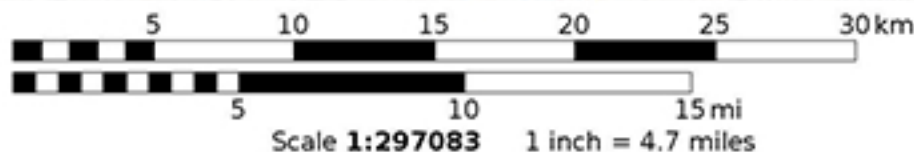
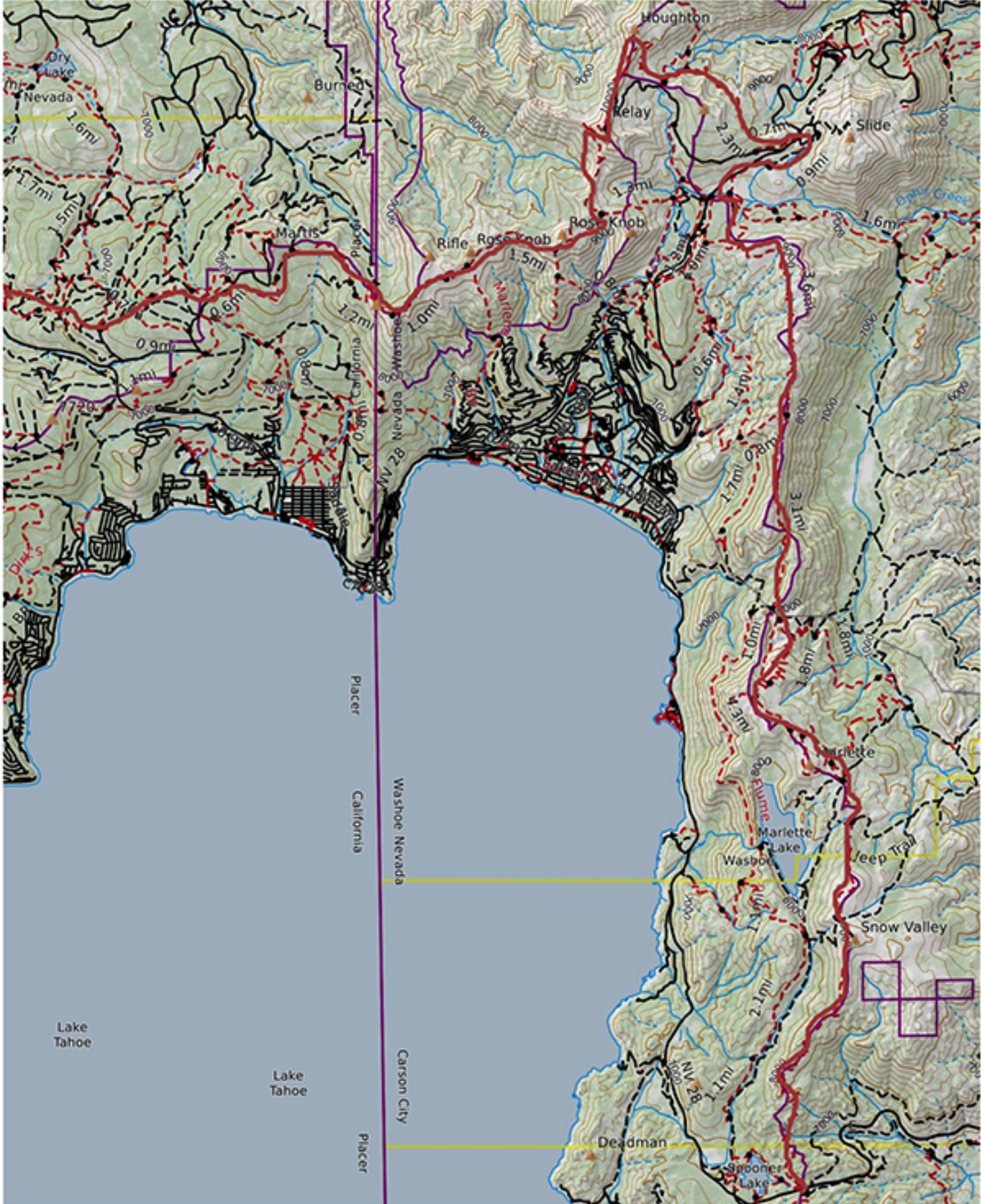


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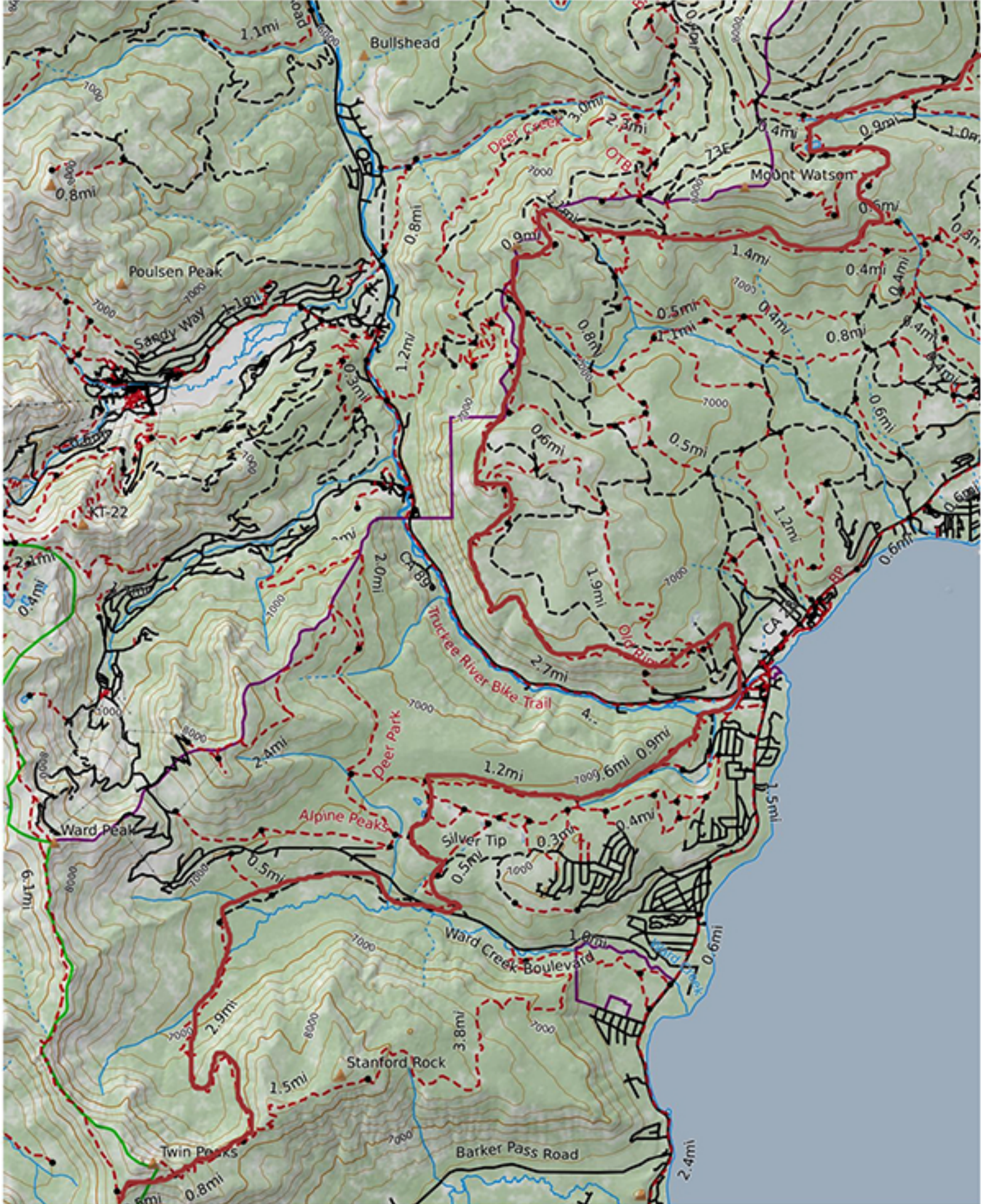




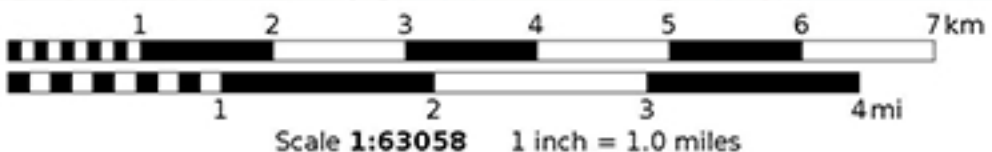
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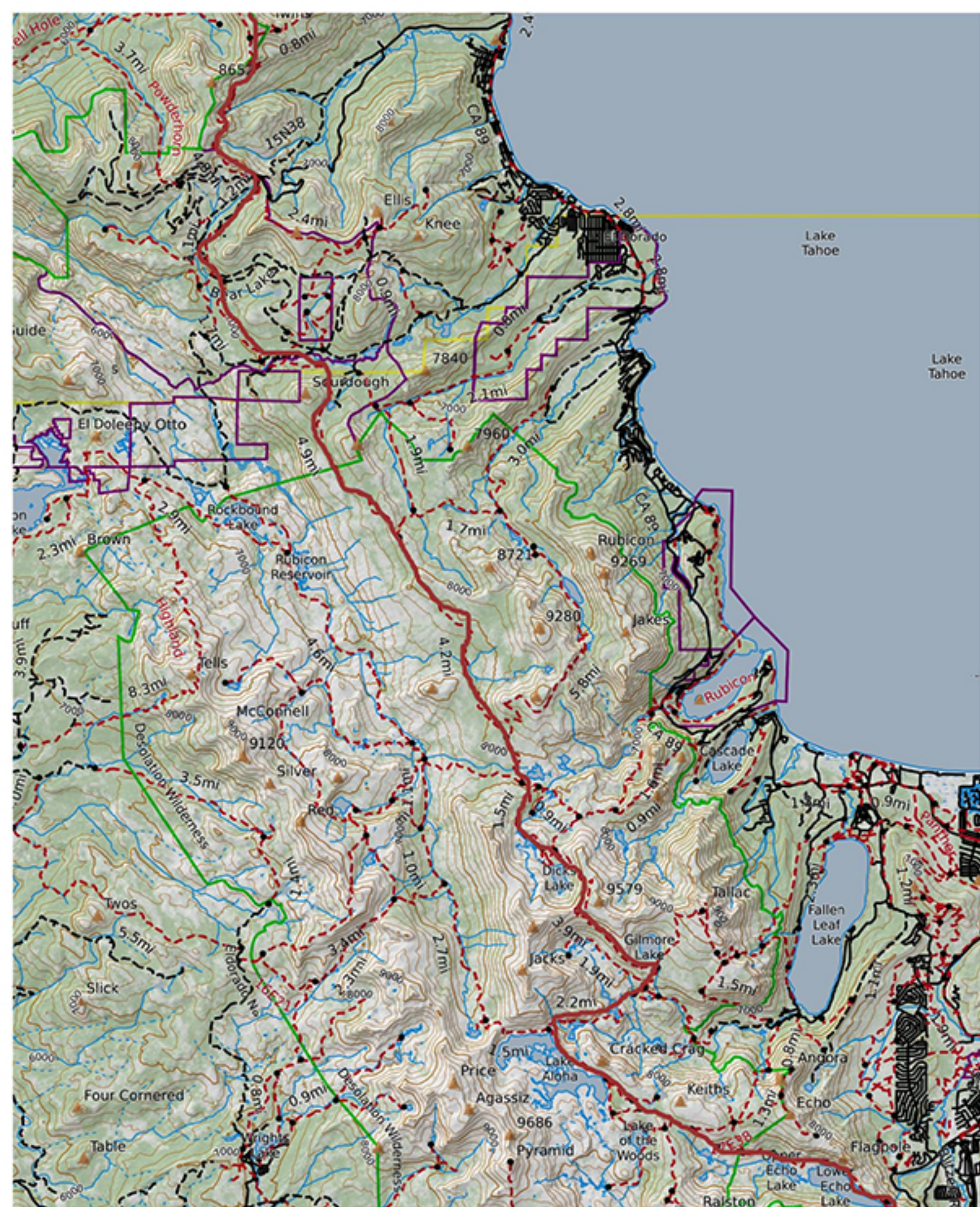




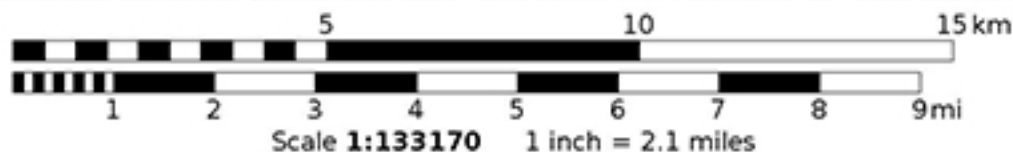
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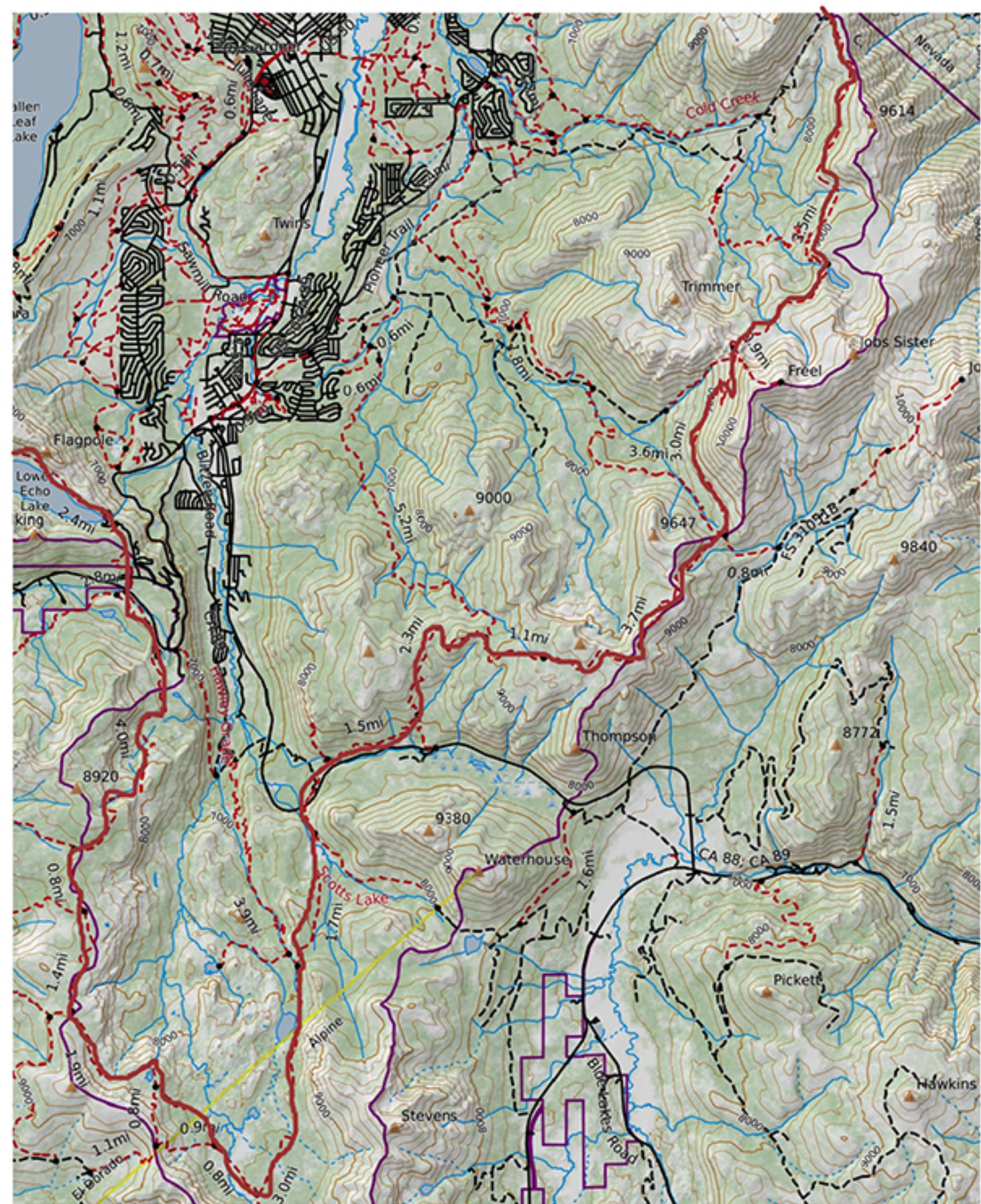




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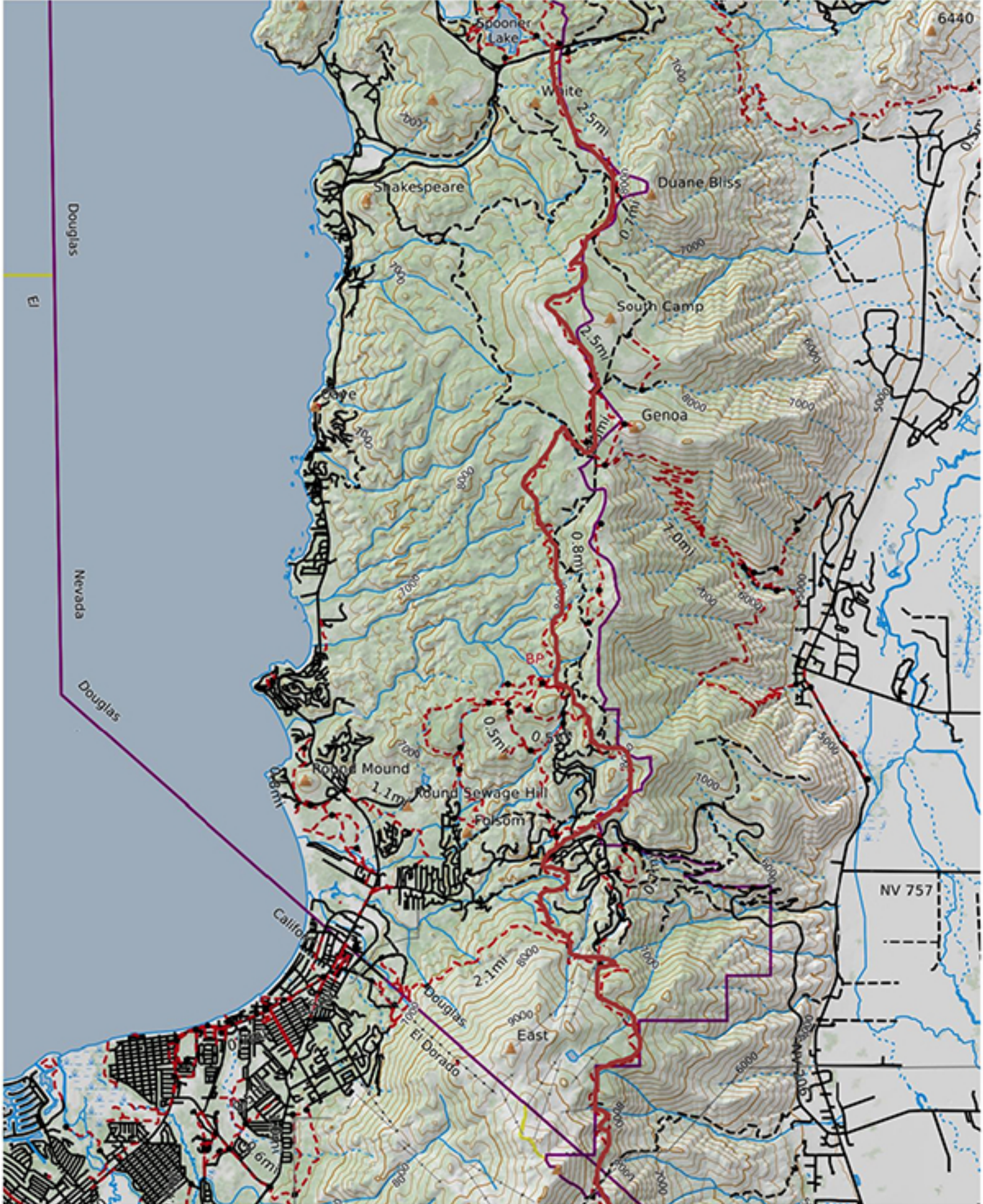




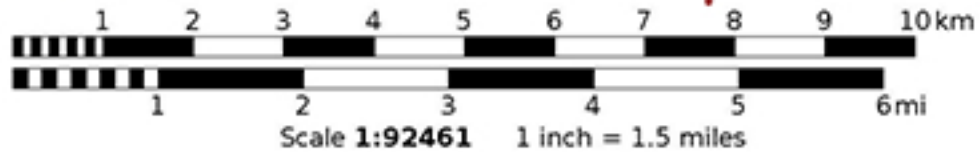
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## Tahoe Rim Trail fastpack

**Distance:**

174 miles

**Elevation Gain/Loss:**

25000'

**Altitude Range:**

6300' - 10130'

**Location:**

With 6 paved roads crossing the TRT, and numerous other dirt roads, there are many options for starting trailheads, along with the choice to travel either clockwise or counterclockwise. This route description starts at the Spooner Summit North Trailhead and heads in a counterclockwise direction.

**Suggested Map:**

Tom Harrison Maps 'Lake Tahoe & Tahoe Rim Trail,' 'Desolation Wilderness'

**Time Of Year:**

summer/fall

**Directions From Bishop:**

395 North to Minden/Gardnerville/Carson City...depending on which trailhead you are heading to there are several options for accessing the Tahoe Basin from the east, including Routes 88/89, 206 (Kingsbury Grade), 50 (Spooner Summit), 431 (Mt Rose)

**Route Description:**

The Tahoe Rim Trail intersects numerous other trails and dirt roads but it is very well marked with blue TRT blazes and signs. Heading north from Spooner Summit the TRT quickly gains elevation before popping out above treeline briefly along the west shoulder of Snow Valley Peak (It is worth the short side trip up a dirt road to the summit.) From here the trail rolls along past Marlette Peak and the ski area above Incline Village before dropping into Mt. Rose Meadows where it skirts the edge of the meadow along the shoulder of Mt Rose Highway before crossing at Mt Rose Summit and joining up with the Mt Rose trail for a stretch. Eventually it peels off and heads west to the summit of Relay Peak, traversing along or near the spine of the Mt Rose Wilderness high country before a long gradual descent to cross Hwy 267 just to the south of Brockway Summit. Miles of gradual terrain through pine forest eventually brings you to stagnant Watson Lake (This is a long, dry stretch, starting miles before Brockway, and the best water source is not the lake but a spring-fed creek a few miles before the lake.). From the lake the trail does what feels like an endlessly circuitous route to the edge of the Truckee River drainage, and great views west to the Sierra Crest near Squaw Valley, before finally plunging down to



encounter civilization in Tahoe City. Getting through Tahoe City and back on the trail can be a bit confusing, especially if there is construction occurring along, or near, the trail's "path" through town. Once across the river the TRT follows its south bank for a short stretch before ducking back into the forest to skirt the edge of some of the West Tahoe communities, gradually climbing and rolling along to the Ward Creek area where it becomes dirt road for a stretch. Once back to singletrack a steep climb brings you to the Pacific Crest Trail junction near Twin Peaks. From here the TRT and PCT are the same all the way south through the spectacular Desolation Wilderness, past the Echo Lakes, across Hwy 50 at Echo Summit and south descending past Showers Lake. In a beautiful, sprawling meadow at 8400' the TRT cuts back north past Round Lake to cross Hwy 89 at Big Meadow, a popular trailhead. From here it is a forested climb, with increasingly more open and spectacular views to the south, from 7300' to 8700' at Armstrong Pass. Heading north from the pass the trail goes through the spectacular alpine zone along the west side of Freel Peak and Job's Sister, passing Star Lake at 9100' before winding around to Monument Pass at 8800'. At this pass the trail crosses from the west to the east side of the Carson Range and eventually winds you down and through the Heavenly North ski area to cross State Route 207 at Kingsbury Grade. From Kingsbury Grade back to Spooner Summit the trail winds primarily through heavy forest with the exception of an alpine zone near Genoa Peak that offers stunning views of the entire Tahoe Basin. From here the trail rolls and descends from 8500' down to 7100' at Spooner Summit.