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.

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
415.464.5137
Point Reyes National Seashore
1 Bear Valley Rd
Point Reyes, CA 94956

National Park Service
Point Reyes National Seashore
Why Are They Threatened?

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

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<th>SOURCE</th>
<th>CAUSE</th>
<th>EFFECT</th>
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| Direct Plover Disturbance | • Human activity interferes with plover nesting and/or foraging behavior | • Adults leave nest  
|                         | **Source**                                      | • Eggs are exposed to wind, sun and rain  
|                         | **Cause**                                       | • Chick survival rates are reduced          |
| Predation               | • Unleashed dogs                                | • Loss of adults                           |
|                         | • Crows, ravens, harriers, falcons              | • Chicks are unable to find food on their own |
|                         | • Fox, skunks, bobcats, raccoons, coyotes       | • Loss of chicks                           |
|                         | **Source**                                      | • Adults attempt energy intensive process of re-nesting |
| Habitat Loss            | • Beach development                             | • Less space for Snowy Plovers to breed successfully |
|                         | • Non-native plant encroachment                 | • Less prey foraging areas                 |
|                         | **Source**                                      | • 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.

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