



# Ocean Shore Management Plan & Habitat Conservation Plan for Snowy Plover

May 2002

## Finishing Up Round One, Public Involvement

The first round of our planning process has been completed. We held one Steering Committee meeting and public meetings in 7 cities. Although turnout at this point in the process was low, we obtained a good cross-section of comments and concerns about the planning process and objectives. We now have a mail/email list of about 450 persons and organizations! Thank you to all of you who took the time to join us and talk about the plans.

OPRD staff provided an overview of the upcoming planning purpose, topics to be covered, geographic scope, public involvement opportunities and outreach efforts, completion schedule and description of the upcoming reports on recreational use and recreational access, at the meetings.

We will be conducting a "catch-up" meeting of the Steering Committee, for those members who could not make the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. We expect to hold that meeting sometime in July. Once we have that date and location we will post it in a later newsletter, and in press releases.

### Just a Reminder...The Plans Aim to:

- Take a "big picture" view of OPRD's beaches, including over 200 miles of sandy beach, in seven counties. But focus on the sandy beach jurisdiction.
- Strike an appropriate balance between resource protection and allowance for human uses.
- Open a forum for discussions with our beach neighbors, visitors and governmental partners about beach management issues.
- Support a proactive approach to addressing a variety of challenging issues for Oregon's coastal beaches.
- Provide a basis for future partnership efforts to care for Oregon's beaches.
- Lay the basis for future OPRD decision-making about beach management.

### The Plans Will Address:

- Recreational beach activities, needs and conflicts, including upland conflicts
- Beach access needs
- Beach alterations and removal of natural products
- Special beach activities permitting
- General beach natural and cultural resource constraints
- Social-economic impacts
- How to best manage the beaches for snowy plover

## A Summary of the Comments So Far

A complete list of the comments collected, to date, from the Steering Committee, and from each of the seven public meetings can be found on our web site or can be sent to you if you do not have email capability. See the contacts section at the end of this newsletter.

Comments fell into the following topical categories:

- Beach jurisdiction
- OPRD's role in beach management
- Geographic scope
- General comments on plan completion/approach
- Public involvement in general
- Public involvement related to the steering committee
- Recreational uses

- ❑ Beach access
- ❑ Natural resource management
- ❑ Beach permitting
- ❑ Social and economic impacts
- ❑ Supervision and enforcement problems/needs
- ❑ Snowy plover conservation
- ❑ Plan implementation
- ❑ General comments about OPRD and other agencies

Comments ranged from great concern about the potential loss or curtailment of traditional beach uses due to wildlife protection needs, to concern that those management measures would not be protective enough. There were many more questions than statements. Many attendees were confused about the jurisdiction boundaries and management responsibilities that OPRD has on the beaches, and what the rules are. There were many comments about the need to provide adequate access to the beaches, and to place those accesses in areas where natural and cultural resources would not be harmed. There were many questions about the various beach permitting rules and how to obtain copies of them. And there was a lot of discussion about the snowy plover - why they are needing protection, how they might be protected, the need to find ways to allow human uses while protecting the birds, plus lots of concern about the related federal permitting processes. Some concern was expressed about the planning effort having a fair representation of the many interests and perspectives related to Oregon's beaches. There was both concern for the plan being too big to do well, and not encompassing enough of the context of the beaches. Many of the comments and questions came from specific personal experiences on the beaches and others came from a more general consideration of what the beaches should look like and how they should be used in the future. All of the commentors who attended the meetings or sent in comments to us are very interested in Oregon's beaches being taken care of and used in the best way, but many different perspectives on what this might mean specifically.

## **The Planning Schedule**

OPRD will hold at least three more rounds of public involvement for the plans. For each round of meetings there will be at least one Steering Committee meeting and 7-8 public meetings. We are planning on adding a meeting in Eugene, starting in Round Two. Round Two is planned for September 2002, and will be a forum for sharing the several studies, reports and survey results that will be completed over the summer. Comments will be taken about the accuracy and completeness of the information gathered, as well as any other concerns or ideas related to beach management and conservation. We are looking at holding the third round of involvement in January/February 2003, which will be a more formal issue scoping or collection round. Then Round Four is tentatively planned for the late summer/fall of 2003, when the draft plan documents will be released for review and comment.

## **More Information is On the Website**

We will be adding some more informational pieces to our planning website in June. This will include the complete list of comments from the public meetings, the laws and state rules associated with OPRD's beach management program, and some answers to questions on the snowy plover and the Habitat Conservation Plan. As we complete surveys and reports over the summer, we will be posting them on the site as well. So check it out from time to time to see what is new. We will be sending out periodic notices of what new information is available.

## **For Comments or questions...**

You can provide comments or ask questions via email by contacting [OSMP.HCP@state.or.us](mailto:OSMP.HCP@state.or.us). You can sign up for our notices by email at the same address or at our web site, [http://www.prd.state.or.us/osmp\\_hcp.php](http://www.prd.state.or.us/osmp_hcp.php). Or you can write to: Kathy Schutt or Michelle Michaud at Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation, 1115 Commercial Street, Salem, Oregon 97301, or call 503-378-4168 X 265 or x288.