

# What Can We Do? | Western Snowy Plover

Saving Species Together ~ *Everyone can help protect species!*



## If You are a Visiting or Working in Western Snowy Plover Habitat

*Let's share the shore! We can enjoy and use the beach without threatening or harming a tiny bird that has lived there for thousands of years. Here's how:*

- Please respect posted restrictions in areas where plovers are present. Stay on the wet sand and away from the dry, open sandy areas of the fore dunes where plovers return each year to nest and raise their young.
- Don't drive on beaches unless you absolutely must. If you do, drive slowly (5-9 mph) and only in the wash zone (e.g. wet bare sand). Avoid any driving in (or through) known snowy plover nesting habitat.
- Pick up trash and food scraps, placing it in covered trash bins. Trash attracts scavenging corvids (crows and ravens), which directs unwelcome attention to plover eggs and baby chicks.
- Respect posted signage and symbolic fencing that identifies active nesting areas. This keeps us all, including your pets and these birds, safe from harm.
- Keep your distance. When a human or dog approaches the nest, adult plovers will feign an injury to distract this predator from their hatchlings. If you see this, back away quickly and quietly, and do not attempt to pick up orphaned chicks. Their parents are watching and will return when you leave.

## Ways to Help

- When walking on the beach, stay on the wet, hard-packed sand where the last high tide has washed over the sand. Plovers use these areas less than the upper part of the beach.
- Adhere to local beach rules and regulations regarding dogs and compatible recreation uses. Dogs don't have to catch plovers or other birds to harm them. Give plovers the space they need to raise their young.
- Volunteer with agencies or non-profits to help conservation efforts and teach others about the birds that share our shores.
- If you are using heavy machinery or motorized vehicles, pay greatest attention to all signs and fencing. Stay well outside plover nesting areas and avoid feeding plovers in the wash zone. Use special monitors to clear your operations in advance with resource managers.