



## Sand Fencing Guidelines

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Sand fencing can be an effective tool for rebuilding sand dunes while minimizing impacts to nesting marine 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.

Due to the limited benefits and the potential for adverse impacts in high-density marine turtle nesting beaches, sand fencing shall not be permitted in the following areas unless it is in conjunction with a large beach or dune restoration effort:

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

### **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC)**

Division of Habitat and Species Conservation  
Bureau of Protected Species Management  
(850) 922-4330.

- Pre-approval from FFWCC shall be required for individual sand fencing projects that exceed 500 feet in length, shore-parallel.
- 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. Pre-approval from FFWCC shall be required for alternative sand fence designs.

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. Where a demonstrated need is identified, the installation of post and rope fences in Brevard through Broward County may be permitted.