Three of B.C.'s most distinctive landscapes meet in the Cariboo Region. In the west lush temperate rainforests in the deep valleys and foothills of the coastal mountains give rise to alpine peaks and tundra. In the east are ranges of more rounded mountains clothed with dense coniferous forests and separated by large, deep lakes. The plateau between these two mountain areas is in the rainshadow of the western mountains. Dry lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir forests occur, with extensive grasslands hugging the Fraser and Chilcotin river valleys. These bunchgrass grasslands are at their northern limit in B.C. The diversity of landscapes in the Cariboo Region provides a wide variety of habitats and a rich association of wildlife species. Important populations of large ungulates include woodland caribou, California bighorn sheep, mule deer and moose. The many water bodies, from grasslands to high mountains, are home to abundant numbers and variety of waterfowl, from loons and grebes to dabbling ducks and shorebirds. Bats, butterflies, reptiles and amphibians occur in their special habitats throughout the region.

Many of the large rivers have populations of fish, including salmon, kokanee and steelhead. The Fraser, Chilcotin, Cariboo,Honestly and Bella Coola Rivers all support large salmon runs that may be viewed from July to September. The run on the Horseshoe River has as many returning fish as the famous Adams River that flows into Shuswap Lake. Many lakes are stocked with rainbow trout, but others, especially the large lakes to the east, have a more varied fish population.

Viewing of migrating bird species associated with lakes, ponds and wetlands is particularly rewarding during spring and fall. Migrants appear as soon as openings develop in the ice—as early as March in the south but April in the north, west and east. Southward migration of shorebirds may begin as early as July, while loons can still be seen in October.

In order to maximize your wildlife viewing possibilities, observe the following tips:

• Do not feed or unduly disturb wildlife
• Keep a safe distance from wildlife, especially predators
• Learn their habits to improve your viewing chances.
• Have patience
• Wildlife are ever alert, be as cautious, quiet and unobtrusive as possible. Take your time, use
• Woodpecker holes, claw or teeth marks on aspen bark
• Tracks in soft ground or snow, nibbled branches
• Distinctive scats and bird nests in all shapes and sizes

Interesting Cariboo Region Viewing Routes

Interesting Cariboo Region Viewing Routes

A  Churn Creek Protected Area
• Within the Molson River valley
• Access is by foot
• Rainfall and snow cover

B  Bowron Lakes Provincial Park (Canoe Circuit)
• Located on the Blackwater River
• Access by water—canoe and float plane
• Monday to Saturday

C  Upper Cariboo River
• Access is by boat or from Likely travel on gravel roads to Barkerville along Cariboo Lake, over to Ghost
• Bull trout, cutthroat trout, Arctic char

D  Ts’yl-os Provincial Park
• Located on the Gibbon River
• Access is by boat or from Tatla Lake, 4x4, high clearance vehicles are required
• Start of first lockdown

E  Canoe Circuit
• Access is by water—canoe and float plane
• Access by boat or from Likely travel on gravel roads to Barkerville along Cariboo Lake, over to Ghost
• Start of first lockdown

F  Chip Lake Provincial Park
• Located on the Swale River
• Access is by boat or from Likely travel on gravel roads to Barkerville along Cariboo Lake, over to Ghost
• Start of first lockdown

G  Likely
• Located on the Blackwater River
• Access by water—canoe and float plane
• Start of first lockdown

H  Big Bar Ranch
• Located on the Chilcotin River
• Access by boat or from Likely travel on gravel roads to Barkerville along Cariboo Lake, over to Ghost
• Start of first lockdown

I  Roderick Haig-Brown Provincial Park
• Located on the Adams River
• Access by boat or from Likely travel on gravel roads to Barkerville along Cariboo Lake, over to Ghost
• Start of first lockdown

J  Lillooet
• Located on the Fraser River
• Access by water—canoe and float plane
• Start of first lockdown

K  Mount Robson Provincial Park
• Located on the Robson River
• Access by boat or from Likely travel on gravel roads to Barkerville along Cariboo Lake, over to Ghost
• Start of first lockdown

L  Horsefly
• Located on the Horsefly River
• Access is by water—canoe and float plane
• Start of first lockdown

M  Big Bar Ranch
• Located on the Chilcotin River
• Access by boat or from Likely travel on gravel roads to Barkerville along Cariboo Lake, over to Ghost
• Start of first lockdown

N  Canoe Circuit
• Access is by water—canoe and float plane
• Access by boat or from Likely travel on gravel roads to Barkerville along Cariboo Lake, over to Ghost
• Start of first lockdown

O  Likely
• Located on the Blackwater River
• Access by water—canoe and float plane
• Start of first lockdown

P  Big Bar Ranch
• Located on the Chilcotin River
• Access by boat or from Likely travel on gravel roads to Barkerville along Cariboo Lake, over to Ghost
• Start of first lockdown

Q  Lillooet
• Located on the Fraser River
• Access by water—canoe and float plane
• Start of first lockdown

R  Mount Robson Provincial Park
• Located on the Robson River
• Access by boat or from Likely travel on gravel roads to Barkerville along Cariboo Lake, over to Ghost
• Start of first lockdown

S  Horsefly
• Located on the Horsefly River
• Access is by water—canoe and float plane
• Start of first lockdown

T  Cariboo Chilcotin District
• Located on the Cariboo River
• Access by boat or from Likely travel on gravel roads to Barkerville along Cariboo Lake, over to Ghost
• Start of first lockdown

U  Canoe Circuit
• Access is by water—canoe and float plane
• Access by boat or from Likely travel on gravel roads to Barkerville along Cariboo Lake, over to Ghost
• Start of first lockdown

V  Lillooet
• Located on the Fraser River
• Access by water—canoe and float plane
• Start of first lockdown

W  Mount Robson Provincial Park
• Located on the Robson River
• Access by boat or from Likely travel on gravel roads to Barkerville along Cariboo Lake, over to Ghost
• Start of first lockdown

X  Horsefly
• Located on the Horsefly River
• Access is by water—canoe and float plane
• Start of first lockdown

Y  Cariboo Chilcotin District
• Located on the Cariboo River
• Access by boat or from Likely travel on gravel roads to Barkerville along Cariboo Lake, over to Ghost
• Start of first lockdown

Z  Canoe Circuit
• Access is by water—canoe and float plane
• Access by boat or from Likely travel on gravel roads to Barkerville along Cariboo Lake, over to Ghost
• Start of first lockdown

More Information


For more information contact:
Federation of B.C. Naturalists
387-1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6H 4A9
or visit the Wildlife Viewing site at: www.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/wildlife_viewing.htm
or visit the BC Parks web site at: www.gov.bc.ca/bcparks
Wildlife Viewing in the Cariboo Region

Successful Viewing

Learn before looking – Local brochures, books and field guides list species to expect at each site, their habitat preferences and viewing season. Visit 100 Mile House Visitor Centre, Scout Island Nature Centre in Williams Lake, and the Nature Education and Resource Centre in Quesnel for information.

Have patience – Wildlife are ever alert, be as cautious, quiet and unobtrusive as possible. Take your time, use cover to hide your presence, or stay in your vehicle.

Explore different habitats – Many species use different places in the landscape for nesting, resting and feeding. Learn their habits to improve your viewing chances. Edge habitats are special places where water and upland or forest and grassland meet to provide food, cover and nesting sites in one place.

Viewing Ethics

To make your experience more enjoyable and to protect our wildlife viewing opportunities:

- Stay on designated roads and trails especially in our wildlife viewing opportunities.
- Learn before looking – Local brochures, books and field guides list species to expect at each site, their habitat preferences and viewing season. Visit 100 Mile House Visitor Centre, Scout Island Nature Centre in Williams Lake, and the Nature Education and Resource Centre in Quesnel for information.

Safety

Keep your distance – Enjoy wildlife during their daily routine. Use binoculars or scope to get a closer view.

Be alert while observing – Know what wildlife to expect at each site and act accordingly; bears are attracted to salmon spawning sites.

Do not disturb young wildlife – Leave young where you find them, it is illegal to move them. A parent may be waiting and could become aggressive.

In total, there are 20 sites listed below, the map can be linked to create viewing routes using major roads. The following are some other routes with productive viewing throughout their length. At all times when viewing, please park safely – well off the highway—and be aware of other vehicles.

Viewing in remote settings take planning and effort to reach. The map shows only a few remote sites.

A Churn Creek Protected Area – 100 km S of Williams Lake and 80 km W of 100 Mile House. Cross the Fraser River over the Gang Ranch bridge. An extensive grassland park with many grassland birds including Swainson’s hawks, sharp-tailed grouse, gopher snakes and more. Great place to watch deer foraging and also see many other species that may be seen. Best viewing is from April to October.

B Bowron Lakes Provincial Park (Canoe Circuit) – 147 km E of Quesnel along Hwy 26 — open May to September. Waterfowl, woodpeckers and songbirds are plentiful while osprey and bald eagle nest. Beaver, otter and muskrat are common. Black bears are seen occasionally by those who keep quiet, mule deer, lake trout, bull trout, Rocky Mountain whitefish and kokanee are found in area lakes. Trumpeter swans winter on open waters of Bowron Marsh and Cariboo River.

C Upper Cariboo River – From Likely travel on gravel roads to Barkerville along Cariboo Lake, over to Ghost Lake and the Matthew River. Cross the Cariboo River and head to Aldar Creek. Look for waterfowl, osprey and eagles. Chinook salmon spawn at Aldar Creek bridge in August.

Y Talus Provincial Park – about 160 km W of Williams Lake along Hwy 20 with access through Nenana or from Tatla Lake. 4x4, high clearance vehicles are required. Dry forests to alpine areas provide a range of habitats and wildlife. See black bear, mule deer, moose, mountain goat, California bighorn sheep, sharp-tailed grouse, gopher snakes and more. Great place to watch deer foraging and also see many other species that may be seen. Best viewing is from April to October.

Tweedsmuir Provincial Park – access by foot or horseback from Anahim Lake on Hwy 20, or from logging roads west of Nazko. The largest woodland caribou herd in Canada moves through the area in search of lichen, Wolves, coyotes, black bear, grizzly bear, mule deer, moose, mountain goat and California bighorn sheep may also be seen.

Interesting Cariboo Region Viewing Routes

There are many opportunities for wildlife viewing in the Cariboo Region along paved and gravel roads. Several of the sites listed below the map can be linked to create viewing routes using major roads. The following are some other routes with productive viewing throughout their length. At all times when viewing, please park safely — well off the highway—and be aware of other vehicles.

Highway 97 from 70 Mile House to 150 Mile House has numerous ponds, lakes and wetlands with abundant waterfowl in sight of the highway.

The Nazko Road Circuit from Quesnel west to Nazko, north to Echuncho River and back to Quesnel along the Blackwater River. Many different habitats from dry pine forests to wetlands and meadows support a diversity of wildlife species. Important populations of large mammals occur. Migratory waterfowl, sandhill cranes, long-tailed curlews, mountain bluebirds, mourning dove and clay-colored sparrow are common. Mule deer are plentiful year-round and white-tailed deer occur. On the west side, hike up Narcosli Creek to the falls at American dippers and nesting black swifts.

The Riske Creek to Farwell Canyon – this spectacular area of the Chilcotin grasslands has many opportunities to view grassland flowering plants and associated wildlife, including a unique subspecies of sparsely-spotted blue butterfly. Found nowhere else in the world. Watch for ravens and other grassland birds, coyotes and California bighorn sheep.

Anahim Lake to Bella Coola – grassland, wetland and dry forest habitats of the plateau give way to steep mountain habitats as you drop into the rainforest, rivers and seashore of the spectacular Bella Coola Valley. There are many opportunities to observe a wide variety of wildlife species as habitats change.

Remote Wildlife Viewing Sites

Some sites in the Cariboo Region offering wildlife viewing in remote settings take planning and effort to reach. The map shows only a few remote sites.

A Churn Creek Protected Area – 100 km S of Williams Lake and 80 km W of 100 Mile House. Cross the Fraser River over the Gang Ranch bridge. An extensive grassland park with many grassland birds including Swainson’s hawks, sharp-tailed grouse, gopher snakes and more. Great place to watch deer foraging and also see many other species that may be seen. Best viewing is from April to October.

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Tweedsmuir Provincial Park – Rainbow Range: trailhead access on Hwy 20, 35 km west of Anahim Lake. Grizzly bear, black bear, mountain goat, woodland caribou, wolf, mule and deer can be viewed in this area of special coloured volcanic rocks.
100 Mile House Area: April to September

3 Green Lake/Watch Lake – 35 km S of 100 Mile House. Good viewing of many lakes and ponds. Rainbow trout spawn in Watch Creek May to mid-June and kokanee late August to September. Red-throated loon and American white pelican in migration at W end of Green Lake. American dipper also on listed lakes.

5 Horse Lake – 10 km SE of 100 Mile House. Waterfowl, great blue heron, osprey, bald eagle, American bittern, sora, black terns, rufous hummingbird, belted kingfisher and warblers. Well and nesting: song sparrow and black swallows. Long-billed curlew and long-billed dowitcher in spring migration. East end, Doman Road – Belted kingfisher, warblers and nesting rough-winged swallows. Moose, mule deer, black bear and tundra swans may be seen.

100 Mile Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary – behind Vistor’s Centre with trail and interpretation signs. Trumpeter swans in spring/fall. Snow goose, red-necked phalarope and large numbers of hawks join spring migration. Sandhill crane, black tern, murrelet and yellow-billed black-backed gull are seen.

9 Moose Valley Provincial Park – 40 km W of 100 Mile House. Wildlife lakes chain, use high clearance 4x4 vehicles. Variety of waterfowl, nesting sandhill cranes, Bonaparte gulls and songbirds along the way. Beaver, muskrat, river otter, black bear, mule deer and moose also found. Winter moose habitat.

16 Machine Creek – 35 km NE of 100 Mile House at public access adjacent to Canim Lake Resort. Waterfowl, American bittern, swallows, murre larks, warblers and bobolink may be seen and bold eagles resident year-round.


18 Dog Creek Bluffs – 100 km SW of Williams Lake and W of 100 Mile House on Dog Creek Rd. Many raptor species, white-throated swifts, rock wren, warblers and lazuli bunting seen and heard along the spectacular cliffs. Occasionally big horn sheep.

6 Williams Lake Area: April to October

21  Bull Canyon Provincial Park

22 Puntzi Marshes – about 4 km W of Alexis Creek – starting 2 km N of 100 Mile House

23 Fiordland

24 Tatla Lake and Pollywog Marshes

25 Anahim Lake

26 Snootli Creek Hatchery

27 Bella Coola Estuary

Knife Creek UBC Fraser Research Forest – 21 km S of Williams Lake on Hwy 97. Drive E to the end of Rodeo Dr. 1 km interpretive forest trail describes the importance of male deer winter habitat. Male deer also seen in spring.

Scout Island Nature Centre – W end of Williams Lake, open all year. Many trails and Nature House with roof-top viewing area. Important stopover for large variety of birds in migration, includes common loon, red-necked grebe, wood duck, osprey, yellow warbler, yellow-headed blackbird.

Resident river otter, muskrat, beaver, and mink. Insects include butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies and thatching ants.

Williams Lake River Valley – access: Mackenzie Ave at Crater St. or Frizzi Rd., with parking and 12 km of trails. Over 200 species of birds recorded include great blue heron, northern goshawk, pygmy owl, belted kingfisher, American dipper. Also black bobcat, bobcat, red fox, coyote and river otter. Rainbow trout in the river, and canvasback fall salmon run in the lower river often includes sockeye, cisco and chinook salmon.

Bull Mountain Ski Trails – about 20 km N of Williams Lake and 1 km W along a gravel road. 30 km of ski trails through mature forest. Interpretive signs on two trails describe forest management for wintering mule deer. Northern goshawk and red-tailed hawk nest in the area while mule and mule deer can be seen year-round.

Horseshoe Spawning Channel – in Horseshoe along the Horseshoe River with 3 km Salmon Habitat Trail. 2.1 million sockeye salmon spawn in Williams on a four-year cycle. Thousands spawn yearly from September through mid-October.

Horseshoe Bay/Quesnel Lake – about 10 km N and E of Horseshoe between Horseshoe and Quesnel Lakes. Variety of nesting and resident waterfowl in Horseshoe Bay, including grebe, teal, shoveler, and canvasback. A northern goshawk, black and northern harrier. Insects include butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies and thatching ants.

19  Highway 26

Anahim Lake – about 4 km NW of Anahim Lake. Eagle’s Nest Marsh Trail: American white pelican feeding in spring/summer; many waterfowl feeding in pond and osprey, bold eagle, northern goshawk, ring-billed gull, black tern, muskrat and river otter may be seen. Resident spruce grouse, great horned and great grey owls, mule deer in winter.

Smoot Creek Hatchery – 4 km W of Hagensborg and 14.5 km from Bella Coola on Hwy 20. Open all year for guided tours only. Juvenile releases of chum, coho, chinook, March to November. Impressions of sockeye and pink salmon, August to September.

Bella Coola Estuary – where the Bella Coola River enters Benterick Arm. Estuary used by migrating waterfowl and for wintering. Trumpeter swan, Canada goose and numerous waterfowl species. Seal rookery and river otters at Clayton Falls Recreation site W of the estuary.

Riske Creek – Bella Coola: May to early September

Junction Sheep Range Provincial Park – 15 km S of Hwy 20 at Riske Creek, from the Fraser-Chilcotin Rivers to Farwell Canyon. Rough 4x4 roads into the park. Day use area only. The grasslands are sensitive, all vehicles must remain on designated roads. California bighorn sheep breeding, lambing and winter range. Look for bald eagle, golden eagle, prairie falcon, blue grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, long-billed curlew, upland sandpiper, Lewis’ woodpecker, and great horned owl. Rubber boot, cracker, black bear, mule deer and coyote are resident.

Bull Canyon Provincial Park – 8 km W of Alexis Creek on Hwy 20 beside Chilcotin River. Hiking and interpretive trails along the river. Many raptor species. View beavers using caves in canyon walls. Western extension of grassland butterflies such as arcon blues and blue coppers.

Puntzi Marshes – 3 km NE of Chilako Forks on Hwy 97 between Puntzi Lake and Chilako Creek. Waterfowl, bold eagle, northern harrier, American kestrel, swallows, eastern kingbird and yellow-headed blackbird.

Chilako Marsh Wildlife Management Area – 30 km W of Alexis Creek on Hwy 20. Turn N to Puntzi Lake airstrip. Marsh is south of road past airstrip. Trails and interpretive signs. Variety of waterfowl nesting in ponds and marshes. Beaver and muskrat are active, in edge areas look for sharp-tailed grouse, common snipe, murrel, mink and yellow-headed blackbird. Moose can be seen in winter.

Iatla Lake and Pollywood Marshes – about 18 km E of Bella Coola on Hwy 20, two viewing sites on the N and one on the S side. View waterfowl, common snipe, raptors, eastern kingbird and blackbird. Look for tadpoles at Pollywood Marshes and beaver at Iatla Lake site.

Northern goshawk nests near Iatla Lake.

Anahim Lake – about 4 km NW of Anahim Lake. Eagle’s Nest Marsh Trail: American white pelican feeding in spring/summer; many waterfowl feeding in pond and osprey, bold eagle, northern goshawk, ring-billed gull, black tern, muskrat and river otter may be seen. Resident spruce grouse, great horned and great grey owls, mule deer in winter.

Snootli Creek Hatchery – 4 km W of Hagensborg and 14.5 km from Bella Coola on Hwy 20. Open all year for guided tours only. Juvenile releases of chum, coho, chinook, March to November. Impressions of sockeye and pink salmon, August to September.

Bella Coola Estuary – where the Bella Coola River enters Benterick Arm. Estuary used by migrating waterfowl and for wintering. Trumpeter swan, Canada goose and numerous waterfowl species. Seal rookery and river otters at Clayton Falls Recreation site W of the estuary.
**100 Mile House Area: April to September**

1. Green Lake/Watch Lake – 35 km S of 100 Mile House. Good viewing of many lakes and ponds. Rainbow trout spawn in Watch Creek May to mid-June and kokanee last August to September. Red-throated loon and American white pelican in migration at W end of Green Lake. American dipper and belted kingfisher at Rayfield Creek and canyon.  

2. Horse Lake – 10 km SE of 100 Mile House. Waterfowl, great blue heron, osprey, bald eagle, American bittern, sora, black terns, rufous hummingbird, belted kingfisher and warblers. Willow and nest-ripping gray and black swallows. Long-billed curlew and long-billed dowitcher in spring migration.  

3. Eastend, Doman Road – Belted kingfisher, warblers and nesting rough-winged swallows. Moose, mule deer, black bear and tufted grebe seen along the river.  

4. 100 Mile Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary – behind Vitamin's Centre with trail and interpretation signs. Trumpeter swans in spring/fall. Snow goose, red-necked phalarope and large numbers of hawks join spring migration. Sora, sandhill crane, black tern, marmot wren and yellow-headed blackbird seen and heard.  

5. Moose Valley Provincial Park – 40 km W of 100 Mile House. Waterfowl including trumpeter swans in spring/fall. Snow goose, red-necked phalarope and large numbers of hawks join spring migration. Sora, sandhill crane, black tern, marmot wren and yellow-headed blackbird seen and heard.  

6. Exeter Lake Wetland – road-side viewing 2.5 km W of 100 Mile House. Waterfowl including trumpeter swans in spring/fall. Snow goose, red-necked phalarope and large numbers of hawks join spring migration. Sora, sandhill crane, black tern, marmot wren and yellow-headed blackbird seen and heard.  

7. Horsefly Bay/Quesnel Lake – about 10 km NE of 100 Mile House public access adjacent to Canim Lake Resort. Waterfowl, American bittern, swallows, marmot wren, warblers and bobolink may be seen and badgers resident year-round.  

8. 101-108 Mile Ranch – starting 2 km N of 100 Mile House watch for waterfowl in grassland ponds along Hwy 97. Look for raptors, sora, Virginia rail, black tern, killdeer, mountain bluebird, blackbirds, mule deer, river otter, muskrat and yellow-billed marmot.  

9. Moose Range – 35 km NE of 100 Mile House public access adjacent to Canim Lake Resort. Waterfowl, American bittern, swallows, marmot wren, warblers and bobolink may be seen and badgers resident year-round.  

10. 101-108 Mile Ranch – starting 2 km N of 100 Mile House watch for waterfowl in grassland ponds along Hwy 97. Look for raptors, sora, Virginia rail, black tern, killdeer, mountain bluebird, blackbirds, mule deer, river otter, muskrat and yellow-billed marmot.  


12. Dog Creek Bluffs – 100 km SW of Williams Lake and W of 100 Mile House on Dog Creek Rd. Many raptor species, white-throated swifts, rock wren, warblers and lazuli bunting seen and heard along the spectacular cliffs. Occasionally California big horn sheep.  

13. Quesnel River (a) North Fork River – starting 2 km N of 100 Mile House watch for waterfowl in grassland ponds along Hwy 97. Look for raptors, sora, Virginia rail, black tern, killdeer, mountain bluebird, blackbirds, mule deer, river otter, muskrat and yellow-billed marmot.  

14. Quesnel River (b) Nature Education & Resource Centre (West Fraser Timber Park) – 3 km of trails through uplands/wetlands, with many birding opportunities.  

15. Quesnel River (c) Riverfront Trail – at the Fraser River Boatbridge. In spring ring-billed gulls nest on a Quesnel River island — only site in central BC.  

16. Ten Mile House Provincial Park – 11 km N of Quesnel on Hwy 97. 2 km trail to a large beaver pond, through forest and on an abandoned rail grade. Waterfowl nesting boxes and platforms, beaver lodges and dams are easily seen.  

17. Highway 26 (Barriere Hwy) – leaves Hwy 97, 8 km N of Quesnel, towards Cutoffwood and Stanlay. Watch grizzly bear seasonally and moose, mule deer and black bears year-round. August chinook salmon runs at various places.  

**Riske Creek - Bella Coola: May to early September**

18. Junction Sheep Range Provincial Park – 15 km S of Hwy 20 at Riske Creek, from the Fraser-Chilcotin Rivers trout to Fortwell Canyon. Rough 4x4 roads into the park. Day use area only. The grasslands are sensitive, all vehicles must remain on designated roads. California big horn sheep breeding, lambing and winter range. Look for bald eagle, golden eagle, Prairie falcon, blue grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, long-billed curlew, upland sandpiper, Lewis's woodpecker, and great horned owl. Rubber boots, black bear, mule deer and coyote are resident.  

19. Bull Canyon Provincial Park – 8 km W of Alexis Creek on Hwy 20 between Chilcotin River. Hiking and interpretive trails along the river. Many raptor species. View bats using caves in canyon walls. Western extension of grassland butterflies such as armon blues and blue coppers.  

20. Puntzi Marshes – 3 km NE of Chilanko Forks on Hwy 97 between Puntzi Lake and Chilanko Creek. Waterfowl, bald eagle, northern harrier, American kestrel, swallows, eastern kingbird and yellow-headed blackbird.  


22. Quesnel Lake and Pollywood Marshes – about 18 km E of Quesnel Lake community on Hwy 20, two viewing sites on the N and one on the S side. View waterfowl, common snipe, raptors, eastern kingbird and blackbirds. Look for tadpoles of Pollywood Marshes and beaver at Tatla Lake sites. Northern goshawk nests near Quesnel Lake.  

23. Anahim Lake – about 4 km NW of Anahim Lake. Eagle's Nest Marsh Trail: American white pelican feeding in spring/summer; many waterfowl species nesting and roosting; bald eagle, northern goshawk, ring-billed gull, black tern, muskrat and river otter may be seen. Resident spruce grouse, great horned and great grey owls, mule deer in winter.  

24. Smooth Creek Hatchery – 4 km W of Hagensborg and 14.5 km from Bella Coola on Hwy 20. Open all year for guided tours only. Juvenile releases of chinook, chum, chum, March to November. Eggstrakes of sockeye and pink salmon, August to September.  

25. Bella Coola Estuary – where the Bella Coola River enters Bentinck Arm. Estuary used by migrating waterfowl and for wading. Trumpeter swan, Canada goose and numerous waterfowl species. Seal rookery and river otters at Clayton Falls Recreation site W of the estuary.