

NC Division of Coastal Management

NC Dept. of Environmental Quality

Division of Coastal Management

Rules Review Objection to Jockey's Ridge Area of Environmental Concern

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Summary of Proposed Permanent Rules



On, August 27, 2025, the CRC adopted the permanent rule designating Jockey's Ridge as an AEC

Drafted in Three Parts

15A NCAC 07H .0508(a) **Description**, which describes the Jockey's Ridge and its importance

NCAC 07H .0508(b) **Boundary**, describes the AEC boundary and where a map of the AEC boundary can be found

15A NCAC 07H .0508(c) **Use Standards**

Rules Review Commission Objection



On August 27, 2025, the RRC objected to 15A NCAC 07H .0509 stating that paragraph (a) “Description” is unnecessary and is not the same as a “designation” as required under G.S. 113A-113.

CRC must act by December 1, 2025, The CRC has two options:

- Amend 15A NCAC 07H .0509 to address the RRC’s concerns and submit the revised rule for review
- Submit a written response indicating that the CRC will not amend the rule

Proposed Amendments to address RRC Objection



(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.~~ **Designation. Given the status of Jockey's 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.**

(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] August 27, 2025, 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 is located within the Town of Nags Head in Dare County, between US 158 and Roanoke Sound, and** 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.

