



100 Years  
2011

BCParks

# ATNARKO/HWY 20 CORRIDOR OF TWEEDSMUIR PROVINCIAL PARK

## Belarko Wildlife Viewing Area

*...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 both in the reception area and the viewing area to provide information on viewing protocol and enhance safety of the viewing experience.

### PERIOD AND PROTOCOLS OF OPERATION FOR 2021 SEASON:

September 1-5: OPEN 7:00 am to 1:30 pm (remainder of the day closed for bear conservation monitoring)

September 6-10: OPEN 1:30 pm to 7:00 pm (remainder of the day closed for bear conservation monitoring)

September 11-20: OPEN 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

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

There is no charge to visit the viewing area but, for the safety of staff and visitors, certain Covid-19 protocols will be maintained, including enhanced cleaning and physical distancing. Masks will be optional but available for visitors who wish to use them.

**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 therefore encouraged to use the Belarko Wildlife Viewing Area rather than other areas along the Atnarko/Highway 20 Corridor.

In collaboration with the University of Victoria, BC Parks and Nuxalk Nation are also currently engaged in a grizzly bear research program that involves deployment of wildlife trail cameras. Please be aware of and respect the cameras and other research equipment, the locations of which are identified with caution signs.

**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”*

