

Visit Our Wildlife

in

Powell River

Northern Sunshine Coast



Powell River is reached by ferry either from Earls Cove located less than an hours drive from Sechelt, or from Comox on Vancouver Island. There are many natural areas, parks, forests and ocean beaches and back roads to explore. These areas are the year-round or seasonal home of wildlife and fish populations. In this brochure you will find information on just 9 areas 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 northern portion of the Sunshine Coast stretches from the Saltery Bay ferry terminal, through Powell River, to Lund at the end of Highway 101. It includes Texada Island and many marine waterways.

Lang Creek Hatchery and Spawning Channel

Lang Creek provides important habitat for spawning salmon as well as year-round habitat for juvenile fish. The small spawning channel provides enhanced viewing opportunities. For more information contact the Powell River Enhancement Society [(604) 485-7612; 7050 Alberni Street, Powell River, B.C. V8A 2C3].

Access - From the Sunshine Coast Highway (Highway 101) you can turn directly into the hatchery parking area. There are blue and white hatchery directional signs on the highway.

Viewing Highlights - Four species of salmon spawn in Lang Creek between mid August and late November. The most visible species are chum and coho, and they are easily visible in the spawning channel from about mid September to mid November.



Viewing Tip

Be easy to be with by moving like molasses: slow, smooth and steady. If you must advance, take a roundabout route, never move directly toward an animal. Avert your gaze as animals may interpret a direct stare as a threat.

Lang Creek Estuary

The estuary area where the fresh water of Lang Creek enters the salt water of Malaspina Strait is a very productive area for both fish and wildlife. For more information contact the Powell River Enhancement Society [(604) 485-7612; 7050 Alberni Street, Powell River, B.C. V8A 2C3].

Access - This area is located directly across the street from the Lang Creek hatchery site. Walk to the estuary or from the Sunshine Coast Highway (Highway 101) turn south onto Brew Bay Road and continue straight to the end of the road.

Viewing Highlights - Throughout the year, many different waterfowl and shorebird species use the estuary. The fall salmon migration into the creek brings many Bald Eagles that feed on the dead and dying fish carcasses. The November to January period is best to see the eagles.

Lang Creek Forest Service Recreation Site

This small site is located at Lang Creek Falls. For more information contact the Ministry of Forests [(604) 485-0700; 7077 Duncan Street, Powell River, B.C. V8A 1W1].

Access - Access to this site is by trail. The trailhead is located on Duck Lake Road 6.7 km from the Sunshine Coast Highway (Highway 101).

Viewing Highlights - Salmon migrating upstream can be viewed. attempting to jump the series of waterfalls. The falls are unpassable for fish. The best viewing time is during September and October. Also chickadees and woodpeckers are common along the trail.



Did you know?

Salmon have a “slimy” coating when in salt water that prevents bacteria from growing on their scales. When salmon enter fresh water this coating disappears and bacteria thrive. This is why spawning salmon look “patchy”.

Khartoum Lake Forest Service Recreation Site

This recreation site offers wilderness camping and fishing, and is part of the Powell River Forest Canoe Route. For more information, and to check road access times, contact the Ministry of Forests [(604) 485-0700; 7077 Duncan Street, Powell River, B.C. V8A 1W1].

Access - From the Sunshine Coast Highway (Highway 101) turn north onto Dixon Road. At the main road division take Third Lake Road.

Caution: Access to this site is via an active logging road that is usually closed to visitors during weekdays, With evening and weekend access only. This can be a very rough road at times and is not recommended for some vehicles. A 4-wheel drive vehicle is best.

Viewing Highlights - The rocky bluffs visible at Khartoum Lake and further north in the Lois River Valley are good places to look for mountain goats. The best viewing times occur in April, May, October and November.

Nanton Lake Forest Service Recreation Site

This recreation site offers wilderness camping and fishing, and is part of the Powell River Forest Canoe Route. For more information, and to check road access times, contact the Ministry of Forests [(604) 485-0700; 7077 Duncan Street, Powell River, B.C. V8A 1W1].

Access - From the Sunshine Coast Highway (Highway 101) turn north onto Dixon Road. At the main road division take Weldwood Main Road.

Caution: Access to this site is via an active logging road that is usually closed to visitors during weekdays, with evening and weekend access only. This is a very rough road at times and is not recommended for some vehicles. A 4-wheel drive vehicle is best.

Viewing Highlights - A small herd of Roosevelt elk has been transplanted to this general area. By all accounts they are doing well. As you travel in the Nanton Lake area, keep a watch for these animals. They can be observed yearround. The best viewing times are in the early morning and before dusk periods. Look along the forest edges.



Viewing Tip

Fade into the woodwork by wearing natural colours and unscented lotions. Clothes that don't rustle are best.

Texada Island

Texada Island can be explored by vehicle or by bicycle. The main communities are Vananda and Gillies Bay. A park with considerable beach access is located at Gillies Bay. For more wildlife information contact the Environment and Lands office in Surrey [(604) 582-5200; 10470 - 152nd Street, Surrey, B.C. V3R 0R3].

Access - Texada Island is accessed via ferry from Powell River. Both paved and dirt roads provide access around the northern port of the island.

Viewing Highlights - The island is home to a large population of mule deer. They are visible during most times, of the year. If you getaway from the more populated areas, park along the road and wait. The best viewing times are first thing in the morning and at dusk.

Inland Lake

A 13.5 kilometer, 2 meter wide limestone pathway circles Inland Lake. There are picnic sites, overnight camping sites and fishing wharfs. The trail is totally wheelchair accessible. An interpretive booklet is available from the Ministry of Forests. For more information contact the Ministry of Forests [(604) 485-0700; 7077 Duncan Street, Powell River, B.C. V8A 1W1].

Access - From the Sunshine Coast Highway (Highway 101) turn northward onto Alberni Street. At Manson Avenue turn left and continue to Cranberry Street. Turn right and continue to Haslam Street where you turn left. Follow the signs to Inland Lake.

Viewing Highlights - There are many viewing opportunities at Inland Lake. If you only have a short time, walk the east side of the lake a short distance to the marsh boardwalk. Swallows, song-birds and some waterfowl may be observed. Woodpeckers are commonly seen in the forests.



Did you know?

A Bald Eagle may be up to 4.5 years old before growing a white head and tail.

Sliammon Hatchery and Spawning Channel

This hatchery is located along Sliammon Creek. For more information contact the Sliammon Indian Band at the hatchery office [(604) 483-4111; R.R. #2, Sliammon Road, Powell River, B.C. V8A 4Z3].

Access - The hatchery is located a short drive from Powell River along Sunshine Coast Highway (Highway 101). There is limited parking room on site.

Viewing Highlights - Chum salmon spawn in Sliammon Creek. The best viewing time is during October and November. The actual timing of migration varies slightly depending on the creek's water level. The small spawning channel provides enhanced opportunities to see the fish. A few Bald Eagles visit this area throughout the year. Also look for pink salmon from mid to late August.



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 office in Surrey [(604) 582-5200; 10470 -152nd Street, Surrey, B.C. V3R 0R3]. Wildlife viewing information is available at the British Columbia Wildlife Watch web site www3.bc.sympatico.ca/driftwood/bcwwhome.htm.

For more information on tourism in the Powell River area contact the **Powell River Visitors Bureau** [(604) 485-4701; 4690 Marine Avenue, Powell River, B.C. V8A 2L1; e-mail prvb@prcn.org].

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The **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 1 B8, phone/fax (604) 924-2581.

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

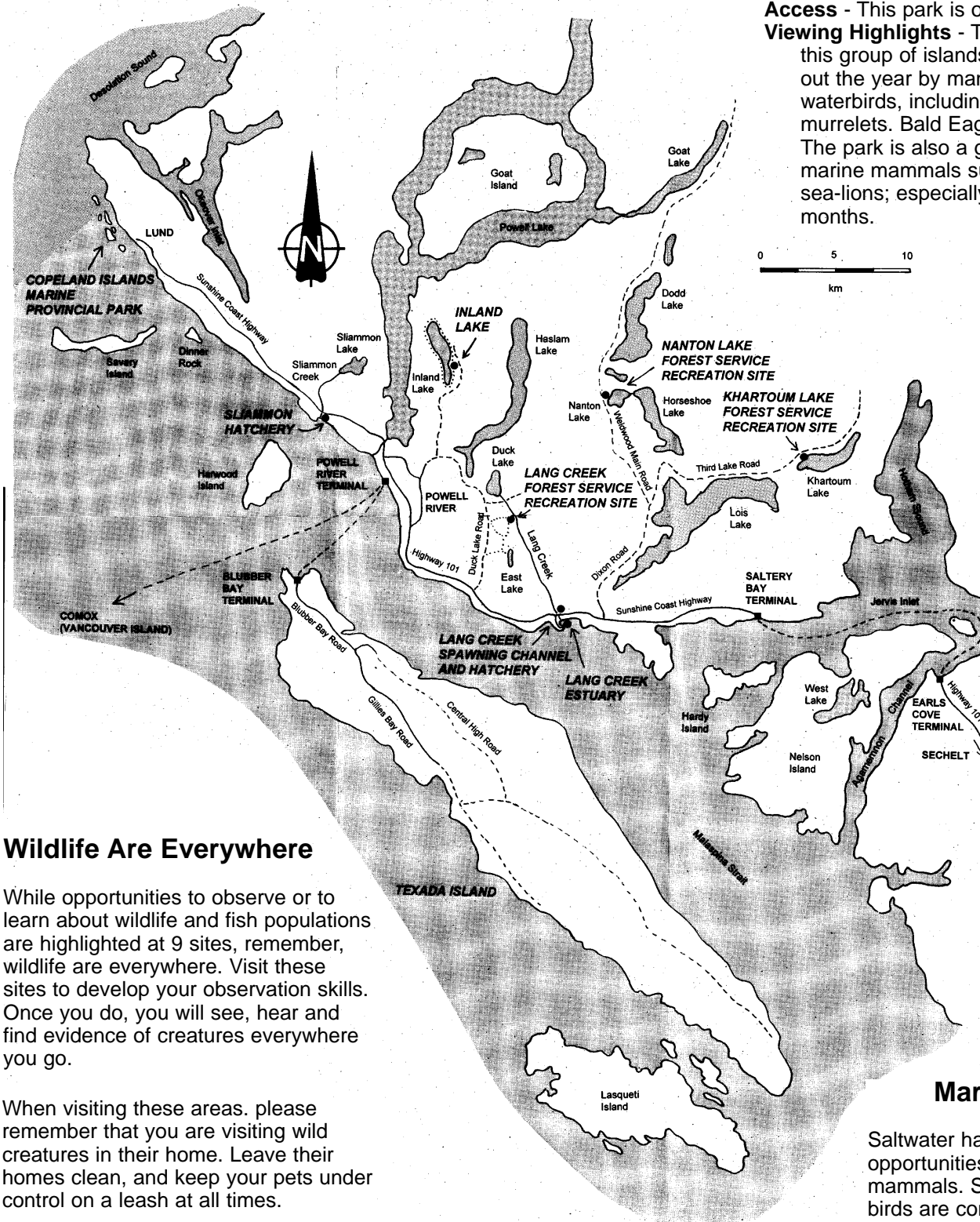
Visit Our Wildlife

Copeland Islands Marine Provincial Park

Copeland Islands Marine Provincial Park contains a group of small islands and is located just northwest of Lund. For more information contact BC Parks, Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast District [(604) 898-3678; Box 220, Brackendale, B.C. V0N 1 H0].

Access - This park is only accessible by boat.

Viewing Highlights - The waters surrounding this group of islands is frequented throughout the year by many species of diving waterbirds, including ducks, cormorants and murrelets. Bald Eagles may be observed. The park is also a good place to look for marine mammals such as seals and sea-lions; especially during the winter months.



Wildlife Are Everywhere

While opportunities to observe or to learn about wildlife and fish populations are highlighted at 9 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.

Marine Environments

Saltwater habitats provide excellent opportunities to view birds, and sea mammals. Seals and diving waterbirds are commonly viewed from shore. Small rock islands and open water areas are also visited by sea-lions and by bird species such as guillemots, cormorants and murrelets.