

6

PERIMETER FENCE



This art project of trash bags tied to the fence spanned for quite a distance. The concern was that the bags would eventually become detached and defeat the very purpose for which the fence was erected. They were removed and properly disposed of during the event.

A. GOAL

The perimeter fence not only defines the boundary of Black Rock City but it prevents wind-blown debris from blowing across the rest of the playa. Motivated by a) a sense of civic duty, b) opportunities for solitude, and c) urban myths of discovered treasures, Black Rock citizens volunteer to pick up debris accumulating along the fence. The Monitoring Team patrolled each day to check for breaks in the fence and to see it is adequately cleared of debris.

B. STIPULATION

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

32. Permittee shall install a 360° event perimeter/boundary trash fence. Any accumulation of trash that appears to be spilling over the fence or passing through a fence break will be collected. Fence breaks will be repaired immediately upon discovery. Permittee shall construct the southwest and southeast flanks of the perimeter fence prior to installation of other facilities to safely direct vehicular traffic around the site.

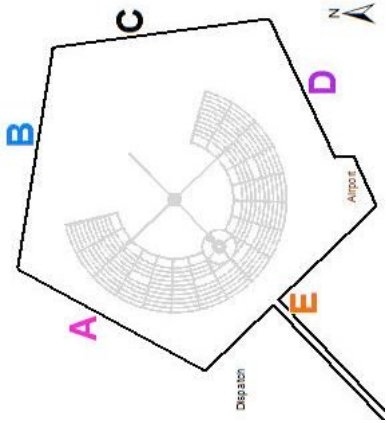
C. METHODS

Team members started at the fence corner closest to the 12-mile playa access and drove clockwise around the event outside the fence line. At each fence corner and approximately halfway between each corner, the number of pieces of debris, trash collectors and breaks in the fence were noted. The Team also shot photographs in 2 opposing directions along the fence line to record dust piling up along the fence. The reasons for this are detailed in the dune study.

This year, the Team aimed to make rough population estimates and compare those figures with those of Burning Man's counts, which are based on tickets in and out of the gate. This differs from the previous 2 years when a more exact count was sought. The reasons for this are two-fold: 1) BLM and BM numbers have been comparable despite different methods of calculating the daily population, and 2) implemented in 2007, the new cost-recovery based fees are no longer tied to population.

D. DATA

The table displays the number of pieces of debris counted along each of the five sides of the perimeter fence.



Pieces of debris counted during daily fence patrols											
Side	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SUN	SAT	MON	Side	Total by Side
A	2	12	23	25	31	46	0	46	20	A	205
B	519	1,515	671	456	300	635	492	853	244	B	5,685
C	519	1,278	598	284	68	103	452	484	71	C	3,857
D	9	10	117	69	54	103	361	91	701	D	1,515
E	89	447	697	347	418	593	469	225	585	E	3,870
Daily total	1,138	3,262	2,106	1,181	871	1,480	1,774	1,699	1,621		

E. RESULTS

The fence was well maintained and patrolled as outlined by the stipulations. The largest amounts of debris were found on the 'B' and 'E' sides of the fence as identified on the map. This is consistent with the prevailing winds, which originate at the south end of the playa and continue northward, blowing trash against these sides. The most trash was found on Monday. This is not surprising since dust storms were strong enough that day to close the event gate.

F. RECOMMENDATIONS

The perimeter fence and the current stipulations serve their purposes adequately.