

The Bird

The western snowy plover is a tiny shorebird that lives and breeds along some west coast beaches from Washington to southern California. It is a threatened species under the federal government's Endangered Species Act (ESA). Plovers nest in dry open sand, in tiny, shallow scrapes that are very well camouflaged. Not only are nests easy to miss (or step on), but the bird will abandon its eggs if repeatedly disturbed by activities it considers a threat—activities we may see as harmless, such as driving or letting dogs run uncontrolled.

Why is Parks involved?

Oregon State Parks is legally responsible for managing recreation on Oregon's ocean shore. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) oversees the ESA— and the status of the western snowy plover. We have a legal agreement with the USFWS that spells out how we help the plover population recover.



What is a Management Area?

Management areas are simply stretches of beach that are either known to be occupied by breeding plovers, or places where their presence is significant or the habitat attractive. Not all management areas have recreation restrictions.

What does this mean for beachgoers?

It means that visitors need to watch for special signs or fences during the nesting season, and follow the rules. See the maps on the reverse for more information, or go to bit.ly/wsplover.



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2014 Western Snowy Plover Management Areas (North Coast)



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