

# Enjoying Humboldt's WILD PLACES with Your Dog

Responsible dog owners help ensure that everyone can enjoy Humboldt's wildlife by choosing to keep their dog on a leash, knowing where and when it is appropriate for dogs to be off-leash and by cleaning up after their dog.

## GUIDE KEY

The following color symbols are intended to be used as a general guide to understanding dog use regulations. Additional site-specific regulations are listed under the site name.

- ✖ RED: No dogs on trails or beaches.
- ▼ ORANGE: Dogs allowed on trails and beaches but must be on a leash at all times.
- BLUE: Dogs may be off-leash under voice control only in specified locations and/or seasons.
- ◆ GREEN: Dogs allowed off-leash if under complete voice control\*. Dogs must be leashed in parking areas.

\*"Voice Control" is defined as: the dog is within view and within voice range of the owner, that the dog comes at first calling, and that the dog is not allowed to approach people in a threatening manner or in any way harass people, wildlife, other dogs, or horses.



## WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER (Charadrius nivosus nivosus)

The western snowy plover (snowy plover) is a small, sparrow-sized shorebird that nests on beaches, estuaries and river beds along the Pacific coast. The Pacific coast population of western snowy plovers is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. You can help snowy plovers recover by learning more about their life history, threats and what you can do to help.

### BREEDING BEHAVIOR:

- Breeds March through September.
- Lays three small, camouflaged eggs in the open sand.
- Adults and chicks forage on invertebrates in the wrack line and in open sand. (They do not typically feed in groups along the water's edge; those are most likely sanderlings.)

### THREATS:

- Predation on snowy plover eggs and chicks. Ravens and crows are the biggest concern in our area; other culprits include foxes, raccoons and skunks.
- Loss and degradation of breeding habitat, such as the encroachment of European beachgrass. Plovers prefer to nest in open sandy areas with sparse low-lying vegetation.
- Human activities. Encounters with dogs, horses, vehicles and even Frisbees or kites can cause a snowy plover to waste energy fleeing and leave its nest unattended.
- Inclement weather such as winter storms, river flooding, high tides and strong winds can be taxing on adult birds and destroy nests.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

- Be aware of seasonal regulations where plovers nest.
- Pick up after yourself. Trash attracts ravens and crows.
- Keep dogs on leashes in designated areas.
- Use designated trails in the dunes. Walk on the waveslope\* in areas where snowy plovers may be present. Always be alert for sneaker waves.

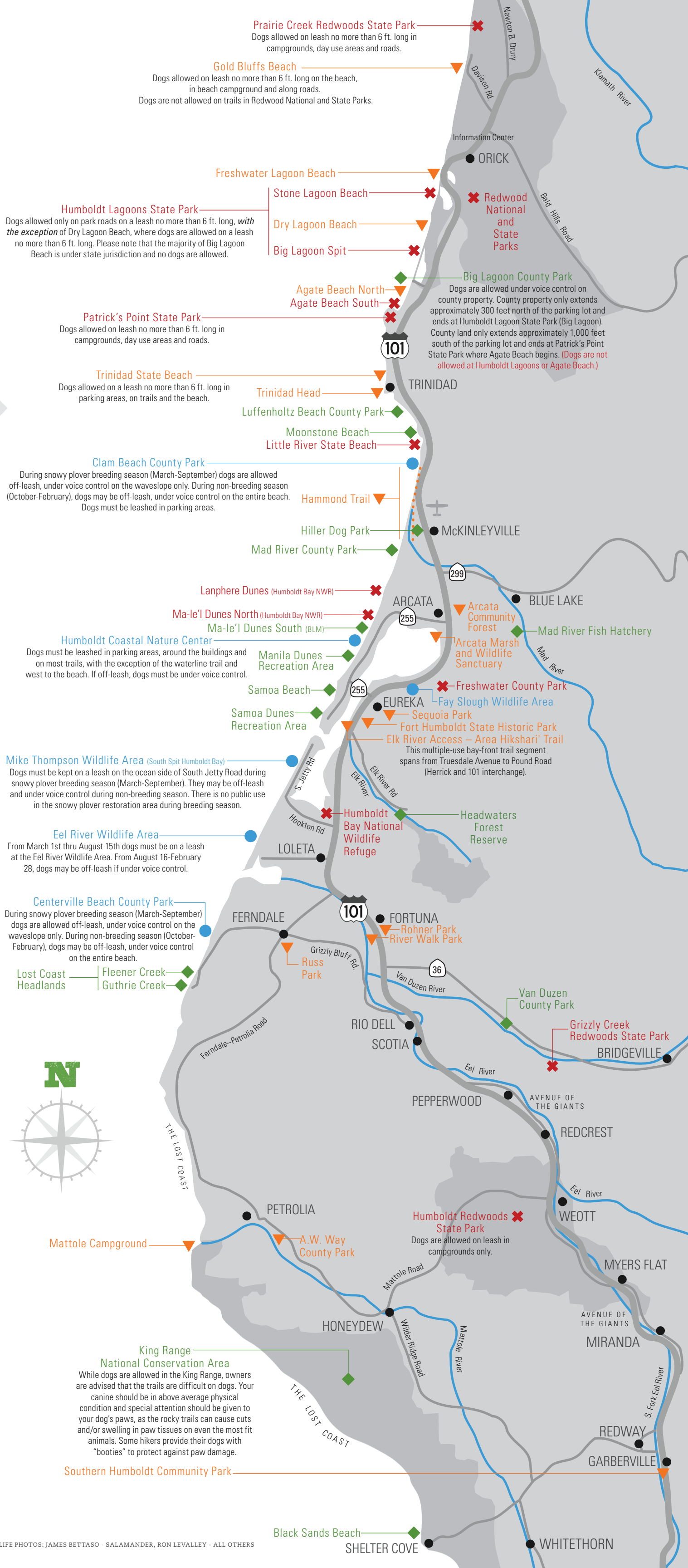
\*"Waveslope" is defined as: the area between the high tide line and the ocean



Keeping your dog on a leash helps protect wildlife.

## CAUTION! BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

\*Important: Health officials advise that blooms of blue-green algae can be harmful to your pets. Blue-green algae is common in Humboldt County's freshwater lakes, rivers and lagoons in the mid to late summer months. It is recognizable by a blue-green or brown mat or foam on the surface of the water (bloom). Please keep this in mind when visiting these locations with your pets and do not let your dogs swim in the water at these times.



**Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park**  
Dogs allowed on leash no more than 6 ft. long in campgrounds, day use areas and roads.

**Gold Bluffs Beach**  
Dogs allowed on leash no more than 6 ft. long on the beach, in beach campground and along roads.  
Dogs are not allowed on trails in Redwood National and State Parks.

**Humboldt Lagoons State Park**  
Dogs allowed only on park roads on a leash no more than 6 ft. long, with the exception of Dry Lagoon Beach, where dogs are allowed on a leash no more than 6 ft. long. Please note that the majority of Big Lagoon Beach is under state jurisdiction and no dogs are allowed.

**Patrick's Point State Park**  
Dogs allowed on leash no more than 6 ft. long in campgrounds, day use areas and roads.

**Trinidad State Beach**  
Dogs allowed on a leash no more than 6 ft. long in parking areas, on trails and the beach.

**Clam Beach County Park**  
During snowy plover breeding season (March-September) dogs are allowed off-leash, under voice control on the waveslope only. During non-breeding season (October-February), dogs may be off-leash, under voice control on the entire beach. Dogs must be leashed in parking areas.

**Humboldt Coastal Nature Center**  
Dogs must be leashed in parking areas, around the buildings and on most trails, with the exception of the waterline trail and west to the beach. If off-leash, dogs must be under voice control.

**Mike Thompson Wildlife Area (South Spit Humboldt Bay)**  
Dogs must be kept on a leash on the ocean side of South Jetty Road during snowy plover breeding season (March-September). They may be off-leash and under voice control during non-breeding season. There is no public use in the snowy plover restoration area during breeding season.

**Eel River Wildlife Area**  
From March 1st thru August 15th dogs must be on a leash at the Eel River Wildlife Area. From August 16-February 28, dogs may be off-leash if under voice control.

**Centerville Beach County Park**  
During snowy plover breeding season (March-September) dogs are allowed off-leash, under voice control on the waveslope only. During non-breeding season (October-February), dogs may be off-leash, under voice control on the entire beach.

**Lost Coast Headlands**  
**Fleener Creek**  
**Guthrie Creek**



**Mattole Campground**  
**A.W. Way County Park**

**King Range National Conservation Area**  
While dogs are allowed in the King Range, owners are advised that the trails are difficult on dogs. Your canine should be in above average physical condition and special attention should be given to your dog's paws, as the rocky trails can cause cuts and/or swelling in paw tissues on even the most fit animals. Some hikers provide their dogs with "booties" to protect against paw damage.

**Southern Humboldt Community Park**

**Black Sands Beach**  
**Shelter Cove**

**Big Lagoon County Park**  
Dogs are allowed under voice control on county property. County property only extends approximately 300 feet north of the parking lot and ends at Humboldt Lagoons State Park (Big Lagoon). County land only extends approximately 1,000 feet south of the parking lot and ends at Patrick's Point State Park where Agate Beach begins. (Dogs are not allowed at Humboldt Lagoons or Agate Beach.)

**Freshwater County Park**  
**Fay Slough Wildlife Area**  
**Sequoia Park**  
**Fort Humboldt State Historic Park**  
**Elk River Access - Area Hikshari Trail**  
This multiple-use bay-front trail segment spans from Truesdale Avenue to Pound Road (Herrick and 101 interchange).

**Humboldt Redwoods State Park**  
Dogs are allowed on leash in campgrounds only.