

## **"GREEN SHEET"**

---

**Meeting:** October 3-4, 2008  
**Agenda Item 14:** Washington Wildlife Reserves – Briefing  
**Prepared By:** Don Kraege  
**Presented By:** Steve Pozzanghera, Deputy Assistant Director, Wildlife Program

---

**Background:**

This briefing was requested by the Commission as a follow-up to the Johnson / Debay's Slough Game Reserve agenda item that was presented during the August 9, 2008 Commission meeting in Lynnwood. The specific request is provided below in the "Action Requested" section.

Information regarding the Commission's legal authority to establish game reserves has been provided and Assistant Attorney General Matt Kernutt is available to answer questions.

Washington currently has 31 game reserves defined in WAC Chapter 232-16, with 19 occurring in eastern Washington and 12 in western Washington. Some of the current reserves originated as county hunting closures prior to the establishment of the Washington Department of Game in 1933. Most (26) of the current reserves were established for waterfowl, to reduce disturbance during critical use periods. Game reserves receive periodic review to evaluate effectiveness, and are commonly amended or abolished due to changes in function. Most game reserves are on public lands, but portions of reserves on private land are not uncommon.

---

**Policy Issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:**

N/A

---

**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

Establishment, amendment, and abolishment of game reserves are rule-making actions that receive public input on a case-by-case basis relative to the game reserve under consideration. The Department coordinates with other landowners potentially affected by these actions to obtain input on proposed changes and resolve conflicts.

---

**Action requested (identify the specific Commission decisions you are seeking):**

None, this is a briefing only per the following Commission request from the September 5-6, 2008 Commission meeting: Staff shall provide information on the creation, purpose, location and rules related to Washington state's system of wildlife reserves. Staff shall also include information on the Commission's authority to establish reserves and the effect of reserve establishment on property rights.

---

**Draft motion language:**

N/A

---

**Justification for Commission action:**

N/A

---