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## **Project could extend life of Stump Pass**

**ENGLEWOOD** -- The growing stretch of sand invading Stump Pass could soon be stopped, or at least slowed.

Charlotte County commissioners could help slow the channel's filling Tuesday, by signing an agreement with the state for the Stump Pass Beach State Park Stabilization Project.

The commissioners will vote on the agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection at the 9 a.m. meeting in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Murdock.

The project will have Beach Restoration Inc. install a submerged groin system to stabilize the beach and reduce the amount of sand moving south along the park, therefore slowing the rate sand fills in the channel.

Geotextile tubes, placed in the waters off the park, would create sand deposit zones that would cut down the cross-shore sand transportation along the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico.

Scientific calculations stated that 80 percent of the total sand transport happens along the bottom 20 percent of water.

The tubes would extend for some 10,650 feet and be placed in up to 10 feet of water.

"It will slow down the transport of sand into the pass," said Michael Poff of Coastal Engineering Consultants. "And hopefully extend the dredging cycles."

The county has some \$7 million left over to dredge the channel two more times within an eight-year period.

Tuesday's restoration project will cost slightly more than \$1 million, with the state providing about \$630,000.

The total includes funds for designing, permitting, constructing and monitoring.

Chairman Matt DeBoer, who visited the pass last month, said he was glad to see the groin field finally on the agenda. The state DEP delayed approval of the dredging project until such a maintenance program was put in place, he said.

"I'm glad we're moving forward with this," DeBoer said. "Hopefully this is an answer to some of the concerns people are having."

-- Gavin Off, Staff Writer