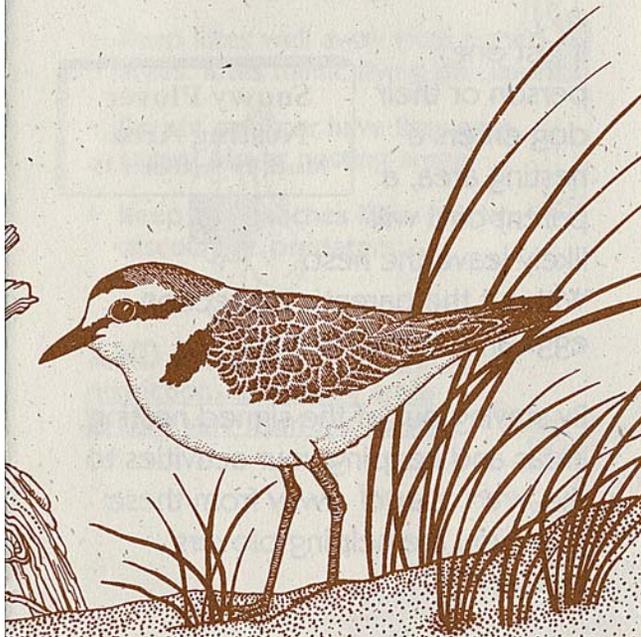


Sharing the Beach



How you can help the
Western Snowy Plover...

Actions You Should Take

There are many ways to share Oregon beaches and help protect the Western Snowy Plover.

FROM MARCH 15 to SEPT. 15:

- Do not enter the signed nesting areas.
- Leave pets at home or keep them on a leash.
- Keep vehicles and horses out of signed nesting areas.
- Keep kites well away from signed areas. Kites mimic flying predators.
- Do not camp or have fires near snowy plover nesting areas.
- Keep the beaches litter-free to discourage predators.

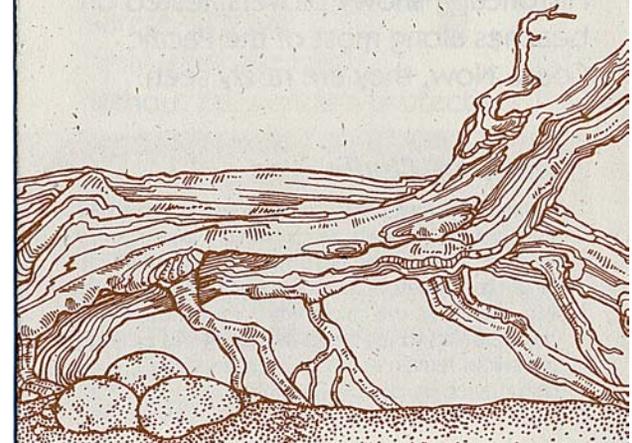


AND PLEASE: Check for local restrictions at nesting areas as they vary from site to site.

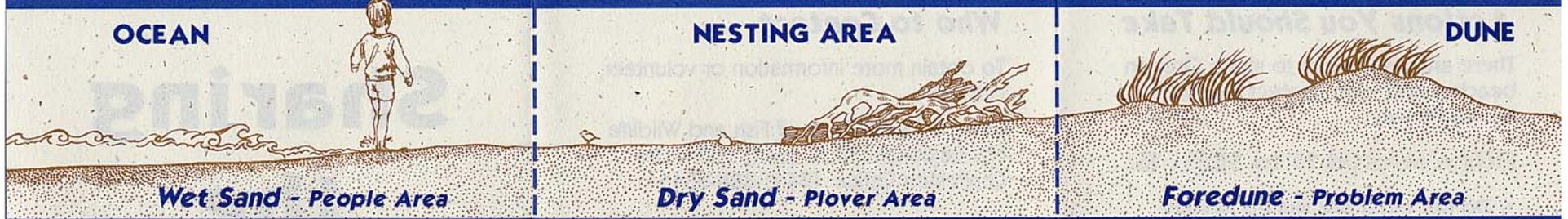
Who to Contact

To obtain more information or volunteer, contact:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
NW Regional Office: (541) 757-4186
Charleston Office: (541) 888-5515



SHARING THE BEACH



People

You can join others in helping to save this Oregon coastal treasure.

If just one person or their dog enters a nesting area, a parent bird will likely leave the nest. Without the parent's protection, eggs and chicks may die.

By staying out of the signed nesting areas and keeping your activities to the **wet sand** away from these sites, you are helping plovers survive.



Plovers

These small lightly colored birds lay their eggs directly on **dry sand** areas of open beaches. They blend so well with their surroundings that they are easily stepped on or run over.

Historically, snowy plovers nested on beaches along most of the Pacific Coast. Now, they are rarely seen.

Nesting Challenges

Parents take turns sitting on the nest for up to 30 days before the eggs hatch. When a parent is startled, it leaves the nest. The eggs are then left at risk to predators, weather and blowing sand. After hatching, the chicks will spend another 30 days learning to feed and fly. During this period the chicks remain at risk to predators and disturbance by people and their pets.

Problems

Snowy plover populations have drastically declined due to:

- Habitat loss from spreading European beach grass creates a **foredune** and shrinks the plover's sandy beach habitat;
- Predators like skunks, raccoons and crows prey on chicks and eggs. They use beach grass as cover;
- Accidental and careless disturbance by people and their pets.

Recovery Strategies

The Western Snowy Plover has been listed as a threatened species, one that needs protection now. Therefore, public use at some Oregon Coast beaches is restricted from **March 15 to September 15**. Other recovery strategies include removal of European beach grass, research, fencing nests, and educational programs.

NESTING SEASON

March 15

T I M E T O S H A R E

September 15

