



## The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan

*Building Partnerships for Shorebird Conservation*

Mr. Ivan Tarriba-Haza  
Ceuta Produce/Farmer's Best

20 August 2014

Dear Mr. Tarriba-Haza:

Bahía de Ceuta is an extremely valuable wetland. The salt flats and surrounding mangrove forests are home to a multitude of threatened animal and plant species. Its valuable biodiversity has been recognized under several international conservation frameworks, such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

Long-term research on the Snowy Plover, a small but charismatic shorebird that nests on the salt flats every spring, has revealed an alarming decline. Since 2006, the local Snowy Plover population has decreased by nearly 80%. The Snowy Plover is listed as a threatened species in Mexico and along the Pacific Coast of the United States and is a species of high conservation concern elsewhere in the U.S.

The main causes of the decline in Bahía de Ceuta are well-established, thanks to intense monitoring, and include: 1) unpredictable and highly variable water levels, 2) loss of open salt flat habitat to encroaching vegetation, and 3) human disturbance and increased destruction of surrounding native habitats.

Conservation of the Snowy Plover, this unique habitat, and other wetland-dependent species, can be achieved once an agreement between you as concession holder and an experienced conservation partner is established. On behalf of the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan Council, we urge you to commit to a formal agreement with CISA "Tierras para la Conservación", who we understand has developed a feasible plan for restoring critical wildlife habitat. This agreement will enable CISA to apply for funding from Mexican and international agencies and institutions to implement the necessary conservation actions.

The positive actions you take in Bahía de Ceuta will contribute to efforts to conserve Snowy Plovers elsewhere in Mexico and the U.S. We are very grateful for your participation in shorebird conservation.

Sincerely,

Brian W. Smith, Chair  
U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan Council