

# Visit Our Wildlife

in

## Hope

including E. C. Manning Provincial Park  
and Skagit Valley Provincial Park

*Eastern Fraser Valley*



The community of Hope is located at the eastern end of the Fraser Valley, about a 3-hour drive from Vancouver. Situated at the junction of Highways 1, 3, 5 and 7, Hope is within a short drive of the scenic Fraser Canyon, the Coquihalla Summit, E.C. Manning Provincial Park, Skagit Valley Provincial Park and Fraser Valley farmlands.

This brochure contains information for 12 sites where you may visit our wildlife. These areas are recognized by British Columbia Wildlife Watch, the provincial wildlife viewing program, as sites offering good viewing and educational opportunities.

The area covered in this brochure includes habitats from sea level to high mountain alpine areas. Besides bird watching there are wonderful mammal viewing opportunities, especially for small mammals at E.C. Manning Provincial Park. High elevation areas contain extensive alpine meadows attracting a wide range of butterflies.

### Jones Creek Spawning Channel

Located west of Hope near Laidlaw. For more information contact Fisheries and Oceans Canada [(604) 666-6614; #400 - 555 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5G3].

**Access** - From Highway 1 between Bridal Veil Falls and Hope, take the Jones Creek Road exit (Exit #153). Continue eastward about 0.9 km to the bridge over Jones Creek. Park well off the road and walk along the river.

**Viewing Highlights** - The best viewing occurs during October. Look for Chum and Coho Salmon. Also, in odd-numbered years, there are Pink Salmon.



#### Did You Know?

After Coho Salmon spawn, their fertilized eggs remain in the gravel bottom until spring when the young emerge. Unlike Chum Salmon, these Coho fry will remain for another 1 or 2 years in their home stream- system before migrating to the sea. So, please, be careful in salmon streams throughout the year, not just when you see spawning adults.

### Skagit Valley Provincial Park

This provincial park is located in the North Cascades Mountain Range. It was established in 1973 as a recreation area and received official park status in late 1995. Skagit Valley Provincial Park contains 27,948 ha of forest, river and marshland habitats, and is situated along the Canada-United States border. For more information contact BC Parks, Lower Mainland District [(604) 924-2200; 1610 Mount Seymour Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V7G 2R9].

**Access** - From Highway 1 take the Silver/Skagit Road exit (Exit #168) located about 3 km west of Hope. It is 37 kilometres from Highway 1 to the park entrance and a further 23 km to Ross Lake Reservoir. The Silver/Skagit Road is a well maintained, loose gravel road. Motorists are advised to drive with extreme caution. Watch for wildlife and logging trucks on the road.

**Viewing Highlights** - At least 199 bird species have been recorded for the park and a British Columbia Wildlife Watch bird checklist is available. Woodpeckers and many species of songbird are easily found from spring through fall. Some of the most likely to be seen mammals include Columbian Black-tailed Deer, Mule Deer, Snowshoe Hare. Beaver, Pika, Townsend's Chipmunk, Red Squirrel and Douglas Squirrel. More secretive and less abundant are Elk (Wapiti) and Moose. Visitors should take caution when in the park, especially on trails and in open areas, as Black Bears and Cougars frequent the park.

### Skagit Valley Provincial Park Ross Lake

Several areas located near the Ross Lake portion of Skagit Valley Provincial Park are excellent places to look for butterflies. The Ross Lake day use area, Chittenden Meadow and Whitworth Meadow all contain plants and flowers that attract more than 20 species of butterflies. A special identification booklet, Butterflies of the North Cascades, will help you to identify the different species. For more information contact BC Parks, Lower Mainland District [(604) 924-2200; 1610 Mount Seymour Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V7G 2R9].

**Access** - From Highway 1 take the Silver/Skagit Road exit (Exit #168) located about 3 km west of Hope. It is 37 km from Highway 1 to the park entrance and a further 23 km to Ross Lake Reservoir. The Silver/Skagit Road is a well maintained, loose gravel road. Motorists are advised to drive with extreme caution. Watch for wildlife and logging trucks on the road. From Highway 1, Whitworth Meadow is about 54 km, Chittenden Meadow 59 km and the Ross Lake day use area 60 km.

**Viewing Highlights** - The best butterfly viewing occurs from March (once the snow is gone) through September. Look for swallowtails, whites, tortoiseshells, Mourning Cloak, Painted Lady and admirals.



#### Viewing Tip

The best way to watch wildlife is from a distance with either binoculars or a spotting scope. If the wildlife stop whatever they are doing to watch you, whether or not they move away or flee, then you are too close!

### Sucker Creek

A small enhancement channel is located next to Sucker Creek (also known as Kawkawa Creek), a short drive from downtown Hope. A boardwalk provides views of the creek and channel. For more information contact the Hope and District Chamber of Commerce [(604) 869-2021; Box 370, Hope, B.C. V0X 1L0].

**Access** - From Highway 1 or Highway 3 take the exit into downtown Hope. From Water Avenue take Old Hope Princeton Highway. Turn left onto 6th Avenue and then right onto Kawkawa Lake Road. Cross the bridge over the Coquihalla River and immediately turn left onto Union Bar Road. The site is located a short distance on the left.

**Viewing Highlights** - From early October to mid November Chum and Coho Salmon may be observed spawning in the creek and channel. Throughout the year, American Dipper may be seen along the waters edge.

## Kopp Creek

Kopp Creek is a small stream that provides spawning habitat for Kokanee, a land locked salmon species. Viewing is from the road only. For more information contact the Hope and District Chamber of Commerce [(604) 869-2021; Box 370, Hope, B.C. V0X 1L0].

**Access** - From Highway 1 or Highway 3 take the exit into downtown Hope. From Water Avenue take Old Hope Princeton Highway. Turn left onto 6th Avenue and then right onto Kawkawa Lake Road. Cross the bridge over the Coquihalla River. Continue to a fork on the road, taking the left fork. This small creek runs under the road at the bottom of the hill.

**Viewing Highlights** - During September and October look for spawning Kokanee Salmon.



### Viewing Tip

Have you ever arrived at a viewing site, looked around and seen no wildlife? Wildlife will be aware of your presence long before you see them. Upon your arrival they may choose to hide until they determine your intentions. Find a place to sit quietly for several minutes, maybe even 10 minutes. Your patience will often be rewarded by wildlife activity.

## Coquihalla Canyon Provincial Park

This parts contains a section of the famous Kettle Valley Railway bed. There are four train tunnels along the path and two bridge crossings over the Coquihalla River. In addition to its history, the canyon scenery is spectacular, the summer trout viewing is good and the spring wildflowers along the trail downstream of the tunnels are worth the extra walk. For more information contact BC Parks, Lower Mainland District [(604) 924-2200; 1610 Mount Seymour Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V7G 2R9].

**Access** - From Highway 1 or Highway 3 take the exit into downtown Hope. From Water Avenue take Old Hope Princeton Highway. Turn left onto 6th Avenue and then right onto Kawkawa Lake Road and cross the bridge over the Coquihalla River. After Kawkawa Lake, the road forks. Take the right fork onto Othello Road and continue to the park entrance. From Highway 5, take the Othello Road exit and follow the directional signs to the park.

**Viewing Highlights** - The summer months of June, July and August are best to observe the summer run of Steelhead Trout migrating up the Coquihalla River. The trout must move through the falls and pools of the canyon. From the bridges, they are easily seen resting in the deep pools of water. These fish spawn further upstream.

## E.C. Manning Provincial Park

Established in 1941, the 70,844 ha E.G. Manning Provincial Park is located in the Cascade Mountains. There are two major rivers in the park, the Skagit that flows north-west and then south to the Pacific Ocean, and the Similkameen that runs northeast, through the Okanagan and finally into the Columbia River. For more information contact BC Parks, Manning Park Visitor Centre [(250) 840-8836; Box 3, Manning Park, B.C. V0X 1 R0].

**Access** - The park is located along Highway 3 between Hope and Princeton. The West Gate of the park is 26 km from Hope and the East Gate is 48 km from Princeton. The park is easily accessed by car and several public bus companies.

**Viewing Highlights** - More than 200 bird species have been recorded. Woodpeckers and a great variety of songbirds are the most common, but also look for American Dipper, Clark's Nutcracker and Gray Jay. The Beaver Pond is a good site. Other areas include Strawberry Flats, Blackwall Meadows, McDiarmid Meadows and Sumallo Grove. In addition to birds the park is a wonderful place to view a wide range of small mammals. Visitors to the park should take care as there are many resident Black Bears.



### Did You Know?

The ground-squirrels and marmots at Manning hibernate, sometimes as early as mid August. Pikas do not hibernate, but remain active in their burrow systems all winter. The alpine grasses and flowers collected and dried in the short summer months must be enough to provide food and bedding for the majority of the year when these critters live only below ground.

## E.C. Manning Provincial Park - Lodge/Restaurant

The lodge and restaurant area offers lodging, food and public washrooms. There is a play area for children and picnic tables. For more information contact Manning Park Resort Inc. [(250) 840-8822; Box 1480, Hope, B.C. V0X 1L0].

**Access** - The lodge and restaurant area is located on Highway 3 just east of Allison Pass (1341 m).

**Viewing Highlights** - Columbian Ground-squirrels are easily observed in the grass fields around the lodge and restaurant. These tawny coloured critters are visible in the daytime, but frequently retire to cool burrows on hot afternoons. They emerge from winter borrows once much of the snow has melted, usually in May. It is not uncommon for most of these squirrels to begin winter hibernation by early or mid August. Also watch for Clark's Nutcracker.



**British Columbia Wildlife Watch** is the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks' program designed to promote viewing opportunities within British Columbia. For more information contact the Environment and Lands regional office in Surrey [(604) 582-5300; 10470 - 152nd Street, Surrey, B.C. V3R 0Y3].

Wildlife viewing information, including festivals, special events, and site specific information is available at the British Columbia Wildlife Watch web site [www3.telus.net/driftwood/bcwwhome.htm](http://www3.telus.net/driftwood/bcwwhome.htm).

For tourism information on the eastern portion of the Fraser Valley contact the **Hope and District Chamber of Commerce** [(604) 869-2021; P.O. Box 370, Hope, B.C. V0X 1L0; [hopechmb@uniserve.com](mailto:hopechmb@uniserve.com)] or visit their web site at [www.hopechamber.bc.ca](http://www.hopechamber.bc.ca). The Hope InfoCentre is located at 919 Water Street and is open year-round.

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The **Habitat Conservation Trust Fund** is a financial sponsor of *British Columbia Wildlife Watch* activities. For more information on this fund write P.O.Box 9354 Stn. Prov. Govt., Victoria, B.C. V8V 9M1.

**WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia** supports the goals, objectives and activities of *British Columbia Wildlife Watch*. For more information on WBT write #124 -1489 Marine Drive, West Vancouver, B.C. V7T 1B8, phone/fax (604) 924-2581 or e-mail [minerva@direct.ca](mailto:minerva@direct.ca).

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# Visit Our Wildlife

## Wildlife Are Everywhere

While opportunities to observe or to learn about wildlife and fish populations are highlighted at 12 sites, remember, wildlife are everywhere. Visit these sites to develop your observation skills. Once you do, you will see, hear and find evidence of creatures everywhere you go. When visiting these areas please remember that you are visiting wild creatures in their home. Leave their homes clean, and keep your pets under control on a leash at all times. Some animals are only present for short periods of time, so it is best to plan your visit when they are at home.

## Feeding Wildlife

Feed yourself not the animals! Cheese puffs, candy bars and white bread are not what nature intended as a healthy diet for wildlife. If you think feeding wildlife is harmless, think again. When wild animals become dependent on handouts they may lose their natural fear of people and/or vehicles. This may put them, and you, into potentially dangerous situations. Instead, spend some time to watch and learn what natural foods they prefer.

## E.C. Manning Provincial Park - Cascade Lookout

Along the road to the Blackwall Alpine meadows is a large pullout called Cascade Lookout. From here you can see the highway below, the lodge/restaurant area and all of the Lightning Lake area. For more information contact BC Parks, Manning Park Visitor Centre [(250) 840-8836; Box 3, Manning Park, B.C. V0X 1R0].

**Access** - From Highway 3 at the lodge and restaurant area follow the signs to Blackwall Alpine. The road is paved to the Cascade Lookout. This is a steep switchback road that should be driven with care. It is about 8 km from Highway 3 to the lookout. This road is open once the snow has melted, which varies yearly and closed after Thanksgiving.

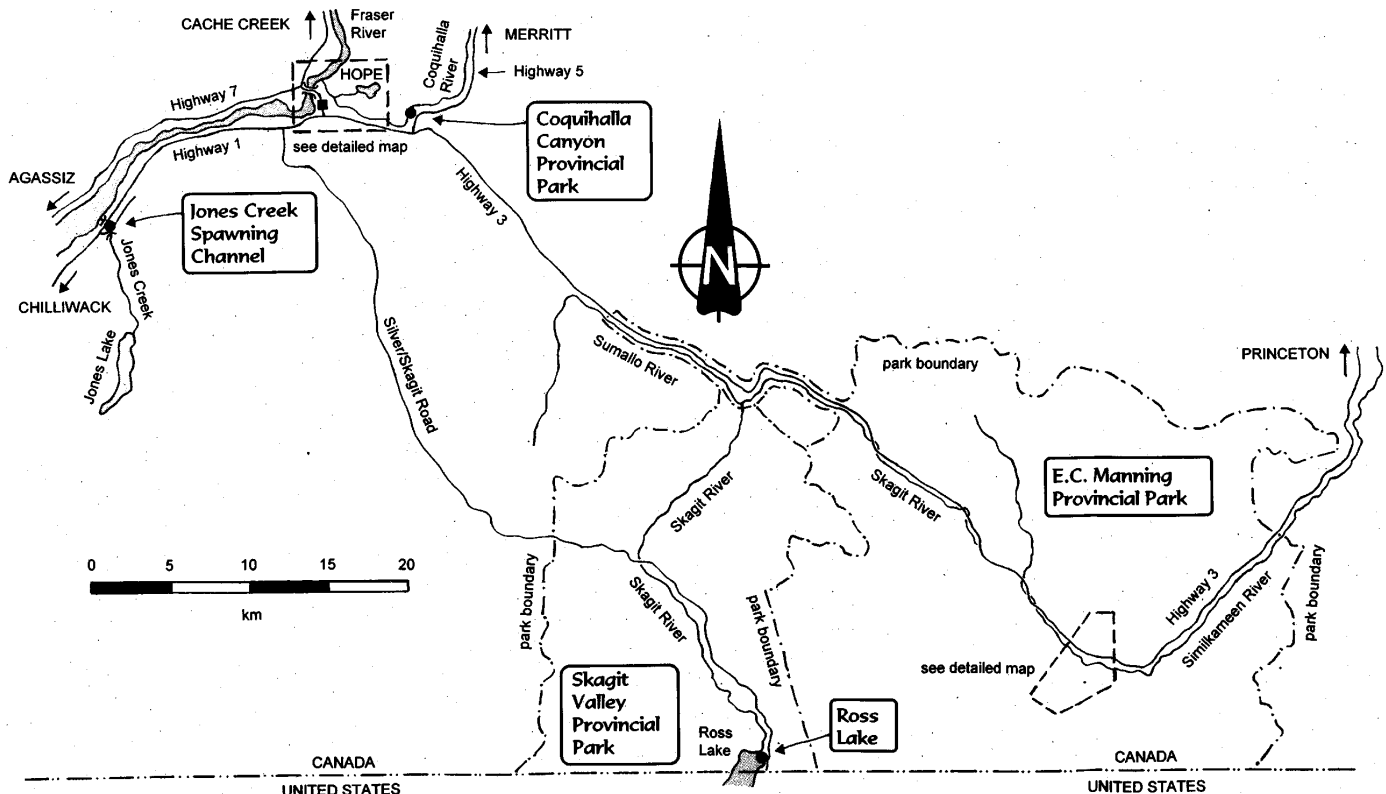
**Viewing Highlights** - At this elevation there are Golden-mantled Ground-squirrels, a striped mammal but not a chipmunk. Also common are the smaller Yellow Pine Chipmunk. They are both seen darting in and out of the concrete barriers. Also watch for Clark's Nutcrackers that are very common. A few small colonies of Yellow-bellied Marmots may be seen along the road to the lookout.

## E.C. Manning Provincial Park - Blackwall Alpine Meadows

E.C. Manning Provincial Park has one of the most accessible alpine areas, where visitors may drive right up to the flower-filled meadows. There are many trails, both short and long, and the views are spectacular. For more information contact BC Parks, Manning Park Visitor Centre [(250) 840-8836; Box 3, Manning Park, B.C. V0X 1R0].

**Access** - From Highway 3 at the lodge and restaurant area follow the signs to Blackwall Alpine. The road is paved to the Cascade Lookout and gravel from there to the top. This is a steep switchback road that should be driven with care. It is about 15 km from Highway 3 to the meadows. This road is open once the snow has melted, which varies yearly and closed after Thanksgiving.

**Viewing Highlights** - In addition to enjoying the beauty of the alpine meadows, there are some good viewing opportunities for Hoary Marmot and Pika. Most of the rocky slopes and rock piles near the end of the access road are home to both of these critters. The marmots will be seen first, sitting a-top rocks or moving about the meadows. Pikas are much smaller and a careful observer will see them moving about collecting vegetation for food and bedding. Drive carefully as both species are often crossing the road.



### E. C. Manning Provincial Park - Lightning Lake

Lightning Lake is located west, and a short 3.5 km drive, from the lodge and restaurant area. There is ample parking, picnic areas, canoe rentals and many trails. For more information contact BC Parks, Manning Park Visitor Centre ((250) 840-8836; Box 3, Manning Park, B.C. V0X 1R0).

**Access** - From Highway 3 at the lodge and restaurant area follow the signs to Lightning Lake. The road is paved.

**Viewing Highlights** - Columbian Ground-squirrel colonies are everywhere. They are usually out of their winter burrows from about May through August. Clark's Nutcracker and Gray Jay are almost always observed. Other birds to look for include Spotted Sandpiper, Burrows Goldeneye, Common Raven and Mountain Chickadee.

### E.C. Manning Provincial Park - Beaver Pond

The Beaver Pond contains a number of beaver dams that separate several pond areas. A short trail leads from the parking area along the pond's edge. For more information contact BC Parks, Manning Park Visitor Centre ((250) 840-8836; Box 3, Manning Park, B.C. V0X 1R0).

**Access** - The Beaver Pond is located along Highway 3, just east of the Visitor Centre, and about 1 km east of the lodge area. There is a parking area off the highway. Look for the binocular logo signs.

**Viewing Highlights** - This roadside pond is an excellent place to see a variety of birds, including five species of swallows, Lincoln's Sparrow, Sora, Common Yellowthroat and Yellow Warbler. Hummingbirds visit flowers throughout the summer. Some waterfowl breed here. There are many species of insects including butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies. There are frog choruses in spring. Chipmunks and Red Squirrels are often seen scurrying up or down the trees.

