

2015 BPXA Polar Bear Sightings - Greater Prudhoe Bay											
Oxbow Gravel Pit Den (January - March 2015)											
Date Observed	Time Observed	Date Reported	Time Reported	Asset	Location	Number	Description of Bear(s)	Duration	Deterrent Action Y/N	Deterrent Description	Description of Encounter
1/11/15	12:40	1/11/15	17:45	GPB	Oxbow Gravel Pit	1	Adult Female	1 hr	N	None	Bear was observed digging into the side of a hill near the Oxbow gravel pit. It was believed that the bear had a den, but no cubs were seen.
2/26/15	4:29	2/26/15	8:20	GPB	Oxbow Gravel Pit	1	Adult Female	21 min	N	None	Bear was observed sitting down above the den entrance and went out of sight at 04:50. Oxbow road traffic was shut down from West Dock intersection to DS 15 access road. Security FLIR team monitored den site area with truck-mounted and hand-held IR camera. Borough landfill personal shut down generators in preparation of closing down the landfill. It was planned that the den area would be monitored by Security FLIR team until day light hours and continue until directed otherwise.
	23:30	2/27/15	5:45	GPB	Oxbow Gravel Pit	1	Adult Female	5 seconds	N	None	Bear popped her head out of the den for a few seconds and went back into the den. FLIR showed a heat signature, but no further sighting of bear.
2/28/15	9:50	2/28/15	12:45	GPB	Oxbow Gravel Pit	1	Adult Female	57 min	N	None	Bear was observed digging out of the snow and popping her head out of the hole and retreating back into it. This continued for approximately 57 minutes, with her head appearing between 30-40 times during this period.
3/1/15	21:34	3/2/15	5:30	GPB	Oxbow Gravel Pit	1	Adult Female	2 hr 26 min	N	None	Security detected a heat signature at a second den entrance, but it disappeared. Approximately 2 hours later, a polar bear head was observed at second den entrance, popping its head out of the hole and retreating back into it. Thirty-seven minutes later, the polar bear exited from a new hole between the original and second den entrance. The bear walked around eating snow and cleaning its paws and eventually walked out of sight into Oxbow gravel pit. Bear returned to view chasing a red fox, but eventually gave up and laid down 200ft from den entrance.
3/2/15	5:16	3/2/15	7:00	GPB	Oxbow Gravel Pit	1	Adult Female	5 hr 16 min	N	None	Bear was outside of the den walking around the area when Security changed personnel at midnight. At 05:16 the bear re-entered the den.
3/4/15	19:16	3/5/15	1:07	GPB	Oxbow Gravel Pit	1	Adult Female	4 hr 17 min	N	None	The bear stuck her head out of the den, emerging about 40 minutes later. The bear wandered around the area, clawed a landfill fence, played with a road cone and slid around on the snow. About 3.5 hours later the bear went back into her den.
3/5/15	17:04	3/5/15	19:20	GPB	Oxbow Gravel Pit	1	Adult Female	3 min	N	None	The bear stuck her head out of the den, sniffing and looking around, eventually re-entering the den.
	19:16	3/6/15	1:10	GPB	Oxbow Gravel Pit	1	Adult Female	1 hr 29 min	N	None	The bear stuck her head out of the den, and emerged several minutes later. The bear wandered around the area of her den, once within 50 ft of the Security truck, and returned back to her den. The bear later came out again, but Security lost sight of her until she reappeared within 30 ft of the truck. Security backed up their vehicle and the bear returned to her den.
3/6/15	7:46	3/6/15	13:02	GPB	Oxbow Gravel Pit	1	Adult Female	2 hr 50 min	N	None	The bear was observed exiting the den and being active in the area, including a bowel movement. Ravens were observed in the area. Shortly after the bear returned to her den.
	18:32	3/7/15	1:18	GPB	Oxbow Gravel Pit	1	Adult Female	3 hr 2 min	N	None	The bear stuck her head out of the den, and emerged several minutes later. The bear wandered around the area of her den. She explored the base of the gravel pit and seemed to be eating something she dug up. The bear chased a fox, which has been seen in the area before, and returned back to her den.
3/7/15	9:44	3/7/15	14:30	GPB	Oxbow Gravel Pit	1	Adult Female	34 min	N	None	Bear was observed popping her head out of the hole and retreating back into it over about 30 minutes.
	13:25	3/7/15	20:20	GPB	Oxbow Gravel Pit	1	Adult Female	2 hr 30 min	N	None	Bear was observed popping its head out the den, sniffing and looking around, then retreating back into the den. The bear fully emerged from the den 20 minutes later and was playing with a road delineator. The bear was also observed chasing a raven and possibly following the scent of a fox. At 14:54 the bear crossed the Oxbow road heading east, then proceeded to cross West Dock road continuing east. Visibility was lost when the bear went under the DS L2 pipeline.
	16:45	3/7/15	19:11	GPB	Niakuk and DS L5	1	Adult Female	1 hr 20 min	N	None	Bear was observed traveling NE from the East Dock and DS L5 area until visual was lost.
3/8/15	18:00	3/9/15	7:07	GPB	Oxbow Gravel Pit	0	No bear observed	12 hr monitoring	N	None	Bear was not observed between 3/8/15 18:00 and 3/9/15 06:00. Security did not observe either the sow return to the den nor any heat signatures from the den.
3/9/15	6:00	3/9/15	15:48	GPB	Oxbow Gravel Pit	0	No bear observed	9 hr monitoring	N	None	Bear was not observed between 3/9/15 06:00 and 3/9/15 15:00. Security did not observe the sow return to the den and 48 hours passed since the bear exited the area. Therefore, the bear den was considered abandoned.
Oxbow Gravel Pit Den Sighting Reports Total = 16 / Oxbow Gravel Pit Den Individual Bear Estimation = 1											