

APPENDIX VI

CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR PROTECTION OF LEAST TERN AND PIPING PLOVER NESTS AND CHICKS

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The Corps of Engineers will carry out the following contingency plan for the protection of least tern and piping plover nests and chicks threatened with termination due to natural events, inundation due to poor nest selection under normal system operation, or flood control operations. All efforts will be made to protect nest site viability in the wild prior to collection for captive rearing. Nests will only be collected immediately preceding the inundating release to restrict re-nesting efforts on unstable habitats. Listed below is a sequential operating plan for nests and chicks threatened by rising water levels. All guidelines are subject to State and Fish and Wildlife Service permit approval and conditions.

NESTS

1. Consult with Reservoir Control Center for water level management options.
 - a. Exercise options if available.
 - b. If options not available, step 2.

2. Move nest to higher ground that will not be inundated until after the eggs anticipated hatching date.
 - a. If successful continue to monitor nest.
 - b. If nest cannot be successfully moved, step 3.

3. Elevate nest using a tire or other object if rise in water is expected to be short term.
 - a. If successful continue to monitor nest.
 - b. If water rise is expected to be long term or if nest cannot be raised, step 4.

4. Evaluate the option of egg removal and captive rearing.

If option 4 is to be exercised, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate State agencies will be contacted for coordination and concurrence.

 - a. Remove eggs to captive rearing facility to be incubated and raised for release into the wild.
 - b. Remove eggs to captive rearing facility to be incubated and raised for research that will aid in meeting the recovery goals of these species.

CHICKS

1. Consult with Reservoir Control Center for water level management options.
 - a. Exercise options if available.
 - b. If options not available, step 2.
2. Remove chicks and place on adjacent islands within sight of adult birds, if sites unavailable, step 3.
3. Remove chicks to captive rearing facility.

If option 3 is to be exercised, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate State agencies will be contacted for coordination and concurrence.

 - a. Remove chicks to captive rearing facility to be raised for release into the wild.
 - b. Remove chicks to captive rearing facility to be raised for research that will aid in meeting the recovery goals of these species.