



ATNARKO/HWY 20 CORRIDOR OF TWEEDSMUIR PROVINCIAL PARK

Belarko Wildlife Viewing Platform

...improving safety for both people and bears

Location: On Highway 20, 13 km inside the west boundary of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park adjacent to Belarko Boat Launch. Look for highway signage.

Period of Operation: September 1st to September 30th, 2017

September 1st – 21st 7:00am to 7:00pm

September 22nd - 30th 7:45am to 6:00pm

Site is closed to the public during non-operational hours

Facility Description: The viewing platform is surrounded by an electric fence supported by a cedar-railed fence. There is an information kiosk and parking for up to 20 vehicles. Qualified staff will be present during opening hours to provide information on bear behaviour and viewing protocol and to enhance safety of the viewing experience.

There is no charge for attending the BC Parks Belarko Wildlife Viewing Platform.

The Atnarko/Highway 20 corridor of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park is an area of excellent bear habitat and healthy populations of both grizzly and black bears. Along with the privilege of viewing bears in their natural habitat comes the responsibility to ensure that we do not endanger bears, ourselves or other visitors and residents of the Park.

The main objective of the Belarko Wildlife Viewing Platform 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.

The platform provides excellent visibility of the Atnarko River while ensuring safe separation distance between Park visitors and foraging bears. 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 Platform rather than other areas along the river corridor.

All park visitors are reminded that, outside the Platform area, bears have the right-of-way along the Atnarko River during this critical fall feeding season. 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.

“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”