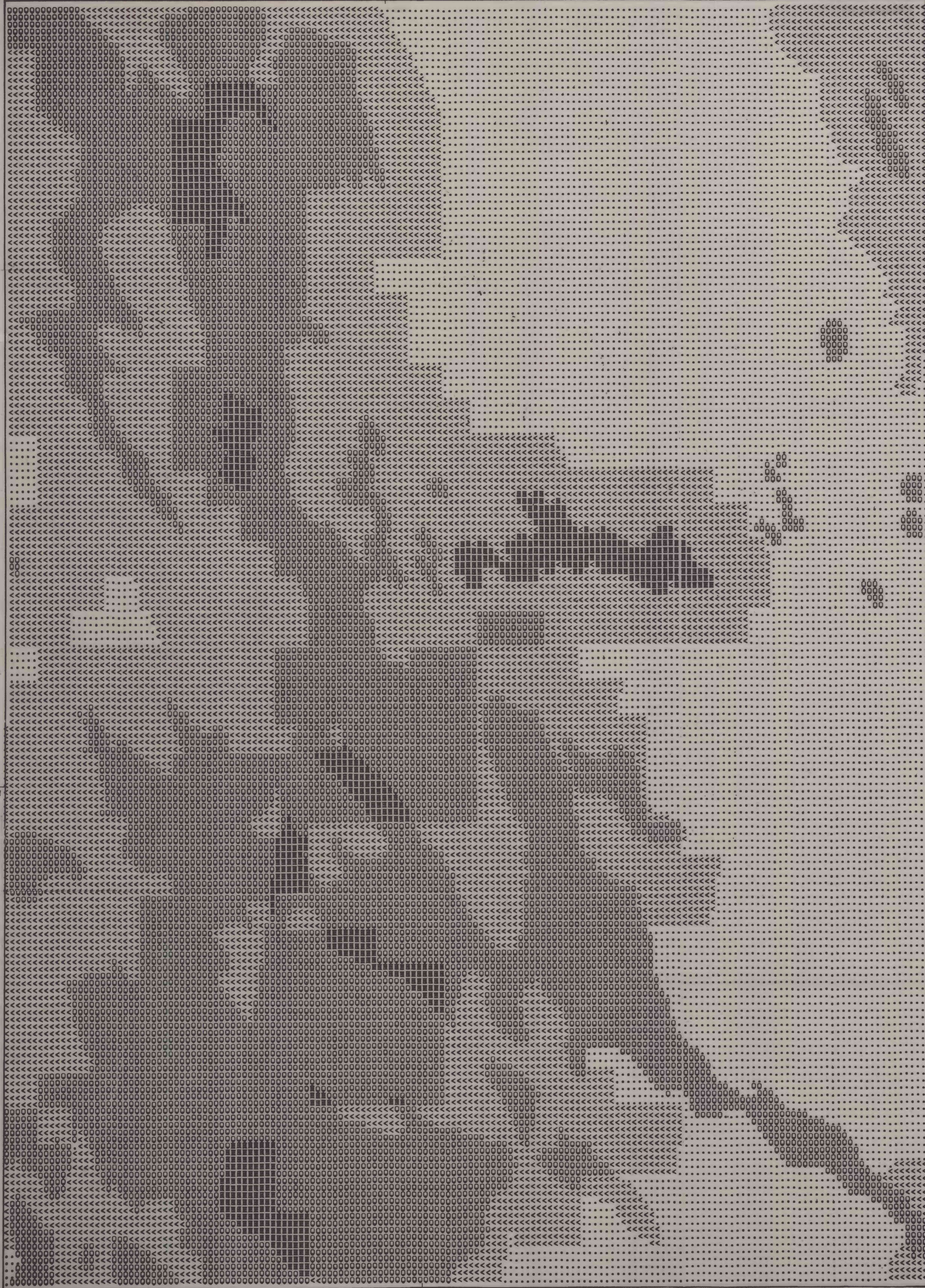
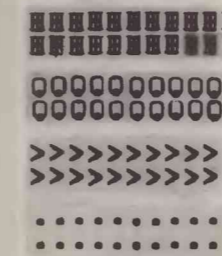


R72W R71W



EXPLANATION

SCENIC-QUALITY ASSESSMENT



Scenic quality assessment.--The highest scenic quality occurs at prominent landmarks or scenic bedrock formations near The Gap at the center of the map, at Antelope Butte, and other buttes that are clearly visible from the State Highway 59. These landmarks are conspicuous focal points in a panorama by virtue of their varied attributes which include steep slopes, interesting rock ledges and other forms, and distinctively colored rocks including red clinker, buff or white sandstone, and gray shale. West of the Highway, moderately high scenic quality is apparent in the stream valleys of large ephemeral streams such as Tisdale Creek. Valleys display aesthetically pleasing contrasts to the dominant nondissected rolling upland; alluvial fans slope gently downward from surrounding uplands and clinker hills to valley floors cut by meandering stream channels. The nondissected, rolling landscape east of the State Highway has low scenic quality owing to its common occurrence and monotonous form.

The scenic-quality assessment map shows four degrees of scenic quality. The map was made by a computer summing evaluation numbers of three aesthetic components (1) scenic quality of landscape types, (2) variety of landscape types and (3) visibility of landscape types from major roads. Symbols were assigned to four classes showing the range of sums, low, intermediate, high, and very high. The evaluation is similar to the B.L.M. method (U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 1975) because it evaluates some scenic attributes proposed by Litton (1972). However my method differs from the B.L.M. which uses a "visual resource management class" mapping unit, defines the region of the scenic inventory differently, and is more complex.

The first aesthetic component, scenic quality of landscape types, was evaluated by rating the degree of development of certain scenic attributes. Highly developed attributes, for example, intense colors, increases the scenic quality of the landscape type (Litton, 1972, p. 285). Another enhancing attribute is the presence of focal scenes or dominant features in the landscape (table 2). A typical representative of each landscape (Map E, this report) was selected in The Gap quadrangle or neighboring area and its attributes were rated and summed. High scenic quality resulted in high rating numbers. The sums were transposed proportionally to an evaluation number ranging from 0 to 9 (table 3).

Scenic attributes are visual elements of landscapes and include color, form, and surface texture. Uniqueness, although not strictly a visual element, was included. A focal scene is one in which alignment of objects directs the eye along some pathway. A survey of observers by Craft (1972, p. 302) indicated that focal scenes enhanced scenic quality. A feature-dominated landscape is one in which a single form or set of forms dominates their surroundings (Litton, 1972, p. 279). Examples of feature-dominated or prominent landscapes are Antelope Butte and the east-west line of clinker hills east of The Gap.

The second aesthetic component, variety of landscape types, was included because some studies suggest that people prefer variety in scenery (Arthur and others, 1977, p. 112). For The Gap quadrangle, it was assumed that scenic quality increases with the number of landscape types included in a scene. To quantify this concept, a circle having a map diameter of one mile (1.6 km) was centered on a 30-cell rectangular area on the grid laid over the landscape map. The number of different landscape types within the circle was counted. This number was assigned to all small grid cells within the rectangular area. The procedure was repeated throughout the map.

The third aesthetic component, visibility of landscape types from major roads, was evaluated by measuring and classifying their distance from major roads and estimating the potential numbers of observers as represented by traffic load on the major roads (for details on the method see Moore, 1979). Most of the quadrangle is private land. Because the land is private the short-term possibility of viewing it from places other than the public roads is remote.

Table 2.--Criteria for rating the scenic quality of attributes of landscapes in the Gap quadrangle or surrounding region.

SCENIC ATTRIBUTE	DEGREE OF DEVELOPMENT			
	Absent rating: 0	Low rating: 1	Intermediate rating: 2	High rating: 3
Color	one common or subdued color	more than one subdued color	more than one strong color	one or more strong colors in addition to subdued colors
Form	repetitive, nearly level to gently sloping terrain	strongly sloping, dissected terrain	isolated low hills	buttes, clusters of hills; meandering stream channels, cutbanks, terraces; water
Focal scene or feature dominance	featureless plain; broad, open valley	view along well-defined valley	isolated low hills	strongly silhouetted form; prominent landmark; dominant feature
Surface texture	smooth; grassy; plowed land	rough, rocky outcrops; jagged clinker blocks; rock ledges; other similar	rough, rocky outcrops; jagged clinker blocks; rock ledges; other similar	intricately eroded; trees rare; unusual landscapes exist in the region but are not common
Uniqueness	common			

Possible range of summed scenic evaluation: 4-15

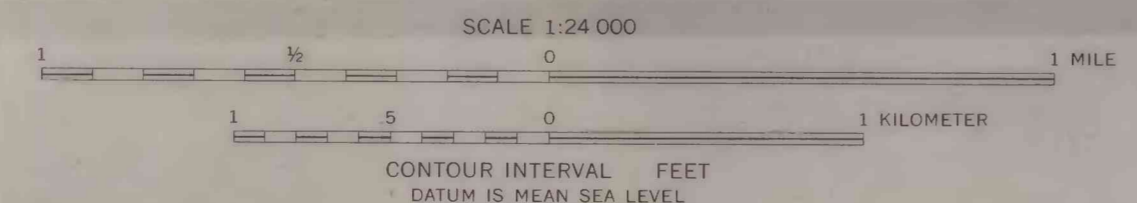
Table 3.--Determination of evaluation numbers for landscape types in the Gap quadrangle or surrounding region by summing the ratings of their scenic attributes

Landscape Type	Scenic Attribute					Raw sum	Evaluating number ^{1/2}
	Color	Form	Focal scene or feature dominance	Surface texture	Uniqueness		
Prominent landmark or scenic bedrock formation.	3	3	3	3	3	15	9
Valley	3	3	2	3	1	12	7
Badlands ^{2/}	3	2	0	3	3	11	6
Clinker hills	3	2	2	2-3	1	10-11	5
Dissected terrain	2	2	0	2	1	7	4
Dissected terrain (poorly developed)	1	2	0	2	1	6	3
Nondissected rolling terrain	1	1	0	1	1	4	2

^{1/} Raw sum rescaled to scale of 0-9
^{2/} Not occurring in the Gap quadrangle; included for completeness of describing landscapes typical in the coal region.

MAPS SHOWING NATURAL RESOURCES AND EXISTING LAND USE OF THE GAP QUADRANGLE, CAMPBELL COUNTY, WYOMING

By
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1979



MAP G.--Scenic-quality assessment