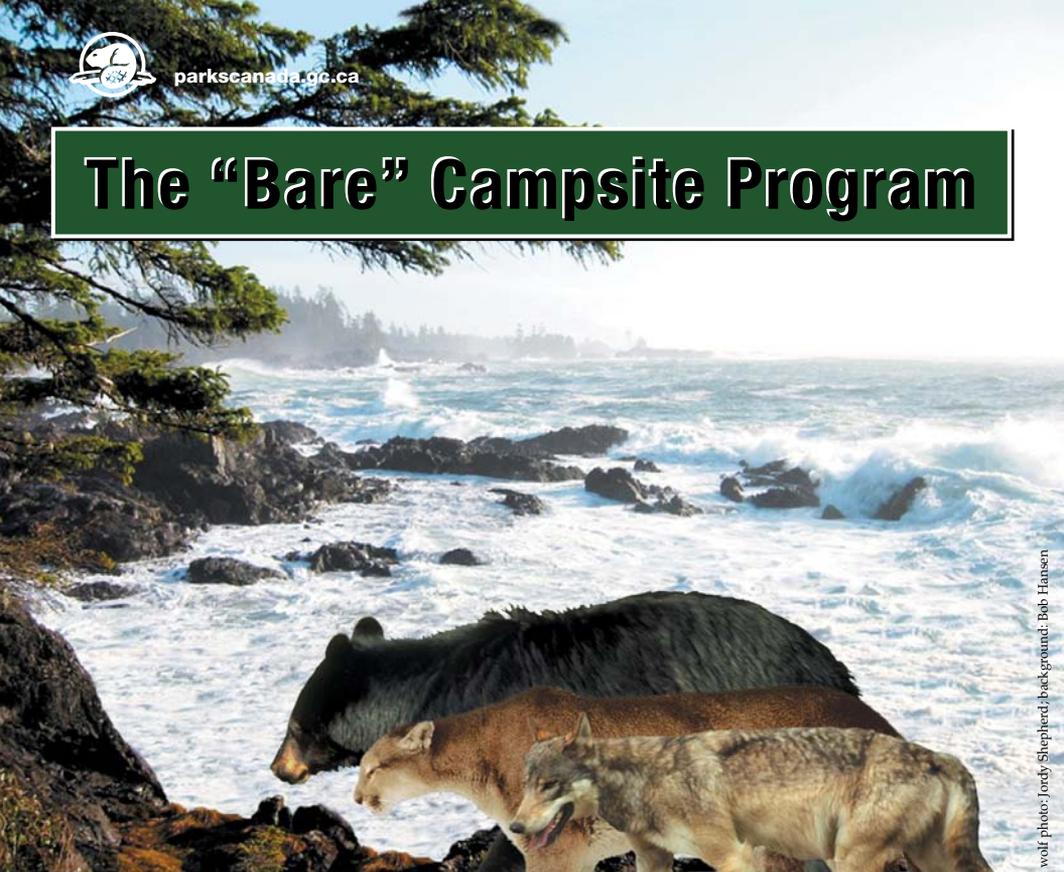




# The “Bare” Campsite Program



wolf photo: lordy Shepheard; background: Bob Hansen

## Welcome!

You are camping in a very special place, a national park. We share this landscape with wild animals that depend on it for their survival. These can include black bears, cougars, wolves and others.



Pacific Rim National Park of Canada has a “Bare” Campsite program in place. A special effort is being made here by both park staff and campers to ensure that wildlife attractants are never left unattended at any campsite. The “Bare” Campsite program is in place for your safety, and to help keep the wildlife in our national parks alive and wild.

## How to keep a "bare" campsite

If you are camping here, you are agreeing to:

Store ALL FOOD and WILDLIFE ATTRACTANTS in a hard-sided vehicle/trailer/motor home or in the campground food storage lockers (not in a tent or tent-trailer) when not in use.

This policy applies whenever these items are not in use such as while you are sleeping at night, or when your site is unattended for any length of time (e.g. to go to the washroom).

### A "bare" campsite



photo: Angela Spooner

When away from your site, you may leave out your camping furniture (e.g. lawn chairs, lanterns and tents).

**Attention Pet Owners!** Please keep pets on a leash at all times. Don't leave pets unattended outside – especially at night. They can attract carnivores such as bears, cougars and wolves, and may be attacked.

*We are the key to the long term survival of wildlife in our parks.*



Attractants are things that have an odour or could appear to be food to wildlife. Your campsite should look like the picture of the "bare" campsite.

#### Wildlife attractants

- Coolers – full/empty
- Food and Condiments
- Garbage/Wrappings/Plastic Bags
  - Dishes/Pots
  - Pet Food/Bowls
- Bottles/Cans - full/empty
  - Tablecloths
- Toiletries/Suntan Lotion/Insect Spray
- Campstoves/Barbeques
- Containers of Gasoline/Oil
- ANY item associated with food preparation or clean up (soap, dish clothes and towels)
- Grey Water Pails

When people leave their food out, bears and other wildlife can lose their fear of humans. Once an animal gets used to human food, it becomes a risk to public safety, and may be destroyed. By keeping a "bare" campsite, you are playing an important part in preventing the creation of "problem" animals.

## If your campsite is not "bare"...

Park staff will be patrolling the campground regularly to ensure that campers have not left anything out at their site that could attract wildlife.

If you return to your site and discover that items are missing, they may have been moved to wildlife-proof storage. Look for a notice left by park staff. It contains further instructions.

### A "Wildlife at risk" (and cancelled permit) site



photo: Angela Spooner

Campers who fail to comply with the requirements of the "Bare Campsite" program may have their camping permit cancelled, with no refund, and may be charged under the *Canada National Parks Act and Regulations*.

## Sharing an Ecosystem – *You are camping within wildlife habitat*

Animals rely on every part of this landscape for their survival. Their travel routes, natural food sources, mating grounds, and resting sites don't necessarily stop at the campground boundary! You may encounter wildlife at any time. Be aware of your surroundings, especially at dusk and dawn, or in densely vegetated areas. Surprising a bear feeding on natural food such as berries can be dangerous.



## Wildlife viewing – a word about Safety!

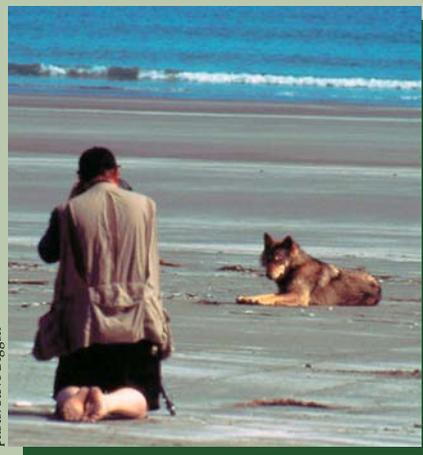


photo: Steve Diggom

Seeing wild animals in the park can be a thrilling and rewarding experience, but remember:

- All wild animals are potentially dangerous.
- Never approach, feed, or entice wildlife of any kind, regardless of size.
- Keep a safe viewing distance at all times (30 to 100 metres).

*Please report all bear, cougar and wolf sightings to park staff immediately.*

*Thank you! Your efforts in keeping a “BARE” campsite are appreciated by Parks Canada and your fellow campers. Please take what you have learned here to other campgrounds in the future – we can all help to keep each other safe and wildlife wild.*