

## WILDLIFE VIEWING TIPS

Bring binoculars or a spotting scope to get a better look at wildlife, without disturbing them. Sheep in particular are sensitive to disturbance, and it's important to give them plenty of space.



Get to know the species you wish to see. Learn about where it likes to live, what it eats, and when it's most active.



- Upon arrival at a location, spend time quietly observing. Hiding animals may reveal themselves once they sense no danger.
- Keep your dog on a leash and under control at all times. To a wild animal, dogs look just like wolves and will scare them away.
- Never bait, lure, or feed wildlife. Not only is it illegal, it can harm animals and be dangerous for people.



Report wildlife harassment to the Yukon Turn in Poachers and Polluters (TIPP) line at: **1-800-661-0525**

For more information

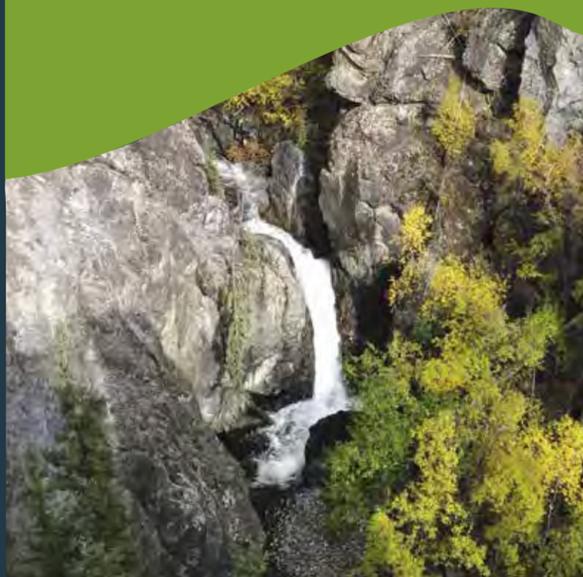
**Ross River Dena Council**  
867-969-2277 ext. 200  
rossriverdenacouncil.com



**Town of Faro**  
867-994-2728  
faroyukon.ca

**Campbell Region Interpretive Centre**  
867-994-2288  
(seasonal May to September)

**Conservation Officer  
Services Branch (Faro office)**  
867-994-2862



# Wildlife viewing in the Faro and Ross River area

**Wildlife Viewing Program**  
867-667-8291

**Toll free in the Yukon:**  
1-800-661-0408, ext. 8291

[wildlife.viewing@yukon.ca](mailto:wildlife.viewing@yukon.ca)

[Yukon.ca/wildlife](http://Yukon.ca/wildlife)



**Yukon**



Area highlighted is the traditional territory of the Kaska Dena.

## Highlights of the Faro and Ross River region



### The Tintina Trench

This dramatic geological feature cuts a 725 km diagonal line across the Yukon. Migrating birds follow the trench, making the communities of Faro, Ross River and Watson Lake prime birding locations. In spring, you can often see birds here that are not commonly seen elsewhere in the Yukon.

### Sandhill Crane migration

Sandhill Cranes spend the winter in Texas, and then fly thousands of kilometres to their nesting grounds in northern and central Yukon and Alaska. With a two-metre wingspan and a loud, rolling rattle call, flocks of thousands of birds can be heard coming up the valley. Every May, Faro hosts a festival that celebrates this birding spectacle.



### Fannin's sheep

Fannin's sheep are a hybrid between the dark-coloured Stone's Sheep of the south, and the white-coloured Dall's Sheep in the north. After the last ice age, the two colours of thinhorn sheep met, and created Fannin's sheep. Faro is one of the few places you can easily see these unique sheep. Visit the Mt. Mye Sheep Centre to learn more.

### Wildlife viewing in Faro

After the mine closed in the 1990s, Faro residents invested in developing infrastructure to facilitate viewing and appreciating the natural world. With the easy access to wilderness, unique species of the region and low human impact, the Faro and Ross River region is very special.



## STAYING SAFE

Everywhere in the Yukon is bear country, and it's important to be careful, but not afraid. The trails and roads of the Faro and Ross River region provide you with access to a vast wilderness with little infrastructure.



### Follow these tips to stay safe while exploring:

- Always tell someone where you're going, and when to expect you back.
- Carry an emergency communication device so you can call for help. Cell phones don't work outside of communities.
- Ensure you are prepared to be outdoors in changing conditions. Bring extra clothing, food, water, maps and good footwear to keep your feet safe.
- Carry bear spray on your belt, the outside of a pack, or on a strap. It needs to be easily accessible and not buried in a bag or tote.
- Keep your eyes and ears open. Look for signs – such as scat, digging, or prints – that a bear is in the area.
- Pick up the booklet *How you can stay safe in bear country* to learn more.

## Welcome

The traditional territory of the Kaska Dena is home to many communities, including Faro and Ross River. The area is rich with biodiversity and the many trails provide access to superb wildlife viewing experiences. Tu ɛlɛlɛni Kaska Dena have lived in this region for thousands of years, hunting, fishing, and respecting the bounty of the boreal forest.

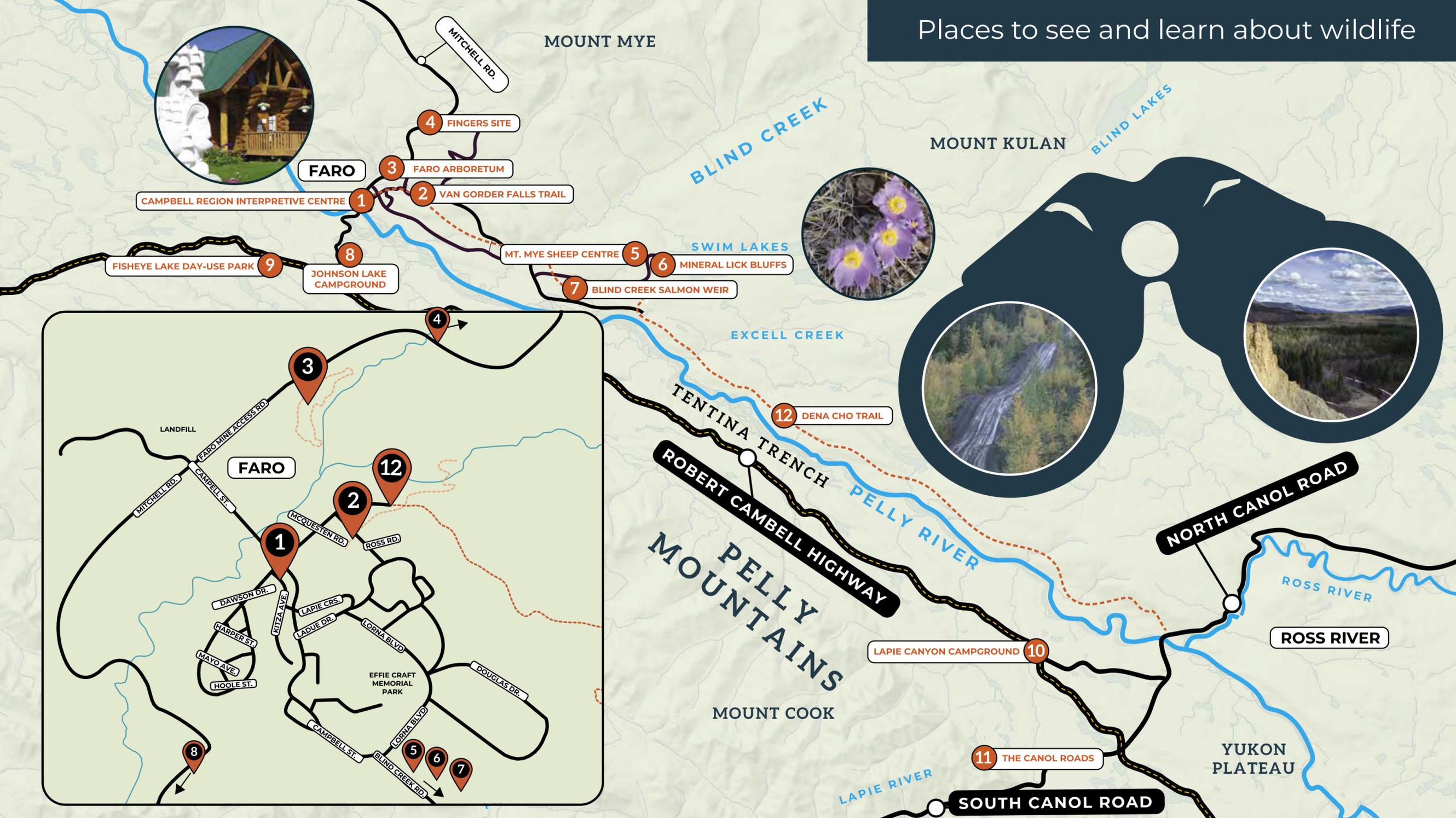
This guide highlights some of the key areas for viewing and appreciating wildlife. You're welcome to explore the trails, mountains, and rivers, but we remind you to be respectful of the land and the plants and animals that live there.

Take only pictures, leave the landscape for all to enjoy.

How you can **STAY SAFE** in bear country



Yukon



### 1. Campbell Region Interpretive Centre

Start your tour of Faro where local staff can help you plan your visit. Exhibits describe the unique geology, natural history, and historic culture of this mining town. The centre is open May to September.

### 2. Van Gorder Falls Trail

Start at the John Connolly RV Park to access this 1.6 km nature trail that climbs up to a scenic waterfall. Interpretive panels along the way tell you about the different ecosystems you pass through. The trail is steep in places and can be slippery on a rainy day.

### 3. Faro Arboretum

Located north of town at km 11 of the Mitchell Road, this site showcases native plants and animals. You will find interpretive panels, viewing decks, and resting benches along the 1.2 km walking loop trail.

### 4. Fingers site

A creek cuts a deep trench along the west side of the road, 2.5 km north of Faro. The resulting erosion leave the impression of "fingers" on the steep walls of the gully. A platform provides excellent viewing of the cliffs commonly used by Fannin's sheep, bears, and other wildlife. Enjoy this excellent site for a picnic, complete with RV parking, and outhouse facilities.

### 5. Mount Mye Sheep Centre

Follow the Blind Creek Road for 7.5 km and stay left when it forks. The road ends at a gate with a parking area and small interpretive cabin. In fall, winter, and spring, sheep are visible along the mountainside, though you'll need binoculars to see them. The cabin and viewing platform are open year-round, complete with information about cranes and sheep.

### 6. Mineral lick bluffs

The track leading around the gate at the Mount Mye Sheep Centre offers a pleasant walk to the bluffs overlooking Blind Creek. Turn off the road after 300 metres and follow the trail to a stunning view of the Pelly River valley. Fannin's sheep are often visible along the top edge of the bluff, where they lick minerals from the exposed soil. Wind scours this area and keeps it snow-free during the winter.

**WARNING: Be careful close to the edge of the bluffs!**

### 7. Blind Creek salmon weir

The right fork of the Blind Creek Road takes you down into the valley. At Blind Creek, you can see salmon swimming upstream during spawning season. Tu hidlini Kaska Dena harvest salmon from Blind Creek, as they have for generations. Interpretive panels speak to the life cycle importance of salmon in the area.

**WARNING: Lower Blind Creek Road is rough and not suitable for RVs or towing trailers.**

### 8. Johnson Lake Campground

Plan to spend the night at this Government of Yukon campground, just outside of Faro. A variety of water birds can be found around the marshy lake and a local bird checklist will help you know what to look for.

### 9. Fisheye Lake

This day-use area is equipped with a boat ramp, picnic facilities and a playground. Watch for diving ducks and loons on the lake. Fishing is good, as the lake is stocked with Rainbow Trout and Kokanee Salmon. A quiet paddle in the shallow bays may reveal the red-coloured Kokanee spawning.

### 10. Lapie Canyon Campground

At km 364 of the Robert Campbell Highway, the Government of Yukon Lapie Canyon Campground provides access to walking trails right along the edge. Cliff-nesting birds can often be seen here as well as the rare Yukon Goldenweed, which blooms in May.

### 11. The Canol roads

In 1943 the Canol roads were built to run parallel to an oil pipeline from Norman Wells, NWT. Though the pipeline was abandoned in 1945 the roads are still maintained in the summer and provide access to spectacular landscapes. Plan to travel slowly, as these roads are rough and have excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. There are no services along these roads, so be sure to know how to change a tire, and carry plenty of gas.

### 12. Dena Cho Trail

This 67.6 km multi-use recreation trail connects Faro and Ross River following a traditional Tu hidlini Kaska Dena route. Four well-maintained cabins with woodstoves are spread out along the trail, offering spectacular views of the Pelly River and mountains beyond. This is a remote wilderness experience, and will take several days to complete.

### The Faro trails

Faro has seen a lot of changes to the landscape in its short history. Numerous trails suitable for hiking, mountain biking, skiing, or snowmobiling surround the townsite. These trails provide easy access to the wilderness and increase your chances of seeing wildlife. **Pick up a copy of the Faro Trails brochure for distances and directions.**

