

Conservation and Management Decisions for Mountain Plovers throughout the Annual Cycle



Effective migratory bird conservation requires that planning, implementation, and evaluation be integrated across the

- geographic,
- ecological, and
- human cultural range of the species or population

Therefore, conservation investors face a decision about:

how to optimize allocation of resources for management and conservation actions throughout the annual cycle that will provide maximum benefits to a migratory bird population.

Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*)

- an uncommon, endemic breeding bird of the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains states
- most birds spend the non-breeding season in central California and (northern Mexico?)
- Over past 150 years, changes in land use and in the grassland herbivore community have altered the abundance, habitat use, and distribution
- >85% of current range on private lands

Decision: Optimize Annual Cycle Allocation of Resources for Mountain Plover Conservation

increasing understanding of threats to population persistence; reducing uncertainty about what limits population growth

understanding optimal geographic allocation of resources for conservation action

deliver effective and realistic guidance to private and (public) land owners

Decision-Makers

Range-wide

NMBCA
NFWF
USFWS-DMBM
USDA Forest Service

Regional

NRCS
States/Federal Private Lands/PSG
NGOs
Joint Ventures

Decision Timeframe

Annual funding cycles, but biological response may be 3-5 years

Linked Decisions

At more local scale, how to implement actions
grazing plans
farming practices
burning
easement/purchase options

Constraints

cooperation with land-owners by using compatible practices
market-driven, dynamic landscape changes
other regulations reduce local actions (e.g., air quality)
conflicting guidance from other agencies

Next Steps

develop range-wide Focal Species Action Plan
maintain viable working group
increase communication among west-wide and international workers