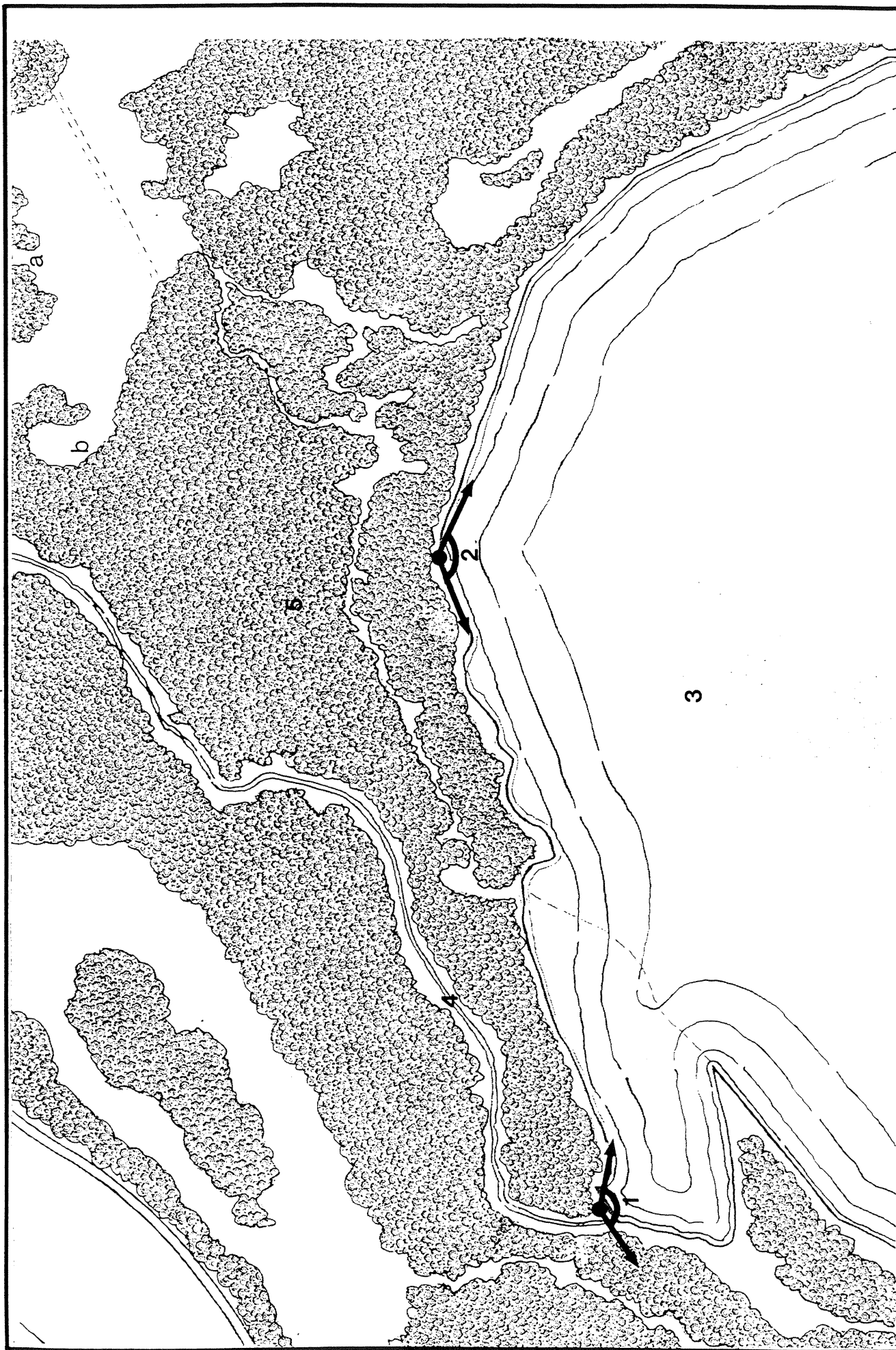
- 29-5. Forest cover (Photos #13, 15, 6, 7).  
Rating: 18. Unity 4; Vividness 5; Variety 5; Intactness 4.

Man-Made Features of Fallen Leaf Lake Campground

- 29-a. Restroom facilities (Photo #14).  
Rating: 16. Coherence 4; Condition 4; Compatibility 4; Design Quality 4.
- 29-b. Parking.  
Rating: 16. Coherence 4; Condition 4; Compatibility 5; Design Quality 3.

Summary:

The north edge of Fallen Leaf Lake provides a viewshed of very high scenic value. The landscape is diverse, dramatic, undisturbed, and of a more intimate scale than many of the viewsheds associated with Lake Tahoe. Evidence of human presence does not play a significant role in determining the scenic quality of the lake viewshed.



NORTH ↑

SCALE: 1"=400'

Figure 29a Scenic Resources

## FALLEN LEAF LAKE CAMPGROUND



Elements That Contribute to the Scenic Quality of Fallen Leaf Lake Campground

- A. Fallen Leaf Lake and its serene, reflective surface.
- B. The rugged, rocky peaks that enclose the west side of the lake.
- C. The enclosed cove near the dam at the northwest end of the lake.
- D. The diversity of vegetation and its distribution, especially along the west side of the lake.
- E. Taylor Creek, which spills out of the lake and runs adjacent to the campground.
- F. The forest cover that encloses the campgrounds.
- G. The distinctive Mt. Tallac.
- H. The dense forest that covers the slopes east of the lake.

Elements That Detract from the Scenic Quality of Fallen Leaf Lake Campground

- A. The development at the south end of the lake which diminishes the sense of pristine natural landscape. These structures are most evident when they have light colored or reflective roofs and/or have been built directly on the shoreline beyond the protection of forest cover.
- B. The denuded scar that runs up the face of the slope at the south end of the lake attracts the viewer's attention both because of its scale and its contrast in color with the surrounding landscape.

Recommendations for Preserving the Scenic Quality of Fallen Leaf Lake Campground

- A. Fallen Leaf Lake east and south shore
  - 1. The lake's basin presents a relatively natural appearing landscape which contributes to the overall scenic quality. It is therefore important to protect not only specific features within the basin, but also the overall undisturbed character. New development should not be visible from the campground.
  - 2. Structures should not extend above the ridgeline. Tree removal for structures should not create gaps in the vegetation along the ridge top.
  - 3. Existing trees should be used as a visual screen between structure(s) and major public use areas, especially along the shoreline. Structures should be set back at least beyond the first line of trees from the lake's edge.

4. Structures should not be allowed to rise above the forest canopy.
5. Use of reflective building materials should be restricted and use of materials which blend into the surrounding landscape encouraged. The color hues should fall within a range of natural colors that complements rather than contrasts with the existing vegetation and earth tones. Values should be equal to or darker than those of surrounding colors. The recommendations should apply to all visible surfaces of structures including roofs, siding, fences, etc.
6. All exposed cut-banks resulting from new development should be revegetated to decrease the visual disruption caused by grading and to reduce the potential for erosion. (Photos #5, 10, 11, 12)

B. West shore of Fallen Leaf Lake

The west shore landscape is a scenic resource of high value and is in a pristine natural condition, a combination which creates an extremely high scenic value that should not be lost or compromised by development. New development or changes which increase the visibility of existing development should not be visible from the campground. (Photos #7, 8, 9)

C. Fallen Leaf Lake Campground

The campground is in good condition and no improvements to the scenic quality of the recreation area are necessary. (Photos #3, 13, 15)

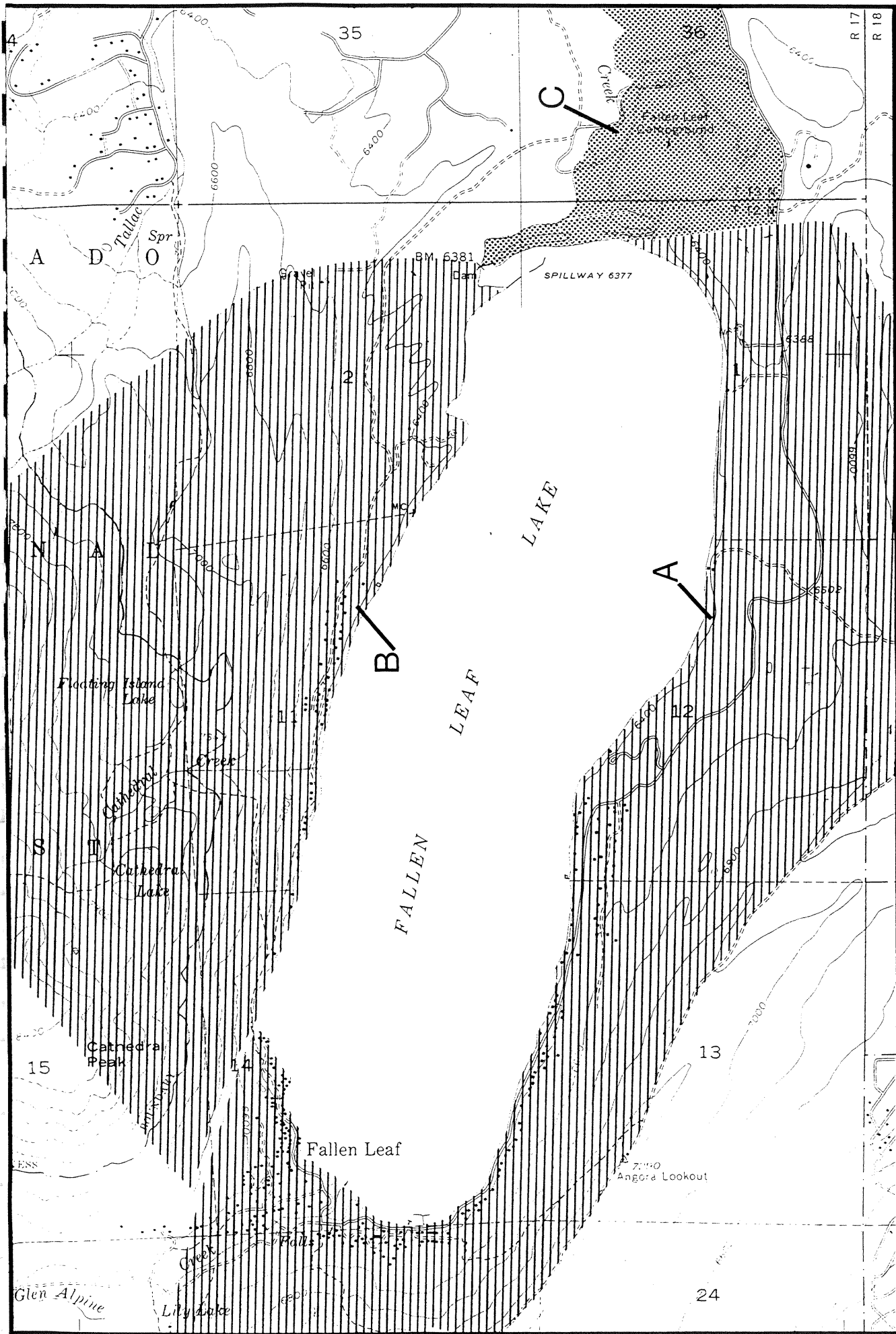


Figure 29b Visually Sensitive Areas

# FALLEN LEAF LAKE CAMPGROUND



### 30. BALDWIN BEACH

Baldwin Beach is located at the south end of the lake just north of the Visitor's Center off Highway 89. The recreation area is owned and operated by the U.S. Forest Service, and is open for swimming and picnicking from late spring to early fall.

Baldwin Beach is the westernmost portion of a group of recreation areas which are collectively referred to as the Pope-Baldwin Recreation Area. Entry to the area is by a long drive that passes through low scrub vegetation and scattered pine trees. Just before the beach, the pines become denser, forming an enclosure for the recreation area. The entry drive divides just before the beach; one fork runs parallel to the beach and the other ends in a parking area. A marsh between the entry drive and the beach forms a transition area between the pine forest and the beach. The beach itself is a very long, flat stretch of sand.

Due to the setback of the pine forest beyond the marsh area, there is an open vista of at least 270 degrees from the beach. To the south and west dramatic mountain peaks (Mt. Tallac, Maggie's Peaks, and Phipps Peaks) form the backdrop, while the middle ground consists of the forested ridge of Eagle Point. To the south, the foreground consists of marsh or meadowland. To the north the view is of the distant shore across the length of the lake. The panorama continues down the east shore of the lake and terminates in the slopes of Monument Peak and Freel Peak. The heavily forested Tallac Point curves around to form the middle ground, and the beach and area around the mouth of Taylor Creek form the foreground. The overall character of the viewshed is of undisturbed natural landscape. The only development near enough to affect the visual character of the area is the road cut along Eagle Point and the few residences which are visible along the shoreline below it.

#### Baldwin Beach--Components

##### Views from the Recreation Area

- 30-1. View from parking lot looking west (Photo #4).  
Rating: 17 Unity 4; Vividness 5; Variety 5; Intactness 3.
- 30-2. Panorama of the lake from mid-beach (Photos #22-26).  
Rating: 15 Unity 4; Vividness 4; Variety 4; Intactness 3.
- 30-3. Panorama of the lake from the west end of beach (Photos #27-35).  
Rating: 14 Unity 4; Vividness 4; Variety 4; Intactness 2.

##### Natural Features of Baldwin Beach

- 30-4. The stand of conifer forest which backs the beach (Photos #7, 25, 26).  
Rating: 14 Unity 3; Vividness 4; Variety 3; Intactness 4.
- 30-5. The marsh which parallels the beach (Photos #4, 21, 37).  
Rating: 17 Unity 5; Vividness 4; Variety 4; Intactness 4.

- 30-6. The long sandy beach (Photos #22, 24, 35).  
Rating: 14 Unity 4; Vividness 3; Variety 3; Intactness 4.

Man-Made Features of Baldwin Beach

- 30-a. The two parking areas (Photos #2, 27, 28).  
Rating: 11 Coherence 3; Condition 4; Compatibility 2; Design Quality 2.
- 30-b. Pump station structure near entrance (Photos #3).  
Rating: 13 Coherence 3; Condition 4; Compatibility 3; Design Quality 3.
- 30-c. Restroom facilities (Photos #6, 27).  
Rating: 15 Coherence 3; Condition 4; Compatibility 4; Design Quality 4.
- 30-d. Signage (Photos #1, 5).  
Rating: 12 Coherence 2; Condition 4; Compatibility 3; Design Quality 3.
- 30-e. Entry treatment (Photos #1).  
Rating: 12 Coherence 3; Condition 4; Compatibility 3; Design Quality 2.

Summary:

Baldwin Beach has two features which distinguish it from other beach areas. The first, and of primary importance to the scenic character of the area, is the proximity of the mountain peaks to the south and west. The unobstructed views of these dramatic peaks are of very high scenic value. The other distinctive feature of the recreation area is the marsh area. While not so dramatic as the mountain peaks, it gains a high scenic rating from its uniqueness and the contrasts it creates with the surrounding landscape elements. Although the man-made elements within the viewshed detract from the scenic quality, there are so few of them that their impact is minimal.

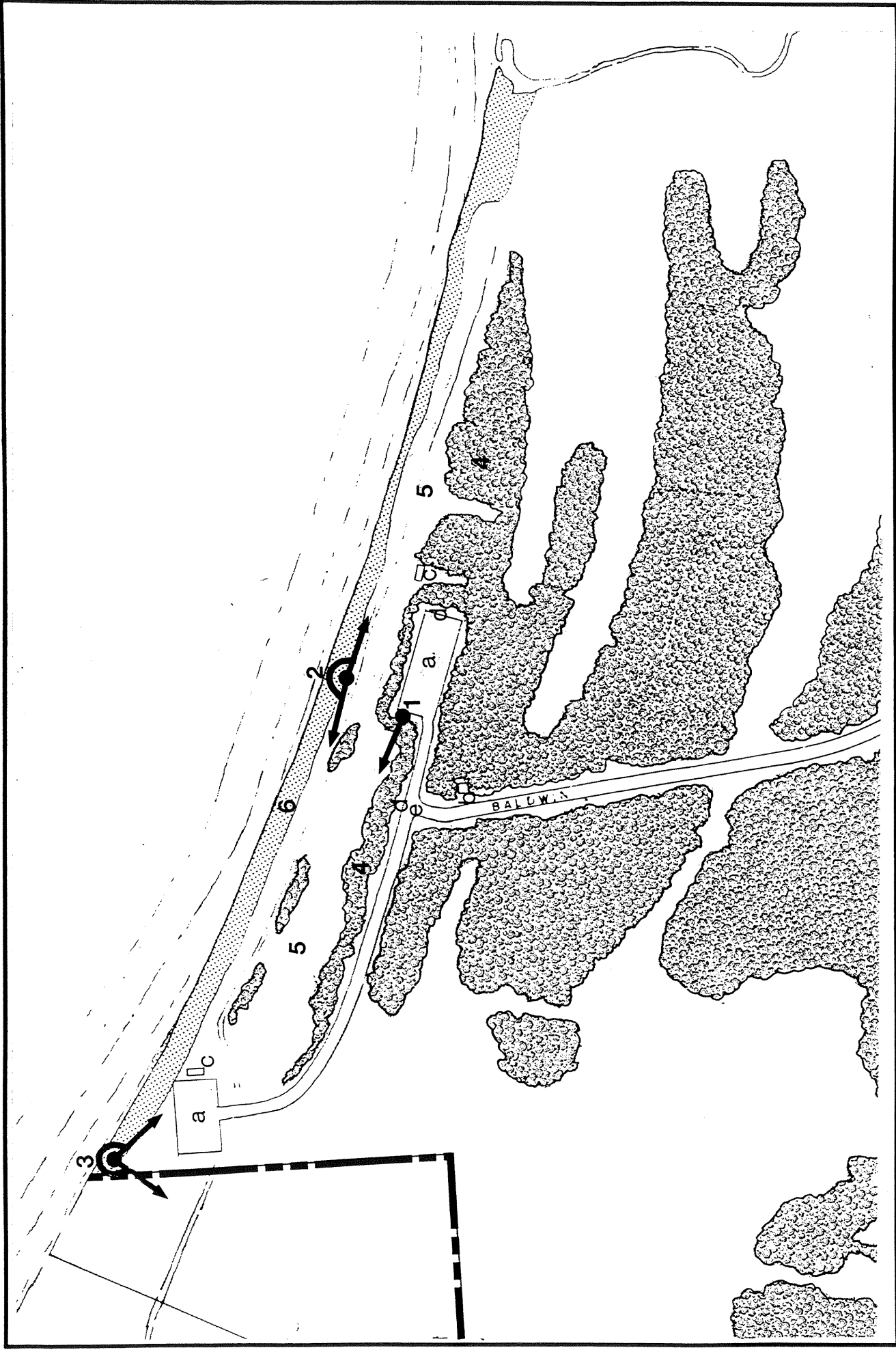


Figure 30a Scenic Resources

# BALDWIN BEACH

NORTH ↑

SCALE: 1"=400'



Elements That Contribute to the Scenic Quality of Baldwin Beach

- A. Panoramic view of lake and distant shoreline.
- B. The rugged mountain peaks that rise to the south and west of beach.
- C. Long expanse of sandy beach.
- D. The wetland/marsh that forms a buffer between beach and forest and sets up distinctive visual contrasts with the surrounding landscape.
- E. The conifer forest which encloses the recreation area to the south and contains some visually distinctive specimen trees.
- F. The sense of definition provided by the two forested points at the ends of the recreation area (Tallac Point to the east and Eagle Point to the west).

Elements That Detract from the Scenic Quality of Baldwin Beach

- A. The road-cut for Highway 89 is visible along Eagle Point as the light-colored substrate stands out against the dark forest background. The eye is also distracted by reflections off cars as they travel along this route.
- B. The houses, piers, and boathouses along the shoreline of Eagle Point stand out as the only visible development in the vicinity and detract from the undisturbed natural condition of the area.
- C. The parking lot which serves the west end of the beach has been sited adjacent to the beach with no buffer or screening, making the presence of automobiles strongly felt by beach goers.
- D. The parking lot at the east end of the beach is well screened from the beach area, but the large undivided expanse of asphalt paving contrasts sharply with the surrounding environment and creates a poor visual image from the entry of the recreation area.

Recommendations for Preserving the Scenic Quality of Baldwin Beach

A. Eagle Point Peninsula and mountain backdrop

1. Eagle Point forms the middle ground between the public recreation area and the highly scenic mountain peaks to the west. Since decline in the visual quality of this ridge will adversely affect the scenic quality of the entire viewshed, development should be strictly regulated.
2. The rugged mountain peaks to the west of Eagle Point are unique scenic resources and should be preserved in their natural state.
3. The visual impact of piers, boathouses, and other structures built out over the water is difficult to mitigate. In this area they stand out as the most visible disturbance of the natural environment. Additional structures of this type should not be permitted along the Eagle Point shoreline.
4. Structures should not extend above the ridgeline. Tree removal for structures should not create gaps in the vegetation along the ridgetop.
5. Existing trees should be preserved as a visual screen between structure(s) and public use areas.
6. Structures should not be allowed to rise above the forest canopy.
7. Use of reflective building materials should be restricted and use of materials which blend into the surrounding landscape encouraged. The color hues should fall within a range of natural colors that complements rather than contrasts with the existing vegetation and earth tones. Values should be equal to or darker than those of surrounding colors. The recommendations should apply to all visible surfaces of structures including roofs, siding, fences, etc.  
(Photos #23-26, 28-31)

B. Wetlands/meadow adjacent to Baldwin Beach to the south and west

This low lying meadow/wetland area is intimately tied to the scenic character of the area and does not possess the capability to visually absorb development. For these reasons, additional structures, roads and parking should be sited so that they would not be visible from the beach.  
(Photos #29, 30, 36)

C. Adjacent Forest Service lands to the south and east

These areas currently appear to be pristine forest lands and freshwater marsh. Any new structures or improvements in this area should be sited so that they would not be visible from the beach. (Photos #22, 35)

D. Baldwin Beach

1. The parking lot on the west end of the beach should be screened to lessen the visual impact on beachgoers. A hedgerow of dense growing, four to six-foot shrubs would significantly improve the condition while not blocking views of Mt. Tallac. (Photo #2)
2. The parking lot on the east end of the beach should be redesigned to reduce the monolithic quality of the paved surface. Adding parking islands with landscaping would visually reduce the scale of the lot. (Photos #27, 28)

Lake Tahoe Scenic Resource Evaluation  
30. Baldwin Beach

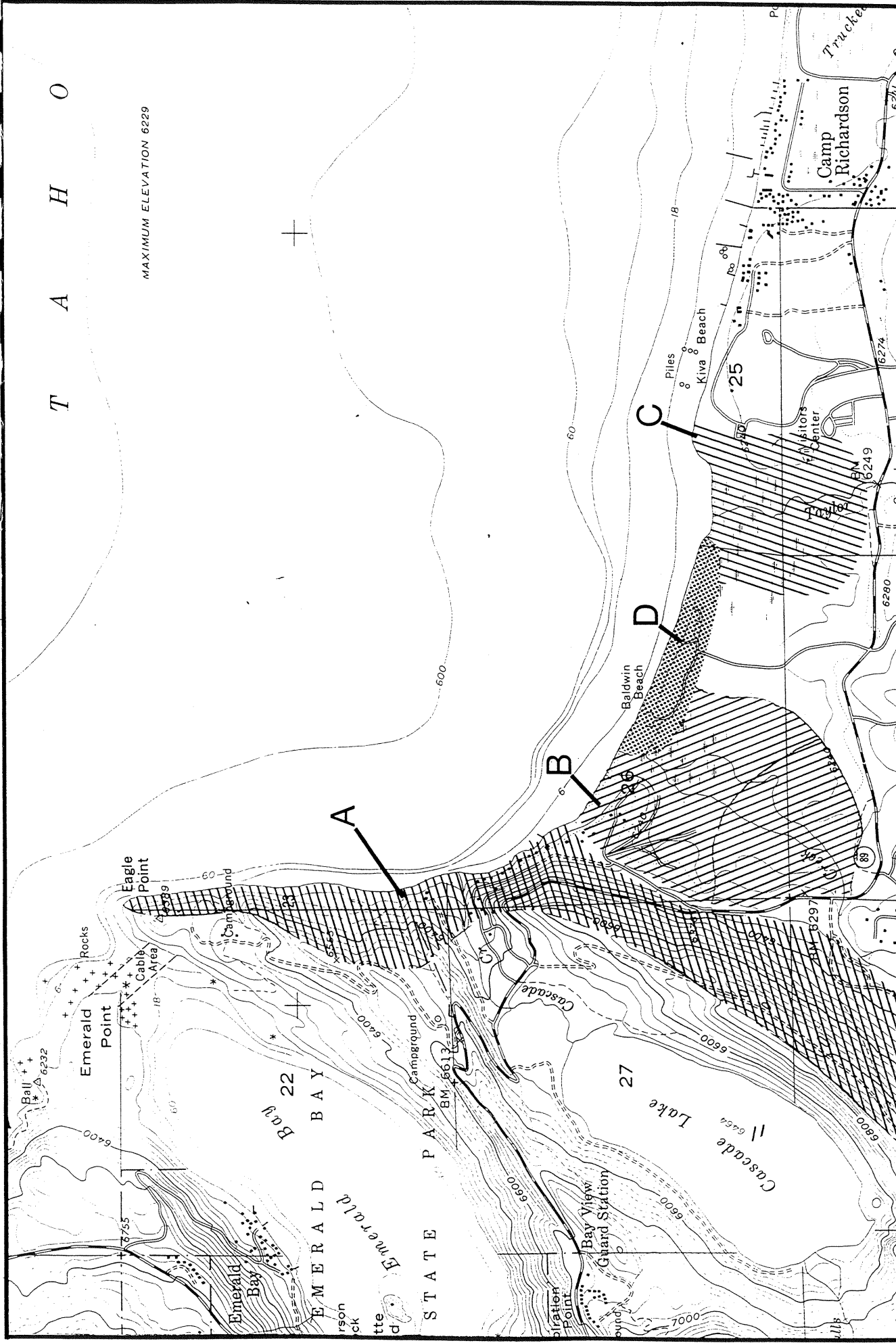


Figure 30b Visually Sensitive Areas  
BALDWIN BEACH

NORTH ↑

SCALE: 1"=2000'



### 31. TAYLOR CREEK

Taylor Creek is located on the south shore of the lake just east of Baldwin Beach. The beach is at the mouth of the creek and is accessible by trail from the Forest Service Visitor Center. The recreation area is operated by the U.S. Forest Service and is a natural beach area with no man-made facilities.

Taylor Creek Beach lies in a bend in the shoreline between Taylor Creek and Tallac Point. The beach itself is a small, well-defined pocket of sand. To the west its boundary is formed by Taylor Creek and the reeds of Taylor Creek Marsh along the back edge. The eastern edge is delineated by Tallac Point and a dense forest cover. Because of this forested edge to the east, views are directed to the north across the lake and to the west and south across the creek and marsh. This beach affords one of the few viewsheds in which there are elements strong enough to significantly challenge the dominance of the lake view. These elements are the string of mountain peaks which lie to the west, beginning with Tallac in the south and ending with Rubicon Peak in the north. This set of peaks provides a dramatic backdrop, particularly from the beach with the lush green marsh in the foreground, distinctive peaks and rocky slopes in the background. The view of the lake is much less dramatic because the orientation of the beach does not allow a very broad view and the shoreline is almost all on the north shore across the length of the lake. Very little disturbance of the natural landscape is visible from the recreation area. Along the eastern slope of Eagle Point a handful of residences and the light-colored road-cut across its face are visible. To the south of the beach the back of the Visitor's Center amphitheater is visible, though the overall sense is one of a pristine natural landscape.

#### Taylor Creek Beach--Components

##### Views from the Recreation Area

- 31-1. Panorama from the mouth of Taylor Creek (Photos #9-19).  
Rating: 19 Unity 4; Vividness 5; Variety 5; Intactness 5.
- 31-2. Panorama looking west from Tallac Point (Photos #21-25).  
Rating: 19 Unity 5; Vividness 5; Variety 5; Intactness 4.

##### Natural Features of Taylor Creek Beach

- 31-3. The small sandy beach (Photos #9-11).  
Rating: 15 Unity 4; Vividness 3; Variety 3; Intactness 5.
- 31-4. The marsh/creek that backs the beach (Photos #9-14).  
Rating: 16 Unity 5; Vividness 4; Variety 2; Intactness 5.
- 31-5. The dense forest on Tallac Point (Photos #9-11).  
Rating: 16 Unity 4; Vividness 4; Variety 3; Intactness 5.

##### Man-Made Features of Taylor Creek Beach

- 31-a. No improvements have been made to the beach.

Summary:

Taylor Creek Beach is a pristine natural beach area that possesses not only lake views but also spectacular mountain scenery. The open marsh area allows unobstructed views of these peaks and provides a pleasant visual contrast to the forest vegetation which surrounds it. Taylor Creek also provides visual interest as a unique natural feature not often seen in the basin. These positive scenic qualities combined with the absence of nearby development account for the area's high scenic quality.

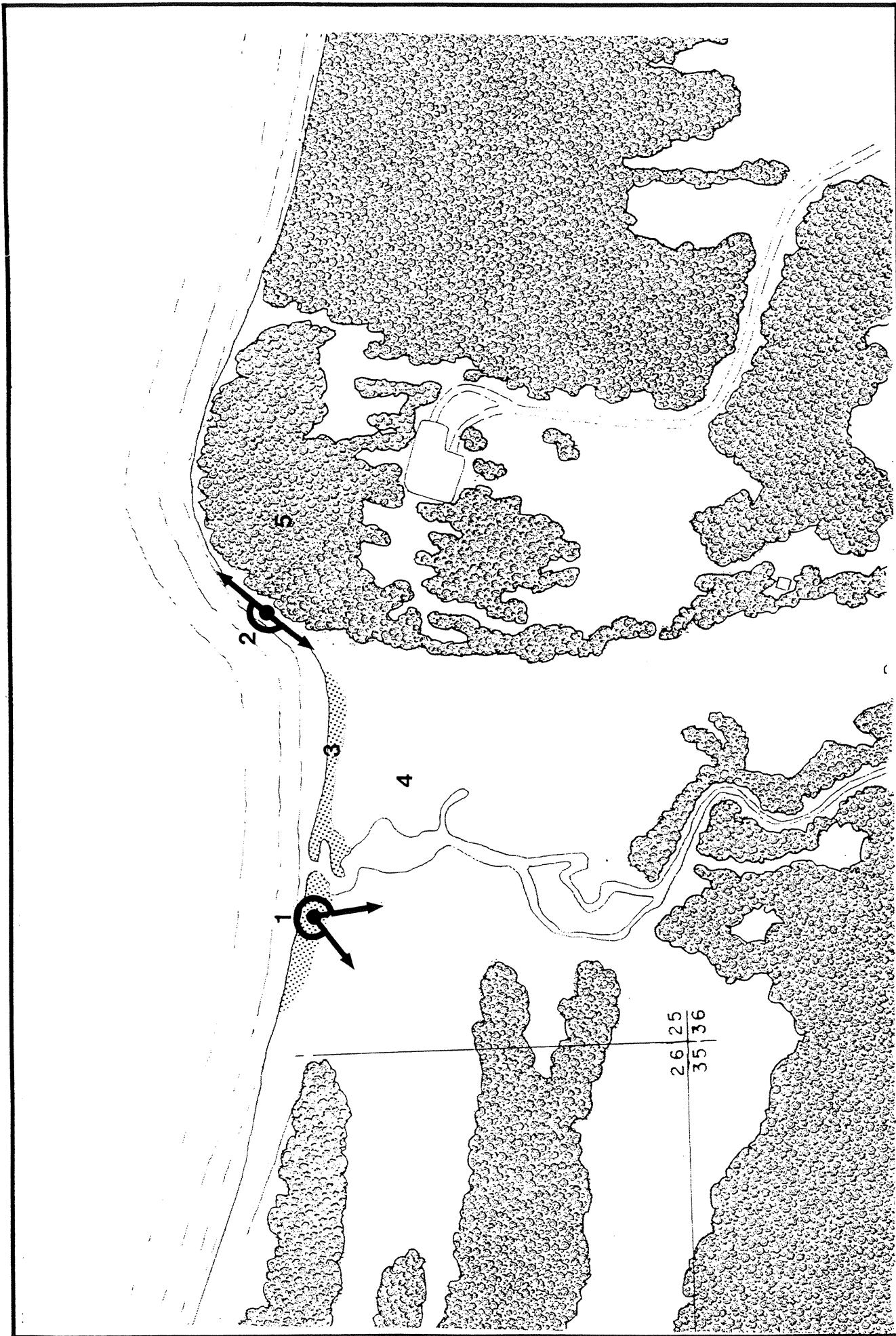


Figure 31a Scenic Resources

TAYLOR CREEK

NORTH ↑

SCALE: 1"=400'



Elements that Contribute to the Scenic Quality of Taylor Creek Beach

- A. View out across the lake.
- B. Sweeping view of the mountain skyline to the south and west.
- C. The well-defined character of the beach.
- D. The juxtaposition of the contrasting colors, textures, and forms of the surrounding natural features, e.g., the lake, beach, creek, marsh, forest, and mountains.
- E. The creek and surrounding marsh.
- F. The dense conifer forest along the east side of the recreation area.

Elements that Detract from the Scenic Quality of Taylor Creek Beach

- A. The road-cut for Highway 89 is visible along Eagle Point because the light-colored substrate stands out against the dark forest background. The viewer is also distracted by reflections off cars as they travel along this route.
- B. Houses and piers along the shoreline of Eagle Point are visible. They contrast with the natural landscape although their impact is very minimal.
- C. The amphitheater at the Forest Service Visitor Center is the only man-made structure visible along the entire back edge of the beach. Although only part of the structure is visible, attention is drawn to it because of its contrast to the apparently undisturbed surrounding landscape.

Recommendations for Preserving the Scenic Quality of Taylor Creek Beach

- A. Eagle Point Peninsula and mountain backdrop
  - 1. Eagle Point forms the middle ground between the public recreation area and the highly scenic mountain peaks to the west. Decline in the visual quality of this ridge would adversely affect the scenic quality of the entire viewshed. Development should be strictly regulated.
  - 2. The rugged mountain peaks to the west of Eagle Point are unique scenic resources and should be preserved in their natural state.
  - 3. The visual impact of piers, boathouses, and other structures built out over the water is difficult to mitigate. In this area they stand out as the most visible disturbance of the natural condition. Additional structures of this type should not be permitted along the Eagle Point shoreline.

4. Structures should not extend above the ridgeline. Tree removal for structures should not create gaps in the vegetation along the ridgetop.
5. Structures should be sited so that existing trees are preserved and used to provide a visual screen between structure(s) and public use areas.
6. Structures should not be allowed to rise above the forest canopy.
7. Use of reflective building materials should be restricted and use of materials which blend into the surrounding landscape encouraged. Hues should fall within a range of natural colors that complements rather than contrasts with the existing vegetation and earthtones. Values should be equal to or darker than those of surrounding colors. The recommendations should apply to all visible surfaces of structures including roofs, siding, fences, etc. (Photos #13-16, 21-24)

B. Adjacent Forest Service lands to the south, east and west

With the exception of the amphitheater, the parking area, and the restrooms at the far end of Baldwin Beach, these areas are largely undisturbed and predominantly natural in appearance. To maintain this condition, any new structures or improvements in the area should be sited so that they are not visible from the beach. (Photos #9-15)

C. Taylor Creek Beach

The Taylor Creek beach area is an undeveloped, natural recreation area. No improvements are necessary. (Photos #9, 21)





### 32. KIVA PICNIC AREA AND TALLAC HISTORIC SITE

The Kiva Picnic and Tallac Historic areas are located on the south shore of the lake just west of Camp Richardson, with access off Highway 89. The recreation area is operated by the U.S. Forest Service and offers facilities for swimming and picnicking. The Tallac Historic area consists of historic buildings which are currently being rehabilitated.

Although the picnic area and the historic site are two separate areas, the vegetation, topography, and visual characteristics of the areas are similar. The picnic area is in the western half of the recreation area and the historic area is in the eastern half. Both are enclosed by very tall, straight conifers that tower over the recreation area and keep it perpetually in shade. As one moves south away from the central portions of the recreation area, this forest cover begins to open up, allowing more understory growth to occur. Along most of the shoreline the forest comes up almost to the water's edge leaving only very narrow stretches of "beach." In many places along the shore the conifers give way to broadleaf vegetation such as aspen and alder.

The shoreline itself is very straight along this stretch and does not offer much variation in the viewshed. The view north across the lake is a 180 degree panorama anchored on each end by major mountain peaks: Monument Peak to the east, Rubicon Peak and Stony Ridge to the west. In between, the view consists of the distant shoreline as it circles around the north end of the lake. Visible developed areas are too distant to have a large visual impact. The only real exception is the view from the east end of the recreation area in which the development around Camp Richardson and to the east begins to dominate the natural shoreline with a proliferation of piers.

The views become much more limited as one moves away from the shore. Close to the shore it is possible to find several spots where a very limited view of the lake is nicely framed by the shoreline vegetation. Farther inland one loses sight of the lake or any features outside the surrounding forest cover. The historic area has many structures that attract the viewer's attention; however, there are also several structures which are without any obvious merit visually or historically.

#### Kiva Picnic Area and Tallac Historic Site--Components

##### Views from the Recreation Area

- 32-1. Panorama of lake from pier at east end of recreation area (Photo #32-37).  
Rating: 14 Unity 5; Vividness 4; Variety 3; Intactness 2.
- 32-2. Panorama of lake from beach at entry point (Photos #1-6).  
Rating: 16 Unity 5; Vividness 4; Variety 3; Intactness 4.

Lake Tahoe Scenic Resource Evaluation  
32. Kiva Picnic Area & Tallac Historic Site

Natural Features of the Kiva Picnic/Tallac Historic Areas

- 32-3. Conifer forest which encompasses the picnic area (Photos #18, 19, 22, 23, 38, 39).  
Rating: 15 Unity 4; Vividness 4; Variety 3; Intactness 4.
- 32-4. Conifer forest which encompasses the historic area (Photos #12, 27, 40).  
Rating: 13 Unity 3; Vividness 4; Variety 4; Intactness 2.
- 32-5. Stands of broad-leafed trees along shore (Photos #7, 9).  
Rating: 15 Unity 4; Vividness 4; Variety 3; Intactness 4.
- 32-6. The narrow pockets of beach (Photos #1, 6, 11, 14, 32).  
Rating: 16 Unity 4; Vividness 4; Variety 4; Intactness 4.

Man-Made Features of the Kiva Picnic/Tallac Historic Areas

- 32-a. Parking area (Photos # 20, 26, 43).  
Rating: 12 Coherence 3; Condition 3; Compatibility 3; Design Quality 3.
- 32-b. Restroom facilities (Photos #19).  
Rating: 16 Coherence 4; Condition 4; Compatibility 4; Design Quality 4.
- 32-c. Historic buildings (Photos #10, 12, 28, 40, 41).  
Rating: 15 Coherence 4; Condition 3; Compatibility 4; Design Quality 4.
- 32-d. Pier at east end of recreation area (Photos #34, 35, 42).  
Rating: 11 Coherence 3; Condition 2; Compatibility 3; Design Quality 3.

Summary:

The Kiva Picnic area and Tallac Historic site are examples of natural landscapes which lack the distinctiveness to qualify for the highest scenic rating, although they have an abundance of natural features and a viewshed that is in very good condition i.e., preserved in natural state. The historic buildings do add a unique historical/cultural quality to the recreation area, but the views and natural features are somewhat typical of this portion of the basin.

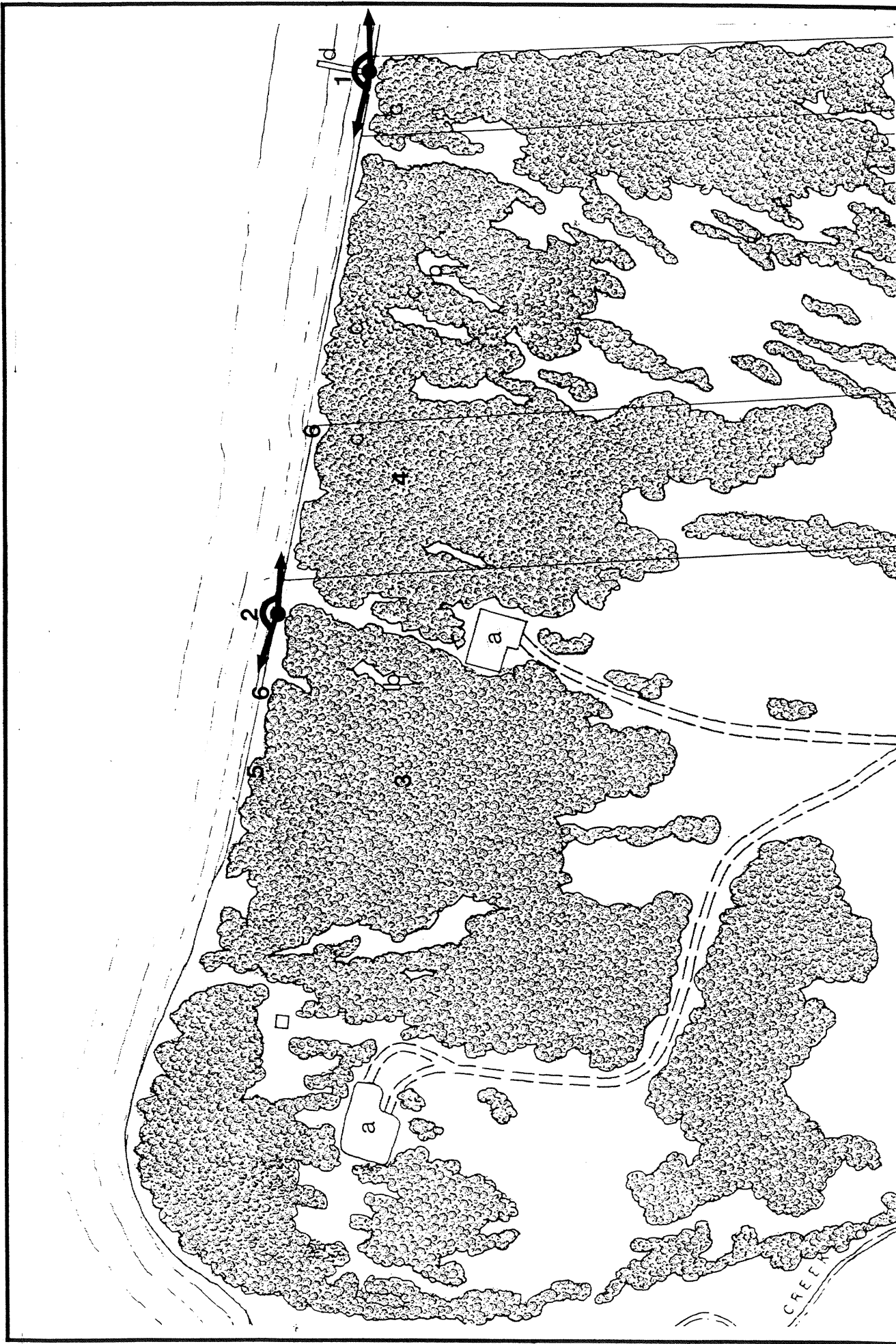


Figure 32a Scenic Resources

## KIVA PICNIC AREA/TALLAC HISTORIC SITE

NORTH ↑

SCALE: 1"=400'



Elements That Contribute to the Scenic Quality of the Kiva Picnic and Tallac Historic Areas

- A. Panoramic 180 degree view of the lake.
- B. The natural, heavily vegetated character of the land/water edge in contrast to the open beaches found in most lakeshore recreation areas.
- C. The stands of broad-leaf vegetation along the shore.
- D. View of Story Ridge to the west.
- E. Mature conifer forest that encompasses the recreation area.
- F. Several historic estate structures.

Elements That Detract from the Scenic Quality of Kiva Picnic and Tallac Historic Areas

- A. Shoreline development east of the historic area creates a visually cluttered middleground (i.e., boats, piers, storage structures, etc.) and alters the character of the shoreline from natural to predominantly developed.
- B. Although fairly distant, Tahoe Keys is clearly visible from the east end of the beach because there is no tree cover in this former marsh area to conceal it. The continuity of the forested shoreline is broken by this area which is dominated by residential development.
- C. On the slopes to the east the clearings for the ski runs at Heavenly Valley have created large scars that stand out because of their light color.
- D. The development along Eagle Point is fairly distant, but a few light-colored and reflective roofs stand out against the dark forest background indicating the presence of development which would otherwise not be noticed.
- E. Several secondary structures within the historic areas appear to be of no special interest and detract from the special qualities of both the surrounding landscape and the other historic buildings.
- F. The South Tahoe P.U.D. pump station, sited in a clearing not far from the parking lot, does not blend well with the surrounding landscape and is an unattractive focal point.

Recommendations for Preserving the Scenic Quality of Kiva Picnic Area and Tallac Historic Site

A. Eagle Point Peninsula and mountain backdrop

1. Eagle Point forms the middle ground between the public recreation area and the highly scenic mountain peaks to the west. Decline in the visual quality of this ridge would adversely affect the scenic quality of the entire viewshed. Development should be strictly regulated.
2. The rugged mountain peaks to the west of Eagle Point are unique scenic resources and should be preserved in their natural state.
3. Structures should not extend above the ridgeline. Tree removal for structures should not create gaps in the vegetation along the ridgetop.
4. Structures should be sited to preserve and utilize existing trees as a visual screen between structure(s) and public use areas.
5. Structures should not be allowed to rise above the forest canopy.
6. Use of reflective building materials should be restricted and use of materials which blend into the surrounding landscape encouraged. Hues should fall within a range of natural colors that complements rather than contrasts with the existing vegetation and earth tones. Values should be equal to or darker than those of surrounding colors. The recommendations should apply to all visible surfaces of structures including roofs, siding, fences, etc. (Photos #5, 6, 16, 17, 32, 33)

B. Shoreline east of the recreation area

1. Piers, boathouses, and other structures built out over the water are difficult to conceal, and are therefore visually disruptive. Additional structures of this type, particularly boathouses or other vertical structures out over the water, should be restricted.
2. Development should not be permitted where tree cover is too sparse to visually absorb it.
3. Structures should be sited to preserve existing trees as a visual screen between structure(s) and major public use areas. This is particularly important on the beachfront, where structures are visible from many points around and on the lake and thus should be set back from the shore beyond the edge of vegetation.
4. Structures should not be permitted to exceed the height of the existing tree cover.

Lake Tahoe Scenic Resource Evaluation  
32. Kiva Picnic Area & Tallac Historic Site

5. Use of reflective building materials should be restricted and use of materials which blend into the surrounding landscape encouraged. Hues should fall within a range of natural colors that complements rather than contrasts with the existing vegetation and earth tones. Values should be equal to or darker than that of surrounding colors. The recommendations should apply to all visible surfaces of structures including roofs, siding, fences, etc. (Photos #1, 2, 14, 36, 37)

C. Kiva Picnic Area and Tallac Historic Site

1. Minor or secondary structures which lack either significant function or architectural/historical value should be removed to decrease the amount of onsite development.
2. The parking area requires additional landscaping in the existing islands and around edges to reduce the visual impact of parked cars on the surrounding picnic areas and on visitors entering the recreation area. (Photo #43)
3. The South Tahoe P.U.D. pump station should be landscaped to provide some screening and painted to decrease its contrast with the surrounding landscape. (Photo #24)

Lake Tahoe Scenic Resource Evaluation  
32. Kiva Picnic Area & Tallac Historic Site





### 33. CAMP RICHARDSON

Camp Richardson is located on the south shore of the lake approximately two miles north of South Lake Tahoe on Highway 89. The land is owned by the U.S. Forest Service, but the recreation area is operated by a private concessionaire. The recreation area offers camping, cabins, boating, and swimming from June through October.

In contrast to most of the other recreation areas, Camp Richardson is highly developed. The beach, which provides the only significant views out from the site, is dominated by the large metal warehouse structure which houses the boat rental facilities. The pier and metal frame used to hoist boats out of the water add to the visual dominance of the building. The many boats moored near the pier and the activity on the pier also contribute to making this area the focus of attention. The back of the beach is closed off by the snack bar, the cabins, and the forest, so that the viewer's attention is focused out toward the lake. The lake view is mostly of the distant shore seen across the length of the lake. The western end of the panorama is a view of Eagle Point and the dramatic peaks that rise up behind it. To the east however, the views of the South Lake Tahoe/Monument Peak area are obstructed by the boat rental facilities. Just east of the boat rental facilities the shoreline becomes heavily populated by private residences and piers. These are visible only from the pier, and are blocked from beach views by the boat rental facility.

#### Camp Richardson--Components

##### Views from the Recreation Area

- 33-1. Panorama of lake from mid-beach (Photos #1, 35-38).  
Rating: 13 Unity 5; Vividness 3; Variety 3; Intactness 2.

##### Natural Features of the Recreation Area

- 33-2. Beach (Photos #1, 35).  
Rating: 12 Unity 4; Vividness 3; Variety 3; Intactness 2.
- 33-3. Conifer forest (Photos #2, 32).  
Rating: 11 Unity 3; Vividness 3; Variety 3; Intactness 2.

##### Man-Made Features of Camp Richardson

- 33-a. Entry treatment (Photo #29).  
Rating: 5 Coherence 1; Condition 2; Compatibility 1; Design Quality 1.
- 33-b. Buildings (Photos #29-32).  
Rating: 5 Coherence 1; Condition 2; Compatibility 1; Design Quality 1.
- 33-c. Parking area (Photos #3, 30, 31, 32).  
Rating: 5 Coherence 1; Condition 2; Compatibility 1; Design Quality 1.

Summary:

The views and natural features of Camp Richardson would score a very high scenic rating, but onsite development detracts from the natural landscape. This type of recreation area requires a large number of facilities, which would compete with the natural features even under the best of conditions. The facilities here are not only out of character with their surroundings, but are also in poor physical condition. Thus the offsite disruptions that are visible have less impact on the viewer than do the conditions of the viewpoint itself.

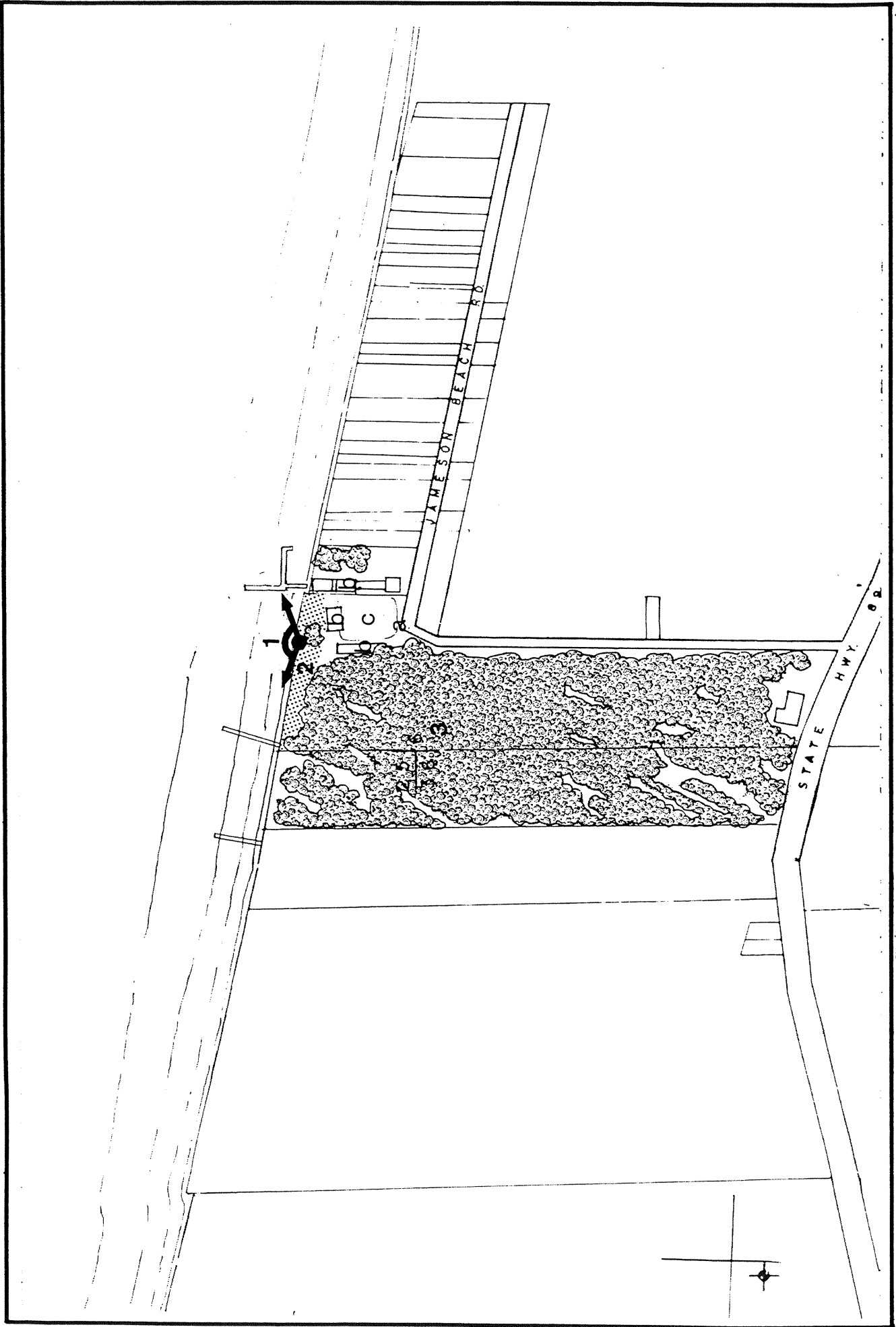


Figure 33a Scenic Resources

CAMP RICHARDSON

NORTH ↑

SCALE: 1"=400'



Elements That Contribute to the Scenic Quality of Camp Richardson

- A. The panoramic view of the lake.
- B. The rugged peaks that rise to the west of Eagle Point.
- C. The dense stand of tall conifers which rises south of the beach.

Elements That Detract from the Scenic Quality of Camp Richardson

- A. The corrugated sheet metal building looks more appropriate for industrial/warehouse uses than for a recreation area in such a scenic locale. The siting of the building on the beach combined with the extension of the hoist frame-work out over the water obstructs views to the east.
- B. The parking area is an unattractive asphalt slab which is surrounded on three sides by unattractive buildings, two of which have their backs to the parking lot.
- C. The snack bar is a very plain concrete block building which is not in good condition and blocks potential views of the lake when one enters the area. Its sheet metal roof is out of character with the surrounding natural environment.
- D. To the west, the light-colored substrate revealed by the road-cut for Highway 89 stands out against the dark forest background, and reflections off automobiles are visible. This scar, combined with pieces of structures along the shoreline of Eagle Point, keep this area from appearing completely natural.
- E. From the pier the view to the east reveals heavy residential development on the water's edge with decks and piers extending out onto the lake. Beyond this, development at Tahoe Keys is visible with the ski-run scarred slopes of Heavenly Valley directly behind it.
- F. The cabins and other structures are well placed among the towering conifers; however, their overall architectural character and condition are so poor that even the visual strength of the forest cannot reduce their negative impact.

Recommendations for Preserving the Scenic Quality of Camp Richardson

- A. Shoreline west of recreation area
  - 1. Eagle Point forms the middle-ground between the public recreation areas along the south shore and the highly scenic peaks that rise to the west of it. Decline in the visual quality of this ridge would therefore adversely affect the quality of the whole viewshed. Development should be strictly regulated.

2. Development should not be permitted where tree cover is too sparse to visually absorb new structures, road cuts, and other attendant improvements.
3. Structures should be sited to preserve existing trees as a visual screen. This is particularly important on the beachfront where structures are visible from many points around and on the lake and thus should be set back from the shore beyond the edge of vegetation.
4. Structures should not be permitted to exceed the height of the existing tree cover.
5. Use of reflective building materials should be restricted and use of materials which blend into the surrounding landscape encouraged. Hues should fall within a range of natural colors that complements rather than contrasts with the existing vegetation and earth tones. Values should be equal to or darker than those of surrounding colors. The recommendations should apply to all visible surfaces of structures including roofs, siding, fences, etc.
6. Piers, boathouses, and other structures built out over the water are difficult to conceal and are therefore very visually disruptive in such an undeveloped area. Additional structures of this type should be prohibited or severely limited. If the two piers at the west end of the recreation area are no longer actively utilized, their removal should be considered.
7. Stony Ridge and the peaks that rise to the west are unique scenic features and should be preserved in their natural state. (Photos #1, 38)

B. Shoreline east of recreation area

1. The existing piers create visual clutter in the foreground to the east; however, they do not actually block the view of any features. To prevent such an occurrence, structures (e.g. boathouses, etc.) should not be permitted to be built out on the piers. The construction of new piers should be prohibited or severely limited.
2. Structures should be sited to preserve existing trees as a visual screen. This is particularly important on the beachfront where structures are visible from many points around and on the lake and thus should be set back from the shore beyond the initial line of vegetation.
3. Structures should not be permitted to exceed the height of the existing tree cover.

4. Use of reflective building materials should be restricted and use of materials which blend into the surrounding landscape encouraged. Hues should fall within a range of natural colors that complements rather than contrasts with the existing vegetation and earth tones. Values should be equal to or darker than those of surrounding colors. The recommendations should apply to all visible surfaces of structures including roofs, siding, fences, etc. (Photo #33, 35)

C. Camp Richardson

1. The architectural quality and condition of all structures in the recreation area should be evaluated, following which they should either be renovated to improve their condition and appearance or removed entirely. A unity of architectural style should be attempted that will give visual coherence to the area. More natural looking materials should be utilized. (Photos #29-32)
2. The boat rental structure and warehouse should be removed if possible and replaced by a more compatible structure. More natural looking materials should be used; if possible, the building should be set back more from the beach. If feasible, the boat hoist should be replaced with a system which is less visually obtrusive. (Photos #31, 35)
3. The snack bar building should be renovated to improve its appearance and make it more compatible with the surrounding environment. Landscaping should be introduced to soften the facade facing the parking lot and make it appear more like an entrance rather than a rear door. The wooden structure adjoining the east end of the snack bar should be removed to open up sight-lines to the lake. Strong entry treatments should be introduced around both ends of the buildings. (Photo #29)
4. The parking area should be redesigned to introduce landscaping both around the edges and within the lot itself to decrease the barren, paved look it now has. (Photos #6, 30, 31, 32)
5. Landscaping and signage should be introduced around the entry to the recreation area to improve its appearance, to clarify circulation, and to identify different spots within the recreation area. (Photo #29)

Lake Tahoe Scenic Resource Evaluation  
33. Camp Richardson





#### 34. POPE BEACH

Pope Beach is located on the south shore of the lake one mile south of Camp Richardson off Highway 89. The recreation area is operated by the U.S. Forest Service and is open for swimming and picnicking throughout the summer months.

Pope Beach is a very long narrow area sandwiched between the lake and the Truckee Marsh. The beach itself is a long sandy strip which changes character from one end to the other because of the change in vegetation which occurs along the inland edge. The western half of the beach is backed by a dense stand of young pines which gives it an enclosed character and focuses the viewer's attention toward the lake. The eastern half of the beach is backed by lower growing and sparser wetland vegetation (e.g., willows) which creates a more open, less defined area in which the viewshed is almost 360 degrees and the visual focus, while still on the lake, is not so strong. The view to the south from the beach includes strong features in the form of Mt. Tallac on the west, and Freel Peak to the east, with the less dramatic Tahoe Mountain in between. To the north one has a panoramic view of the lake with major peaks anchoring each end of a viewshed comprised mostly of views of the very distant shoreline. Along the shoreline to the east, development is visible from Tahoe Keys east to the casinos at Stateline. The scars created by the ski runs on the face of Monument Peak are also quite evident. Relatively little development along the shoreline to the west is visible. The major points of development are immediately adjacent to the west end of the beach where owners of private residences have fenced off their property and built piers out into the lake, and at Camp Richardson where the metalclad structures stand out. From the parking lots which parallel the beach, the view south includes both the mountain peaks and an open foreground of marshlands. To the east across this marshland, the inland portion of Tahoe Keys is visible in front of the distant peaks.

#### Pope Beach--Components

##### Views from the Recreation Area

- 34-1. Panorama of lake from east end of beach (Photos #29-34).  
Rating: 14 Unity 4; Vividness 4; Variety 3; Intactness 3.
- 34-2. View from mid-beach looking south (Photos #6-9).  
Rating: 14 Unity 3; Vividness 3; Variety 4; Intactness 4.
- 34-3. Views south from parking lot (Photos #23-26).  
Rating: 16 Unity 4; Vividness 4; Variety 4; Intactness 4.
- 34-4. Panorama of lake from west end of beach (Photos #13-18).  
Rating: 14 Unity 4; Vividness 4; Variety 3; Intactness 3.

##### Natural Features of Pope Beach

- 34-5. Beach (Photos #5, 10, 12, 13, 18).  
Rating: 14 Unity 4; Vividness 3; Variety 3; Intactness 4.

34-6. Pine forest (Photo #12, 20, 22).  
Rating: 14 Unity 4; Vividness 3; Variety 3; Intactness 4.

34-7. Marshlands (Photos #23-26, 28).  
Rating: 16 Unity 4; Vividness 4; Variety 3; Intactness 5.

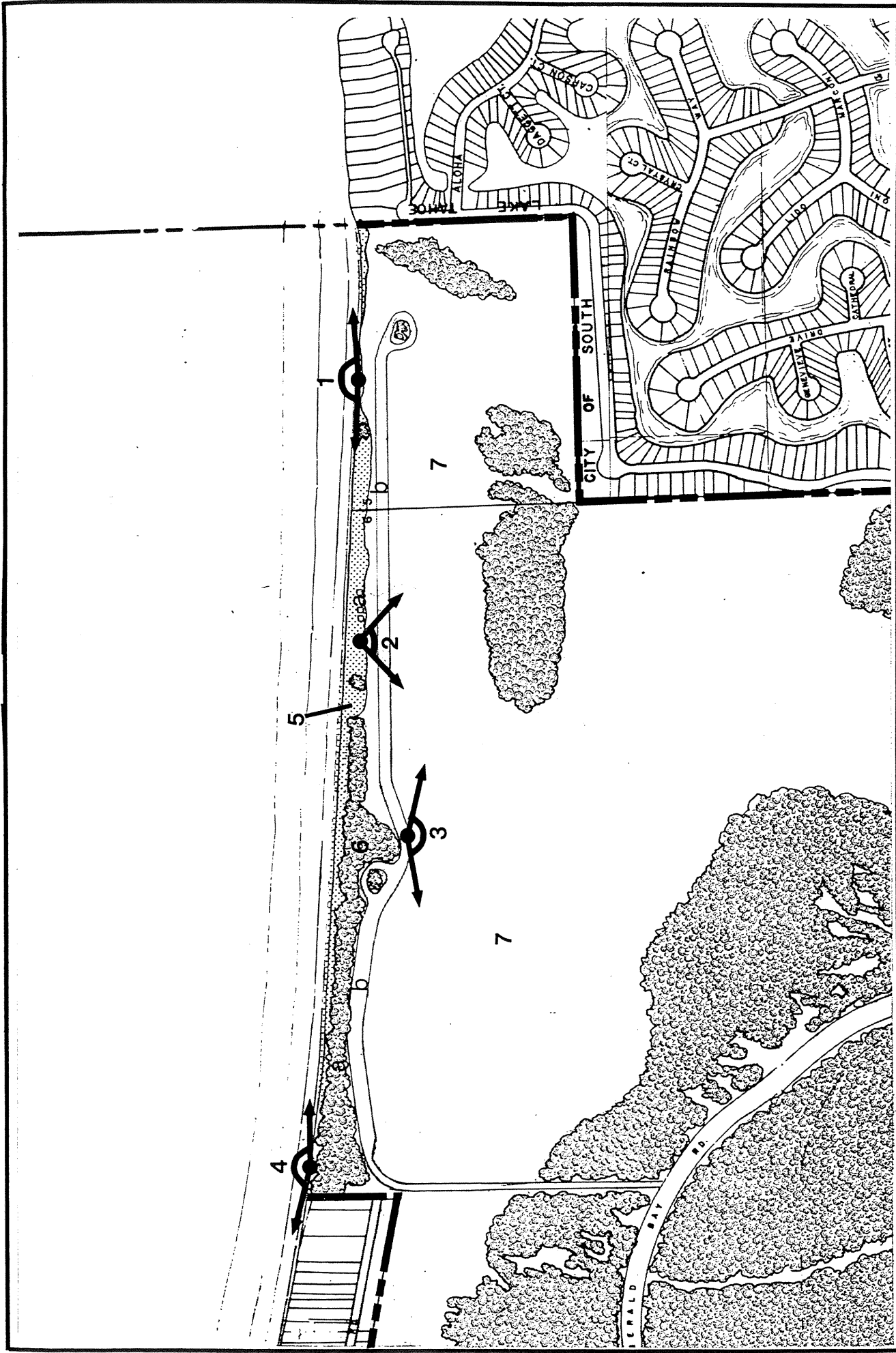
Man-Made Features of Pope Beach

34-a. Restrooms (Photos #3, 4, 11).  
Rating: 15 Coherence 3; Condition 4; Compatibility 4; Design Quality 4.

34-b. Parking areas (Photos #21, 27).  
Rating: 13 Coherence 3; Condition 4; Compatibility 2; Design Quality 3.

Summary:

Pope Beach is surrounded by several natural features of very high scenic quality. The lake stretches out to the north and the marsh to the south, forming diverse foregrounds for the four groups of peaks which seem symmetrically placed around the beach. Areas of heavy development, particularly around South Tahoe, are beginning to compromise the natural character of the area by competing for the viewer's attention.



## Figure 34a Scenic Resources

# POPE BEACH

**NORTH** 

NOT TO SCALE



Elements That Contribute to the Scenic Quality of Pope Beach

- A. The panoramic view of the lake.
- B. The long stretch of sandy beach.
- C. The dense stand of pine trees which backs the western half of the beach.
- D. The distinctive Mt. Tallac that rises southwest of the beach.
- E. The rugged peaks that frame the western edge of the lake.
- F. The block of mountains that forms the backdrop for South Tahoe and frames the eastern edge of the lake.
- G. The marshland and the distinctive contrast it creates to the surrounding landscape.

Elements That Detract from the Scenic Quality of Pope Beach

- A. The casinos rise high above the tree cover, forming a grouping that contrasts greatly with the even texture and color of the forest.
- B. The Tahoe Keys residential development has been built on reclaimed marsh that had no tree cover to absorb the visual impact of so many structures. The houses are on the edge of the lake, making them highly visible from the beach. The use of light-colored materials adds to their impact because they stand out against the dark forest background.
- C. The clearings for ski runs create large scars running vertically up the slopes east of the beach. The light-colored ground stands out against the dark forest background.
- D. The piers and fencing at the west end of the beach create a visual barrier which interrupts the natural line of the shore and creates a physical break in the long stretch of protected landscape which reaches to Eagle Point.
- E. The long stretch of parking lot that parallels the beach is visually monotonous in its unbroken linearity.

Recommendations for Preserving the Scenic Quality of Pope Beach

- A. Area around Stateline and the casinos

From this distance only the casinos can be distinguished because their size dominates the surrounding landscape. Further high rise development should be prohibited, because the landscape cannot absorb the visual disruption this type of building causes. (Photos #5, 30)

B. Tahoe Keys and shoreline east of Pope Beach

1. Structures should be sited to preserve existing trees as a visual screen. This is particularly important on the beachfront, where structures are visible from many points around and on the lake and thus should be set back from the shore beyond the edge of vegetation.
2. Structures should not be permitted to exceed the height of the existing tree cover.
3. Use of reflective building materials should be restricted and use of materials which blend into the surrounding landscape encouraged. Hues should fall within a range of natural colors that complements rather than contrasts with the existing vegetation and earth tones. Values should be equal to or darker than those of surrounding colors. The recommendations should apply to all visible surfaces of structures including roofs, siding, fences, etc. (Photos #5, 29)

C. Area south of Pope Beach

The viewshed to the south has very high scenic quality and, with the exception of the development at Tahoe Keys, appears to be completely intact. The marsh/wetland environment that comprises the foreground is a very simple ecosystem which cannot absorb the visual impact of development. All development should be prohibited in this area. The dense woodland that forms the middle ground has the potential for absorbing development; however, if even the slightest glimpse of development is visible, the pristine character of the viewshed will be destroyed. For this reason, it is recommended that development not be allowed in this area unless it can be demonstrated that neither the proposed development nor its attendant improvements will be visible from Pope Beach. (Photos #6-9, 23-26, 28)

D. Shoreline west of Pope Beach

1. The solid wooden fence that terminates the west end of the beach effectively blocks views of the private development adjacent to the beach and the development at Camp Richardson. Any future development should not be visible over the top of this fence.
2. Although the existing piers adjacent to the beach extend into the foreground of views to the west, they do not actually obstruct the view of any features. To prevent such obstruction, structures (e.g. boathouses) should not be permitted to be built out on the piers. This restriction should also apply to any new piers to be built in the future.
3. Structures should be sited to preserve existing trees as a visual screen. This is particularly important on the beachfront where structures are visible from many points around and on the lake and thus should be set back from the shore beyond the edge of vegetation.

4. Structures should not be permitted to exceed the height of the existing tree cover.
5. Use of reflective building materials should be restricted and use of materials which blend into the surrounding landscape encouraged. Hues should fall within a range of natural colors that complements rather than contrasts with the existing vegetation and earth tones. Values should be equal to or darker than those of surrounding colors. The recommendations should apply to all visible surfaces of structures including roofs, siding, fences, etc. (Photos #13, 19, 34)

E. Pope Beach

1. Additional plant materials should be added to areas at the east end of the beach where the vegetation is not dense enough to screen the parking lot from the beach area. Plants should be of the same species as the existing vegetation. (Photos #2, 7, 8)
2. If parking can be reduced, a redesign of the parking areas should be undertaken to introduce landscaped parking islands into the area to mitigate the extremely long, unbroken stretch of asphalt pavement. (Photos #21, 27)







### 35. REAGAN BEACH

Reagan Beach is located on the south shore of the lake at the foot of Sacramento Avenue in the Al Tahoe area. The recreation area, which is operated by the City of South Lake Tahoe, includes a large lawn area for recreation and picnicking in addition to the beach areas at each end.

The recreation area is in a residential subdivision on a narrow strip of land along the lakeshore. The central and western portions of the recreation area are comprised of a large lawn with a paved walk between the lawn and the lake's edge. This flat terrace extends out into the lake beyond the shoreline on either side and appears to be built on fill. At the far western end of the recreation area is a very small beach area enclosed by a steep slope which exhibits signs of slumping. The eastern end of the recreation area is comprised of a larger beach area. This beach is man-made and is actually a terrace that sits approximately three to four feet above the level of the lake. All these areas are bordered on the south by parking which is two to six feet higher than the level of the recreation areas.

The visual focus within the recreation area is the combined restroom/snack bar facility in the center of the site. The siting of the structure takes advantage of the elevation changes in the park by utilizing the roof as an observation deck/picnic area, from which there is a view across the length of the lake. The casinos and other shoreline development as well as the slopes leading up to Monument Peak are visible to the east. To the west the panorama terminates with the view of the mountain peaks around Emerald Bay. In the foreground to the west several private piers and boathouses extend out into the lake and a multi-unit structure has been built on the water's edge. South of the recreation area single-family residences line the back edge approximately six to ten feet above the parking lot. Mature conifers have been preserved along this edge so there is a sense of a forested backdrop although they provide little screening of the residences.

#### Reagan Beach--Components

##### Views from the Recreation Area

- 35-1. View of lake from lawn area (Photos #8, 9, 11-15).  
Rating: 13 Unity 4; Vividness 4; Variety 4; Intactness 1.
- 35-2. View of lake from east of recreation area (Photos #16-21).  
Rating: 13 Unity 4; Vividness 4; Variety 4; Intactness 1.

##### Natural Features of Reagan Beach

- 35-3. Conifers lining back edge of recreation area (Photos #1, 2, 9, 10, 22).  
Rating: 9 Unity 3; Vividness 2; Variety 2; Intactness 2.
- 35-4. Beach at west end of recreation area (Photos #9, 21).  
Rating: 10 Unity 3; Vividness 2; Variety 2; Intactness 3.

Man-Made Features of Reagan Beach

- 35-a. Lawn area (Photos #10, 24).  
Rating: 15 Coherence 4; Condition 4; Compatibility 4; Design Quality 3.
- 35-b. Restroom/snack bar/observation deck (Photo #7, 15).  
Rating: 11 Coherence 3; Condition 3; Compatibility 2; Design Quality 3.
- 35-c. Parking area (Photo #3, 6, 10, 22, 23).  
Rating: 9 Coherence 2; Condition 3; Compatibility 2; Design Quality 2.
- 35-d. Beach at east end of recreation area (Photos #3, 12).  
Rating: 13 Coherence 3; Condition 3; Compatibility 4; Design Quality 3.
- 35-e. Landscaping (introduced plantings, boxing of conifers, etc.) (Photos #1, 3, 6, 15).  
Rating: 7 Coherence 2; Condition 2; Compatibility 2; Design Quality 1.

Summary:

Reagan Beach affords distant views of the natural landscape which are of good visual quality, typical of beach areas in the basin. Little of the landscape within the recreation area or that immediately surrounding it remains in its natural condition. The visual impact of the built environment is as great or greater than that of the natural environment. The result is an overall effect of an urban park situated in a populated area.



↑ NORTH

SCALE: 1"=400'

Figure 35a Scenic Resources

# REAGAN BEACH



Elements that Contribute to the Scenic Quality of Reagan Beach

- A. Panoramic view of the lake.
- B. Manicured lawn area.
- C. The two beach areas.
- D. The large conifers along the southern edge of the recreation area.

Elements that Detract from the Scenic Quality of Reagan Beach

- A. The casinos and the shoreline development to the east stand out against the natural backdrop because their form and color contrast with the existing form, color, and texture of the landscape.
- B. The development along the shoreline to the west is directly between the viewer and some of the more distinctive landforms. It creates a visually distracting foreground which detracts from the overall quality of the viewshed. Particularly distracting are the boathouses on the ends of piers and the multi-unit structure which is situated on the water's edge where it does not benefit from the natural cover provided by existing trees.
- C. The absence of screening allows the residences to become part of the recreation area's viewshed, thereby adding to the urban atmosphere of the area. The diversity of these residences detracts from the natural environment.
- D. The metal retaining structures used to save the trees along the southern edge of the recreation area provide a sharp visual contrast to the natural environment and distract the viewer.
- E. The absence of any buffer between the parking areas and the recreation areas creates additional visual clutter along this back edge and detracts from the natural qualities of the setting.

Recommendations for Preserving the Scenic Quality of Reagan Beach

- A. Area east of Reagan Beach
  - 1. Maintain natural condition of area adjacent to east end of beach as a buffer between the recreation area and development to the east. Introduce erosion control measures to prevent undercutting of the existing trees.
  - 2. Existing trees should be preserved and used as a visual screen between structure(s) and major public use areas. This is particularly important on the beachfront where structures are visible from many points on and around the lake. They should be set back from the shore beyond the edge of vegetation.

3. Structures should not be permitted to exceed the height of the existing tree cover.
4. Development should not be permitted where tree cover is too sparse to visually absorb new structures, road cuts, and other attendant improvements.
5. Use of reflective building materials should be restricted and use of materials which blend into the surrounding landscape encouraged. Hues should fall within a range of natural colors that complements rather than contrasts with the existing vegetation and earth tones. Values should be equal to or darker than those of surrounding colors. The recommendations should apply to all visible surfaces of structures including roofs, siding, fences, etc. (Photos #12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18)

B. Area west of Reagan Beach

1. The first few lots to the west have been developed with great sensitivity to the recreation area. The structures have been sited far enough back from the slope and the lake so that they are not visually obtrusive and allow the natural elements to predominate. Any future development on this stretch of shoreline should be set back from the edge of the slope to minimize visual impact. No development should be permitted on the beach/shoreline.
2. Existing trees should be preserved as a visual screen between structure(s) and major public use areas.
3. Use of reflective building materials should be restricted and use of materials which blend into the surrounding landscape encouraged. Hues should fall within a range of natural colors that complements rather than contrasts with the existing vegetation and earth tones. Values should be equal to or darker than those of surrounding colors. The recommendations should apply to all visible surfaces of structures including roofs, siding, fences, etc.
4. No further construction of boathouses on the lake should be permitted. (Photos #8, 9)

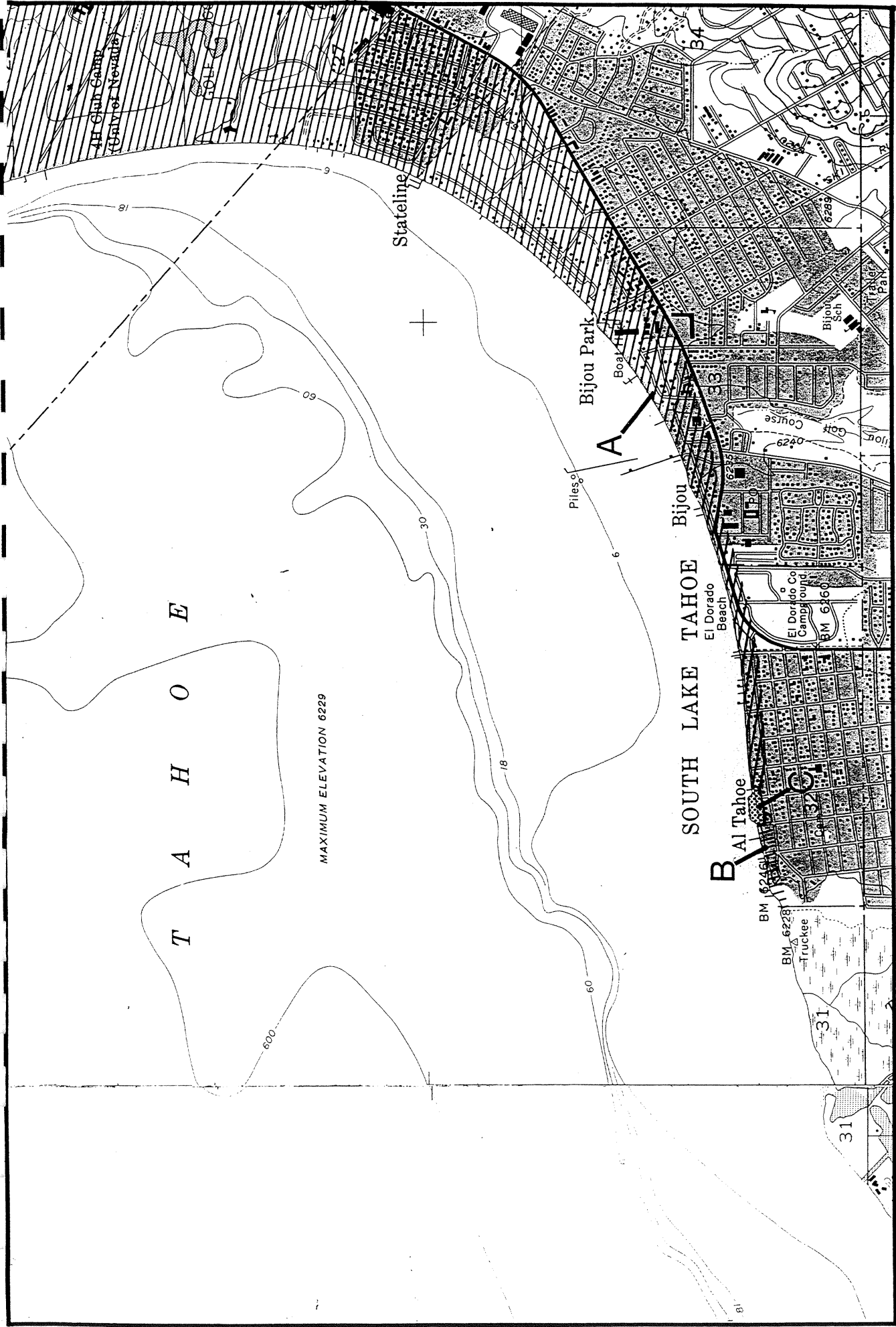
C. Reagan Beach

1. Paint the metal retaining structures around the trees on the southern edge of recreation area, using a color more complementary to the natural landscape. Introduce landscaping around the base of the trees to camouflage these structural elements. (Photos #1, 22)
2. Develop a buffer between the parking areas and the recreation area. Decrease the visibility of cars from the recreation area by introducing landscaping and/or a structural screen. On the east end of the parking area the slope between it and the beach provides an

adequate buffer, but landscaping is needed and the slat fence should be removed or replaced. The west end requires some redesign to introduce an effective buffer/screen between parking and recreation areas. (Photos #3, 6, 10, 22, 23)

3. Landscape the slope along the southern edge of the recreation area to provide partial screening and a psychological buffer between the private residences and the public recreation area. (Photos #1, 2, 22)
4. Examine the feasibility of stabilizing the slope at the west end of the recreation area behind the beach. (Photo #9)

Lake Tahoe Scenic Resource Evaluation  
35. Reagan Beach



NORTH ↑

SCALE: 1"=2000'

Figure 35b Visually Sensitive Areas  
REAGAN BEACH



36. EL DORADO BEACH AND CAMPGROUND

El Dorado Beach is located on the south shore of the lake on Lakeview Avenue between Highway 50 and Harrison Avenue. The beach is owned and operated by the City of South Lake Tahoe. The facilities include a boat launch and picnic area in addition to the beach.

The El Dorado recreation area is actually divided into three areas by the junction of Lakeview Boulevard and Highway 50 (Lake Tahoe Boulevard). The beach portion consists of a long narrow stretch of land bordered by the lake to the north and Lakeview Avenue and Lakeshore Boulevard to the south. The second portion of the recreation area, which contains the parking and restroom facilities, is a small triangular area defined by the intersection of Lakeview Avenue, Lake Tahoe Boulevard, and Harrison Avenue. The third portion of the recreation area is the camping area which is situated south of Highway 50.

These streets are significant in determining the character of the recreation area, particularly since Highway 50/Lakeshore Boulevard, which divides the site, is such a busy thoroughfare. The presence of traffic is felt both visually and aurally from everywhere except the beach and the campsites away from the road. These thoroughfares give the area a very urban feeling and create a fragmentation which discourages movement from one area to another.

The parking area is a pleasantly landscaped lot which also includes the restroom facilities and the entry to the boat ramp. From this area the lake is visible through the stand of trees on the other side of Lakeview Avenue. This stand of trees covers a very flat, narrow strip of land which runs along the edge of Highway 50. No other vegetation grows in this area, so the contrast between the trees and the very flat, bare ground is quite distinctive. The picnic area is located within this wooded strip. From the picnic area, one has an elevated perspective down to the lake which is approximately 20-25 feet lower. To the east, casinos tower over the landscape. Other development is evident around the Stateline area and then begins to thin out as one looks farther north. Directly north, the opposite shoreline is very distant across the length of the lake. The shoreline becomes very distinctive around the Emerald Bay area but the view is cut off by the motel perched on the cliff adjacent to the west end of the beach. At the beach level three piers extend out into the lake. The campground area south of Highway 50 is densely forested with conifers and provides no significant external views. Landscaping along Highway 50 has recently been added to create some buffer between the campsites and the busy roadway.

The view of the lake does not change significantly as one descends to the beach. The main difference is the removal of the distracting backdrop of traffic which accompanies the view from the picnic area. The change in elevation from picnic area to beach significantly decreases one's awareness of the street above.

El Dorado Beach--Components

Views from the Recreation Area

- 36-1. View of lake from the picnic area (Photos #12-17).  
Rating: 12 Unity 4; Vividness 3; Variety 3; Intactness 2.
- 36-2. View of lake from the east end of the recreation area (Photos #1-7).  
Rating: 12 Unity 4; Vividness 3; Variety 3; Intactness 2.

Natural Features of El Dorado Beach

- 36-3. Stand of pine trees (Photos #15, 16, 23).  
Rating: 10 Unity 3; Vividness 3; Variety 2; Intactness 2.
- 36-4. Beach (Photos #21, 24, 25, 27).  
Rating: 9 Unity 4; Vividness 2; Variety 2; Intactness 1.

Man-Made Features of El Dorado Beach

- 36-a. Restrooms (Photos #14, 32)  
Rating: 11 Coherence 3; Condition 3; Compatibility 2; Design Quality 3.
- 36-b. Parking area (Photos #12, 14).  
Rating: 14 Coherence 3; Condition 4; Compatibility 3; Design Quality 4.
- 36-c. Picnic area (Photos #7, 15, 16, 22, 23).  
Rating: 12 Coherence 3; Condition 4; Compatibility 3; Design Quality 2.
- 36-d. Boat ramp (Photos #13, 17, 18).  
Rating: 10 Coherence 3; Condition 4; Compatibility 1; Design Quality 2.

Summary:

El Dorado Beach is different from the majority of the recreation areas in that it is located more in an urban than a natural setting. This is not inherently disadvantageous, although in this case elements such as the traffic, motels, and the casinos do compete with more scenic natural features. The view down the length of the lake is a scenic viewshed but because of the distance it is not especially distinctive.

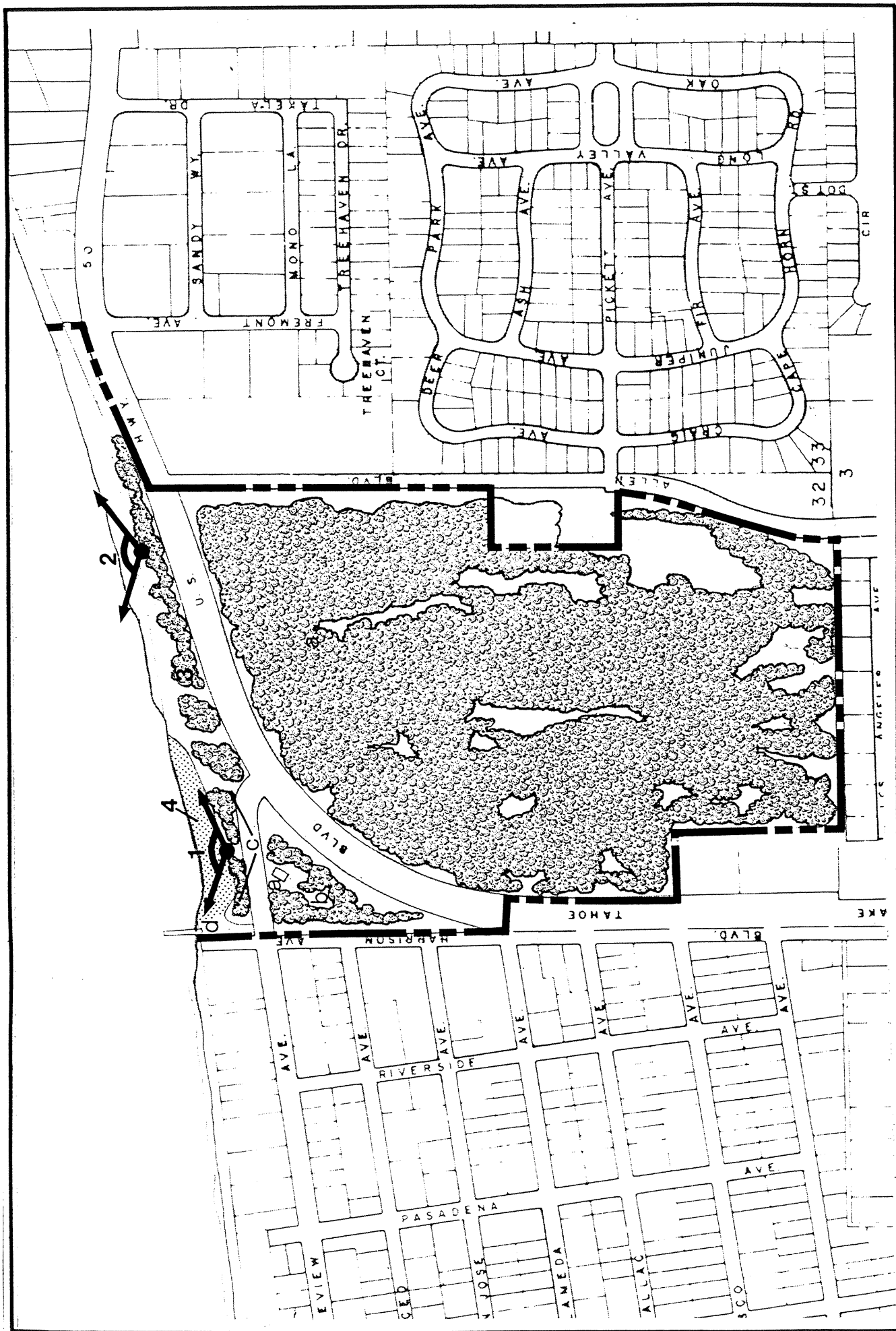


Figure 36a. Scenic Resources

# EL DORADO BEACH AND CAMPGROUND

SCALE: 1"=400'



Elements That Contribute to the Scenic Quality of El Dorado Beach

- A. Panoramic view north across the lake
- B. The forested, yet manicured picnic area presents an interesting combination of urban and natural elements. In addition, its elevated position above the lake adds a dramatic character to the view.
- C. The enclosed beach area forms a kind of natural amphitheater facing the lake.

Elements That Detract from the Scenic Quality of El Dorado Beach

- A. The proximity of Highway 50 to the picnic area and the constant movement and noise of automobiles significantly affects the use of this area.
- B. The hotel and casino development east of the recreation area stands out boldly above the forest cover and is completely out of scale with its surroundings.
- C. The motel just west of the recreation area is an unattractive foreground element that projects out in front of one of the more distinctive landscape features in the viewshed (i.e., Emerald Bay area).
- D. The boat launch area is a major structure where it passes under the roadway. The mass of concrete and the cyclone fencing around it visually dominate the west end of the beach. The combined effect of this area with the motel adjacent to it is distinctly unappealing visually.
- E. The erosion of the bank at the east end of the beach is undercutting existing trees and preventing the establishment of new vegetation.

Recommendations for Preserving the Scenic Quality of El Dorado Beach

- A. Area west of El Dorado Beach
  - 1. The area that is visually sensitive from the recreation area includes just the first few parcels to the west which have already been developed. Any future development or change of status of this area should require measures to mitigate the existing visual problems. This would consist primarily of landscaping to screen the structures and soften some of the hard edges. (Photos #7, 17, 18, 36)
- B. Area east of El Dorado Beach
  - 1. Existing trees should be preserved as a visual screen between structure(s) and major public use areas. This is particularly important on the beachfront since structures sited there are visible from many points around the lake.

2. Structures should not be permitted to exceed the height of the existing tree cover.
3. Development should not be permitted where tree cover is too sparse to visually absorb new structures, road cuts, and other attendant improvements.
4. Use of reflective materials should be restricted and use of materials which blend into the surrounding landscape encouraged. Hues should fall within a range of natural colors that complements rather than contrasts with the existing vegetation and earth tones. Values should be equal to or darker than those of surrounding colors. The recommendations should apply to all visible surfaces of structures including roofs, siding, fences, etc. (Photos 1, 2, 21, 25)

C. El Dorado Beach

1. Some effort to lessen the impact of Highway 50 on the picnic area is necessary. Screening and/or buffering is needed along the edge of the recreation area which borders the busy thoroughfare. Either structural or landscape solutions could be used. The best solution would be to screen the view of the road; however, even a buffer that provides only psychological relief would be an improvement. (Photos #1, 22, 23)
2. Landscaping should be introduced on the slopes on either side of the boat ramp tunnel to mitigate the visual impact of this structure and to screen the development to the west. The plantings would have to be of significant size to be effective. If the cyclone fencing were replaced with wooden fencing, the rather industrial look it currently gives the boat ramp area would be mitigated.

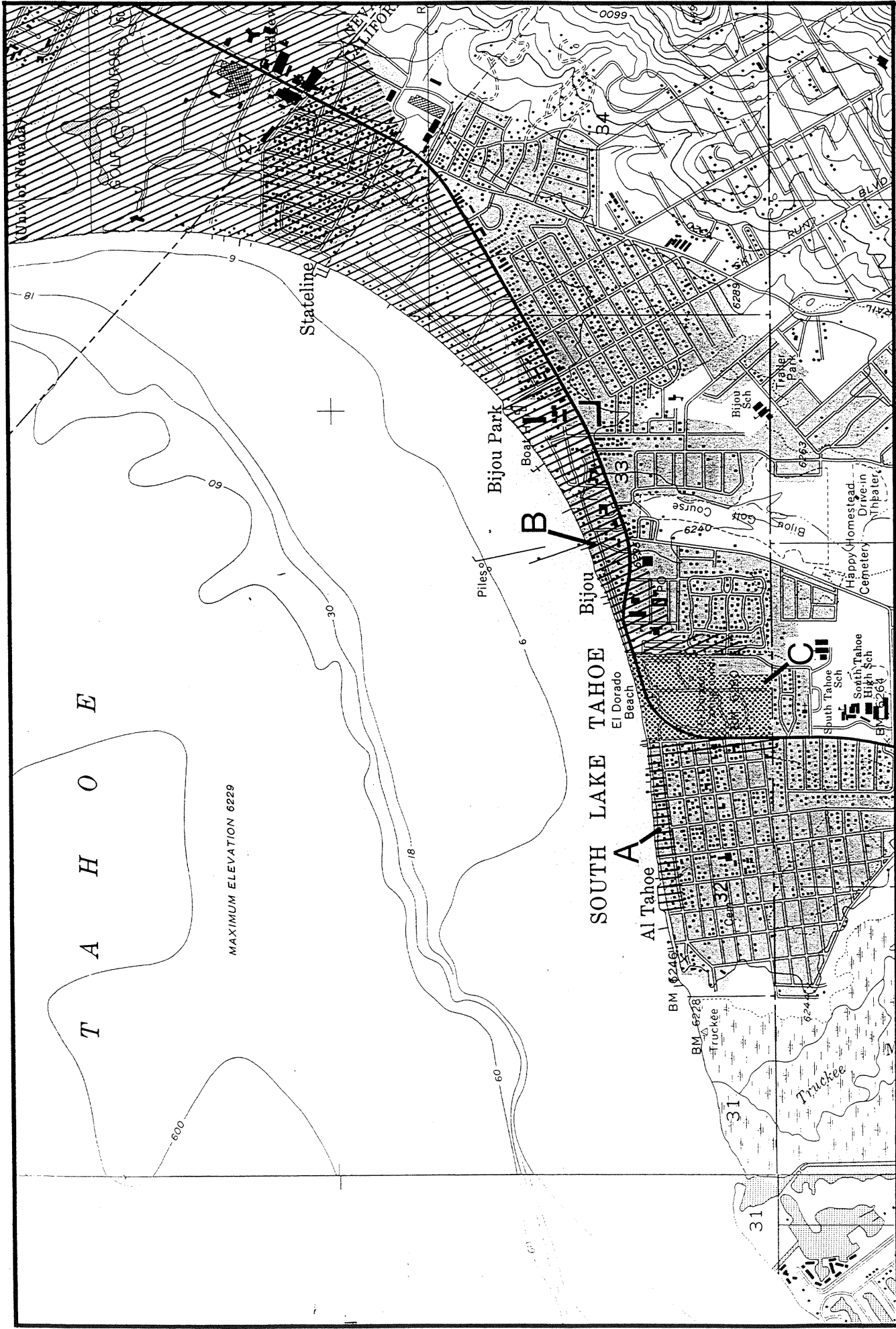


Figure 36b Visually Sensitive Areas

# EL DORADO BEACH AND CAMPGROUND

NORTH ↑

SCALE: 1"=2000'



### 37. HEAVENLY VALLEY

The Heavenly Valley ski resort is located on the south shore of the lake just south of the city limits of South Lake Tahoe. The resort is privately owned and operated, although the ski slopes are located on national forest lands.

Entry to the recreation area is from Wildwood Avenue into a large plane of parking that spreads out on two levels at the foot of the mountain. The slopes rise steeply to the southeast and are lightly covered with conifer forest. A good deal of the rocky slope is revealed between the trees. There are two main vertical swaths up the hill that have been cleared. The vegetation in the lower portion of these areas is very sparse, consisting primarily of grasses. The upper portion is almost completely unvegetated, revealing the light-colored rocky soil. To the east of the ski area the hillside becomes more distinctive, revealing a much more rugged terrain marked with rocky outcroppings. Toward the bottom of this slope four or five houses have been built. The main lodge, which is located at the foot of the ski slope on the western side of the parking area, is a long, low, boxy building partially set into the hillside. Extending from the east end of the lodge all the way across the foot of the slope is a concrete block retaining wall topped with a cyclone fence. This wall, which averages about 10 feet in height, separates the ski area from the parking area. Another structure is situated at the east end of the parking lot. This shed-roofed structure houses the tram which takes visitors up to the lodge at the top of the slopes.

The north side of the resort is bordered by conifer forest. Several structures are visible, although they are partially concealed by the trees. At the northeast corner of the property a multi-story structure stands out boldly because of the absence of trees between it and the recreation area. To the west, the topography slopes away enough to make the range of mountains visible over the top of the trees.

#### Heavenly Valley--Components

##### Views from the Recreation Area

- 37-1. View from west end of parking lot (Photos #12-15).  
Rating: 9 Unity 3; Vividness 2; Variety 2; Intactness 2.
- 37-2. View from east end of parking lot (Photos #30-37).  
Rating: 12 Unity 3; Vividness 4; Variety 3; Intactness 2.
- 37-3. View from tram area (Photos #19-24).  
Rating: 12 Unity 3; Vividness 4; Variety 3; Intactness 2.

##### Natural Features of Heavenly Valley

- 37-4. Ski slope (Photos #3, 18-22, 33).  
Rating: 12 Unity 3; Vividness 4; Variety 3; Intactness 2.

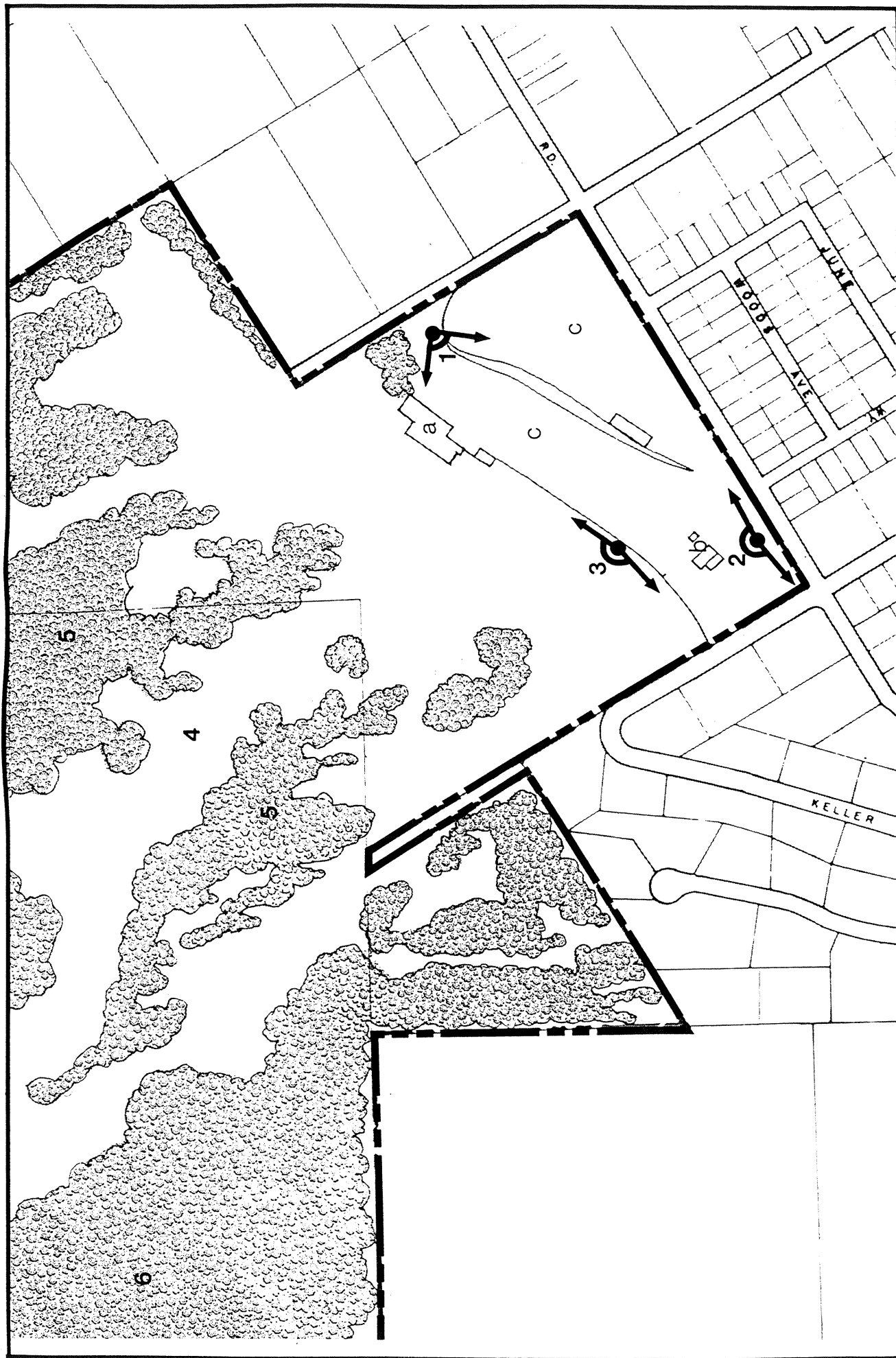
- 37-5. Conifer forest (Photos #32, 33, 34).  
Rating: 11 Unity 2; Vividness 3; Variety 3; Intactness 3.
- 37-6. Rocky hillside east of the ski slopes (Photos #16, 23, 24, 35, 36).  
Rating: 14 Unity 3; Vividness 4; Variety 3; Intactness 4.

Man-Made Features of Heavenly Valley

- 37-a. Main lodge (Photos #12, 13, 37).  
Rating: 9 Coherence 2; Condition 3; Compatibility 2; Design Quality 2.
- 37-b. Tram terminal (Photos #14, 25, 28).  
Rating: 12 Coherence 2; Condition 4; Compatibility 3; Design Quality 3.
- 37-c. Parking area (Photos #13, 14, 15, 27, 28, 30, 31).  
Rating: 8 Coherence 2; Condition 2; Compatibility 2; Design Quality 2.

Summary:

Heavenly Valley is the largest of the ski areas in the basin and has scenic qualities and problems that correspond to its size and its volume of visitor traffic. The mountain slopes are higher and more distinctive than in the other areas; however, the heavy use of these slopes has left them very worn looking. The lodge and parking areas lack positive scenic qualities and appear to have been designed solely with functional criteria. The distant view of the mountains to the west adds a scenic dimension that is unique for ski areas in the basin.



NORTH

SCALE: 1" = 400'

Figure 37a Scenic Resources  
HEAVENLY VALLEY



Elements That Contribute to the Scenic Quality Heavenly Valley

- A. The verticality of the steep mountain slopes.
- B. The conifer forest which surrounds the resort area.
- C. The rocky outcrops on the hillside east of the ski slopes.
- D. The view of Mt. Tallac and other mountain peaks to the west.

Elements That Detract from the Scenic Quality of Heavenly Valley

- A. The cleared ski slopes are very worn looking from intensive use and because of the difficulty of vegetating the rocky slopes. The ski runs are very linear and do not blend well with the natural vegetative and topographic patterns. The resulting visual impression is that the mountain has been scarred.
- B. The ski lodge is a very large plain structure that has very few qualities worthy of note. Its size, absence of quality, and central location make it a visually prominent feature that detracts from its surroundings.
- C. The concrete block wall across the foot of the slope creates a physical and visual barrier between the parking area and the ski slopes. It makes the viewer more aware of the separation of the built environment and the natural landscape.
- D. The houses on the hillside east of the ski slopes are not well concealed by the sparse tree cover, and they compete with the natural features (i.e., the rocky hillside) for the viewer's attention.
- E. The multi-story visitor residential building east of the parking area stands out boldly because of the absence of forest cover between it and the recreation area and because of the metal fascia which reflects the sunlight.
- F. The large expanse of paved parking area is visually dominant whether empty or full, because of its size and lack of any mitigating measures. The embankment that separates the upper lot from the lower lot is poorly maintained and unattractive (e.g., asphalt paving is breaking along edges and existing vegetation looks weedy).

Recommendations for Preserving the Scenic Quality of Heavenly Valley

- A. Rocky hillside to the northeast of the ski area

The rocky outcroppings and sparse forest cover on the hill contribute greatly to the overall quality of the recreation area. Maintaining the natural condition of this hill is important since the appearance of the adjoining ski slope has been so altered. Because the tree cover is sparse, further development would be difficult to conceal, and it is recommended that it be sited in such a manner that it is not visible from the ski area. (Photos #16, 23, 24, 35, 36)

B. Forested areas bordering the resort to the northwest

1. New development should be visually screened from the recreation area. Structures should be sited so that existing trees are preserved as a visual screen.
2. Structures should not be permitted to exceed the height of the existing tree cover.
3. Use of reflective materials should be restricted and use of materials which blend into the surrounding landscape encouraged. Hues should fall within a range of natural colors that complements rather than contrasts with the existing vegetation and earth tones. Color values should be equal to or darker than those of surrounding colors. The recommendations should apply to all visible surfaces of structures including roofs, siding, fences, etc. (Photos #15, 27, 28, 30)

C. Heavenly Valley

1. The denuded area of the ski slope should be revegetated. This is particularly important along the lower portions of the slope that are highly visible from the lodge. (Photos #3, 17, 18, 20, 21, 32, 33)
2. Methods for improving the appearance of the lodge should be investigated. Rehabilitation of the structure should aim at introducing a sense of quality to the building's appearance in terms of design and the level of craftsmanship. In addition to alterations in the building's appearance, landscaping should be introduced along the front to mitigate the transition between the parking area and the structure, and to reintroduce some natural elements into this stark man-made landscape. (Photos #12, 13, 37)
3. A redesign of the parking area to decrease its apparent size and its visual impact should be considered. The lot should be divided into smaller areas separated by landscaped islands. This would help decrease the number of automobiles visible at any one time and would reintroduce some natural elements into the landscape area. The embankment between the upper and lower lots should be heavily landscaped to provide a buffer between the two areas and to control erosion. Landscaping should be introduced along the length of the concrete block wall to soften its hard, barren appearance and to mitigate the abrupt change in elevation. (Photos #10, 13-15, 27, 28, 30, 31)

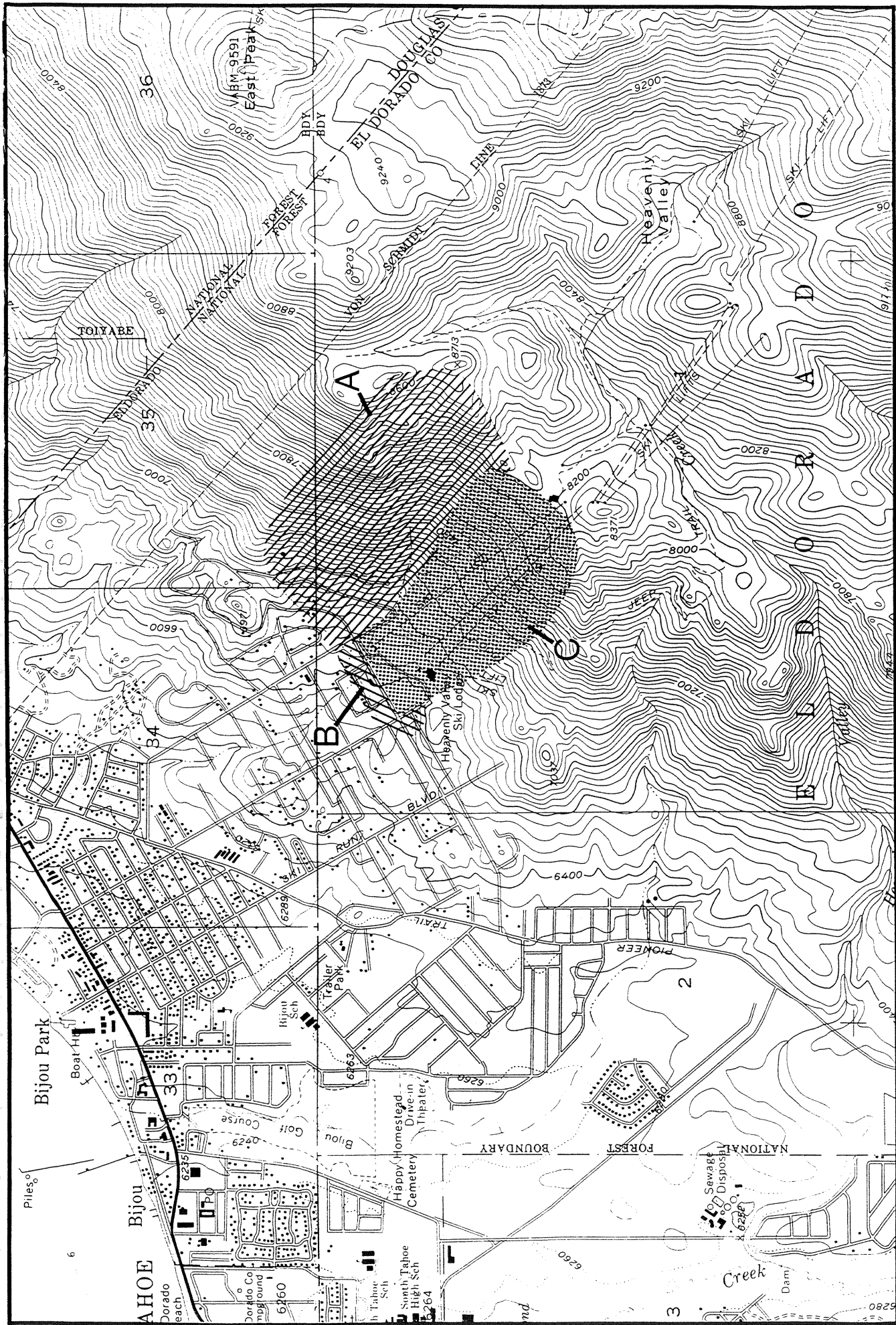


Figure 37b Visually Sensitive Areas

## HEAVENLY VALLEY

