



Western snowy plover nest inside of a lobster trap.
Photo by: Debra Barringer taken at McGrath State Beach 2015

Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

2015

Channel Coast District

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Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

<i>Goals and Objectives</i>	3
Ongoing Objectives:	3
<i>2014-2015 Management Strategies</i>	4
<i>Program Overview and Milestones</i>	4
METHODS	6
<i>Monitoring</i>	10
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	12
<i>Superintendent’s Closure Order</i>	12
<i>Nesting Habitat Protective Fencing</i>	12
<i>Mini Nest Exclosures</i>	13
<i>Public Outreach</i>	14
<i>Volunteer Efforts</i>	15
RESULTS	16
<i>Winter Surveys</i>	16
<i>Breeding Season Surveys</i>	17
CONCLUSION	30
<i>Breeding Season</i>	30
<i>CCD 10(a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit</i>	32
<i>Public Education</i>	33
<i>Recommendations</i>	35
LITERATURE CITED	37

INTRODUCTION

Goals and Objectives

The western snowy plover (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*) (WSP) occurs on McGrath State Beach (SB), Mandalay SB, San Buenaventura SB, and Carpinteria SB within the Channel Coast District (CCD), of California State Parks. McGrath SB, Mandalay SB, and San Buenaventura SB provide winter foraging and breeding habitats while Carpinteria SB provides only winter foraging habitat for the WSP. In 2001-2002, the CCD established a broad program for the protection of the federally threatened WSP and its habitat on the CCD beaches. The goal of the CCD WSP program is to aid in the recovery of the population by reducing disturbance to WSP and increasing the quality of suitable habitat on CCD beaches for WSP while continuing to provide high quality outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for park visitors.

Ongoing Objectives:

1. Conduct comprehensive nesting surveys by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 10(a)(1)(A) permit holder.
2. Increase the hatch rate by protecting eggs and nests with the use of fencing and nest enclosures.
3. Reduce disturbance of WSP during the breeding season by educating park visitors and staff.
4. Reduce disturbance of WSP during the winter roosting and foraging season by educating park visitors and staff.
5. Continue collecting breeding and wintering roosting and foraging data from McGrath SB, Mandalay SB and San Buenaventura SB.
6. Continue adding data to the CCD survey database and Point Blue database.
7. Continue to use data collected in previous years to make both operational and resource management decisions.

2014-2015 Management Strategies

1. Increase monitoring capabilities and efficiencies by training additional CCD natural resources staff to be added to the 10(a)(1)(A) permit.
2. Enlist volunteers to assist with surveying and monitoring.
3. Conduct winter and breeding season population monitoring at least once per week.
4. Install symbolic fencing for the breeding season.
5. Conduct breeding season nest monitoring at least once per week.
6. Continue efforts to reduce nest loss with mini enclosures.
7. Monitor effectiveness of protection methods and modify if necessary.
8. Provide information to increase State Park employee, volunteer, and park visitor awareness of WSP and their habitat.
9. Collaborate and share information with other WSP program managers.
10. Update park staff on nesting activity at least once per week during the breeding season.
11. Collaborate with Ventura Audubon Society to implement a Docent Program.
12. Conduct WSP interpretive talks for Junior Lifeguard Program at San Buenaventura SB.
13. Increase survey efforts as needed at San Buenaventura SB to locate and protect nests prior to JG program and other special events.
14. Deploy remote cameras in the nesting area to monitor nesting and predator activity.
15. Develop and test various methods to deter human vandalism of nest enclosures.

Program Overview and Milestones

- 2001 CCD begins a comprehensive WSP program involving nesting and year-round population surveys, nesting area protection, data driven management, public and staff education, and volunteer involvement.
- 2002 CCD staff installs a fence around the WSP and CLT nesting area near McGrath Lake to discourage illegal Off-Highway Vehicle(OHV) use and camping.
- 2003 the use of large triangular nest enclosures begins.
- 2004 CCD staff installs “dogs prohibited” signs at beach access points near nesting and winter roosting areas at McGrath SB. Staff suspects nest enclosures draw

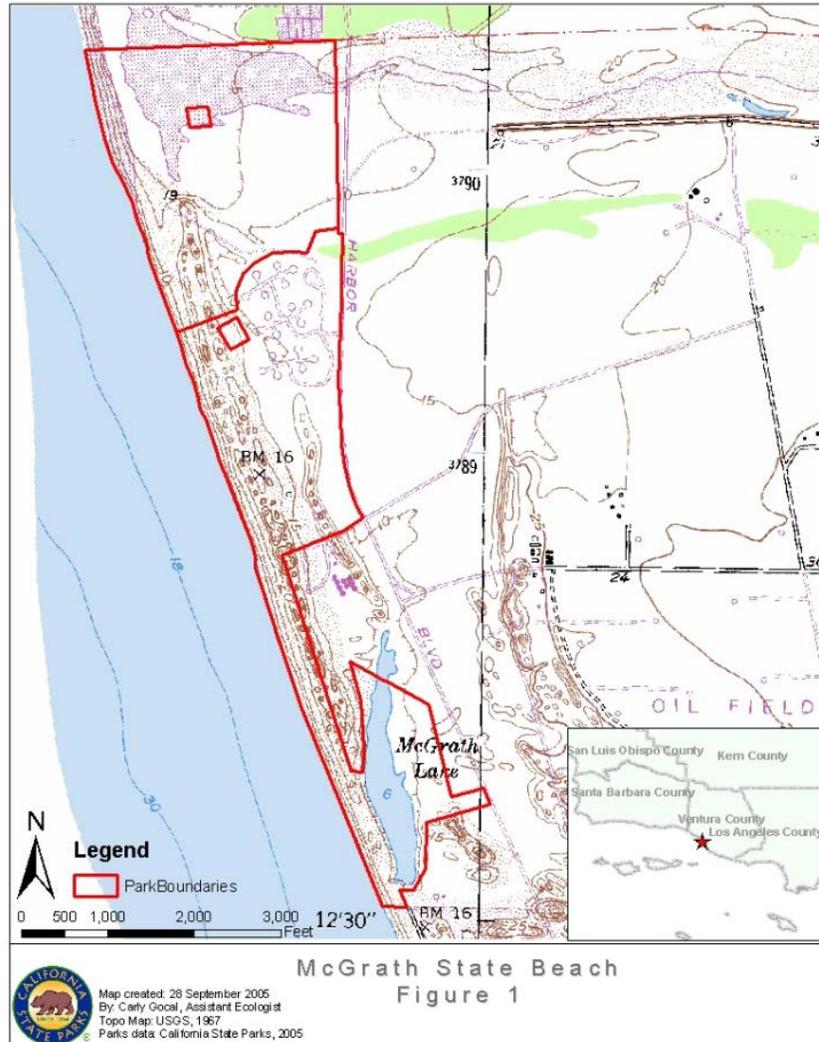
Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

- unnecessary attention to 2 nests which leads to vandalism and nest loss. A new mini enclosure is used for the remaining portion of nesting season.
- 2005 winter storms deposit a tremendous amount of debris onto the beach and reduced the amount of available habitat. The beach berm impounds the estuary during nesting season and rising water levels destroy several nests.
 - 2006 nesting areas change significantly due to changes in beach and lagoon morphology caused by winter storms in 2005.
 - 2007 nest vandalism and dog disturbances are still major contributors to nest failures.
 - 2008 nest hatch success rate is the highest since monitoring began in 2003 with 85% hatch rate. Incidents of human vandalism are down and predation becomes biggest cause of nest loss.
 - 2009 state budget woes result in the inability to pay for a contracted 10(a)(1)(A) permit holder. Volunteers fill in the gaps. This year has most nesting attempts recorded since 2004. Human vandalism is biggest cause of nest loss this season
 - 2010 10(a)(1)(A) permit holder, Reed Smith is contracted to assist with monitoring and to provide necessary training for CCD staff to successfully apply for a 10(a)(1)(A) permit for WSP.
 - 2011 CCD Environmental Scientist obtains a 10(a)(1)(A) permit for WSP and CLT. This year has the highest recorded number of nests hatched on CCD beaches since nest monitoring began in 2003.
 - 2012 Nest hatch success rate is lowest since 2003 at 55%; however this year has the most nesting attempts on record since nest monitoring began in 2003. Human vandalism incidents result in decision to discontinue the use of nest enclosures for the remainder of the season. San Buenaventura SB has its first documented nest.
 - 2013 Nest hatch success is lowest since monitoring began in 2003 at 19%. Minimal use of nest enclosures resulted in high predation rates. Nesting continues at San Buenaventura SB.
 - 2014 Nest hatch success increases with use of nest enclosures. Docent program begins. San Buenaventura fledges its first chicks.
 - 2015 Nest hatch success increases with use of nest enclosures. Docent program implemented. San Buenaventura fledges 1 chick.

METHODS

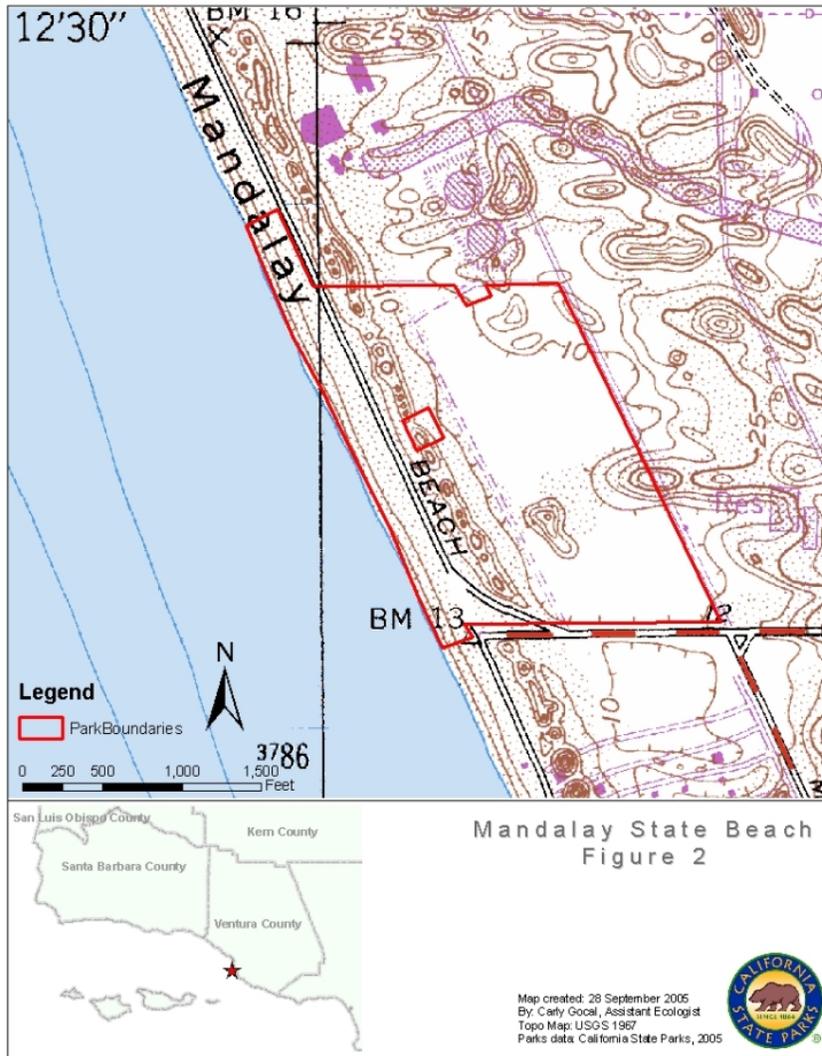
Survey Areas

McGrath State Beach



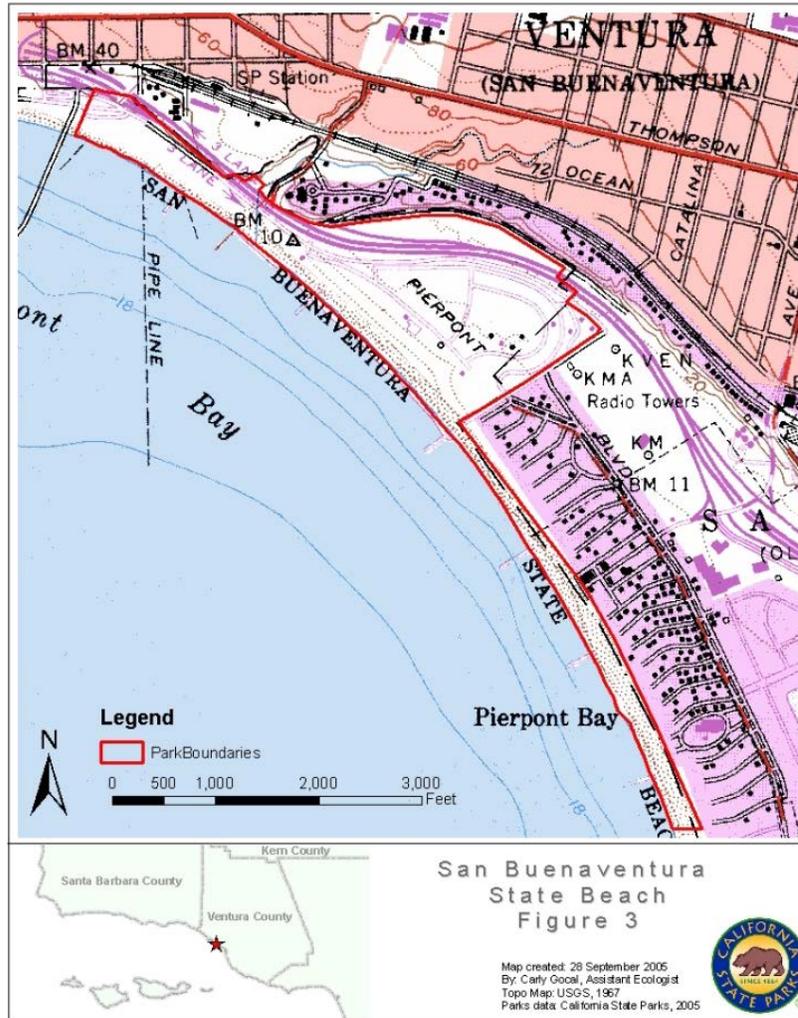
The 339-acre McGrath SB (Figure 1) is bordered on the north by the Santa Clara River Estuary Natural Preserve and to the south by the NRG generating station. The park can be accessed from Harbor Boulevard and the Ventura Harbor. It contains a campground, restrooms, day use area, coastal dune complex, sandy beach, and a small back-dune lake located at the southern end of the property. In recent years the McGrath campground has been closed due to flooding from the Santa Clara River Estuary during closed berm conditions. There is suitable habitat along the entire 2.5 mile coastline of McGrath SB for both wintering and breeding WSP populations.

Mandalay State Beach



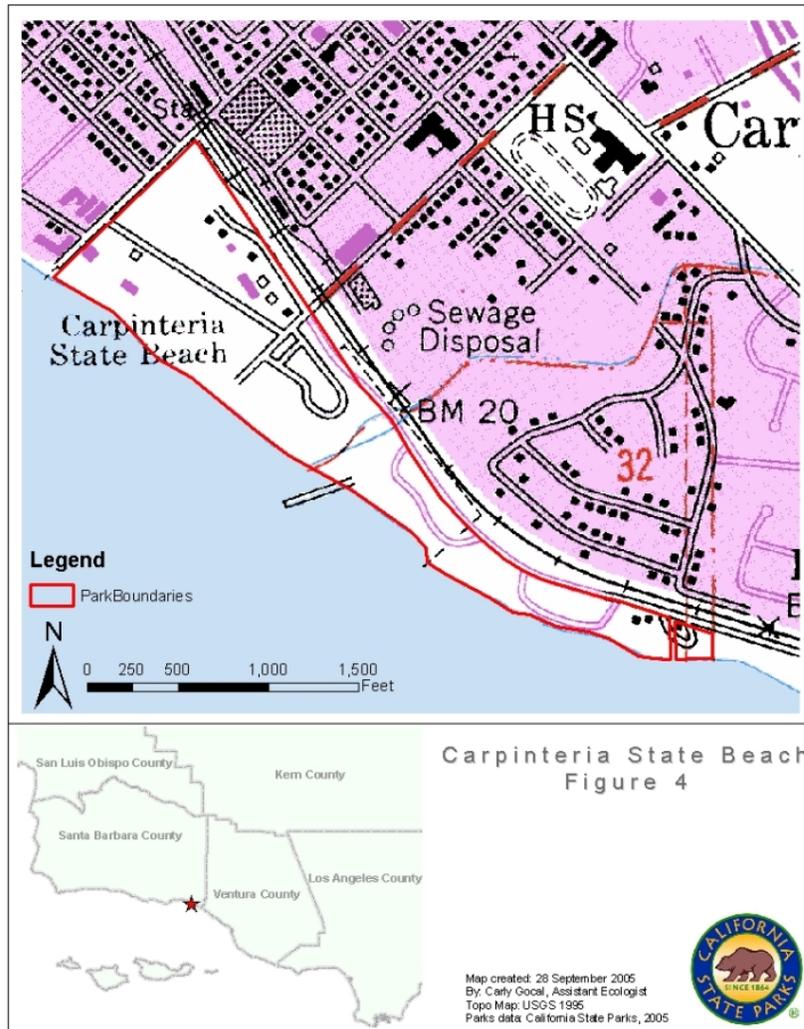
Mandalay SB (Figure 2) is an undeveloped 100-acre beach parcel largely made up of sandy beach and disturbed coastal dunes. The site is accessed by public streets Harbor Boulevard and West Fifth Street. A long-term Local Operating Agreement with Ventura County Parks Department was terminated Dec 2014 and State Parks now has full management responsibility for the park. There is suitable habitat along the entire 1 mile coastline of Mandalay SB for both wintering and breeding WSP populations.

San Buenaventura State Beach



San Buenaventura SB (Figure 3) is a highly developed 131-acre beach unit with day-use facilities such as grassy turf, picnic areas, restrooms, parking lots and a broad sandy beach. It is easily accessed by many public streets off of Harbor and Pierpont Boulevards and is adjacent to the residential community of Pierpont Bay. The wide expanse of sandy beach is ideal for sunbathing, kite flying, picnicking, volleyball, and general beach recreation. The beach also hosts a junior lifeguard program and numerous special events. Intensive summer recreation at San Buenaventura SB makes it a challenging breeding site for the WSP. Prior to documenting a nest in 2012, only wintering WSP had been observed at San Buenaventura SB. WSP currently utilize approximately one half mile of coastline in their nesting attempts at San Buenaventura SB between San Pedro Street and the San Jon Lagoon.

Carpinteria State Beach



Carpinteria SB (Figure 4) is a highly developed 62-acre recreational beach containing a campground, picnic areas, parking lots, restrooms, and a visitor’s center. Intensive summer recreation at Carpinteria SB makes it a challenging breeding site for the WSP. Also, the sandy beach at Carpinteria can become very narrow and does not provide consistent WSP habitat. Even though the habitat is less than ideal, WSP are occasionally found on the half mile of sandy beach available at Carpinteria SB, usually during migration periods. Carpinteria SB is monitored irregularly by volunteers and CCD staff.

Monitoring

Population monitoring and nest monitoring are utilized to determine the progress of management. Year round population monitoring occurs on all beaches where WSP are found. The data collected consists of total number of WSP seen, location of WSP, and leg bands observed. Winter flock population monitoring and breeding season population monitoring is completed at least once a week by CCD staff and/or Ventura Audubon Society volunteers using the population monitoring protocols described in Table 1. During the breeding season, population monitoring is typically done in conjunction with nest monitoring by a 10(a)(1)(A) permit holder.

Table 1: WSP Population Monitoring Protocol

Monitors will:	Winter Season	Breeding Season
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start the survey as early in the morning as possible. • Walk the entire length of the beach in a large zigzag trajectory to see more of the beach at close range. • Use binoculars to frequently scan the beach for WSP. • Record the number of WSP and locations of banded WSP. • Record potential predators and anything else of interest. • E-mail data to the WSP Coordinator after each survey. • Avoid entering the designated or likely nesting areas. • Record the status of all known nests by observing them through binoculars or spotting scope. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

Nest monitoring occurs weekly during the breeding season. Objectives include identifying nest locations, protecting nests, and determining nest fate. This is done by entering known nesting areas which may cause adult WSP to flush off a nest. Nest monitoring for the 2015 breeding season was conducted by CCD Natural Resources staff members Alexis Frangis, Brooke Sheridan and Chelsea Fletcher, with assistance from

Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

volunteers Deryk Godinez, Jennifer Gold, Anjanette Butler, Debra Barringer, Danielle Glenn, and Cynthia Hartley. WSP nest monitoring protocols are described in Table 2. A nest is considered a “hatch” if at least 1 egg is known to have hatched, “fail” if no eggs hatch, and “unknown” if fate cannot be determined for a given nest.

Overall nesting success for a breeding population is expressed as the percentage of nests that hatch. Fledge rate cannot accurately be determined because chicks are not banded on CCD beaches. To determine if a nest has hatched, monitors look for pips and/or chicks in the nest. Indirect evidence such as displaying adults, eggshell pieces, or chicks of appropriate age nearby may also indicate a nest has hatched. A fail designation is assumed if there is direct evidence of loss, abandonment, or signs of predation. Nests are labeled unknown when there is no physical evidence of fate. Unknown designations are given to nests that lack chicks, eggshells, displaying adults, or signs of predation.

Table 2: WSP Nest Monitoring Protocol

Monitors will:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perform tasks in Table 1.• Enter the designated or likely nesting areas.• Note locations of pairs exhibiting nesting or breeding behavior.• Record information about all new nests found, including number of eggs and whether the nest is being incubated or guarded by adults.• Use GPS unit to record location of nests.• Mark located nests with natural driftwood or a plain numbered tongue depressor to aid in locating the nest in next survey.• Protect nests with a mini enclosure, if deemed necessary.• Check the status of all known nests.• Determine 1 of 3 possible nest fates: hatch, fail, or unknown

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Superintendent’s Closure Order

A Superintendent’s Order is in place each year from March 15 to September 15 for McGrath SB, Mandalay SB, and San Buenaventura SB (see appendix) to prohibit people and

vehicles from entering nesting areas that are delineated with semi-permanent or seasonal symbolic fencing. The WSP Coordinator sends updates and reminders to park staff when this seasonal order is in effect.

Nesting Habitat Protective Fencing

Over 5 miles of fencing was used to protect nests on CCD beaches during the 2015 season. The fencing was installed over 3 days by State Parks natural resources staff with the assistance of State Parks seasonal lifeguards, volunteers from Oxnard City Corps, and staff from the USFWS Ventura office. The seasonal fencing was removed over a 3 day period in late October by the California Conservation Corps (CCC) through an inter-agency contract with funding secured by the Natural Resources Division. The semi-permanent fence at McGrath Lake was also removed in anticipation of the predicted El Nino condition and will be replaced with symbolic fencing prior to the start of the next breeding season.

Symbolic fencing consists of thimble eye bolt anchor rods strung together with rope and posted with WSP seasonal closure signs. Share the Shore children's signs are posted on symbolic fencing as well. The appendix contains an illustration of the WSP seasonal closure and Share the Shore children's signs. Individual symbolic fencing was not installed around outlier nests at McGrath or Mandalay. Rather, staked signs were placed in a perimeter around outlier nests primarily to alert staff that patrol the beach in vehicles. Fencing west of the campground and at McGrath Lake is in place to protect a nesting colony of federally endangered California least tern (CLT); however, it also provides protection for WSP and several other species using the nesting area including American avocets, black-necked stilts, killdeer and horned larks.

Prior to the start of the breeding season 9800 feet of seasonal symbolic fencing was installed at McGrath SB, 1000 feet was installed at San Buenaventura SB in the dunes near lifeguard headquarters (LGHQ), and 3200 feet of semi-permanent fence was installed at Mandalay SB. Additionally, 2500 feet of semi-permanent fence was in place around McGrath Lake. A portion of the semi-permanent fence was buried several feet in the sand and needed to be dug out and repositioned to compensate for the widening beach. Finally, 10,000 feet of symbolic fencing was in place around the dunes at San Buenaventura SB.

Although placement of this fence is primarily to protect the sensitive dune habitat, it also provides protection for WSP. This fencing had been in place for over 10 years and was in desperate need of repair. A large portion was repaired during an Earth Day volunteer event and the remainder was repaired by State Parks Environmental Services Interns.

Mini Nest Exclosures

Triangular exclosures as originally described in the WSP recovery plan were used to protect nests until mid-way through the 2004 breeding season when some nests protected by these exclosures failed due to human tampering. Mini nest exclosures similar to those field tested at Bolsa Chica have been used since then. The smaller footprint and the fact that the wire blends in with the background makes mini exclosures more difficult to see at a distance likely making them less susceptible to vandalism. Mini exclosures as seen in Figure 5 are an open bottom cube shape with 24 inch sides and top constructed from 2" x 4" mesh welded wire fencing to prevent predation by avian and mammalian predators.



Figure 5. Mini exclosure on a nest at San Buenaventura SB

An effort is made to install exclosures at times when adverse effects to nest fate are minimal. The recovery plan describes appropriate conditions for placing nest exclosures and these guidelines require that air temperatures be less than 80 deg F with fair weather and wind speeds less than 20 mph. Additionally, exclosures are placed on nests no sooner than

1.5 hours after sunrise or 2 hours before sunset. Since 2010, mini enclosures have been constructed out of lightweight galvanized garden wire which is a lighter and cheaper material with the same 2" x 4" mesh openings. The new material made construction more cost effective and transportation of the mini enclosures onto the beach easier.

The CCD has been utilizing mini nest enclosures for over 10 years with no documented adult mortality or high rates of nest abandonment leaving human vandalism as the greatest risk associated with their use on CCD beaches. The CCD has relied heavily on nest enclosures to increase WSP hatch rate and reduce loss of WSP nests to predators, however increased incidents of human disturbance to nest enclosures in recent years prompted a reevaluation their use. The extensive nest vandalism experienced in the 2012 season led to a decision to minimize the use of mini enclosures in the 2013 season. Without the use of enclosures in 2013 no nests hatched at Mandalay SB and 62 percent of nests at McGrath SB were lost to predators or unknown causes resulting in an extremely low hatch rate of 31 percent. In the 2014 nesting season mini enclosures were selectively used despite the elevated risk of human vandalism and the hatch rate at McGrath SB improved to 65 percent with only 23 percent of nests lost to predators or unknown causes. Nest enclosures were used again in 2015 and hatch rate improved to 78 percent with only 22 percent of nests lost to predators. Enclosures are effective at deterring nest predators; however the risk of human vandalism needs to be carefully considered when deciding whether or not to place an enclosure over a nest.

Public Outreach

WSP monitors routinely interact with park visitors recreating on the beach during population and nesting surveys. Typical contacts are initiated by monitors in order to address a situation where visitor activities are inconsistent with park rules and may disturb critical WSP habitat. Many contacts involve unauthorized dogs or dogs off leash. All dog owners encountered on the beach are informed about the park rules pertaining to dogs on state beaches and provided with alternative areas within the park or nearby where dogs are allowed. The "Dog Owner's Guide" created by park staff continues to be a great tool to provide for park visitors who wish to take their dogs to the beach (see appendix). Passive

Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

visitor education includes interpretive signs and educational pamphlets that include information regarding WSP status, threats, description of nesting and roosting zones, and how visitors can help protect the WSP. Informational signs are posted around all fenced areas and WSP pamphlets are available at the park kiosks and offices.

The CCD began ongoing collaboration with the Ventura Audubon Society to manage a Docent Program for Ventura County beaches in 2014. The CCD WSP program coordinator conducts the volunteer trainings where attendees complete 3 hours of training. The training consists of 2 hours of classroom material covering snowy plover natural history, threats and protections, and how to make good public contacts. The classroom training is followed by 1 hour in the field observing snowy plovers with a monitor and interacting with the public. Docents are trained to make effective public contacts to encourage compliance with beach rules and regulations pertaining to WSP and CLT protection. Docents spend a minimum of 2 hours a week on nesting beaches throughout Ventura County including San Buenaventura SB, McGrath SB, Mandalay SB, Hollywood Beach and Ormond Beach. The Docent Guide created by the Ventura Audubon Society and CCD Natural Resources staff can be found in the appendix. This year the CCD plover program coordinator attended a community meeting at Oxnard Shores, a residential community adjacent to Mandalay SB, and gave a presentation about WSP. The presentation was well received and 3 community members became volunteer docents. Connecting with the local community has important implications for plover management and recovery locally.

Volunteer Efforts

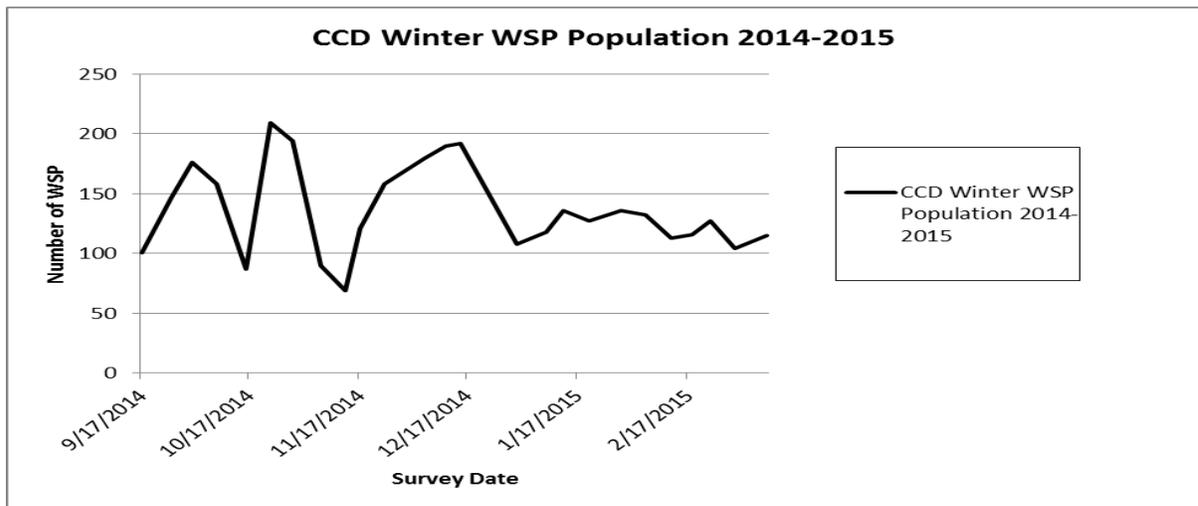
The Ventura Audubon Society is the CCD's primary source of volunteers. Collectively, volunteers logged a total of 750 hours during this year's management efforts by monitoring wintering and nesting WSP, installing and removing protective fencing, and providing educational outreach. Oxnard City Corps (OCC) was able to provide a volunteer crew for a half day of fence installation at McGrath. The fencing around the dunes at San Buenaventura SB was replaced during an Earth Day event with over 100 volunteers from SoCalGas and Helping Hands. Volunteers from California State Parks, Ventura Audubon Society, Oxnard City Corps and USFWS put in over 440 hours installing, maintaining and

removing fencing on CCD beaches in 2015. Other volunteers provided 40 hours of winter season monitoring and 90 hours of breeding season monitoring. 20 docents were trained in 2015 and volunteered a total of 182 hours on state beaches during the breeding season.

RESULTS

Winter Surveys

McGrath SB, Mandalay SB, and San Buenaventura SB provide consistent winter roosting and foraging habitat for WSP. These beaches support a significant number of WSP during migration and through the winter, with high counts of over 200 birds observed at these locations. WSP population monitoring occurred weekly (weather permitting) during the 2014-2015 winter season. Observed band combinations indicate that birds hatched in Oceano Dunes SVRA, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Marina SB, Salinas SB, and Salinas National Wildlife Refuge in California, and Oregon utilized CCD beaches. Graph 1 shows the results from winter population counts. Additional data including band combinations observed can be found in the appendix.



Graph 1. Winter season WSP population counts in the CCD.

2014-2015 winter season monitoring results are summarized in Table 3.

Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

Table 3: Winter Survey Season September 16, 2014 – March 14, 2015

Beach Site	# Surveys	Date First WSP Seen	Date Last WSP Seen	Max # WSP Seen	Min # WSP Seen	Avg # WSP Seen
San Buenaventura	25	WSP occurred year round	WSP occur year round	168	26	102
McGrath	25	WSP occur year round	WSP occur year round	21	0	7
Mandalay	25	WSP occur year round	WSP occur year round	53	0	27
Carpinteria	1 Winter Window Survey	NA	NA	0	0	0

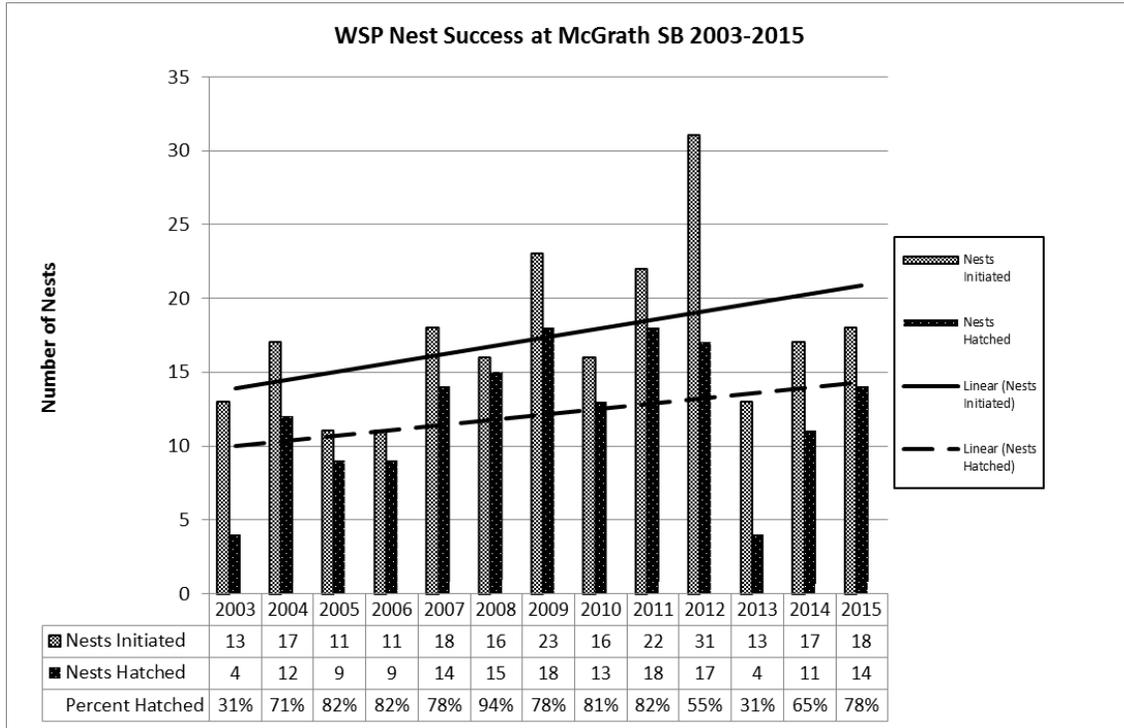
Breeding Season Surveys

McGrath State Beach

WSP nesting activity at McGrath SB started off slow in the 2015 breeding season and the first nest was not found until the week of April 16, 2015. The last nest of the season was located July 22, 2015. Peak nesting activity occurred the first week of July when 7 nests were initiated within one week. The peak coincided with the arrival of the CLT colony in the campground nesting area and it is likely that WSP benefit from the aerial protection of the CLT colony as the two species nest in very close proximity to one another. The closest distance between a WSP and CLT nest was approximately 4-5 feet. This site had a total of 14 nests hatch out 18 known nests initiated by the end of the breeding season for a hatch success rate of 78 percent (Graph 2). An estimated minimum of 16 breeding adults nested at McGrath SB in 2015 based on the maximum number of active nests and broods observed at one time. The window survey yielded a population of 10 WSP, however the 6 WSP found at Mandalay during the window survey relocated to McGrath after nest failures at Mandalay.

Channel Coast District
 2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

The SCRE was in a closed condition during the nesting season and no WSP nesting occurred on the sandbar in 2015.

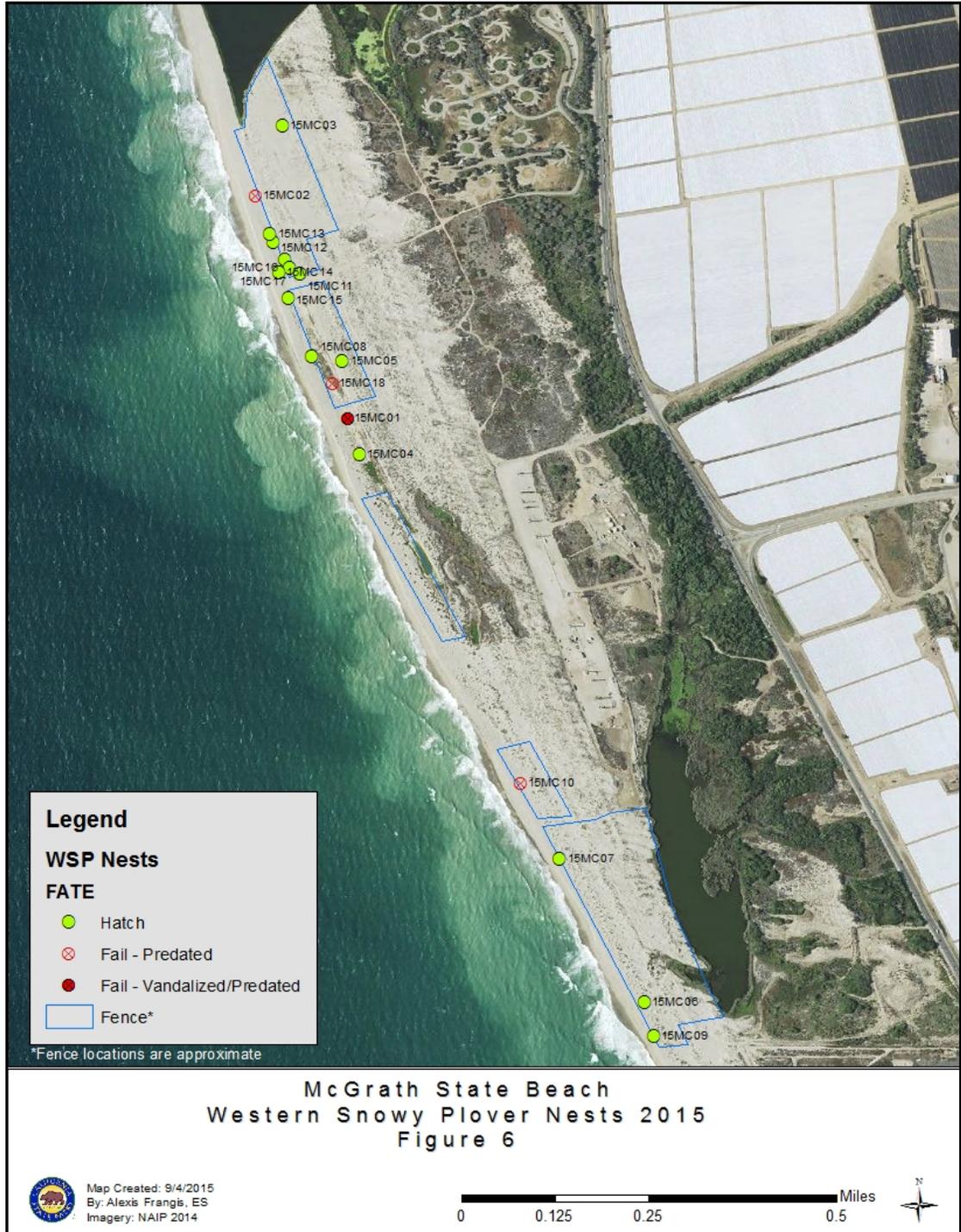


Graph 2. WSP hatch success for McGrath SB from 2003 to 2015

9 of 18 WSP nests found were inside of symbolic fencing and 13 of 18 nests were protected by mini exclosures. Of the 13 nests protected by mini exclosures 12 hatched for a 92 percent hatch rate of exclosed nests. One nest with an exclosure failed because the exclosure was removed by vandals and the nest was subsequently predated the following week. One nest was located inside of the same derelict lobster trap that a nest was found in last year and it is believed to be the same female that nested within the trap both years. The female of this nest has a single silver/metal band on the right leg (X:S) and a female WSP with a single silver/metal band on the right leg has nested in the same vicinity of McGrath SB since 2010. WSP tend to be site faithful and it is very likely that this is the same female returning to this site. Mini exclosures have been placed on X:S’s past nests and the lobster trap superficially resembles a mini exclosure. It may be that this bird learned this odd nest site selection behavior after previous successful nesting attempts within a mini nest exclosure and now selects nest sites with similar characteristics. The lobster trap nest successfully hatched and X:S laid a second clutch underneath the drooped over plastic mesh fence at

Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

McGrath Lake (see photos in appendix) which also successfully hatched. One nest was located outside of protective fencing by plover monitor Ken Gilliland with Padre Associates, Inc. during SCAT surveys for the Refugio Oil Spill. Figure 6 shows all nest and fence locations at McGrath SB.

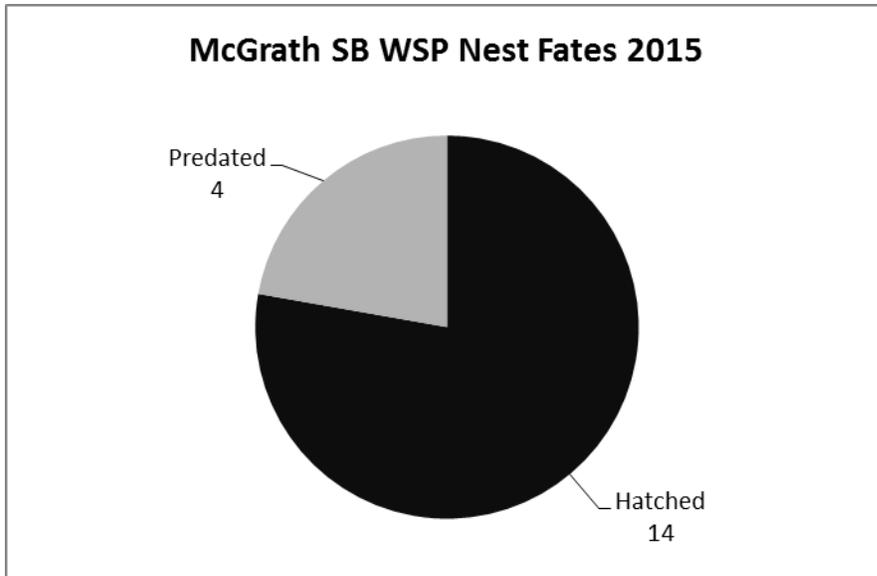


Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

Several banded WSP nested at McGrath this year. A female, NB:OB, hatched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, successfully hatched 3 eggs in the campground nesting area. The other female X:S was described above. It was not possible to obtain numbers from the band so the origin of this bird is unknown. One additional female plover with a physically identifying characteristic of a large dark bulge in the rump area (see photo in appendix) nested at Mandalay SB early in the season, then laid a second clutch at McGrath which successfully hatched in the campground nesting area. A male, BB:OY was present throughout the season and although could not be associated with a particular nest, was observed brooding and displaying for chicks.

Chicks were not observed on all surveys; however adult behavior indicated chicks were present. Chick survival rates are not known for McGrath, but some fledgling age birds were observed at this site. A single WSP egg from 1 nest failed to hatch. This egg was collected and delivered to the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (WVZ) in Camarillo. One dead adult female WSP was found on the beach during a survey on May 12, 2015. The bird appeared to be freshly dead with no decomposition. The bird was found lying in a set of tire tracks outside the campground nesting area. Exact cause of death could not be determined in the field and the bird was collected and delivered to the WVZ.

Trail cameras were deployed to monitor the nesting areas at McGrath SB and they captured images of several potential predators including raven, opossum, gulls, and turkey vulture. Several people were photographed walking through the closed nesting area and park personnel were also documented driving on the beach in all-terrain utility vehicles. The cameras also documented an abundance of deer mice and lizards, which serve as a prey source for potential plover predators. Corvids are the primary plover nest predators in the CCD. Based on predators and tracks observed in and around the nesting area, additional potential predators include coyote, raccoon, crow, white-tailed kite, red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, northern harrier, peregrine falcon, American kestrel, and loggerhead shrike. 4 nests were lost to unknown predators, most likely raven or opossum. Windy conditions on the beach often make it difficult to identify predator tracks especially if eggs taken as prey shortly after the weekly survey. Nest fates are shown in graph 3.



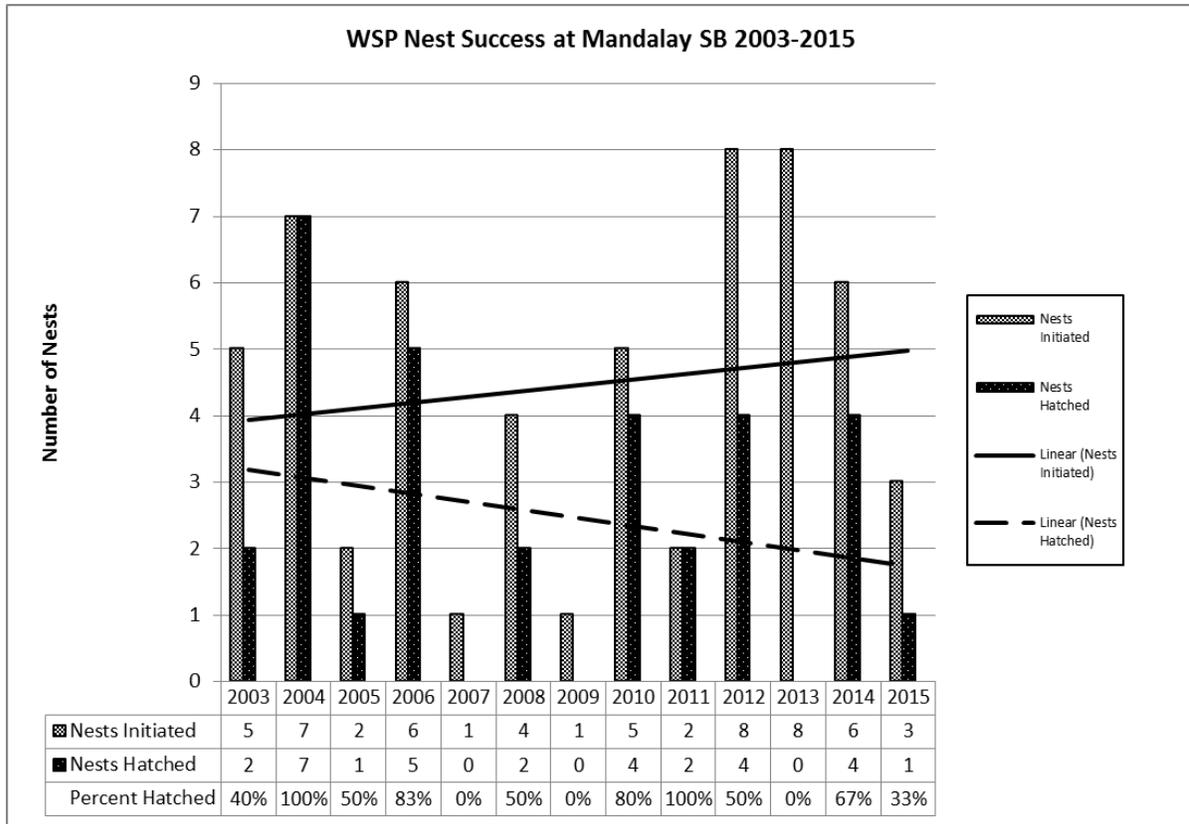
Graph 3. McGrath SB WSP nest fates for 2015.

Several other bird species nest at McGrath SB and benefit from the protective measures in place for WSP and CLT. A colony of approximately 12 American avocets and one pair of black-necked stilts nested on the beach in front of the McGrath Lake outfall as well as along the edge of McGrath Lake. Numerous killdeer nests are located throughout the nesting areas. One horned lark nest was located in the campground nesting area and several fledgling aged horned larks were observed.

Mandalay State Beach

The first nest of the 2015 breeding season at Mandalay SB was discovered during the week of April 28, 2015 and the last nest was found during the week of May 19, 2015. 3 pair of breeding adults nested at Mandalay in 2015 based on the maximum number of active nests at one time. Nesting started late and ended early at Mandalay SB this year. By the end of the breeding season, this site had 1 possible hatch out of 3 nests initiated for a success rate of 0-33 percent (Graph 4) which is a decrease from the 67 percent hatch rate in 2014.

Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report



Graph 4. WSP hatch success at Mandalay SB from 2003 to 2015

Mandalay SB typically has low nest numbers and low hatch rates. Crows are prevalent at this site and are the primary nest predators if mini exclosures are not used. 2 of 3 WSP nests found were laid inside symbolic fencing and all 3 nests were protected by mini exclosures. One of the nests in the fence possibly hatched, but chicks were not observed. This nest was incubated to the expected hatch date and the exclosure was not vandalized, but pip shells could not be located in the nest and the pair was observed in the area without chicks. The female of this nest has a physically identifying characteristic, a large dark bulge in her rump, which allows monitors to distinguish her from other non-banded female plovers. This female was later observed nesting at McGrath SB. One banded male (BB:OY) was observed at Mandalay SB and was likely associated with one of the nesting females. BB:OY was observed later in the season at McGrath SB defending a brood of chicks. 2 nests protected by mini exclosures were lost to take at Mandalay SB. May 29, 2015 two nests were found with exclosures tampered with and eggs missing. One nest was inside of the fence and the other was outside of the fence with staked signs placed around the perimeter.

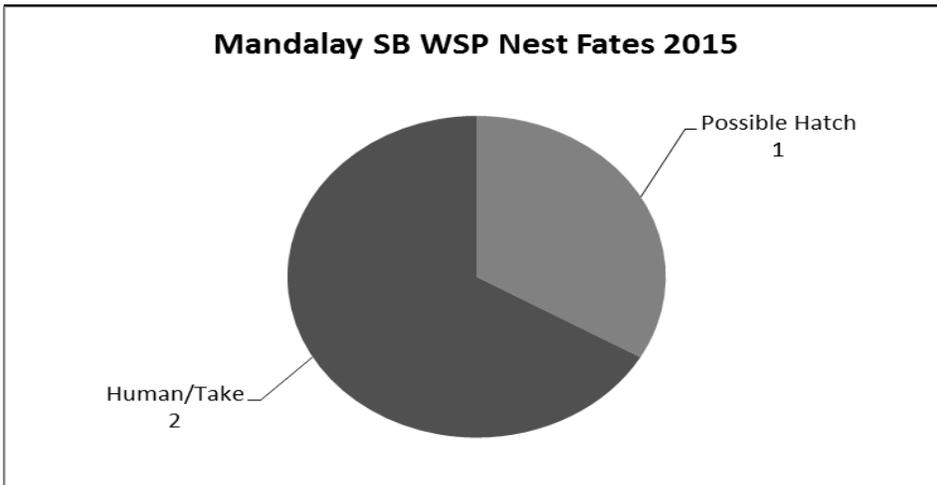
Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

The lack of chicks observed may have been associated with the nest enclosure vandalism as the nest was due to hatch around the same time as the vandalism incident. Figure 7 shows nest and fence locations at Mandalay SB.



Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

Mandalay SB is adjacent to an extensive beachfront housing development and receives moderate to heavy use by the public. The beach has minimal law enforcement presence with State Parks Peace Officers patrolling once per week or less and California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Wardens visiting occasionally. Crows are the most prevalent nest predators on this beach. Cooper's hawk, peregrine falcon, and ground squirrel were also observed on the beach this year. Crows, human take, trespass into the nesting area and off-leash dogs are the most significant threats to WSP nest success at this site. Nest fates can be seen in graph 5.

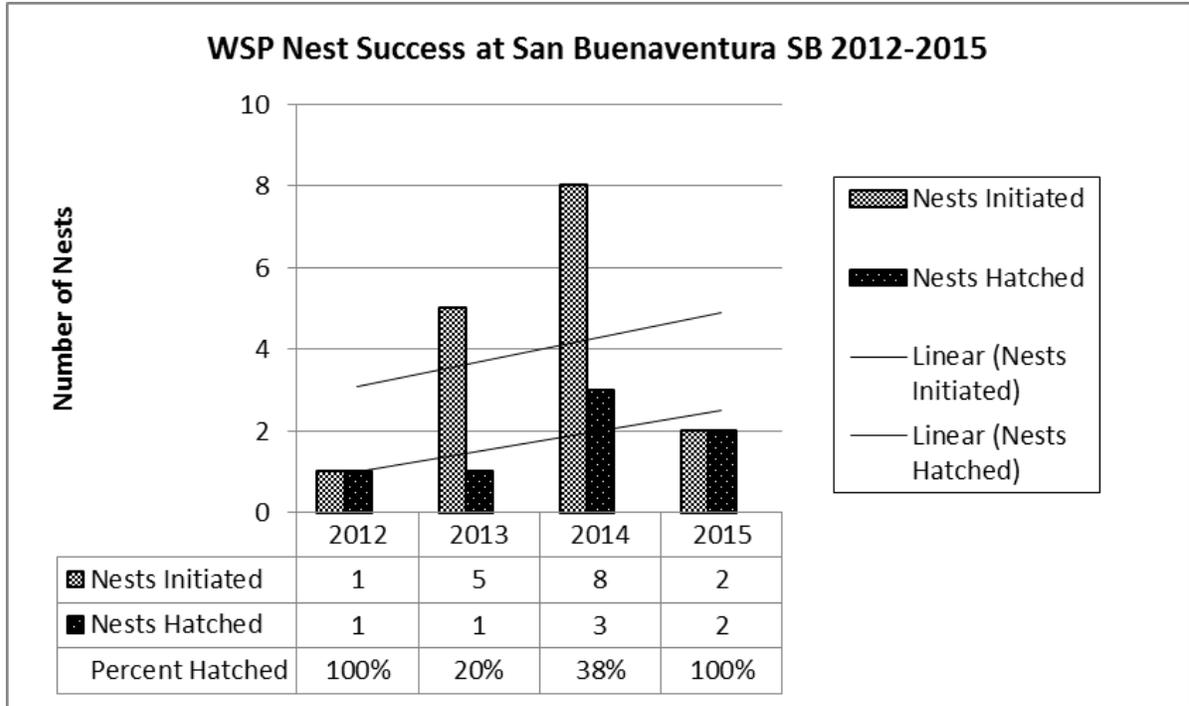


Graph 5. Mandalay SB WSP nest fates for 2015

WSP monitors spoke with local beachgoers who reportedly observe regular trespass into the nesting area fence by adults and children. A docent also reported someone intentionally running their dogs off leash inside of the nesting area fence. When approached the offender told the docent that there were too many unfriendly large dogs off leash on the beach and it was not safe for their little dogs, so they let them run in the "safety" of the fence. Officers were called to respond to the situation. No equestrians were observed by monitors or docents this season; however their presence is evident in the form of horse droppings on the beach.

San Buenaventura State Beach

The first nest of the 2015 season was found during the week of April 1, 2015 and the last nest was found during the week of April 14, 2014. 4 breeding adults (2 pair) nested at San Buenaventura SB in 2015. This site had one confirmed hatch and one possible hatch out of the 2 nests initiated during the breeding season for a hatch success rate of 50-100 percent (Graph 6). This is an improvement from the 38 percent hatch rate in 2014.



Graph 6. WSP hatch success at San Buenaventura SB from 2012 to 2015.

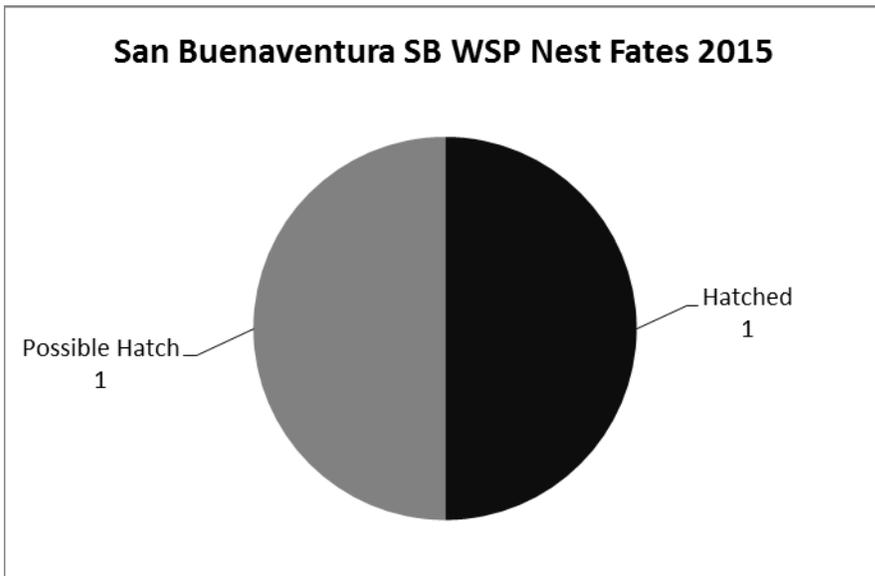
The main recreational portion of the beach at San Buenaventura was historically groomed to accommodate beach activities such as sunbathing, beach volleyball, and the Junior Lifeguard Program. This selective grooming of the beach has created a relatively stable, flat beach area at the base of the dunes. Cobble substrate above the wrack line at this beach is not targeted for grooming and as a result it provides prime winter roost and nesting habitat for WSP.

This year WSP nested in the dunes just north of the LGHQ building and no nesting occurred on the main beach. This area receives slightly less human disturbance than the main recreational beach since it is not directly adjacent to the day use parking area. This is

Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

also the same location where WSP successfully hatched chicks that reached fledging age last year. Chicks were observed on the beach from the San Jon lagoon north of LGHQ, south to the volleyball courts near San Pedro St. Symbolic fencing was installed only in the dunes north of LGHQ prior to the start of the nesting season with the plan to install around individual nests as they were located.

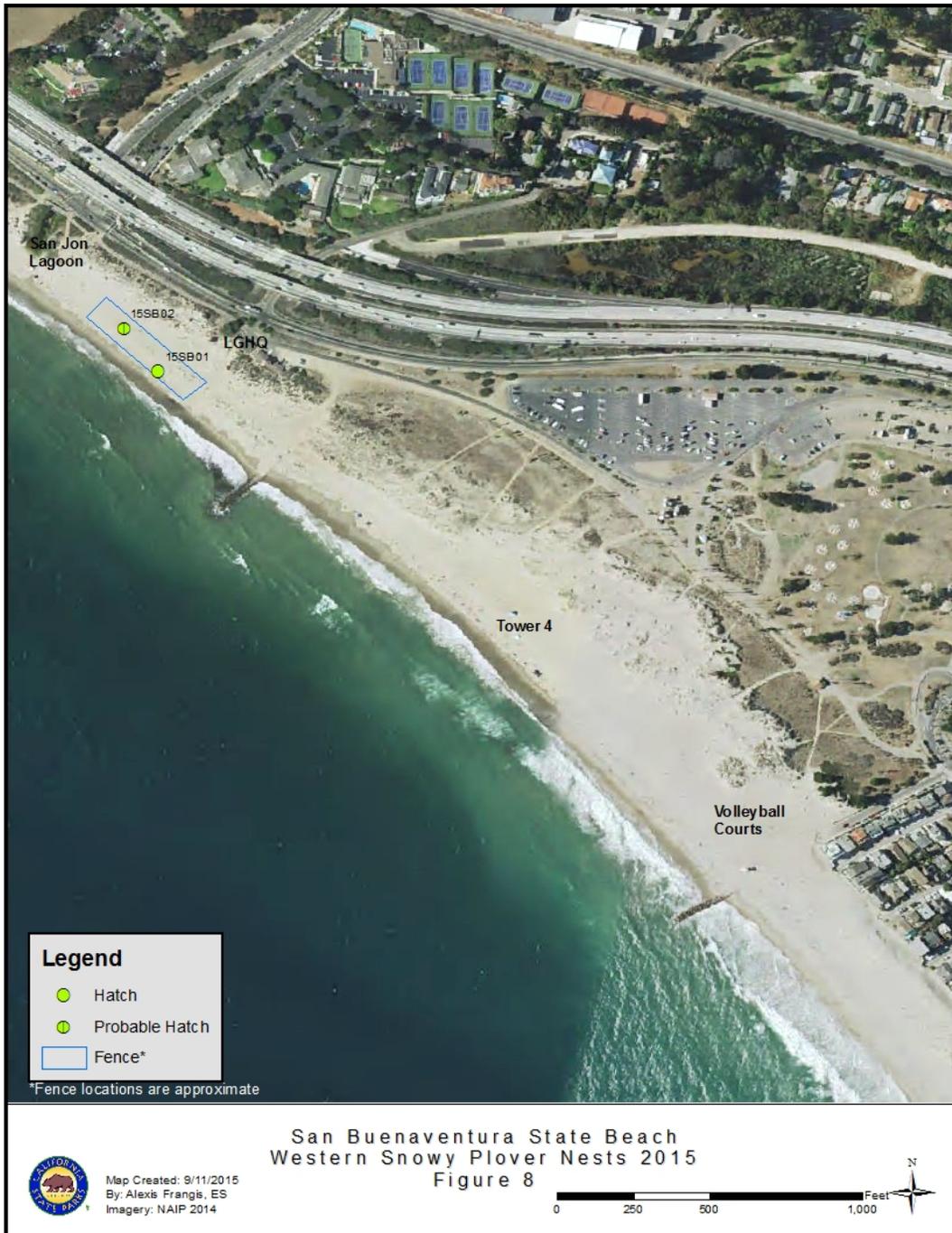
This year, two nests were initiated by 2 pair of WSP. Both nests were inside of symbolic fencing and protected by mini enclosures. One nest was confirmed to have hatched. The other nest possibly hatched; it was incubated to the expected hatch date and the enclosure was intact, but chicks were not observed. A juvenile hawk and a raven were observed perched on the LGHQ building and the hawk was later observed in the dunes near the nesting area around the time of hatching. Corvid, unidentified avian, and dog tracks were observed in the nesting area and it is possible that the nest hatched but the chicks were predated shortly thereafter. Crows are the most abundant predator on this beach. The adjacent landscaped picnic area and residential communities provide abundant habitat for crows. Crow counts on the beach during the nesting season were as high as 20 individuals. Large gull roosts also form on this beach in late summer and some gulls are known to opportunistically take chicks. Graph 7 shows nest fates for San Buenaventura SB.



Graph 7. San Buenaventura SB WSP nest fates for 2015

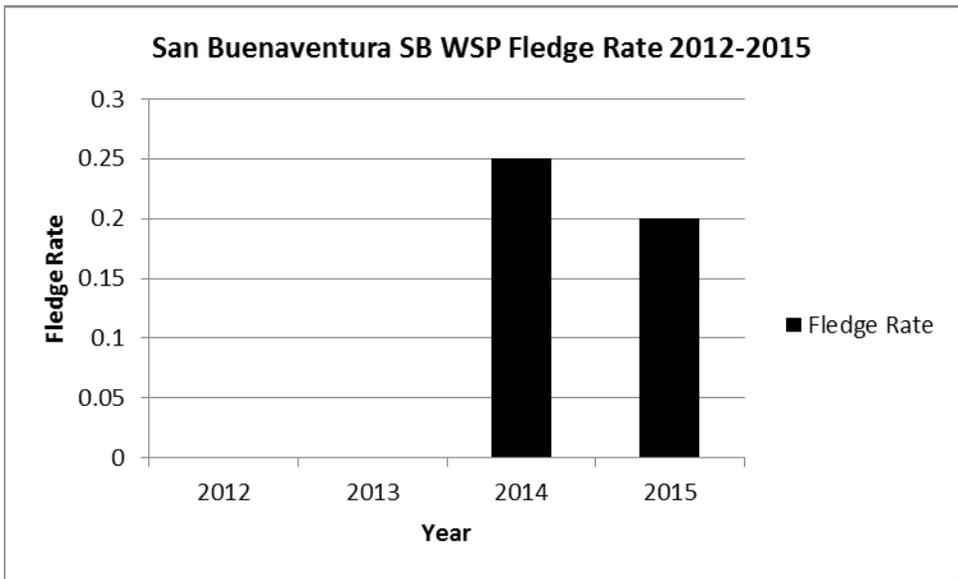
Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

No subsequent nests were located after the first 2 early in the season. The decision to use mini enclosures was made in an effort to protect early season nests and increase the chance of hatch success so that chicks have an opportunity to fledge before the busy recreational season begins. Decoy enclosures were placed in the nesting area and one was found with a scrape inside (see appendix for photo). Figure 8 shows nest and fence locations at San Buenaventura SB.



Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

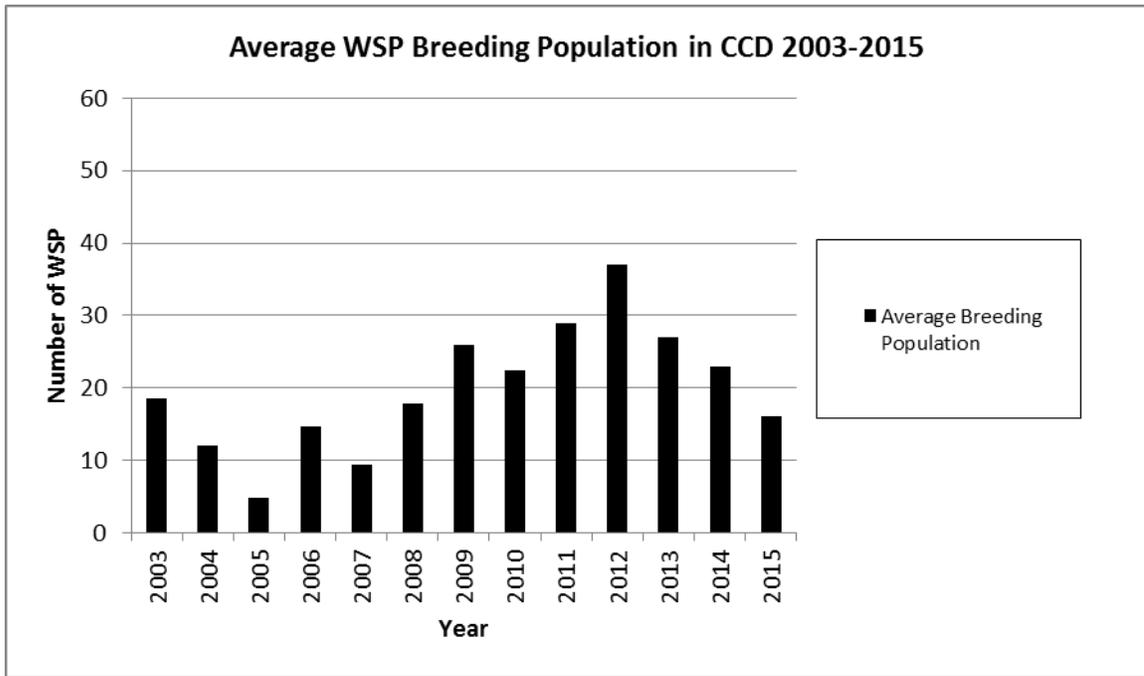
2 chicks were observed from the confirmed hatched nest. The nest was initially a clutch of 3 eggs; however one egg was rejected from the nest a week before hatching. The egg was later found to have a maggot ridden developed chick inside and was buried on site. 1 of the 2 hatched chicks survived to fledging age (31 days). After hatching, the chicks moved away from the LGHQ nesting area south towards lifeguard tower 4 and the volleyball courts where one chick fledged. The beach was covered with by-the-wind-sailor jellies (*Velella velella*) during the weeks when chicks were on the beach. The large quantity of jellies on the beach may have helped to provide additional cover for chicks. This is the second year of chick fledging on this beach and the third documented chick to fledge from San Buenaventura. Because of low nest numbers and relatively small area it is possible to track chicks and determine a fledge rate for San Buenaventura. Fledge rate is determined by dividing the total number of chicks fledged by the total number of eggs laid. The fledge rate was 20 percent for 2015, which is a slight decrease from 25 percent (2 chicks) in 2014. Fledge rates for San Buenaventura SB can be seen in graph 8.



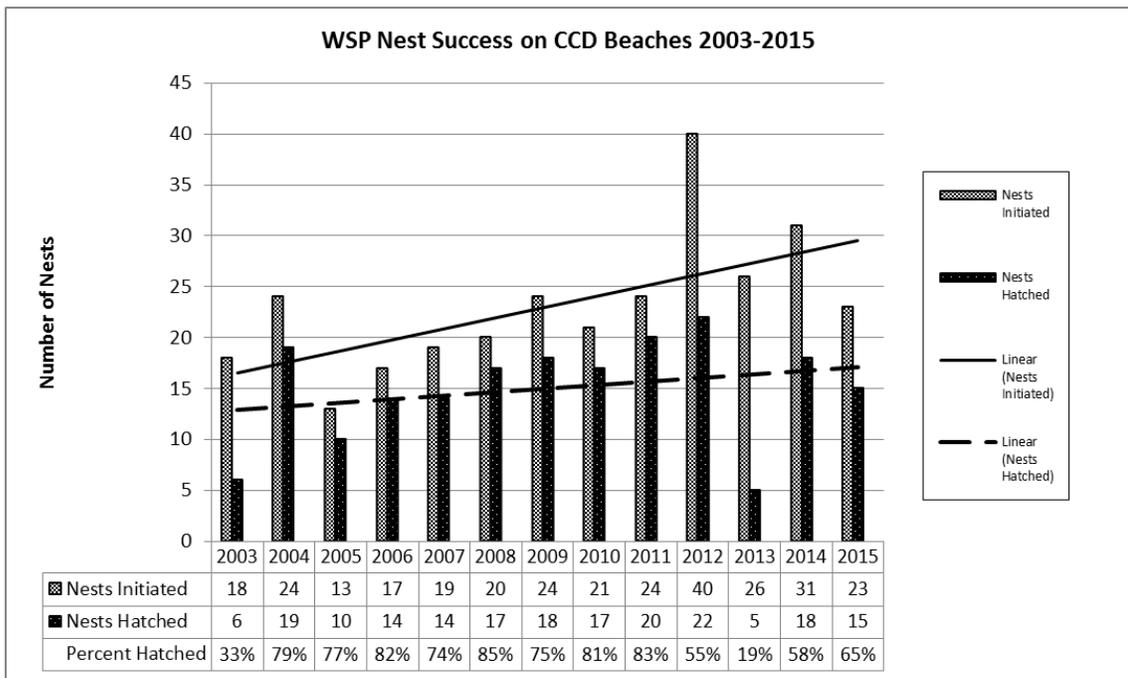
Graph 8. San Buenaventura SB fledge rate 2012-2015

Average WSP breeding population numbers in the CCD for McGrath, Mandalay, and San Buenaventura SB from 2003 to present are summarized in graph 9 and graph 10 shows hatch rate success for all breeding sites.

Channel Coast District
 2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report



Graph 9. Breeding season WSP population in the CCD based on the average population counts from May surveys. The management potential as defined in the Recovery Plan for McGrath and Mandalay SB is 60 breeding adults. Actual recovery criteria are closer to 50. No recovery goals were set for San Buenaventura SB.



Graph 10. WSP hatch success for all CCD breeding sites from 2003 to 2015

Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

The results of monitoring efforts in CCD for the 2015 breeding season are summarized in table 4. Maximum WSP numbers are observed during migration.

Table 4: Breeding Survey Season March 15, 2015 – September 15, 2015

Beach Site	# Surveys	Date First WSP Seen	Date Last WSP Seen	Max # WSP Seen	Min # WSP Seen	Avg # WSP Seen	# Nests	# Eggs	# Nests Hatched	# Eggs Hatched	# Nest Failures
San Buena-Ventura	31	WSP Flock Present Since 2013	6/9/2015	84	0	24	2	6	2*	2	0
McGrath	28	WSP Occur Year Round	WSP Occur Year Round	66	0	27	18	52	14	39	4
Mandalay	23	WSP Occur Year Round	WSP Occur Year Round	21	0	8	3	7	1*	3	2
Carpinteria	1 Spring Window Survey	NA	NA	0	0	0	WSP do not nest at Carpinteria				

*Possible hatches are included in nests hatched.

CONCLUSION

Breeding Season

The 2015 breeding season should be viewed as a continuation of the recovery for the WSP in the CCD. Based on the data collected since management efforts began in 2002, we can conclude that there is an increase in hatch rate and overall nesting success when nest exclosures are used and human vandalism can be eliminated. The goals of the monitoring and management efforts put forth by the CCD WSP Program are to benefit WSP nesting

Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

success on CCD beaches. CCD beaches collectively had fewer nests initiated than the previous year, but the hatch rate was higher. This indicates that more WSP pairs were successful with their first nesting attempt this year and did not need to initiate a second nest because of a nest failure. The total hatch success collectively for all CCD beaches with breeding WSP in 2015 was 65 percent as seen in graph 10. This is an increase from the 2014 hatch rate of 58 percent and a significant increase from the 19 percent hatch rate in 2013. The increase in hatch rate this year can be attributed to the use of mini exclosures and successfully discouraging most human vandalism which lead to lower rates of failure and re-nesting. The recovery plan states a management potential of 60 breeding adult WSP for McGrath and Mandalay SB's combined, however actual recovery criteria is about 15 percent lower at around 51 breeding adults. This year McGrath and Mandalay had a combined estimated 18 breeding adults.

In 2015 there was a slight increase in nests initiated at McGrath SB to a total number of 18 compared to 17 in 2014 and over 25 percent increase in hatched nests to 14 this year from 11 in 2014. The hatch rate increased from 65 percent in 2014 to 78 percent in 2015. There is a generally positive trend in nests initiated and hatched since 2003 at this beach, as shown in graph 2. However, the hatch rate shows a slightly negative trend which can be attributed to the last few years having higher rates of nest loss due to exclosure vandalism followed by a season with no exclosure use which results in increased re-nesting. It is clear that mini exclosures can increase the hatch rate; however it is not possible to correlate this statistic to an increase in fledging success without banding chicks and/or conducting more intensive monitoring.

Mandalay SB had a decrease in the number of nests hatched with only 1 potential hatch in 2015 compared to 4 hatched nests in 2014. Mandalay SB exhibits a positive trend in nests initiated, but a negative trend in hatch rate since 2003 as seen in graph 3. The increase in nests initiated is a result of the same pairs re-nesting after failed nest attempts and does not imply that the site conditions are improving, as evident by the negative trend in hatch success. This long term decrease in nest success is attributed to nest vandalism, crow predation and the constant human disturbances on this beach. The dunes at this site are also plagued with European beach grass which is not desirable WSP nesting habitat. The fence surrounding the nesting area at Mandalay SB was in constant need of repair throughout the

Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

2015 nesting season as it suffered repeated damage from human vandalism. Throughout the nesting season there was evidence of trespass from people and dogs inside the fenced area.

Nesting occurred for the fourth straight year at San Buenaventura SB and 1 chick fledged. At the time the WSP Recovery Plan was written nesting was not known to occur at this site; therefore recovery criteria and management goals for breeding adults was not established for San Buenaventura SB. 2015 saw a decrease in nests initiated and hatched when compared to 2014, but the hatch rate improved in 2015. The higher numbers of nests initiated in 2013 and 2014 were a result of re-nesting after failure, not an increase in the population. The risk of human vandalism and nest predation are high at this site making the use of mini exclosures a challenge. While conditions at this beach may not be ideal for successful nesting, it appears WSP will continue to use this site.

Although it is clear that predation on both WSP and CLT eggs and chicks does occur on CCD beaches, predator control efforts other than nest exclosures are not being pursued at this time. Lethal predator control is generally not feasible on heavily used public beaches such as those found in the CCD. Potential predators that have been observed in the vicinity of the nesting areas include gulls, crow, raven, great blue heron, great egret, snowy egret, loggerhead shrike, peregrine falcon, red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, northern harrier, American kestrel, Cooper's hawk, white-tailed kite, coyote, opossum, raccoon and ground squirrel. Human trespass into nesting areas, vandalism of nest exclosures, and off-leash dogs are the significant ongoing issues on CCD beaches. Greater efforts are needed to better protect WSP nesting areas from trespass by beachgoers as well as protecting individual nests from vandalism. In addition to human disturbances, WSP also face environmental threats in the form of inclement weather, strong winds, and high tides.

CCD 10(a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit

The State Parks Environmental Scientist/WSP program coordinator holds a current USFWS 10(a)(1)(A) permit with one additional CCD Environmental Scientist listed as an authorized individual. Volunteer monitors Debra Barringer, Danielle Glen, and Cynthia Hartley are also recovery permit holders. Volunteer monitor Anjanette Butler received an additional 6 hours of breeding season training from CCD staff. CCD Environmental

Scientist Chelsea Fletcher received 56 hours of breeding season training towards a recovery permit.

Public Education

Public education and awareness are important components of snowy plover management and recovery on public beaches. This year the CCD again collaborated with the Ventura Audubon Society to implement a Docent Program. 20 volunteers attend docent trainings and spent a minimum of 2 hours a week on the beaches providing public education and awareness for WSP nesting on public beaches. Other education efforts consist of public contacts made in the field by CCD staff and distribution of pamphlets that included information about WSP. Informational signs are placed around all fencing areas, including signs created by the Ventura Audubon Society's Share the Shore Children's Poster Project. The Ventura Audubon Society promotes WSP and CLT awareness in their activities and at events. Again, there was no Natural Resources Campground Host at McGrath SB because the campground has been closed due to flooding during the peak use summer season. CCD staff attended community meeting for Oxnard Shores adjacent to Mandalay SB and gave a presentation about WSP. The presentation was well received and several community members became docents. A similar presentation would be beneficial to share with the Pierpont community adjacent to San Buenaventura SB.

Dog Owner Contacts

The majority of dog owner contacts at McGrath are either at the south end of the property with people who enter the beach from Mandalay at 5th St. or near the Santa Clara River Estuary with those who enter the beach from Surfer's Knoll at the Ventura Harbor. When the McGrath campground is open, dog contacts also occur near the campground beach access with park visitors who bring their dogs to the beach. Many dog owners who were contacted had their dogs off leash as well. The Ventura Port District installed signs at the beach entrances from Surfer's Knoll indicating where dogs are and are not allowed as well as WSP and CLT interpretive signs, but they are up on the dry sand where they are not

threatened by high surf. The majority of dog owners entering the beach from Surfer's Knoll walk directly to the wet sand and enter State Property without seeing the boundary or "No Dogs" signs and unaware that they have entered a State Park. This is in part due to the slope of the beach and distance of the signs.

Dog owner contacts occur frequently at Mandalay SB where dogs are often observed off leash. When asked to leash their dogs and exit the beach, the majority of dog owners comply. Local residents often voice opposition when informed of the "No Dogs" regulation. After many thwarted attempts to install posted "No Dogs" signs at the beach entrance and closer to the water's edge, several "No Dogs" signs were affixed with adhesive to old wooden posts and large rocks at the beach entrance. Installing permanent signage at Mandalay SB could aid in WSP recovery by potentially reducing the need for enforcement of dog rules and regulations, and creating an opportunity for interpretation and public education regarding sensitive resources. Docents volunteering at Mandalay bring staked, temporary "No Dogs" signs to the beach during their shifts. Mandalay SB currently lacks any signage indicating property ownership or any regulations.

Dog owner contacts also occur at San Buenaventura SB. The majority of beach entrances and lifeguard towers are well posted with "No Dogs" signs; however out-of-town visitors and residents of the Pierpont beachfront community continually brings dogs onto the beach. Many dog owners enter the beach from the Ventura Pier area or from Marina Park where dogs are allowed without paying heed to "No Dogs" signs when they enter state property. Dog owners are contacted and directed to adjacent areas where dogs are allowed.

Equestrians

Equestrian use of McGrath SB and Mandalay SB is a continuing issue, although fewer observations of horses on the beach were noted this year than in previous years. Horseback riding is not a permitted activity at McGrath or Mandalay SB and can pose a significant threat to WSP nests and chicks. Equestrians have been observed accessing the beach from Fifth Street at Mandalay and riding north to McGrath SB. Evidence of equestrian use of the beach is often observed in the form of droppings. Contacts are made by monitors and State Parks Peace Officers as they are encountered. Currently the beaches lack any

signage indicating that horses are prohibited. Several attempts to install signage have been made at Mandalay; however signs are quickly removed by vandals.

Enforcement

CCD State Parks Peace Officers and seasonal lifeguards patrol the beaches in vehicles for public safety. San Buenaventura SB receives multiple daily patrols by officers. McGrath is patrolled at least once per day and Mandalay is patrolled once a week or less. Public safety is the priority of beach patrols, but officers make dog owner contacts as they are encountered and report other observations of interest to WSP monitors. Staff trainings are offered annually at the start of the season for all staff that operates on the beaches, and weekly email updates with maps of current nest locations and chick activity are provided during the nesting season to all personnel who operate on the beaches. Officers did not report making any contacts related specifically to WSP violations; however officers were called to respond to several non-compliant dog owner contacts made by monitors and docents throughout the season.

Recommendations

Based on past observations and current funding, the recommendations for the 2016 season are to continue the existing level of protection and monitoring as well as to:

1. Adjust fencing and signage locations based on data and annual changes in breeding site preference and document locations.
2. Continue to deploy remote cameras in nesting areas to document predator activity and human disturbance and use the information as a tool to guide management decisions.
3. Replace or install new “No Dogs” signs at beach access points.
4. Install permanent “No Horses” and WSP interpretive signs at Mandalay SB.
5. Conduct pre-breeding season training sessions for all staff and volunteers that operate on WSP nesting beaches.
6. Explore non-lethal methods to deter predators, particularly crows, ravens and opossums.
7. Update dog owner’s guide.

Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

8. Organize a pre-nesting season beach clean-up with Surfrider and Ventura Audubon.
9. Minimize to the extent feasible vehicular beach patrols at night.
10. Attend community meetings for Pierpont and Oxnard Shores, give snowy plover presentations and provide outreach.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all of the CCD staff for their cooperation and support protecting snowy plovers and all other beach nesting bird species. A special thanks to the Ventura Sector lifeguard staff for their assistance with fence installation at McGrath and Mandalay SB. Thanks to the Ventura USFWS office for volunteering to help install fencing at McGrath SB. Thanks to Jennifer Gold with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for her assistance with surveys and monitoring. Thanks to volunteers Anjanette Butler and Deryk Godinez for their assistance with surveys, monitoring and fence maintenance. Thanks to Debra Barringer, Danielle Glenn, and Cynthia Hartley for stepping in to monitor when CCD was short staffed due to the Refugio Oil Spill. Thanks to the Ventura Audubon Society for collaboration and support to develop a much needed docent program. A huge thank you to all of the Docents; Marianna Smith, Karl Krause, Duane Nash, Sherry Schafer, Amanda Deverson, Maggie Domingo, Ian Nicholson, Kathryn Robens, Linda Easter, Paul Parish, Amanda Hidalgo, Emily Hidalgo, Geoff Grisdale, Elizabeth Sayre, Darcy Gonzalez, Adele Fergusson, Dorothy Horn, Mark Kupperman, Judy Kupperman, Kathie Lanker and Richard Lanker for volunteering to protect nesting birds and increasing public awareness and support for WSP. Thanks to Christiana Donehower, NRD Environmental Scientist, for continuing to loan us her personal monitoring cameras and for helping to secure funding for fence materials and a CCC crew to install and remove the fencing. Thank you to the Oxnard City Corps for providing over a decade of volunteer services to the CCD WSP program. Thanks to Frances Bidstrup with Point Blue (formerly Point Reyes Bird Observatory) for providing color band information and compiling WSP data from across the range.

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28pp

APPENDICIES

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CHANNEL COAST DISTRICT

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S ORDER No. 910-14-15

McGRATH STATE BEACH, MANDALAY STATE BEACH, SAN BUENAVENTURA
STATE BEACH

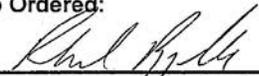
Seasonal Closure for Bird Nesting

1. To provide for the security, safeguarding, and preservation of natural resources, from **March 15 to September 15** each year the fenced areas of **McGRATH STATE BEACH, MANDALAY STATE BEACH, AND SAN BUENAVENTURA STATE BEACH** shall be closed to people and vehicles. The area closed to people and vehicles is:

Areas are subject to move annually. Public should obey Annual nest enclosures, that are USFWS approved. Fencing and enclosures will be constructed within the boundaries of McGrath State Beach, Mandalay State Beach, San Buenaventura State Beach.

2. State Parks employees and their vehicles can enter this area during emergencies.
3. Only those individuals and vehicles authorized by the District Superintendent may enter this area.
4. Exception to this closure order may also be granted in writing by the District Superintendent, Channel Coast District, 911 San Pedro St., Ventura, CA 93001
5. Nothing in this order shall affect private contract or property rights.
6. Nothing herein shall be construed in derogation of other provisions of law.

So Ordered:



Richard Rozzelle, District Superintendent

Authority: California Public Resources Code, Division 5, Chapter 1, Sections 5003 and 5008.
California Code of Regulations, Title XIV, Division 3, Chapter 1, Section 4305 and 4312.

DECLARATION OF POSTING

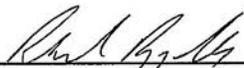
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S ORDER No. 910-14-15

November 24th, 2014

McGRATH STATE BEACH

I hereby declare that on November 24, 2014, the Department of Parks and Recreation, Channel Coast District posted order #910-14-15 attached hereto, and that the order was also posted at the Channel Coast District Office at 911 San Pedro, Ventura, CA 93301, as well as other locations which were determined necessary.

I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed: 
Richard Rozzelle
District Superintendent

Date: 11/24/14



Western Snowy Plovers and California Least Terns are just two of the wildlife species that find sanctuary within California State Parks.

Our Mission

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

Special Thanks to Ventura County, City of Ventura and City of Oxnard Parks and Recreation Departments for their assistance in compiling this information.

California State Parks does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. To receive this publication in an alternate format, write to the Channel Coast District at the following address.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
Channel Coast District
911 San Pedro Street
Ventura, CA 93001

A Dog Owner's Guide

To Selected Parks & Beaches in Western Ventura County

Providing opportunities for high-quality recreation while protecting California's priceless wildlife heritage is the difficult balancing act facing California's land management agencies. You as a dog owner can help.

As our coast becomes increasingly urbanized, wildlife species are being squeezed into smaller and smaller remnants of their once abundant habitat. Dogs, even when leashed, can frighten and harass wildlife, making their struggle for survival still harder.

There is an alternative. This brochure describes fourteen parks in western Ventura County that allow dogs. To protect coastal wildlife habitat, three beaches do not allow dogs. Dog owners can thus choose several areas to enjoy with their pets while at the same time helping to preserve critical coastal wildlife habitat.

Thanks for your cooperation!

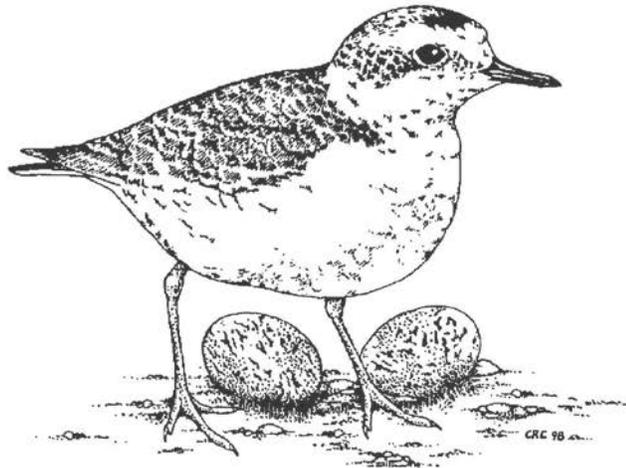


Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report

A Dog Owner's Guide to Selected Beaches & Parks in Western Ventura County

	N	L	O	Comments
California State Parks				
(805) 585-1850 www.parks.ca.gov				
Emma Wood State Beach	*	✓		OK in camp & picnic areas. *Not on beach.
McGrath State Beach	*	✓		OK in camp & picnic areas. *Not on beach.
San Buenaventura State Beach	*	✓		OK in picnic area & bike path. *Not on beach.
Ventura County Parks (805) 654-3951 www.ventura.org/gsa/parks				
Faria Beach Park		✓		On leash only.
Hobson Beach Park		✓		On leash only.
Rincon Parkway Beach Park		✓		On leash only.
Ventura County Parks				
Soul Park in Ojai		✓	*	*Dog park only. Hours: 7:30 to dusk, daily.
City of Oxnard (805) 385-7995 www.ci.oxnard.ca.us				
Channel View Park		✓		OK on beach; on leash only.
Oxnard Beach Park		✓		OK on beach; on leash only.
Peninsula Park		✓		OK on beach; on leash only.
City of Oxnard Inland Parks				
College Park		✓	*	*Dog park only. Hours: dawn to dusk, daily.
City of Ventura (805) 652-4594 www.ci.ventura.ca.us				
Marina Park		✓		OK on beach; on leash only.
Harbor Cove		✓		OK on beach; on leash only.
Promenade Park		✓		OK on beach; on leash only.
Surfers' Point at Seaside Park		✓		OK on beach; on leash only.
City of Ventura Inland Parks				
Arroyo Verde Park		✓	*	*Off-leash hours: 6-9am, Tu-Sun; 6-8am,
Camino Real Park		✓	*	*Dog park. Hours: dawn-dusk. Wed 9am-dusk
N = Dogs not allowed. L = Dogs allowed on leash. O = Dogs allowed off leash.				

DO NOT ENTER



SENSITIVE NESTING AREA



VIOLATORS SUBJECT TO FINES

Respete los Cercos



Please respect the fences

Artwork contributed by children throughout Ventura County

**“Share the Shore” Children’s Art Project sponsored by Ventura Audubon Society
with the support of Audubon California, Toyota Together Green,
the Morrissey Family Foundation and California State Parks**

Share the Shore



Comparte la Playa

Artwork contributed by children throughout Ventura County

"Share the Shore" Children's Art Project sponsored by Ventura Audubon Society
with the support of Audubon California, Toyota Together Green,
the Morrissey Family Foundation and California State Parks

Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report



Banded female X:S second clutch (first clutch was in lobster trap) under drooped over fence. McGrath SB.



Another view of banded female X:S second clutch under drooped over fence. McGrath SB.

Channel Coast District
2015 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report



Female WSP with large “rump bulge”. Nested at Mandalay and McGrath SB in 2015.



Fresh nest scrape inside of an existing mini enclosure at San Buenaventura SB.

	Appendix - Field Data	
	Monitors	
	AF= Alexis Frangis	
	JG= Jennifer Gold	
	BS= Brooke Sheridan	
	DLG = Deryk Godinez	
	CF= Chelsea Fletcher	
	AB = Anjanette Buttler	
	DG= Danielle Glenn	
	DB = Debra Barringer	
	CH = Cynthia Hartley	
	Notes	
	POE = (egg) put on end	
	3 E / F = female incubating 3 eggs	
	F / inc = observed female incubating and did not flush to check eggs	
	2 C / M = 2 chicks with male	
	ME = Mini enclosure	

Nest Num	Date	Nest Notes - McGrath
15MC-01	4/16/2015	1 E M+F. South campground, outside of fence south of access rd. Substrate sand/wrack. Flush distance ~50ft. Staked signs placed around nest. Both adults present.
	4/17/2015	10 crows on the beach near nest, placed ME. No adults present, still only 1 egg
	4/23/2015	3 E / F. ME removed, nest in tact/not tampered with. Unable to locate enclosure. Flush distance ~75 ft.
	5/1/2015	Fail. No eggs, unknown predator, likely raven. No tracks in freshly wind blown sand. Yolk crusted sand in scrape.
15MC-02	4/22/2015	Campground, outside fence just above tide line near tire tracks. Scrape substrate kelp/sand. Flush distance ~30ft. Male near by. Staked signs placed around nest, no ME placed because of close proximity to vandalized MC01.
	5/1/2015	Fail. No eggs, cause unknown. No tracks in freshly wind blown sand.
15MC-03	5/12/2015	Campground. 3 E / F + M. Substrate beach bur. Both male and female displaying.
	5/19/2015	3 E / F
	5/20/2015	Placed ME
15MC04	5/19/2015	2 E Pair nearby not reacting. Between outfall/lagoon and south campground fences. Outside fence in
	5/20/2015	Placed ME, set up camera
	5/29/2015	3 E / F replaced camera batteries.
	6/17/2015	Hatch (pip)
15MC05	5/19/2015	3 E / F. South campground. In fence. Fore dunes, substrate beach evening primrose. Flush distance
	6/9/2015	Hatch (pip)
15MC06	6/24/2015	Possible hatch, no eggs, pips not located
15MC07	6/24/2015	Hatch (pip)
15MC08	6/9/2015	3 E/F
	7/2/2015	1 egg partially buried. Male nearby alarming for chicks (hatched previous week)
	7/3/2015	1 egg collected
15MC09	7/2/2015	Nest under drooped over fence. South Lake. Banded female X:S
	7/20/2015	3 E, female X:S

Nest Num	Date	Nest Notes - McGrath
15MC10	7/8/2015	Predated, yolk crusted sand
15MC11	7/22/2015	Hatch, no sign of predation
15MC12	7/22/2015	Hatch, no eggs, no sign of predation
15MC13	7/3/2015	Campground, outside fence, next to CALT #15. Banded female NB:OB
	7/22/2015	2 E
	7/29/2015	Hatch, 0 E, no sign of predation
15MC14	7/3/2015	2 E in wrack, just above tide line, campground at access rd.
	7/15/2015	Hatch, no eggs, pip shells located in scrape
15MC15	7/22/2015	3 E, female
	7/29/2015	Hatch, 0 eggs, male with first week chick in wrack
15MC16	7/8/2015	Campground, driftwood. 3 E in fence approx. 5 ft. from CALT nest #29, no ME placed due to proximity to CALT nest
	7/22/2015	Hatch
15MC17	7/22/2015	3 E, campground, in fence, SW corner. Rump bulge female. Flush distance ~75 feet
	7/29/2015	3 E, female
	8/19/2015	Hatch, pip shells located in scrape
15MC18	7/22/2015	3 E south campground. In fence, wrack, no ME
	7/29/2015	Fail, unknown predator, yolk crusted sand

Date	Field Notes - McGrath
3/5/2015	Lake to Surfers Knoll. Lake - Scrape outside fence in cobble. Pair nearby foraging outside fence. North Lake - pair and lone female. Outfall/lagoon - killdeer nest. South Campground - 1 male. SCRE - 2 male, 5 female (south end) 1 male, 2 female (north end)
3/12/2015	Lake to Surfers Knoll. Lake - coyote tracks, killdeer scrape, 3 WSP scrapes (one in saltbush, one seaward of tire tracks outside fence). North lake - flock of 9 WSP. Outfall - killdeer nest. Predators: turkey vulture, gull sp. SCRE -
3/19/2015	Lake to Surfers Knoll. Lake - 3 pair WSP, one scrape outside fence. 1 dog contact at south end of property - compliant but negative/called dispatch. Lone female and pair WSP at north end of fence. North Lake - 2 pair. Outfall - Killdeer nest. South Campground - 2 AMCR. SCRE - flock of 28 (mostly male) at south end of sandbar. 2 females at north end of sandbar.
3/24/2015	Lake - killdeer scrapes, no WSP in fence, corvid tracks. South lake - 2 pair. One pair flew towards Mandalay. Pair foraging female X:S. North lake - 2 pair, lone female. South campground - 2 pair. SCRE - 2 pair, lone female. 2 small flocks 22 (9 male, 13 female. Total 17 F, 23 M = 40 total)
4/2/2015	Lake to Surfers Knoll. Lake - Avocet pair at lake edge. Pair WSP at south end of lake, female banded X:S. 2 lone males. North Lake - 3 pair WSP, 1 scrape in fence. Outfall - 1 pair WSP, avocets, stilt. Campground - 1 CORA, 1 WSP scrape in fence. SCRE - flock of 9+3 WSP. 2 pair. 16 avocets.
4/8/2015	Lake to Surfers Knoll. Lake - 3 lone males outside fence. Pair horned larks. South Lake - 2 pair WSP outside fence, banded female X:S near power plant property. North Lake - 2 male, 1 female, 1 pair. Scrape in fence. Placed camera. 1 CORA. Outfall - no birds. South campground - 3 females, 1 male. 3 scrapes in road/tire tracks. Campground - 3 pair outside fence. 1 NOHA. SCRE - flock of 6, lone female foraging in wet sand.
4/16/2015	Lake to Campground. Lake - 2 CORA. Corvid, coyote tracks in fence. Decoy enclosure in lake fence surrounded by coyote tracks. North Lake - 3 pair WSP. South campground - First nest 15MC01. Surfers Knoll to Campground (Brooke survey) SCRE - flock of 8.
4/17/2015	10 AMCR from lagoon to campground. 1 pair WSP at north lake, 1 pair at lake. Placed ME on 15MC01, no adults present
4/23/2015	Lake to Campground. Lake - 2 killdeer nests, 6 avocet. Corvid, coyote tracks in fence. 1 male at north end of lake fence, 2 scrapes outside fence. North Lake - 1 pair WSP outside fence. Outfall/lagoon - no WSP. South campground - 3 CORA, TUVU, 2 AMCR. 15MC01 enclosure removed, 3 eggs present. Female flushed and male nearby. Campground - new nest 15MC02 outside fence, placed staked signs. 2 male nearby. 3 egg HOLA nest in fence under beach bur. black-necked stilt pair.
4/28/2015	Lake. 12 avocets. Pair WSP at north end of fence near lobster trap.
5/1/2015	Lake to Surfers Knoll. Lake - WSP tracks inside lobster trap, 2 scrapes, pair. North lake - pair WSP, banded female nr:ng. Outfall - 12 avocet, 2 stilt, 2 killdeer. 2 CORA. Campground - 2 pair WSP, 1 female. 2 pair in fence. CORA tracks in fence.

Date	Field Notes - McGrath
5/8/2015	Lake to Campground. Lake - pair at north end. 3 CORA. Coyote, corvid tracks in fence. 2 scrapes in lobster trap. 10 avocets. South Lake - 1 pair outside fence, 4 scrapes in fence. Raven tracks. Outfall - 12 avocets, 2 stilts, killdeer. Female WSP between outfall and south campground. South Campground - 1 AMCR. Campground - 3 scrapes, 2 female, 1 male (bb:oy) outside fence.
5/12/2015	Lake to Campground. Lake - 2 CALT overhead. 6 avocets at lake edge; 2, 4 egg nests. Corvid, coyote tracks. North lake - 5 CORA. Outfall - 12 avocets (1, 4 egg nest), 1 pair stilts (1, 3 egg nest), killdeer. Campground/South Campground - 1 pair WSP, 1 male outside fence. 1 freshly dead WSP female, sitting in old tire track, eyes still open (collected and delivered to WFVZ). New nest 15MC03. 2 female, banded male (bb:oy), pair WSP. 3 mountain bikes with large off-road tires in the wet sand.
5/19/2015	Window Survey. 5th St/Mandalay to Surfers Knoll. Lake - 6 CORA. Gull roost (mostly CA gull). 4 avocets, 1 nest failed, unk pred, 1 nest active 4 E. North Lake - female WSP, pair at south end. Pair WSP at north end making scrapes behind fore dunes, just outside of fence. Outfall/lagoon - lone male (bb:oy). 2 killdeer, 16 avocets with 2 active nests. Stilt nest failed, no eggs, unk predator. South Campground - pair with new nest 15MC04. New nest 15MC05. Campground - pair WSP, female from MC03. SCRE - stilts.
5/28/2015	Lake to Surfers Knoll. PEFA. North lake - lone male, corvid tracks. Outfall - TUVU, 1 male WSP on berm.
5/29/2015	Replaced camera batteries at nest 15MC04. Lake - RTHA, WTKI (2 adult 1 juv),
6/3/2014	PEFA at SCRE, 2 CALT overhead.
6/8/2015	Campground - 3 chicks with male from MC05?
6/9/2015	Lake - CALT nests (13). North Lake - 2 pair WSP, 1 CALT nest. Campground - pair WSP, male with 2 1-2 week chicks (BB:OY). SCRE - pair WSP
6/17/2015	Lake - pair, banded F (NR:NG). 2 pair territorial display. Outfall, 2 male, calling/displaying but chicks not observed. 2 American avocet chicks. 1 killdeer chick. South campground - male displaying but chicks not observed. Female displaying for nest. 7 adult WSP. CORA. SCRE - PEFA, TUVU. 2 Black necked stilt chicks.
6/24/2015	Chicks - 3 @ 4 weeks, 2 @ 3 weeks. Female (NR:NG). Lake - coyote tracks. Two recently hatched WSP nests, males calling/displaying for chicks, but not observed. North Lake - pair WSP. South Campground - 2 males calling/displaying for chicks not observed. 1 female. Campground - male, 3 hatch year birds. SCRE - HY plus 3 unknown. 2 dog contacts (positive). County vector control truck on sandbar. Ultralight flying low, flushed all birds
7/2/2015	3 chicks @ 2 weeks
7/3/2015	Campground and south campground. Male BB:OY with chicks. Female NB:OB nest MC15.
7/8/2015	Lake - CALT nests hatching. CLAT nest predation - coyote tracks, unk predator, corvid, opossum. Female X:S (nest MC09), Outfall - pair and male BB:OY. South Campground - pair, 3 female, 1 male, migrant roosting flock 32. Campground - WEGU mobbed out by tern colony (approx 50 birds). Female WSP displaying. Opossum tracks, coyote tracks. Male with 2 chicks, second week? too far to age accurately. CALT chicks hatching.

Date	Field Notes - McGrath
7/15/2015	Lake - 7 CALT. X:S female displaying. AMKE, RTHA. Decoy ME knocked over. North Lake - 2 pair. Outfall, 2 pair. South Campground - Female with rump bulge, 2 HY, 44 CALT. Campground - New CALT nests. Flock ~ 40 WSP. Male with 2, 3-4 week chicks. SCRE sand bar - 17 TUVU
7/20/2015	Lake only. 1 dog contact, off leash, positive/compliant. 10 CALT overhead, 2 agitated, possibly chicks.
7/22/2015	Lake - 7 CALT adult, 13 fledge. Nest MC09 active, female X:S present. South Campground - female at south end. Male calling, chicks not observed. BB:OB and mate displaying/calling. 1 first week WSP chick. 1 new CALT chick. 2 first week CALT chicks. Est 75 CALT adults. 4th week WSP chick with male. Flock of 49 WSP.
7/27/2015	Campground - Helicopter disturbance, flying low flushed CALT colony at SCRE. 3 third week CALT chicks.
7/29/2015	Predators - RTHA, WEGU, CORA. Lake - 2 adult WSP, 4 CALT fledges. Campground - WSP flock of 66. CALT ~75 adults, ~13 fledges, 5 chicks South Campground - bonfire remnants, coyote tracks. Male WSP with 2 first week chicks (MC13?) at tide line.
8/5/2015	Lake - no WSP. N lake - 1 female, 1 male with 2 second week chicks, ran to outfall. South Campground - Male with third week chick. 1 HY fledge, 5 adult WSP. 4 adult CALT + chick. Campground - CORA in colony. Male WSP with second week chick. 6 CALT adults, 6 fledges. Migrant/roosting flock ~42 WSP. Adult WSP displaying/calling, likely more chicks present than observed. SCRE - 40 adult CALT, 10 fledges. 4 WSP adult, 1
8/12/2015	Lake - CORA, Coyote tracks, opossum tracks, AMCR tracks, gull roost. North lake - opossum tracks, AMCR tracks. male and female WSP with 2 third week chicks (nest MC09?) Lagoon - 1 2-3 week chick on edge of berm, adult near by but not displaying. South Campground - male with 2 3-4 week chicks. Campground - flock ~30 just above tide line. SCRE - 4 WSP adults foraging, male with HY.
8/19/2015	North lake - Bike tracks through fence. Outfall - no plovers. South campground - 1 male with fourth week chick. Opossum tracks. 2 dog contacts, from Surfers Knoll, positive/compliant. Flock in front of fence ~50. SCRE - 15 TUVU, CALT adults 8 and 14 fledge.
8/27/2015	Lake - opossum, coyote, corvid tracks. Male + 2 HY. South Campground - small flock 8. Campground - male with 2 3/4 week chicks. Flock between fence and tideline ~52. SCRE - CALT foraging/sandbar roost 20 adult, 8 juv.
9/1/2015	Lake - no plovers. North Lake - lone adult. Outfall, - no plovers, south campground - male + HY. Campground - flock between fencing, 37. SCRE - 1 juv CALT foraging.
9/8/2015	Lake - RTHA. No WSP from lake to south campground. Campground - WSP flock at access rd. 1 HY. 2 adult WSP south of Surfers Knoll.
9/16/2015	WSP roosting flock of 25 at campground access rd.

McGrath SB WSP Nesting Season Population									
Date	Male	Female	Unknown	Hatch Year	Chick	Total	# active nests	#broods	Bands
3/5/2015	7	13				20			
3/12/2015	7	12	2			21			
3/19/2015	5	8	28			41			
3/24/2015	23	17				40			x:s (F)
4/2/2015	18	10	4			32			x:s (F), nb:nb (F)
4/8/2015	12	15				27			nb:nb (F)
4/16/2015	8	8	8			24	1		nb:nb (F), ga:ow (F)
4/22/2015	5	3				8	2		bb:oy (m)
5/1/2015	4	6				10	0		nr:ng (F)
5/8/2015	3	5				8	0		bb:oy (M)
5/12/2015	4	4				8	1		bb:oy (M); nb:nb (F)
5/19/2015	4	6				10	3		bb:oy (M)
5/28/2015	4	3				7	4		
6/3/2015	4	5	1			10	3	1	
6/9/2015	4	6			2	10	4	1	bb:oy (M), x:s (F)
6/17/2015	5	4				9	4	1	nr:ng (F), x:s (F)
6/24/2015	2		13		5	15	0	2	x:s (F)
7/2/2015	6	4		1	3	10	6	1	bb:oy (M), x:s (F)
7/8/2015	5	9	24	2	1	38	7	1	no:ob (F); bb:oy (M), x:s (F)
7/15/2015	5	6	47	2	2	58	6	2	x:s, nb:ob, rump bluge (F), ll:lg
7/22/2015	2	6	9		1	17	5	2	bb:ob (M), rump bluge (F), yr:b HY?, rw:go
7/29/2015	1	1	64		2	66	1	1	r:ng; nr:ng; ob:bb; pv:bb; gg:lg; pb:pb; nb:nb (F), x:s, g:gw, p
8/5/2015	3	1	47	2	4	51	1	3	
8/12/2015	3	2	12	5	2	17	1	1	gg:gw or g:g/w, ra:bb, nr:bb, rr:bw
8/19/2015	1		50		1	51	0	2	nr:bw, bb:oy, gg:ag, vv:ar
8/27/2015	2		60	3	2	62		2	x:o, gg:ga, wb:gr, Rw:rb, nr:nb
9/1/2015	2		38	3		40			nr:bw, gg:ag, r:g
9/8/2015			36	1		36			Rw:rb, gg:ag, nr:bw
9/16/2015			25			25			nr:bw, Rw:rb, gg:ag

Snowy Plover Nest Fates 2015				
Mandalay State Beach				
Nest #		15MN-01	15MN-02	15MN-03
Pred-Exclosure?		Y	Y	Y
Inside Fence?		Y	N	Y
Bands		Female with rump bulge		
Estimated Hatch Date		5/26/2015	6/13/2015	6/19/2015
Lat N		34.20171716670	34.20266183330	34.20083333330
Long W		-119.25073533300	-119.25171966700	-119.25043516700
DATE	Monitor			
4/28/2015	AF, CF	3 E/ F		
5/6/2015	AF, CF, BS	3 E		
5/13/2015	AF	3 E/ F	1 E/F	
5/19/2015	AF, DG	3 E/F	3 E/F	1 E
5/29/2015	AF	Possible Hatch	Fail- Vandalism	Fail- Vandalism

Nest Num	Date	Nest Notes - Mandalay
15MN01	4/28/2015	Female with rump bulge. Nest under dead veg canopy. Inside fence at north end. Flush distance ~ 100ft. Placed ME
	5/6/2015	Adult flushed, not observed incubating but nearby with male. Fresh tracks at nest.
	5/13/2015	Female displaying
	5/19/2015	Female incubating, male outside fence.
	5/29/2015	Possible hatch. Exclosure in tact. Pair near by, gave no indication of chicks present and chicks not
15MN02	5/13/2015	1 E / F incubating. Outside fence at north end, seaward of large driftwood hut. Nest in wrack and dried Velella. Placed ME and staked signs.
	5/19/2015	3 E / F. Flush distance ~ 30 ft. Male near by.
	5/25/2015	Docent observation - Female incubating nest.
	5/29/2015	Fail, human vandalism/take. Corner of ME lifted out of the sand, eggs removed.
15MN03	5/19/2015	1 E, pair nearby. In fence, nest in sea rocket, in line with oil pump.
	5/20/2015	Placed ME
	5/29/2015	Fail, human vandalism/take. Corner of ME lifted put of sand, eggs removed.

Date	Field Notes - Mandalay
3/2/2015	No WSP. Minor fence repair.
3/11/2015	Flock of 8 at 5th St. Pair outside fence. Trespass (human footprints) in fence. Fence broken at north end.
3/18/2015	Flock of 6 at 5th St. 7 north of 5th St. 1 female, 3 pair in nesting area (including female with rump bulge). 2 fresh scrapes. 2 dog contacts (positive), 1 not contacted.
3/24/2015	Flock of 5 north of 5th St. New scrapes in fence. Pair, single male outside fence. No fence repair needed. 2
4/1/2015	Bike tracks through fence. 2 pair, 1 male, including female with rump bulge. Scrapes in fence.
4/9/2015	3 pair WSP. 2 dog contacts (positive)
4/14/2015	Pair at south end. Minimal trespass, 1 bent t-post. 3 dog contacts (all compliant, but 1 negative response). Female with rump bulge. 1 AMCR.
4/22/2015	Horse droppings on beach. Trespass (footprints), crow tracks in nesting area. Velella velella washed up on beach.
4/28/2015	Pair outside fence at south end. Pair outside fence on north end (female with rump bulge)
5/6/2015	2 females outside fence at south end. Male inside fence with scrape. Pair inside fence. Minor fence repair. First Pair mating at north end of property, near power plant. PEFA, ground squirrel. 1 dog contact, 2 off leash, negative. Leashed dogs but refused to leave beach. Called SURCOM
5/13/2015	Pair outside fence at south end. Juv coopers hawk perched on fence post. Female in fence at south end. Female outside fence at north end displaying. 2 say's phoebe fledglings on driftwood hut and fence posts.
5/19/2015	Trespass (footprints) in fence. 2 pair, 2 males outside fence (BB:OY). 2 F incubating nests. 1 AMCR
5/29/2015	Trespass (human and dog footprints) in fence. Pair outside fence near MN03 failed nest (take). MN01 possible hatch, exclosure in tact, pair nearby (female with rump bulge) but no chicks observed and adults gave no indication they were protecting chicks. MN02 fail (take). Pair inside fence at north end. Large amounts of tar balls in wrack.
6/2/2015	2 HY plovers outside fence.
6/9/2015	Trespass (footprints) in fence. Female at north end, one scrape. Single plover at south end. Fence repair, post
6/25/2015	No WSP. 1 dog contact positive/compliant
7/7/2015	1 WSP HY or F
7/9/2015	Affixed No Dogs signs to large rocks at 5th St.
7/16/2015	1 female WSP. 5 dog contacts - 1 positive/compliant, 4 negative/non-compliant
7/21/2015	No WSP. 1 dog contact, positive/compliant
7/29/2015	2 female, 1 HY, 1 M. 1 dog contact (claimed he thought no dog signs only pretained to rocks)
8/6/2015	3 WSP (1 male, 2 hatch year)
8/13/2015	Flock of 11 WSP at south end. 1 dog contact, positive
8/19/2015	Flock of 15 at south corner of fence.
8/26/2015	Flock of 18. 2 dog contacts, positive
9/3/2015	Flock of 14 in front of fence, mid-way up beach.
9/9/2015	Flock of 21 north of 5th st outside fence mid-beach
9/16/2015	Flock of 5 north of 5th, between rocks and fence. 1 south of 5th.

Snowy Plover Nest Fates 2015			
San Buenaventura SB			
Nest #		15SB-01	15SB-02
Pred-Exclosure?		Y	Y
Inside Fence?		Y	Y
Bands			
Location		LGHQ	LGHQ
Estimated Hatch Date		4/27/2015	5/10/2015
Lat N		34.27161000000	34.27200066670
Long W		-119.28406150000	-119.28436583300
DATE	Monitor		
4/1/2015	BS	3 E / F	
4/9/2015	BS, CF, DLG	3 E / F	
4/14/2015	AF, CF	3 E / F	3 E / F
4/22/2015	AF, CF	3 E / F	3 E / F
4/28/2015	AF, CF	2 E / F	3 E
4/30/2015	AF	Hatch - 2 C / M	
5/2/2015	AF, CF		F inc
5/6/2015	AF, CF, BS	2 C / M	Poss Hatch/Unk
5/13/2015	AF	1 C	
5/26/2015	AF, CF	1 C / M	
5/19/2015	AF, DG	1 C	
5/26/2015	AF, CF	1 C / M	
5/29/2015	AF	1 Fledge	

Nest Num	Date	Nest Notes - San Buenaventura
15SB01	4/1/2015	3 E, female incubating. LGHQ fence, fore dunes in cobble. Placed ME
	4/9/2015	F incubating
	4/14/2015	3 E, F incubating
	4/22/2015	3 E, F incubating. Male near by.
	4/28/2015	2 E, F incubating, flush distance ~2 feet
	4/30/2015	Hatch, 2 chicks with male
	5/6/2015	Male with 2 chicks between tower 4 and volleyball courts.
	5/13/2015	1 chick at tower 4. Male chased off pair and 3rd plover.
	5/19/2015	1 chick south of tower 4.
	5/20/2015	Chick not observed.
	5/26/2015	Chick with male between tower 4 and LGHQ jetty.
	5/29/2015	1 Fledge with male south of tower 4.
	6/2/2015	1 fledge. 1 egg with dead chick found near scrape, buried on site.
15SB02	4/14/2015	3 E, F incubating. LGHQ fence fore dunes in saltbush. Placed ME
	4/22/2015	3 E, F incubating. Male near by.
	4/28/2015	3 E, no adults, fresh plover tracks at nest.
	5/6/2015	Unk/Possible hatch. Chicks not observed. No eggs, fresh plover tracks and crow tracks. Some crusted sand in scrape. Juvenile hawk perching on LGHQ building.

Date	Field Notes - San Buenaventura
3/18/2015	Flock of 67 between volleyball (VB) courts and tower 4. 3 scrapes in LGHQ fence, 1 decorated.
3/24/2015	Flock of 68 between VB courts and tower 4. One territorial male at VB courts. 3 scrapes in LGHQ fence, but no WSP present. Banded male nb:nb
4/1/2015	Flock of 50 between VB courts and tower 4. Banded male r:w/r/w, female nr:ng. First nest in LGHQ fence
4/9/2015	Flock of 25, 1 nest active. Banded female nr:ng
4/14/2015	Flock of 10 at VB cts. Scrape at VB cts. 4 AMCR. 2 pair south of LGHQ jetty. 2 active nests in LGHQ fence
4/22/2015	Flock of 8 south of tower 4. 8 AMCR at Kalorama. 1 semipalmated plover, 1 black oystercatcher, 1 hybrid American x black. 2 active nests. Scrape in dune fence north of volleyball courts.
4/28/2015	Flock of 8 at VB courts/Tower 3. Pair at jetty, banded r:w/r/w. 2 AMCR, 1 CORA. 2 active nests in LGHQ fence. Bike tracks through fence.
5/6/2015	SB01 male with 2 chicks first week chicks between tower 4 and volleyball courts. SB02, no eggs, crusted sand, fresh plover tracks. AMCR tracks in fence.
5/13/2015	Pair between VB courts and tower 4. Male chased off a third plover and all flew off. 1 second week chick at tower 4, no adult. New scrape in LGHQ fence.
5/19/2015	Window survey San Pedro St. to Pier. 1 male with third week chick south of tower 4. 1 dog contact positive, 1 off leash not contacted. 4 AMCR. 2 new scrapes in LGHQ fence. Dog tracks in fence.
5/20/2015	Tower placement monitoring. San Pedro to San Jon no WSP, could not locate chick and male. 1 CORA, 8 AMCR. 1 dog contact positive, 1 not contacted, 2 off leash south of san Pedro not contacted.. Dog tracks in
5/26/2015	Male with 4th week chick between tower 4 and LGHQ jetty. Predators - TUVU, AMCR, unk hawk pursuing pigeons in dunes.
5/29/2015	Male with fledge! South of tower 4. LGHQ fence - AMCR tracks, dog tracks. 1 scrape with fresh plover tracks.
6/2/2015	Lone fledge north of tower 4. New scrape in LGHQ fence.
6/9/2015	Pair with 2 scrapes in LGHQ fence. Fresh scrape inside of existing mini enclosure. 15 AMCR on main beach in dunes.
6/10/2015	JG monitoring. Main beach - no WSP. LGHQ fence - CORA tracks, gull, human and dog tracks. No WSP in fence. No new scrapes, no new activity in scrapes found previous week.
6/17/2015	No WSP
6/18/2015	No WSP
6/25/2015	No WSP. 16 AMCR, gull roost
7/2/2015	No WSP
7/7/2015	No WSP
7/13/2015	No WSP
7/15/2015	No WSP
7/20/2015	No WSP
7/29/2015	Flock of 13 main beach

Date	Field Notes - San Buenaventura
8/6/2015	Flock of 32 between tower 4 and jetty
8/13/2015	Flock of 49 between tower 4 and volleyball courts. Flushed by JG group running by.
8/19/2015	Flock of 65 between tower 4 and LGHQ jetty
8/26/2015	Flock of 10 between tower 4 and LGHQ jetty. PEFA hunting pigeons on beach. Removed LGHQ fence.
9/3/2015	Flock of 77
9/9/2015	Flock of 59 between VB courts and tower 4

San Buenaventura SB WSP Breeding Season Population									
Date	Male	Female	Unknown	Hatch Year	Chick	Total	#active nests	#broods	Bands/Notes
3/2/2015			84			84			r:r/w/r, nr:ng (F)
3/11/2015			84			84			r:r/w/r, nr:ng (F)
3/18/2015			67			67			
3/24/2015			68			68			nb:nb
4/1/2015	38	12				50	1		r:w/r/w (M); nr:ng (F)
4/9/2015	19	7				26	1		nr:ng (F)
4/14/2015	4	6	11			21	2		nr:ng (F)
4/22/2015	8	4				12	2		
4/28/2015	1	3	8			12	2		R:w/r/w (F)
5/6/2015	2				2	2		1	
5/13/2015	2	1			1	3		1	
5/19/2015	1				1	1		1	
5/20/2015	0	0	0			0			
5/26/2015	1				1	1		1	
5/29/2015	1			1		2		1	Hatch Year is fledge from SB01
6/2/2015	0	0	0	1		1			
6/9/2015	1	1				2			
6/10/2015	0	0	0			0			
6/17/2015	0	0	0			0			
6/25/2015	0	0	0			0			
6/29/2015	0	0	0			0			
7/2/2015	0	0	0			0			
7/7/2015	0	0	0			0			
7/13/2015	0	0	0			0			
7/15/2015	0	0	0			0			
7/20/2015	0	0	0			0			
7/29/2015			13			13			
8/6/2015			32			32			v:aw; r:g
8/13/2015			49			49			vg:aw (F)
8/19/2015			65			65			
8/26/2015			10			10			PEFA on beach, flushed flock
9/3/2015			77			77			Bw:ay, vg:aw
9/9/2015			59			59			
9/16/2015			71			71			R:w/r/w, vg:aw, Bw:ay, ga:oy, ny:ag, p:wg, l

Winter WSP Population Channel Coast Beaches							
Mandalay			McGrath			SBVTA	
Date	Population		Date	Population		Date	Population
9/17/2014	0		9/17/14	11		9/17/2014	90
9/25/2014	9		9/25/14	21		9/25/2015	117
10/1/2014	20		10/1/14	17		10/1/2014	139
10/8/2014	23		10/8/15	0		10/8/2015	135
10/16/2014	35		10/16/14	2		10/16/2014	50
10/23/2014	41		10/23/14	0		10/23/2014	168
10/29/2014	53		10/29/14	1		10/29/2014	140
11/6/2014	0		11/6/14	0		11/6/2014	90
11/13/2014	43		11/13/14	0		11/13/2014	26
11/17/2014	45		11/17/15	0		11/17/2014	76
11/24/2014	30		11/24/14	9		11/24/2014	119
12/5/2014	34		12/5/14	0		12/5/2014	146
12/11/2014	46		12/11/14	0		12/11/2014	144
12/15/2014	50		12/15/14	0		12/16/2014	142
12/31/2014	18		12/31/14	6		12/31/2014	84
1/8/2015	21		1/8/15	18		1/8/2015	79
1/13/2015	32		1/13/15	8		1/13/2015	96
1/20/2015	21		1/20/15	19		1/20/2015	87
1/29/2015	32		1/29/15	2		1/29/2015	102
2/5/2015	41		2/5/15	1		2/5/2015	90
2/12/2015	32		2/12/15	1		2/12/2015	80
2/18/2015	16		2/18/15	6		2/18/2015	94
2/23/2015	27		2/23/15	9		2/23/2015	91
3/2/2015	0		3/5/15	20		3/2/2015	84
3/11/2015	10		3/12/15	21		3/11/2015	84
Average	27		Average	7		Average	102



WELCOME!

Welcome and thank you for participating in the Beach Docent Program.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

Alexis Frangis
(805) 217-4833 (cell)

PROGRAM GOALS

Overall

The goal of the Beach Docent Program is to assist in the protection of the Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern on Ventura County beaches by promoting educational opportunities and increasing the level of awareness of beach users and community members.

Specifically

- To protect and preserve the habitat of the Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern at Ormond Beach, Hollywood Beach, Mandalay State

Beach, McGrath, and San Buenaventura State Beach.

- To communicate information about the natural history and conservation of the Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern, their habitats, and the Ventura County coastline.
- To educate visitors of the importance of following regulations which have been implemented to protect the plovers, terns and their habitat.
- To facilitate a positive connection between members of the public and the conservation efforts along the Ventura County coast.

This manual is to help insure your effectiveness as a Docent. It outlines the duties and expectations of volunteers, provides documents and information that will supplement your training and provides answers to many of the questions and problems likely to be encountered.

SPONSOR

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Beach Docent Program is an outgrowth of the VC Shorebird Guide Program and is the product of the work of many individuals from many

groups: US Fish & Wildlife Service, CA Coastal Conservancy, CA State Parks, CA Fish & Wildlife, members of Ventura Audubon Society, coordinators of other Snowy Plover/Least Tern Volunteer Programs along the Coast of California, and others too numerous to mention have all contributed to the inception and development of this program.

INTRODUCTION

Snowy Plovers and Least Terns along the Ventura County coast

The coastal population of the Western Snowy Plover occurs year round along the Ventura County coast, using the beaches for wintering as well as nesting. The California Least Tern uses the beaches for nesting during summer. Sites include: Ormond Beach, Hollywood Beach, Mandalay State Beach, McGrath State Beach (including the Surfer's Knoll), San Buenaventura State Beach, and Pt. Mugu Naval Base.

Research has shown that nesting and wintering plovers and nesting terns are not able to tolerate high levels of disturbance caused by human recreation on the beach.

Historically, active management for plovers and terns on our public beaches has been conducted by Ventura Audubon, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and CA State Parks. Management efforts have included fencing of nesting habitat, restoration of dune habitat, installation of informational signs, as well as population and nest monitoring.

Beach Docent Program

LOCATION: Ormond Beach, Hollywood Beach, Mandalay State Beach, McGrath State Beach and San Buenaventura State Beach.

Summary of Position

A Beach Docent is a trained volunteer who maintains a level of expertise about these species and their habitat. The volunteer will be responsible for interpreting information about Western Snowy Plovers, California Least Terns and their habitat to beach users, recording basic data and interpreting site rules and regulations to the public in ways that encourage visitors to voluntarily comply with those rules. The Beach Docent position is an essential component to successful management and recovery of

threatened/endangered species.

Qualifications

- A positive and enthusiastic attitude towards engaging people in conversation.
- Ability to communicate well with others and be sensitive to their needs and views.
- Ability to work independently and resourcefully in accordance with guidelines.
- Good written, verbal and observational skills.

Benefits/opportunities

- Expand your awareness, understanding, sensitivity, and appreciation for our local natural areas and wildlife.
- Participate in educating others about an issue that is important to you.
- Link with other plover volunteer programs throughout California, Oregon, and Washington, and become more involved in local conservation issues.

THE BEACH DOCENT ROLE

The purpose of having a Beach Docent Program on Ventura

County Beaches is public education. What does that really mean?

Basically, it means that Docents help people learn how to share the beach with plovers and terns. Given the history of unregulated access to many of our sites, a wide variety of people use the beach for a host of acceptable and unacceptable recreational activities. Many people are simply unaware of the impacts of their activities. Public education is intended, over time, to minimize the unacceptable practices without diminishing the acceptable ones and to implant the idea that our beaches are used and relied upon for survival by species other than humans.

Having a positive ambassador speaking with people about plovers and terns is the most effective educational tool possible. People like to learn from other people, not from textbooks or other educational media. If you talk to people, you can share your knowledge of plovers and terns. Once they have begun to learn, they can begin to care. People who understand why they should care about the birds are more likely to change their behavior.

As a docent, you play two important roles:

1. Educator
2. Protector

As an educator, you can contact beach visitors by making yourself available and approachable.

Education includes:

1. Providing beach users with accurate information on the natural history and biology of snowy plovers
2. Helping beach users identify snowy plovers and other shorebirds through a spotting scope or binoculars
3. Interpreting rules for beach users and providing an explanation for their existence
4. Offering brochures and public handouts
5. Encouraging questions and learning on all levels

As a protector, you may contact beach visitors by intercepting those who are not respecting the site's regulations or those who pose a potential threat to the birds. (see "RULES AND REGULATIONS").

Protection includes 3 areas of concern:

1. Unleashed Dogs
2. Trespassing into enclosure
3. Active Recreation

1. UNLEASHED DOGS

As a Docent, it is your duty to ensure that all dogs, within the site boundaries on which they're allowed, are leashed and under the control of a visible owner at all times. Oxnard City Ordinance 5-40 states that all dogs must be in restrained (leashed) while in or on public land.

The owner of an unleashed dog should be asked to leash it. You may explain that it is a city ordinance, enforced by Oxnard Animal Control, which carries a potential fine, if cited..

Note: Dogs are not permitted on State Parks Beaches at all. They are permitted in the camping areas of McGrath but, must be on leash. It is helpful to let people know where they can take their dog. Dog Owners Guide brochures are available.

2. TRESPASSING INTO ENCLOSURE

A Docent also ensures that the boundaries of the fenced nesting areas are respected, and appropriately addresses

the situation when trespassing does occur.

When a human trespass occurs into the fenced nesting area, do not try to stop the trespasser with shouts or frantic hand signals. Under no circumstances should you enter the fenced area. Calmly motion them to come out, intercept them, and advise them of their error and the reasons why the nesting area is a "No Trespassing" area. Ask them politely to avoid the area in the future. Ample signs should be in place, but are not always available due to high tides or terrain. This is why it is important that you are there! If someone is in the nesting area and not moving, from outside of the fence approach them politely and ask them to leave, explaining why.

If you feel that a ball or frisbee game is in too close of proximity of the nesting area, such that the ball may fall inside the roped area, ask the players to move farther away. A ball or anything that lands in the enclosure may not be retrieved by anyone.

3. ACTIVE RECREATION

There are many activities that are not allowed on the beach, such as camping, bonfires,

riding off-road vehicles, using firearms, collecting eggs, lighting fireworks, and more. (See RULES AND REGULATIONS)

PROCEDURES & PROTOCOLS

1. Arrive at the site at the scheduled time.
2. If you relieve another Docent, get updated on the current situation.
3. Provide your own spotting scope / binoculars
4. Chair, if desired
5. Clipboard- with data sheets, if available

RULES AND REGULATIONS AT THE BEACH SITES

Permitted

Surfing, Wildlife viewing,
Sunbathing,
Walking/jogging,
Hiking on designated trails.

Not Permitted

Unleashed dogs, Bonfires,
Littering, Motorized Vehicles,
Trespassing, Camping,
Fireworks, Firearms, Egg
collecting, Activities that
disturb wildlife (e.g. kite flying,
ball playing near nest habitat.)
Dogs are not permitted on
State Park beaches.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Good public relations may be defined as the “development and maintenance of public understanding, appreciation, and support for the objectives and programs” put forth by a specific group or institution. Public Relations do not simply mean the dissemination of information; in fact, the quality of the communication with the public is key. We must remember not only what we are trying to communicate, but with whom we are communicating -- a sincere concern for the welfare of the public should always be at the forefront of our minds.

Making a positive contact

Every contact with the public -- whether it is on the beach, through a letter to the editor, or in line at the grocery store represents an opportunity to foster understanding and gain support for our program. Make an effort to be helpful and friendly at all times when dealing with the public. Our goal with the Beach Docent Program is to help people enjoy the beach while learning to share it with other species -- not to be the Plover Police. We need to remember that people

are just on the beach to relax and have fun (just as many of us do when we are not volunteering), and they need to be treated with respect and courtesy at all times.

One thoughtless statement or action on the part of one Docent can spoil the positive efforts of many; for this reason, we all need to make a constant effort towards friendly, courteous and effective interactions with the public when representing or discussing the Beach Docent Program. The trick to remaining positive about someone doing something wrong is to give them the benefit of the doubt. Ninety percent of the trespassers are not paying attention and feel embarrassed by their action. Help them to not feel bad by saying “You may not know, but this area is protected because of threatened birds that live here”.

There may be times when you experience angry or unreasonable people. If it ever comes to the point where an individual is being abusive, confrontational, refuses to comply, or is a repeat offender, back off and refer the situation immediately to the Program Coordinator, call the police or State Parks Peace Officer (see

“IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY”).

When people are approached by Beach Docents, they often have a series of questions. Give them as much information as they need. When you are posed a question that you cannot answer offhand and you cannot find the answer in your Manual’s reference material, then be honest and say you don’t know the answer. It is very important not to give out false or misleading information – even unintentionally -- because it can confuse the visitor and damage the public relations of the Program. Be sure to write down the question which ‘stumped’ you and talk to the Program Coordinator about it later – he or she will help you learn the answer so you will be ready next time!

As a Beach Docent, you can help interest the casual visitor in the site’s natural and ecological value. By explaining and interpreting the interrelations of plants, animals and humans to their environment in a factual and interesting manner, the Docent may help acquaint the visitor with the great opportunity to both enjoy and preserve the natural environment. Education is the first step

toward understanding, appreciation, and eventually support. Not every contact has to be reactive. Engage people and enhance their beach experience.

Steps to a good public contact:

1. Greeting. A friendly “Hello, how are you today”
2. Introduce yourself. “My name is _ and I am a docent with Ventura Audubon”
3. Explanation. “This is a State Beach and we don’t allow dogs here”
4. Identify a solution. “You can walk your dog on leash in the park, on the city beach...”
5. Closing. “Thank you and have a nice day”

FREQUENTLY ENCOUNTERED SITUATIONS

Many of the people who recreate on the beach are unaware that it is also a habitat. They often have no idea that rules and regulations are in place to protect the federally-listed birds. Part of your job as a Beach Docent will be to inform people of these rules -- often at a time when they are violating one of them (e.g. walking inside the fenced

area). In these situations, we want to avoid negative interactions at all costs -- to ensure an enjoyable beach experience for the visitor and your own safety. You must remember to be diplomatic and explain the reasons behind the rules.

DO NOT EVER PUT YOURSELF IN A CONFRONTATIONAL SITUATION. If someone gets argumentative or aggressive, contact the Program Coordinator or the Oxnard Police (911) or a State Park Ranger immediately. Here are some common questions and comments from beach users and suggestions on how to field them:

My dog never chases birds.

Even if your dog is not actively chasing plovers and other birds, most birds will react to people and their dogs as if they were their natural canine predators. Birds will fly from predators- an activity that is costly, using large amounts of energy. If their energy is used to fly from disturbances, it can prevent the other behaviors that they need to survive, such as feeding, incubating eggs, and can ultimately jeopardize their ability to reproduce.

So, if I can't run my dog off leash here, where can I?

There are county, city and state ordinances that says dogs must be leashed in public areas. State Park beaches don't allow dogs at all. If you want to walk your dog on the beach, the dog needs to be on a leash. (See pamphlet Dogs on Beaches)

Why can't the birds just move down the beach to where there are no/fewer people?

Snowy plovers and least terns need a specific type of beach for resting, feeding, and nesting. This habitat tends to be wide, flat and open, so they can see potential predators approaching. Seaweed that washed ashore provides food. Sand dunes are an important component and provide a safe place where they can take cover in extreme high-tide conditions and storm events. The birds can't move down the beach, but we, humans, can!

Just let natural selection proceed -- if the bird was meant to die off, then it will!

The decline of the Pacific Coast population of plovers and terns is due to UNNATURAL events, such as human recreation, domestic animals, habitat loss

to development of coastal property, introduction of exotic plants and animals, and an increase in crows on beaches (attracted to garbage left behind by visitors). Plovers have lived here and have been using the beaches much longer than humans, and it is only recently that human encroachment has impacted their survival and nesting success. This beach is very important for wintering birds and a critical breeding site as well.

I just want to play ball with my friends. Why do you want me to move?

Active recreation is discouraged near nesting areas because of the sensitivity of the area. The action of a group of people running around near the nesting area and tossing a ball through the air is very stressful for the plovers. They are forced to spend a lot of energy in vigilance -- watching to make sure that those stomping feet and flying balls are not a direct threat to their safety or the safety of their chicks or nest -- and running or flying away when they do feel threatened. That not only wastes valuable energy, but could leave the nest or chicks exposed and vulnerable to predators and abandonment.

Why haven't you removed the marine mammal carcass that appeared a few days ago?

The carcasses provide food for many native shore animals. It is a natural process and should also be left undisturbed.

There is an injured marine mammal or a sick bird that can't fly, over in the wet sand!

Thank you, for bringing this to my attention. The best thing you can do is leave it alone. I will contact the Marine Mammal Center or Seabird Rehabilitation Center right now and they will address the situation. (see IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS) When leaving information with an animal rescue service, be sure to give the exact location where you found the animal, date and time, and your phone number in case animal care technicians have any questions.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

While volunteering as a Beach Docent, you may find yourself in the position to observe conditions that constitute potential or direct hazards or violations. It is part of your duty to recognize and report

such conditions. Please do not attempt, on your own, to handle any situation with which you feel unsure or uncomfortable -- always call someone to help you. Judgment is important, of course, in deciding whether the situation should simply be noted and routinely reported to the Program Coordinator, or whether it is serious and time-sensitive enough to make an immediate report to Animal Control or Police. Following are the important phone numbers you should know, and the procedures for handling various emergency/safety situations, including whom to call for what type of incident. You may not ever need any of these phone numbers or procedures, but in case you do find yourself in a situation, which calls for additional assistance, follow these guidelines to decide whom to call or report to:

Call 911

- Any medical emergency, which is potentially life-threatening and requires an ambulance (do not attempt to render aid until you have called for help)
- Swimmer needing assistance
- Violence of any type

- Use or obvious possession of firearms

Call Police or Animal Control

- Disturbances approaching violence (including threats to volunteer's safety by angry visitors)
- Property damage in progress (i.e. vandalism of signs, fences, vehicles on beach, etc.)
- Off-leash dogs without a visible owner, or owners who refuse to leash their dog.
- Argumentative, vocally uncooperative visitors who harass volunteers.
- People/dogs/off-road vehicles entering fenced area, who have refused to obey your request to leave.

Tips To Remember When Reporting Emergencies

- STAY CALM
- Don't exaggerate or downplay the situation -- tell it like it is.
- Give enough information to give a clear picture of what is happening or what has happened.
- Give your cell phone number to the police and stay where you are to provide assistance to the officers when they arrive.

- If someone has reported the incident to you, try to get that person's name and phone number, so he or she can be contacted at a later date if necessary. Also try to get as many details about the incident from the reporting person as possible (e.g. what was the suspect wearing/driving, extent of injuries to victim, where and when it happened, etc.) -- and write them all down.
- If you are carrying a camera, take a picture of the person and/or dog that caused the problem.

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency/Medical:	911
Oxnard Police (non-emergency)	385-7973
Oxnard Police (from cell phone)	486-1663
Oxnard Animal Control	385-7810
Channel Islands Harbor Patrol	382-3000
Ventura County Sheriff Dispatch	654-9511
Ventura Harbor Patrol	642-8618
Alexis Frangis (CA State Parks)	207-9469
Debra Barringer (VAS Monitor)	(303) 880-0308
Michael Glenn (USFWS)	644-1766 x328
(cell)	889-8915
Bruce Schoppe (Ventura Audubon)	689-7025
Marine Mammal Rescue:	
Channel Islands Marine & Wildlife Institute	567-1505

Adapted from VC Shorebird Guide written by Chris Kahler in 2009 which was, in turn, adapted from the Coal Oil Point Reserve's Docent Manual