

# Skagit River Project



## Volume B: Photographs

Ross Lake  
Early-Season  
Recreational Activity  
and Visual Quality  
Assessment

FERC No. 553

October 1989

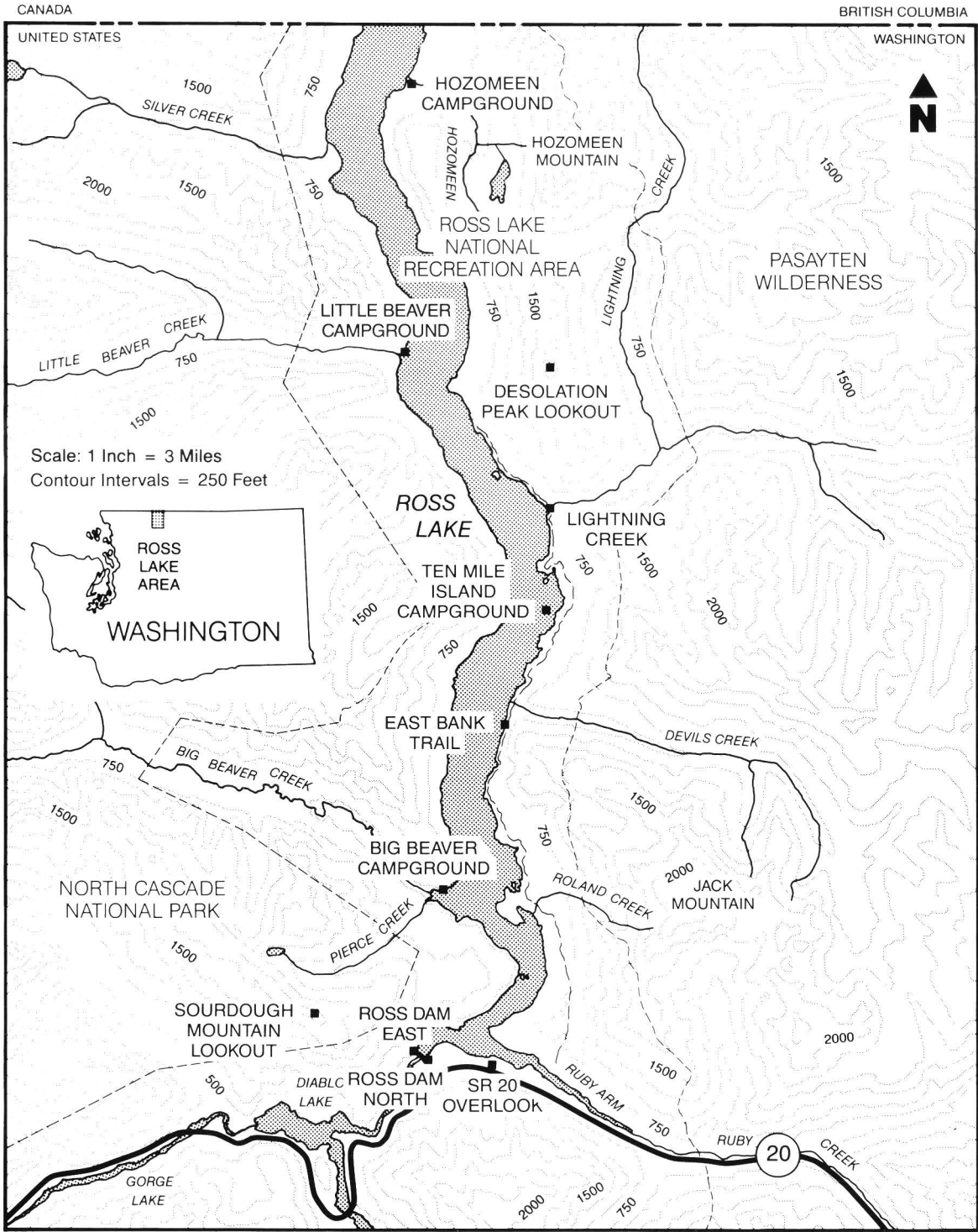
Prepared by:  
Parametrix, Inc.



Environmental Affairs Division



# Introduction



**General Location on Ross Lake**

### Goal

The goal of this study was to assess the effect of different Ross Lake reservoir levels on the visual quality of the lake and its surroundings. Ross Lake is located in a deep valley amid the Cascade Mountains in northern Washington State. The surrounding terrain is rugged, with steep forested slopes rising thousands of feet to alpine meadows and glaciers topped by rocky peaks. The lake and adjacent areas comprise the Ross Lake National Recreation Area, which the National Park Service manages as part of the North Cascades National Park Complex. Recreational use of the lake and surrounding areas includes boating, fishing, camping, hiking, and horse packing. State Route 20, the North Cascades Highway, runs along the south side of the lake. The largely unmodified, natural appearance of the area contributes to its high scenic quality and recreational value.

Due to Seattle City Light operations at Ross Dam, the surface elevation of Ross Lake annually rises and falls. The highest annual elevation is about 1602.5 feet above sea level (termed "full pool") and occurs in the summer months. The lake elevation drops in the fall and winter reaching the lowest level in late March or April, after which the lake rises back to full pool. The lowest annual level is typically between 70 and 125 feet below full pool. As part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing process for the Skagit Project, Seattle City Light is investigating the effects of varying the annual cycle of Ross Lake levels.

Falling lake levels expose an unvegetated shoreline that can contrast visually with the surrounding terrain. This contrast may diminish the visual quality of the lake

and surroundings. This collection of photographs documents the effect of different lake levels on views from selected viewpoints on and around Ross Lake. These photos are the basis for a visual quality assessment, contained in a Volume A of this report.

### Viewpoints

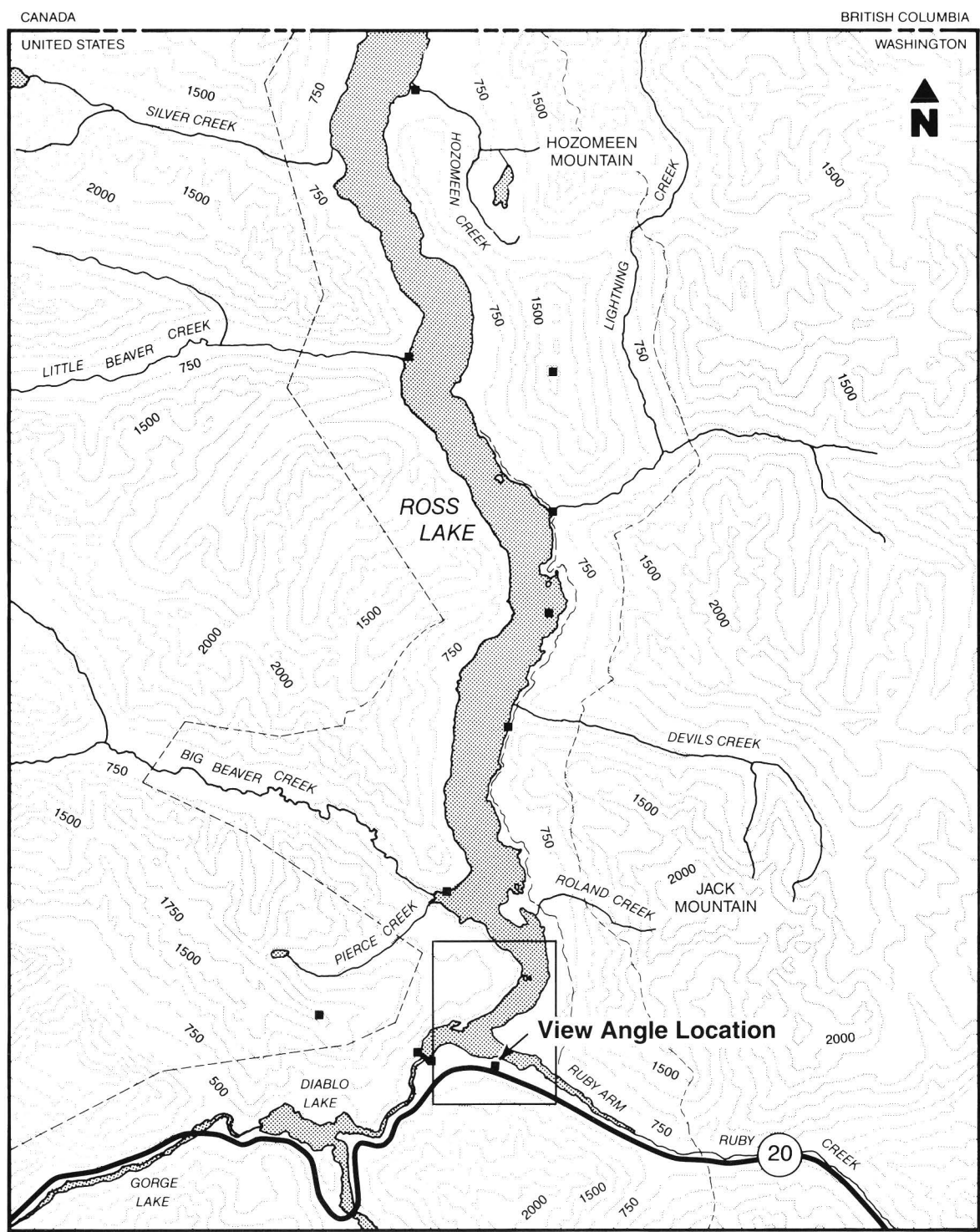
Views of Ross Lake are available from State Route 20, trails in the vicinity of the lake, and at campgrounds around the lake. Boater, hikers, and horse riders visit campgrounds around the lake. Hikers and horse riders travel along trails. Carcampers use Hozomeen, the only campground with vehicle access to the lake. Motorists are the primary visitor along State Route 20. Other areas in the vicinity of the lake offer views, but are seldom or never visited due to the rugged terrain and lack of established access.

The map on this page shows the name and location of viewpoints selected for this study. These locations were chosen to represent the range of views available to recreational visitors, including both heavily travelled and seldom visited areas. In this volume for each viewpoint the location and angle of view is mapped. The important visual elements of each view are graphically presented and described, including the effect of shoreline exposed by low lake levels.

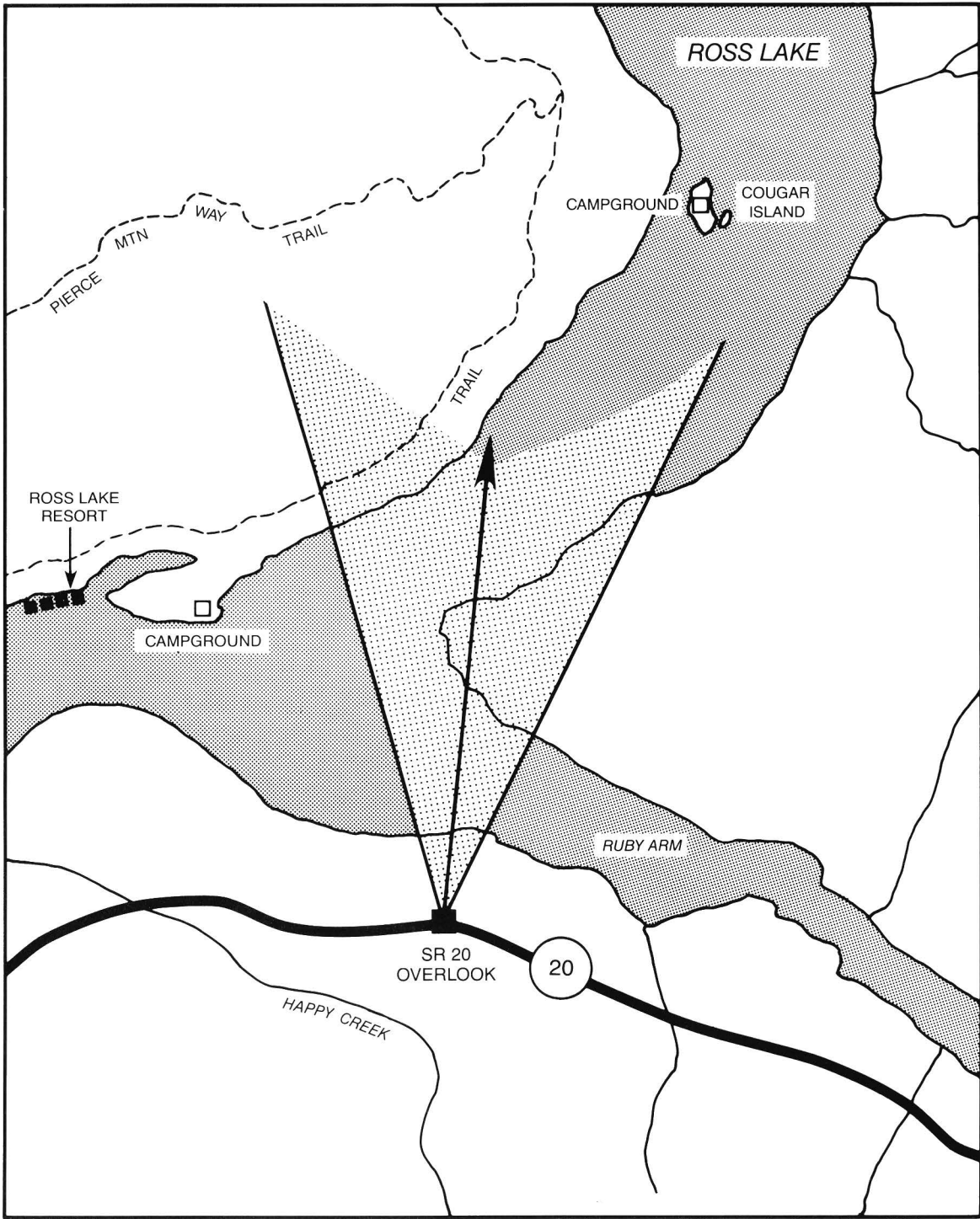
For each viewpoint four photographs show the scene at the following lake levels: 1) Low, approximately 75 feet below full pool; 2) Approximately 1567, where the public boat ramp at Hozomeen becomes useable; 3) Approximately 1592, where floating docks become useable; and 4) Full pool.



# SR 20 Overlook



General Location on Ross Lake



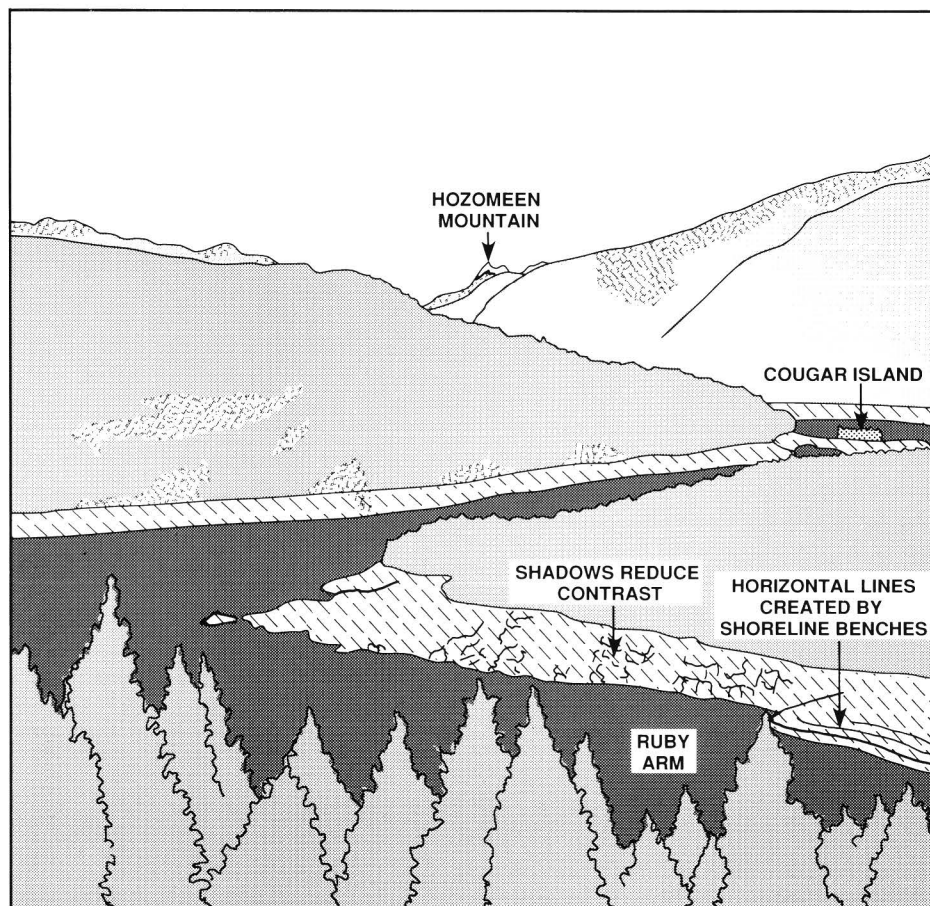
View Angle on Ross Lake





**Elevation: 1527.0**  
**75.5 Feet Below Full Pool**

Exposed Shoreline Area



### General Description

Dominating this view, the lake and lake trough form a visual axis that leads the eye toward the jagged double summit of Hozomeen Mountain near the international boundary. Outside this photograph, but visible from this viewpoint, Jack Mountain and Mt. Prophet also are distinctive mountain forms. Views are toward the north with the sun usually behind the observer. Dominant colors are green, white, blue, and the blue-gray of the lake. Sloping ridgecrests and the lake shoreline form strong lines that are primarily curvilinear and commonly non-horizontal.

In addition to the lake, other landscape types seen in this view include: forest, rocky headland, island, snowfield/glacier, rock slope, alpine meadow, and avalanche slope (outside of the photograph). The slightly elevated perspective, about 600 feet above the lake, gives the observer an encompassing view of the region.

### Shoreline

The shoreline exposed at low pool forms a band that contrasts with the remainder of the landscape. The contrast results from the shoreline's tan color and horizontal lines. These horizontal lines are most evident on the north shore of Ruby Arm in the lower right-hand portion of the photograph. As the reservoir rises above low pool levels, the exposed shoreline

diminishes in extent and lessens in contrast.

Views are toward the north with the sun usually behind the observer. With full sun, shoreline contrast is maximized. Cloudy weather reduces contrast, as do shadows that occur in the morning and afternoon. The reduction in contrast where the shoreline is shadowed can be seen along the north shore of Ruby Arm near the bottom of the photograph.

### Use

This overlook, together with the adjacent overlook to the east, is the most frequently visited viewpoint along Ross Lake. During a typical midsummer week, when the reservoir is full, several thousand motorists and a small number of bicyclists stop at this viewpoint as they travel along the North Cascades Highway (SR20). At lower pool levels in the mid-spring, visitor numbers are about one thousand per week. At the lowest pool levels in late winter and early spring, the highway is closed and this viewpoint is not visited.





Elevation: 1527.0' 

 Elevation: 1581.7'







Elevation: 1593.5'

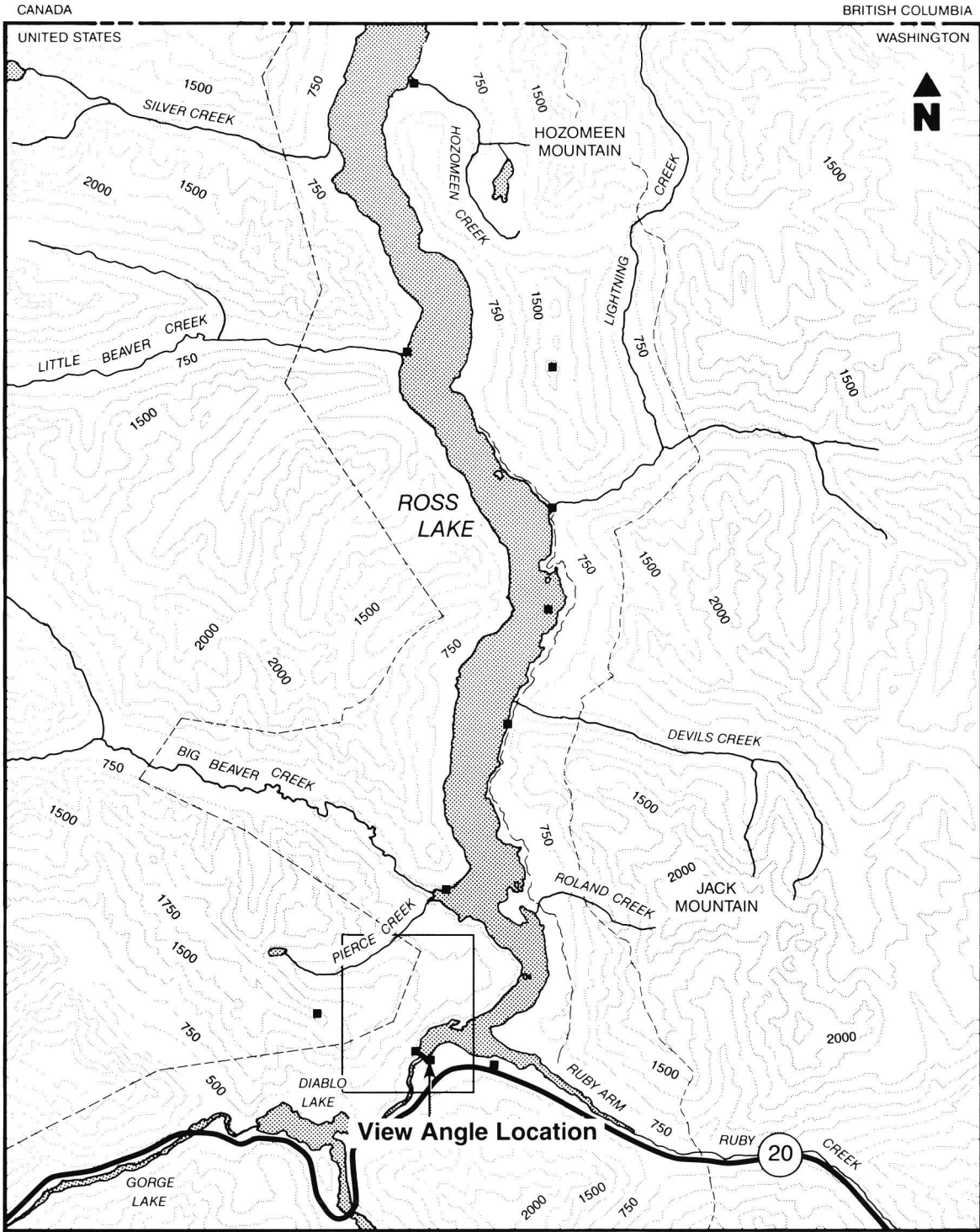


Elevation: 1602.5'

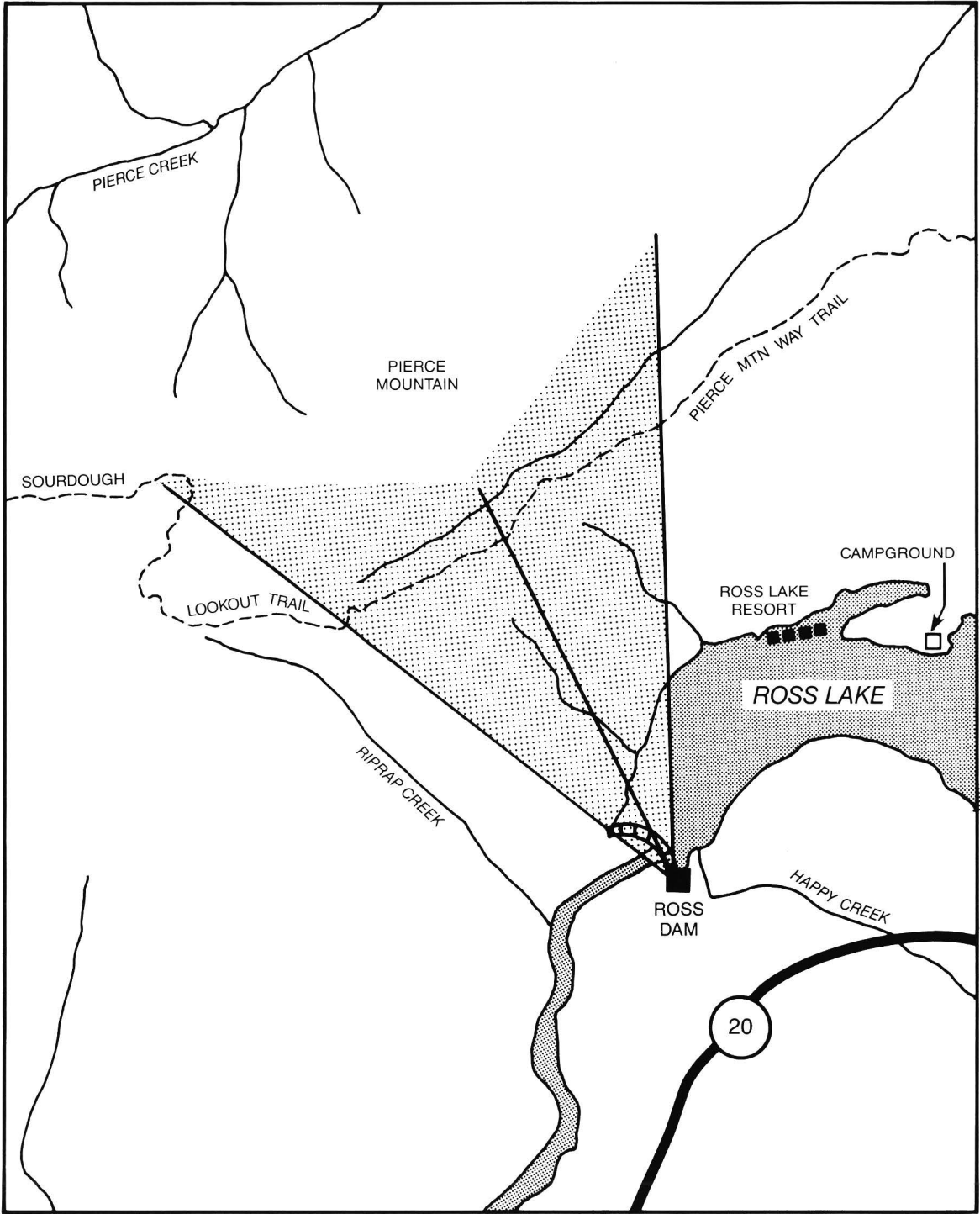




# Ross Dam North



General Location on Ross Lake



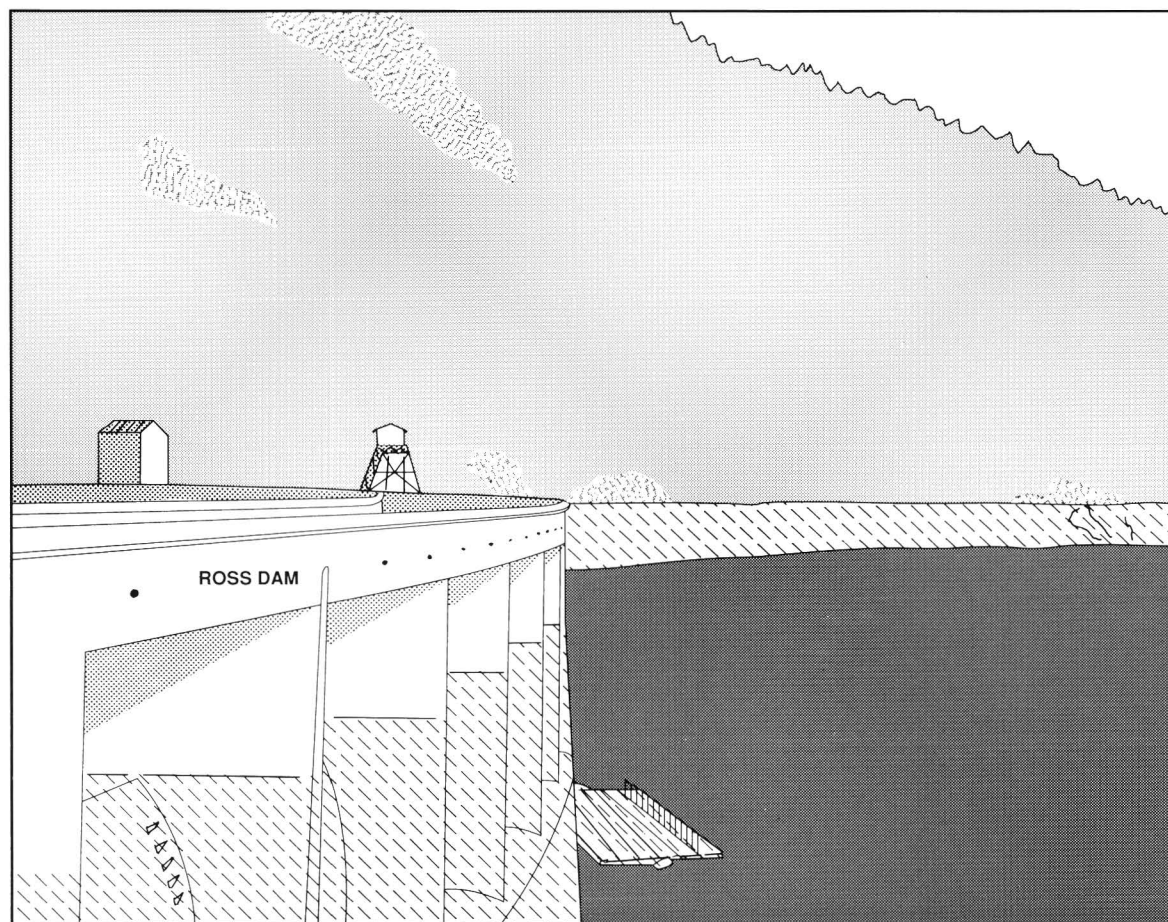
View Angle on Ross Lake





Elevation: 1528.4  
74.1 Below Full Pool

Exposed Shoreline Area



#### General Description

This view is dominated by Ross Dam in the foreground and Jack Mountain in the distance to the right of the photograph. The curved line and repetitive pattern of the dam leads the eye toward the far shore, which continues the visual movement toward the right, eventually leading the view toward Jack Mountain. Views are toward the north. Dominant colors are green, blue-gray of the lake, blue, white, and gray of the dam. In addition to the lake, other landscape types seen in this view include: forest, man-made structure, and rock slope.

#### Shoreline

The shoreline exposed by low lake levels forms a band along the opposite shore. The exposed shoreline contrasts with its immediate surroundings due to its color and strong horizontal quality. The shoreline's contrast with the overall scene is appreciably lessened by the presence of the dam. The color and straight lines of the shoreline are similar to those of the dam.

Views are toward the north so that when the opposite shore is illuminated by the sun, contrast is maximized. On cloudy days or in the late afternoon when the opposite shore is in shadow, contrast is reduced.

#### Use

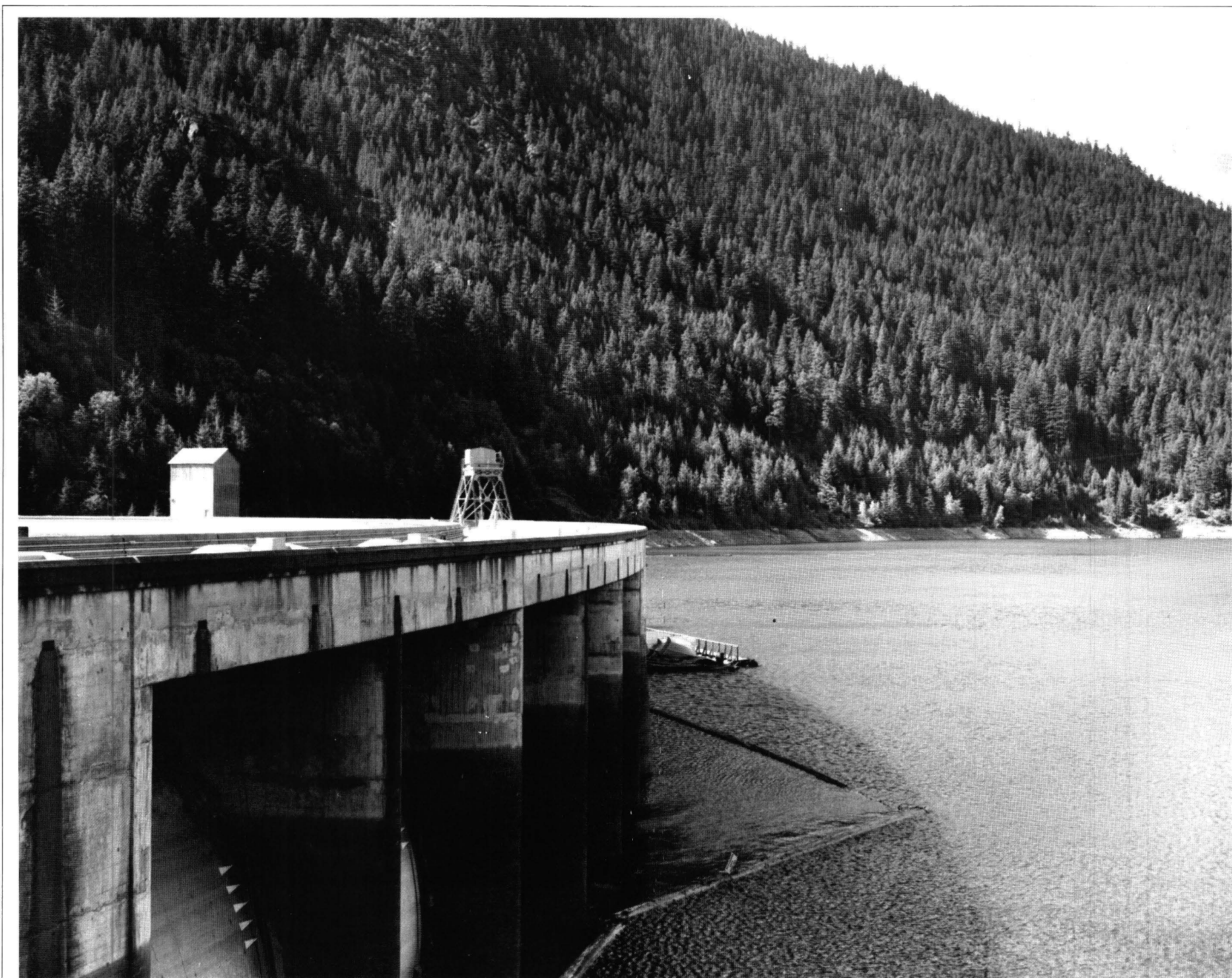
This location is visited by hikers, horse riders, and employees of City Light and Ross Lake Resort. Users approach this location from along the trail to Big Beaver or by way of the Happy Flats Trail from the North Cascades Highway (SR20) to the south. All use is day use of relatively short duration and numbers were estimated based on the use at Big Beaver Campground. User numbers in mid-summer, when the lake is full, are about 75 per week. Earlier in the year, when lake levels are 20 or more feet below full pool, user numbers are probably about or below 10 visitors per week. This location receives visits year-around, although numbers in mid-winter and early spring, when the highway is closed, are quite low.



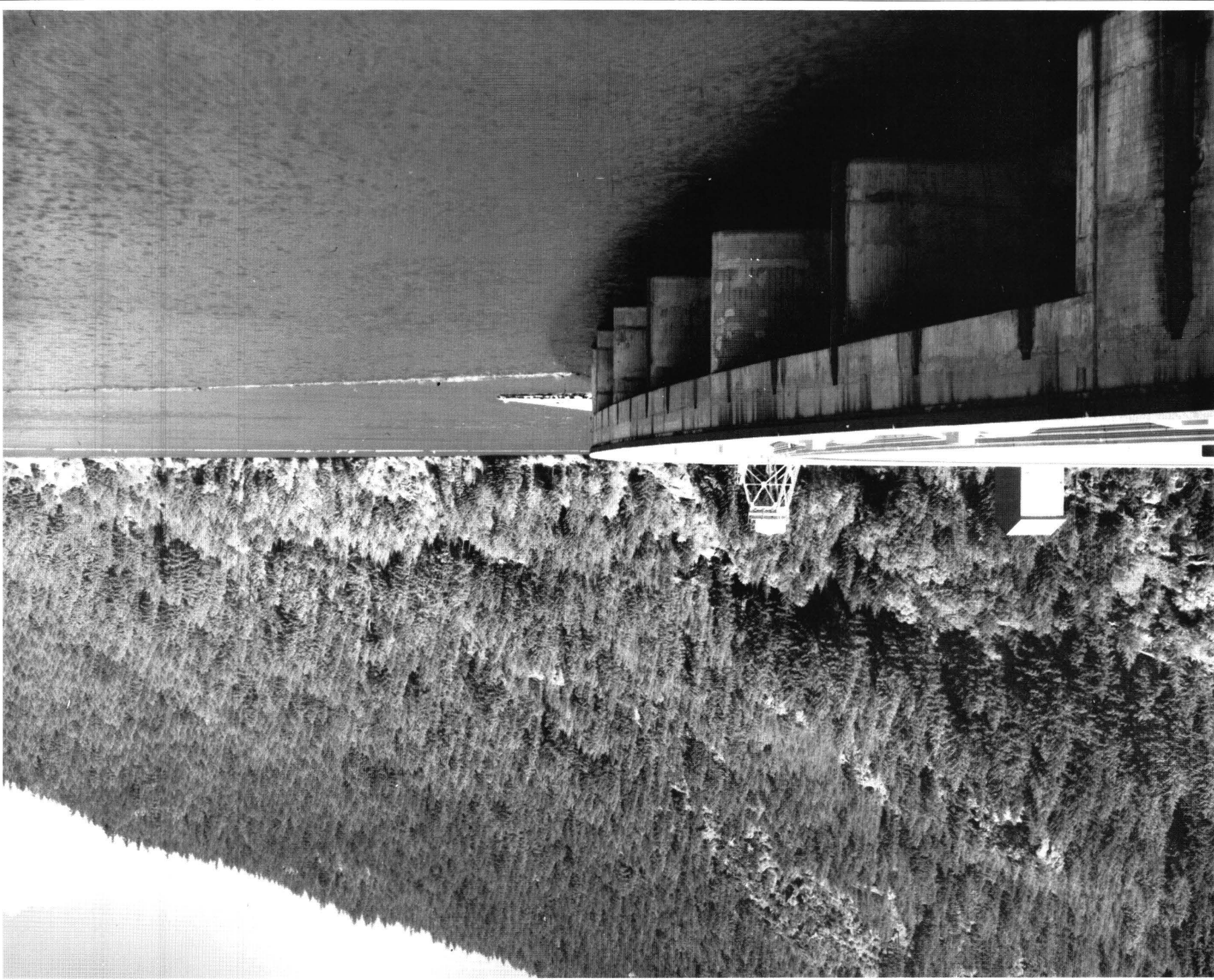


Elevation: 1528.4' 

 Elevation: 1581.7'



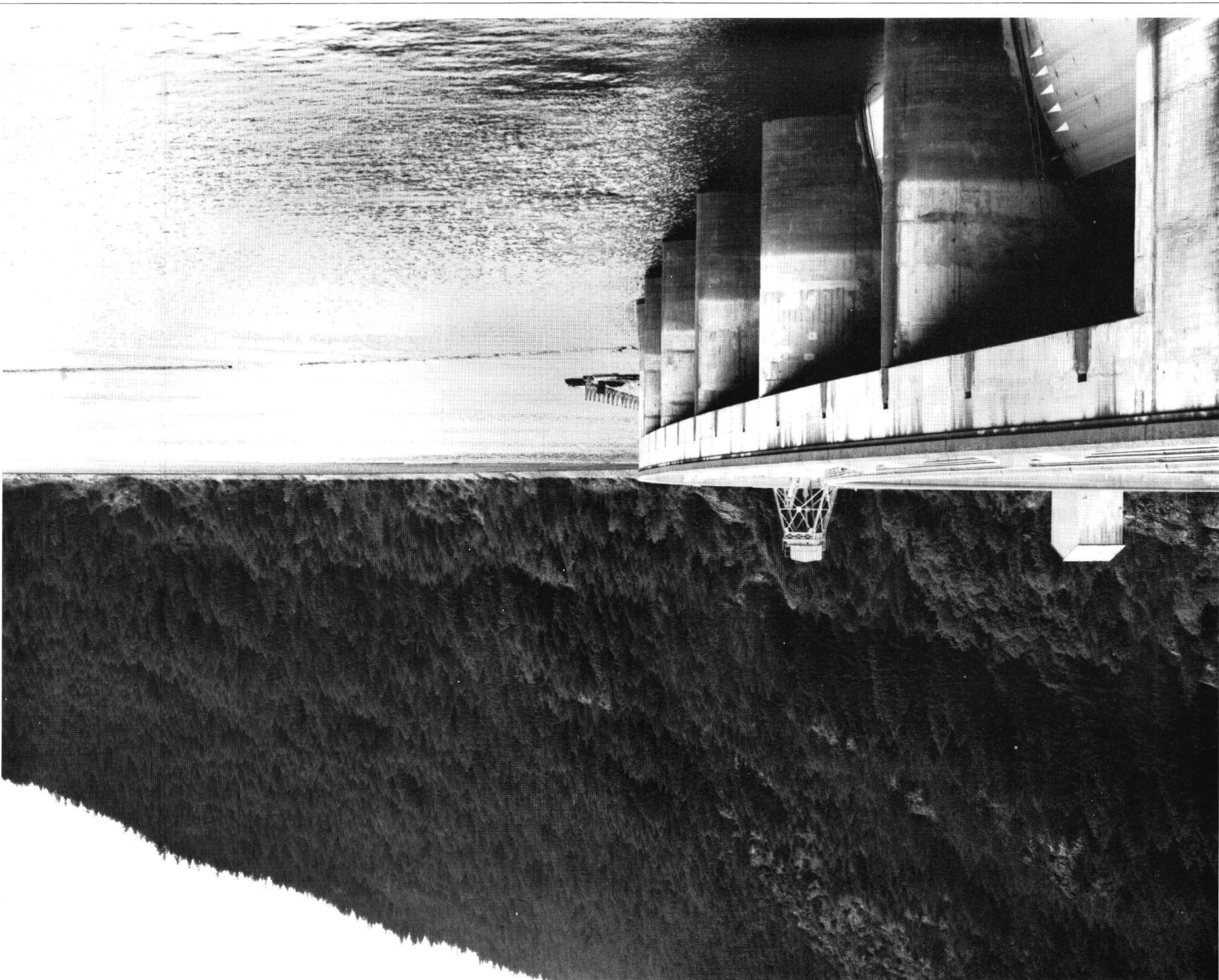




Elevation: 1602.5'

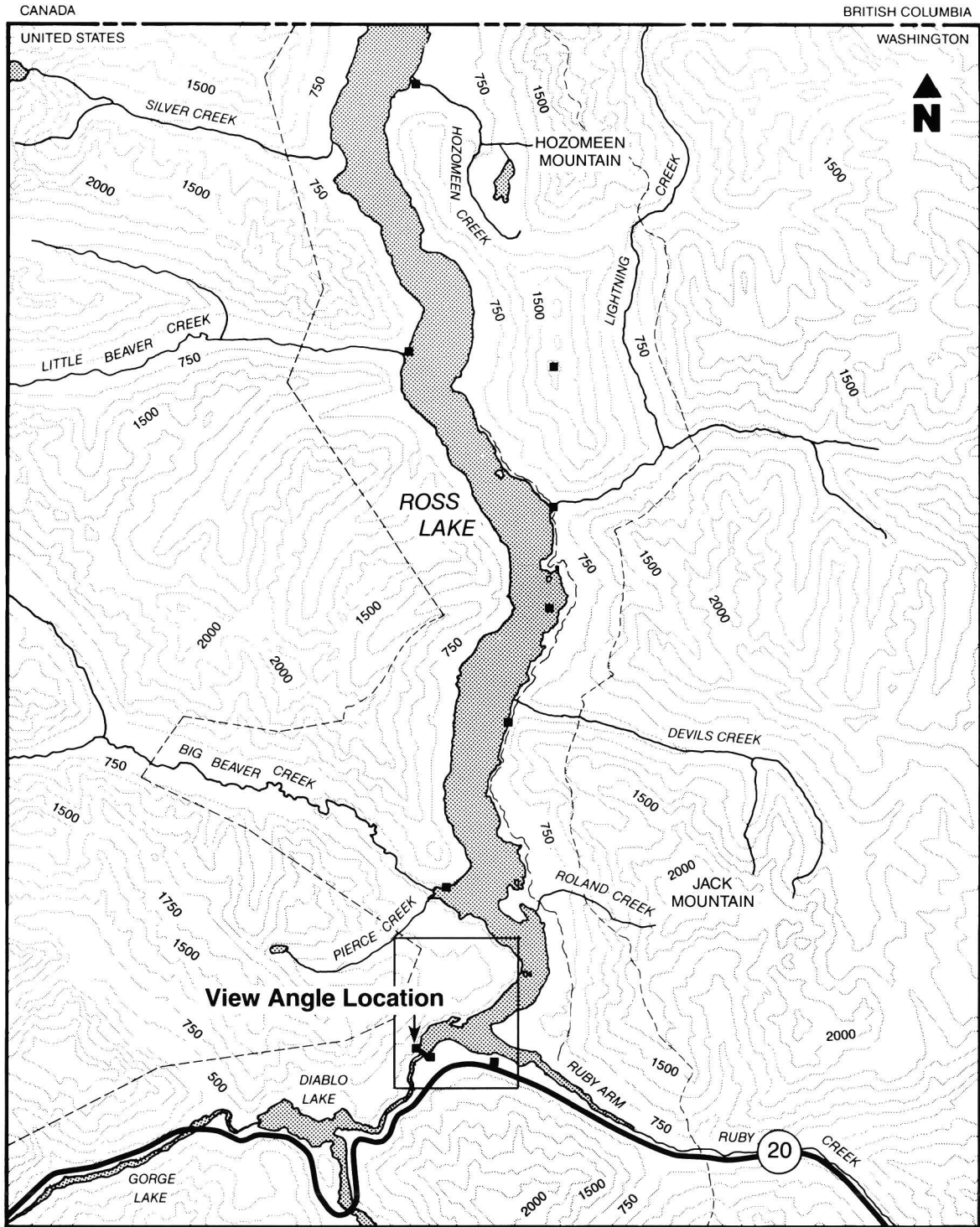


Elevation: 1592.0'

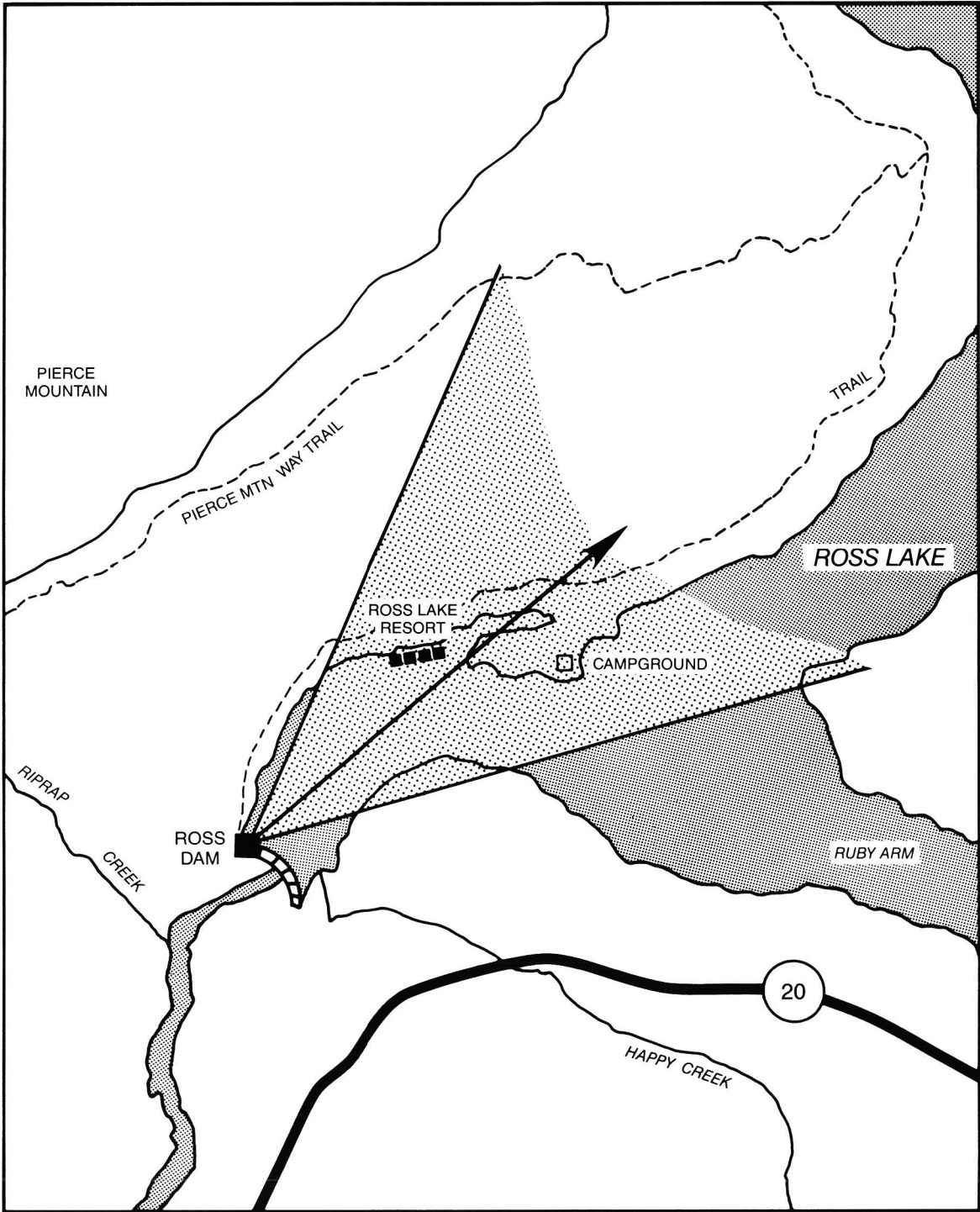




# Ross Dam East



General Location on Ross Lake



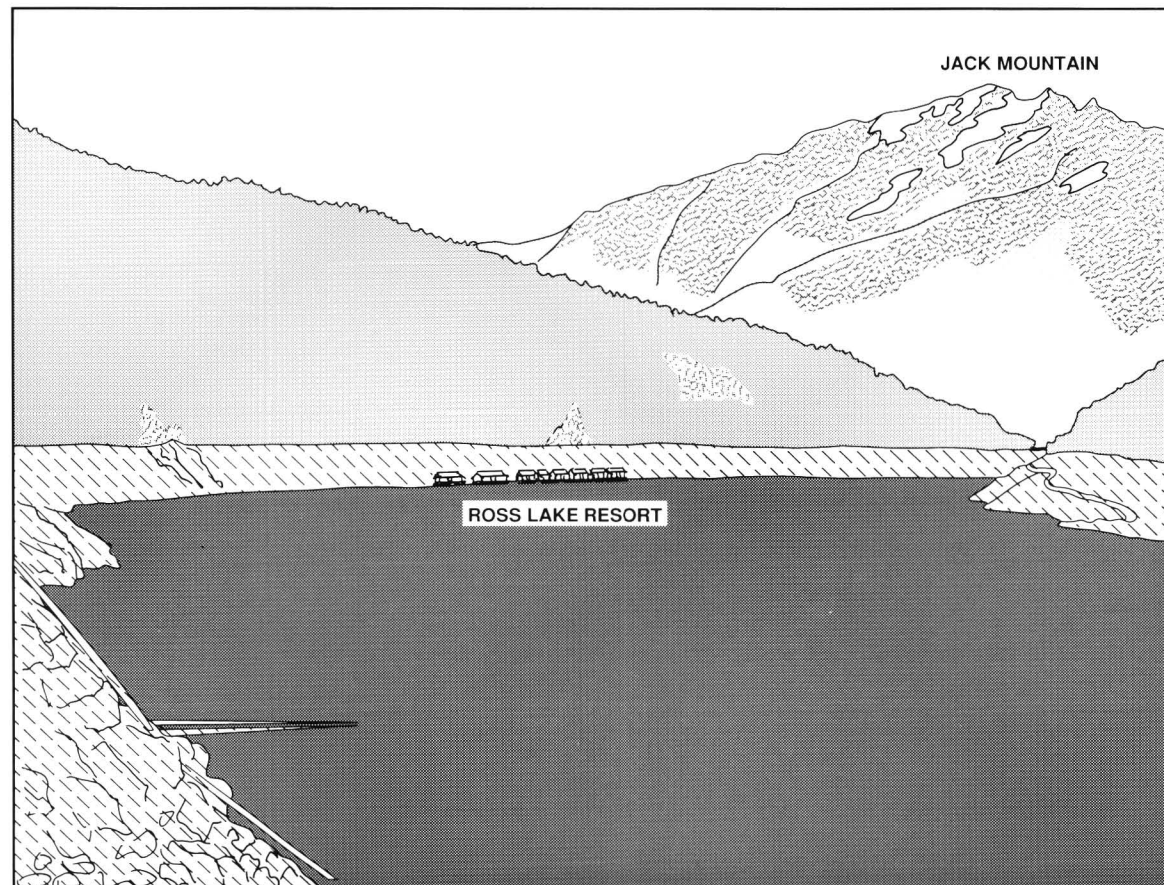
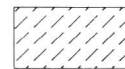
View Angle on Ross Lake





**Elevation: 1528.4**  
**74.1 Feet Below Full Pool**

Exposed Shoreline Area



#### General Description

Jack Mountain stands prominently in the center of this view. Ross Dam (extending to the right of the photograph), Ross Lake Resort, and other man-made structures are equally evident in this view. The near left-hand (north) shore and ridgeline above lead the eye outward toward Jack Mountain. Views are toward the east.

Dominant colors are green, blue-gray of the lake, blue, white, and gray of the dam. Gray-brown to reddish colored slopes on the west side of Jack Mountain are also evident. In addition to the lake, other landscape types seen in this view include: forest, man-made structure, and rock slope.

#### Shoreline

The shoreline exposed by low lake levels forms a band along the opposite shore. The exposed shoreline contrasts with its immediate surroundings due to its color and strong horizontal character. The shoreline's contrast with the overall scene, however, is appreciably lessened by the presence of the dam and other man-made structures. The color and straight lines of the shoreline are similar to those of the dam.

Views are toward the east so that when the opposite shore is illuminated by the midday sun, contrast is maximized. Early in the morning, when the viewer is nearly

facing the sun, on cloudy days, or in the late afternoon when the opposite shore is in shadow, contrast is somewhat reduced.

#### Use

This location is visited by hikers, horse riders, and employees of City Light and Ross Lake Resort. Users approach this location from the trail to Big Beaver or by way of the Happy Flats Trail from the North Cascades Highway (SR20) to the south. All use is day use of relatively short duration and numbers were estimated based on the use at Big Beaver Campground. User numbers in mid-summer, when the lake is full, are about 75 per week. Earlier in the year, when lake levels are 20 or more feet below full pool, user numbers are probably about or below 10 visitors per week. This location receives visits all year, although numbers in mid-winter and early spring, when the highway is closed, are quite low.





Elevation: 1528.4'



Elevation: 1581.7'







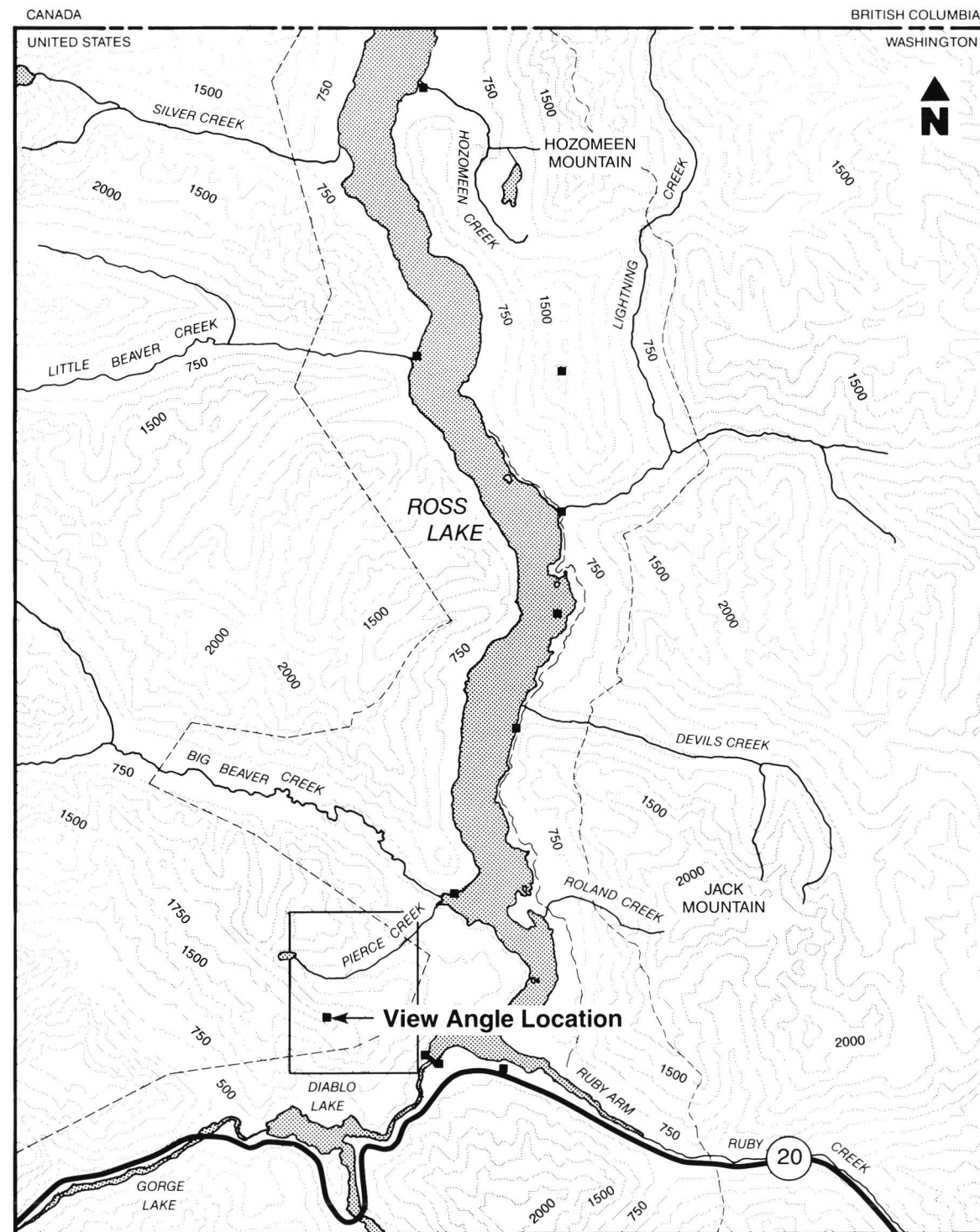
Elevation: 1592.0' 

 Elevation: 1602.5'

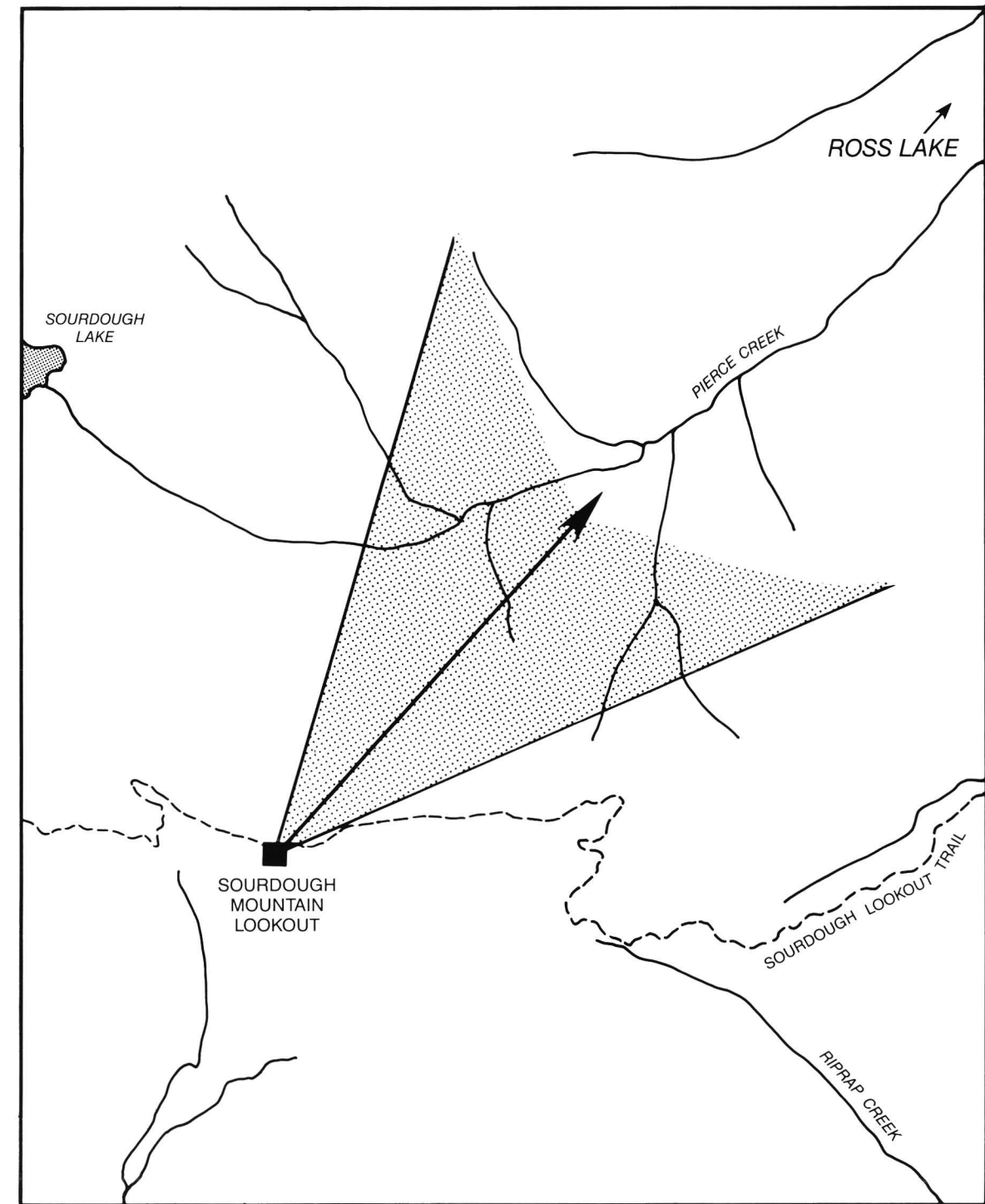




# Sourdough Lookout



**General Location on Ross Lake**




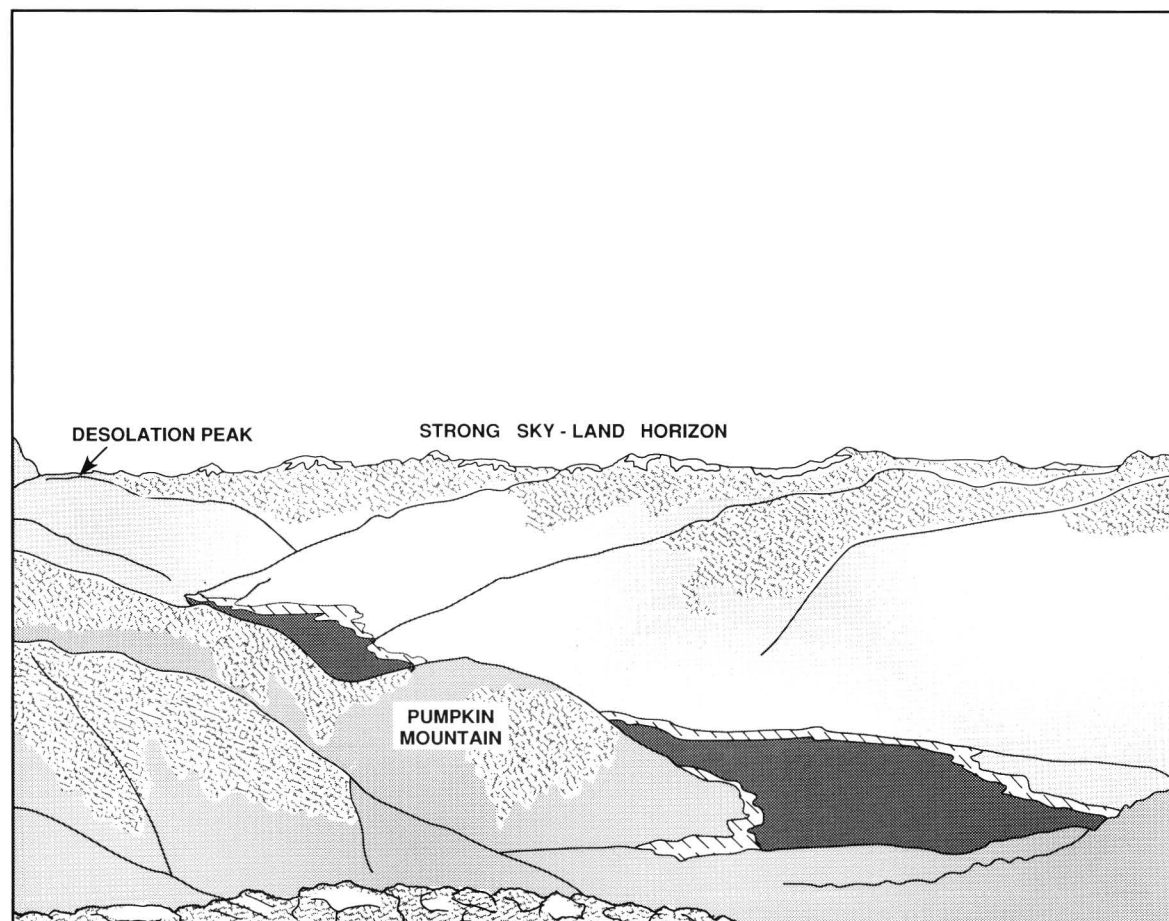
**View Angle on Ross Lake**





**Elevation: 1527.0**  
**75.5 Feet Below Full Pool**

Exposed Shoreline Area 



#### General Description

This view is dominated by the distant expanse of peaks with the sky above. These combine to form a strong horizontal horizon line. Hozomeen Mountain, at the left edge of the photograph, is particularly evident on the skyline. The southern cliffs of Pumpkin Mountain at the center bottom of the photograph are also prominent. Views are to the north, and the resulting front lighting that typically occurs maximizes contrast. The dominant colors are blue, green, white, and blue-gray of the lake. The lake is an irregular, somewhat linear form at the observer's feet.

In addition to the lake, landscape types seen in this view include: snowfield/-glacier, rock slope, forest, alpine meadow, and avalanche slope. The elevated perspective, about 4100 feet above the lake, provides an encompassing view of the region and reduces the visual importance of the lake.

#### Shoreline

The shoreline exposed at low pool in this view forms a thin band around the margins of the lake. Even at low pool, the exposed shoreline is visually unimportant. Because the view is to the north, the resulting front lighting that typically occurs maximizes contrast. At higher levels approaching full pool the shoreline is difficult to distinguish.

#### Use

This viewpoint receives comparatively low use with less than 5 hikers visiting this location per week in mid-summer, when the lake is full. Use levels are below 1 per week earlier in the year when lake levels are 20 feet or more below full pool. In mid-winter and early-spring, when lake levels are lowest, this location is only rarely visited.





Elevation: 1527.0'



Elevation: 1577.0'







Elevation: 1592.5'

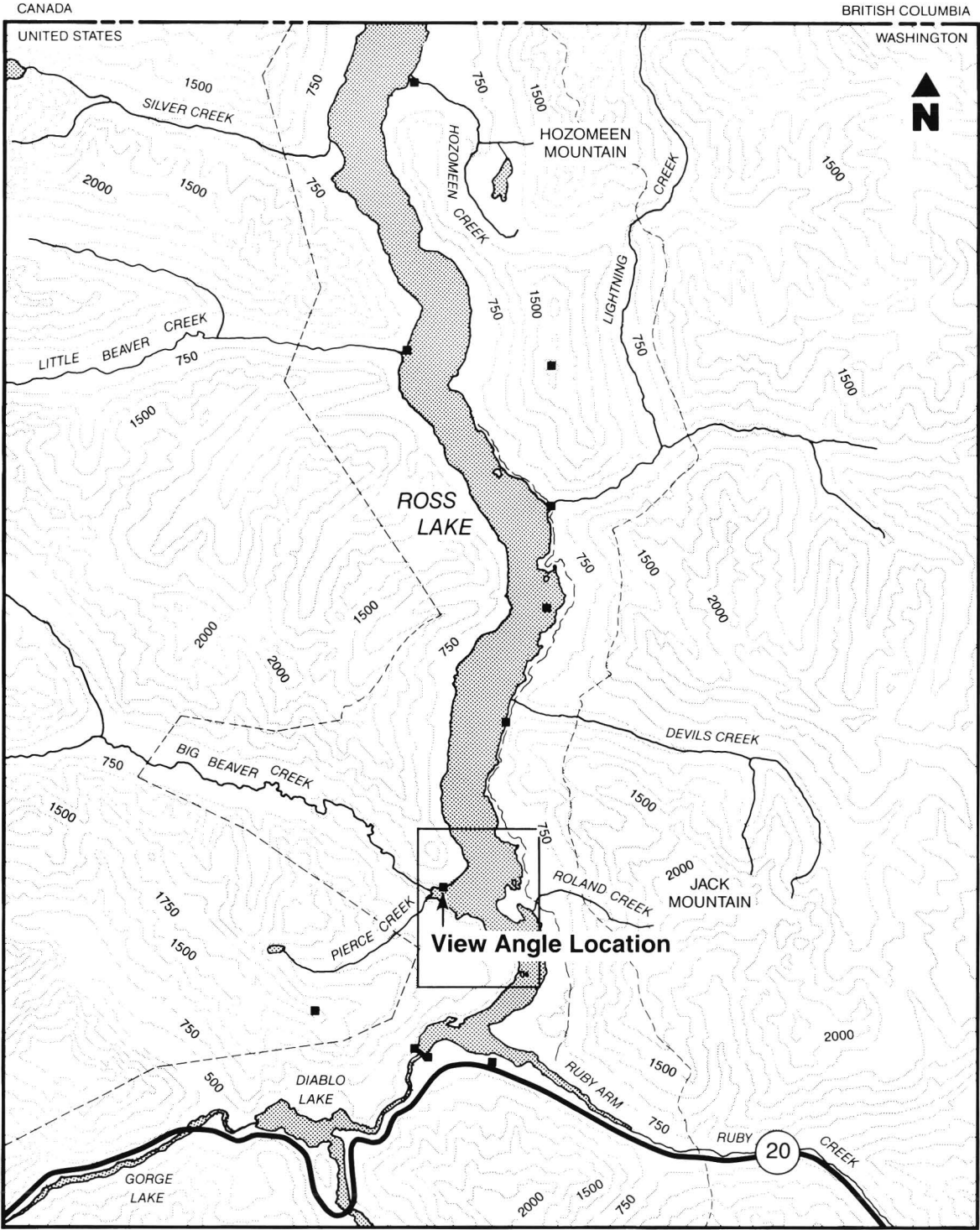


Elevation: 1602.5'

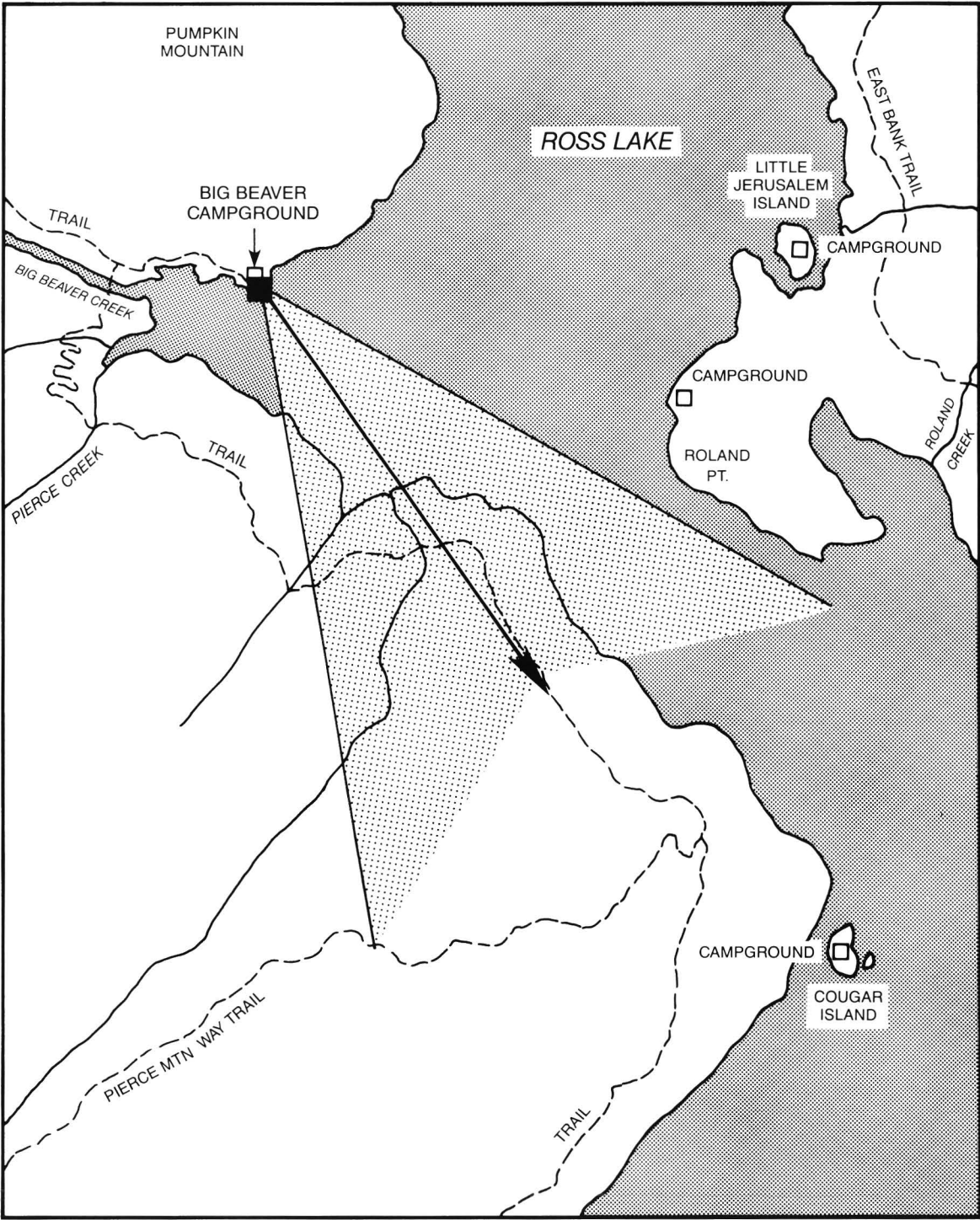




# Big Beaver



General Location on Ross Lake



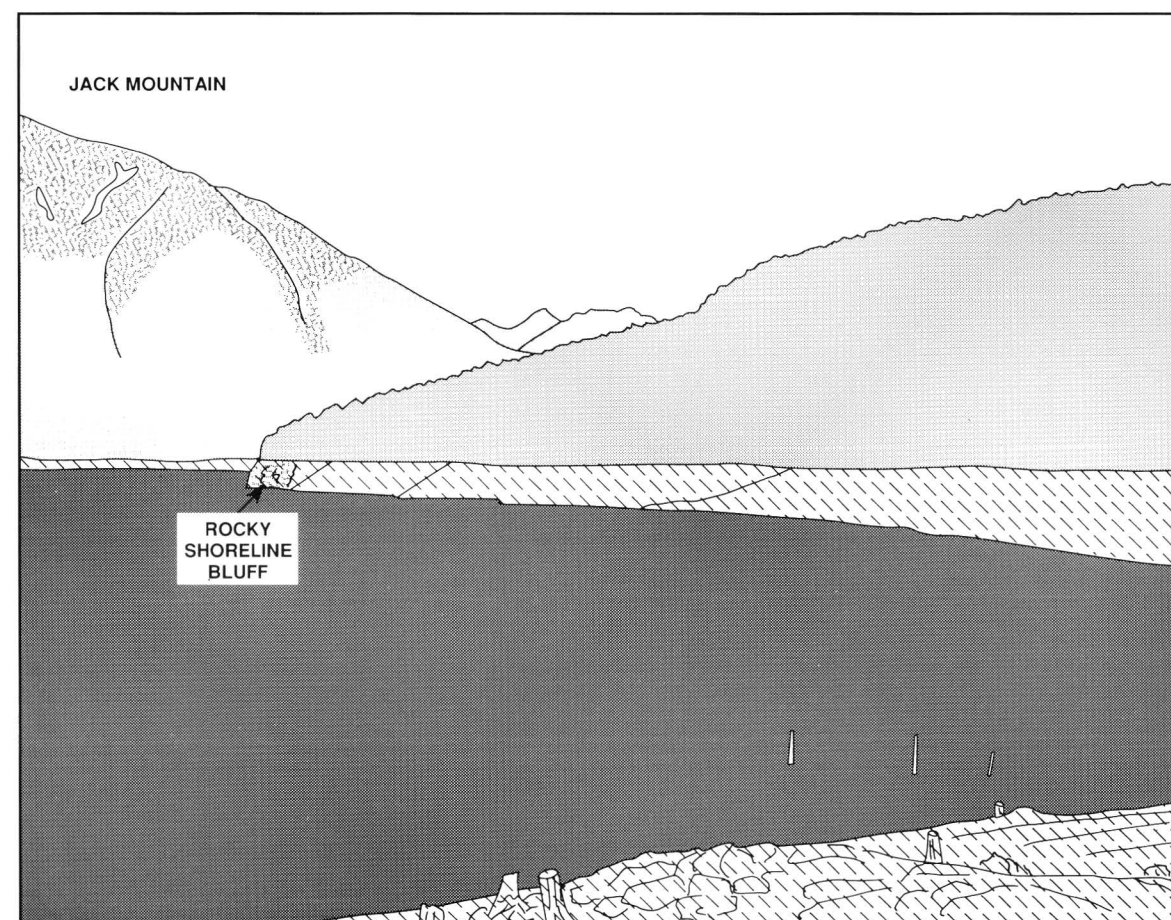
View Angle on Ross Lake





**Elevation: 1525.2**  
**77.3 Feet Below Full Pool**

Exposed Shoreline Area 



### General Description

Jack Mountain (to the left of the photograph) and the distant mountains in the center of the photograph dominate this view. Views are toward the east and southeast. The lake appears as a broad expanse without the linearity and focus that it provides in many other views. Dominant colors are blue-gray of the lake, green, white, and blue. While not dominant, reddish to brown tones seen on the west slopes of Jack Mountain are evident from this viewpoint. The southwest slope of Jack Mountain and the foreground slope on the west side of the lake provide a frame for the distant snow-covered peaks.

In addition to the lake, other landscape types seen in this view include: snowfield/glacier, rock slope, avalanche slope, forest, and alpine meadow. This viewpoint is close to lake level and the broad, level plane of the lake is a dominant landscape feature.

### Shoreline

The shoreline exposed at lake level forms a band around the edge of the lake. In addition, at low lake levels (below about 1575-1580) the delta at the mouth of Big Beaver Creek is revealed. This is a significant part of the landscape at very low lake levels. At these low lake levels, horizontal, small benches on the shoreline accentuate the contrast produced by the

shoreline's tan color and sharp, horizontal demarcation from the forest above.

Because views are toward the east and southeast, the viewer is looking into the sun during the first half of the day which somewhat reduces contrast. In addition, the shoreline is less contrasting on cloudy days, where it is in shadow, or where it forms a rocky bluff.

### Use

This viewpoint is one of the most frequently visited backcountry locations around the lake. Hikers, horse riders, and boaters visit this location. In mid-summer, when lake levels are highest, use levels approach 100 persons per week. In mid-spring, when lake levels are 20 feet or more below full pool, user numbers fall below 10 persons per week. In mid-winter and early-spring, when lake levels are lowest, use is minimal.





Elevation: 1525.2'



Elevation: 1581.7'







Elevation: 1592.0'

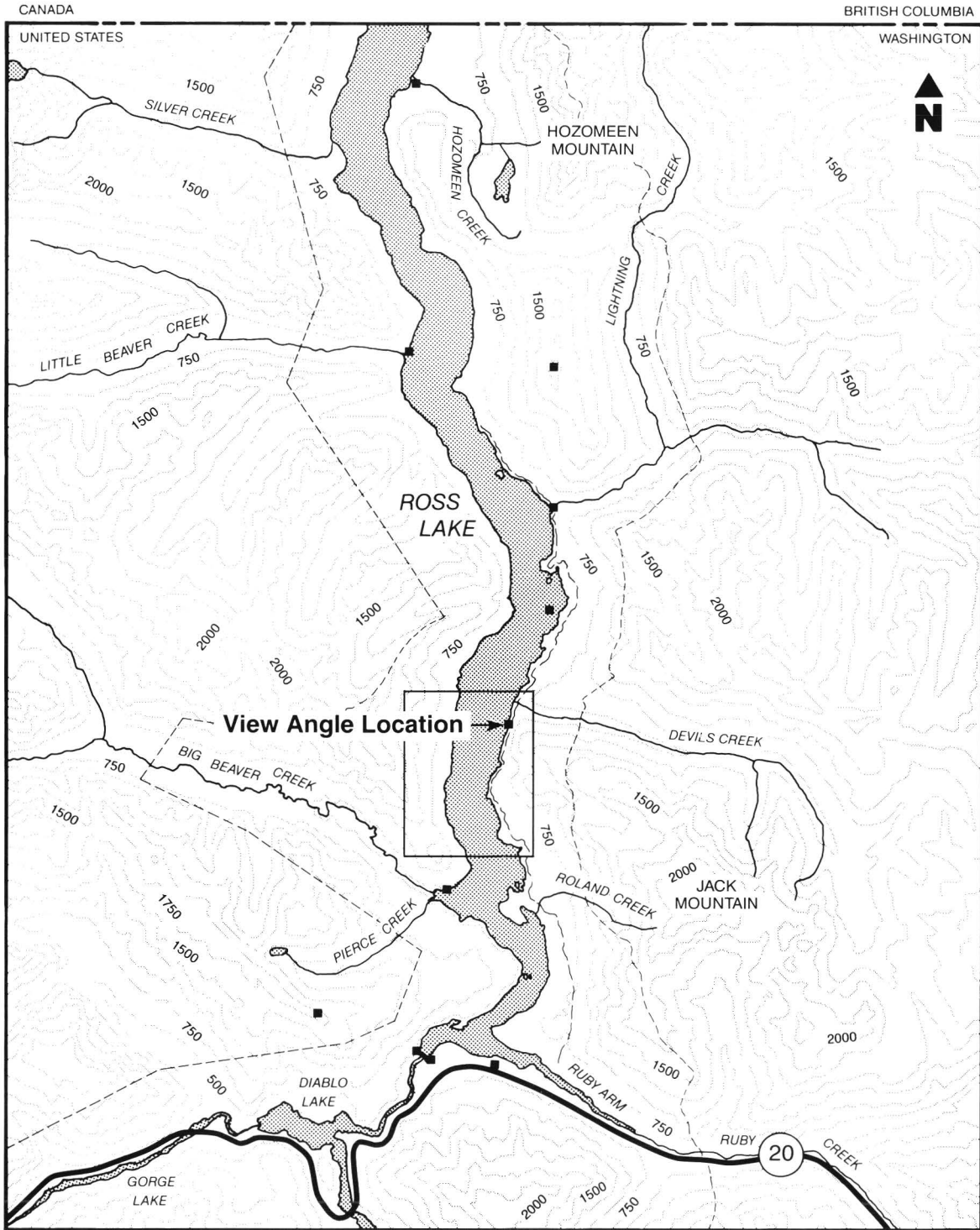


Elevation: 1602.5'

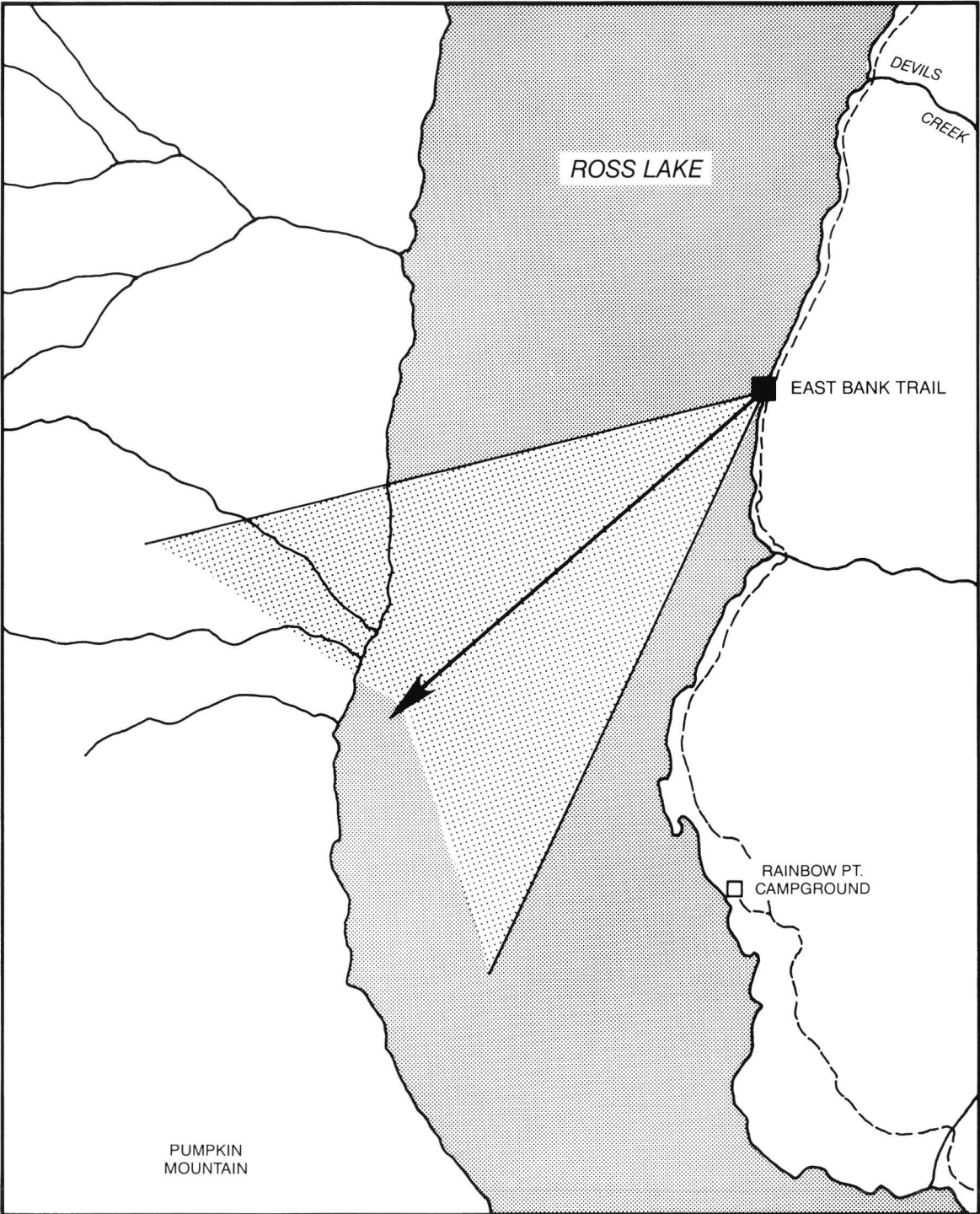




# East Bank Trail South



General Location on Ross Lake



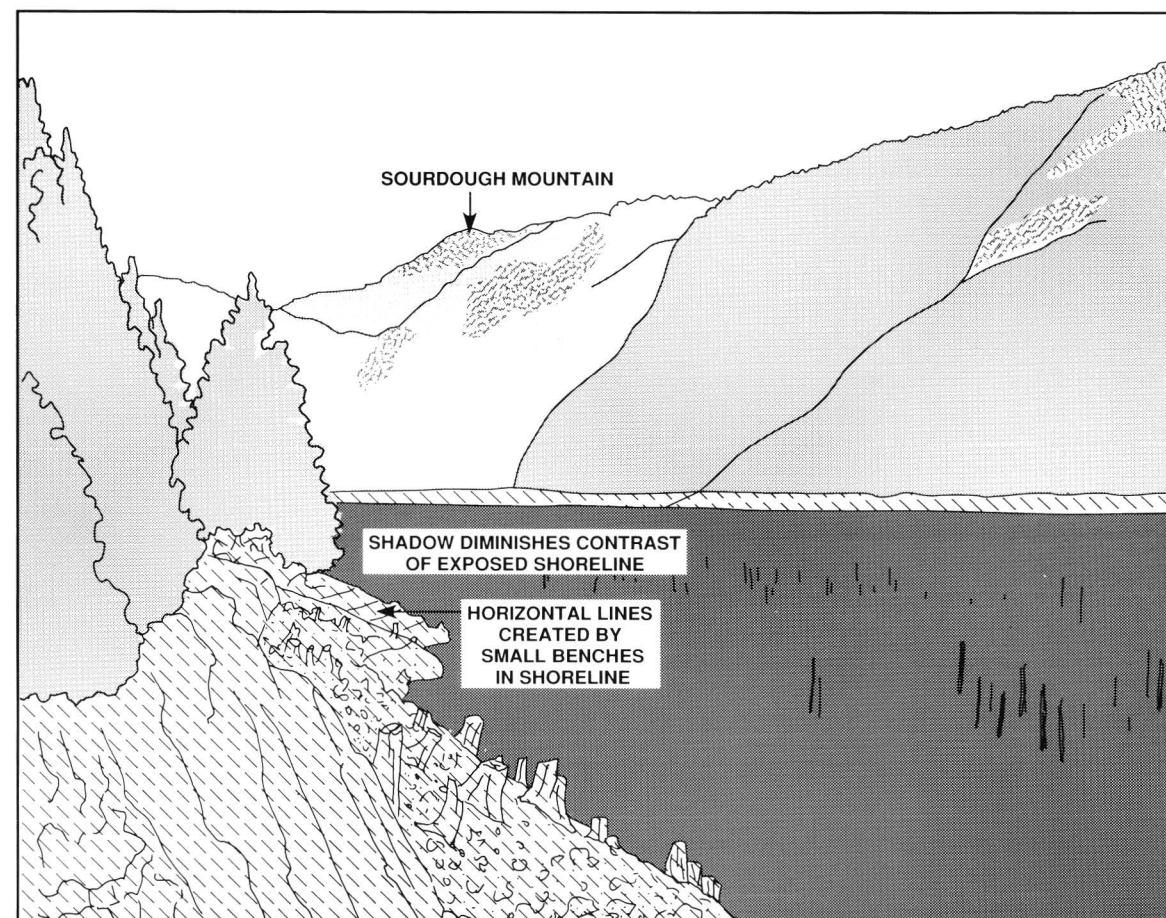
View Angle on Ross Lake





**Elevation: 1525.2**  
**77.3 Feet Below Full Pool**

Exposed Shoreline Area 



### General Description

The lake curves away to the east behind Rainbow Point a short distance south of this viewpoint so that the lake is visually not linear as it is in most views. This view is toward the south. On sunny days the sun is in front of the viewer at mid-day and during the afternoon. The view is dominated by the green forested slope rising from the opposite shore. Sourdough Mountain and Pumpkin Mountain can be seen at the left portion of the photograph. Overall, this view has less variety than most views along the lake. Dominant colors are green, blue, white, and blue-gray of the lake.

In addition to the lake, other landscape types seen in this view include: forest, rocky slope, lakeside bluff, alpine meadow, and stream cascade (to the left of the photograph). The viewer's perspective, a few feet above the lake at full pool, gives the lake visual dominance.

### Shoreline

The shoreline exposed at low pool forms a band around the lake. No creek deltas are visible in this view, and the amount of exposed shoreline increases evenly as the lake level drops. Comparatively less shoreline area is visible in this view at the lowest lake level than is visible from other views around the lake. At lowest pool levels, snags protrude above the

water, their dark color and straight lines contrasting with the lake surface.

The southerly perspective of this view slightly reduces contrast of the exposed shoreline. On cloudy days, or when the shore is in shadow, the contrast of the exposed shoreline is reduced.

### Use

This viewpoint is visited by hikers and horse riders. Duration is comparatively short since this is not an established campground. Although the duration of visits is short and the landscape variety is not particularly high, this view is unique because it is the first full view of the lake for hikers travelling north on the East Bank Trail.

User numbers are about 25-30 persons per week in mid-summer when lake levels are highest. At lower lake levels in the mid-spring, use levels are less than 5 persons per week. In mid-winter and early-spring user numbers at this viewpoint are minimal.





Elevation: 1525.2' 

 Elevation: 1579.5'







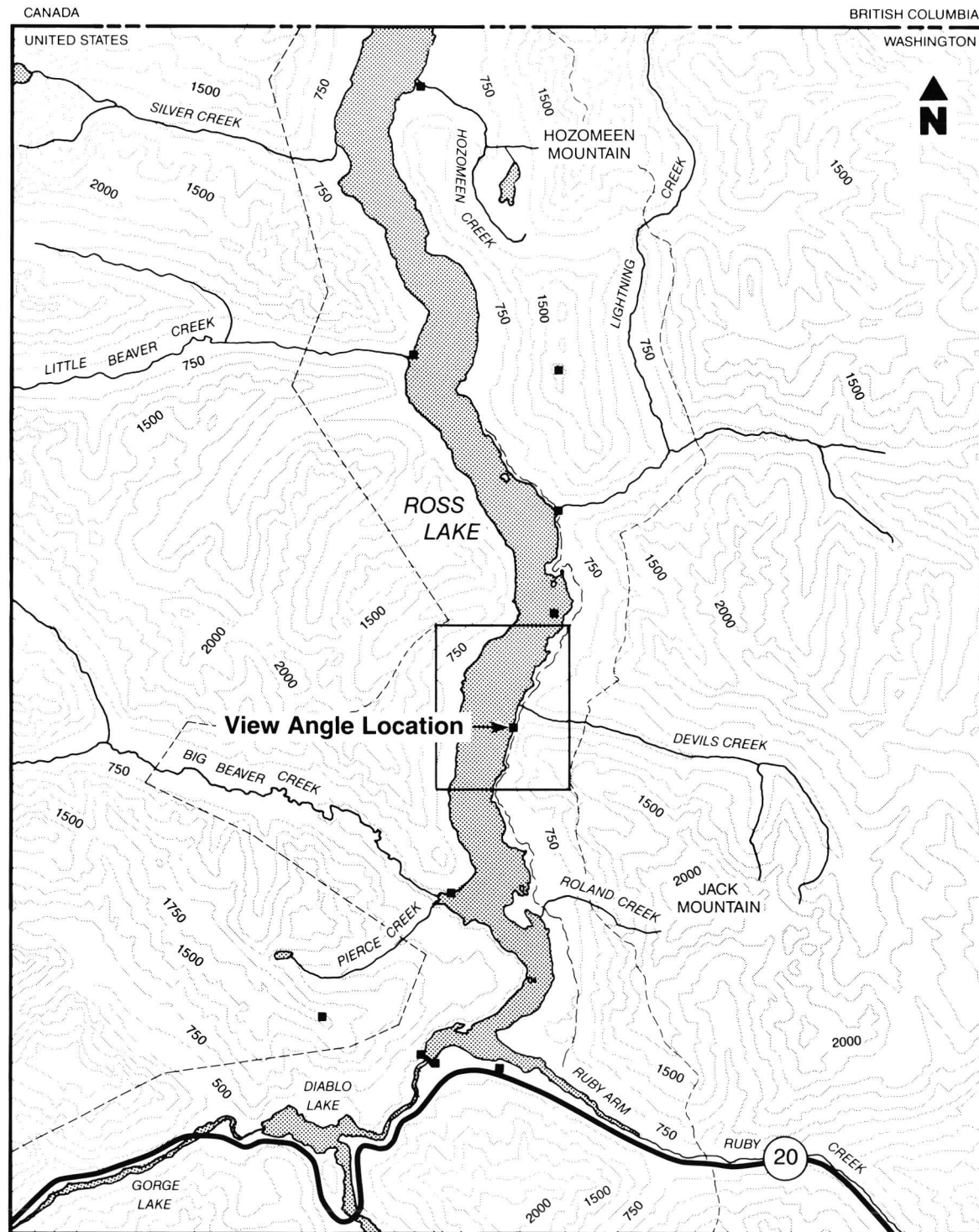
Elevation: 1592.0' ↙



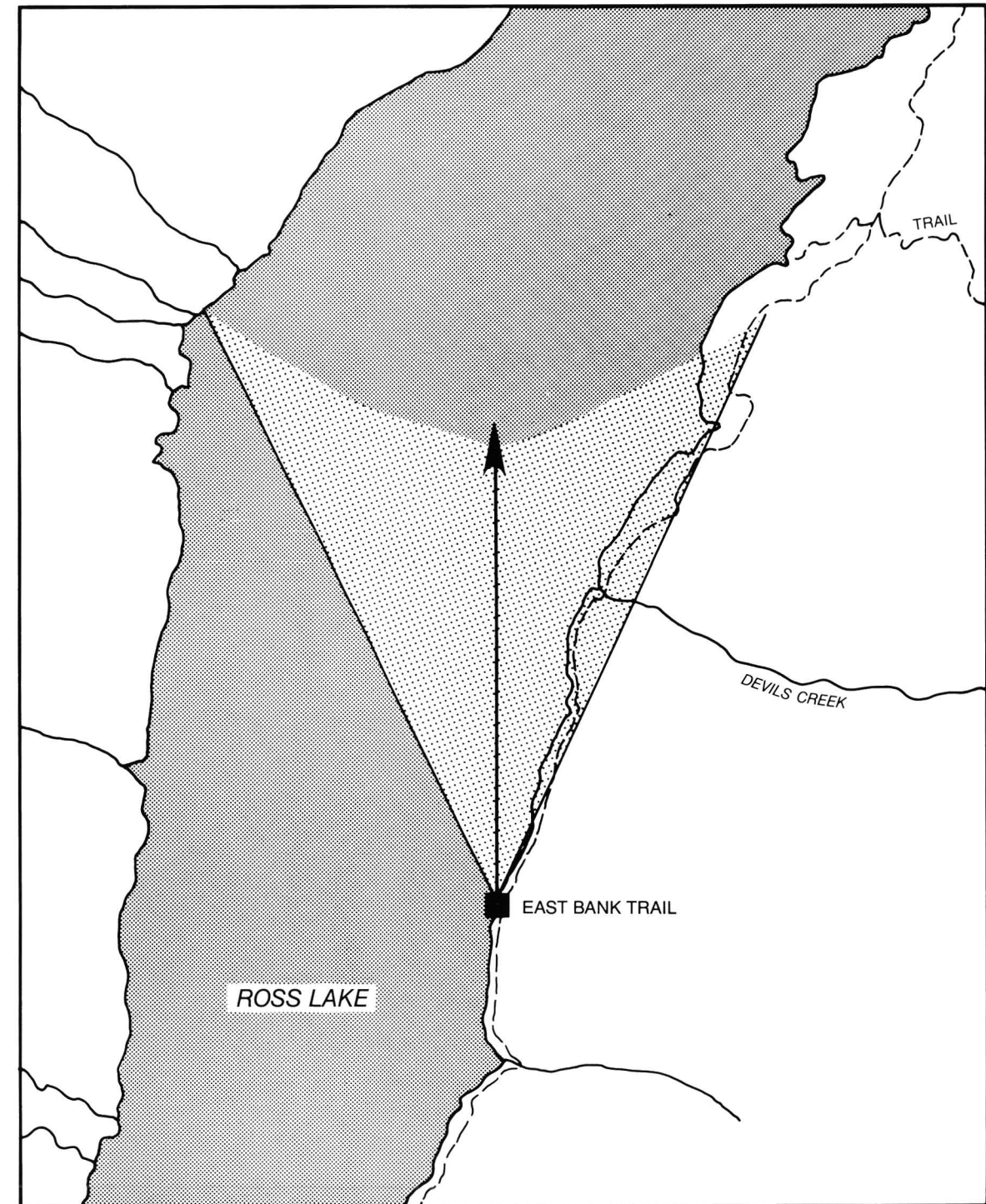
↗ Elevation: 1602.5'



# East Bank Trail North



**General Location on Ross Lake**



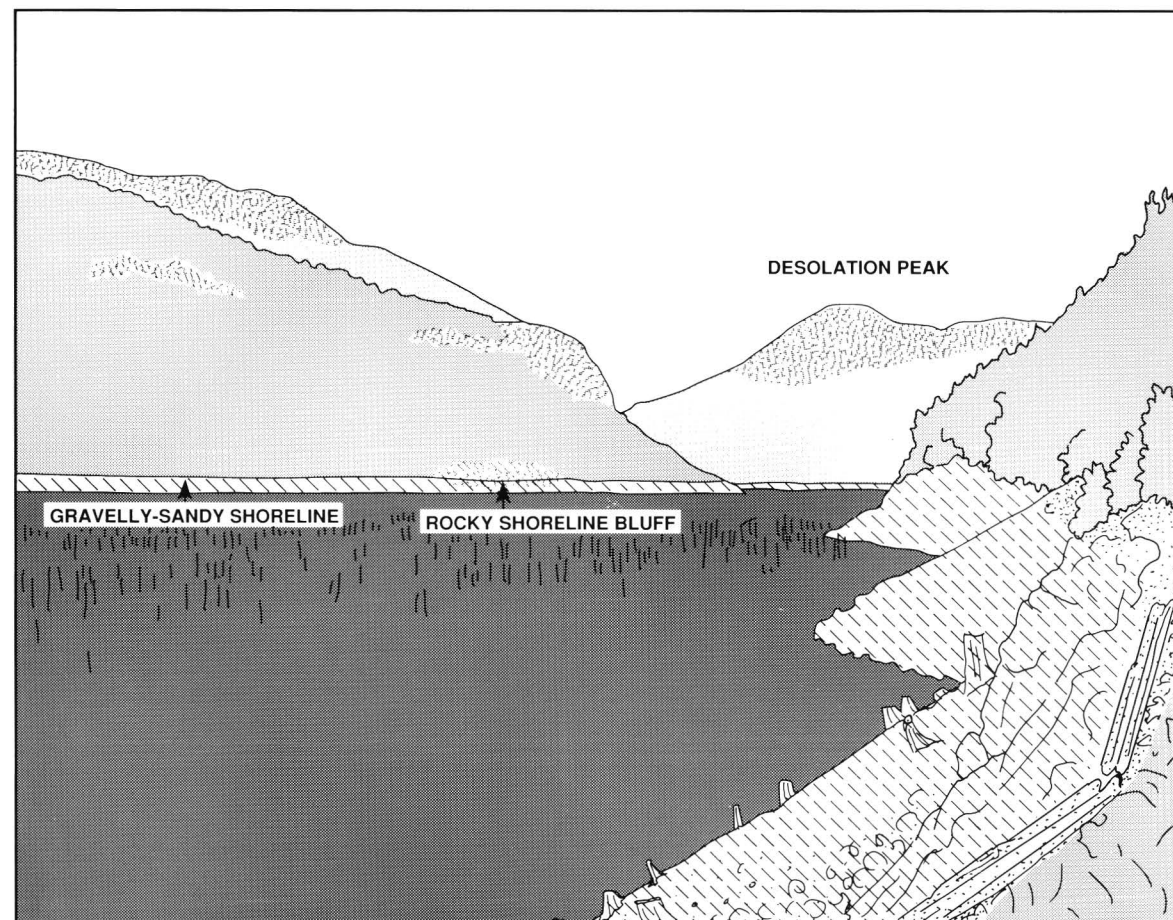
**View Angle on Ross Lake**





**Elevation: 1525.2**  
**77.3 Feet Below Full Pool**

Exposed Shoreline Area 



### General Description

The lake leads the eye toward Desolation Peak, which stands prominently in the center of the view. This view is toward the north, and the sun is usually behind the viewer. The viewpoint is located at the edge of a steep bank, which is a bluff in places. A relatively uniform, green slope rises from the opposite shore of the lake (mostly to the left of the photograph) and distant peaks are not visible in this direction. Overall, this view has less variety than most views along the lake. Dominant colors are green, blue, white, and blue-gray of the lake. The sloping valley sides provide a strong frame for Desolation Peak and the distant lake.

In addition to the lake, other landscape types seen in this view include: forest, rocky slope, lakeside bluff, alpine meadow, and stream cascade (to the left of the photograph). The viewer's perspective, a few feet above the lake at full pool, gives the lake visual dominance. More than most views on the lake, this view gives a sense of being enclosed within a valley.

### Shoreline

The shoreline exposed at low pool forms a band around the lake. No creek deltas are visible in this view, and the amount of shoreline exposed increases evenly as the lake level drops. The shore is very steep and rocky, and at low lake levels

presents a precipitous drop at the visitor's feet. Comparatively less shoreline area is visible in this view at the lowest lake levels than is visible in other views around the lake. At the same time, the northerly perspective with the sun usually behind the viewer, the strong horizontal lines created by the exposed shoreline, and the shoreline's tan color render it conspicuous in this view. In addition, at these low lake levels, snags protruding above the water surface are evident.

On cloudy days, or in the early morning, when the near east shore is in shadow, the contrast of the exposed shoreline is reduced.

### Use

This viewpoint is visited by hikers and horse riders. Duration is comparatively short since this is not an established campground. Although the duration of visits is short and the landscape variety is not particularly high, this view is unique because it is the first full view of the lake for hikers travelling north on the East Bank Trail.

User numbers are about 25-30 persons per week in mid-summer when lake levels are highest. At lower lake levels in the mid-spring, use levels are less than 5 persons per week. In mid-winter and early-spring user numbers at this viewpoint are minimal.





Elevation: 1525.2' ↗

↘ Elevation: 1579.5'







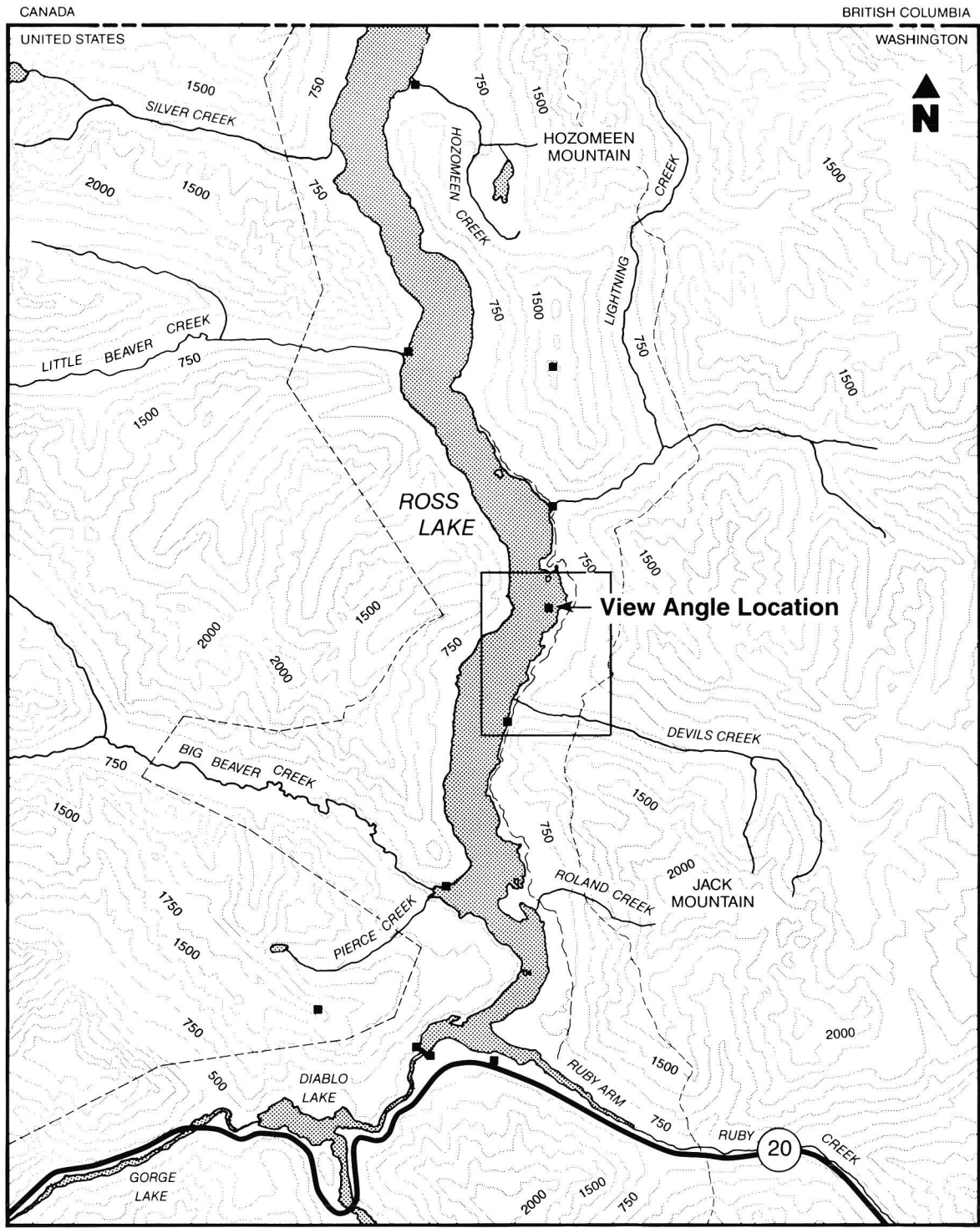
Elevation: 1592.0' 

 Elevation: 1602.5'

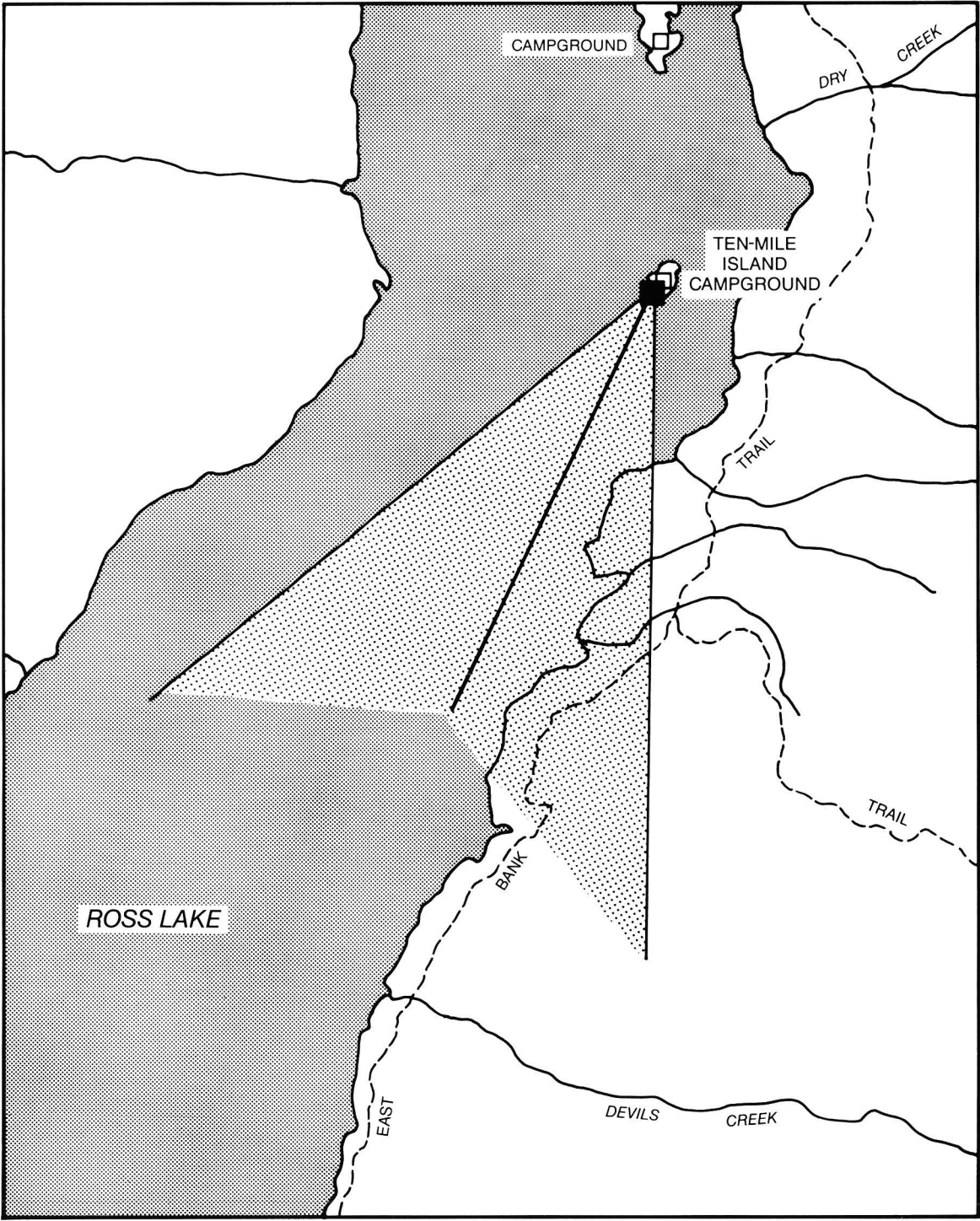




# Ten-Mile Island South



**General Location on Ross Lake**



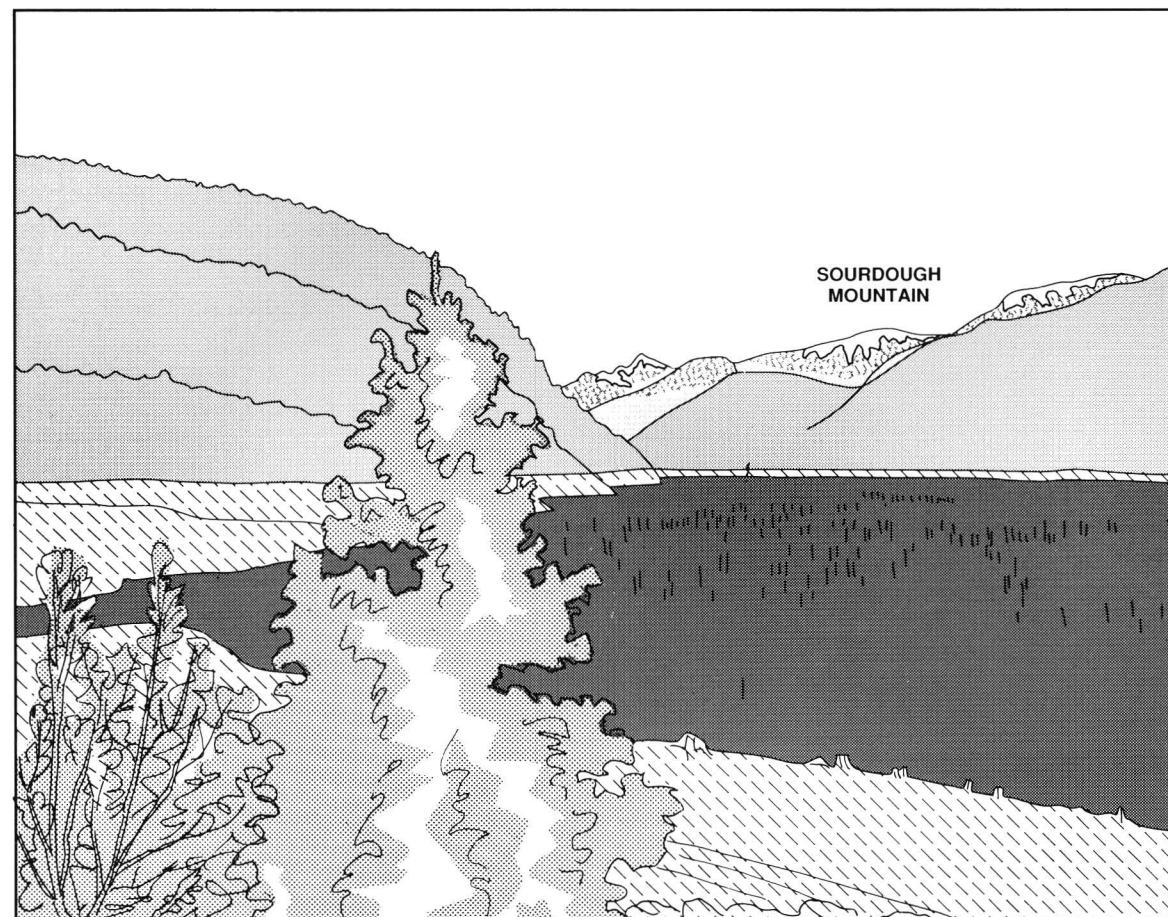
**View Angle on Ross Lake**





**Elevation: 1523.2**  
**79.3 Feet Below Full Pool**

Exposed Shoreline Area 



#### General Description

This view is similar to the view south from Lightning Creek. The lake stretches away from the viewer and leads the eye toward forested slopes rising above the opposite shore and leads the eye along the lake toward snow-covered peaks rising behind Sourdough Mountain in the distance. The summit of Jack Mountain can be seen above the east shore. Pumpkin Mountain, just north of the mouth of Big Beaver Creek, is a prominent round hump from this location. Views are toward the south and the sun is usually in front of the viewer (except very early or late in the day). Dominant colors are green, white, blue, and blue-gray of the lake.

In addition to the lake, other landscape types seen in this view include: rocky slope, snowfield, forest, alpine meadow, island, and stream cascade (outside of the photograph). The viewer perspective at lake level gives the lake visual dominance.

#### Shoreline

The shoreline exposed at low pool levels forms a band around the margin of the lake. Below about 1560-1570 feet, the shoreline exposed along the east shore just southeast of the island increases significantly in size. Part of this area is to the right of the photograph. The tan color and horizontal lines (not evident in this photograph) of the exposed shoreline

accentuate its contrast with the remainder of the scene. In addition to the exposed shoreline at low lake levels, snags protrude above the water surface and provide additional contrast.

Because views are toward the south and the sun is usually in front of the viewer, backlighting somewhat diminishes contrast. On cloudy days, or in early morning when the east shore is in shadow, the contrast of the exposed shoreline is reduced. The west shore is farther from the viewer than the east shore and consequently less evident.

#### Use

This viewpoint is used exclusively by boaters and visits typically include overnight camping. Viewer numbers vary from about 25-30 persons per week in mid-summer when lake levels are highest to less than 5 persons per week when lake levels are lower. As with most backcountry locations around the lake, use in mid-winter and early-spring, when lake levels are lowest, is minimal.





Elevation: 1523.2' 

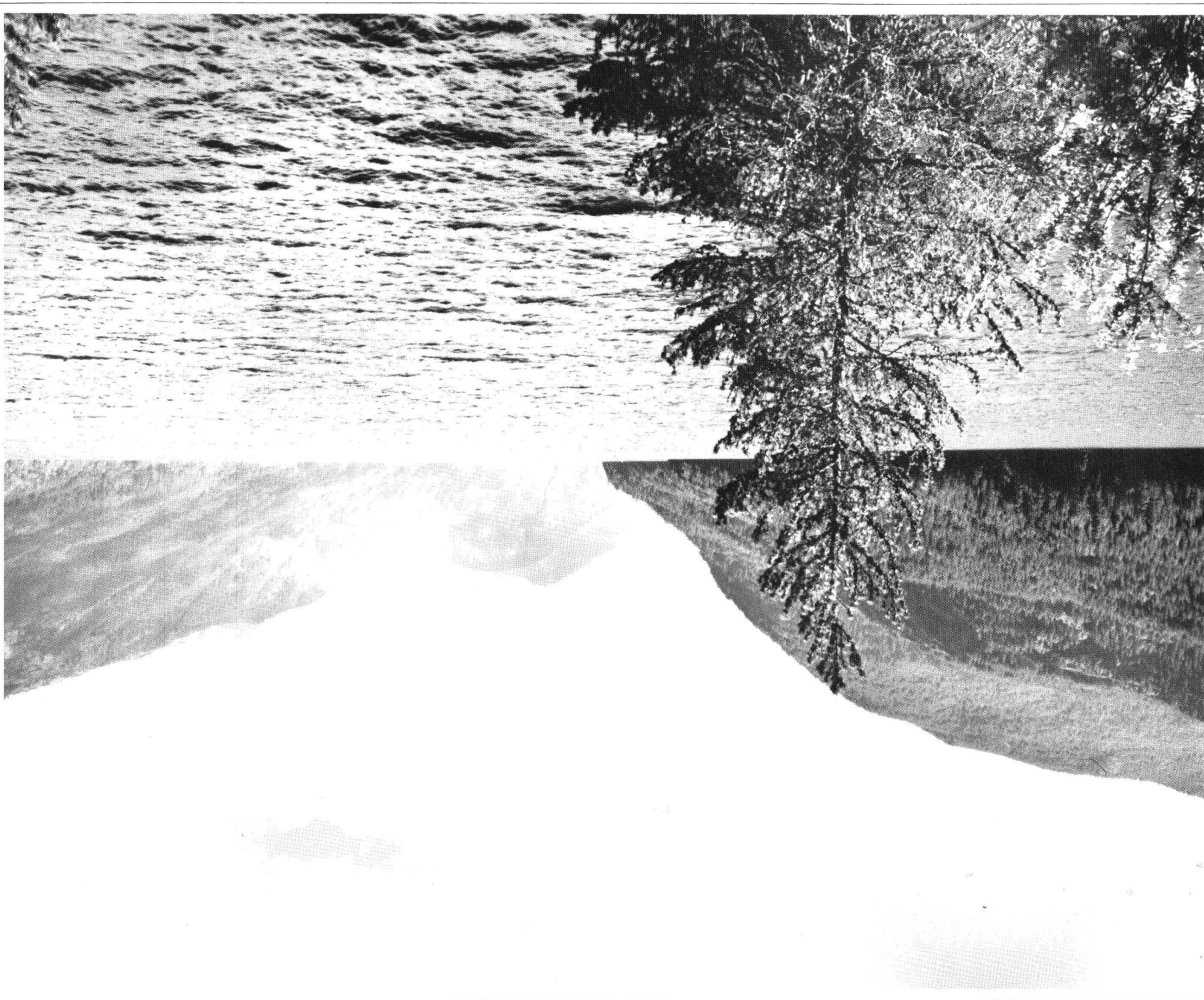
 Elevation: 1579.5'







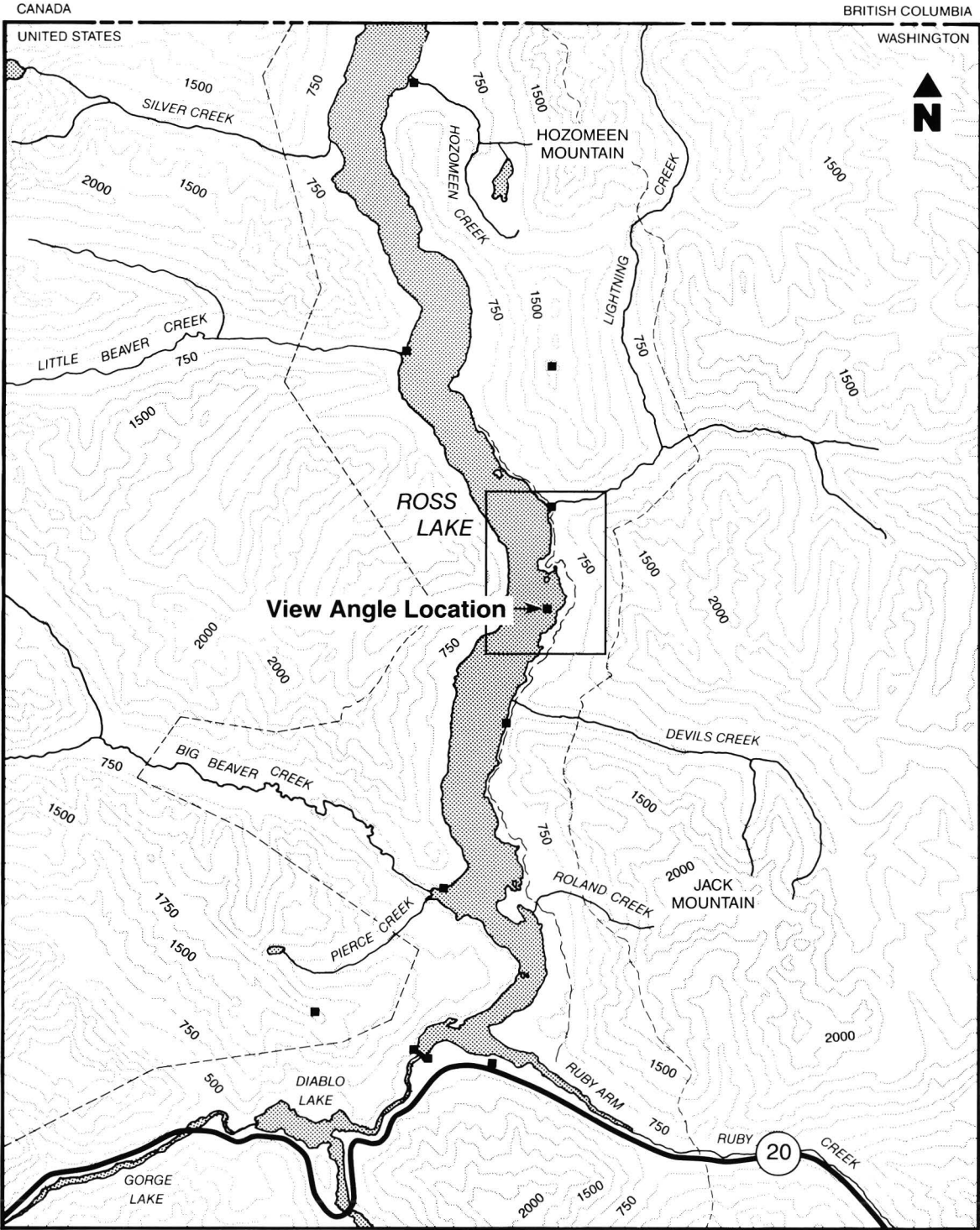
Elevation: 1592.5' ↙



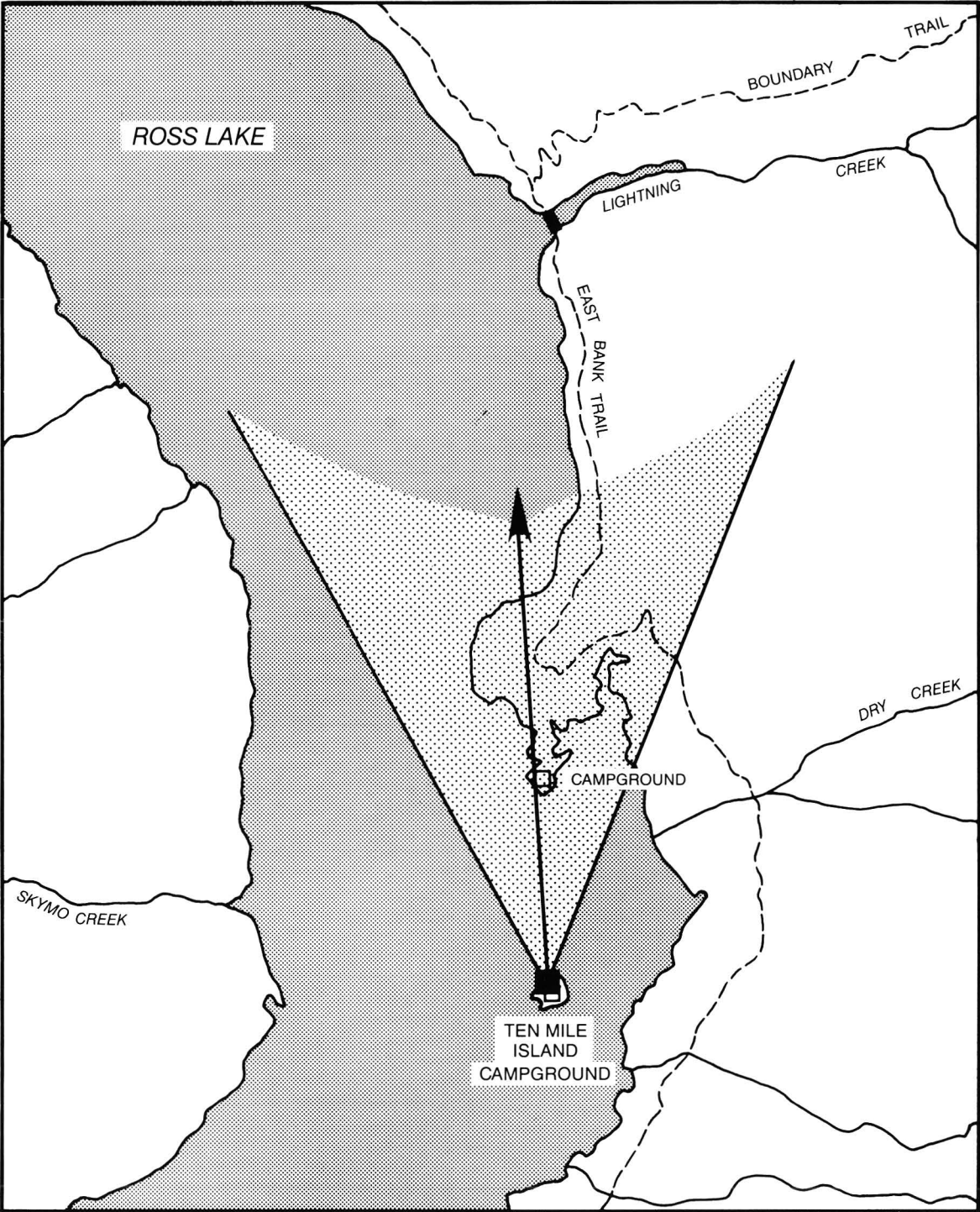
↗ Elevation: 1602.5'



# Ten-Mile Island North



General Location on Ross Lake




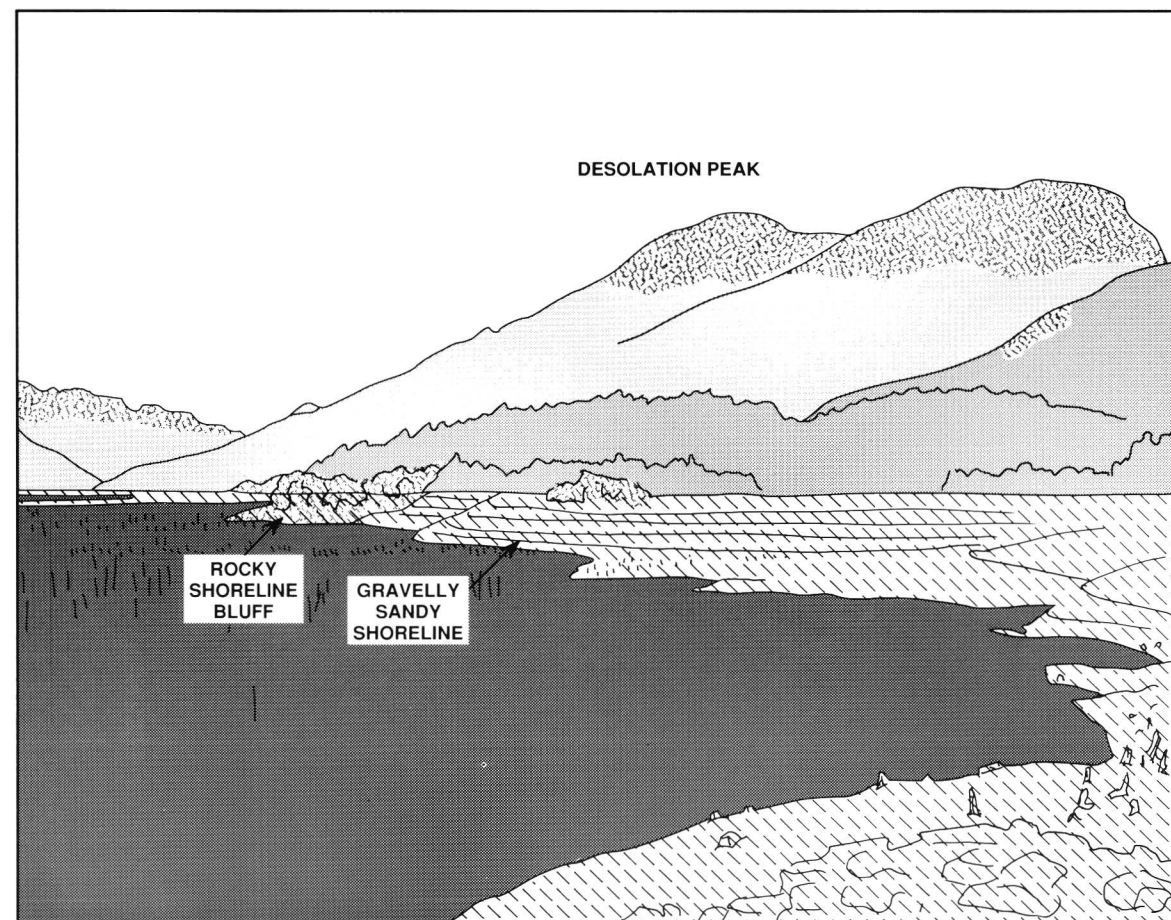
View Angle on Ross Lake





**Elevation: 1523.2**  
**79.3 Feet Below Full Pool**

Exposed Shoreline Area 



### General Description

Desolation Peak, rising beyond the point of land on the east shore in the foreground, is an important visual focus. As in many other views from lake level, the lake and valley sides form a visual axis leading the eye toward the distant peaks. Views are toward the north and the sun is behind the viewer. Dominant colors are green, white, blue, and blue-gray of the lake. The lake itself forms a planer surface that stretches away from the viewer.

In addition to the lake, other landscape types seen in this view include: forest, rocky slope, snowfield, shoreline bluff, alpine meadow, island, and stream cascade (outside of the photograph). The viewer perspective at lake level gives the lake visual dominance.

### Shoreline

The shoreline exposed at low pool levels forms a band around the margin of the lake. Below about 1560-1570 feet, the shoreline exposed along the east shore just northeast of the island increases significantly in size. Most of this area is to the right of the photograph. The tan color and horizontal lines of the exposed shoreline accentuate its contrast with the remainder of the scene.

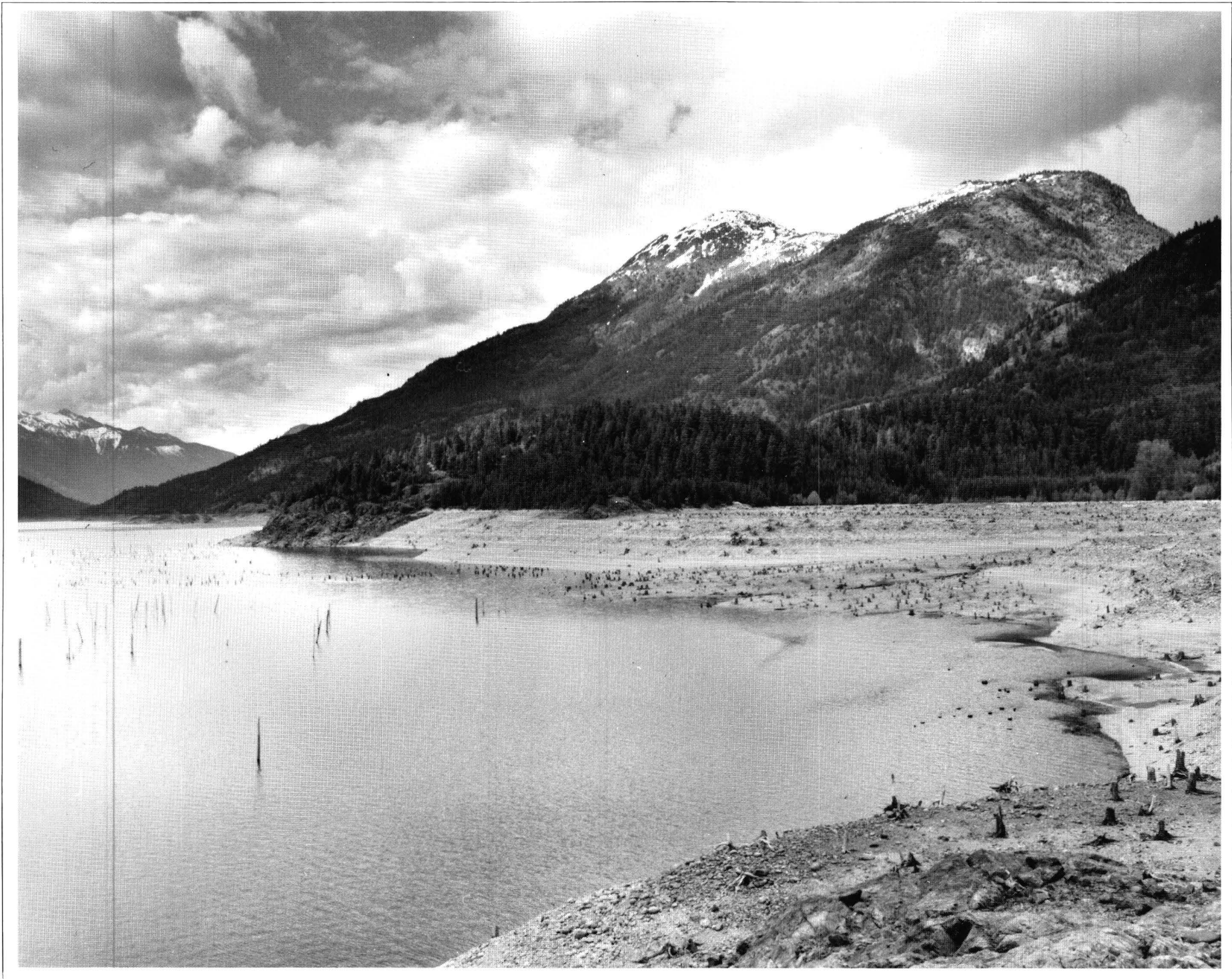
Because views are toward the north and the sun is behind the viewer, the resulting

front lighting maximizes contrast. On cloudy days, or in early morning when the near east shore is in shadow, the contrast of the exposed shoreline is reduced. This view demonstrates clearly the effect that shoreline type has on contrast. Rocky exposed shoreline bluffs contrasts much less with the remainder of the scene than do gravelly-sandy shorelines. This is seen along the shoreline just left of the center of the photograph.

### Use

This viewpoint is used exclusively by boaters. Visits typically include overnight camping. Viewer numbers vary from about 25-30 persons per week in mid-summer when lake levels are highest to less than 5 per week when lake levels are lower. As with most backcountry locations around the lake, use in mid-winter and early-spring, when lake levels are lowest, is minimal.





Elevation: 1523.2'



Elevation: 1579.5'







Elevation: 1592.0'

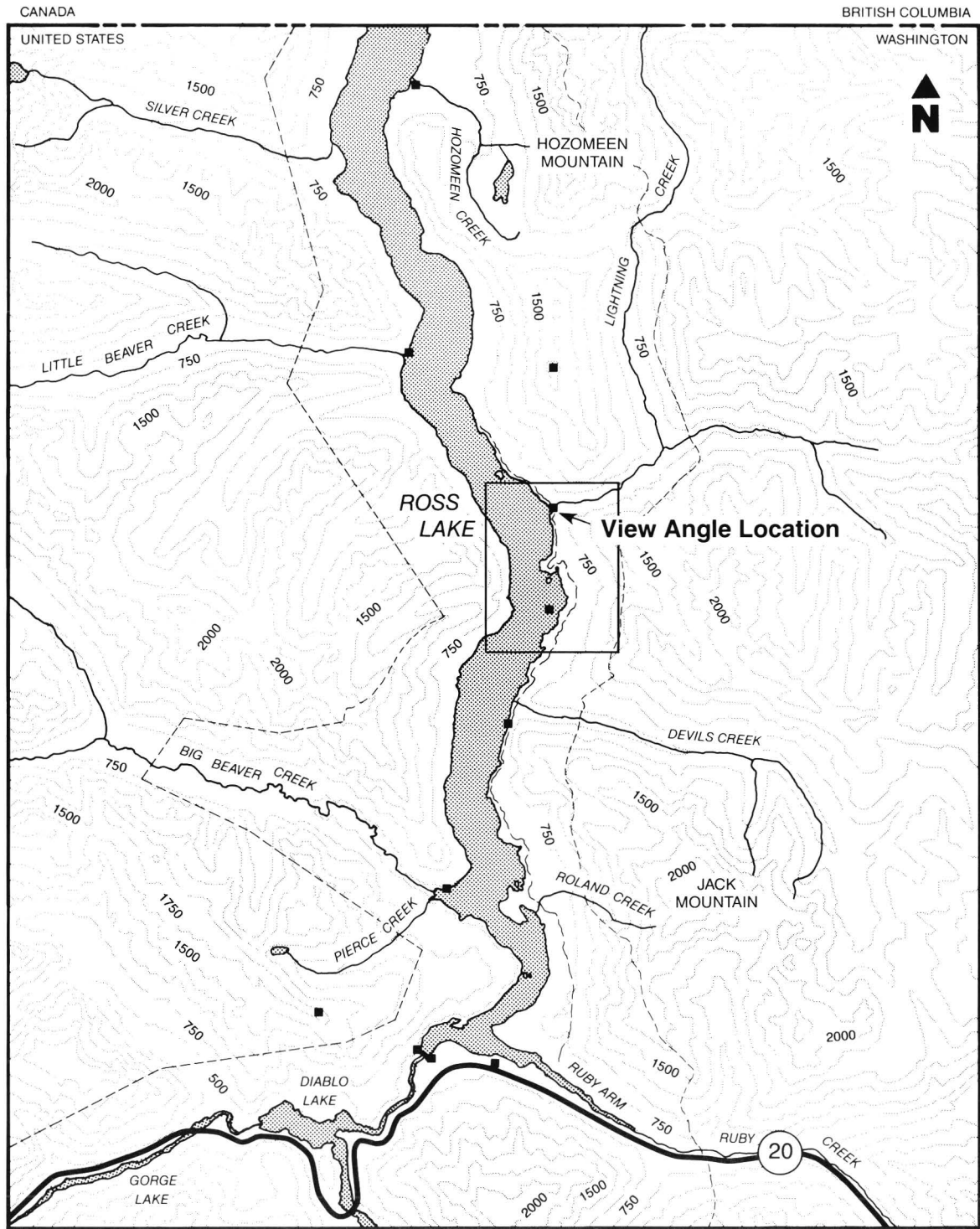


Elevation: 1602.5'

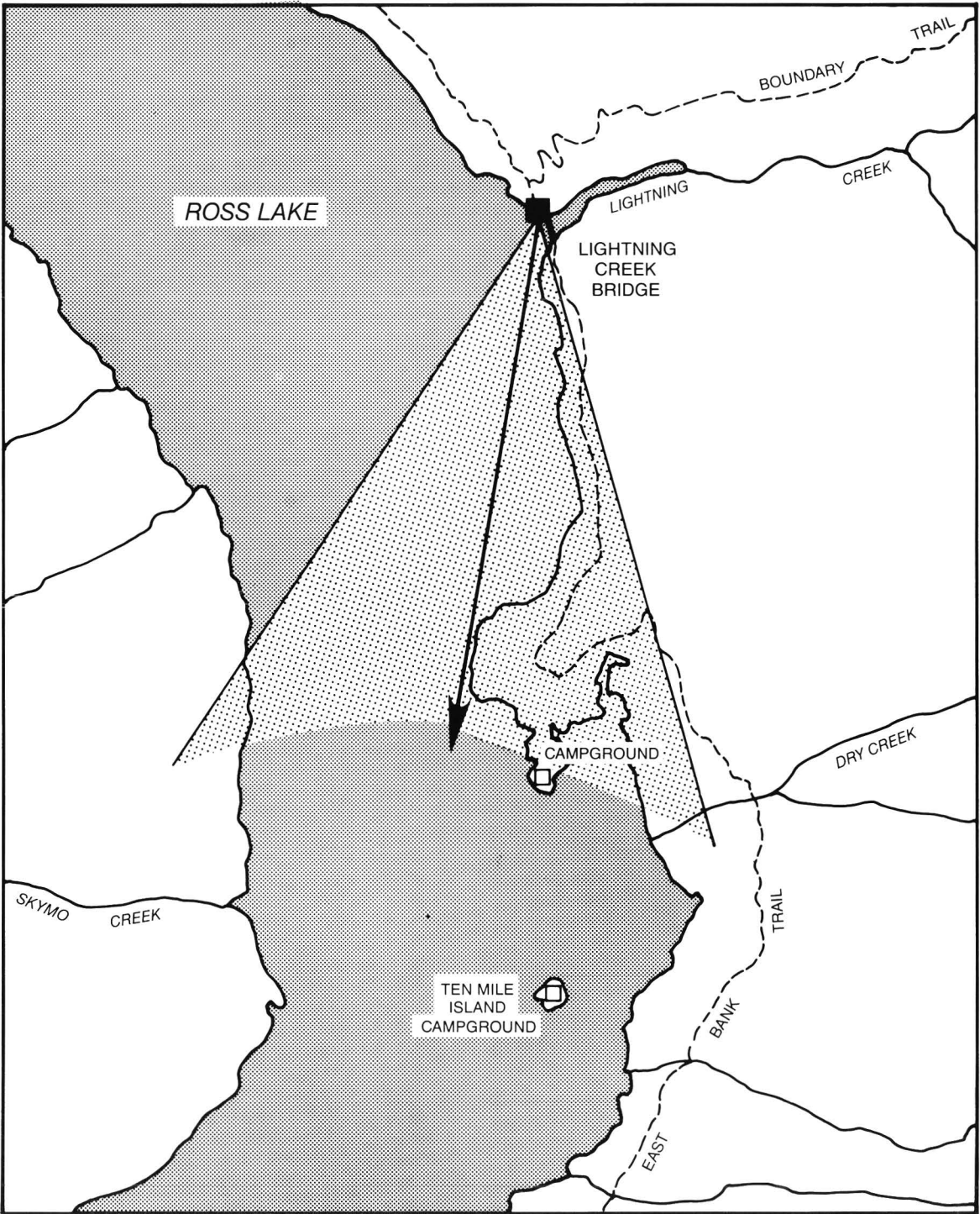




# Lightning Creek South



General Location on Ross Lake



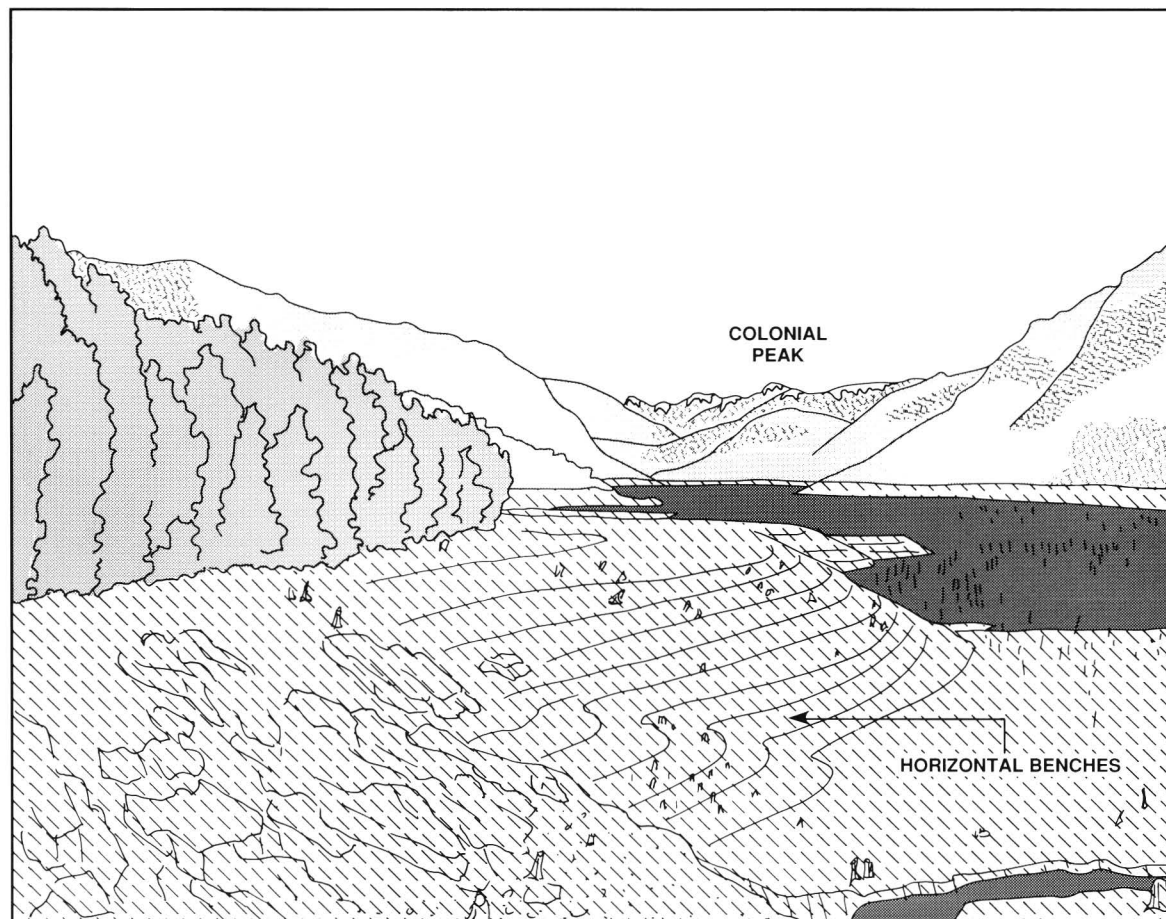
View Angle on Ross Lake





**Elevation: 1523.2**  
**79.3 Feet Below Full Pool**

Exposed Shoreline Area 



### General Description

This view is similar to most views along the east side of the lake. The lake stretches away from the viewer and leads the eye toward forested slopes rising above the opposite shore and leads the eye along the lake toward snow-covered peaks rising behind Sourdough Mountain in the distance. The summit of Jack Mountain can be seen above the trees along the east shore. The viewer is facing south, into the sun during the midday and early afternoon portions of sunny days. Dominant colors are green, white, blue, and blue-gray of the lake. Sloping ridgelines descend to the lake and frame the view of peaks above the lower end of the lake.

In addition to the lake, other landscape types seen in this view include: snowfield-/glacier, forest, alpine meadow, stream cascade (outside of the photograph), rocky slope, and shoreline bluff. This viewpoint is at lake level, and the observer's perspective is dominated by the flat lake surface.

### Shoreline

The shoreline exposed at low pool levels forms a band around the lake border. As lake levels fall, a delta built by Lightning Creek is exposed immediately in front of the observer. Below about 1560-1565 feet, the tan-colored exposed delta dramatically increases in size and becomes

a dominating feature of the view and contrasts sharply with the remainder of the landscape. Because the viewer is facing south, they look into the sun during the midday and early afternoon portions of sunny days. This backlighting reduces contrast.

### Use

This viewpoint, which is along the East Bank Trail, is visited by hikers, horse riders, and boaters. Visit duration, averaging more than 24 hours, is the longest of any viewpoint studied for this report. It is one of the most frequently visited backcountry locations around the lake with about 50 visitors per week during mid-summer and progressively fewer visitors at lower pool levels. In spring, visitor numbers are usually below 5 per week. This location is rarely visited in mid-winter or early spring.





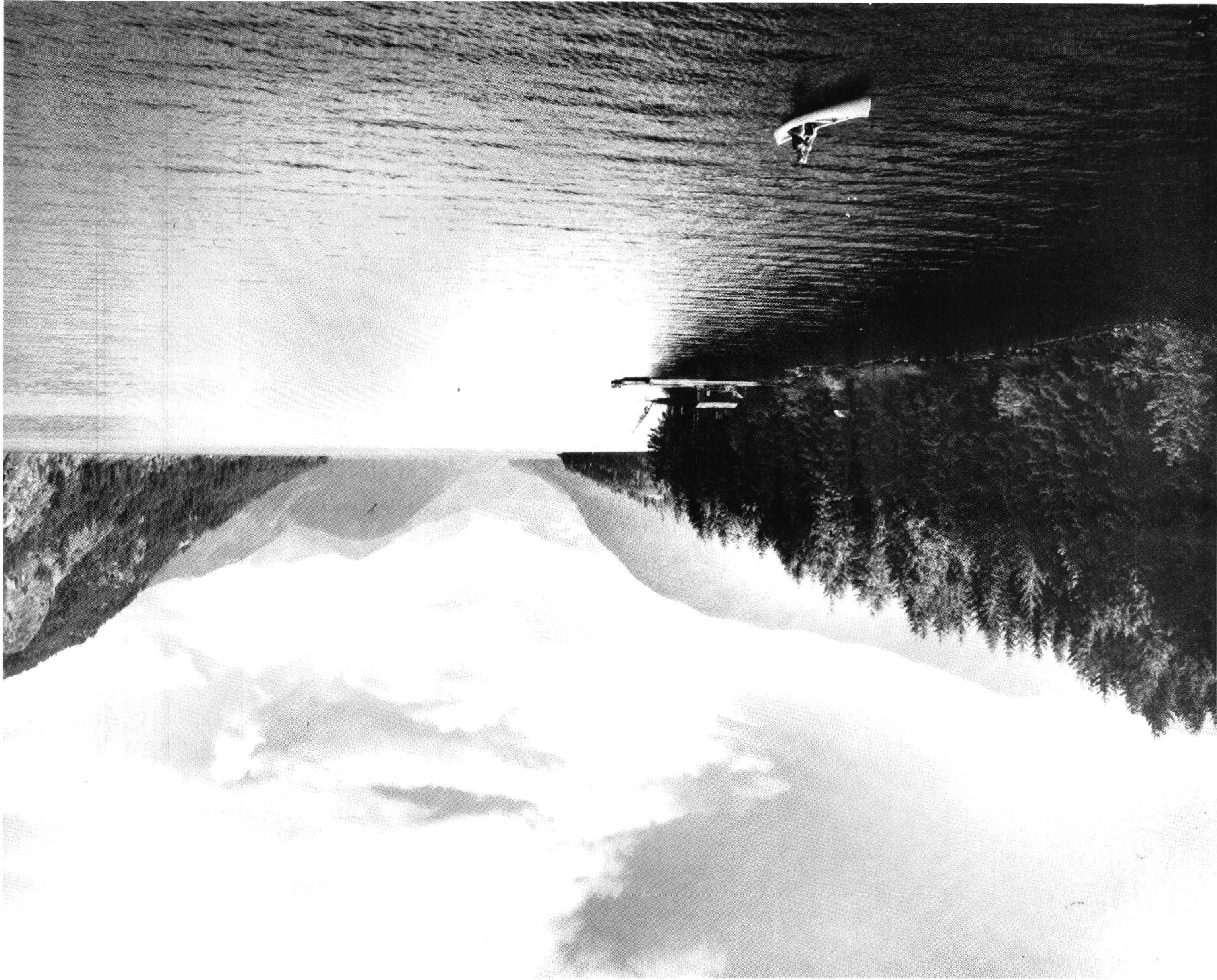
Elevation: 1523.2'



Elevation: 1579.5'







Elevation: 1602.5'

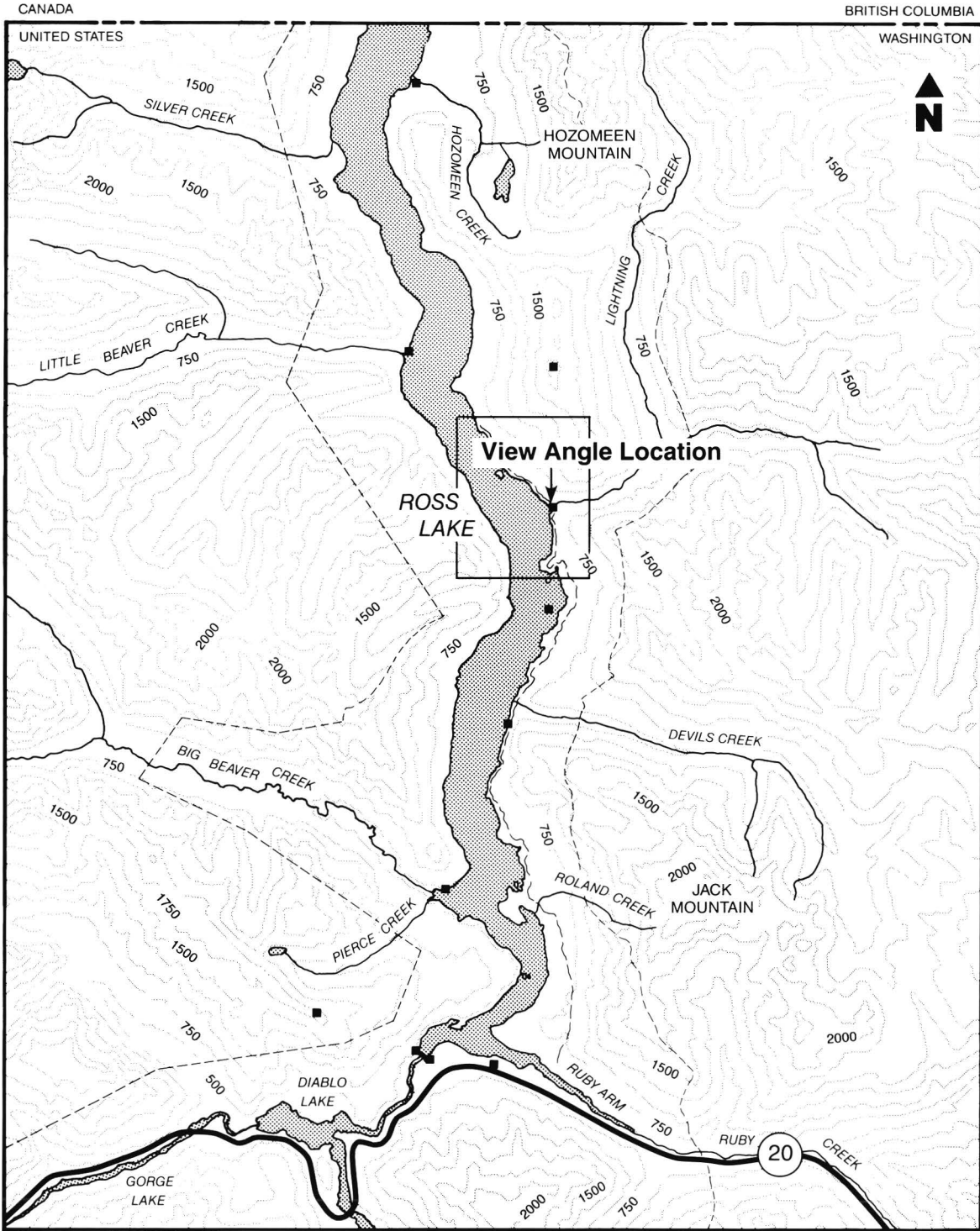


Elevation: 1592.0'

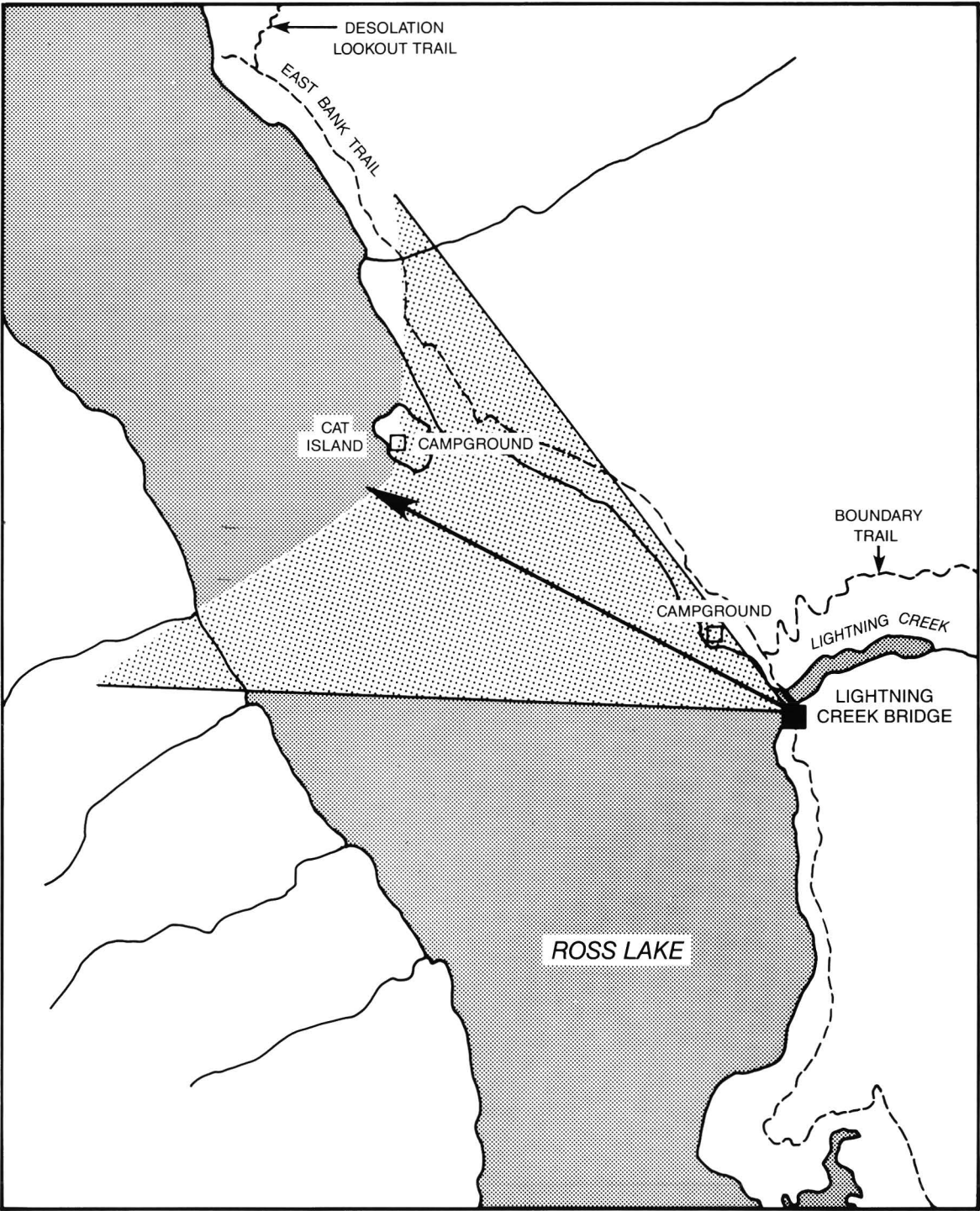




# Lightning Creek North



General Location on Ross Lake



View Angle on Ross Lake





Elevation: 1523.2  
79.3 Feet Below Full Pool



**General Description**

This view is typical of many along the east side of the lake. The view is toward the north. The lake stretches away from the viewer and leads the eye toward forested slopes rising above the opposite shore and leads the eye along the lake toward distant peaks. Dominant colors are green, white, blue, and blue-gray of the lake. Ridgelines form sloping lines that trend up from the lake and other sloping lines that from the distant horizon.

In addition to the lake, other landscape types seen in this view include: forest, island, shoreline bluff, rocky slope, stream cascade, and snowfield. This viewpoint is at lake level, and the observer's perspective is dominated by the flat lake surface.

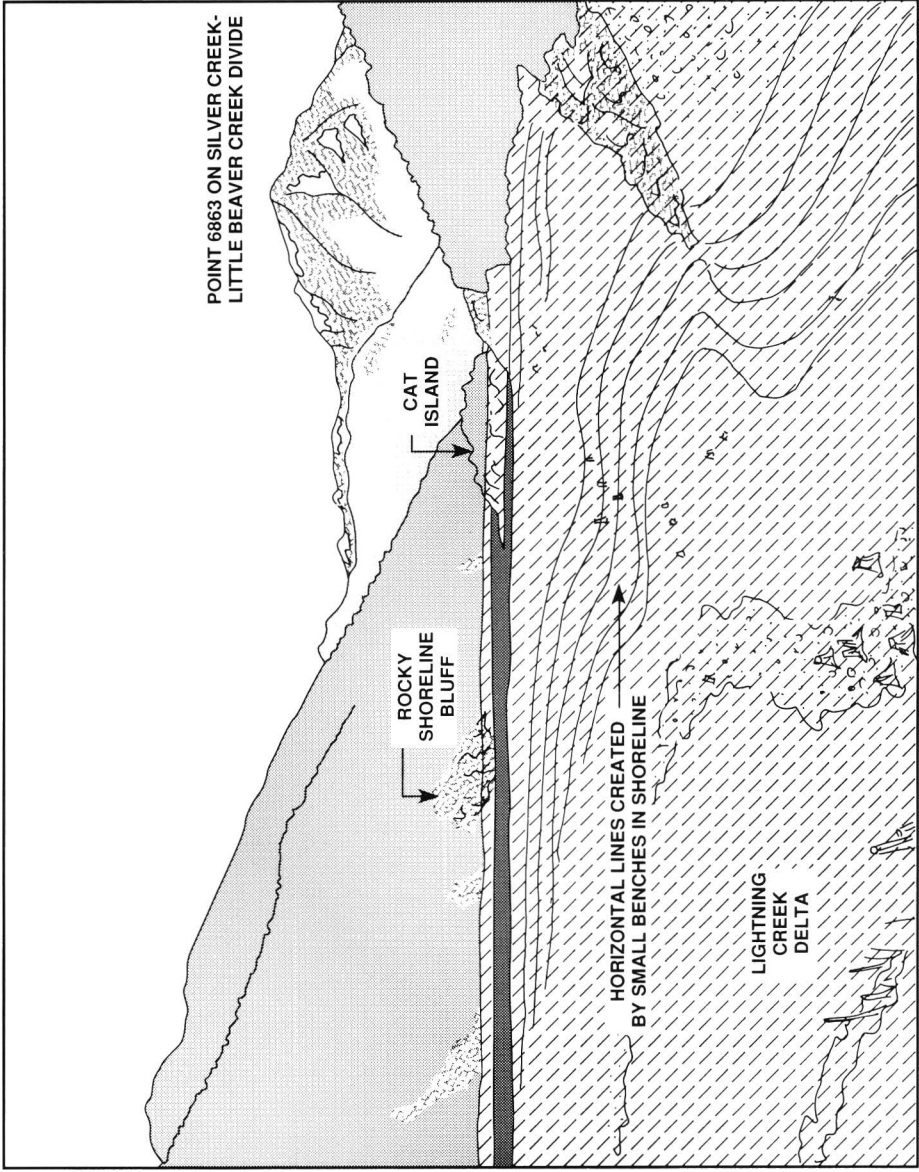
cloudy days or in the early morning, when the east shoreline of the lake is in shadow.

**Use**

This viewpoint, on the East Bank trail, is visited by hikers, horse riders, and boaters. Visit duration is the longest of any viewpoint studied extending, on average, more than 24 hours. It is one of the most frequently visited backcountry locations around the lake with about 50 visitors per week during mid-summer and progressively fewer visitors at lower pool levels. In spring, visitor numbers are usually below 5 persons per week. This location is rarely visited in mid-winter or early spring.

**Shoreline**

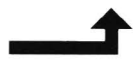
The shoreline exposed at low pool levels forms a band around the lake border. At all but the highest lake levels, a delta built by Lightning Creek, is exposed immediately in front of the observer. Below about 1575 feet, the tan-colored delta becomes a dominating feature of the view and contrasts sharply with the remainder of the landscape. The contrast is accentuated by the horizontal lines created by small benches seen in the nearby delta. The contrast is maximized on sunny days as the sun is usually behind the viewer. Contrast would be somewhat reduced on







Elevation: 1523.2'



Elevation: 1579.5'

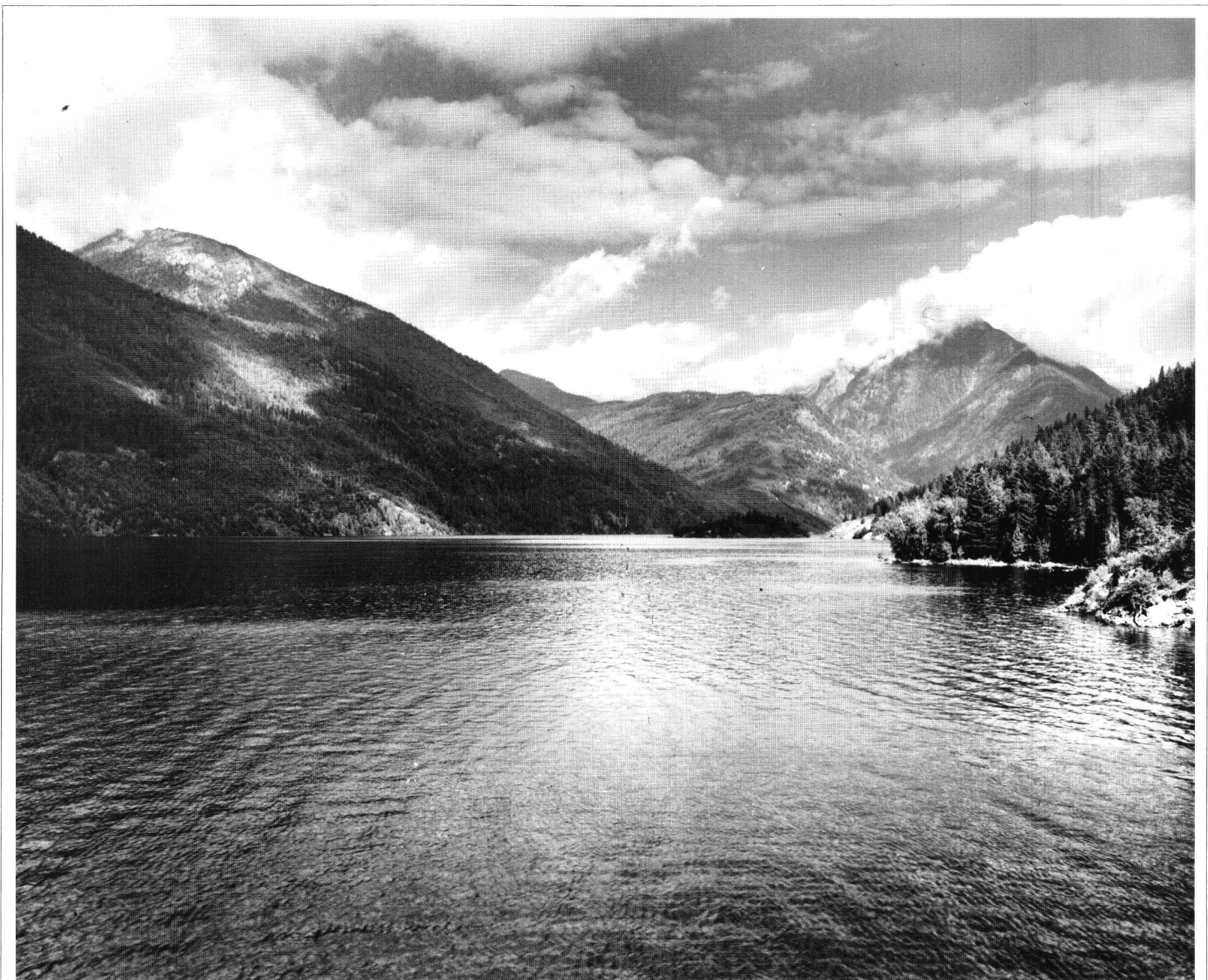






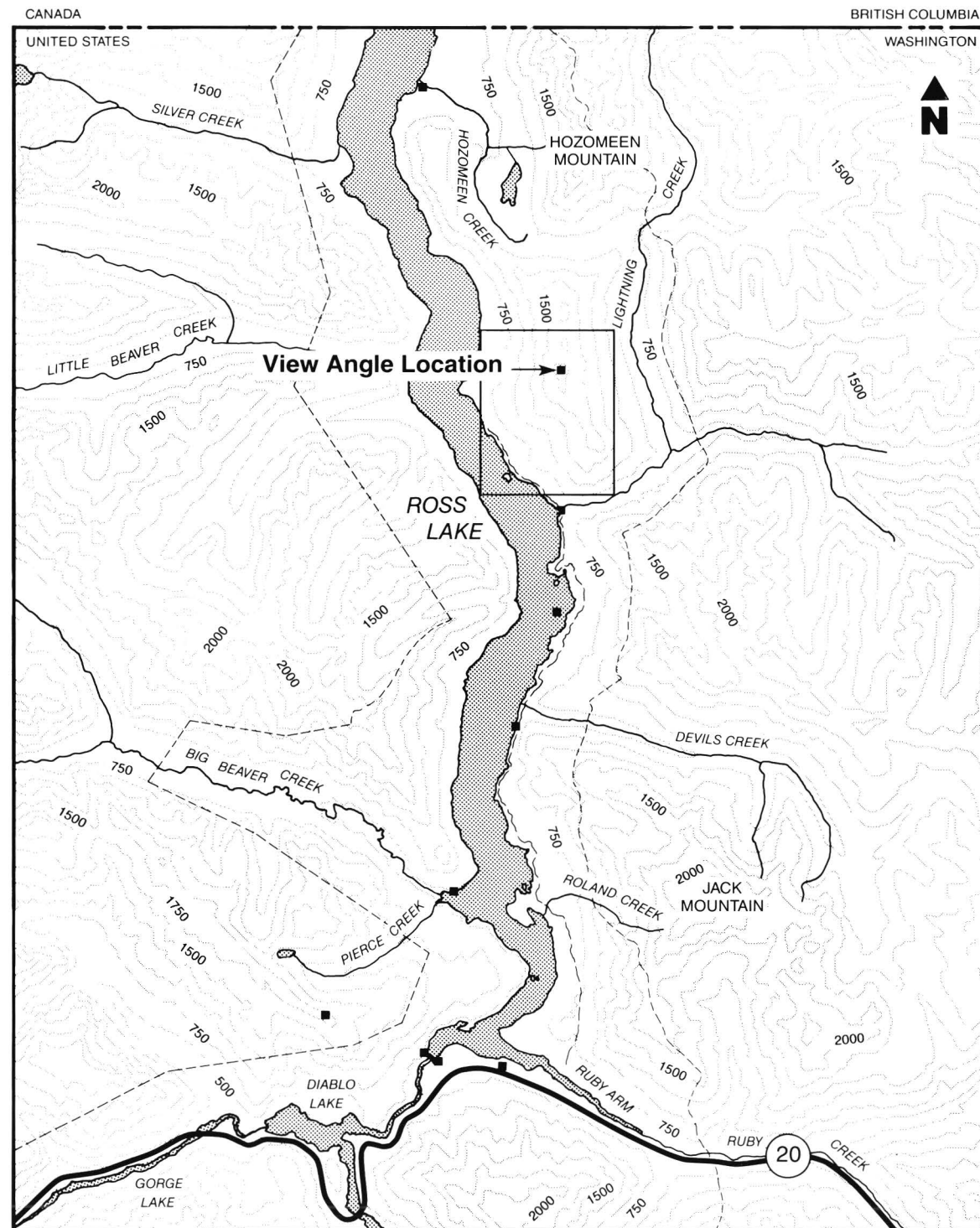
Elevation: 1592.0' 

 Elevation: 1602.5'

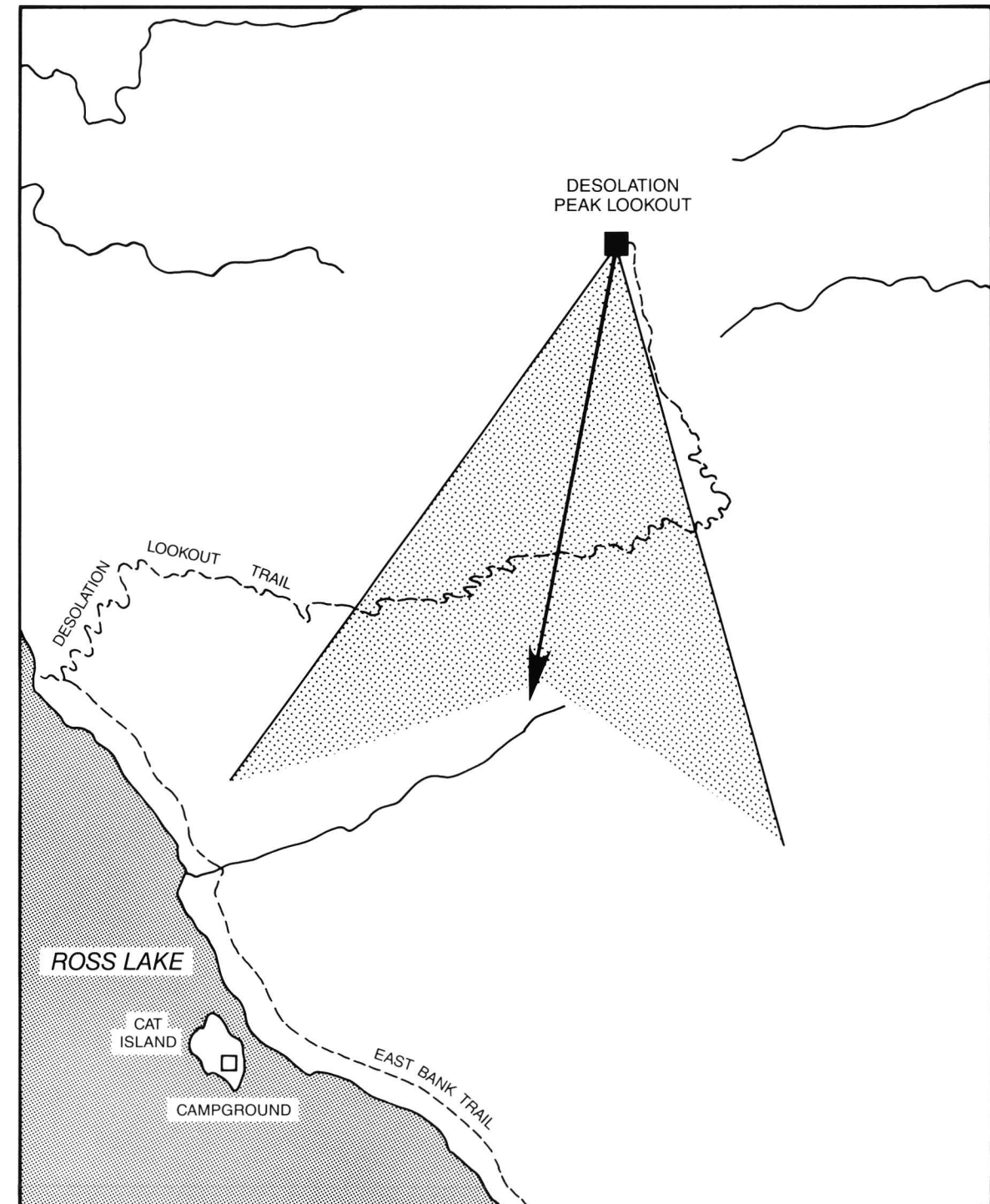




# Desolation Peak South



**General Location on Ross Lake**




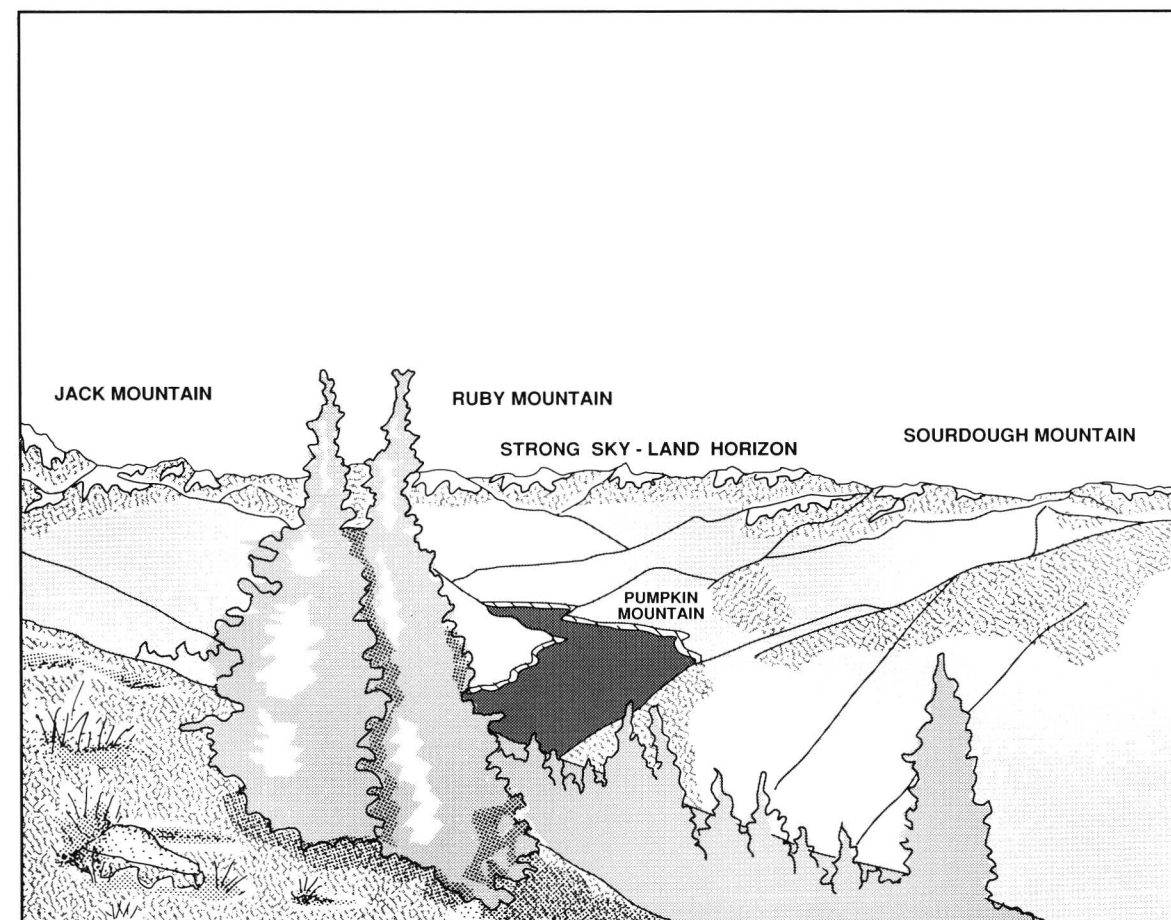
**View Angle on Ross Lake**





**Elevation: 1527.0**  
**75.5 Feet Below Full Pool**

Exposed Shoreline Area 



### General Description

This view is dominated by the distant expanse of peaks with the sky above. These combine to form a strong horizon line. This view is toward the south, with the sun usually in front of the viewer. The dominant colors are blue, green, white, and blue-gray of the lake. The lake can be seen in the distance curving away from the viewer behind the lower slopes of Jack Mountain. Under cloudy conditions the lake is more gray in color and blends more with the surrounding slopes.

In addition to the lake, landscape types seen in this view include: snowfield/-glacier, rock slope, and forest. The elevated perspective, about 4200 feet above the lake, provides an encompassing view of the region and reduces the visual dominance of the lake.

### Shoreline

The shoreline exposed at low pool in this view forms a thin band around the margins of the lake. Even at low pool, the exposed shoreline is visually unimportant.

Because this view is toward the south, the sun is usually in front of the viewer. This backlighting, together with the haze that often intervenes between the viewer and the lake, reduces the contrast of the shoreline. The exposed shoreline is generally less visually important from elevated

viewpoints, such as Desolation, than it is from viewpoints along the lake.

### Use

This viewpoint is one of the least used viewpoints around Ross Lake. An average of less than two people per week visit Desolation during the spring and summer. As with most backcountry locations around the lake, use levels are zero in mid-winter and approach zero in early spring when the lake level is lowest.





Elevation: 1527.0' 

 Elevation: 1577.0'

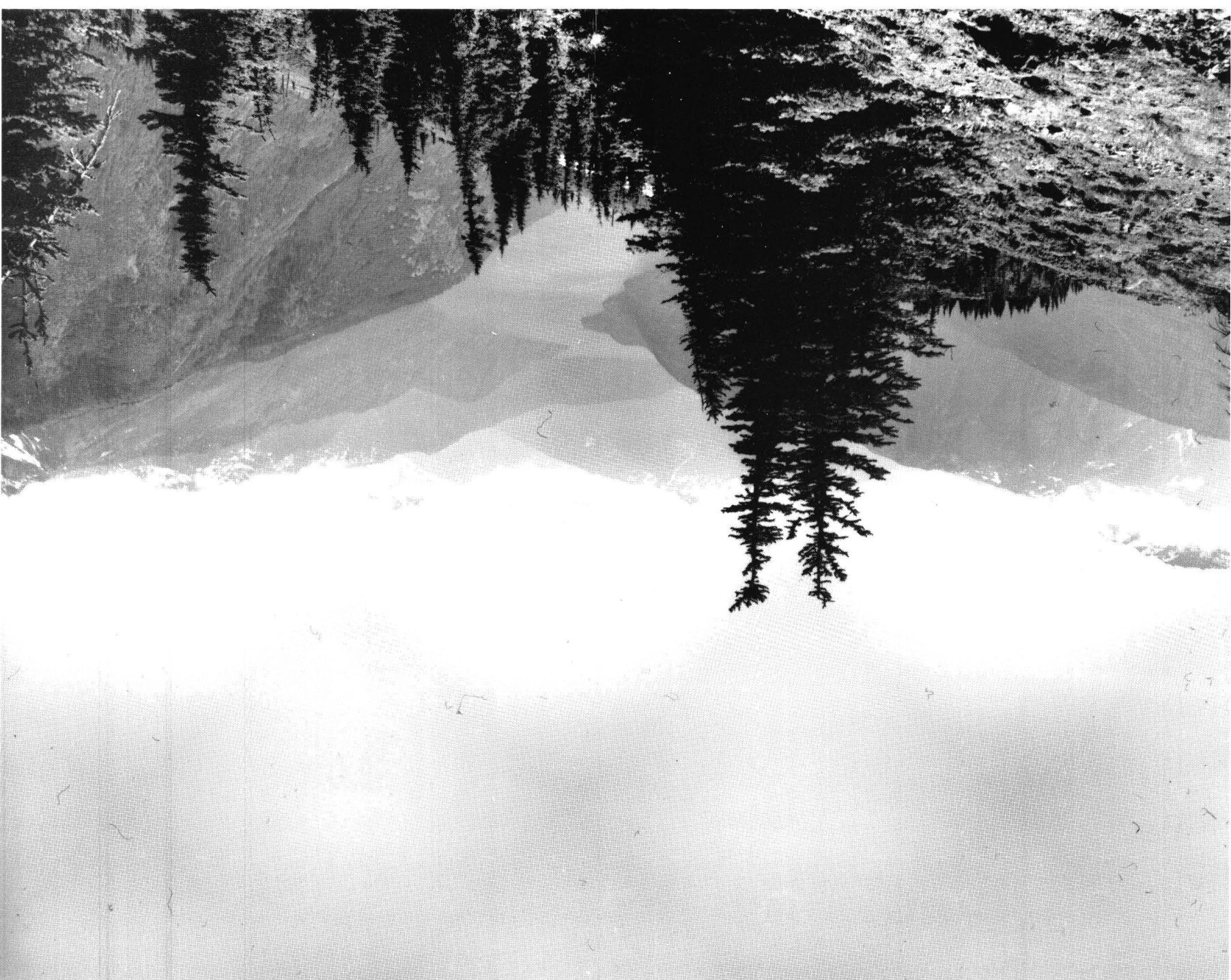






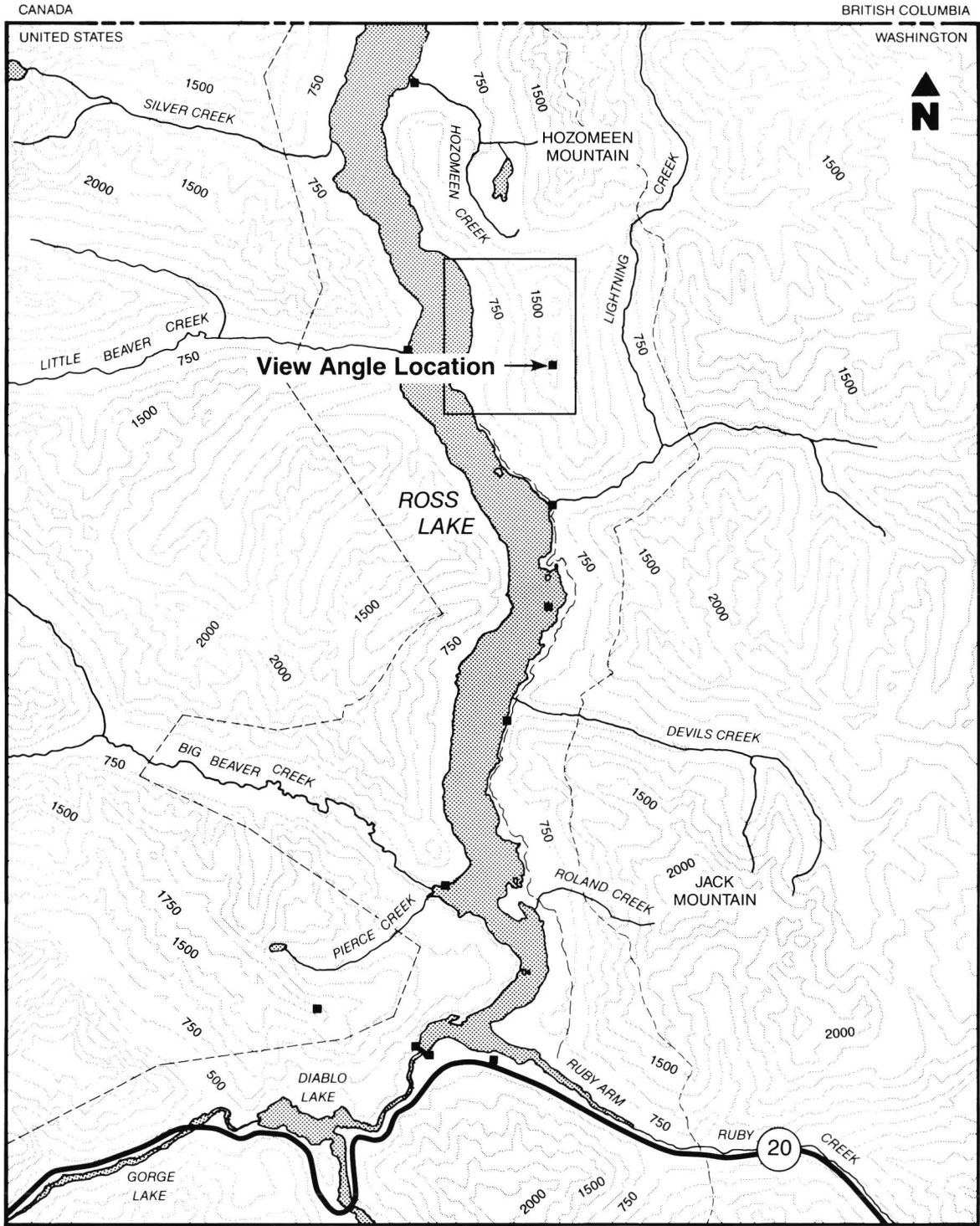
↑ Elevation: 1602.5'

↓ Elevation: 1592.5'

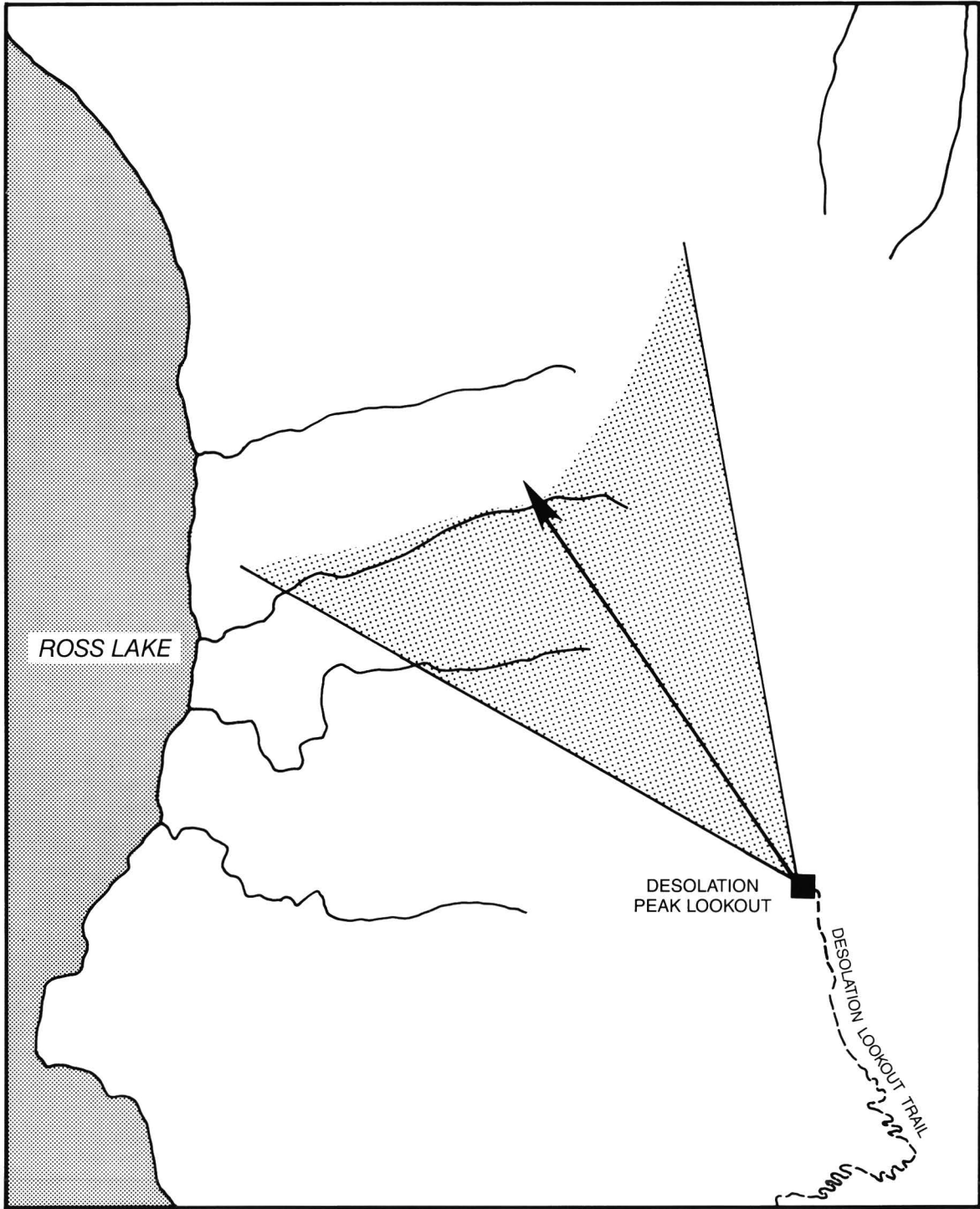




# Desolation Peak North



General Location on Ross Lake

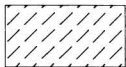


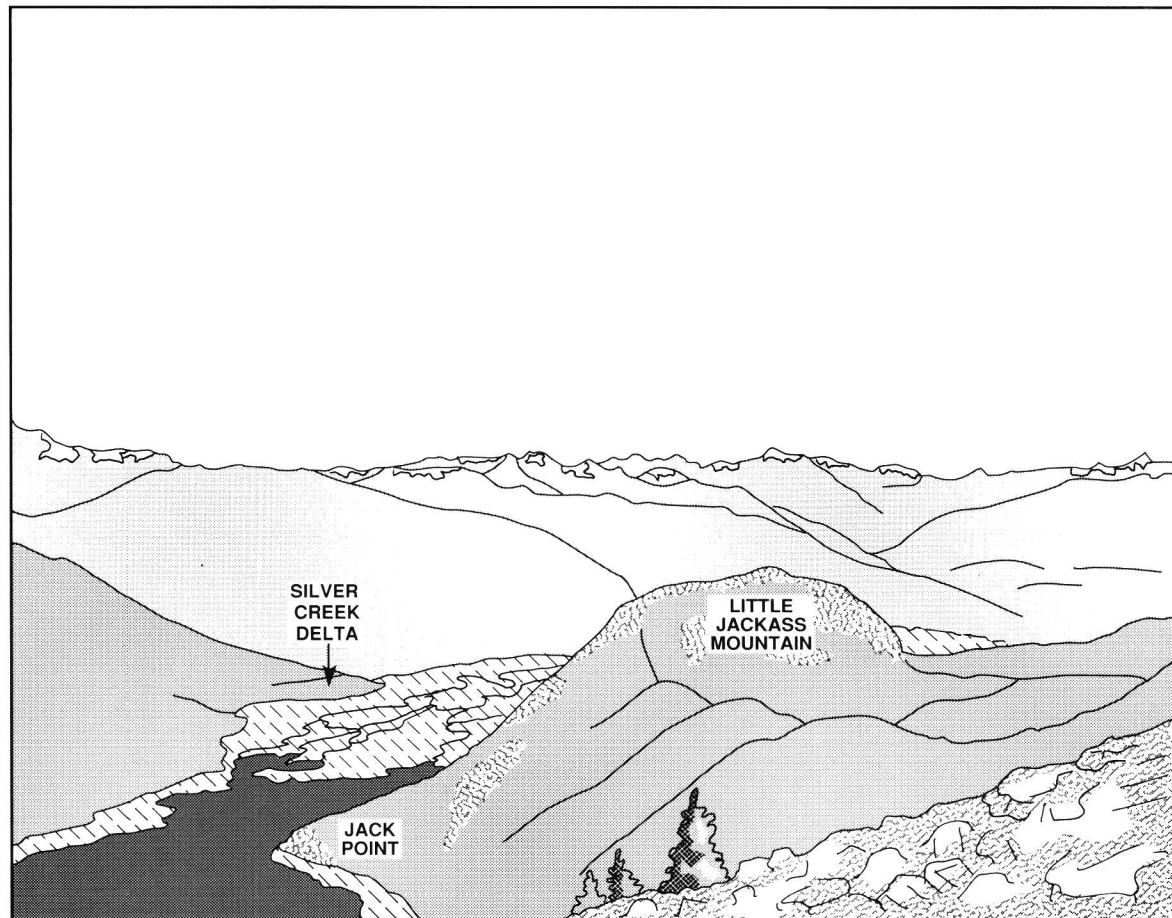
View Angle on Ross Lake





Elevation: 1527.0  
75.5 Feet Below Full Pool

Exposed Shoreline Area 



**General Description**

This view is dominated by the distant expanse of peaks with the sky above. These combine to form a strong horizon line. This view is toward the north, with the sun usually behind the viewer. The dominant colors are blue, green, white, and the blue-gray of the lake. The lake is an irregular, somewhat linear form at the observer's feet. Under cloudy conditions the lake is more gray in color and blends more with the surrounding slopes.

In addition to the lake, landscape types seen in this view include: snowfield/glacier, rock slope, forest, and creek delta (Silver Creek). The elevated perspective, about 4200 feet above the lake, provides an encompassing view of the region and reduces the visual dominance of the lake.

**Shoreline**

The shoreline exposed at low pool forms a thin band around the margins of the lake. However, what is more obvious to the viewer is an extensive tan-colored area at the head of the lake. At low pool, this tan-colored area extends from the head of the lake within Canada south to below Little Jackass Mountain. Due to the blocking effect of Little Jackass Mountain, the exposed flat at the head of the lake becomes visually evident only

when the lake recedes south of the mouth of Silver Creek.

Because this view is toward the north, the sun is usually behind the viewer. Haze often intervenes between the viewer and the lake reducing the contrast of the shoreline. The exposed shoreline is generally less visually important from elevated viewpoints, such as Desolation, than it is from viewpoints along the lake.

**Use**

This viewpoint is one of the least used viewpoints around Ross Lake. An average of less than two people per week visit Desolation during the spring and summer. As with most backcountry locations around the lake, use levels are zero in mid-winter and approach zero in early spring when the lake level is lowest.





Elevation: 1527.0' 

 Elevation: 1577.0'







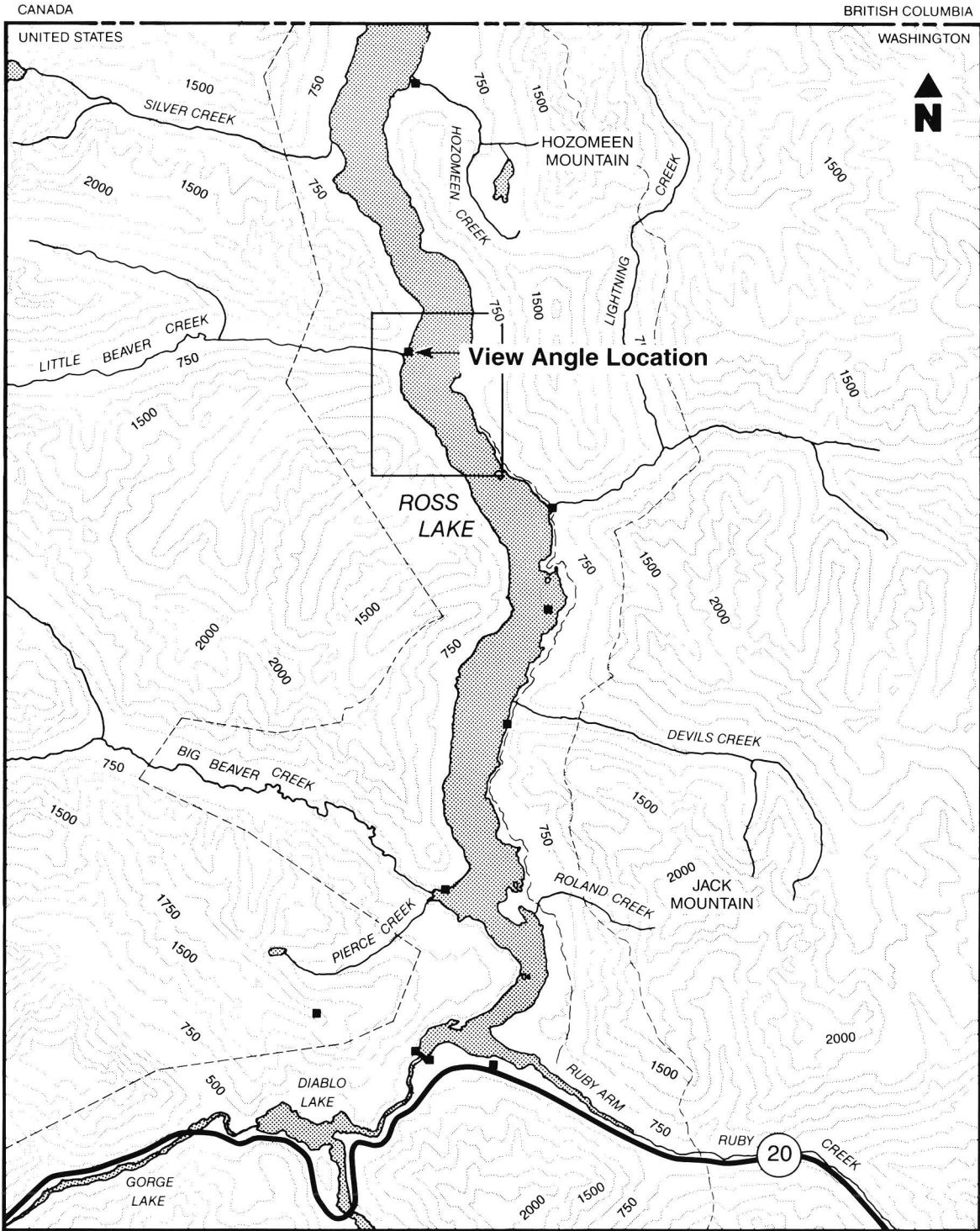
Elevation: 1592.5' 

 Elevation: 1602.5'

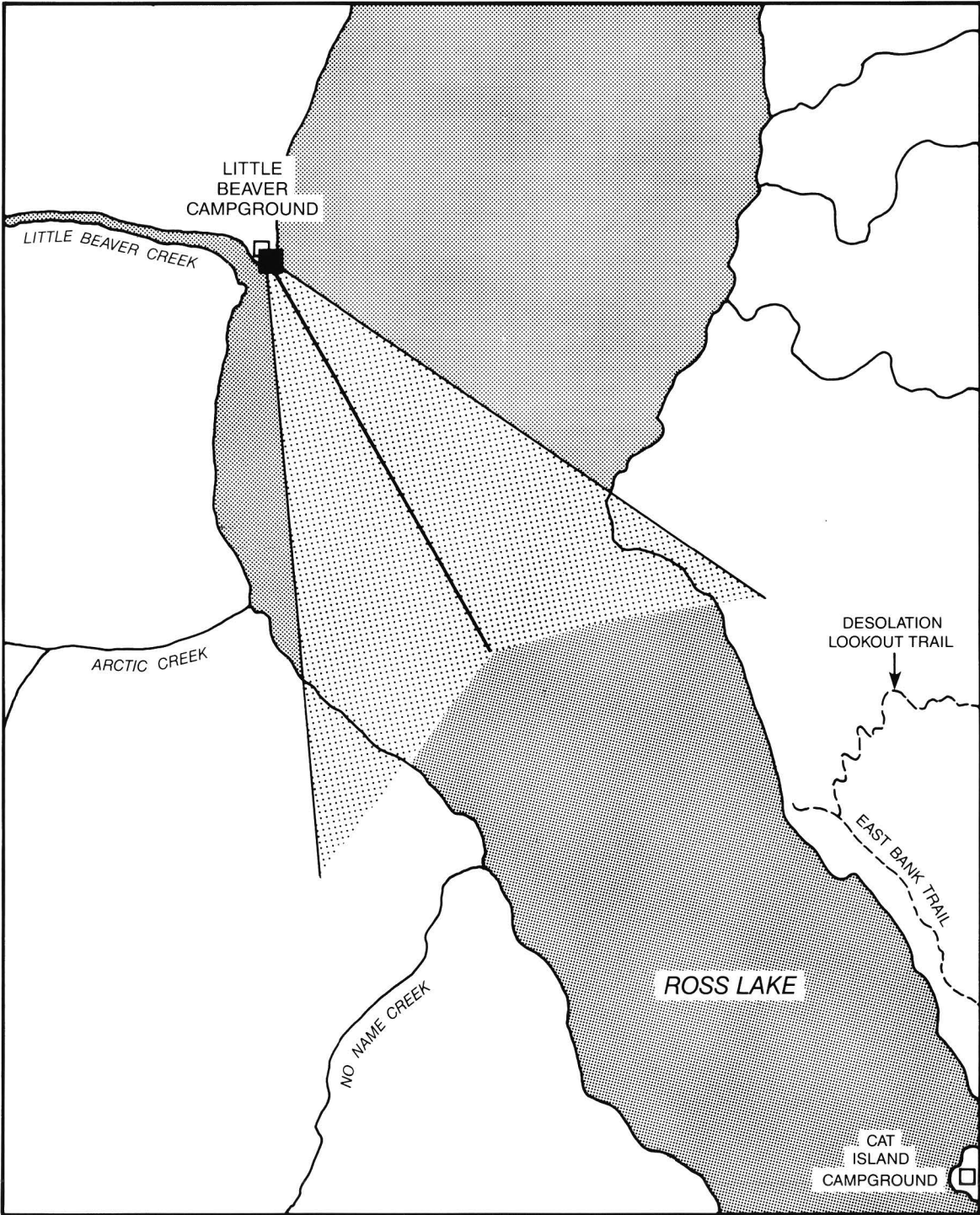




# Little Beaver



General Location on Ross Lake




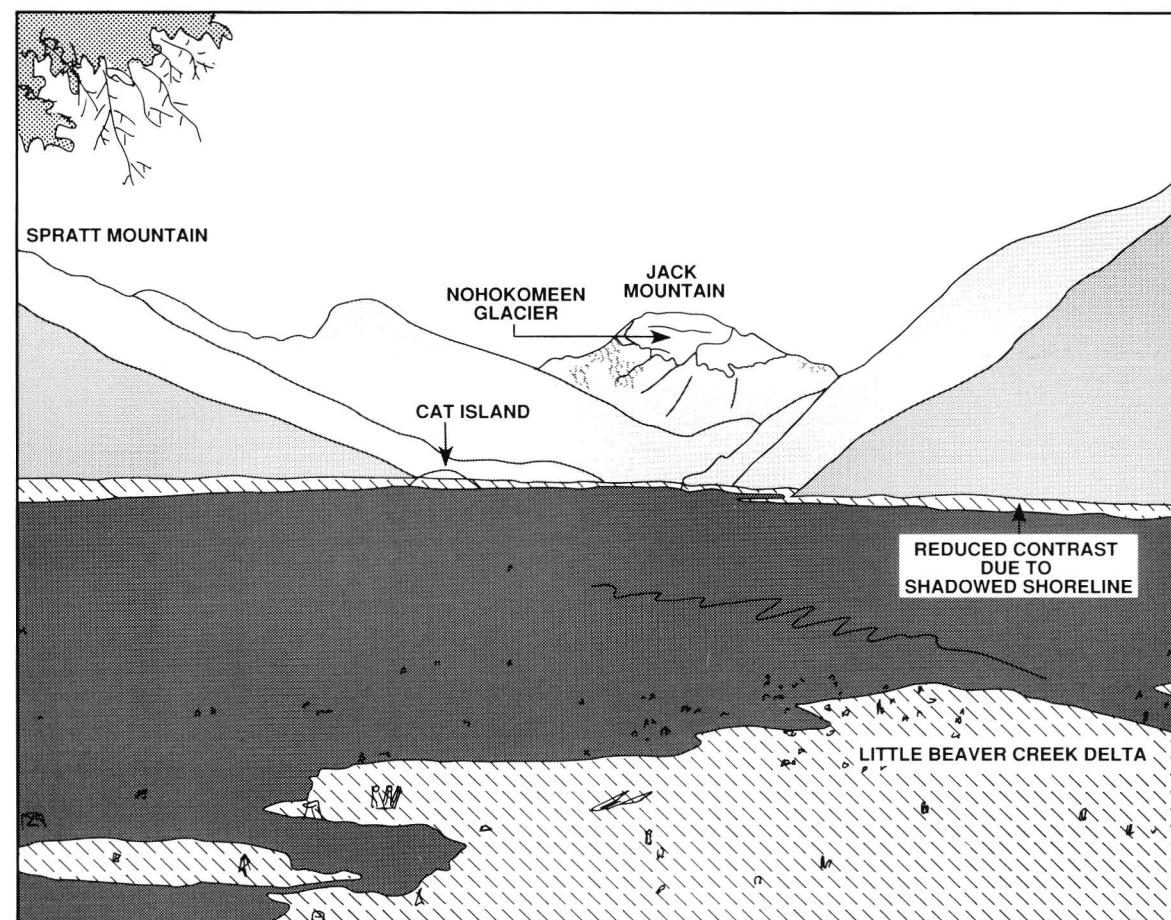
View Angle on Ross Lake





**Elevation: 1527.0**  
**75.5 Feet Below Full Pool**

Exposed Shoreline Area 



### General Description

The lake recedes away from the viewer toward the south and leads the eye toward Jack Mountain in the distance. Views are southerly with the sun usually in front of the viewer. Dominant colors are green, white, blue, and blue-gray of the lake. The view is strongly framed by the valley sideslopes that form parallel series of oblique lines that intersect at the lake. The shoreline is a pair of curving nearly horizontal lines that intersect in the distance.

In addition to the lake, other landscape types seen in this view include: snowfield-/glacier, forest, island, and rock slope. This viewpoint is at lake level and the water forms a large planer surface stretching away from the viewer.

### Shoreline

The shoreline exposed at low pool levels forms a narrow band around the margins of the lake. At the lowest pool levels, below about 1550-1560 feet, a substantial delta is exposed at the mouth of Little Beaver Creek. This delta is a dominant part of the scene. When lake levels are above about 1560 feet the creek delta is submerged and the exposed shoreline band seen in the distance is visually significant. Under overcast conditions the contrast of distant shorelines is reduced.

Because the views are southerly with the sun usually in front of the viewer, back-lighting and shadows often occur in the late afternoon and reduce the contrast of the exposed shoreline. This reduction in contrast can be seen in the photograph taken at the 1577-1580 foot pool level.

### Use

This viewpoint receives hiker and boater use. The duration of individual visits is long, typically involving overnight camping. Use levels vary from about 70 visitors per week in mid-summer when lake levels are highest to less than 10 visitors per week in the mid- to late-spring when lake levels are lower. Due to its remote location, this viewpoint is rarely visited in mid-winter and early-spring when lake levels are lowest.





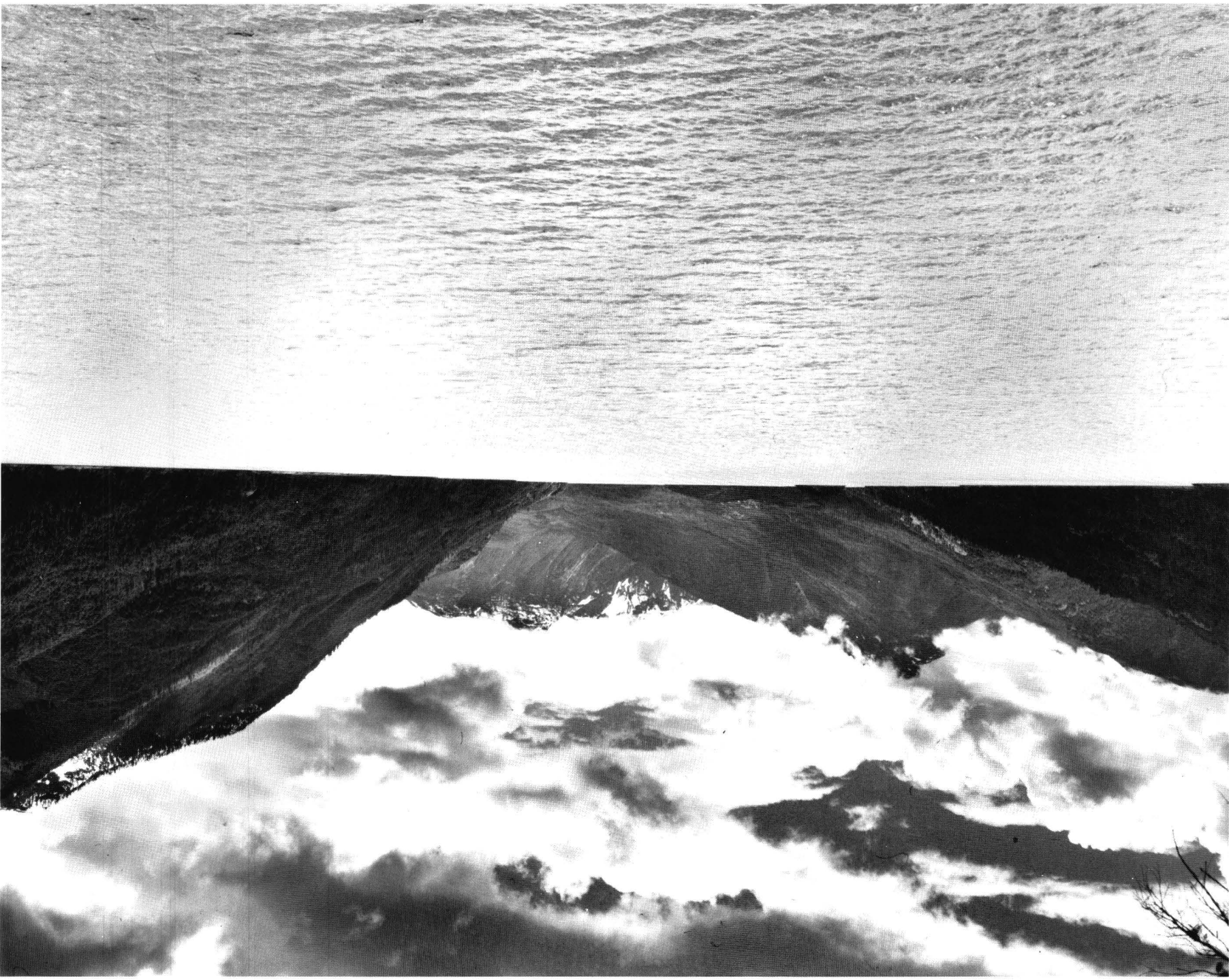
Elevation: 1527.0'



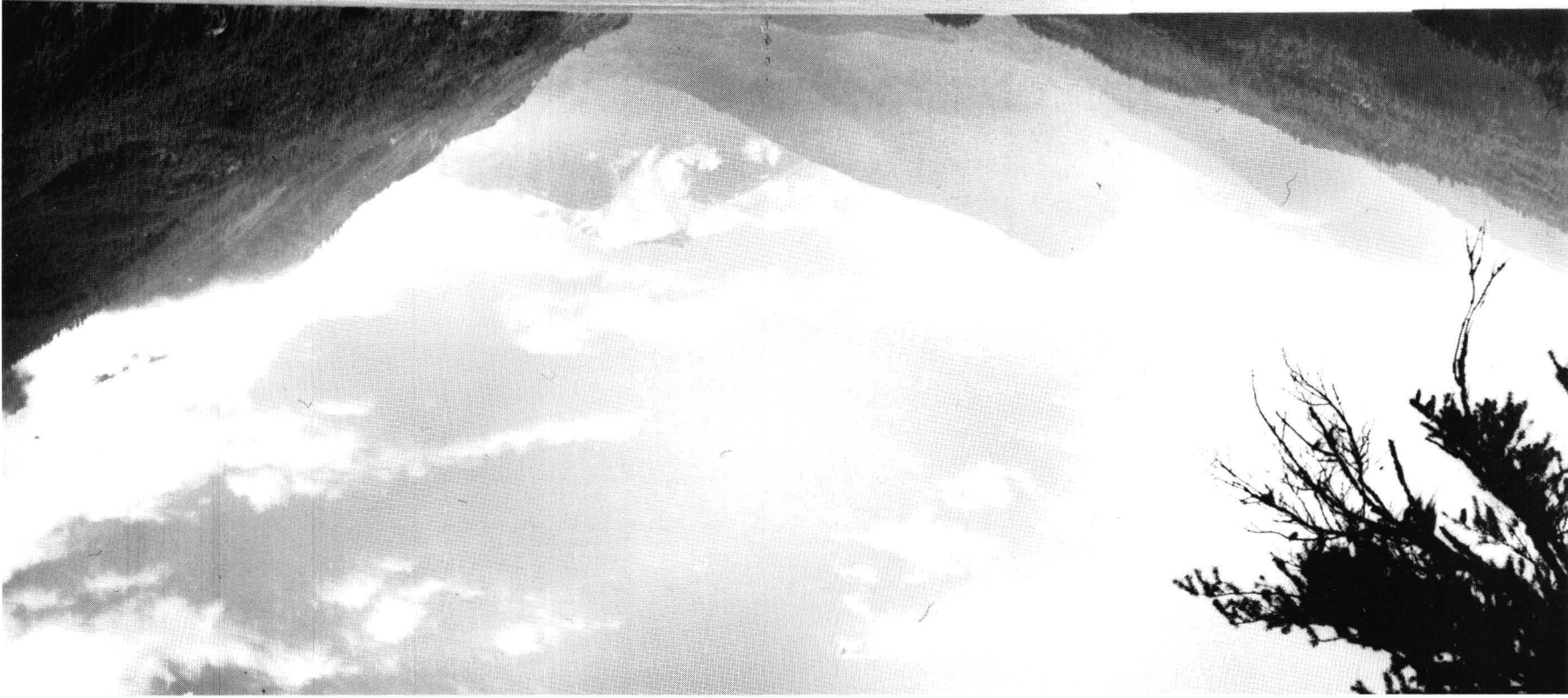
Elevation: 1579.5'



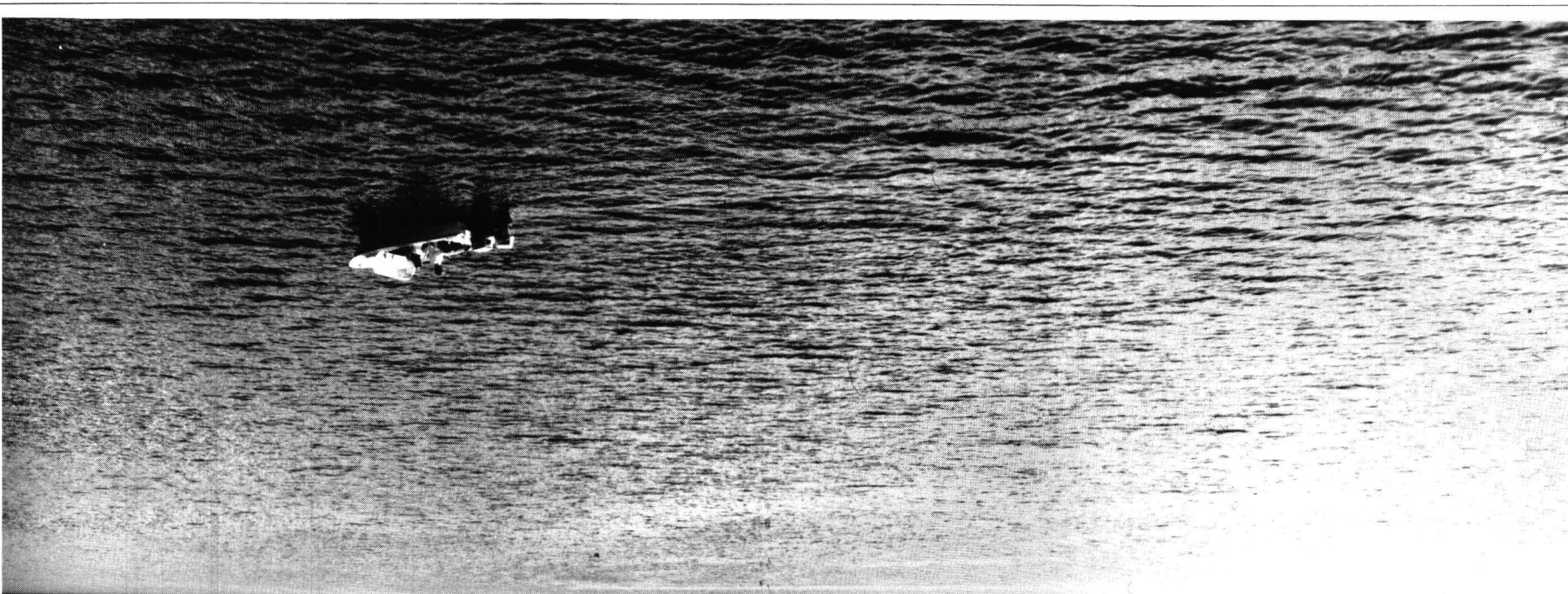




Elevation: 1592.0' ↓

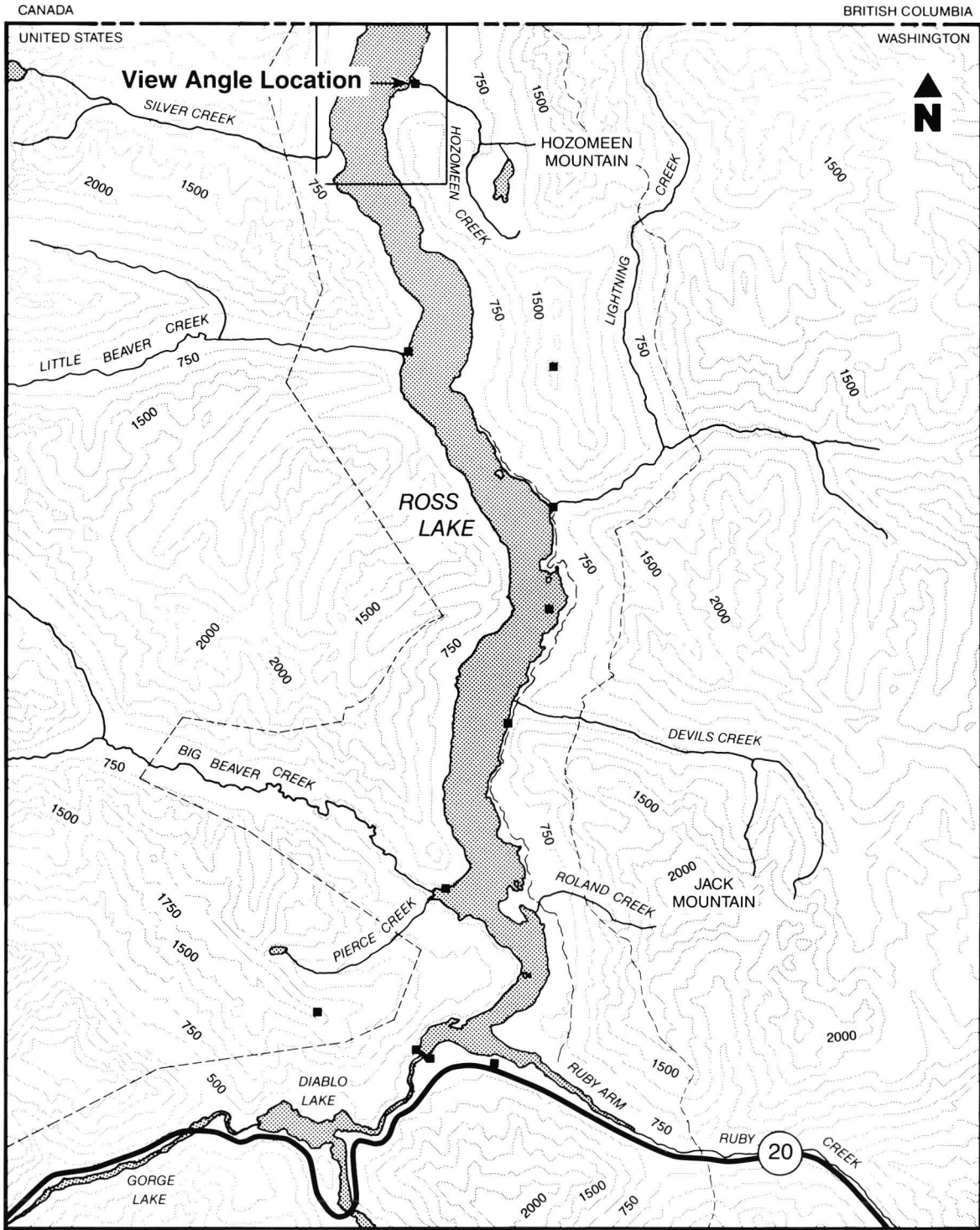


↑ Elevation: 1602.5'

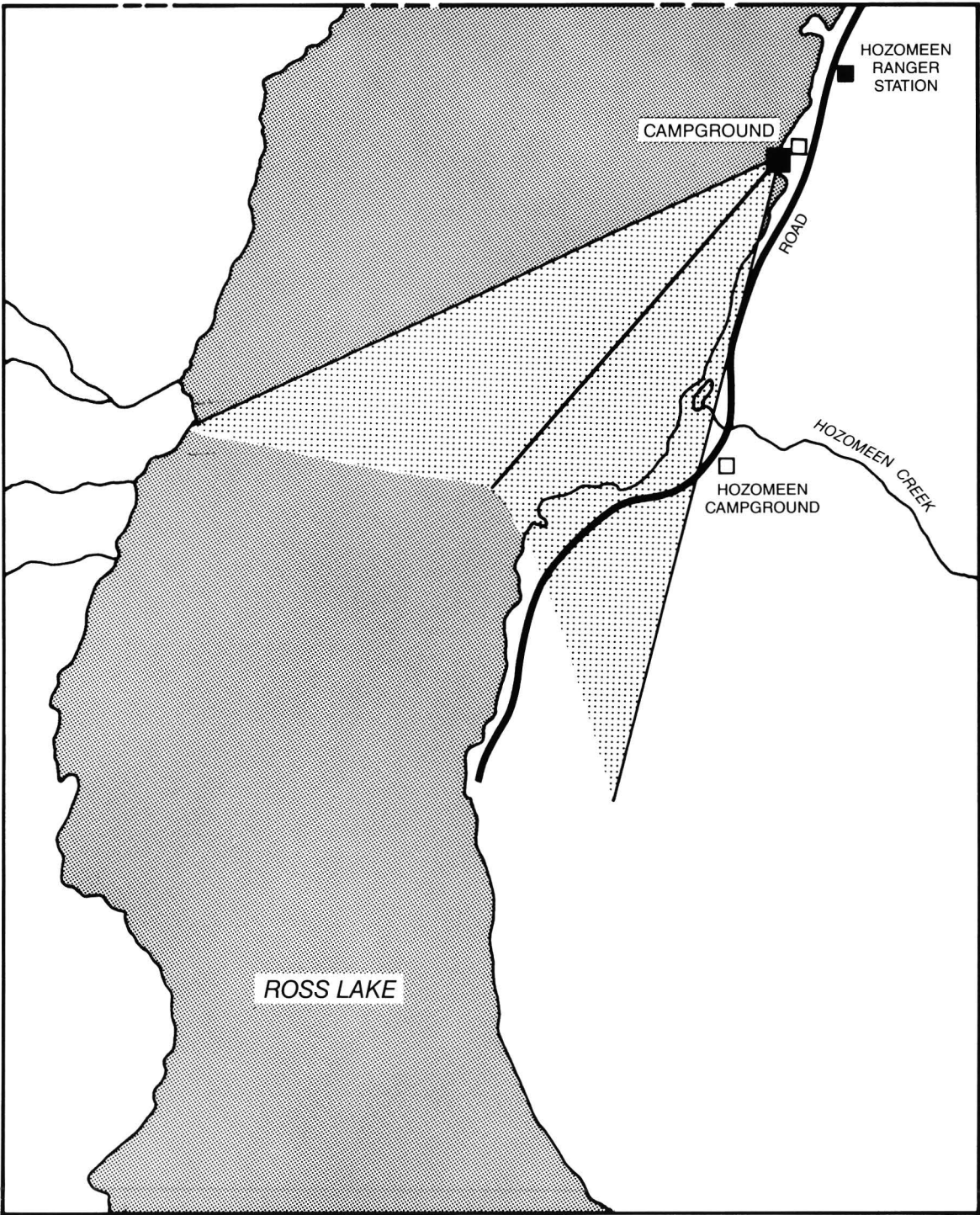




# Hozomeen



General Location on Ross Lake



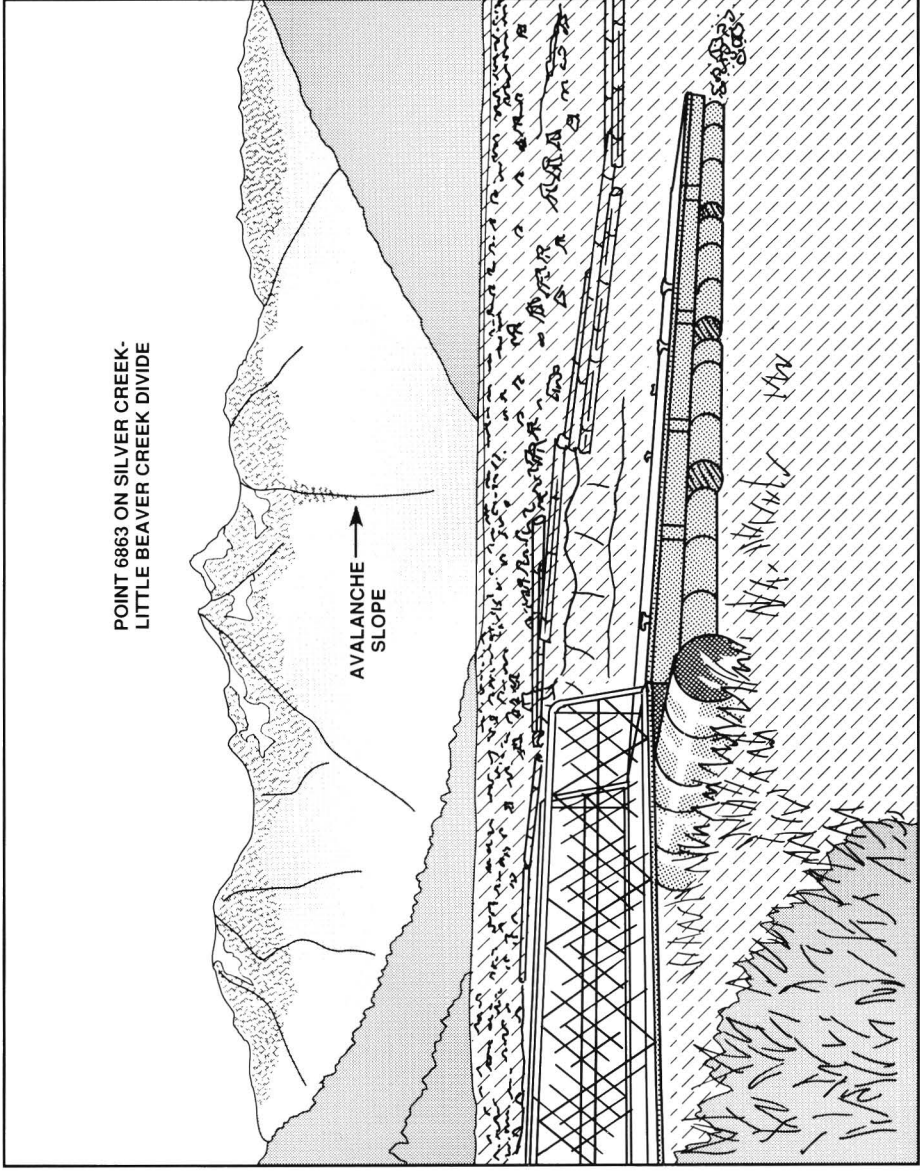
View Angle on Ross Lake





Elevation: 1527.0  
75.5 Feet Below Full Pool

Exposed Shoreline Area



**General Description**

This view lacks the distinctive forms and lines evident in other views around Ross Lake. Views are primarily toward the west and southwest with the sun either to the side or in front of the viewer. The valley sides frame the lower part of the scene and lead the eye toward Peak 6863, the sharp peak on the skyline ridge. This ridge, dividing Silver and Little Beaver creeks, creates a dominant form and line in the scene. Docks and other man-made structures are evident to the observer and add regular, geometric patterns to the landscape. Dominant colors are green, blue, white (early and late in the year), and blue-gray of the lake.

In addition to the lake, other landscape types seen in this view include: forest, snowfield, alpine meadow, avalanche slope, and man-made structure. This viewpoint lies at lake level, and the water forms a large planer expanse at high lake levels.

**Shoreline**

Lake levels more than about 20 feet below full pool expose a several hundred acre expanse of stump-covered flat, which is evident on the photo and drawing. At low pool levels, below about 1530 feet, the lake recedes beyond the base of Little Jackass Mountain at the left side of the photograph. The exposed flat at low lake levels is a dominant and vivid part of the scene.

**Use**

This viewpoint is the second most visited viewpoint in the Ross Lake area. About one thousand day and overnight users, many of them boaters, visit Hozomeen Campground each week in mid-summer when the lake is full. Prior to the opening of fishing season in mid-June, visitor numbers are 200 or less per week. At lowest pool levels, visitor numbers are fewer than ten persons per week. This viewpoint is open all year, although the campground may be difficult to reach in mid-winter due to snow.





Elevation: 1527.0' ↗

↘ Elevation: 1577.0'







Elevation: 1593.5'



Elevation: 1602.5'

