

Washington Horse Racing Commission
6326 Martin Way E, Suite 209
Olympia, Washington 98516
Phone: 360.459.6462
Fax: 360.459.6461

2019 Annual Report

February 14, 2020

The Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor
State of Washington
P. O. Box 40002
Olympia, Washington 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

The Washington Horse Racing Commission (WHRC) is pleased to inform you that in accordance with the Washington Horse Racing Act, Chapter 67.16 RCW, the WHRC Annual Report for the 2019 racing season has been posted on our website, www.whrc.wa.gov.

The WHRC and its staff recognize that horse racing is an economic and recreational asset to the people of Washington. The racing and breeding industries are a valuable sector of the state's economy and agribusiness.

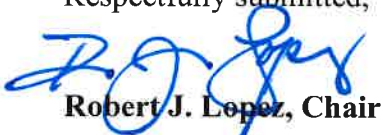
The mission of the WHRC is to regulate pari-mutuel horse racing and support the development of the equine industry. The goals of the WHRC are (1) foster a regulatory environment that promotes the economic benefits of the equine industry, and (2) ensure that the public has confidence in the integrity of pari-mutuel horse racing.

Data on the key agency performance measures is reported in the annual report, which includes:

1. In-state pari-mutuel wagering;
2. Number of live racing days, including the number of races, number of horse starts, and the average number of horses per race at Emerald Downs racetrack in Auburn;
3. Washington-bred owners' bonus and Washington-bred breeder awards distributed;
4. In-state pari-mutuel wagering;
5. Advance deposit wagering and the source market fees derived; and
6. WHRC operating revenue.

The Commissioners and staff appreciate your continued support of the WHRC and the horse racing industry and look forward to working with you to address the challenges that confront horse racing while we work to strengthen its role and sustainability in our state.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert J. Lopez, Chair

Distribution of Pari-mutuel Wagers - Emerald Downs and Nonprofit Racetracks 2019 Race Year (September 24, 2018 thru September 22, 2019)			
Racetrack	Pari-mutuel Wagering	Returned To Public	Retention
Emerald Downs *	72,380,408.30	54,773,949.01	17,606,459.29
Sun Downs	341,667.00	276,501.30	65,165.70
Total	72,722,075.30	55,050,450.31	17,671,624.99

* For 2019 the total pari-mutuel wagering at Emerald Downs was down 1.81% from 2018. This decrease may be attributed to the Emerald Downs schedule that decreased the number of wagering days in the timeframe for which the race year is calculated by 1 less day.

Number of Race Days, Races, Horses, and Average Horses per Race				
	Number Race Days	Number Of Races	Number Horses Starting	Average Per Race
Emerald Downs *	67	547	3,737	6.83
Sun Downs	6	45	272	6.04
Total	73	592	4,009	6.77

* In 2018 the average number of horses starting at Emerald Downs was 7.0.

Advance Deposit Wagering - [RCW 67.16.260](#).

Advance Deposit Wagering (ADW) is a form of pari-mutuel wagering in which a Washington resident deposits money in an account with an entity authorized by the commission to conduct advance deposit wagering and then the account funds are used for wagers made in person, by telephone, or through communication by other electronic means. A portion of each wager, the "source market fee," made by a person whose principle residence is in Washington is returned to the class 1 racing association and the commission. The source market fee is distributed as purse monies, breeder awards, owners bonus, and operating accounts per [WAC 260-49-070](#). The ADW handle and source market fee were up 5.13% from 2018.

Advance Deposit Wagers from Accounts held by Washington Residents 2019 Race Year (September 1, 2018 thru August 31, 2019)		
ADW Company	Wagers by Washington Residents	Source Market Fees Received
123 Gaming	265,285.00	21,222.75
NYRA Bets	1,684,089.59	109,465.88
TVG Network	46,564,170.20	2,781,888.21
Twin Spires	22,854,287.60	1,517,027.39
Watch and Wager	205,030.31	12,301.82
XpressBet, Inc.	9,355,372.10	633,645.62
Total	80,928,234.80	5,075,551.67

Nonprofit Racetracks' Purse Fund - [RCW 67.16.105](#)

In April 2011 the Legislature (ESSB 5747) amended RCW 67.16.105 to limit purses to the nonprofit racetracks (Class C race meets) to only the one tenth of one percent of the daily gross receipts of all in-state pari-mutuel machines. The legislation eliminated fines, source market fees, and interest on the WHRC operating account as a source of revenue to fund purses at the Class C race meets. In 2019 the WHRC provided \$75,043.77 derived from 67.16.105 for purse monies, plus \$25,000.00 in additional grants from our operating account, to Sun Downs racetrack in Kennewick to fund six days of racing.

Donohue Fund - [RCW 67.16.102\(2\)](#)

Interest derived from the Owner's Bonus Funds in 2018 were paid to the non-profit racetracks in 2019 for maintaining and upgrading their respective racing courses and equine quartering areas. In 2019 Sun Downs was the only non-profit racetrack that applied for racing dates and therefore received 100% of the Donohue Fund dispersed in 2019.

Donohue Fund Revenue Source	
Interest paid on the Washington-bred Owners' Bonus Funds	3,616.81

Donohue Fund Revenue Distribution	
Sun Downs	3,616.81
Total	3,616.81

Owners Bonus - [RCW 67.16.102\(1\)](#)

One percent of pari-mutuel wagering during live racing at Emerald Downs and its OTBs is paid at the end of the race year to all licensed owners whose Washington-bred horses place first, second, third, or fourth at Emerald Downs. Owner's bonuses also include 2.5 percent of the source market fee collected from ADW ([WAC 260-49-070](#)). The horse must be a registered Washington-bred to participate in the owner's bonus program. The owner's bonus was down 1.06% from 2018. These bonuses were distributed on November 26, 2019.

Washington-bred Owners' Bonus (Revenue Sources & Distribution) 2019 Race Year (September 24, 2018 thru September 22, 2019)	
1% of Total Wagering – Live Meet (Emerald Downs and OTBs)	377,110.04
Source market fee (Sept 1, 2017 thru Aug 31, 2018)	126,888.79
Total Distributed to Owners	503,998.83

Washington-bred Breeder's Award - [RCW 67.16.175](#)

One percent of exotic pari-mutuel wagering¹ during live racing at Emerald Downs and its OTBs is paid at the end of the race year to the breeder of record of Washington-bred horses that finish first, second and third. Breeder's awards also include 2.5 percent of the source market fees collected from ADW ([WAC 260-49-070](#)). The Washington Bred breeder's bonus that was earned from the handle was down 1.81 % from 2018. These awards were distributed on November 26, 2019.

Washington-bred Breeders' Awards (Revenue Sources and Distribution) 2019 Race Year (September 24, 2018 thru September 22, 2019)	
1% Exotic Wagering – Live Meet (Emerald Downs & OTBs)	45,563.36
Source market fee (Sept 1, 2017 thru Aug 31, 2018)	126,888.79
Total	172,452.15

Participant Licensing

Every individual participating directly in horse racing is required to have a valid license issued by the WHRC. Listed below are the types of licenses and the number issued in 2019.

License Types	Number Issued
Apprentice Jockey	5
Assistant Trainer	28
Association Employee (Management)	21
Association Employee (Hourly)	222
Authorized Agent	51
Exercise Rider	130
Groom	216
Honorary License	21
Jockey	51
Jockey Agent	6
Other	12
Owner	1,232
Pony Rider	103
Prospective Owner	37
Service Employee	33
Spouse Groom	7
Stable License	184
Trainer	138
Vendor	39
Veterinarian	9
Total	2,545

¹ Exotic wagering is all wagering other than win, place, and show wagering.

WHRC Operating Revenue

The WHRC operating account is comprised of revenue received from pari-mutuel tax, source market fees, license fees, fingerprint background fees, race track daily fees, fines, and interest derived on the operating account. The revenue sources listed below are based on the calendar year 2019 except the pari-mutuel tax received from Emerald Downs, and source market fees from advance deposit wagering, which are based on the race year of September 24, 2018 through September 22, 2019.

WHRC Operating Revenue Sources	
Licensing Fees	150,661.00
Fingerprint Background Fees	17,400.00
Daily Fee Emerald Downs (67 race days @ \$500 per day)	33,500.00
Daily Fee Nonprofit Tracks (6 race days at \$10 per day)	60.00
Advanced deposit wagering license fees	6,000.00
Source market fee	380,666.38
Fines	15,900.00
Interest on the WHRC Operating Account	14,844.30
Pari-mutuel tax on track/OTB wagers	940,945.31
Total	1,559,976.99

