



WPI

Piping Plover Protection Party

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Problem Statement:

Piping Plovers have been federally listed as Threatened on the Endangered Species Act since 1986 and are currently listed as Threatened in Massachusetts.

Background Facts:

- Piping plover is a shoreline bird found on Massachusetts coastlines
- Their population began diminishing after WWII, when humans began to expand their population onto coastlines.
- Population graphs have been increasing in recent years due to conservation efforts
- Bringing domesticated animals on coastlines oftentimes causes plovers to abandon their nests
- Motorized Vehicles on coastlines is a major contributor to the high rates of piping plover chick death

Project Goal:

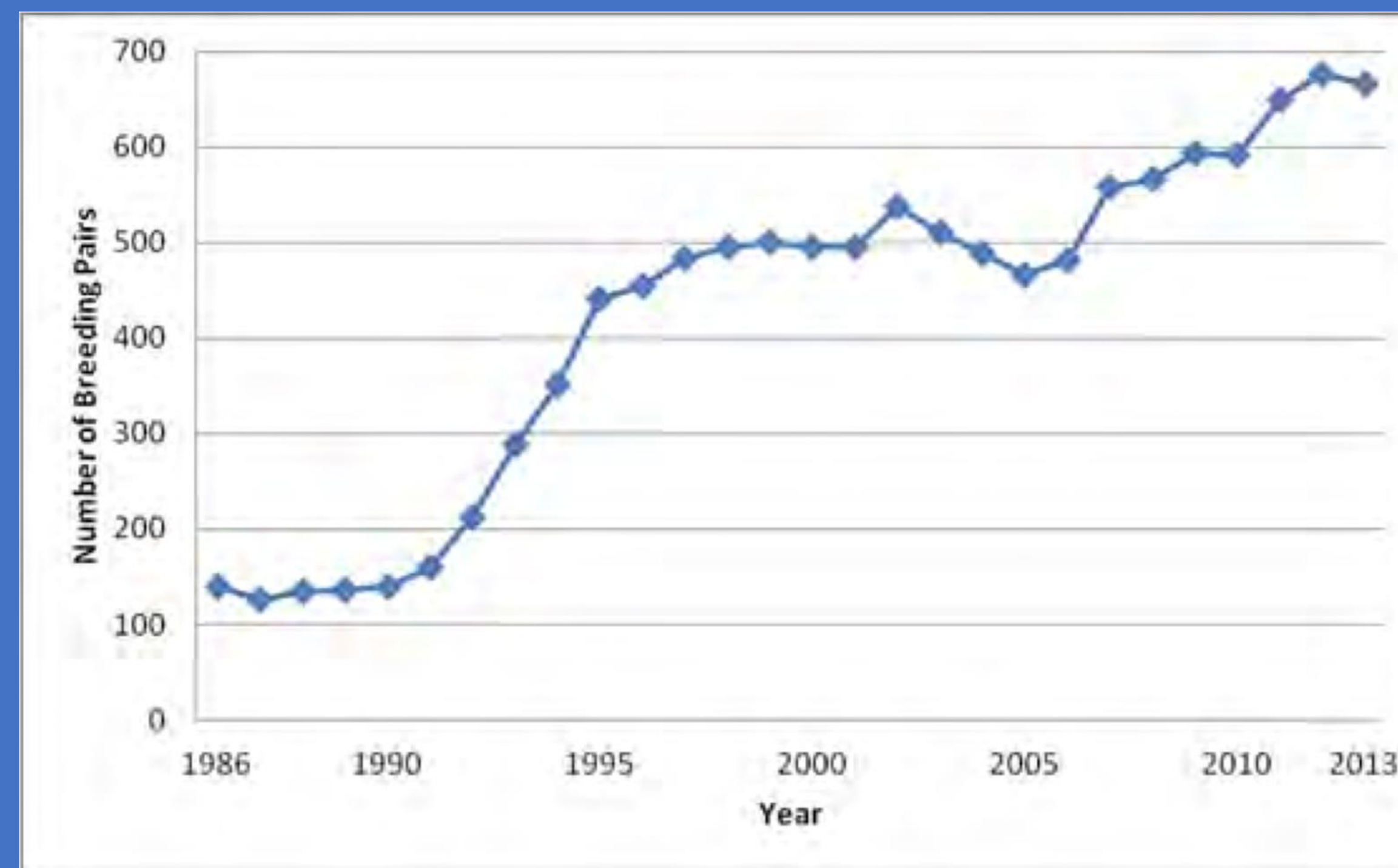
Our main goal is to protect the piping plovers from extinction; increase their population size. Another one of our goals is to educate the public about the current dangers that the piping plovers are in.

Sources of Endangerment:



Methods and Research

- Analyzed critical historical information surrounding the piping plovers' population trends.
- Researched the primary reasons behind their diminishing population
- Looked over current protection laws in place on Massachusetts coastlines
- Researched piping plover populations in specific areas along the Massachusetts coastline.
- Spoke to dedicated conservationists in regards to their ideas on increasing the piping plover population



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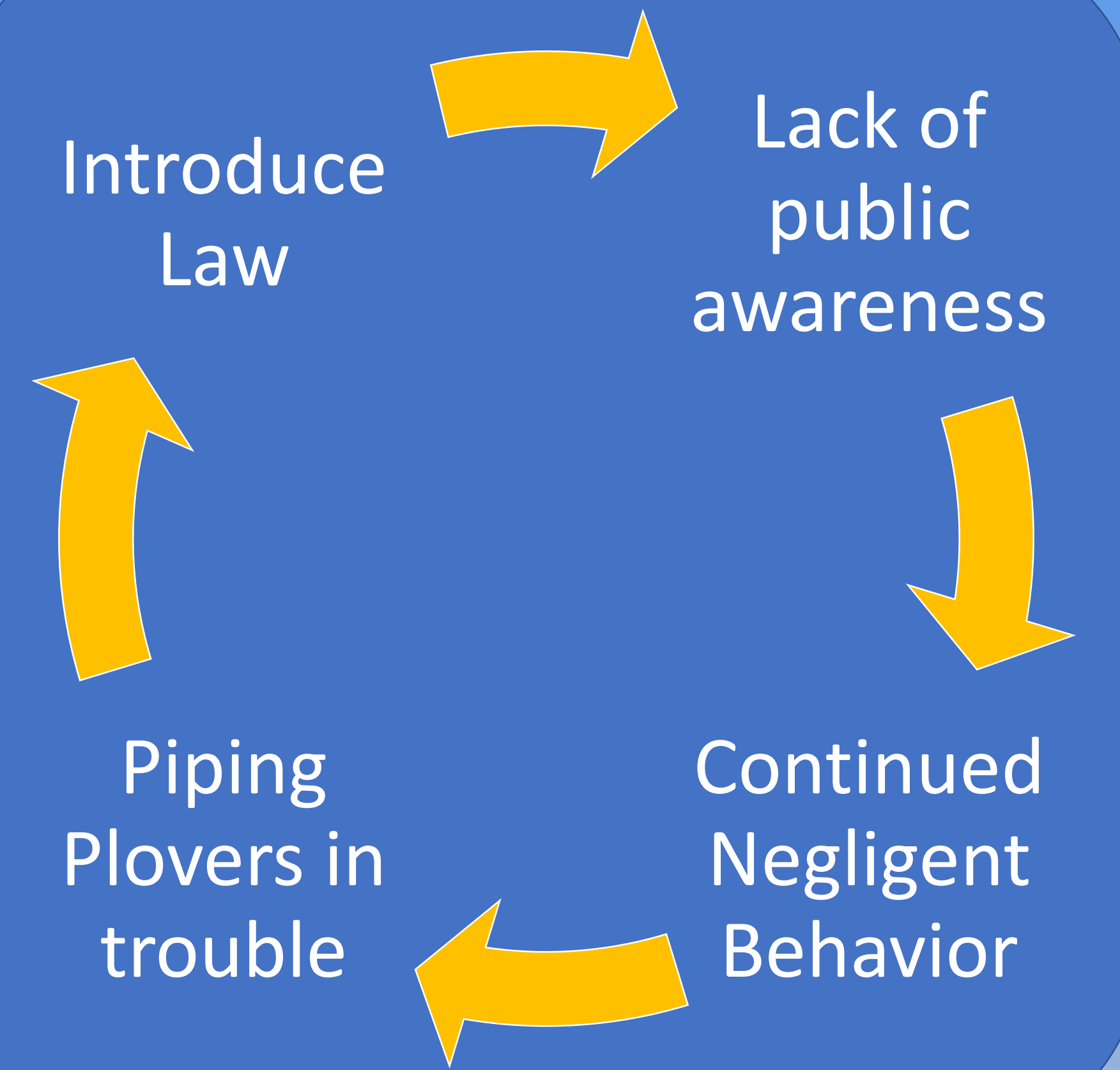
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Solution Recommendations:

Law Enforcement

- Make law enforcement a higher priority
- Increase fine for bringing dogs onto the beaches when plovers are nesting
- Increase monitoring of beaches
- Utilize satellites for observation of Piping Plover habitats
- Stop people from hunting the plovers when they fly South for winter

Education

- If people knew why the laws are in place, they may be more inclined to follow them
- Increase media coverage to improve public awareness of nesting plovers

The 5th P (propaganda)

- Films (such as Disney's *Plover*) and other visual media
- Increased presence on web. Information made easily available to all.

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