

Game Reserves and Other Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

Decision



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Don Kraege
Waterfowl Section Manager
Game Division, Wildlife Program

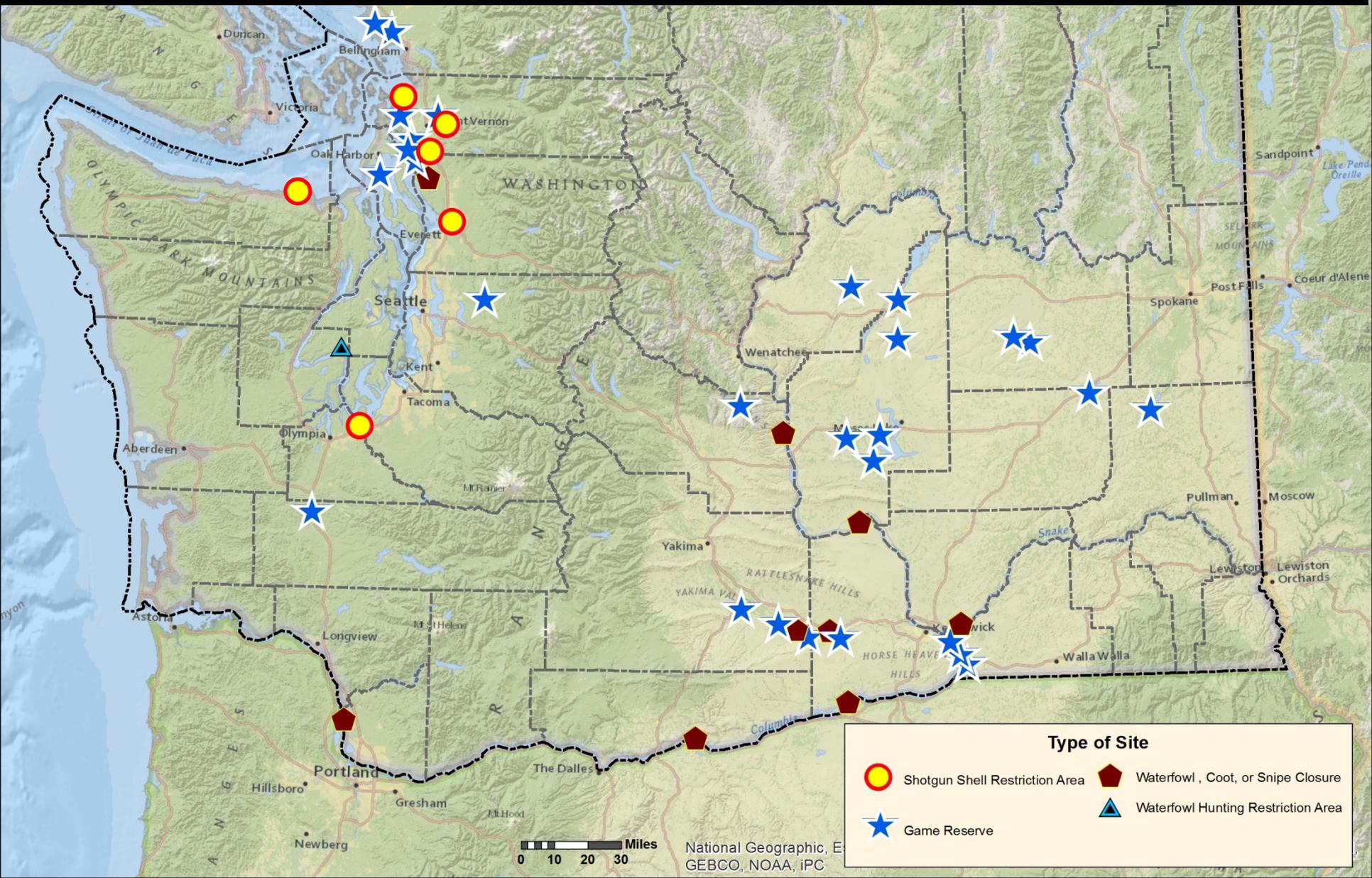
WAC Chapter 232-16

- 33 WACs in Chapter 232-16
 - Game Reserves
 - RCW 77.08.010 (31) "Game reserve" means a closed area where hunting for all wild animals and wild birds is prohibited.
 - Migratory Bird Hunting Closures
 - Hunting Restriction Areas
 - Shotgun Shell Restriction Areas

WAC Chapter 232-16

- **Goals of reserves and closures**
 - Reduce disturbance of wildlife in important habitat use areas
 - Manage wildlife distribution
 - Improve hunting success in surrounding areas
- **Goals of hunting restriction areas and shotgun shell restriction areas**
 - Improve quality of hunting experience
 - Improve hunting success

Game Reserves, Migratory Bird Closures, Hunting Restriction Areas, Shotgun Shell Restriction Areas



WAC Chapter 232-16

Rulemaking actions intended to:

- Update, clarify, and consolidate existing rules
- Remove reserves and closures no longer functioning for original purpose
- Improve recreational opportunities for migratory bird hunting
- Provide more clear information to the public regarding locations

WAC Chapter 232-16

Review process for Chapter 232-16

- Initial evaluation completed in 2011
- Mapping, boundary review initiated in 2013
- Public review in 2014-15 (>75% support)
- Commission action March / April 2015
- Distribute and post maps before 2015-16 seasons

WAC Chapter 232-16

27 WACs involved in current rule actions

- Repeals (2)
- Major changes (5)
- Minor changes (20)



WAC Chapter 232-16

Repeals

- 232-16-480 Whidbey Island Game Farm Reserve
 - Sold by WDFW in 1999
- ~~232-16-540 Yakima River Game Reserve [Adjustment]~~
 - ~~Land use changes, low use by waterfowl~~
- 232-16-810 Port Susan Bay Canada goose closure
 - Lack of use by Canada geese

WAC Chapter 232-16

Major Changes

- 232-16-600 North Potholes Game Reserve
 - reduce size to create quality hunt area
- 232-16-640 Winchester Wasteway Game Reserve
 - reduce size and expand quality hunt area
- 232-16-740 Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River waterfowl, coot, and snipe closures
 - reduce size of Section 2 closure (Klickitat County)
 - eliminate Section 8 (overlaps Yakima R. Reserve)
- 232-16-750 Belfair, Hood Canal hunting area restriction
 - expand and clarify quality hunt area [Adjustment]
- 232-16-770 Shotgun shell restriction areas
 - add 3 quality hunt areas: Johnson/Debay's Slough Hunt Unit, Clallam Co. [Adjustment], Nisqually Unit

Additional Rule Amendments

WAC 232-12-068 Nontoxic Shot Requirements

- Goal: clarify and update current requirements
- 2009-11: phase-in of nontoxic shot requirements to all pheasant release sites (listed in WAC)
- 2012-14: new pheasant release sites added and others discontinued (WAC list not updated)
- Proposed amendments:
 - Remove list of 2009-11 release sites
 - Add new language referring to all WDFW designated pheasant release sites
 - Add new shot type (copper-clad iron) [Adjustment]

Additional Rule Amendments

WAC 232-28-299 Mandatory Report of Hunting Activity

- Goal: consolidate and clarify current rules
- Mandatory reporting for migratory birds initiated in 1990, non-reporting penalties added in 2013
- Proposed amendments:
 - No change to current big game, bear, and turkey reporting requirements (clarifications added)
 - Add current migratory bird reporting requirements
 - Retain maximum of one \$10 fee for all game species reporting violations during a license year
 - Allow removal of reporting language from WAC 232-28-436 and WAC 232-28-342

Questions?

