

Share Our Seashore and Protect the Western Snowy Plover



***National Park Service
Point Reyes National Seashore***

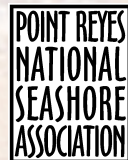
Plovers and Your Dog

*Each person who visits the Seashore
affects the Snowy Plover's
ability to survive.*

**Dogs are prohibited from
Snowy Plover nesting beaches
during breeding season.**

Leashed dogs are allowed at:

- **North Beach, from parking lot south to Lighthouse Beach**
- **Kehoe Beach, from Kehoe creek north to cliffs**
- **Limantour Beach, east of the beach trailhead**



For More Information:

www.nps.gov/pore

www.prbo.org

415-464-5100

**Point Reyes National Seashore
1 Bear Valley Rd
Point Reyes, CA 94956**

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Respect posted habitat areas.
- Stay at least 50 feet away from the birds and nests.
- Walk dogs only where authorized and always on leash.
- Properly dispose of garbage to avoid attracting predators.
- Leave drift wood lying on sand. It provides nesting and feeding habitat for plovers. Upright wood provides perches for bird predators.
- Report unprotected nests.
- Walk near water line on beach.
- Share knowledge with others.
- Volunteer to restore plover habitat.



WHAT IS A SNOWY PLOVER?

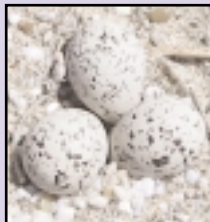
Physical Description

- sparrow-sized shorebird
- gray head and back with dark patches on either side of neck, behind eyes and forehead
- well camouflaged in habitat



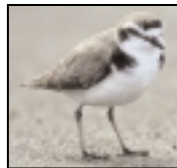
Habitat

- flat, open coastal beaches, in dunes or near stream mouths
- birds crouch in small depressions in sand to take shelter from the wind
- year round residents of California, Oregon, and Washington state beaches

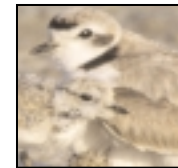


Life Cycle




- breeds mid-March through mid-September
- nests directly in sand
- feed on invertebrates in dry sand
- lays 2-3 well camouflaged eggs over 4-5 days
- eggs are incubated for 1 month
- chicks are flightless for first month and depend on males for protection
- female leaves a few days after hatching eggs to begin a new nest



WHY ARE THEY THREATENED?



The Snowy Plover is a federally threatened species. There are 3 main factors that threaten the plover.

SOURCE	CAUSE	EFFECT
Direct Plover Disturbance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human activity interferes with plover nesting and/or foraging behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults leave nest • Eggs are exposed to wind, sun and rain • Chick survival rates are reduced
Predation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unleashed dogs • Crows, ravens, harriers, falcons • Fox, skunks, bobcats, raccoons, coyotes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of adults • Chicks are unable to find food on their own • Loss of chicks • Adults attempt energy intensive process of re-nesting
Habitat Loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach development • Non-native plant encroachment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less space for Snowy Plovers to breed successfully • Less prey foraging areas • Less places to hide from predators

PROTECTING SNOWY PLOVERS PROTECTS COASTAL DIVERSITY

Plovers have lived on California beaches for thousands of years. Currently it is estimated that only 1300 Western Snowy Plovers are breeding along the Pacific Coast.

Plovers aren't the only species of birds that use this threatened habitat. Approximately 490 species of birds visit Point Reyes National Seashore.

Reducing species diversity makes future visitors' experience at the Seashore less rich.

Snowy Plovers are listed as a threatened species and protected by the federal Endangered Species Act. Visitors who disturb plovers, or breeding habitat may be cited or fined.

