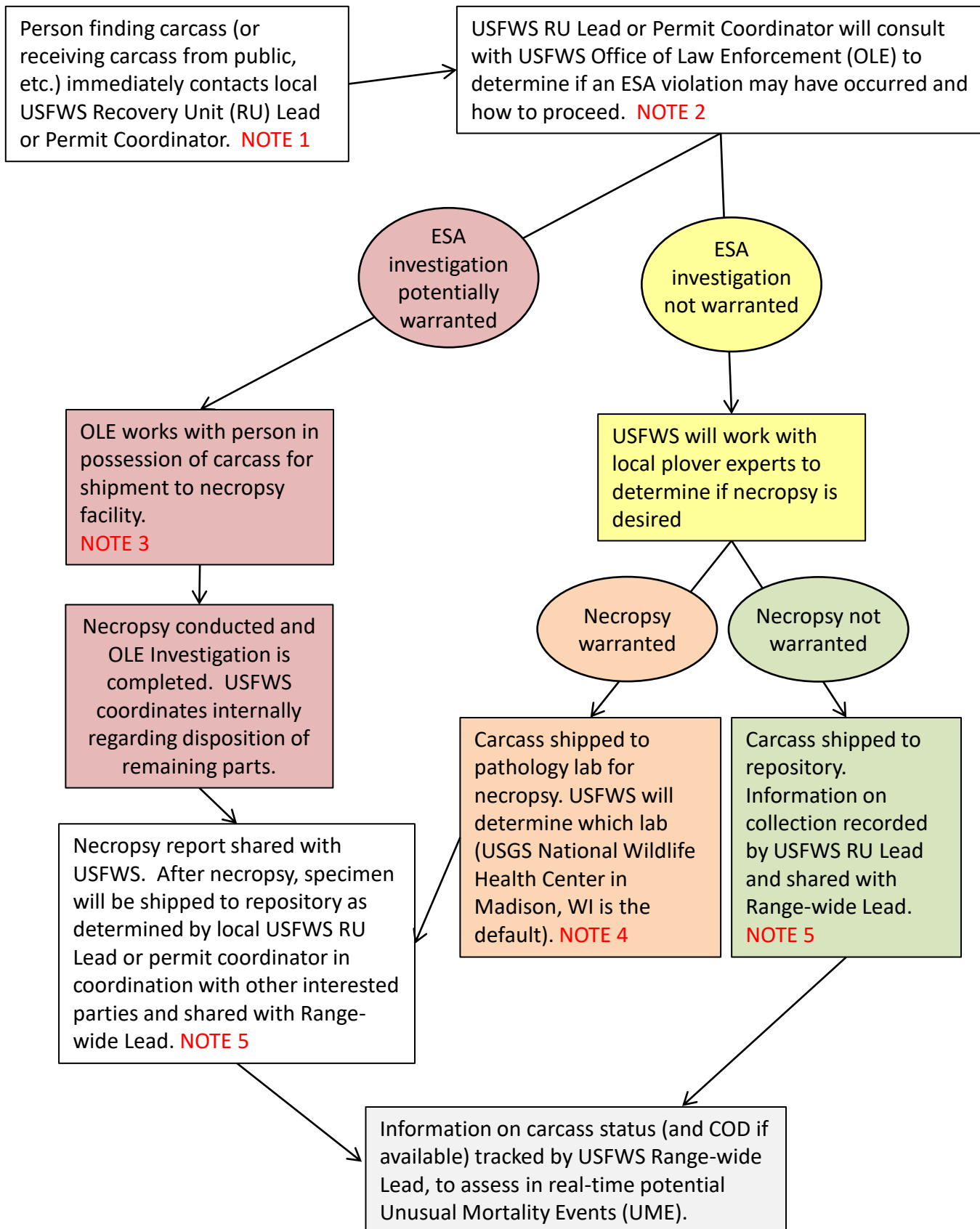


DISPOSITION OF DEAD WESTERN SNOWY PLOVERS

DRAFT Guidelines (v4.0)



Western Snowy Plover Carcass Disposition Notes Ver 3.0 (November 2024)

***Collection of dead or morbid wildlife carries risks of disease transmission to people.**

Collection of specimens is not required and is done at the collector's own risk.

Specimen collection must be done with the appropriate PPE.

***See list of USFWS Local Recovery Unit (RU) Leads and backup Leads below.**

1. Carcasses include all age classes (adults, juveniles, chicks). Unhatched eggs do not necessarily trigger this chain of events unless eggs were found that may have been harmed as the result of a criminal action. In that circumstance follow this guidance, otherwise follow the terms and conditions outlined in your 10(a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit. The importance of reporting carcasses and the appropriate contact information for this reporting will be shared with holders of 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permits, holders of USFWS wildlife rehabilitation permits, and pertinent local land managers.
2. If there is a possibility that an ESA investigation is warranted, the carcass should be **frozen** as soon as possible, and the USFWS will provide additional information to the person in possession of the carcass regarding crime scene evidence collection and Chain of Custody procedures. If an ESA investigation is not warranted, and the carcass can be necropsied within 24-36 hours, the carcass should be **refrigerated** but not frozen pending potential necropsy. If the carcass cannot be necropsied within 24-36 hours, the carcass should be **frozen**. **In all cases, the carcass (in a sealed bag or other suitable container) should be clearly marked with the date and time of collection, the location of collection, the collector's name and phone number, and the permitting authority or permit number, if applicable.**
3. Shipping and handling instructions for submittal of specimens to the USFWS Clark R. Bavin National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, OR (or other approved necropsy facility) will be provided to you by USFWS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE).
4. USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) is the default lab for assessing cause of death (COD). Other labs (California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center or Wildlife Health Lab in California, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Wildlife Health Lab in Oregon) may provide assistance if requested. Shipping of carcass(es) to the NWHC is the responsibility of the local USFWS RU Lead and/or the person in possession of the carcass. Shipping instructions for labs will be coordinated through USFWS.
5. Whole carcasses (not pending necropsy), parts, and eggs may be sent to permitted repositories such as museums and educational outlets. Appropriate placement of specimens with museums will be arranged through the USFWS RU Lead. Any organization receiving specimens would need to be in possession of a current USFWS migratory bird salvage permit.

USFWS RU Leads Contact Information

- **RU-1, Washington**
Primary Contact: Mitch Dennis (Lacey Field Office)
Email: mitchell_dennis@fws.gov
Mobile Phone: 564-669-0716
Field Office Main Line: 360-753-9440
Secondary Contact: Brie English (Lacey Field Office)
Email: brieanna_english@fws.gov
Mobile Phone: 909-714-1386
- **RU-1, Oregon**
Primary Contact: Cheryl Strong (Newport Field Office, overall RU-1 Lead)
Email: Cheryl_Strong@fws.gov
Mobile Phone: 541-786-3648
- **RU-2, California-Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties**
Primary Contact: Micah Ashford (Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office, also the Range-wide Species Lead)
Email: micah_ashford@fws.gov
Mobile Phone: 707-672-9557
- **RU-3, California-Napa, Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, and Santa Clara counties**
Primary Contact: Jen Brown (San Francisco Bay-Delta Fish and Wildlife Office)
Email: jennifer_c_brown@fws.gov
Mobile Phone: 530-400-9276
Secondary Contact: Dama Valle (San Francisco Bay-Delta Fish and Wildlife Office)
Email: fw8_bdfwo_permits@fws.gov
- **RU-4, California-Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Monterey counties**
Primary contact: Christine Fox (Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, Santa Cruz Suboffice)
Email: christine_fox@fws.gov
Mobile Phone: 706-410-0818
Field Office Main Line: 805-644-1766
Secondary contact: Christopher Caris (Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge)
Email: Christopher_Caris@fws.gov
Mobile Phone: 831-999-0766
Refuge Main Line: 510-792-0222
- **RU-5, California-San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties**
Primary Contact: Christie Boser (Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office)
Email: christina_boser@fws.gov
Mobile Phone: 608-712-4182
Field Office Main Line: 805-644-1766

- **RU-6, California-Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties**
Primary Contact: Sandy Vissman (Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office)
Email: Sandy_Vissman@fws.gov
Office Phone: 760-431-9440, ext. 274
Mobile Phone: 619-224-6847
Field Office Main Line: 760-431-9440
Secondary Contact: Katy Kughen (Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office)
Email: katy_kughen@fws.gov
Office Phone: 760-431-9440, ext. 259
Field Office Main Line: 760-431-9440