



# 'A Bird's Eye' View of Three Recreational Area Lakes

'Tis summer, a time when the cool breezes of area lakes are refreshing, when the sound of splashing water is cooling, and when play is in order for the family.

Three popular lakes in Jackson county, all with recreation areas, are shown here in these aerial photographs by Whittland Locke, Ashland. They are Howard Prairie (top), Hyatt (center) and Emigrant lake (bottom).

They offer a variety of activities for area residents, including boating, fishing, water skiing, picnicking, hiking, camping and swimming.

Development of the recreation area at Howard Prairie is virtually complete, although more camp sites are planned, and work on roads in the area is scheduled when the ground is dry.

The new recreation building, visible in the picture of the Howard Prairie boat dock area at top, is completed except for landscaping. The building cost about \$48,000.

At Hyatt lake, the Talent Irrigation district has leased a new recreation building and the 30 acres it owns to a concessionaire. The bureau of reclamation has suggested that the county supervise the recreation development. The parks and recreation commission plans to confer further on whether it should take over supervision of the lake.

What area the county would operate, how this would coordinate with the TID leased area and building and other factors have to be worked out. The commission feels that the downed timber, brush and general debris around the lake would make any wholesale recreational area development expensive.



Although the area essentially has been a spiny ray fishery, it has been a favorite family camping and fishing spot.

"At Emigrant lake we are just trying to keep up as the needs arise," according to Larry Espey, chairman of the county commission. Several new picnic tables and fireplaces have been installed, and more are planned along with an overnight camping area.

The concessionaire now operates from a portable stand. He has other food concession equipment which he plans to move around the lake as demand and various activities such as an archery range may develop.

Several floats, including one for swimmers, have been installed. No diving tower was included for safety reasons; the swimming area has been roped off. Some of the development work at Emigrant lake is shown in the picture at bottom left.

The parks and recreation commission hopes to have a meeting with the local chapter of the Isaak Walton League, water skiers and other water sports groups to determine how the lake should be zoned for each activity. Since there is no state law to enforce such zoning, any arrangement will have to be voluntary, according to Espey.

Although some evergreen trees at Emigrant were winter killed, they were planted close enough together to allow for some loss. The deciduous trees seem to be thriving. More roads and road development are planned near the lake, but the steep terrain and soggy ground this spring have delayed such work.

