DRAFT Guidelines (v4.0)

USFWS RU Lead or Permit Coordinator will consult Person finding carcass (or receiving carcass from public, with USFWS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) to etc.) immediately contacts local determine if an ESA violation may have occurred and USFWS Recovery Unit (RU) Lead how to proceed. NOTE 2 or Permit Coordinator. NOTE 1 **ESA ESA** investigation investigation potentially not warranted warranted OLE works with person in USFWS will work with possession of carcass for local plover experts to shipment to necropsy determine if necropsy is facility. desired NOTE 3 Necropsy Necropsy not Necropsy conducted and warranted warranted **OLE Investigation is** completed. USFWS coordinates internally regarding disposition of Carcass shipped to Carcass shipped to remaining parts. repository. pathology lab for necropsy. USFWS will Information on determine which lab collection recorded Necropsy report shared with (USGS National Wildlife by USFWS RU Lead USFWS. After necropsy, specimen Health Center in and shared with will be shipped to repository as Madison, WI is the Range-wide Lead. determined by local USFWS RU default). NOTE 4 NOTE 5 Lead or permit coordinator in coordination with other interested parties and shared with Rangewide Lead. NOTE 5 Information on carcass status (and COD if available) tracked by USFWS Range-wide Lead, to assess in real-time potential Unusual Mortality Events (UME).

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: <u>brieanna_english@fws.gov</u>
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: <u>Sandy Vissman@fws.gov</u> 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