

THE **Current**

February 26, 2009

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UCSB Announces New Protection Measures for Snowy Plover

In an effort to provide additional protection for the snowy plover, a threatened shore bird, UC Santa Barbara has announced new measures for monitoring one of the plover's nesting areas, the beach at Coal Oil Point Reserve.

In 2006, the California Coastal Commission banned dogs and horses at the beach of the Coal Oil Point Reserve in an effort to protect the snowy plover. UCSB received approval for an alternative plan allowing dogs on the beach if the Santa Barbara County leash law was actively enforced. Since then, signs have been posted and docents have monitored the beach to ask owners to leash their dogs voluntarily.

Starting March 1, UCSB Police officers will be stationed between Coal Oil Point and Ellwood beach. The officers will interact with owners of off-leash pets and will issue either warnings or citations. In addition, docents will be present to continue providing education and outreach for beachgoers and to request adherence to the leash law.

"The university hopes that this final phase will demonstrate that dogs do not have to be prohibited from the beach in the future," said Cristina Sandoval, director of the Coal Oil Point Reserve, which is part of the UC Natural Reserve System. "UCSB greatly appreciates the collaboration and support from beach users and dog owners, and is committed to finding a balanced management solution that ensures environmental protection and recreation on the beach."

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