



*Holgate Unit of the  
Brigantine Wilderness Area  
Public Use Regulations*

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge



Piping plovers were placed on the Endangered Species List in 1986, and use Holgate each summer.



Holgate is a popular area for surf fishing and wildlife observation.



The dark area in this picture is the beach berm crest. Vehicular access is limited from that point seaward.

The Holgate Unit is located at the southern tip of Long Beach Island, New Jersey and has been a part of Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge since 1960. It is about three miles long, and contains more than 400 acres of pristine barrier beach, dunes, and tidal salt marsh. In 1975, Congress designated the area as a National Wilderness Area. Federal regulations prohibit the use of motor vehicles within wilderness areas; therefore, no motor vehicle use (driving or parking) may occur above the berm crest (see photo bottom left).

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### When is Holgate accessible to the public?

- Holgate is open to the public September 1st to March 31st for pedestrians, and to March 15th for vehicles. Activities such as fishing, wildlife observation, and wildlife photography are permitted.

#### When is the best time for motor vehicles to access Holgate?

- Within 3 hours of low tide.

#### What else do I need to know?

- Holgate's dunes and all vegetated areas are closed to public access at all times. The Clamming Trail is open for bayside access in fall and winter.

#### Where can I drive my vehicle at Holgate?

- Motor vehicles must stay seaward of the beach berm crest or most recent wet/dry line to avoid the wilderness area (see diagram below).

#### Can I walk my dog at Holgate?

- Dogs are NOT permitted at Holgate.

**To contact us: call 609/652-1665  
or email at [forsythe@fws.gov](mailto:forsythe@fws.gov)**

### TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRIP TO HOLGATE

- Purchase a Long Beach Township Beach Buggy Permit if you will access the site by vehicle. Foot traffic does not require a permit.
- Tires should be deflated to 15 to 20 psi.
- We recommend only 4-wheel drive (not all-wheel drive) vehicles.
- Keep a shovel and tow strap in your vehicle.
- Vehicles are not permitted to pull up, on or over the beach berm crest, or to pull above the last high tide wet sand/dry sand line.
- Access to the beach may be limited or closed after storms.
- Hunting, fires, camping, kite flying and use of metal detectors are prohibited.
- Carry a cell phone in case of emergency.
- Bring binoculars to view wildlife.
- Be safe and enjoy your visit to Holgate!

