

PIPING PLOVER MANAGEMENT ON NOURISHED BEACHES IN AREAS OF HIGH HUMAN USE

Joseph Jannsen
Coastal Resources Manager

*The Nature
Conservancy* 

SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH







Management Needs

- Comprehensive Management & Monitoring Plan
- Who will monitor?
- Level of monitoring?



Management Needs

- Who Will Manage?
- Qualified Staffing
- Who Will Fund?
- Commitment to Funding Beyond Year 1 of the Project.



Management Needs

Reduce Human Disturbance:

- Symbolic Fencing (USFWS Guidelines)
- Pre-fencing areas of historic nesting.
- Pre-fencing of suitable nesting habitat.
- Fencing of areas of courtship activity.



Management Needs

Reduce Disturbance from Pets:

- Domestic Pets
(unleashed dogs and cats)
- Pets should be leashed
April 1-August 31 where
piping plovers are present.
- Pets should be prohibited
from April 1-August 31
if leash laws are not being
observed.



Management Needs

Off-Road Vehicles:

- Prohibit vehicles April 1-August 31 where piping plovers are present.
- Prohibit vehicles when unfledged chicks are present.
- Refer to USFWS Atlantic Coast Piping Plover Recovery Plan Appendix G for off-road vehicle recommendations.



Management Needs

Beach Cleaning/Raking:

- Prohibit mechanical beach-cleaning April 1-August 31 where plovers are present.
- Hand removal of beach debris April 1-August 31 where plovers are present.



Management Needs

Reduce Predation:

- Utilize predator exclosures if deemed necessary based on historic or observed predator activity.
- Commitment to predator control.



Management Needs

Reduce Predation cont'd:

- Trash Removal
- Strategic Placement of trash receptacles away from plover nesting areas.
- Frequent (daily) emptying of trash receptacles.
- Hand removal of trash on the beach.
- Escort for trash-removal vehicles.

Management Needs

Prevent Fireworks Disturbance:

- Prohibit fireworks April 1-August 31 where piping plovers are present.
- If fireworks events occur in these areas, prepare a management & monitoring plan (ex. Jones Beach State Park Fireworks Endangered and Threatened Species Protection Plan).

Management Needs

Prevent Disturbance from Kites:

- Prohibit kite-flying within 200 m of where plovers are present April 1-August 31.
- Ball-playing, etc.



Management Needs

Commitment to Enforcement:

- Who will Enforce?
- How?
- Funding?
- Law Enforcement Buy-In

Management Needs

Stakeholder/Landowner Buy-In:

- Secure long-term agreements with landowners.

Westhampton Island & Sebonac Neck Registry Program

- Initiated in 1996 along Westhampton Island.
- Majority of homes summer residences.
- Landowners sign non-binding legal agreement.
 - allow access to the beach through their property.
 - allow fencing and posting of nesting areas on their property.
 - agreement carries over from year to year.
 - beach access maintained.
 - work directly with landowners on fencing.

Westhampton Island & Sebonac Neck Registry Program

- Landowner contact through direct mailings, but most importantly, through face-to-face communication.
- Landowner information, nesting activity, protection activities maintained in an Access database; updated at the end of each season.

Westhampton Island & Sebonac Neck Registry Program



End of Season Thank You for Registry participants.

Wells / Drakes Island, Maine

- Town Managed Private Beach
- Dredging/Nourishment Project
- Developed Beach Management Plan
- Stakeholder Buy-In; USFWS, Drakes Island Association, municipality, Maine Audubon, State, Public Works, etc.



Wells / Drakes Island, Maine

- Town of Wells Hired Volunteer Coordinator.
- USFWS, State, Town cost share initially, now funded solely by town.
- Recruited volunteer monitors.
- Training Sessions (Maine Audubon)
- Enforcement; State provided wardens, USFWS

Scarborough / Western Beach, Maine

- Privately Owned (Prouts Neck Country Club)
- Developed Beach Management Plan

Landowner Incentive Program

- Draft Agreements for Long-Term Management of Private Property
- Signed by Private Property Owner; Receives \$



Thank You!