

Tocks Island Regional Advisory Council Council.

A new park is coming to the Tocks Island
region.

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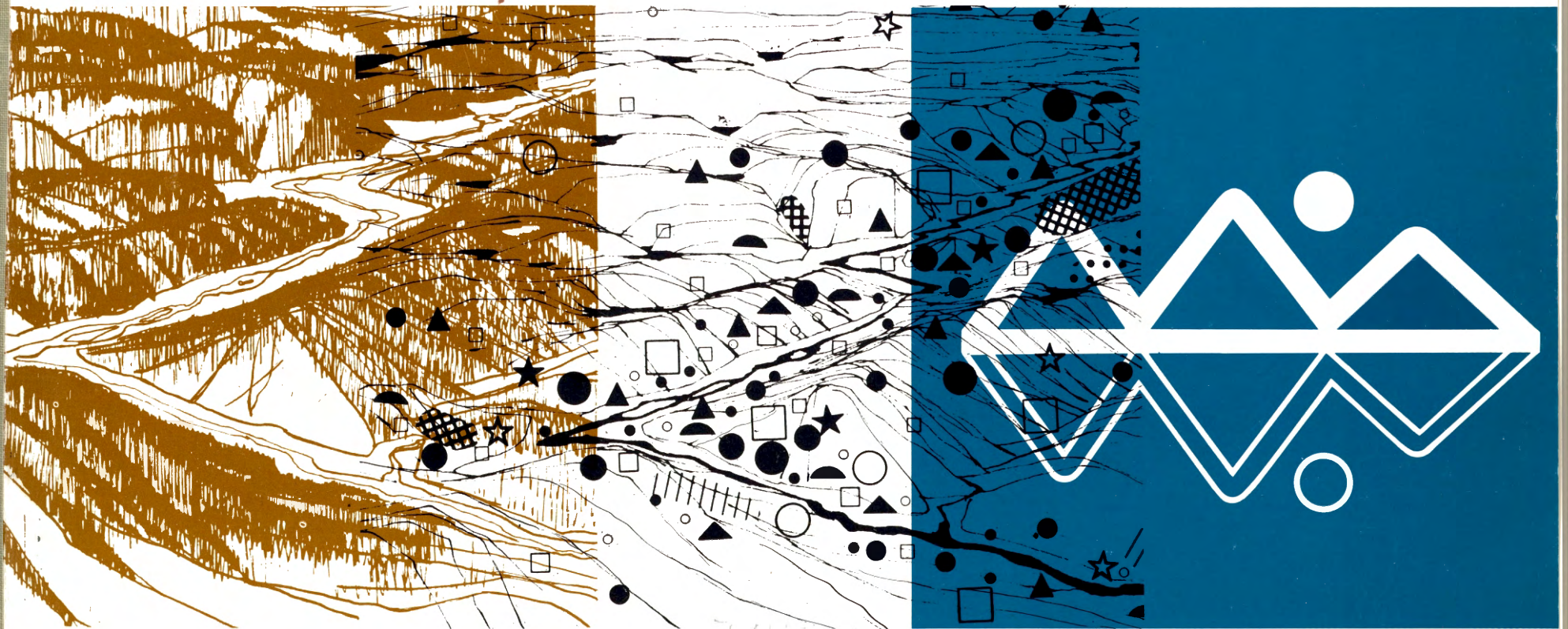
A new park is coming to the Tocks Island Region

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A new park is coming to the Tocks Island

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Why here?

report 1



Why here?

THE NEED FOR A MAJOR NATIONAL RECREATION AREA FOR THE URBAN NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES WAS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED BY THE OUTDOOR RECREATION RESOURCES REVIEW COMMISSION IN 1962. □ THE DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATIONAL AREA, □ AT THE VERY HEART OF THE TOCKS ISLAND REGION, □ WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN 1969 AND COMPLETED IN THE 1970's. □

This report is Volume One of a series of reports to the citizens of the Tocks Island Region.

May, 1968

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Prepared for the
TOCKS ISLAND REGIONAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL
by CANDEUB, FLEISSIG
AND ASSOCIATES
Planning Consultants

CHARLES W. HOLZBOG
Landscape Architect
SYLVIA A. BARKAN
Report Design

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The Tocks Island Region

Located less than 100 miles from both the New York City and Philadelphia metropolitan areas, is a land area of approximately 4,100 square miles which, politically, embraces seven counties in the States of Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. Long a major "play-ground" for residents of the great Eastern Cities (it includes most of the famous Catskills' and Poconos' resort areas), and a major supplier of water to these cities, these roles of the region will grow dramatically as the Federal Government develops the one great resource the counties of the region share in common: the Delaware River.

The Federal development of this resource over the next decade through the construction of the Tocks Island dam and reservoir and the development of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA) will have a significant impact on all seven counties and, possibly, other counties along the periphery of the region. This impact will stem principally from one factor: no less than 10,500,000 persons are expected to visit the recreation area annually when it is in full operation. The DWGNRA will be far and away the most heavily used facility in the National Park System.

The amenity rich Tocks Island region is also feeling the impact of other major change-producing factors. These include the rapid development of the interstate highway system which places major portions of the region within one hour's driving time of New York City, the booming market for seasonal homes and the continuing urbanizing-suburbanizing influence of the Eastern megalopolis. When these

and other factors are combined with the Federal development of that forty mile portion of the Delaware River which lies between Port Jervis, New York and the famous Delaware Water Gap, it can be seen that the Tocks Island region faces a period of very dramatic change.

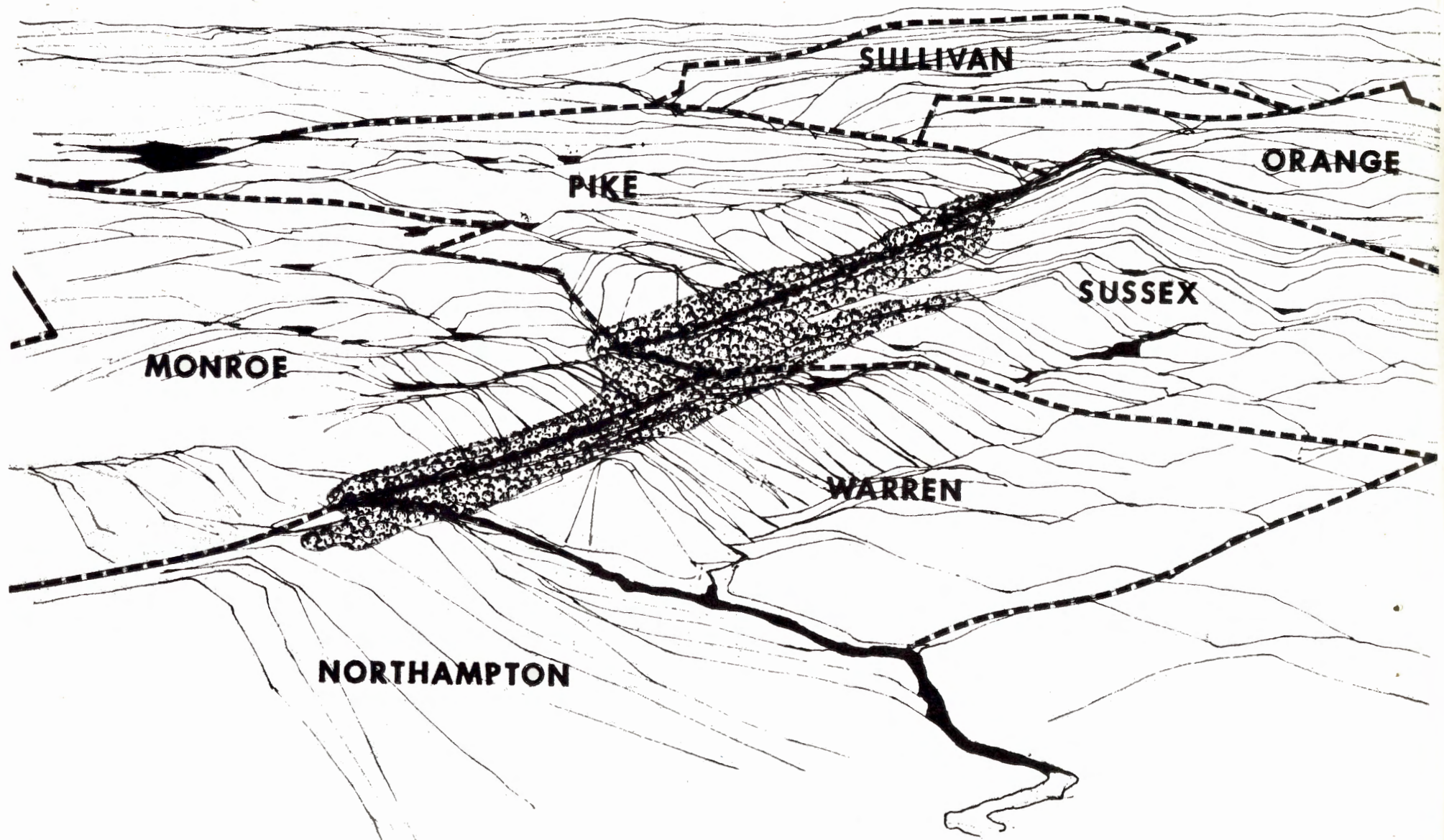
TIRAC

(The Tocks Island Regional Advisory Council), a county council of governments (COG), was created in 1965 as the principal means through which the top elected officials of the region could identify and come to grips with the change that will be produced by the Tocks Island projects and the other major forces which are affecting the region. To accomplish its missions, TIRAC has devoted considerable resources to an over-riding concern: the generation of interest in, awareness of and concern for the future of the region by the residents of the region.

This booklet, another expression of TIRAC's over-riding concern, is directed to those persons both in and out of the region who, whether through their expressions of concern or investment of dollars, have the power to make the future of the Tocks Island region very bright indeed.

A final note: TIRAC would like to express its indebtedness to the National Endowment for the Arts which, through a grant to TIRAC, made the TIRAC "design action conference" of October, 1967 possible. The ideas presented in this booklet were initially developed at that conference.

A NEW PARK IS COMING TO THE
TOCKS ISLAND REGION

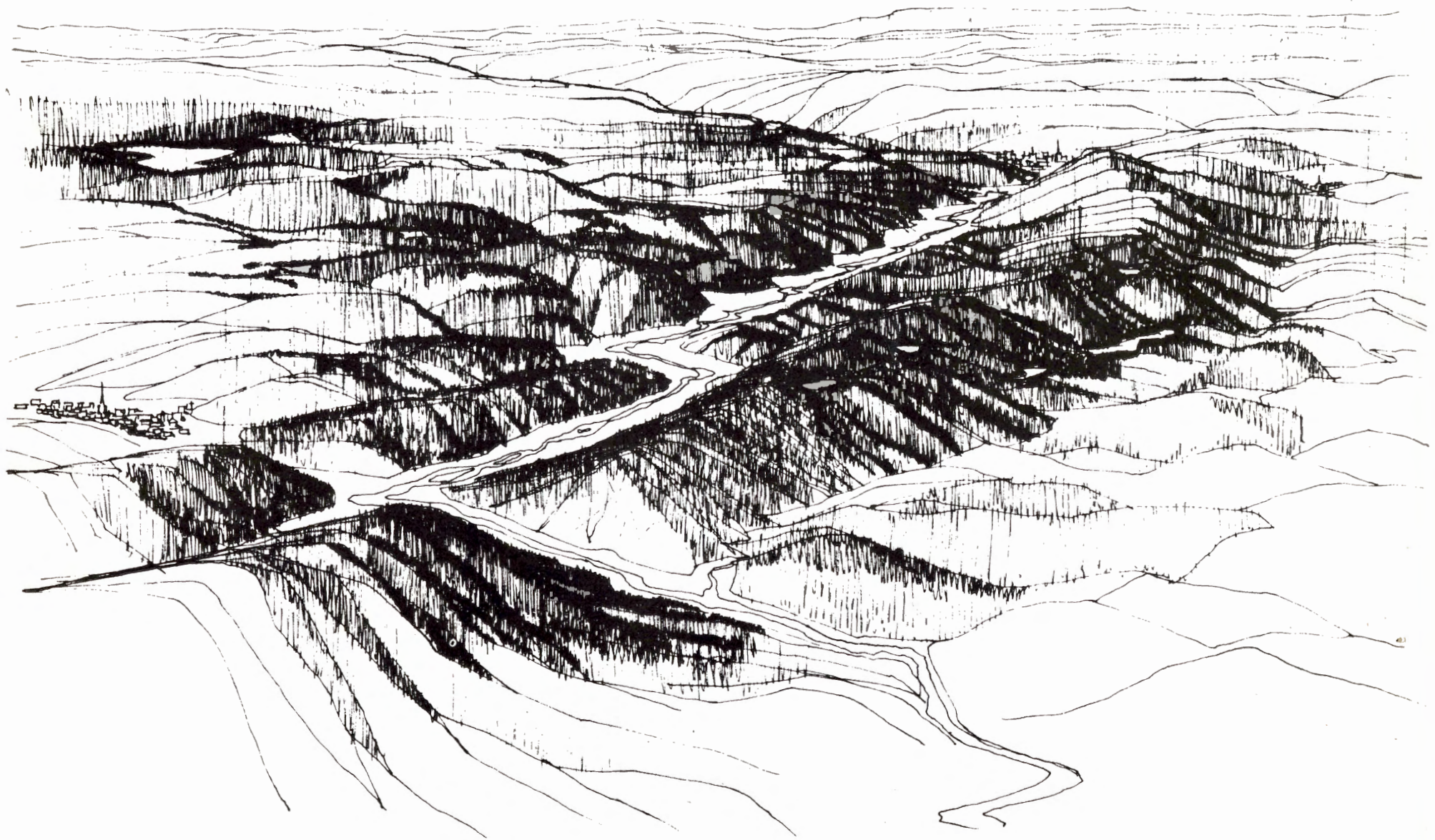


WHY HERE?

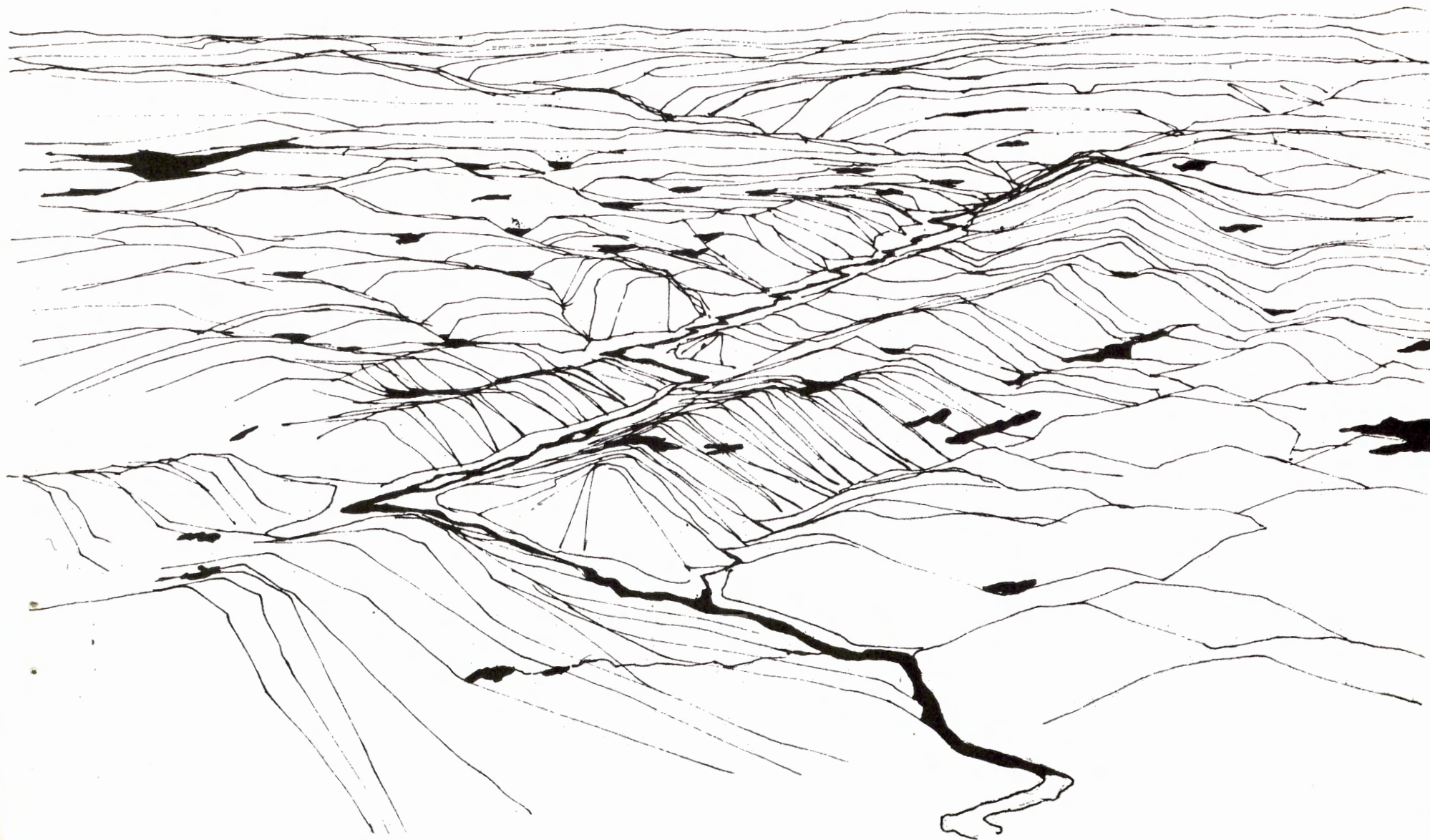
- aside from the 37 mile long reservoir along the Delaware River which will also provide flood control, water supply, hydroelectric power and recreation.
- and aside from the Region's proximity to millions of urban and suburban residents.



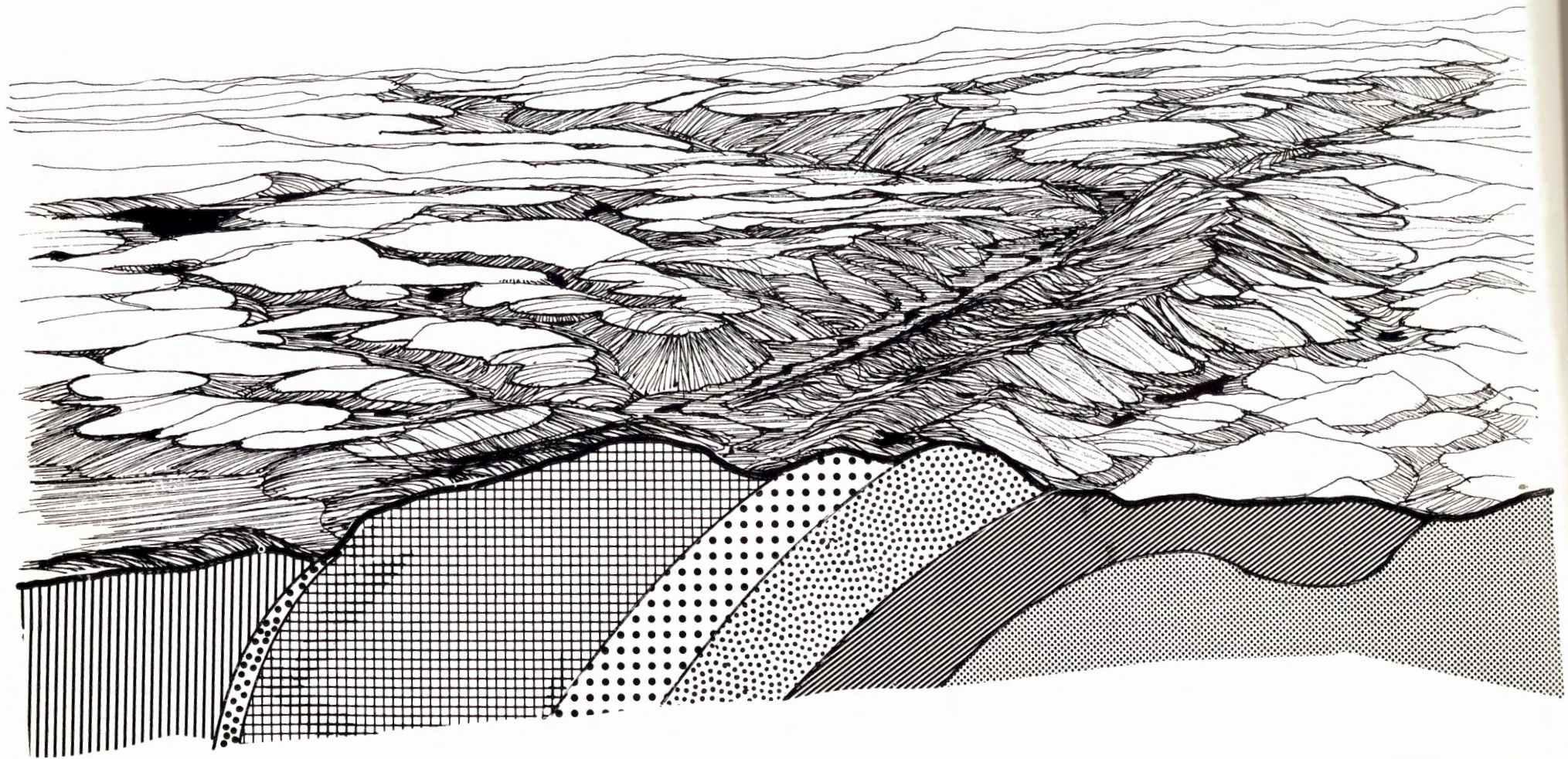
here, because of the Region's
unspoiled character
... such as the visual landscape ...



... and the Region's
plentiful water resources...

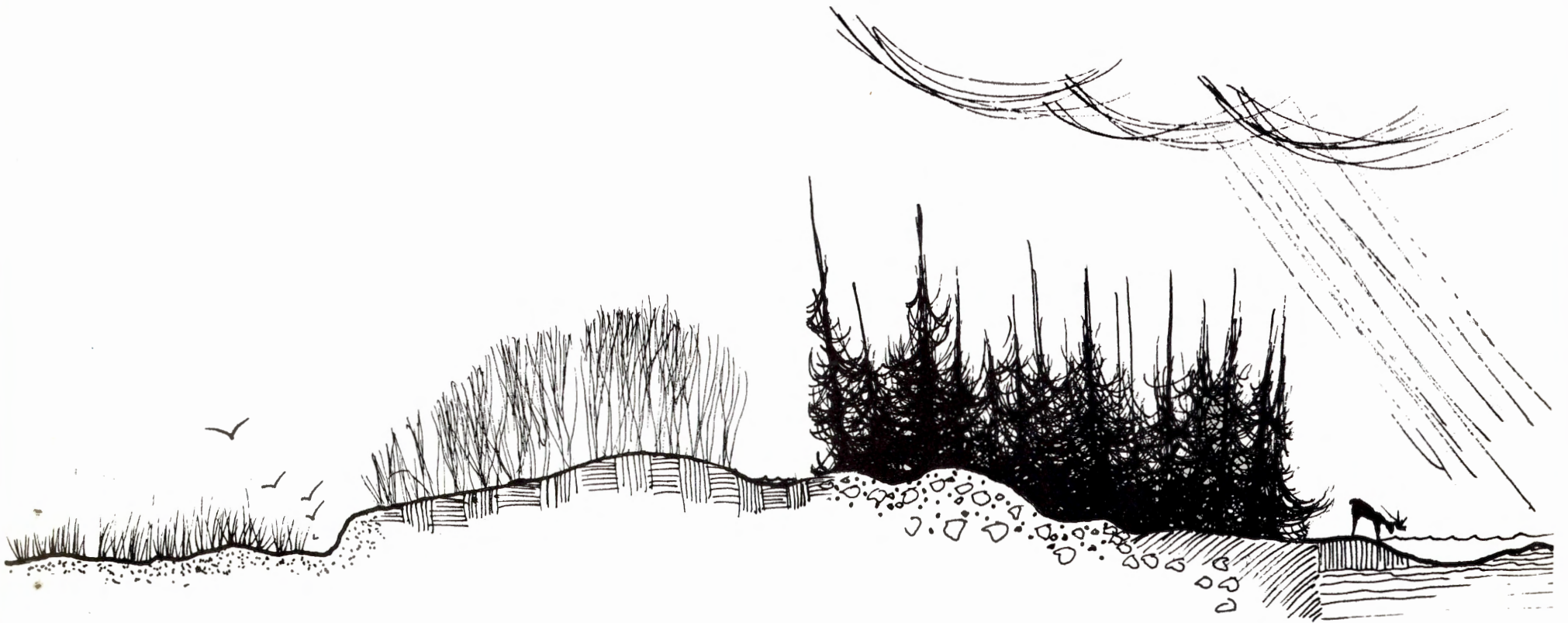


... and the Region's geology,
which in part determines the
Region's topography and ...

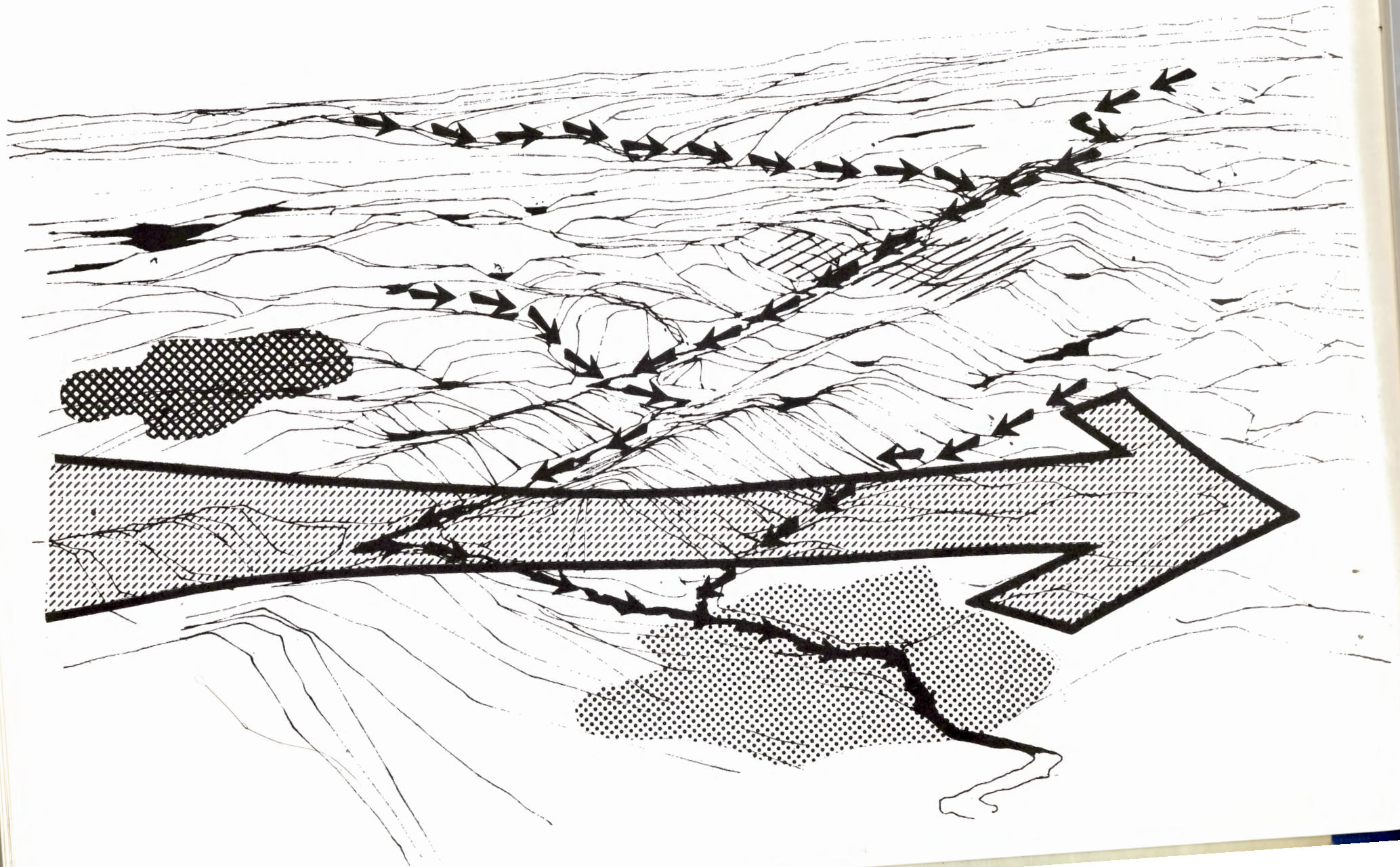


the Region's significant:

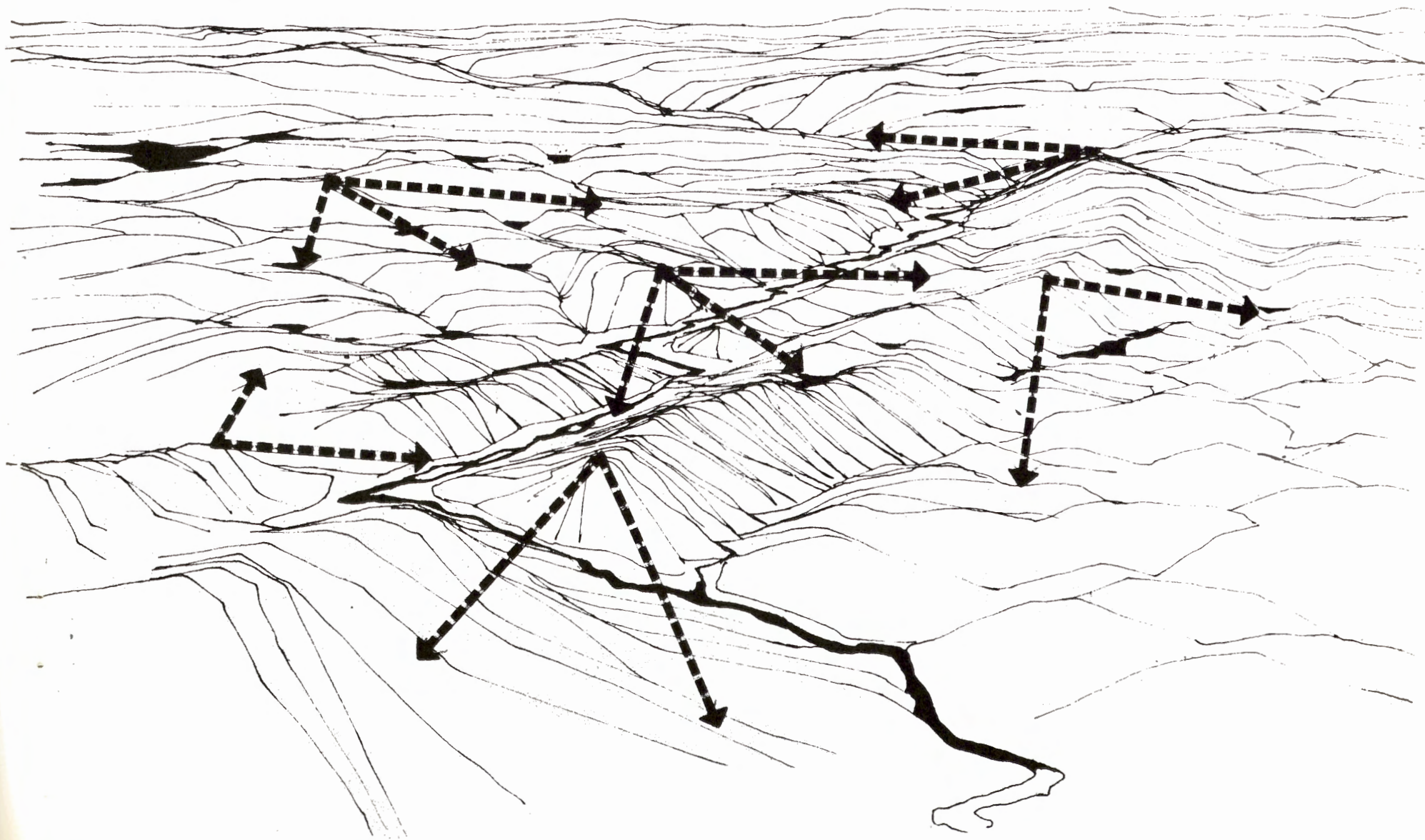
- vegetation
- microclimate
- drainage
- wildlife
- soil types



These natural resources are all *Regional*. They do not respect municipal, county or state boundaries.

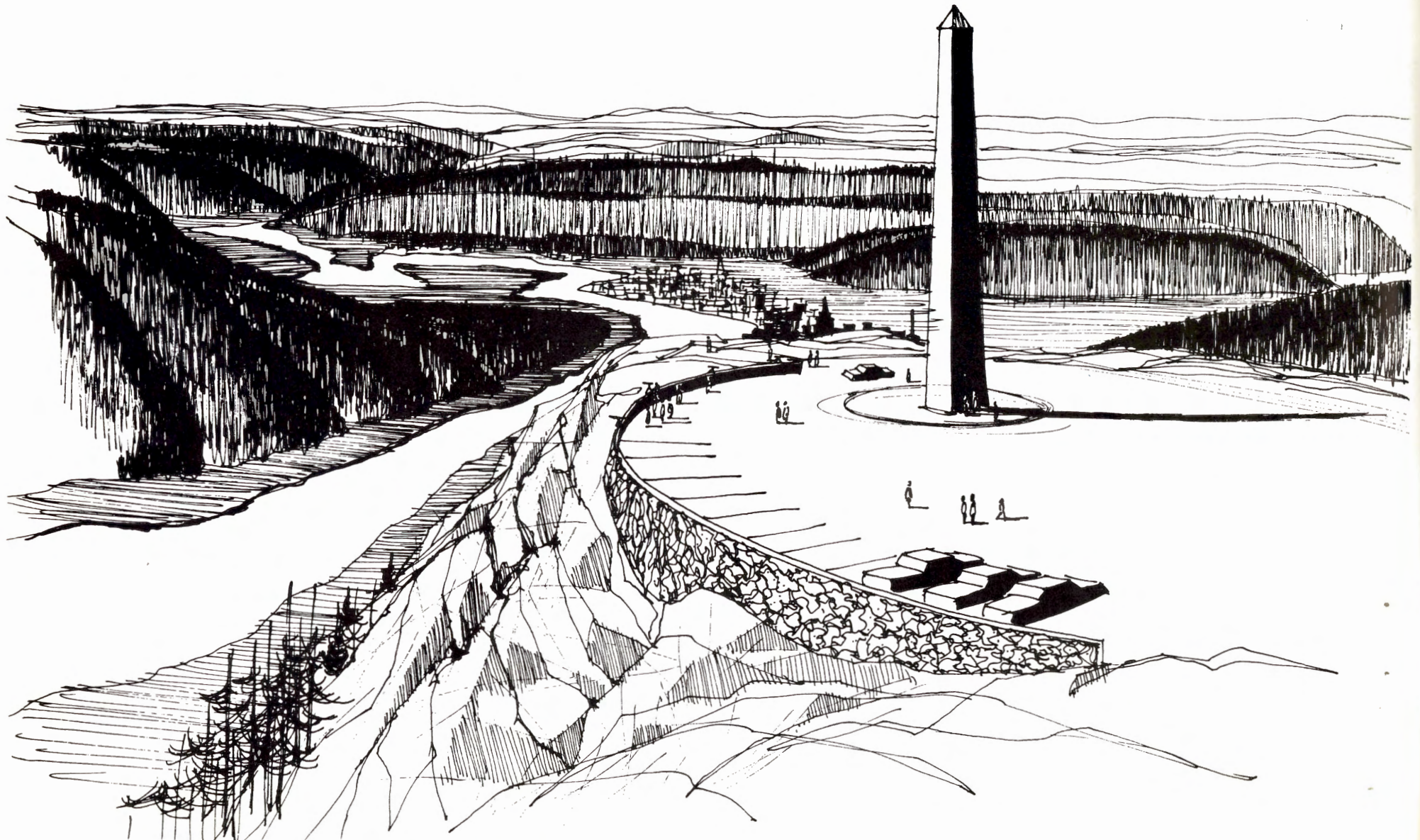


Even visual natural resources,
such as overlooks, are Regional ...
... the visual landscape does not
respect boundaries either.



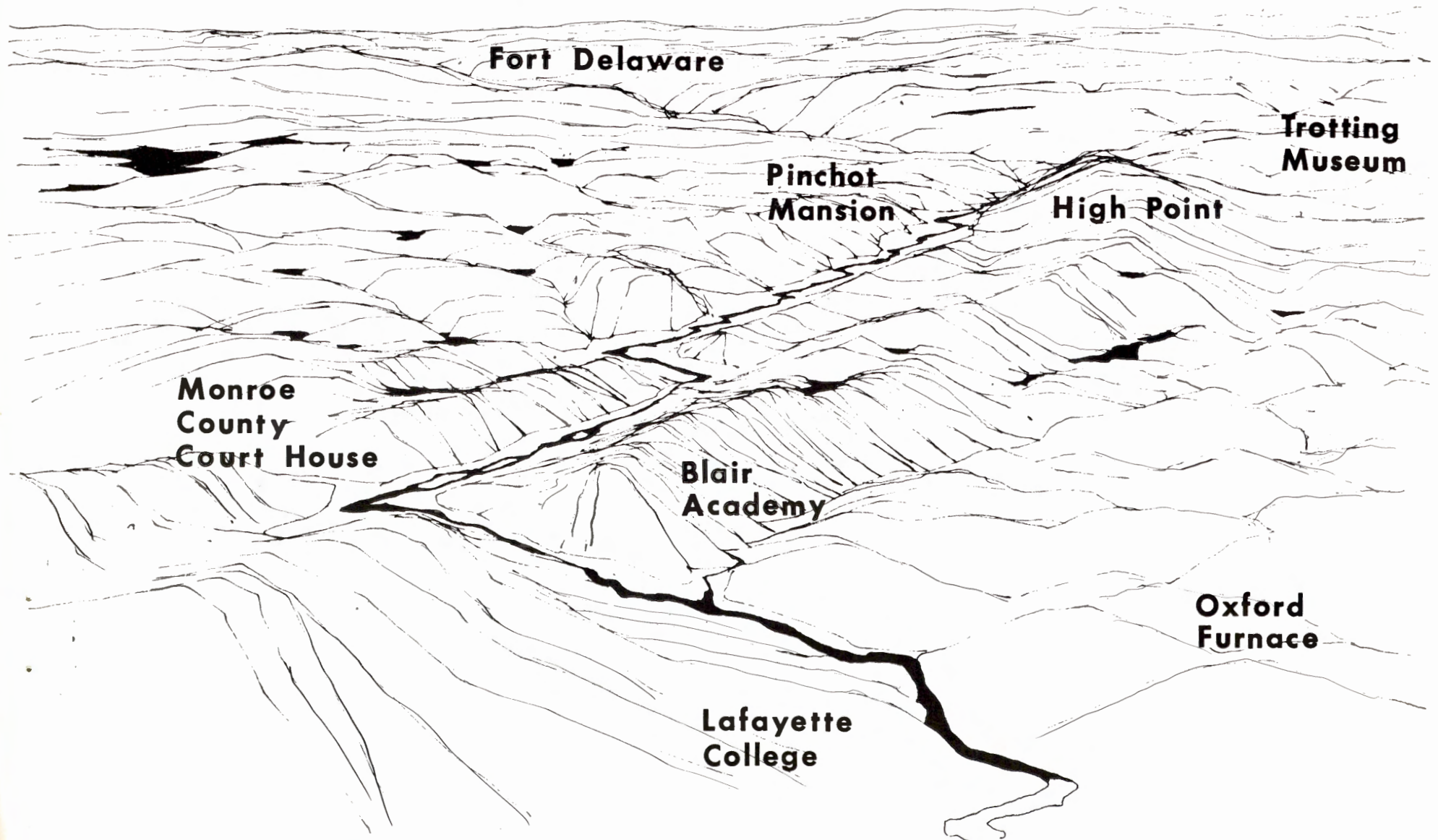
Overlooks are often
Cultural resources.
examples are:

High Point State Park, New Jersey
Pinchot Mansion, Pennsylvania
Hawk's Nest, New York
Delaware Water Gap, Pennsylvania

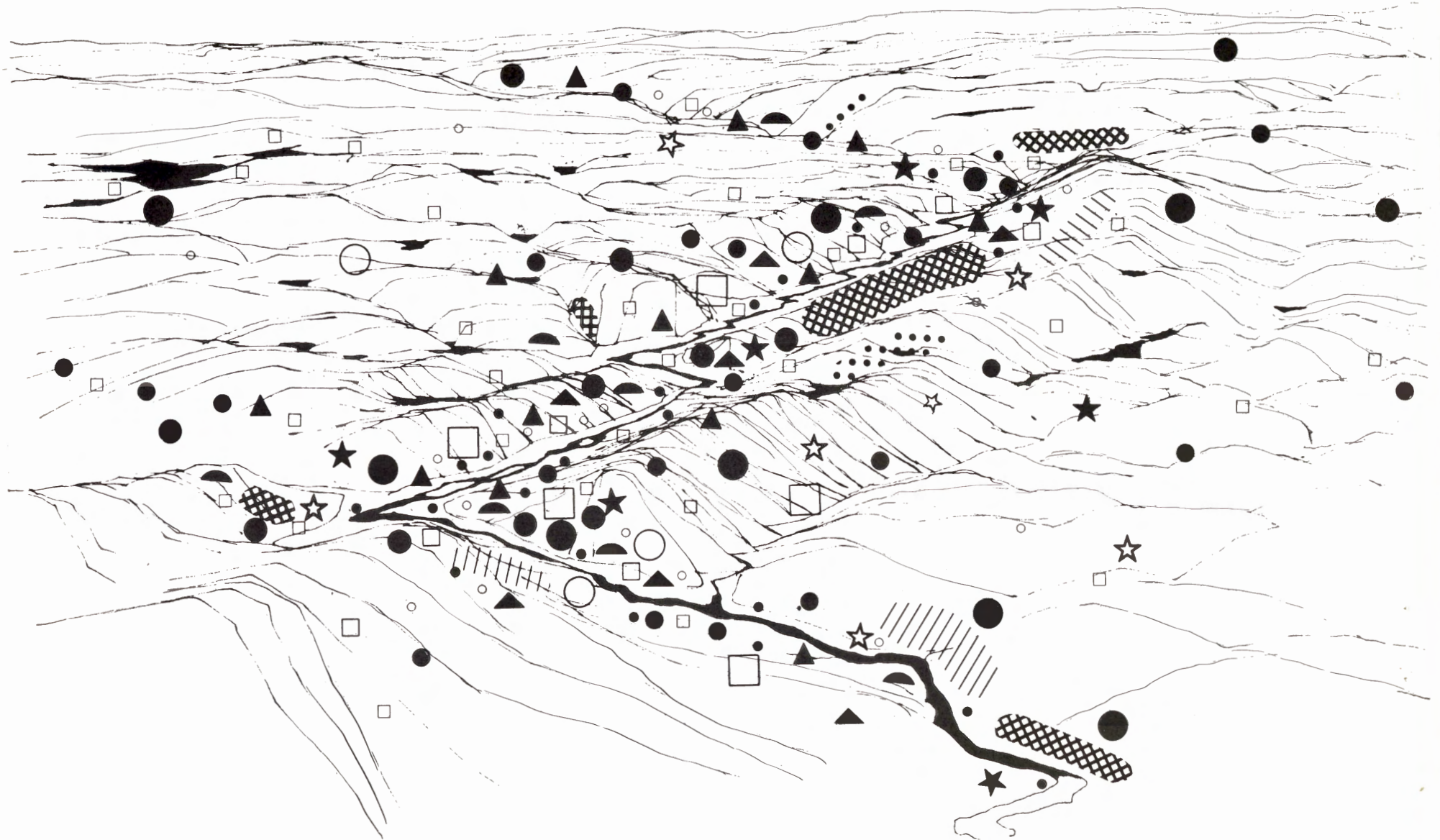


There are many types of *Cultural* resources found throughout the Region.
Examples:

Churches
Historical buildings
Recreational areas
Significant structures
Institutions



If all of the natural and cultural resources of the Tocks Island Region were located with symbols on a single map . . .



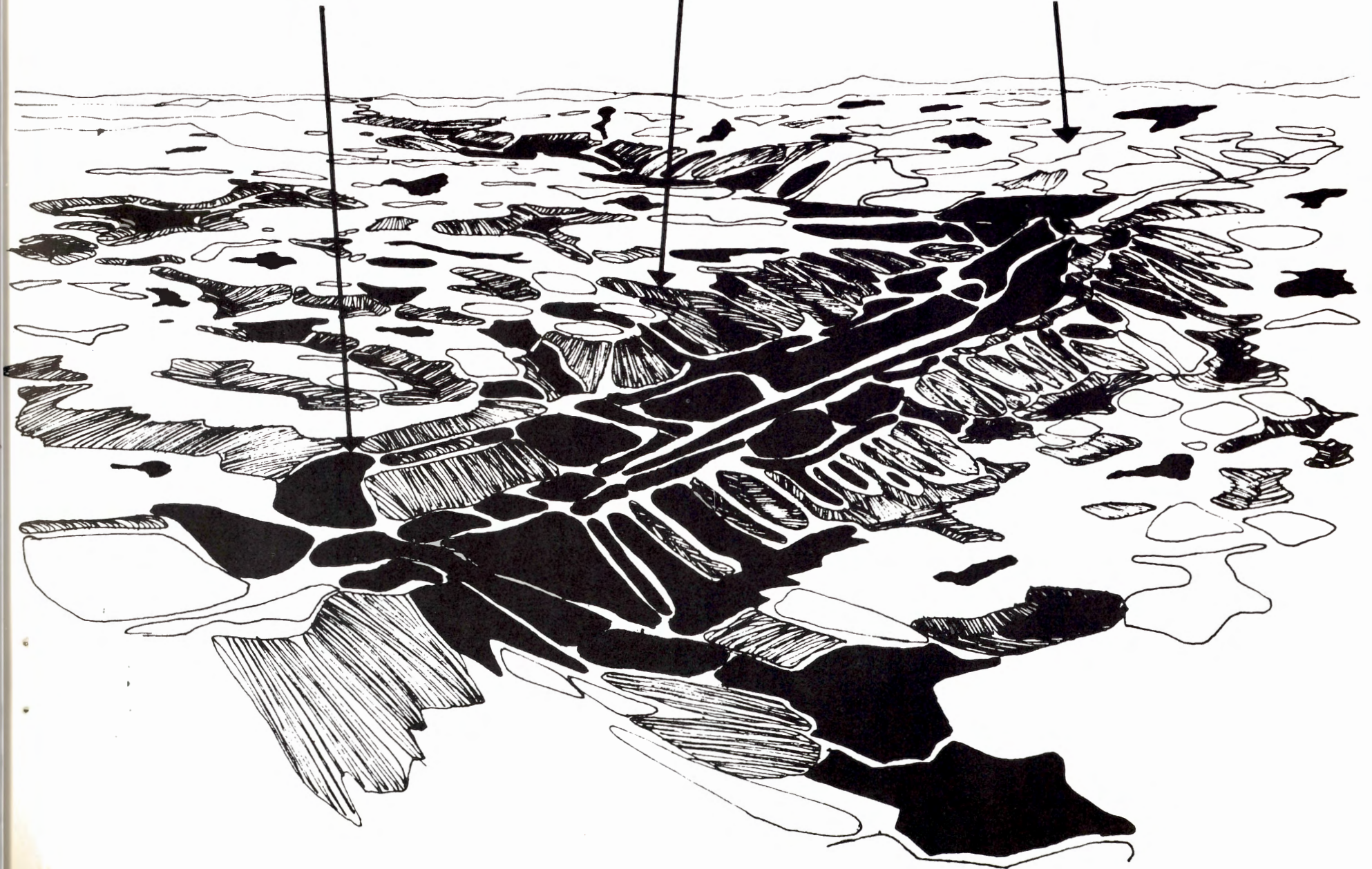
... it would be apparent that cultural and natural resources are concentrated into

ENVIRONMENTAL PATTERNS of varying density.

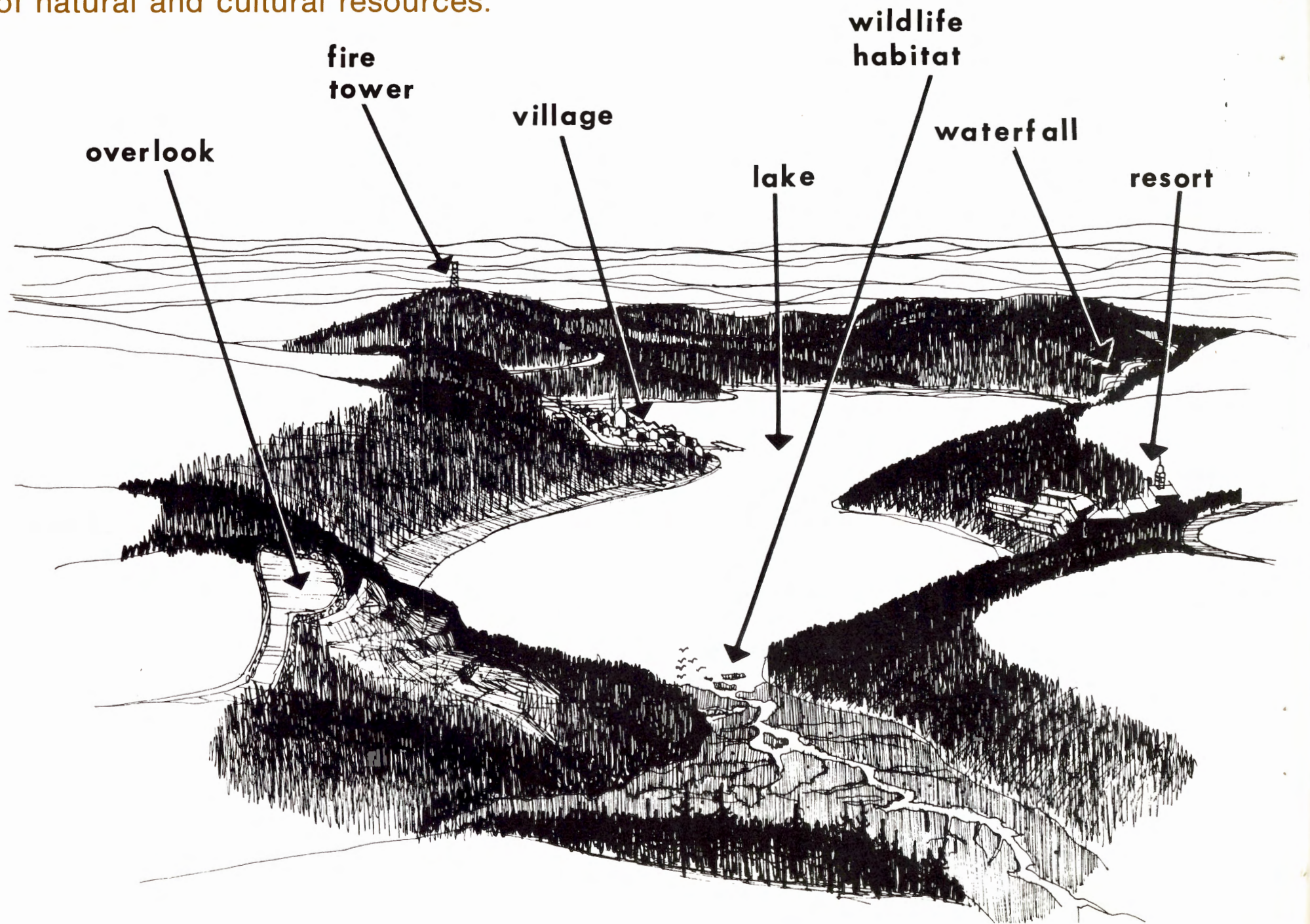
HIGH

MEDIUM

LOW



Areas within high environmental patterns are those with a large number of natural and cultural resources.

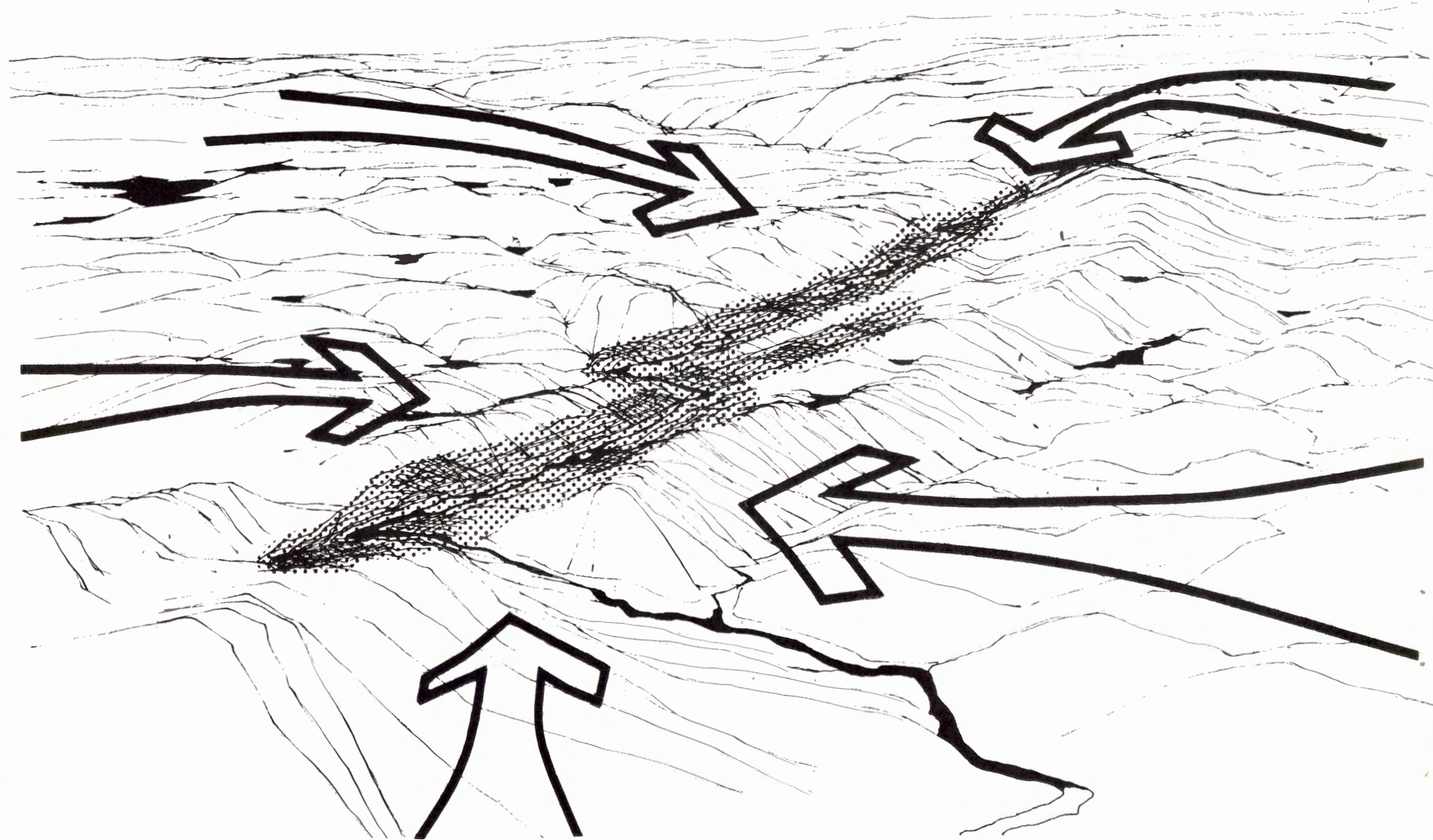


Because the new Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area will fall along a very rich environmental pattern, the reason for the new park's

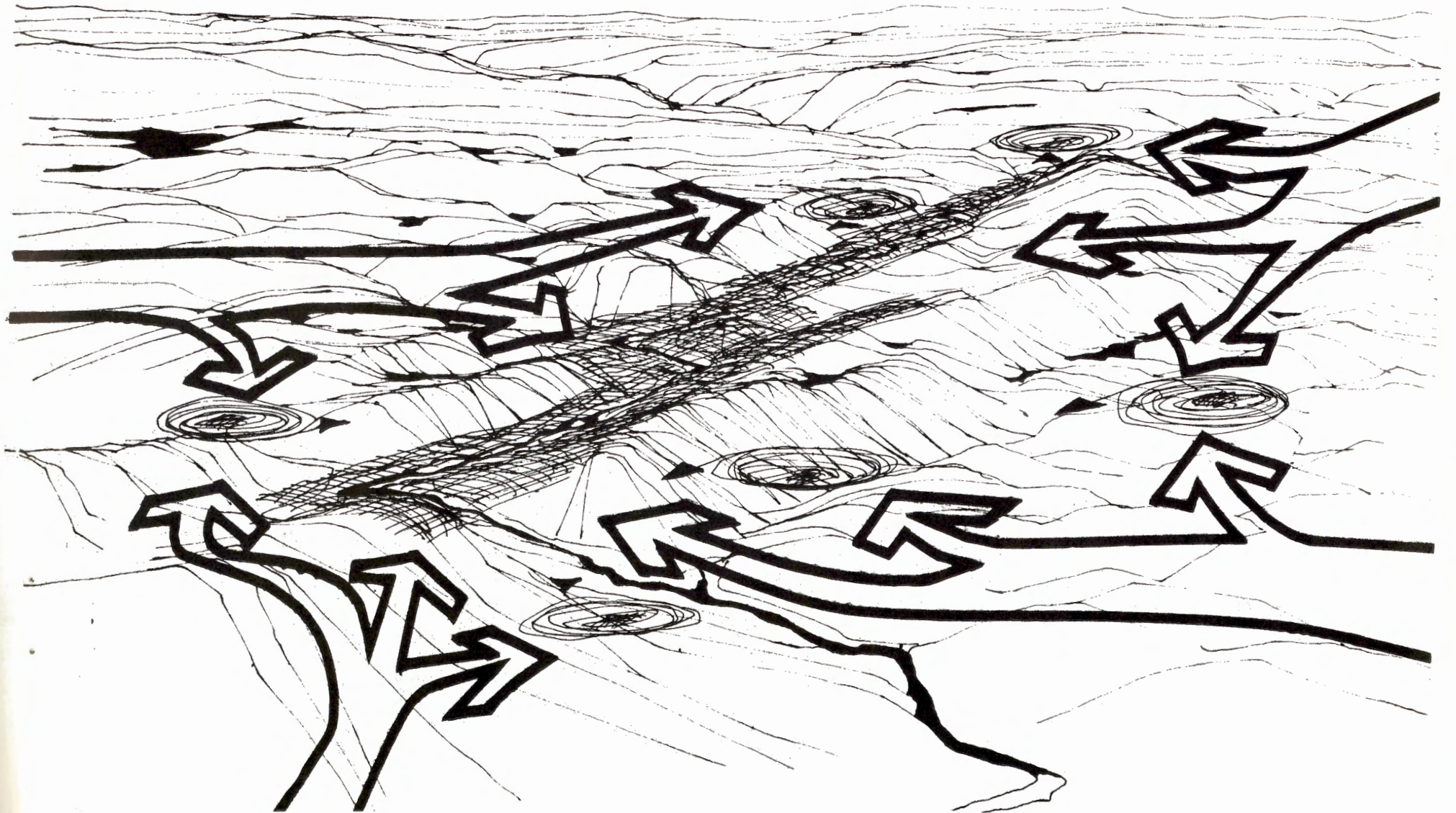
location becomes quite clear. But what of the other rich environmental patterns in the region?



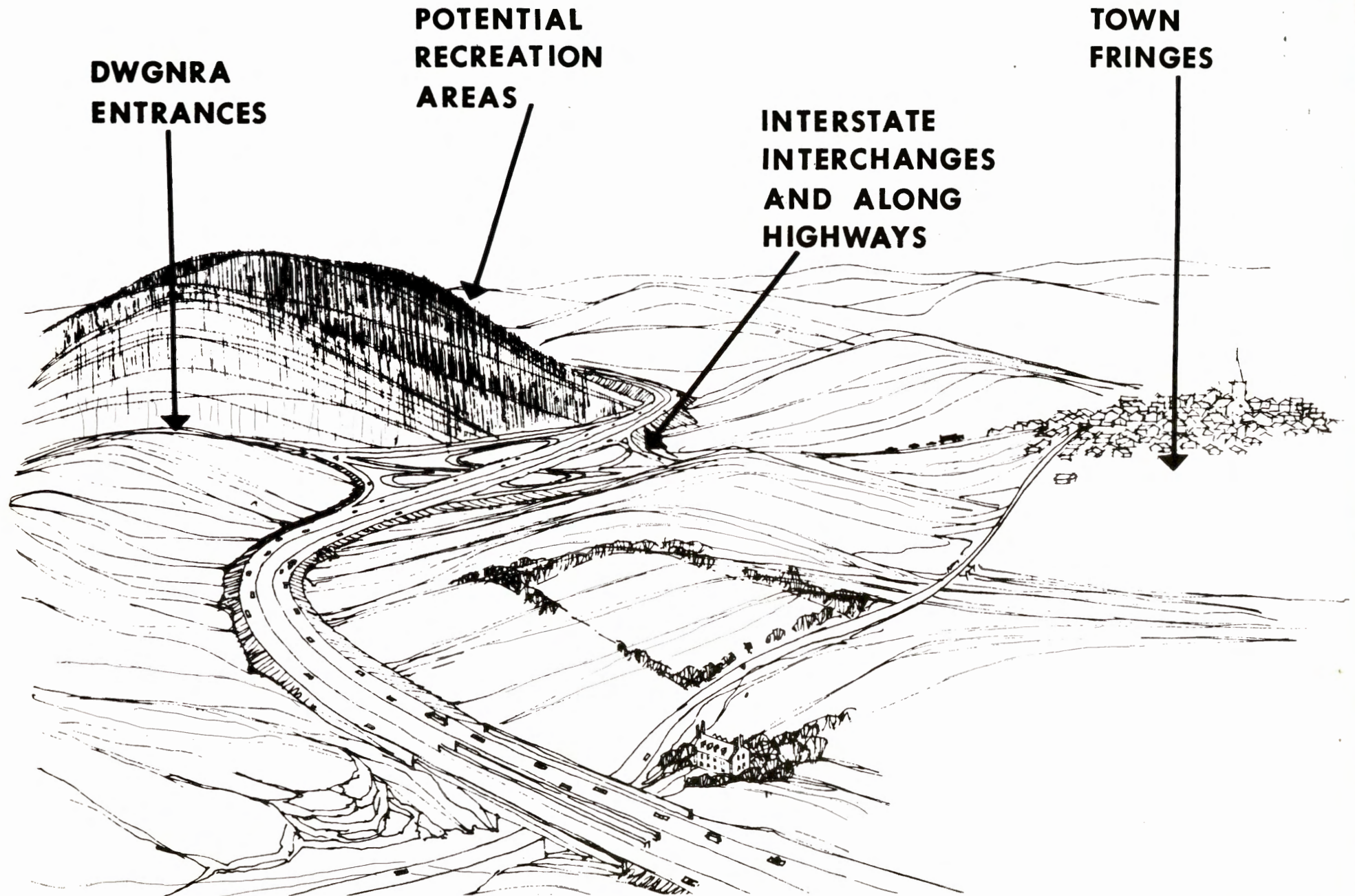
As the new park develops, it will become an even richer resource area, drawing visitors from several distant points.



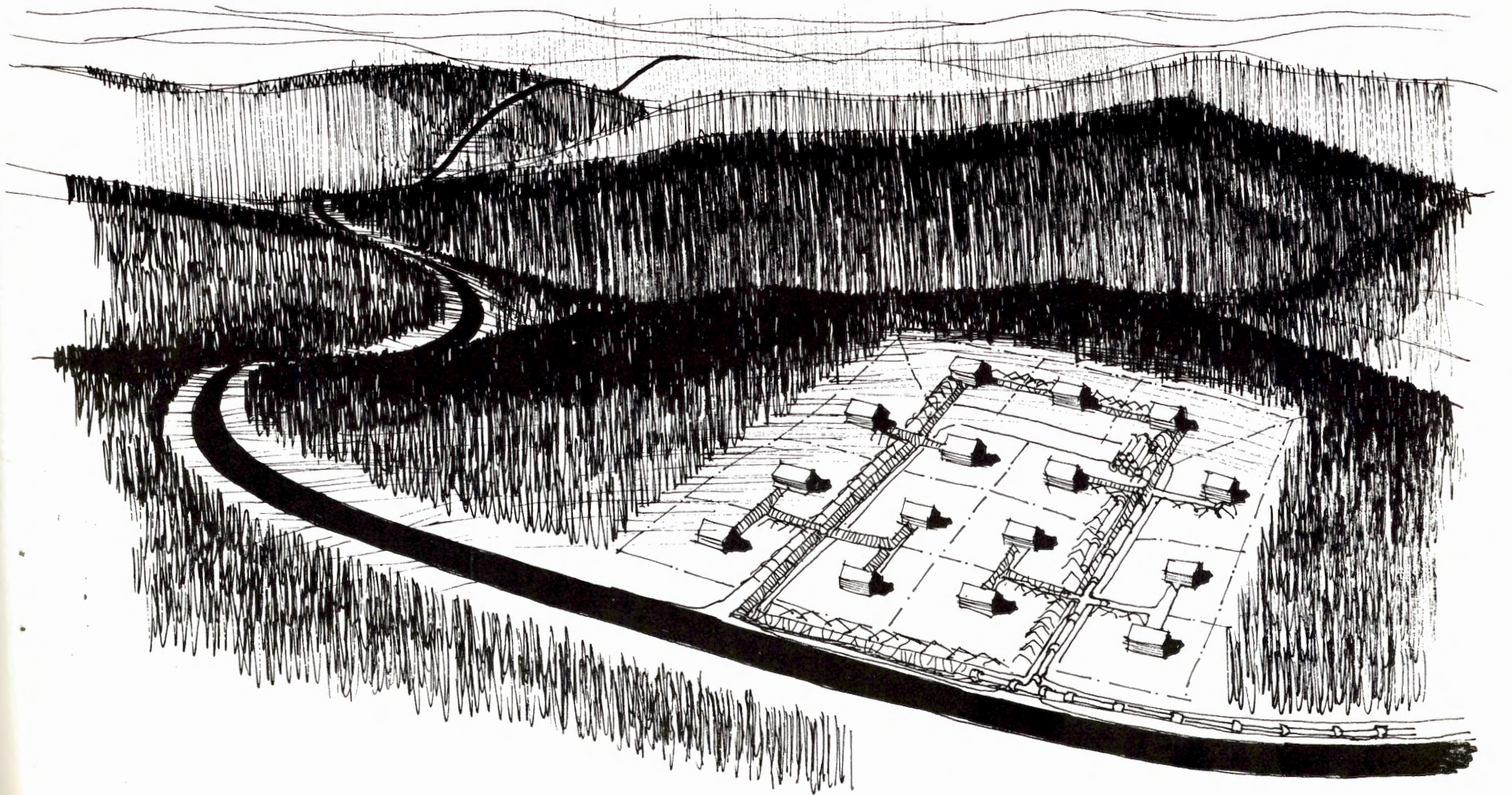
The park, along with the several growing areas in the Region, will serve as magnets, attracting new visitors, permanent residents and considerable development.



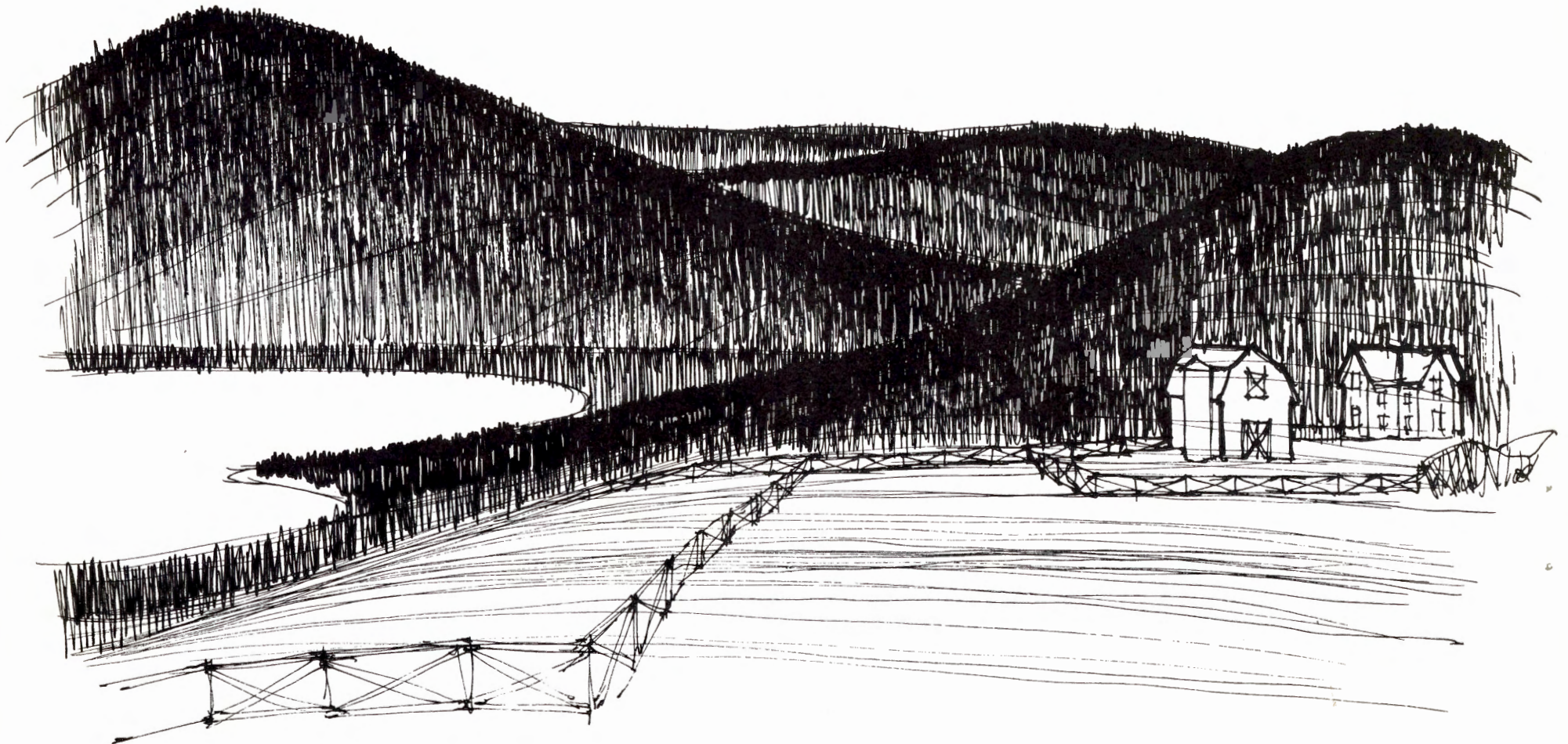
Initially, that development will occur predominately in 4 types of locations:



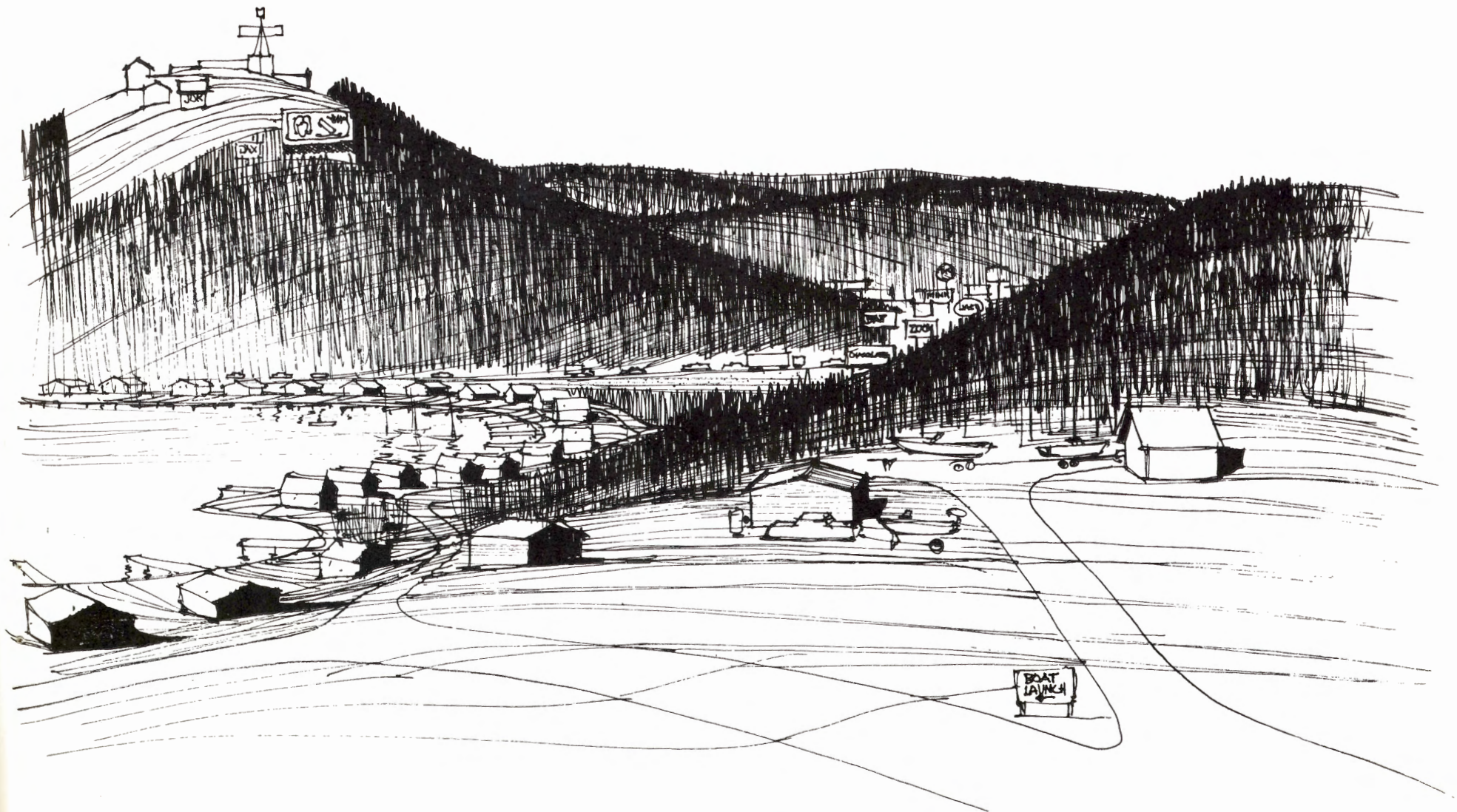
Development also seeks areas where utilities, such as sewerage and water supply, are available.



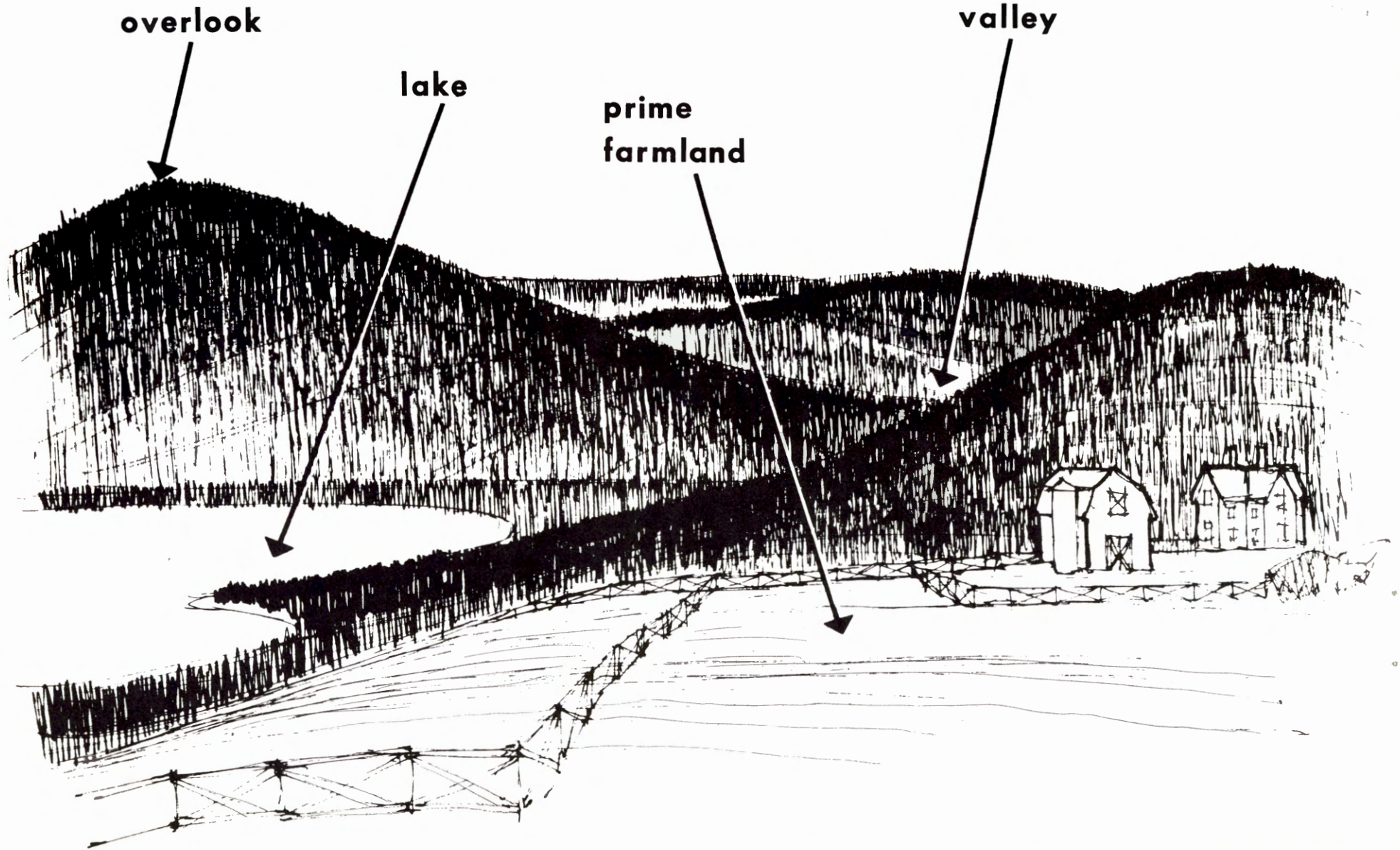
The Region's large expanses of open land, much of it economically unproductive or marginally productive, are prime attractions for the rapid and heavy development foreseen in the next few years.



Areas of high environmental resource value will be especially vulnerable to recreation and tourist development.



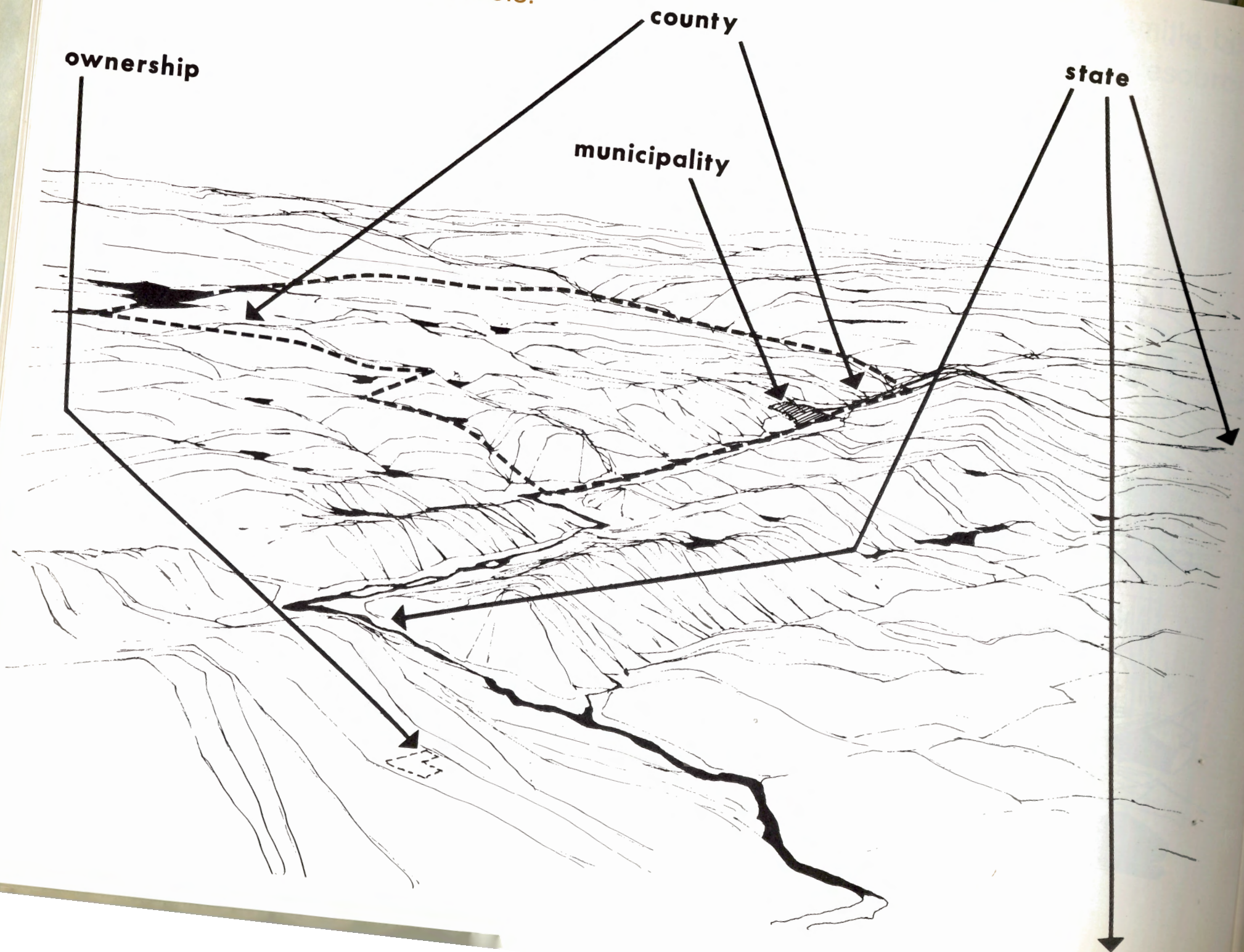
So, as development occurs, areas of high environmental resource value will be threatened...



... and ultimately taken forever.



Environmental resources can be protected by controls exerted at various levels.

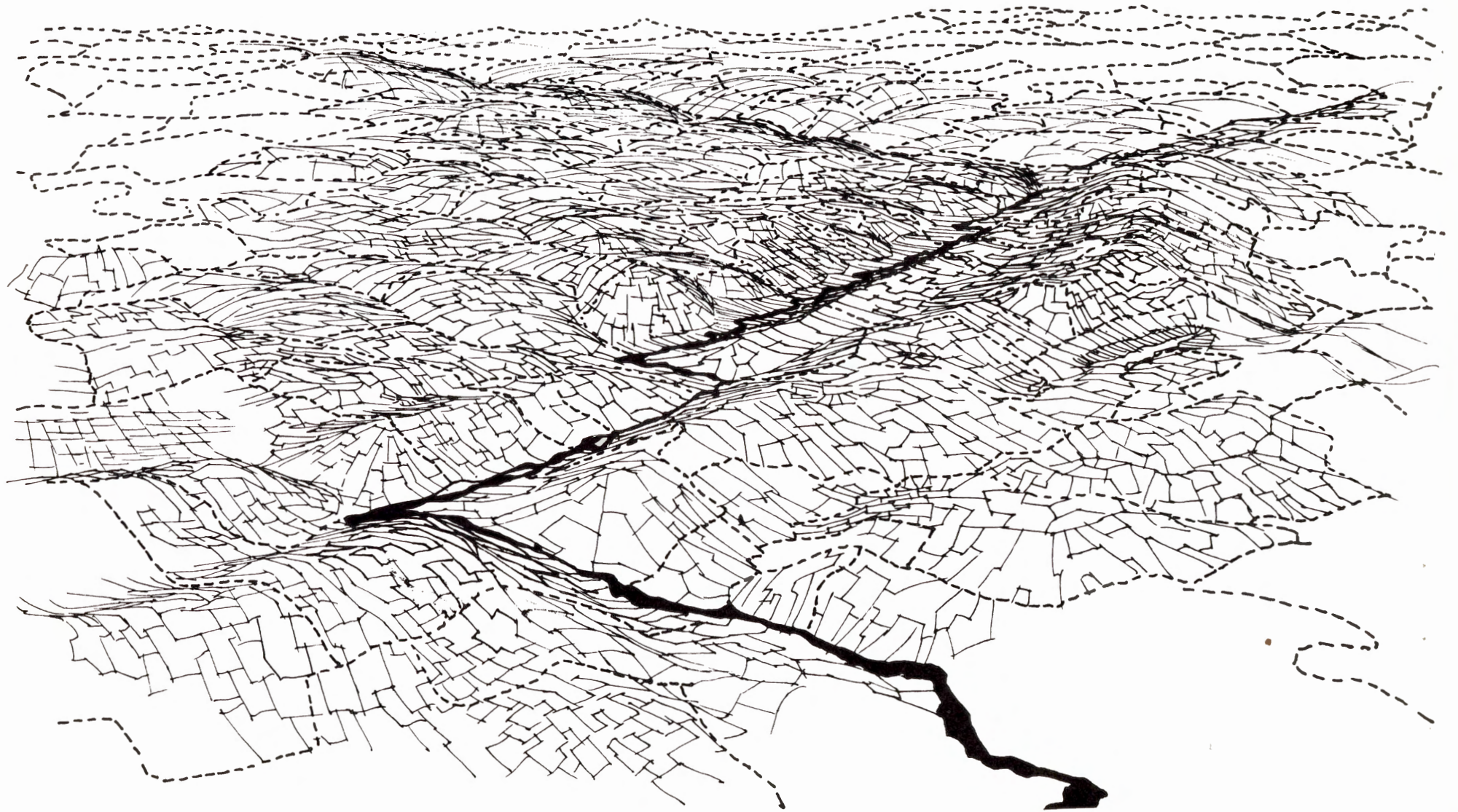


An owner, by the design and maintenance of the development on his property, exerts a strong influence on the environmental

resources on his and on the adjacent property.

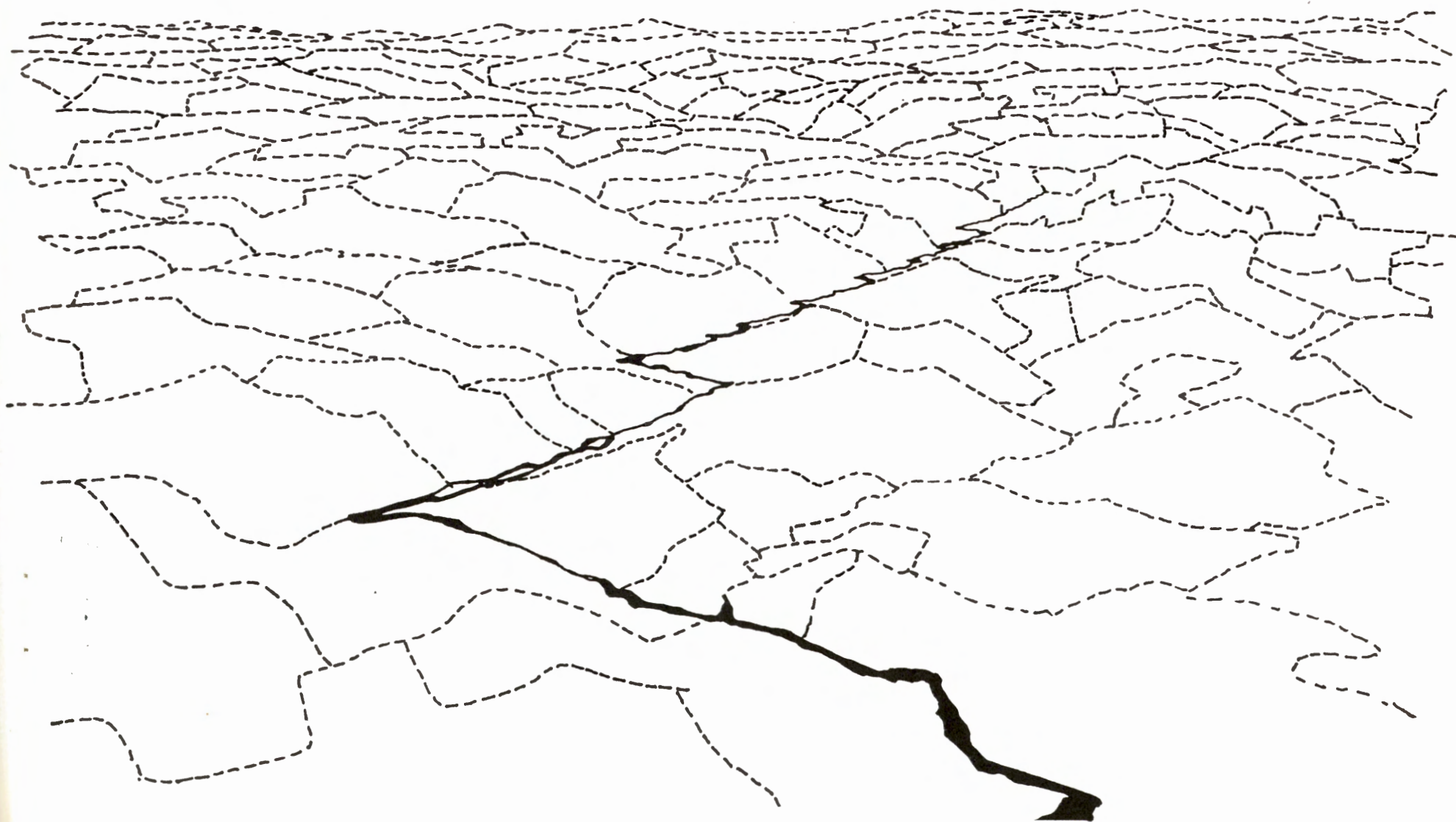


Given the large number of owners in the Region, however, it would be impossible to assume that all owners would be responsible.

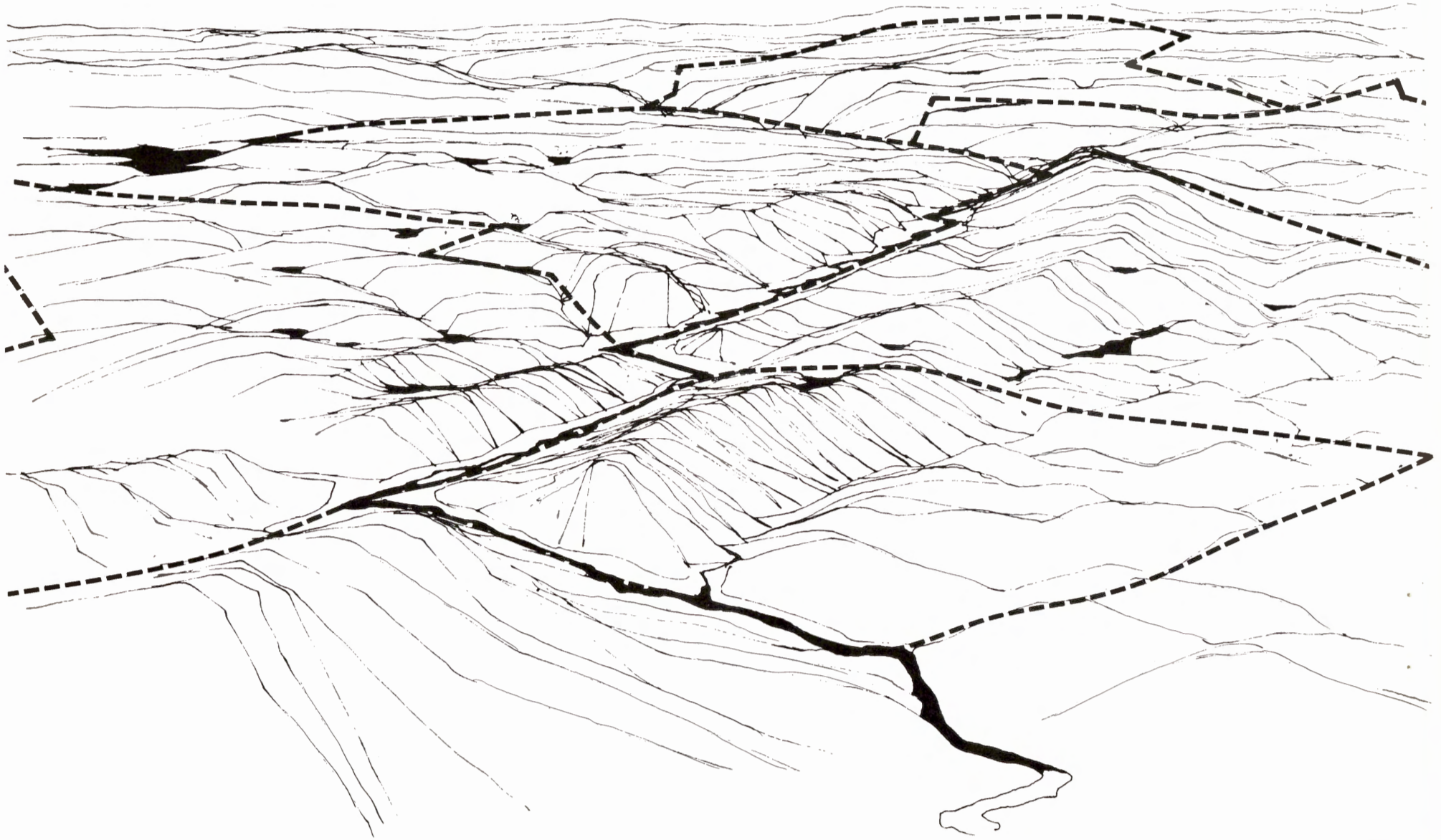


A municipality (township, city, village, borough or town) has several powers of control which can *contribute* toward environmental protection. But the 116 municipalities all have different controls (or none at all) such as zoning, subdivision regulations, and other

ordinances, most of which are neither directed toward nor effective in protecting environmental resources.

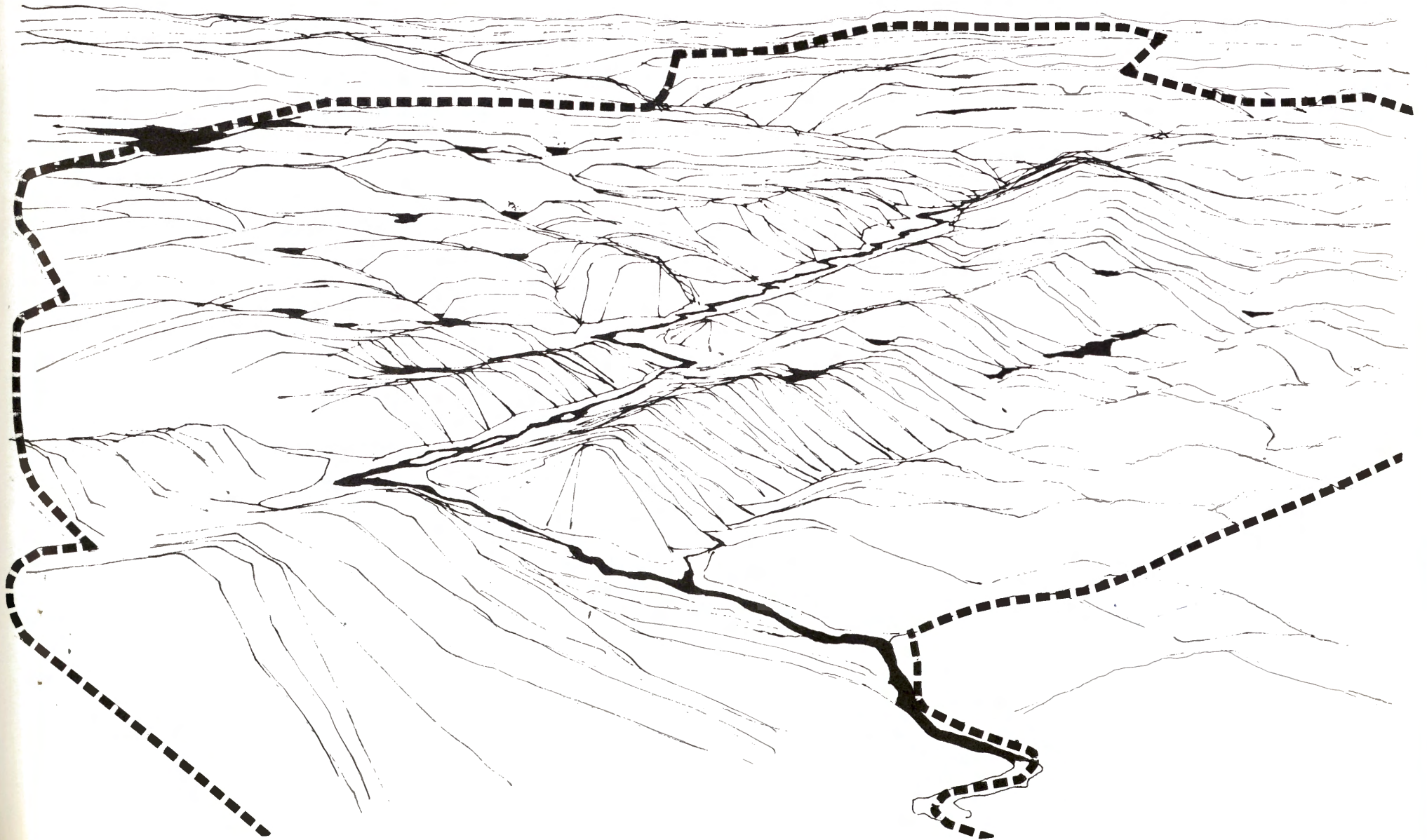


The seven counties of the
Tocks Island Region have very
limited control powers, but do
represent a small number of units
large enough to deal with the Region.

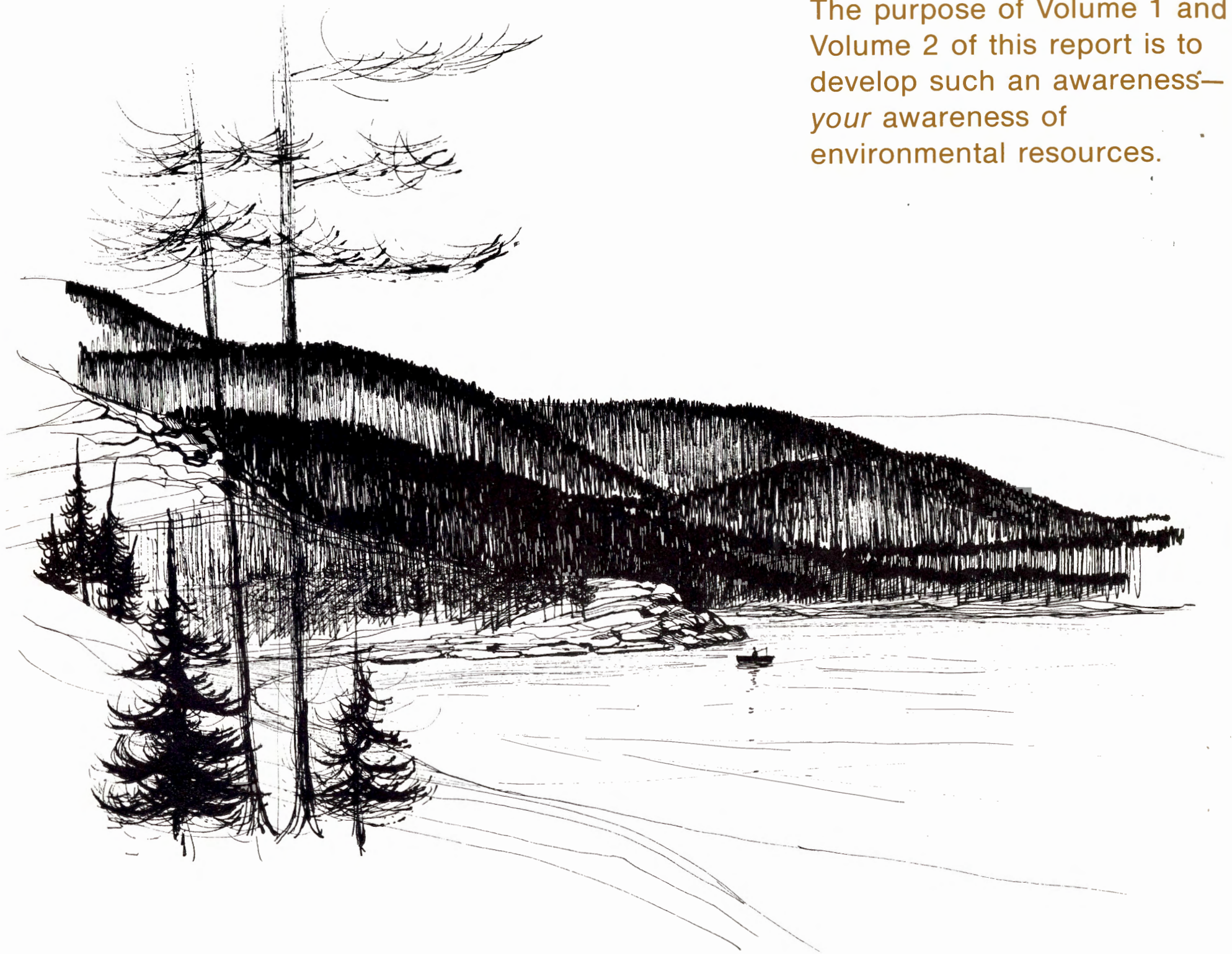


At the Regional level, where environmental resources are most significant, few powers of control exist. But, with assistance from the three States and Federal government, the smaller

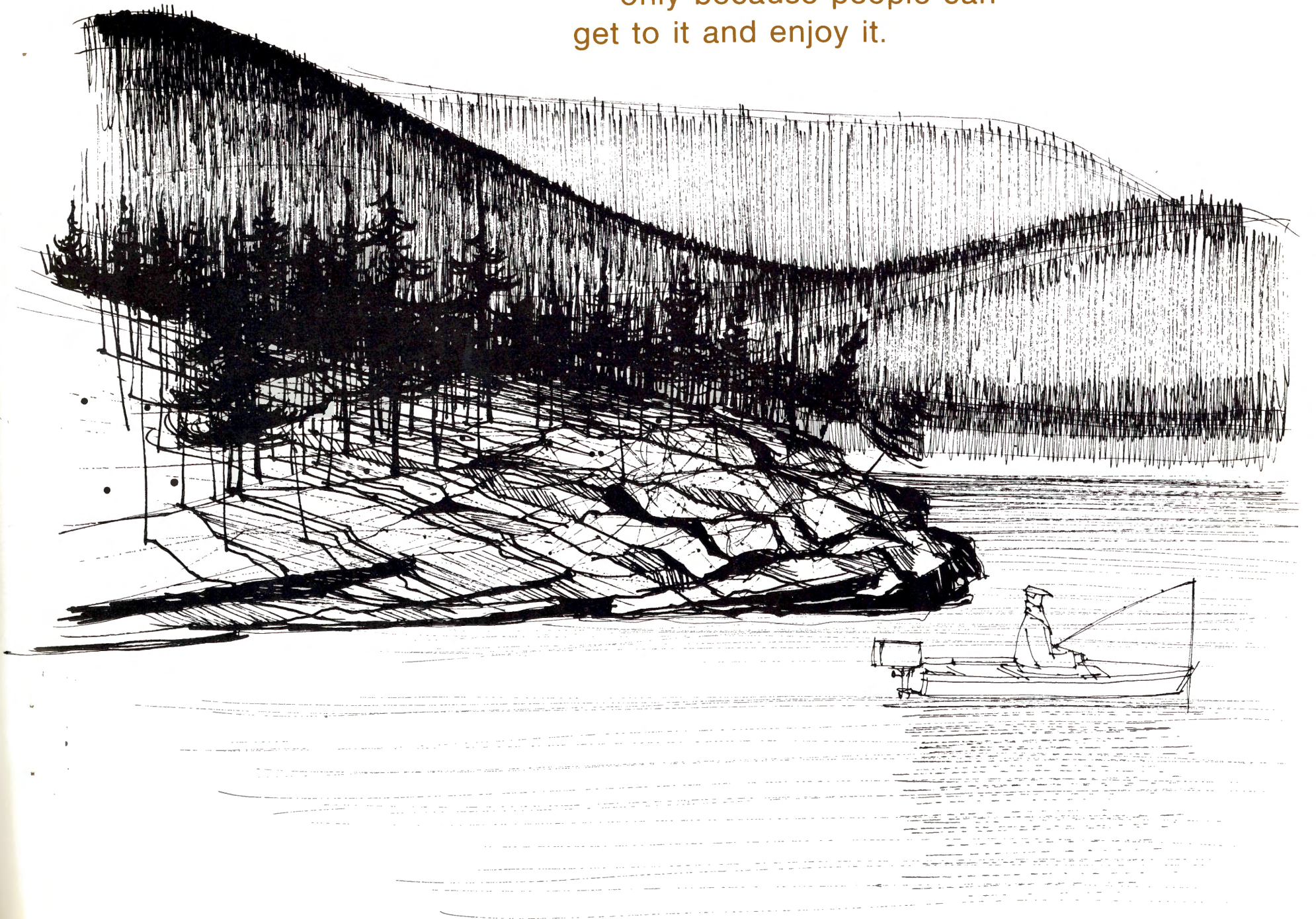
governments can coordinate and achieve an *awareness* among the many private owners.



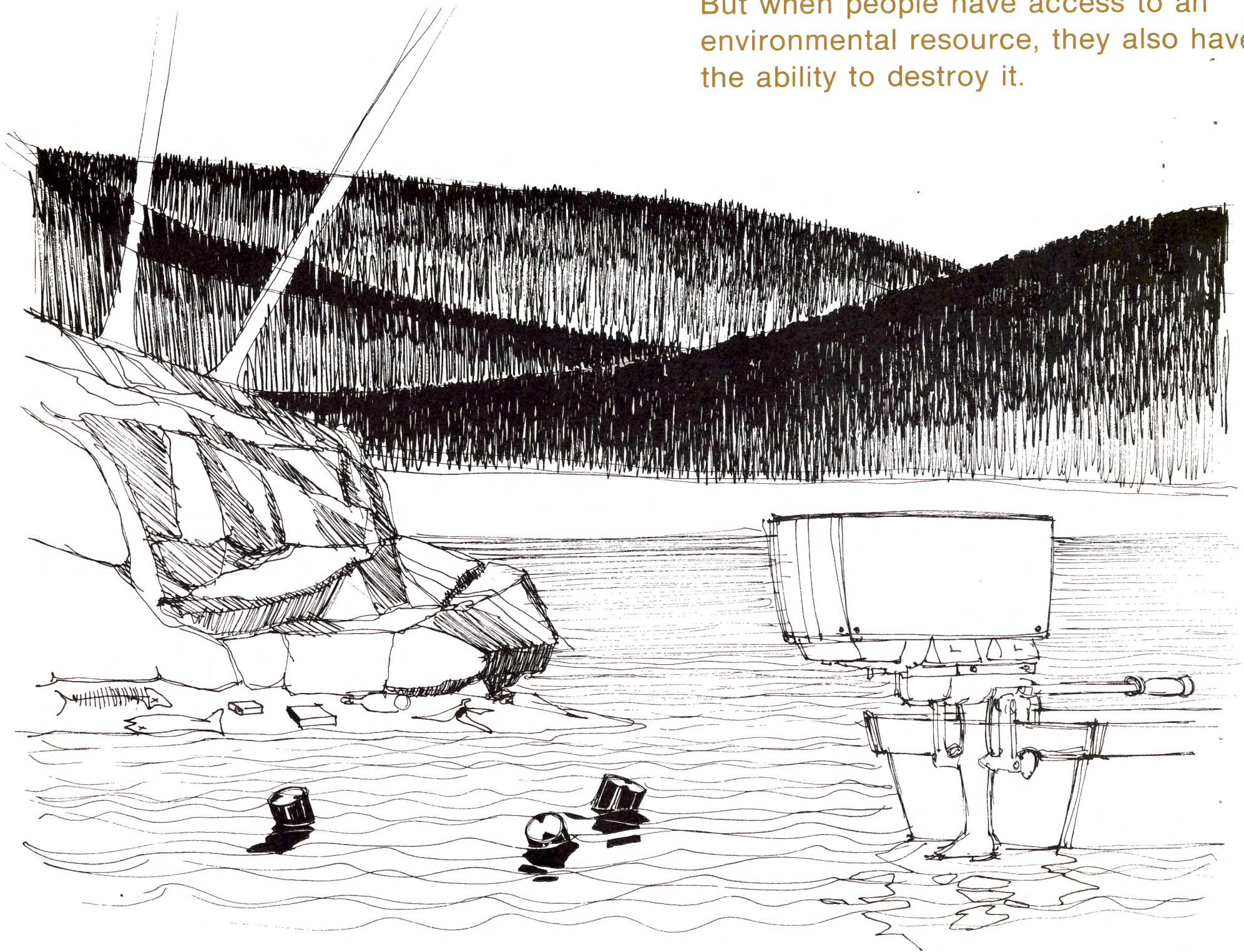
The purpose of Volume 1 and Volume 2 of this report is to develop such an awareness—*your* awareness of environmental resources.



This lake is
an environmental resource
only because people can
get to it and enjoy it.



But when people have access to an environmental resource, they also have the ability to destroy it.

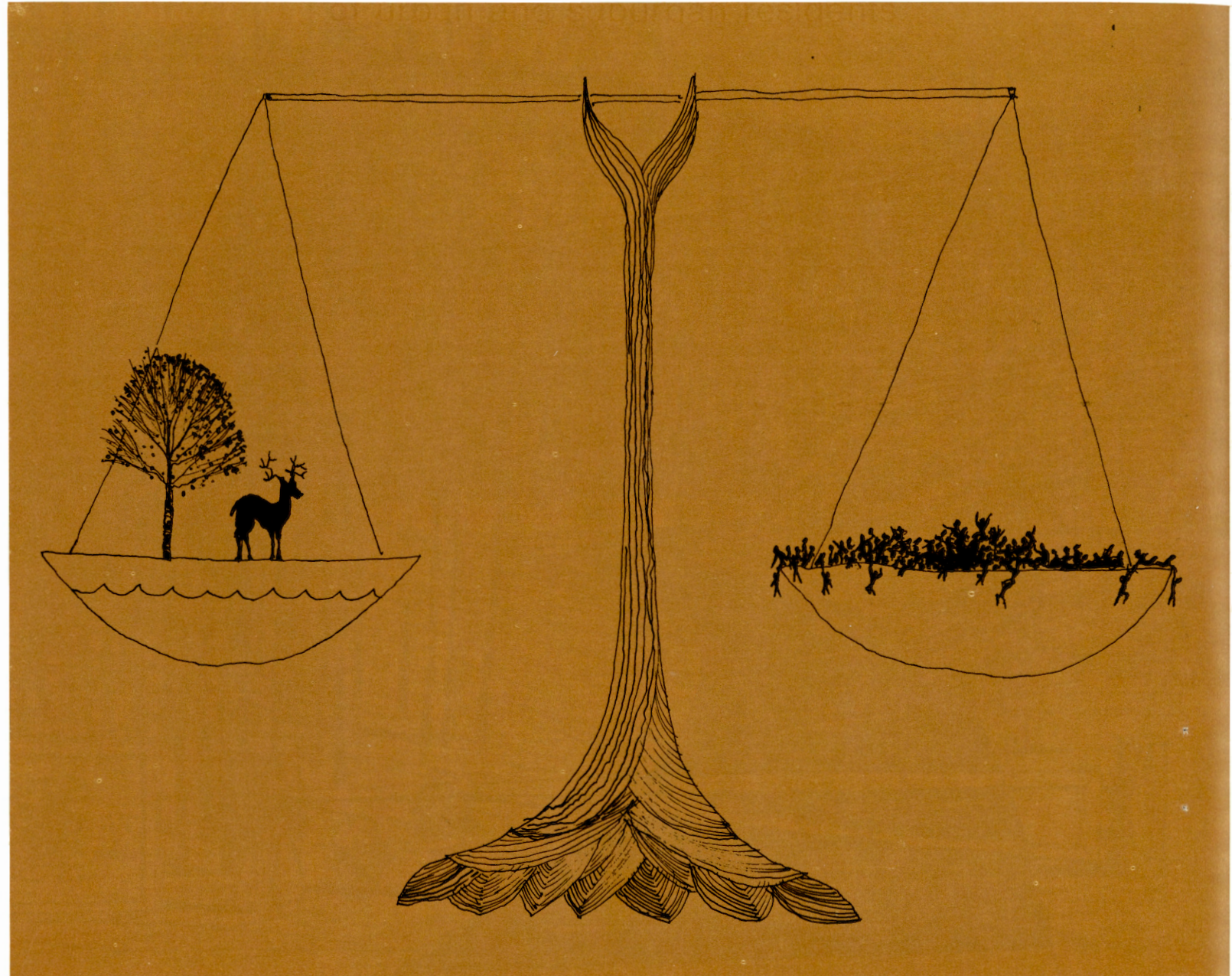


The challenge to the
TOCKS ISLAND REGION will be to
protect its environmental resources
without denying them to the public.



This will require a balance
between environmental
resources and people:

... too many people will
threaten environmental resources,
... too few will deny maximum
benefits to the public



The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is located within a region of rich environmental resources.

It will be protected by the National Park Service. But what about the rest of the Tocks Island Region?

Only proper protection of environmental resources can achieve an environmental resource balance.

Learn what these words mean . .

And do something about them!

<i>CHECK LIST</i>	<i>WHAT?</i>	<i>WHY IMPORTANT?</i>	<i>HOW?</i>
<i>NATURAL RESOURCES</i>	Parts of the landscape we often take for granted: trees, rivers, mountains, valleys, etc.	because they are so perishable we can't take them for granted. Once removed, polluted or covered with homes, they could be gone forever.	Know them and respect them. Make a list of how many in your area you often enjoy.
<i>CULTURAL RESOURCES</i>	Man-made contributions to the region which are of outstanding value: a town, a school, a landmark, a scenic road, a park, etc.	because they make the region unique and because people enjoy them.	Add them to your list of natural resources. Suggest that visitors to the region see them.
<i>ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES</i>	Natural resources and cultural resources considered together	because they often are found together, they identify areas of high environmental value.	Protect these areas, especially those of high value, by insisting that public and private development protect and enhance them.
<i>ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE BALANCE</i>	The mid-point between over-protected environmental resources which can't be enjoyed and under-protected environmental resources which are gradually destroyed	because the future of the Tocks Island Region, and your children's enjoyment of it, depends on it.	<i>awareness</i>
<i>AWARENESS</i>	<i>Your</i> understanding and appreciation of environmental resources and their vital importance to the region.	because a few people working for a better region can't do it alone. Everyone must care and participate.	<i>Write or Call:</i> Tocks Island Regional Advisory Council 612 Monroe Street Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania 18360 717-421-9841

The Tocks Island Regional Advisory Council (TIRAC), officially created on October 16, 1965, is an organization of representatives (principally top elected and planning officials) from the seven member counties in the tri-state region affected by the Tocks Island project and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA). The members of TIRAC are: Monroe, Northampton and Pike Counties in Pennsylvania; Orange and Sullivan Counties in New York; and Sussex and Warren Counties in New Jersey.

TIRAC's general purpose is "to promote, on a cooperative but voluntary basis, comprehensive study, planning and solution of the various local and regional health, safety and general welfare problems created by the Tocks Island project and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in the area of the seven counties which are parties to the agreement creating TIRAC."

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