

Visitor Information

At 84, 417 h/a, the Fiordland Conservancy is one of the finest examples of glacially gouged fiords on the British Columbia coast. It encompasses Kynoch and Mussel (Laig) Inlets, their estuaries and surrounding mountain coast.

Here you will find spectacular sheer granite cliffs rising more than 1000 metres from sea to sky. You will enjoy views of the soaring peaks of the Coast Mountains, dense coastal forests, imposing waterfalls and lush river estuaries.



This Protected Area is located in the territory of the Kitasoo/Xai'xais and is collaboratively managed under an agreement between the Kitasoo/Xai'xais and the Province of BC.

While visiting the area, please respect the land, water and culture of this pristine wilderness.

Photo Credits: Douglas Neasloss & BC Parks

Thank you for visiting!

BC Parks and the Kitasoo/Xai'xais are dedicated to the protection of natural environments for the inspiration, use, and enjoyment of all visitors. Together, they are working hard to preserve this pristine wilderness.

With your help, this amazing wilderness will remain untouched for future generations to enjoy.



Contact Information

BC Parks
<http://www.bcparks.ca>

Visit your local Tourism BC Visitor Information Centre
<http://www.hellobc.com>

Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation
Resource Stewardship Director
(250) 839-1255



Fiordland Conservancy



WELCOME



Protected Area Information and Bear Viewing Guidelines

Welcome to the Fiordland Conservancy

Bear Viewing Etiquette



- **Stay at least 50 M (160ft) away** from bears at all times
- **Approach and depart bears at slow boat speeds** (less than 5 knots).
- **Maximum 1 boat** viewing any single bear, or group of bears, at one time
- **Limit viewing time** to 20 minutes
- **Be sensitive to bear's reactions.** If a bear stares at you intensely or moves towards cover, you may be displacing it. **Move back!** If the bear does not relax, depart the area.
- **Keep pets on leash** at all times while on shore. Backcountry areas are not suitable for pets due to potential problems with bears.
- **Stay in groups.** If on shore, please stay grouped together and alert for signs of bear activity.
- **Bear Spray Recommend.** Please ensure you are trained in its use before carrying.

Mussel River (Laig) Special Management Area

Although all estuary systems within the Fiordland Conservancy are sensitive and important ecosystems, the Mussel River (Laig) is an especially significant system for bears and other wildlife.

During the fall season bears feed almost exclusively on salmon. The amount of salmon a bear eats relates directly to its chance of survival during the winter.

The Mussel River (Laig) and Poison Cove areas offer some of the most valuable habitat for bears and wildlife on the Central Coast.

Maintaining ecologically sustainable, safe, and culturally sensitive tourism opportunities is an important management objective for these areas. The potential exists to negatively impact bears and wildlife if they are continually displaced from highly productive areas. As such there are guidelines for appropriate behaviour when in this area to help ensure the integrity of these special and significant places are preserved in their natural state for future generations.

Access to this highly sensitive area is closely monitored and guidelines are strictly enforced. During peak season this area is managed jointly by BC Parks and the Mussel River Guardian Watchmen. When entering the area **please contact Mussel River Guardian Watchmen on Marine Channel 6.**



Mussel River (Laig) Viewing Guidelines

Water- Based Viewing Guidelines

- **Check in with Mussel River Guardian Watchmen.**
- **No viewing or boat access** upstream of the lower Mussel River Island.
- **Jet boats are not permitted.**
- **Maximum 18 people in total and all vessels must stay grouped together**
- **Stay at least 50 M (160 ft) away** from bears.

Land- Based Viewing Guidelines

- **Allowed with caution but not recommended.**
- **Check in with Mussel River Guardian Watchmen.**
- **Look for a series of rock cairns** which will indicate viewing location; do not wander, proceeded directly to viewing site and back to your vessel when safe to do so.
- **No visitor access on lower Mussel River Island and the Mussel Estuary** other than designated viewing site. These areas are off limits to viewing, hiking or any other form of access.
- **Maximum of 14 people** permitted on shore at one time. Visitors **MUST** stay grouped together.
- **Bear spray required** by at least one person who is trained in its use.
- **Firearms may not be carried while viewing.**
- **No pets are permitted in viewing areas.**
- **Food is not recommended.**

LAND BASED - GUIDED ACCESS ONLY IN SEPTEMBER

2014

With a permitted guide

AREA CLOSED TO WILDLIFE VIEWING AFTER OCT 15

*Guidelines are in addition to provided "BEAR VIEWING ETIQUETTE"