

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus*

Iowa Range: Due to the loss of habitat along the Missouri River, piping plover nesting sites are limited to two locations; one located on a Mid-American power plant fly-ash site in Council Bluffs and one on an Iowa Public Service site near Sioux City.



Threats:

- Conversion of the Missouri River from a slow moving, meandering river to a fast moving river through channelization, dams, and reservoirs. This change has significantly decreased the amount of sandbar habitat.
- Human disturbance of nesting and foraging birds.
- Disturbance of nesting areas during the nesting season (May through early August) by personnel involved with routine plant operations.
- Successional changes on nesting grounds that alter the open, unvegetated habitat this species requires.

Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Areas along the Missouri River with suitable sandy habitat need to be cleared of any vegetation that isolates the sandy area from open water.
- Map the two known nesting sites yearly and work with plant managers to reroute truck paths around the nesting colonies during the nesting season.
- Work with plant managers to maintain the open, unvegetated habitat that this species requires for nesting.
- Continue to control access to the nesting areas, thereby limiting disturbance from humans, free roaming dogs, and other disturbances.