



Sand Fencing Guidelines

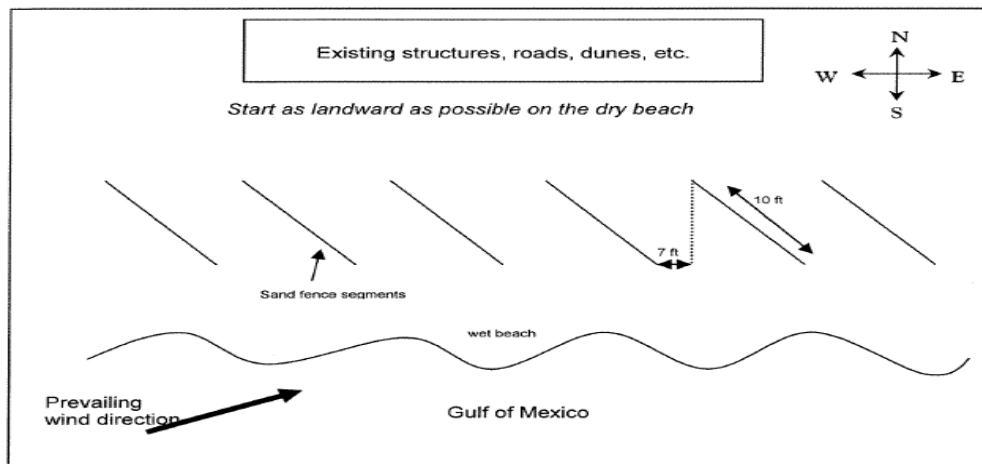
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Sand fences are valuable tools for rebuilding sand dunes but must be installed with minimal harm to nesting sea turtles. Standard fencing used in dune restoration projects consists of wooden slats wired together with space between the slats; however, the use of woven fabric type fencing has also been successfully. It is important that whatever material is used, the fencing must contain a 40% to 60% open space to closed space ratio. It should also be noted that fabric-type fences might not perform as well as the wooden slats and that many fabric-type fences are susceptible to ultraviolet degradation that causes the material to become brittle and deteriorate and may sag and lose the original shape, thus reducing performance. However with sufficient maintenance, this problem can be reduced or avoided.

In order to maximize the benefits of sand fencing, it is recommended that the fence be lifted and repositioned prior to the fence becoming 50% buried. If the sand is allowed to accumulate, the fence will not only become difficult to remove but will also lose its ability to collect sand.

Sand fences are usually 2 to 4 feet high. Sand fencing located seaward of the crest of the primary dune shall be designed and installed as follows: a maximum of ten (10) foot long spurs of sand fencing spaced at a minimum of seven (7) feet on a diagonal alignment (facing the predominate wind direction) for the shore-parallel coverage of the subject property. Review by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall be required for individual sand fencing projects that exceed 500 feet in length, shore-parallel, for alternative sand fence designs and for installation on sandy beaches in the following counties:

- Brevard County through Monroe County (Southeast Coast)
- Manatee County through Collier County (Southwest Coast)



If the primary reason for sand fencing is to control pedestrian access, a post and rope fence with a single strand of rope a minimum of three feet in height may be used to prevent human intrusion into existing dunes or vegetation.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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