



100 Years
2011

BCParks

ATNARKO/HWY 20 CORRIDOR OF TWEEDSMUIR PROVINCIAL PARK

Belarko Wildlife Viewing Area

Objective

...reducing risks for both people and bears

LOCATION:

On Highway 20, 13 km inside the west boundary of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park, adjacent to Belarko Boat Launch and 3 km past Fisheries Pool Campground. Look for highway signage.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION:

Directly overlooking the Atnarko River, the viewing area is surrounded by an electric fence supported by a cedar-rail fence. Qualified staff are present in the reception and viewing areas to enhance public safety and provide information on viewing protocol, cultural significance of the area, and other recreational attractions within Tweedsmuir Park.

PERIOD OF OPERATION FOR 2023 SEASON:

September 1-20: OPEN DAILY 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

September 21-30: OPEN DAILY 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

There is no charge to visit the viewing area, however, there is a donation box to help support the bear viewing program and conservation of bears in the Atnarko Corridor. Individuals are responsible for their own safety while on the platform. If desired masks are the responsibility of the visitor. Enhanced cleaning of the facility and hand sanitizer is provided by BC Parks.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

Operated collaboratively by BC Parks and Nuxalk Nation, the main objective of the Belarko Wildlife Viewing Area is to increase the predictability of human behaviour along this section of the Atnarko River. This will both reduce the risk of potential injury to park visitors from bear encounters and leave sections along the river where bears can feed undisturbed by humans. Visitors who wish to view bears and who choose not to make use of commercial guides are encouraged to use the Belarko Wildlife Viewing Area rather than other areas along the Atnarko/Highway 20 Corridor.

NOTE: Whether at Belarko Wildlife Viewing Area or other locations along the Atnarko Corridor, all Park visitors are reminded that bears have the right-of-way. If a bear is moving up or down the river, anglers must immediately reel in, and boaters must move to the opposite shore. On land, people must move a safe distance back to allow bears to proceed unobstructed.

Keep pets on leash, make noise while walking trails and do not leave ANY food unattended.

"For many centuries, people and bears have coexisted in this special place. With the cooperation of First Nations, Park visitors, commercial operators, and local residents, we can ensure continued protection of both bears and recreational opportunities along the Atnarko River Corridor"

