



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Species Profile

Environmental Conservation Online System



Western Snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*)

Kingdom: Animalia Class: Aves Order: Ciconiiformes Family: Charadriidae

Listing Status: **Threatened**

Quick links: [Federal Register](#) [Recovery](#) [Critical Habitat](#) [Conservation Plans](#) [Petitions](#) [Life History](#) [Other Resources](#)

General Information

The western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) is a small shorebird distinguished from other plovers (family Charadriidae) by its small size, pale brown upper parts, dark patches on either side of the upper breast, and dark gray to blackish legs. Snowy plovers weigh between 1.2 and 2 ounces. They are about 5.9 to 6.6 inches long.

Lead Region: Map of Species occurrence

[California/Nevada](#) For the best experience, make sure that javascript is enabled and that you have the Adobe Flash [Region \(Region 8\)](#) Player installed [Click here to download and install the Flash Player](#)

Date

Listed: 1993-03-05 00:00:00.0

Where

Listed: U.S.A. (CA, OR, WA), Mexico (within 50 miles of Pacific coast)

States/US

Territories in which the Western Snowy plover, Pacific coastal pop. is known to occur: [California](#) , [Oregon](#) , [Washington](#)

US Counties in which the Western



This map represents our best available information about where a species is currently known to occur; however, it should NOT be used as an official species list for Section 7 Consultation purposes. To obtain an official species list for this purpose, please contact the Fish & Wildlife Office near you

Snowy plover, (click here: <http://www.fws.gov/offices/>)

Pacific coastal pop. is known to occur: [View All](#)

USFWS Refuges in which the Western Snowy plover, Pacific coastal pop. is known to occur: BANDON MARSH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE , DON EDWARDS SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE , GUADALUPE-NIPOMO DUNES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE , HUMBOLDT BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE , SALINAS RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ... [Show All Refuges](#)

Countries in which the the Western Snowy plover, Pacific coastal pop. is known to occur: Mexico

For more information: http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/life_histories/B07C.html

» Federal Register Documents

Most Recent Federal Register Documents (Showing 5 of 21 : [view all](#))

Date	Citation Page	Title
11/05/2007	72 FR 62485 62486	Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Habitat Conservation Plan for the Western Snowy Plover Along the Oregon Coast
09/24/2007	72 FR 54279 54280	Recovery Plan for the Pacific Coast Population of the Western Snowy Plover
02/14/2007	72 FR 7064 7084	Initiation of 5-Year Reviews of 58 Species in California and Nevada: Availability of Completed 5-Year Reviews in California and Nevada
06/20/2006	71 FR 35406 35407	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Proposed Special Rule Pursuant to Section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act for the Pacific Coast Distinct Population Segment of the Western Snowy Plover: Proposed rule: extension of comment period.
04/21/2006	71 FR 20607 20624	12-Month Finding on a Petition to Delist the Pacific Coast Population of the Western Snowy Plover

Most Recent Special Rule Publications (Showing 1 of 1)

Date	Citation Page	Title
04/21/2006	71 FR 20625 20636	Proposed Special Rule Pursuant to Section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act for the Pacific Coast Distinct Population Segment of the Western Snowy Plover

» Recovery

[Recovery Plan Information Search](#)

- [Information Search FAQs](#)

Current Recovery Plan(s)

Date	Title	Plan Action Status	Plan Status
09/24/2007	Final Recovery Plan for the Western Snowy Plover	View Implementation Progress	Final

Other Recovery Documents (Showing 5 of 5)

Date	Citation Page	Title	Document Type

09/24/2007	72 FR 54279 54280	Recovery Plan for the Pacific Coast Population of the Western Snowy Plover	Notice Final Recovery Plan Availability
02/14/2007	72 FR 7064 7084	Initiation of 5-Year Reviews of 58 Species in California and Nevada: Availability of Completed 5-Year Reviews in California and Nevada	• Notice 5-year Review, Completion
08/16/2005	70 FR 48094 48098	Proposed Designation of Critical Habitat for the Pacific Coast Population of the Western Snowy Plover: notice of availability of draft economic analysis.	• Notice Doc. Availability
03/22/2004	69 FR 13326 13329	90-Day Finding on a Petition to Delist the Pacific Coast Population of the Western Snowy Plover and Initiation of a 5-Year Review	• Notice 5-year Review • Notice 90-day Petition Finding, Substantial
08/14/2001	66 FR 42676 42677	Notice of Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Pacific Coast Population of the Western Snowy Plover for Review and Comment	• Notice Recovery Plan Avail.

Five Year Review

Date	Title
05/31/2006	Western Snowy Plover - Pacific Coast Population 5-Year Review

» Critical Habitat

Current Critical Habitat Documents (Showing 4 of 4)

Date	Citation Page	Title	Document Type	Status
09/29/2005	70 FR 56969 57119	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Designation of Critical Habitat for the Pacific Coast Population of the Western Snowy Plover; Final Rule	Final Rule	Active
12/17/2004	69 FR 75607 75656	Proposed Designation of Critical Habitat for the Pacific Coast Population of the Western Snowy Plover; Proposed Rule	Proposed Rule	Not Required
12/07/1999	64 FR 68507 68544	ETWP: Designation of Critical Habitat for the Pacific Coast Population of the Western Snowy Plover	Final Rule	Not Required
03/02/1995	60 FR 11767 11809	ETWP: Proposed Designation of Critical Habitat for the Pacific Coast Population of the Western Snowy Plover	Proposed Rule	Not Required

To learn more about critical habitat please see <http://criticalhabitat.fws.gov>

» Conservation Plans

Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) ([learn more](#)) (Showing 5 of 11 : [view all](#))

HCP Plan Summaries

[Cal. Dept. of Corrections Statewide Electrified Fence Project](#)[Humboldt Redwood Company \(formerly Pacific Lumber, Headwaters\)](#)[Kern Water Bank](#)[MHCP, City of Carlsbad Habitat Management Plan](#)[MSCP, City of Chula Vista Subarea Plan](#)Safe Harbor Agreements (SHA): ([learn more](#)) (Showing 1 of 1)

SHA Plan Summaries

[Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Ormond Beach Property](#)

» Petitions

Most Recent Petition Findings (Showing 3 of 3)

Date	Citation Page	Title	Finding
04/21/2006	71 FR 20607 20624	12-Month Finding on a Petition to Delist the Pacific Coast Population of the Western Snowy Plover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice 12 month petition finding, Not warranted
03/22/2004	69 FR 13326 13329	90-Day Finding on a Petition to Delist the Pacific Coast Population of the Western Snowy Plover and Initiation of a 5-Year Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice 5-year Review • Notice 90-day Petition Finding, Substantial
11/14/1988	53 FR 45788	Findings on Petitions to List Populations of Western Snowy Plover & CA Mountain Lion: 53 FR 45788	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice 90-day Petition Finding, Substantial

» Life History

No Life History information has been entered into this system for this species.

» Other Resources

[NatureServe Explorer Species Reports](#) -- NatureServe Explorer is a source for authoritative conservation information on more than 50,000 plants, animals and ecological communities of the U.S and Canada. NatureServe Explorer provides in-depth information on rare and endangered species, but includes common plants and animals too. NatureServe Explorer is a product of NatureServe in collaboration with the Natural Heritage Network.

[ITIS Reports](#) -- ITIS (the Integrated Taxonomic Information System) is a source for authoritative taxonomic information on plants, animals, fungi, and microbes of North America and the world.

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