



## Know Before You Go

### **Area is open to day use.**

The area is open from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

### **Vehicles are allowed on the waveslope only.**

Vehicles must use designated vehicle access corridors and stay under the 15 mph speed limit. Vehicles are not allowed in the dunes.

### **Limit use near plover protection areas.**

Campfires, kites, vehicles, and model airplanes are not allowed within the signed plover protection areas.

### **The 20-acre plover restoration area is closed year-round.**

Public use is not allowed within this restoration area. From March 1 - September 15, the waveslope in front of the restoration area is closed to vehicles.

### **Dogs must be leashed during plover nesting season.**

If you are on the west side of South Jetty Road between March 1 - September 15, keep your dog on a leash.

### **Firearms are only allowed for waterfowl hunting.**

Target shooting and fireworks are not allowed.

### **Equestrian use is allowed on the ocean side of South Jetty Road.**

**Emergency phones** are located at the South Jetty Picnic Area (north end) and Table Bluff County Park (south end).

# Welcome to the South Spit Cooperative Management Area



United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Arcata Field Office  
1695 Heindon Rd  
Arcata, CA 95521  
(707) 825-2300  
[www.ca.blm.gov/arcata](http://www.ca.blm.gov/arcata)



## **Check the Time**

The gate will be closed and locked one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.



## Welcome

The South Spit is a place where visitors can spread out and find a quiet place to slow down for awhile, and enjoy one of Northern California's magnificent beaches. Although just a stone's throw from the city of Eureka, this 4.5 mile expanse of wave sculpted beaches, windswept dunes and marshy bayshore seems a world away. Beachcombers strolling the coastal sands can watch hang gliders soar on the updrafts above Table Bluff, while surfers ride the offshore swells.



## Finding the South Spit

The South Spit Cooperative Management Area (South Spit) is a 20 minute scenic drive from either Eureka or Fortuna. Take U. S. 101 to the Hookton Road exit. Follow Hookton Road west for 5 miles to the entrance.

## A Successful Partnership

The South Spit is jointly managed by the Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish and Game, and the County of Humboldt. Many additional cooperators, including Table Bluff Reservation – Wiyot Tribe, California Coastal Conservancy, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have worked together to provide improvements and open the area to public access.



## Enjoying the South Spit

**Pedestrian Beach Access** - It's just a short stroll to the beach from several parking areas along South Jetty Road .

**Beach Driving** - If you prefer to drive on to the beach to surf fish or have a picnic, use one of the four designated vehicle access corridors. Only skilled, experienced off-road drivers should access the beach. Be prepared for soft sand and changing surf and tide conditions. The speed limit is 15 MPH. Please respect other users of the beach and nesting snowy plovers by following all posted signs.

**Picnicking** - Picnic tables, parking, cooking grills, and restroom facilities are located at the south end (Table Bluff County Park) and at the north end (South Jetty Picnic Area). Bring your own water.

**Horse Use** - Horses are allowed on the ocean side of South Jetty Road. The south end and north end parking areas have ample room for horse trailer parking, unloading, and turning around.

**Dog Walking** - You must keep your dog on a leash on the ocean side of South Jetty Road during snowy plover nesting season (March 1 – September 15). Unleashed dogs can scare away nesting plovers and step on or eat eggs and chicks.

**Birding** - A mix of several habitat types attracts a diversity of birds including migrant waterfowl in the bay, snowy plover and sanderlings, along the beach and cormorants, surfbirds and black turnstones along the rocky jetty.



**Fishing** - The South Jetty is a popular fishing spot for bottom fish, ling cod, salmon and perch. Note that the jetty is subject to large, unpredictable, and dangerous waves. Please check the local weather forecast and use extreme caution when fishing on the jetty or in the vicinity of the entrance to Humboldt Bay.

**Hunting** - Waterfowl hunters can access Humboldt Bay for hunting black brandt and other species. Nine access spur roads along the east side of South Jetty Road can be used during waterfowl hunting season only (October-January) to load/unload equipment.

## Western Snowy Plover



Photo courtesy of Ron LeValley

The Western Snowy Plover is a rare bird that makes its nest in the sand from March - September. It's small speckled eggs are difficult to see.

You may see fenced areas with signs reading, “**Temporary closure for snowy plovers.**” These areas protect the plover and it's nest from predators and other disturbances.

By limiting your use around plover protection zones, you are contributing to the recovery of the Western Snowy Plover.

## Restoring the Natural Landscape

Much of the vegetation you see covering the South Spit is not native. Species such as European beachgrass, ice plant, and yellow bush lupine cover the dunes, crowd out native plant species, and provide little habitat for native wildlife. You may notice workers pulling vegetation or see piles of pulled plants among the dunes. By removing these plants, the native dune mat vegetation can recolonize the area.

## Homeland of the Wiyot

The Wiyot people have lived around Humboldt Bay and within the Redwood Belt for over one thousand years moving seasonally from and to the South Spit which they know as *Pi'mad*.

Traditionally, Wiyot people established villages, camps, and activity areas on *Pi'mad* where they could gather and process a variety of resources such as clams, marine snails, fish, eels, sea mammals, occasional beached whales, and other foodstuffs and basketry materials. Driftwood and logs that washed up on the beaches were used to make houses and canoes. Trails connected the bay, with its canoe access from the mainland, to *Pi'mad* and south to Table Bluff and the Eel River.



Image courtesy of Table Bluff Reservation—Wiyot Tribe

Wiyot descendants still live, raise their families, and work in the area, using their skills and knowledge to protect the resources their ancestors valued.