

U.S.-Mexico Border Barriers

updated: 10/26/17

The U.S. Mexico border is covered by a substantial network of border barriers:

California (133 out of 167 miles, 80%); Arizona (361 out of 443 miles, 81%)

* "legacy" fences were those constructed before the Secure Fence Act of 2006

Legacy Pedestrian barriers: = CA (40 miles); AZ (24 miles)

Legacy Vehicle barriers = CA (6 miles); AZ (54 miles)

PF70 = primary (pedestrian) fence; relatively easy and pre-planned fencing put up shortly after the Secure Fence Act passed (70 miles planned nationally): CA (10 miles); AZ (78 miles)

PF225 = pedestrian fence (225 miles planned nationally), 2007 and later:

CA (65 miles); AZ (44 miles)

VF300 = vehicle fence (300 miles planned nationally) 2007 and later:

CA (10 miles); AZ (160 miles)

Ports of Entry combine both restriction and accessibility. Since this represents a form of security and generally includes gates which can be closed, this is included in the total length of border barriers above: CA (1 mile); AZ (0.5 miles)

* mileage provided here is of total border covered, not the length of border fencing per se

* vehicle barriers generally require less disturbance and allow greater passage of wildlife

* pedestrian barriers are generally found close to urban areas & accessible rural locations

* a substantial network of all-weather roads was built-up for these construction projects

* border stretches not presently covered by barriers are generally in remote areas with rough terrain; some of that is covered by barbed wire (not mapped or counted in this project)

* there are a variety of fence types within each of the above categories

* most fencing was in place by October 2013, the date on which data for this project is based

Many laws were waived (see listing on reverse) from 2005-2017 in specific stretches of border to facilitate quick construction of recent border barriers: CA (102/167 miles, 61%); AZ (333/443 miles, 75%); NM (127/211 miles, 60%)

* a few stretches of border have duplicate coverage by multiple sets of waivers

* CBP frequently "voluntarily" complied with waived laws under the Obama administration

* there are several places where post-Secure Fence Act construction extends beyond waivers; the status of compliance with laws in these locations (i.e. laws which were otherwise waived elsewhere) has not been determined

* waiver locations were generally described to the tenth of a mile in the *Federal Register* but still prefaced by "approximately"; nonetheless the discrepancy here is particularly striking

Additional data for New Mexico and Texas data expected to be available in late 2017.



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**
NEWARK

Kenneth D. Madsen
Associate Professor of Geography
madsen.34@osu.edu

State maps and future updates available at:
<http://u.osu.edu/madsen.34/maps/>

Laws waived by the Secretary of Homeland Security (with authority from Congress) to expedite construction of border barriers. Includes “all federal, state, or other laws, regulations and legal requirements of, deriving from, or related to the subject of, the following laws, as amended”:

- 1) National Environmental Policy Act
- 2) Endangered Species Act
- 3) Federal Water Pollution Control Act, a.k.a. Clean Water Act
- 4) National Historic Preservation Act
- 5) Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- 6) Migratory Bird Conservation Act
- 7) Clean Air Act
- 8) Archeological Resources Protection Act
- 9) Paleontological Resources Preservation Act
- 10) Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988
- 11) National Trails Systems Act
- 12) Safe Drinking Water Act
- 13) Noise Control Act
- 14) Solid Waste Disposal Act / Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- 15) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
- 16) Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act
- 17) Antiquities Act
- 18) Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act
- 19) Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act of 1988
- 20) Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
- 21) Farmland Protection Policy Act
- 22) Coastal Zone Management Act
- 23) Wilderness Act
- 24) Federal Land Policy and Management Act
- 25) National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act
- 26) National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997
- 27) section 10 of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939
- 28) Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956
- 29) Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- 30) Wild Horse and Burro Act
- 31) an Act of Oct. 30, 2000, Pub. L. 106–398, 1, 114 Stat. 1654 (enacting into law § 2848 of Part II of Subtitle D of Title XXVIII of Division B of H.R. 5408 (114 Stat. 1654A–426), as introduced on Oct. 6, 2000)
- 32) Administrative Procedure Act
- 33) Otay Mountain Wilderness Act
- 34) California Desert Protection Act [partial]
- 35) National Park Service Organic Act
- 36) National Park Service General Authorities Act
- 37) National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 [partial]
- 38) Arizona Desert Wilderness Act [partial]
- 39) Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
- 40) Eagle Protection Act
- 41) Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- 42) American Indian Religious Freedom Act
- 43) Religious Freedom Restoration Act
- 44) National Forest Management Act of 1976
- 45) Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act of 1960
- 46) Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977
- 47) Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1999
- 48) Sikes Act

Not all laws are waived in all areas, see state maps for details:
<http://u.osu.edu/madsen.34/maps/>



VF300 Constructed Fence
 West of Douglas, AZ
 2/2/10



PF70 Fence
 East of San Luis, AZ
 1/2/13

Photos and data sheet by Kenneth D. Madsen
 The Ohio State University at Newark