

# Pacifica Shorebird Alliance



PacificaShorebird.org

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## Pacifica State Beach

### Why is Pacifica State Beach particularly sensitive?:

- Pacifica State Beach is home to one of the largest numbers of shorebirds along the length of Pacifica. Many of which are suffering declining numbers.
- One of the species found at Pacifica State beach is (the Snowy Plover) listed on the Federal Endangered Species List as "Threatened".
- This location is home to a small but Federally recognized and protected wetland on the Southern border which is in disrepair. This wetland is also used by waterfowl and is a holding area for (Threatened) Steelhead Trout migrating out to sea.



*A coot feeds at the small estuary found at the Southern end of Linda Mar.*

- Pacifica State Beach is listed as habitat by the USFWS recovery plan.
- The recent renovation of Pacifica State Beach easily doubled the usage of this location, increasing pressure on the local wildlife, especially the shorebirds.
- The path that was put in during the renovation by the city of Pacifica inadvertently cut into the Eastern edge of the (Threatened) Snowy Plover habitat, increasing pressure on them.
- Much of the activities defined by wildlife experts as detrimental to the survival of shorebirds, are common at this location.
- At least two rounds of signs for protections of the Western Snowy Plover at this location were vandalized, destroyed and removed from this location in recent years.



*In addition to the Western Snowy Plover habitat on the North end of Pacifica State Beach, many shorebirds use the shallows where San Pedro Creek drains in the ocean. Here a Black Oyster Catcher and Whimbrel forage at this location.*

### **What are the solutions?**

These are the main problems that are all well documented which affect the Western Snowy Plover in a habitat such as Pacifica State Beach. These are also true for the many of the other shorebirds found there as well.

1. **Human Traffic**
2. **Dogs off leash (or in close proximity on-leash))**
3. **Predators such as ravens, feral cats etc...**
4. **Fires and fireworks**
5. **Kites and frisbees near shorebird feeding/roosting/nesting.**

**Education for beachgoers is key - See links to CA State Parks flier and Frequently Asked Questions on the "Snowy Plover" Page.**

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