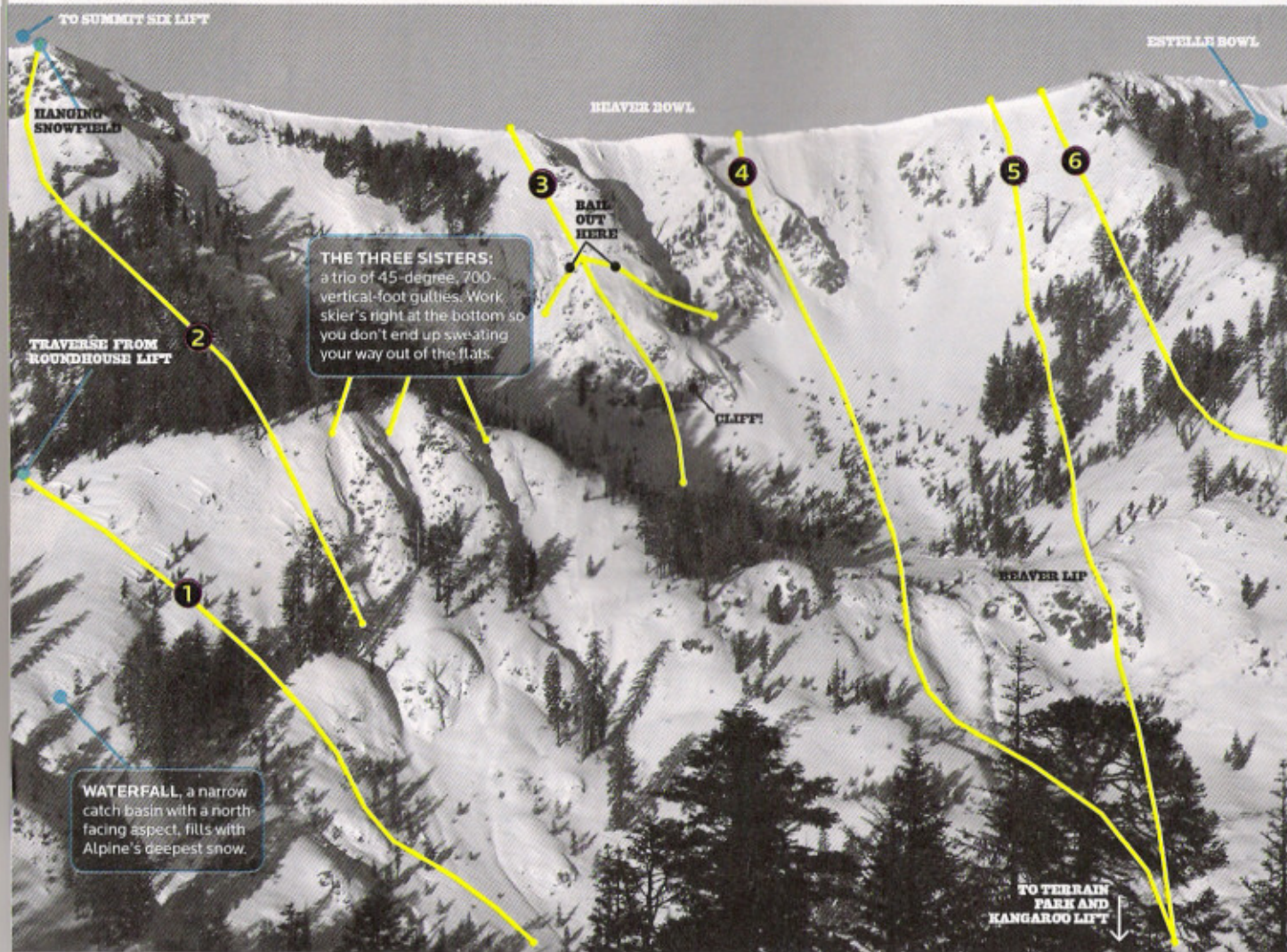


CALIFORNIA

# Alpine Meadows' Beaver Bowl

Much of Alpine Meadows skis like the backcountry, but if you really want to feel out-of-bounds, head for the funnels, whalebacks, tree shots, and cliffs of Beaver Bowl (off the top of the Summit Six Chair), where prevailing southwest winds load everything with snow. Though it's actually inbounds and controlled, it skis like you slogged for hours. —SUSAN SCHNIER



## 1 LINE 1

On a storm day, when patrol closes the ridge because of high winds or low visibility, there is often a well-traveled path to lower Beaver (just take a right off the Roundhouse ramp). You'll coast in below Three Sisters to the big snowfield.

## 2 LINE 2

Drop into **HANGING SNOWFIELD**—a 40-degree technical face, especially in low snow—and bomb medium-length arcs through the trees. North-facing, shaded, and often overlooked, the snow here stays soft and untracked into the afternoon.

## 3 LINE 3

Enter this 40-plus-degree spine with tight, measured turns—it ends in a 30-foot cliff with a flat landing. If you want to launch, ski straight down the steep snowfield and make sure there's a good three feet of fresh. If you'd rather stay grounded, bail early by traversing right or left.

## 4 LINE 4

This one has the best views and the most consistent pitch in the Bowl (about 40 degrees). Ski the rock-lined, snow-loaded hourglass till you hit a wide snowfield. Rip GS turns and keep your speed up to **BEAVER LIP**. Watch out for the gully.

## 5 LINE 5

Drop in here for great spring corn. At around 40 degrees, it's consistent and wide enough for big, fast turns.

## 6 LINE 6

Traverse along the ridge past the dead tree, drop in just before you hit the spine, and keep working skier's left. If you stay high and cut into the trees, you'll round the corner into Bernie's Bowl—a natural terrain park with islands of rocks, whoope-de-do rollovers, and tree groves. At the bottom of the bowl, head through the 20-foot cliff band known as Poma Rocks to the bottom of Kangaroo chair.