

BEAR VIEWING PROCEDURES, ATNARKO RIVER VALLEY Tweedsmuir (South) Provincial Park

Tweedsmuir Park provides a spectacular opportunity to view healthy populations of grizzly and black bears, with relatively easy access. This combination can lead to an increased chance of bear/people conflict, which may result in injury or death to both bears and people. The following bear viewing procedures have been developed to reduce the chance of this conflict. BC Parks has a dual mandate for conservation and recreation, and we need the cooperation of all park visitors, commercial operators and local residents to protect both the bears and recreational opportunities along the Atnarko River and valley. Please ensure that you follow the procedures outlined below:

- Observers must stay at least 50 metres (150 feet) from all bears at Fisheries Pool, Atnarko Campground and Belarko Boat Launch.
- While on the river, drift boat operators must travel as quickly as possible past bears, and must not stop (set anchor or beach) closer than 100 metres upstream or downstream of any bear.
- At all other areas, bears must be observed from a minimum distance of 150 metres (450 feet).
- Viewing should occur in large, open areas, in safe locations that provide both bears and observers with easy escape routes.
- Observe any given bear for a maximum of 10 minutes. Leave the area and don't follow the bear. Return to the area only if that bear has left.
- Group size must not exceed ten people, including guides. Group members must remain together (within 3 m of each other) at all times.
- Keep noise and movement to a minimum. Do not signal bears using hand or auditory signals.
- No smoking or eating while observing bears.
- If a bear begins to approach observers, leave the area immediately.
- Bears must not be followed or stalked from one location to another.
- Pet owners are discouraged from bringing pets to areas that bears frequent (for the safety of the owners and their pets). If pets accompany park visitors, they must be kept on a short leash and under control at all times.
- Watch for clues that a bear is stressed – standing up, stopping feeding, moving into the bush and back out repeatedly, looking directly at observers, appearing nervous or uncertain.

- Growling, huffing, snapping or popping jaws, ears laid back, stamping, pacing, running toward or away, hair raised on hump are signs of an aggressive or severely stressed bear
- If the bear appears to be stressed, leave the area immediately!