



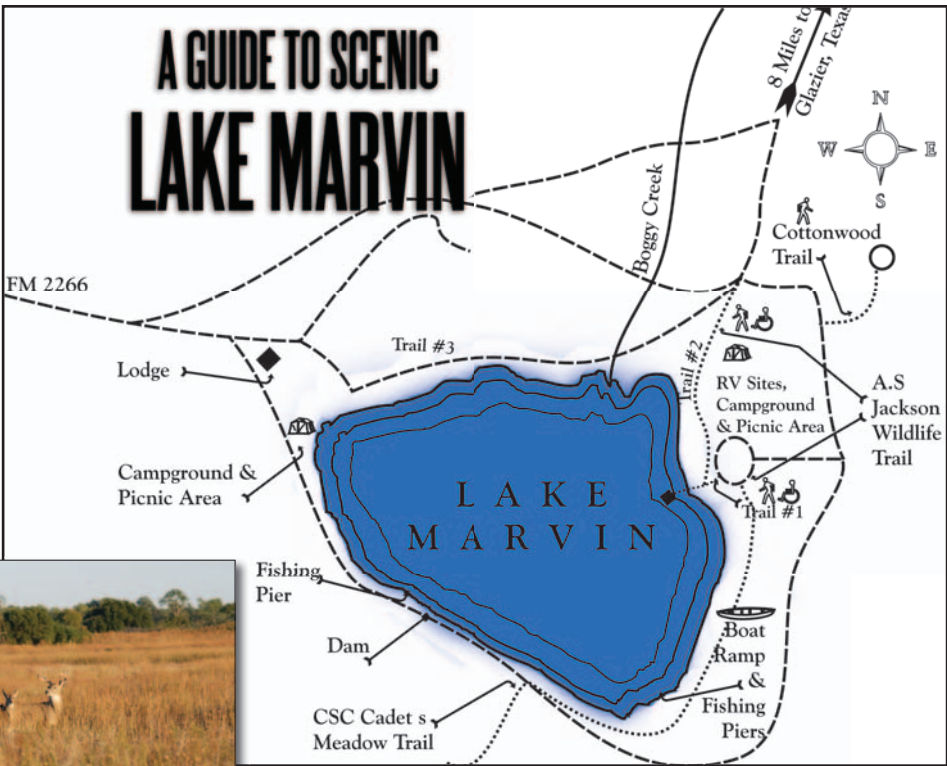
MAGNIFICENT LAKE MARVIN

LOCATED IN HEMPHILL County just northeast of Canadian, the Lake Marvin area consists of 575 acres of grassland and riparian areas with a 63-acre lake. The area is part of the Black Kettle National Grassland which was first administered under Amarillo's Panhandle National Grasslands and later transferred to administration as a district of the Cibola National Forest.

The management area provides recreational opportunities for fishing, picnicking, overnight camping, hiking, and wildlife watching. Two picnic areas, containing fire grills and potable water are available to picnickers and campers at no charge. Three restrooms are located in the picnic areas. The rustic lodge may be rented for events through the Chamber of Commerce.

Four hiking trails have been constructed under the Challenge Cost Share program. The "Big Tree Trail" leads to a large cottonwood tree that served as a landmark to early settlers crossing the plains. The "A.S. Jackson Wildlife Trail" is over half a mile long and is accessible to handicapped individuals. The trails contain informative signs on local plants and animals, as well as a viewing platform that is part of the Wildlife Trail. The lake itself offers a warm water fishery. There is no hunting allowed on the management area.

The Lake Marvin area is unique in that it offers a common ground for both eastern and western plant species due to its location between the Canadian and Washita River Valleys in the eastern Texas Panhandle and western Oklahoma.



Native plant species occur in three types: the sandhill or stabilized dunes, riverbottom grasslands, and timbered bottomlands. The sandhills contain such plant species as wild plum, skunkbush, various grasses, broadleaf plants, and wildflowers.

Grasses that are a relic of the kind early settlers described as reaching saddle stirrups characterize the river bottom grasslands. Also rare and beautiful wildflowers such as the butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and russell prairie gentian (*Eustoma russellianum*) occur in this habitat type.

The bottomlands include all the woody species that may be found in the northern Texas Panhandle, such as shinnery oak and cotton wood. Overall, 65 plant fami-

lies and at least 275 species are represented at Lake Marvin.

The wildlife at the lake is as diverse as the plant species. Game species include bobwhite quail, turkey, and white-tailed deer. Raccoons, opossum, striped skunk, beaver, muskrat, bobcat, and an occasional coyote are some of the furbearers that may be seen in the area.

An abundance of waterfowl use Lake Marvin for stopovers during migration as well as a wintering area. Mallards, wood-ducks, teal, and geese represent some of the waterfowl that can be seen. There is also quite a diverse group of shorebirds, passerines, and accipiters that live in the area or may pass through at times through the year. Some uncommon species seen at the lake may be the least tern, bald eagle, and trumpeter swan.