

NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BLM
Coos Bay District Office

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Snowy Plover Nesting Season Underway

North Bend, OR – The nesting season for the western snowy plover, a small shorebird that lays its eggs and raises its young in the open dry sand, began on area beaches March 15 and runs through September 15. Some area beaches have access and recreational restrictions in place during this time to help protect the nests, eggs and chicks of these threatened birds.

After March 15, signs and ropes will mark snowy plover nesting areas. In the nesting areas, beachgoers will only have access to the wet sand portion of the beach – dry sand access will be closed. ATV use, dog walking and kite flying is also restricted on the wet sand on some beaches.

The dry sand closures will be in effect at Bureau of Land Management sites at New River and the North Spit of Coos Bay. The US Forest Service, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and Army Corps of Engineers manage additional western snowy plover nesting areas in Oregon. In total, the access restrictions affect approximately 18 miles of beach in Oregon.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Pacific coast population of the western snowy plover as threatened in 1993. The primary threats to snowy plover survival are habitat loss, urban development, European beachgrass introduction, and predators such as crows, ravens, foxes and skunks.

More information on the BLM beach restrictions can be obtained from the Coos Bay District Office at 541-756-0100. Visit <http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/Species/Data/WesternSnowyPlover/default.asp> to learn more about the western snowy plover.

About BLM

The BLM manages more land – 245 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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