



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes, California 94956

IN REPLY REFER TO:

### Determination of Temporary Beach Closure

#### 36 CFR 1.5 Closures and Public Use Limits

- (a) Consistent with applicable legislation and Federal administrative policies, and based upon a determination that such action is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of environmental or scenic values, protection of natural or cultural resources, aid to scientific research, implementation of management responsibilities, equitable allocation and use of facilities, or the avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities, the Superintendent may:
- (1) Establish, for all or a portion of a park area, a reasonable schedule of visiting hours, impose public use limits, or close all or a portion of a park area to all public use or to a specific use activity

**1. Temporary Beach Closure Location:**

The beach area between North Beach parking lot and the mouth of Abbotts Lagoon.

**2. Duration of Temporary Beach Closure:**

The beach will be closed from Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The beach will be closed for each day in its entirety.

**3. Who is affected by the Temporary Beach Closure?**

Except in an emergency and for the duration of the closure to the above listed beach area, all public use shall be prohibited.

**4. Justification for Temporary Beach Closure:**

To ensure the survival of federally-threatened western snowy plover nests and chicks within this area during the busy weekend.

**5. Additional Justification/Details for Temporary Beach Closure:**

Reproductive monitoring of western snowy plovers at Point Reyes has previously demonstrated that chick mortality is higher on weekend days than weekdays. Disturbance by park visitors in plover breeding areas can separate chicks from the adults, and the chicks may then not be able to forage efficiently, thermoregulate properly, and hide from predators. In 2013, for example, of the 11 newly hatched chicks in the proposed closure area, only 3 survived past the July 4th weekend. At this point of the 2015 breeding season, few chicks have survived to fledging age and additional protection measures are needed to assist in chick survival and the persistence of the Point Reyes western snowy plover population.

*for*   
Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore

8-18-15  
Date: