

NC Division of Coastal Management

NC Dept. of Environmental Quality

Division of Coastal Management

Jockey's Ridge Area of Environmental Concern Designation

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Summary of Proposed Permanent Rules



Permanent rules include to:

- Designate Jockey's Ridge as an Area of Environmental Concern
- Use Standards
- Satisfy RRC objections
- Statutory Citations

Proposed Permanent Rule (a) Description

15A NCAC 07H .0508 JOCKEY'S RIDGE AEC

(a) Description. Jockey's Ridge is the tallest active sand dune (medano) along the Atlantic Coast of the United States. Located within the Town of Nags Head in Dare County, between US 158 and Roanoke Sound, Jockey's Ridge represents the southern extremity of a back barrier dune system which extends north along Currituck Spit into Virginia. Given the status of Jockey' Ridge as a State Park, State Nature Preserve, complex natural area, and an area containing a unique geological formation as identified by the State Geologist, the Coastal Resources Commission hereby designates Jockey's Ridge as an Area of Environmental Concern pursuant to G.S. 113A-113.

Proposed Permanent Rule (b) Boundaries



(b) The boundaries of the Jockey's Ridge AEC shall be as depicted on a map approved by the Coastal Resources Commission on (adoption date), and can be found at the Division of Coastal Management, 400 Commerce Ave., Morehead City, NC 28557 or at the Division of Coastal Management's website at <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/division-coastal-management>.

The AEC includes the entire rights of way of US 158 Bypass, SR 1221 (Sound Side Road), Virginia Dare Trail, and Conch Street where these roads bound this area.

Jockey's Ridge AEC Boundaries



Proposed Permanent Rule (c) Use Standards



(c) Use Standards. Development within the Jockey's Ridge AEC shall be consistent with the following use standards:

- (3) Development activities within Jockey's Ridge AEC shall not alter or retard the free movement of sand except when necessary for the purpose of maintaining or constructing a road, residential or commercial structure, accessway, lawn, garden, or parking area unless allowed by Jockey's Ridge State Park's Management Plan. Jockey's Ridge State Park's Management Plan can be found at the Division of Parks and Recreation's website at <https://www.ncparks.gov>

Public Comment

- Public Hearing conducted on April 30, 2025
 - 3 oral comments received
 - 5 written comments received