



# 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.

**PERIOD OF OPERATION:** September 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019

September 1 - 21st : daily from 7:00am to 7:00pm \*\* September 21 – 30th: daily from 8:00am to 6:00pm  
Closed to the public during non-operational hours

**FACILITY DESCRIPTION:** The viewing area is surrounded by an electric fence supported by a cedar-rail fence. There is an information kiosk and parking for up to 25 vehicles. Qualified staff are present during open hours to provide information on viewing protocol and enhance safety of the viewing experience. New this year is interpretive signage on cultural history of the area, bear ecology, and other things to do and see in the Atnarko/Hwy 20 Corridor of the Park.

***There is no charge for visiting the Belarko Wildlife Viewing Area***

The Atnarko/Highway 20 corridor of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park is an area of excellent wildlife habitat with significant 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.

Operated collaboratively by BC Parks and the 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.

The viewing area 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 Area rather than other areas along the Atnarko/Highway 20 Corridor.

***All Park visitors are reminded that bears have the right-of-way along the Atnarko River. If a bear is moving up or down the river, anglers must immediately reel in; boaters must move to the opposite shore and people on land must move a safe distance back from the river to allow the bear 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*