

Lake McConaughy 2011

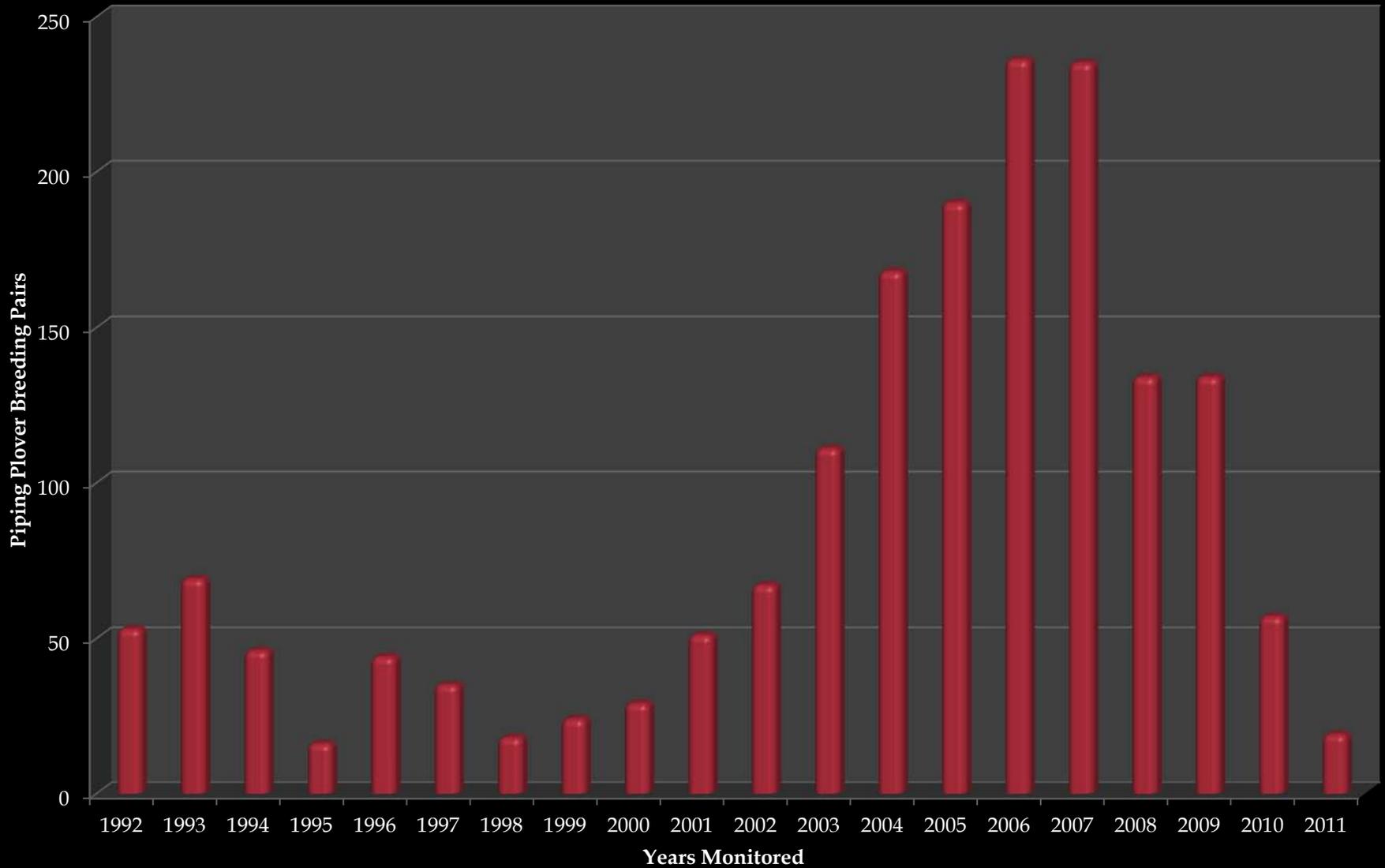
Mark M. Peyton: Senior District Biologist

Gabriel T. Wilson: Lead Environmental Technician

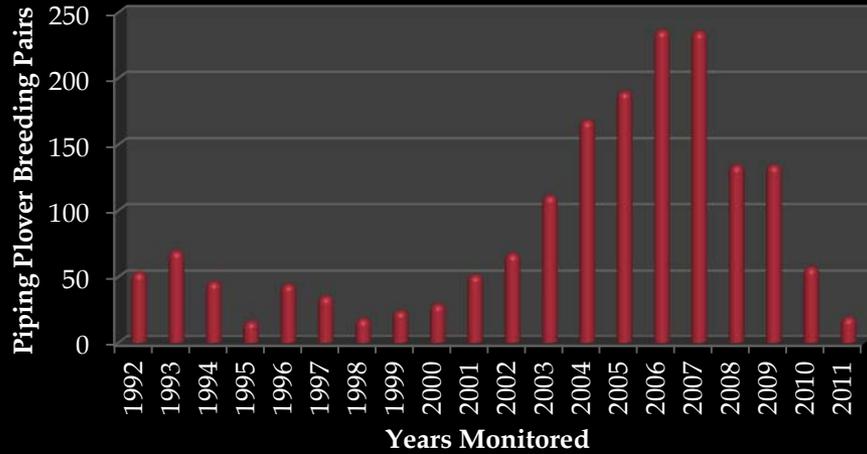


**Least Tern
And Piping Plover
Reproductive Success**

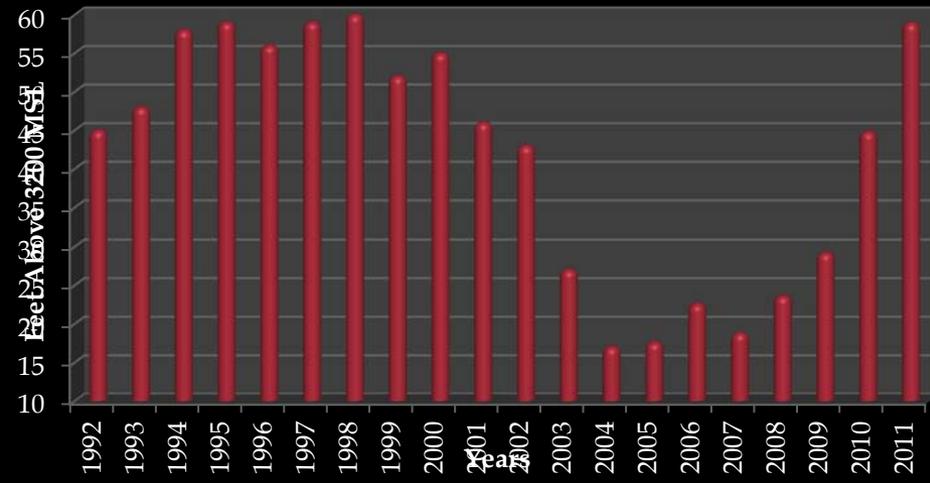
Number of Piping Plover Breeding Pairs Observed at Lake McConaughy, Nebraska 1992 - 2011



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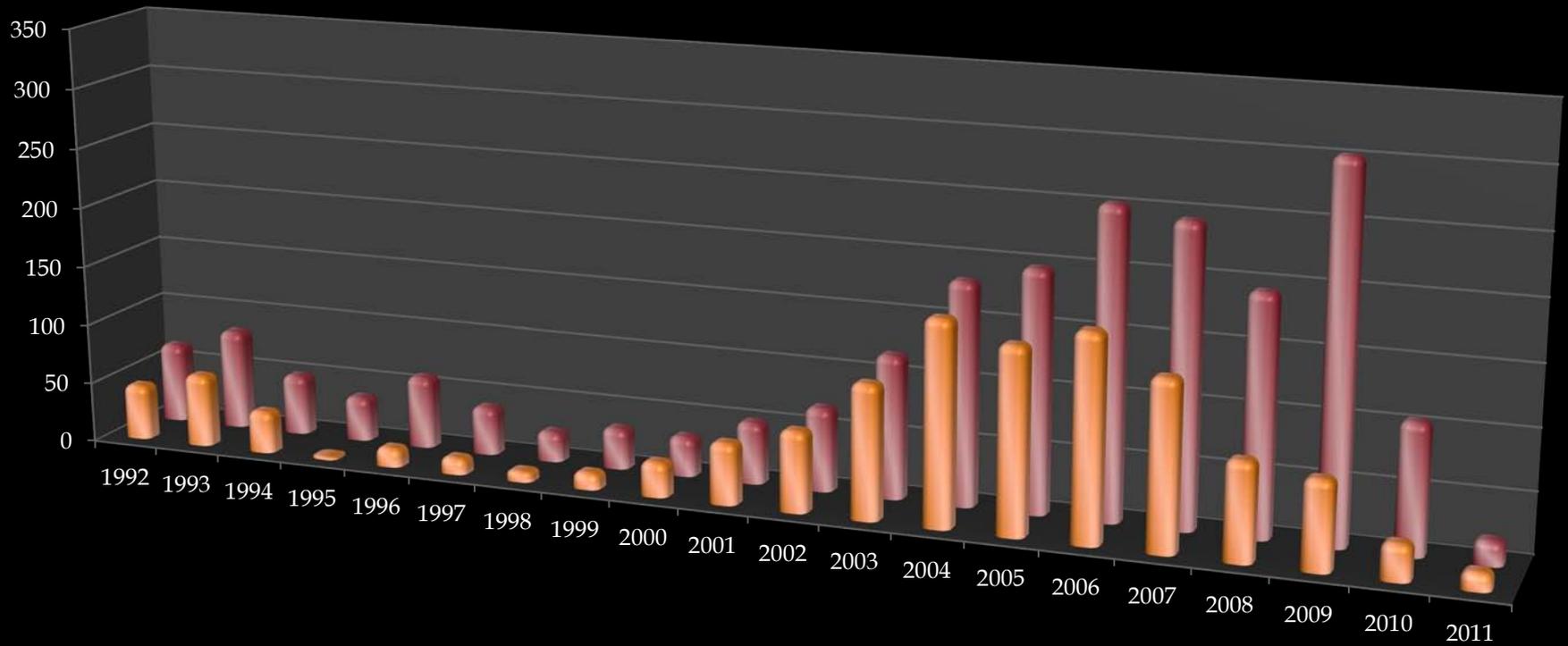


Lake McConaughy Elevation Above 3200 msl on May 1st 1992 - 2011

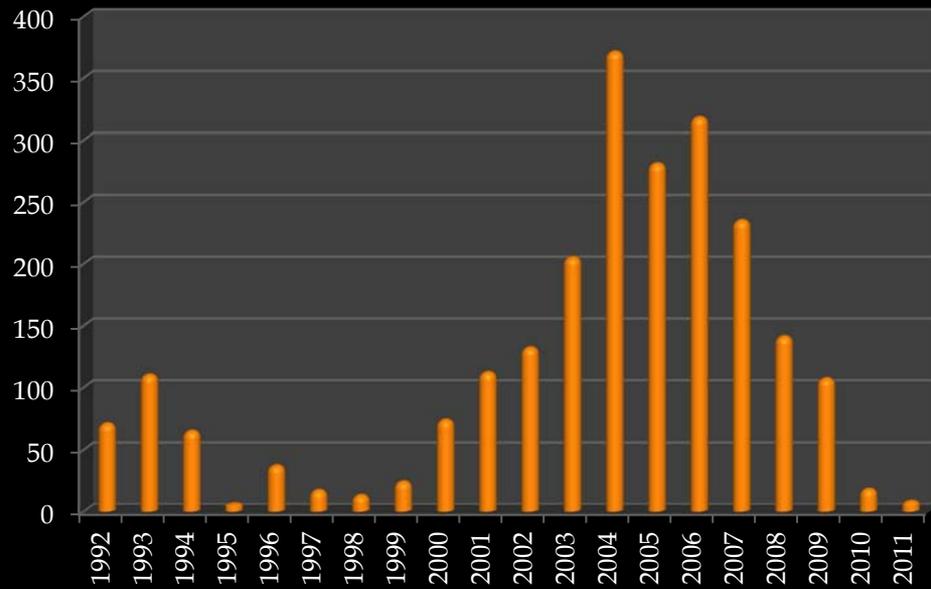


Piping Plover Nests Observed and Nests that Successfully Hatch Lake McConaughy 1992 - 2011

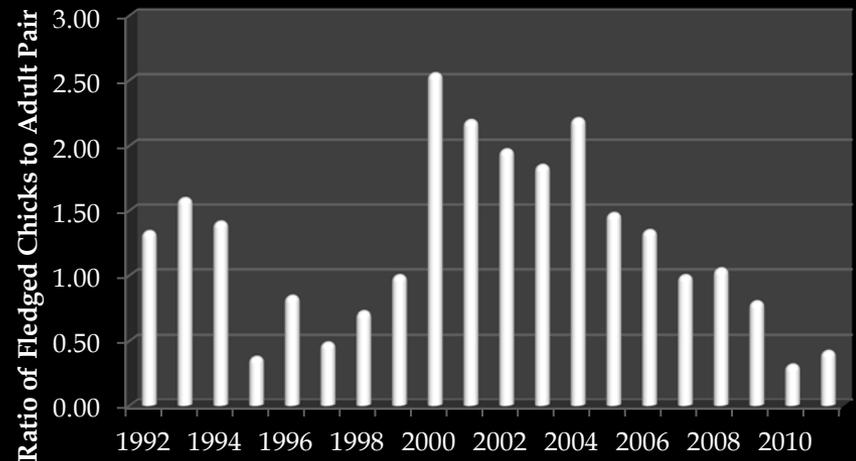
■ Nest Successfully Hatched ■ Nest Observed



Number of Successfully Fledged Piping Plover Chicks Lake McConaughy, Nebraska 1992 - 2011

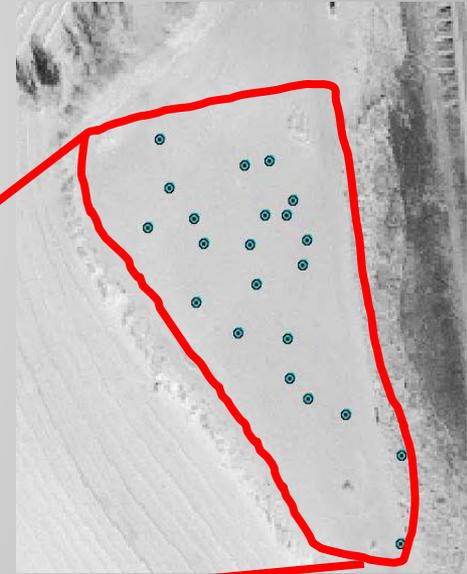


Ratio of Fledged Piping Plover Chicks to Adult Pair Lake McConaughy, Nebraska 1992 - 2011



The Only Available Habitat at Lake McConaughy 2011

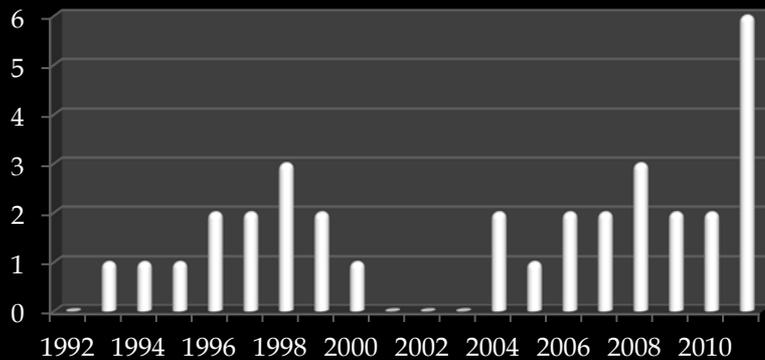
Swimming Beach parking Lot



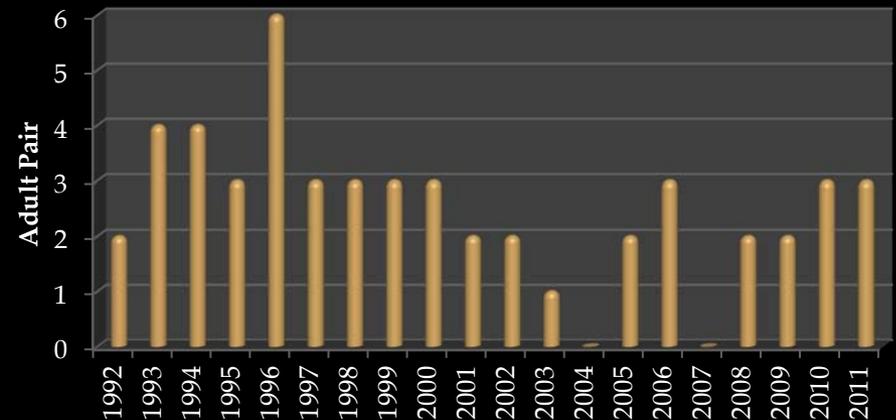
1. What measures of abundance and productivity do you collect in your area? What do these trends show? **Adult Population, Nest Initiated, Nest Success, Chicks, Fledge Success, Fledge Ratio For Trends note Charts.**
2. What are the key habitat features that influence number and distribution of plovers in your area and how much do those features vary within and among years? **Total area of bare sand available, timing of Lake elevation changes. As can be seen from the chart, the changes can be significant year to year.**
3. What information currently exists on how plovers in your area interact with the larger NGP population? **Virtually none. We have not banded any birds. Prior to about three years ago it was not permissible along the Platte. However, in 20 years we have seen only one banded piping plover at Lake McConaughy!**
4. What is an additional key piece of information you would like to know about your population? **From 2000 – 2008 Lake McConaughy produced 1,869 fledged piping plover chicks, or 75% of the number needed to meet recovery goals...Where did they go? What happened to them?**
5. What would be the monitoring tool needed to obtain that information? **Banding**
5. What is the most serious threat plovers face in your area? **Crowds , Development**

Platte River: Confluence to Lexington

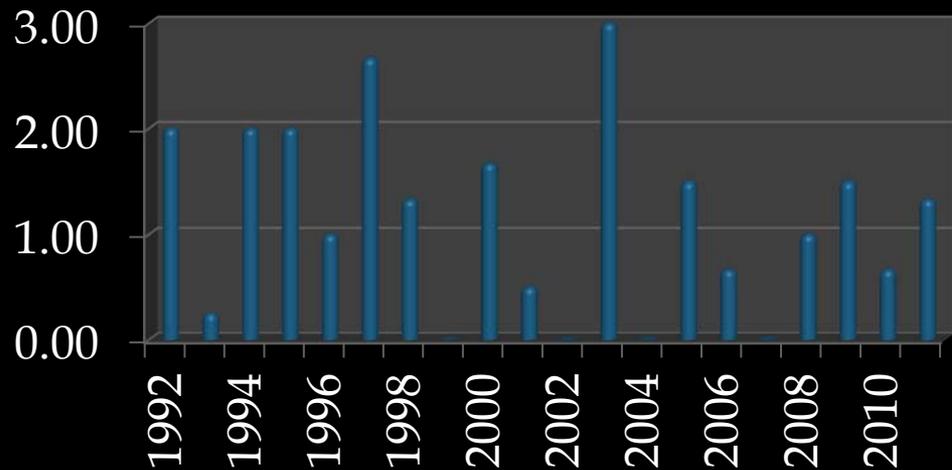
**Adult Pair Piping Plovers
Central Diversion North
Platte, NE
1992 - 2011**



**Adult Pair Piping Plovers
Koch's South Sandpit Cozad, Ne
1992 - 2011**

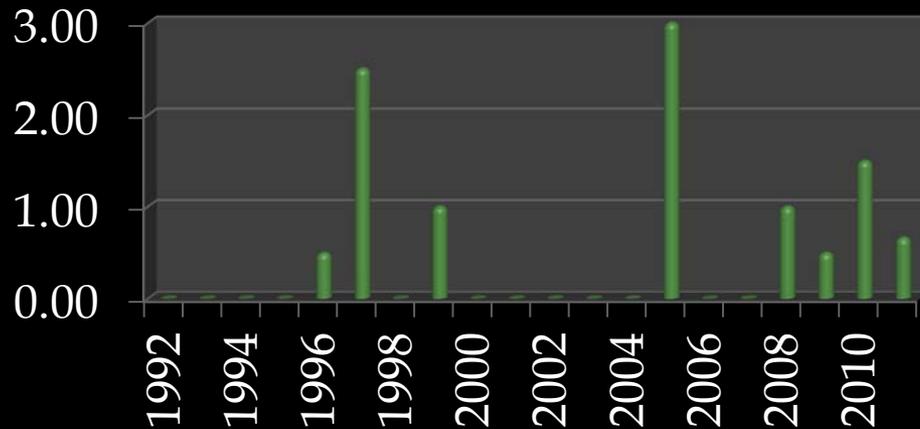


Piping Plover Fledged Chick : Adult Ratio
Koch's South Sandpit Cozad, NE
1992 - 2011



Productivity

Piping Plover Fledged Chicks : Adult Pair Ratio
Central Diversion, North Platte, NE
1992 - 2011



Niobrara River: Highway 137 To Spencer Dam

Jim Jenniges, NPPD

Mark Czaplewski, CPNRD

Mark Peyton, CNPPID

Ten Surveys: 2005 - 2011 Mid-June to Early July when flows allowed

Air Boat: Minimum Three Observers

40 River miles

Average: 71 Adults
20 Nests

1. What measures of abundance and productivity do you collect in your area? What do these trends show? **Adult Population, some nests**
2. What are the key habitat features that influence number and distribution of plovers in your area and how much do those features vary within and among years? **Available sandbar area. Some variation.**
3. What information currently exists on how plovers in your area interact with the larger NGP population? **27 banded plovers were seen: Lewis & Clark, Gavins Point, Tampa, Fl, Lower Platte and Lower Niobrara**
4. What is an additional key piece of information you would like to know about your population? **Productivity. Studies show low productivity, however it seems there is a consistent use of this stretch of river.**
5. What would be the monitoring tool needed to obtain that information? **Banding, more frequent monitoring**
5. What is the most serious threat plovers face in your area? **High flows from storm events, cattle**

Niobrara River (137 - Spencer Dam) Piping Plover Adults and Piping Plover Nests Observed in Airboat Surveys 2005 - 2011

■ Piping Plover Adults ■ Piping Plover Nests

