

Ski Areas Set Mark

74 Will Be in Operation This Season, Tourist Council Reports

Michigan will have a record 74 ski areas in operation when the first enthusiasts hit the slopes this winter, the state tourist council says. The total represents an increase of three over last season.

The last time anybody checked here, the council said, Michigan had the largest number of ski areas of any state east of the Rocky mountains.

The 74 centers, listed in the council's Winter Vacation Guide, will provide facilities for an estimated 165,000 fans who are expected to make an average of three trips each this winter and spend an estimated \$17.5 million, exclusive of equipment.

Fifty-nine of the ski areas are in the lower peninsula and 15 are north of the Straits of Mackinac.

The new areas are:

Alpine Valley, on M-59, 10 miles west of Pontiac. Plans call for four slopes up to 1,300 feet long; two T-bar lifts and six rope tows, a snow-making machine and night skiing.

Granview Orchards, four miles north of Fenton on Fenton road. plans include five rope tows, a lodge, a snow-making machine and skating.

Birch Hills, six miles north of Big Rapids. Plans call for seven slopes, rope tows and a warming shelter.

The tourist council has announced improved facilities at many areas. Among the centers with major improvements are:

Nub's Nob (Harbor Springs) — New Pomalift; new intermediate area and an outdoor heated swimming pool.

Avalanche (Boyne City) — Seven new runs, three rope tows and a new Pomalift.

Boyne Mountain (Boyne Falls) — Two double chair lifts and a year-round skating rink.

Crystal Mountain (formerly Buck Hills, Beulah-Benzonia), a two-story lodge, double chair lift, snow machine and expansion of runs to 10.

Caberfae (Cadillac) — Two T-bar lifts, replacing a chair lift.

Snow machines will help extend the season at 12 areas. Thirty-two centers offer night skiing, the council reported.

The council said it will mail free copies of the vacation guide after Nov. 25 to those requesting it.