



100 Years
2011

BC Parks ATNARKO/HWY 20 CORRIDOR OF
TWEEDSMUIR PROVINCIAL PARK

1. Why has BC Parks created the Belarko Wildlife Viewing Platform?

The objective of BC Parks' Belarko Wildlife Viewing Platform is to improve safety for both people and bears. Especially during the fall salmon season when both grizzly and black bears frequent the Atnarko River in close proximity to Highway 20, it is particularly difficult to balance the conservation priority to protect foraging bears with the recreational desires of Park visitors.

For conservation purposes, BC Parks' objective is to increase the predictability of where bears are likely to encounter people. Bears can then choose either to use certain sections of the river, regardless of people presence, or to avoid them.

In terms of recreation, the Belarko Wildlife Viewing Platform not only provides excellent views of the river from a safe, electric-fenced area, but also offers the opportunity to learn about bear behaviour, cultural significance of the area and other attributes of the Park from BC Parks and Nuxalk Nation staff on duty.

2. Why are certain other areas closed along the Atnarko Corridor?

BC Parks' challenge is to manage key sections of the river for bears who desire solitude and to redirect people away from areas where they are most likely to surprise a bear and risk a confrontation.

That is why, in addition to encouraging Park visitors who choose not to hire commercial guides to use the safety of the Platform, BC Parks has temporarily closed certain areas within the Corridor. With its important function as a commercial drift boat launch, the Belarko boat launch area is off limits to bear viewing. In addition, the 'Smokehole' and the Esker Trail from Stuie to the DFO fish counting tower are closed to Park visitor use until October 15th, due to frequent bear use and restricted visibility and exit options.

3. What is the appropriate response if we see a bear along the Atnarko River outside the Platform area?

Bears have the right-of-way along the Atnarko River. That means, if a bear is moving up or down the river, fishermen are required to immediately reel in; boaters are required to move to the opposite shore and land-based Park visitors are required to move a safe distance back from the river until the bear has passed by.

Thank you for visiting the BC Parks Wildlife Viewing Platform. Stay safe and enjoy the Park.