



# Western Snowy Plover | North Coast Beaches

## Be a part of their success story

### Rules specific to designated sites

- No dogs (not even leashed), no kites, drones, camping, bikes, or other vehicles.
- Pedestrians and equestrians stay on wet, hard-packed sand only.
- Please watch your step, plovers can be anywhere on the beach.

### Beach behavior we love

- Walk around birds instead of through flocks.
- Leash your dog before they chase birds.
- Respect restricted areas set aside for sensitive species.
- Stay away from wildlife, especially those that look sick or are unable to get away from humans or pets.
- Always clean up after your pet.
- Pack it in, pack it out. Every beach day can be a clean-up day.

Western snowy plovers are small shorebirds about the size of your hand and their chicks are the size of cotton balls. This little bird lays their eggs in a scraped depression on the open dry sandy beach. The nest is camouflaged by shells and other debris. If you could get a sand-eye view of the plover's nest, you'd still have trouble seeing it!

### Sensitive Success

Despite their near invisibility, the numbers of plovers plummeted in the second half of the 20th century, largely due to changes to their habitat. In the 1990s there were as few as 45 plovers along the Oregon coast, focused in a few nesting areas. By 2016 a nesting pair was found on the north coast



WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER ON A NEST (R. LOWE)

for the first time in 30 years and by 2023 there were 433 birds and nesting plovers in all coastal counties. Our conservation actions are working!

Plovers are tough little Oregonians, and we're happy to say they're slowly coming back, but they still need our help. The designated plover nesting areas are shown on this map, and more information is available online. As you walk the beaches, look for informational signs and learn how you can be a part of their comeback.

We know that Oregon's 362 miles of shoreline and beaches are a magnet for happy dogs and their people. Dogs are welcome at (almost) all times and places on Oregon's beaches. But please keep in mind that all dogs, even well-behaved ones, can be a threat to birds and wildlife. Some beaches are part of protected nesting grounds of the western snowy plover. During its spring and summer nesting season (March 15-Sept. 15), certain recreation activities may be restricted or prohibited.



SIGNS LIKE THESE MARK SNOWY PLOVER NESTING AREAS

### The Law

Oregon State Parks is legally responsible for managing recreation on Oregon's ocean shore. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service (USFWS) oversees the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and thus the status of the listed western snowy plover.

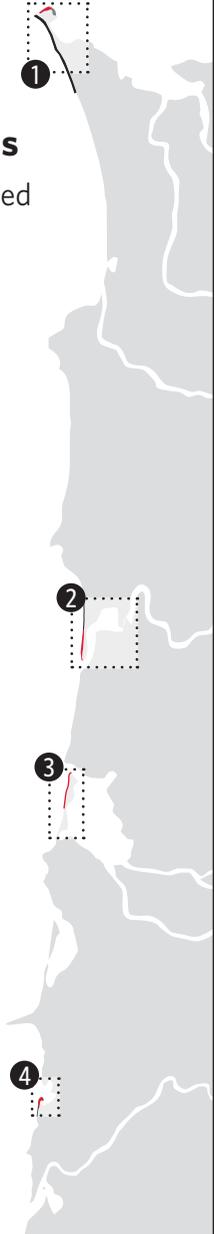
### What does this mean for beachgoers?

Visitors need to watch for special signs during nesting season and follow the rules. Generally, where plovers are nesting, dogs, vehicles, bicycles, kites, drones, camping and fires are prohibited. Pedestrians and equestrians need to stay on wet, hard-packed sand.

### North Coast Beaches Western Snowy Plover Management Areas

See other side for detailed map views.

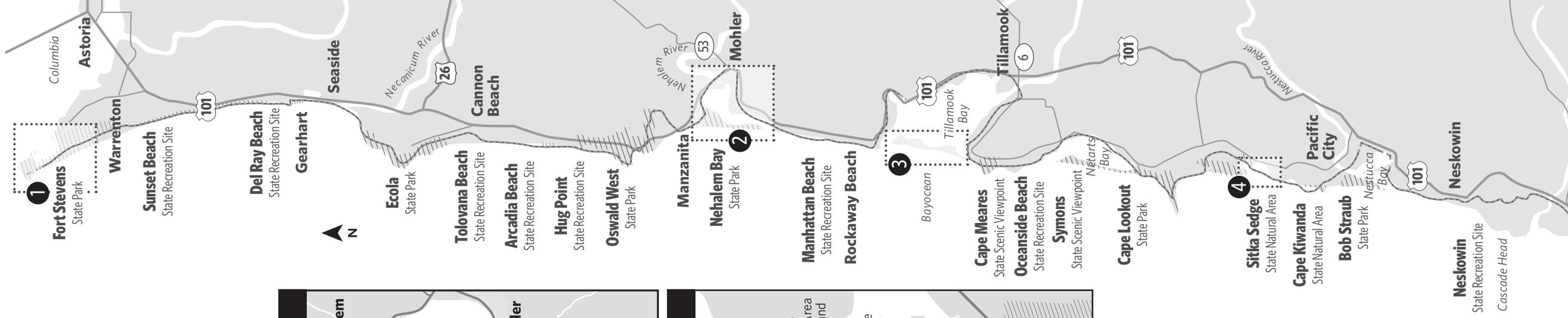
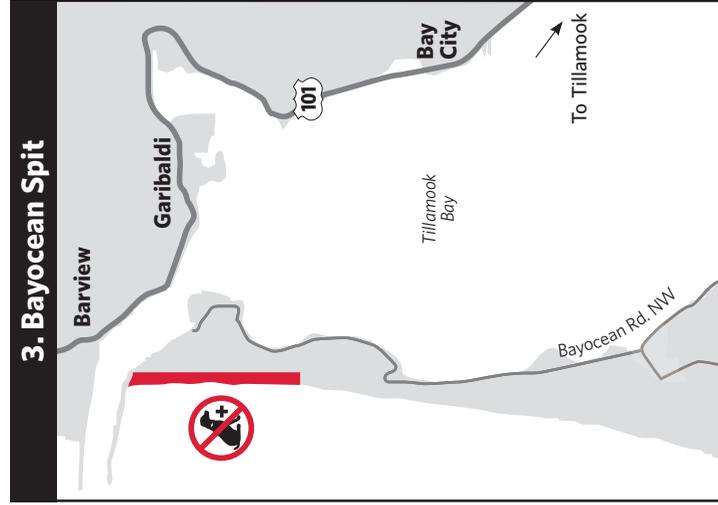
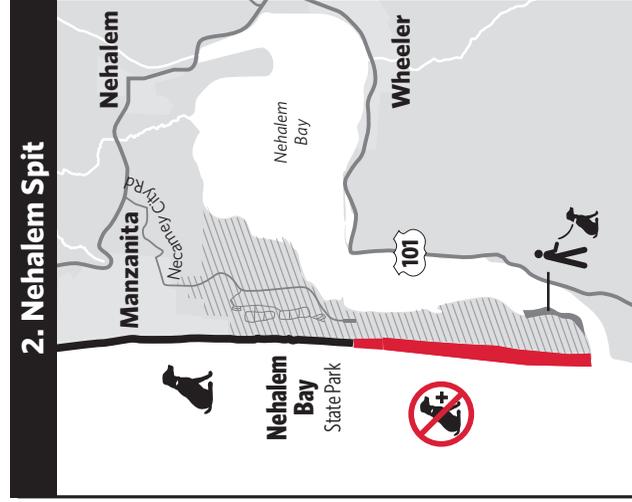
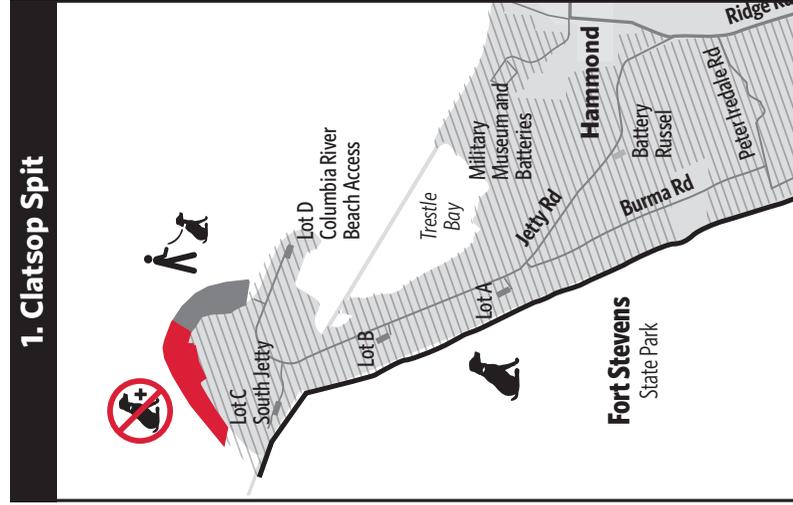
- 1 Clatsop Spit
- 2 Nehalem Spit
- 3 Bayocean Spit
- 4 South Sandlake





# Western Snowy Plover Management Areas

Watch for seasonal restrictions during nesting season, March 15 – September 15



- Oregon State Parks - dogs on leash
- Oregon Coast Trail
- Roads

### Plover management areas (March 15 – Sept. 15)

- Dogs on leash
- Leash optional, with voice control
- No dogs, bikes, drones, kites, vehicles, camping or fires. Pedestrians, equestrians: stay on wet, hard-packed sand.

NOTE: Restricted areas not to scale.