

Agency Mission

The WHRC regulates parimutuel horse racing and supports the development of the equine industry.

Goals

1. Foster a regulatory environment that promotes the economic benefits of the equine industry.
2. Ensure that the public has confidence in the integrity of pari-mutuel horse racing.

Strategies

1. Implement procedures to make the licensing process simpler and more convenient.
 - a. Facilitate electronic access to the license application form.
 - b. Provide applicants with an on-line calculator that can accurately calculate fees for multiple licenses, including fingerprint and industrial insurance fees.
 - c. When able, facilitate on-line submission of license application that also allows electronic payment of applicable license and other fees.
2. Increase awareness of agency responsibilities among the horse racing patrons and licensees.
 - a. Continue efforts to design and improve the agency web page to provide stakeholders, licensees and public greater access to agency services and information.
 - b. Expand the use of electronic media in the agency's rulemaking process.
 - c. Survey the licensees and users of our services.
 - d. Identify the key points of contact to ensure non-English speaking licensees are accommodated when using our services.
 - e. Continue to support multi-agency efforts to inform the public about problem and compulsive gambling services.
 - f. Expand communications with all stakeholder groups.
 - g. Continue to conduct one regular meeting of the commission in eastern Washington at least once a year.

WHRC Strategic Plan – 2009-2011 Budget

3. Improve our efforts to protect the health of our equine participants.
 - a. Conduct a thorough review of the data, the report, and the necropsy program now that seven years of data has been collected on horse fatalities.
 - b. Enhance equine research with Washington State University School of Veterinary Medicine.
 - c. Focus funding for research projects that analyze the necropsy data, MRI data, histomorphologic analysis and possibly combining the data with other necropsy programs (e.g. UC Davis). The intent is to develop preliminary recommendations about reducing injuries or specific data that needs to be collected to develop scientifically based conclusions and recommendations.
4. Continue efforts to promote participant safety by reducing injuries.
 - a. Monitor L&I claims by risk class and license type (grooms, exercise riders, pony persons, & assistant trainers) for all racetracks.
 - b. Monitor private insurance claims by jockeys in live racing.
 - c. Continue random drug and alcohol testing of persons with a documented history of drug and/or alcohol violations, and persons on horseback to ensure compliance with Rules of Racing.
5. Maintain the integrity of horse racing
 - a. Ensure all criminal histories are processed in a timely manner so licensing applicants can be approved or referred to the Stewards for further action.
 - b. Monitor all participants for compliance with the Rules of Racing.
6. Assist the equine industry by reinvesting available funds back into the horse racing industry.
 - a. Provide funding to maintain and upgrade the racing facilities at the non-profit race meets.
 - b. Provide funding to support a jockey incentive program for the non-profit race meets.
7. Modernize the Rules of Racing in Title 260 WAC.
 - a. Continue to adopt into Title 260 WAC, when applicable, the international model rules of racing.
 - b. Continue efforts in regulatory reform.

Performance Measures

1. Number of live racing days.
2. Number of horse races.
3. Number of horses starting.
4. Average number of horses per race. *This reflects the overall strength of the racing and breeding programs throughout the state.*
5. Annual in-state parimutuel wagering. *This is the main source of revenues for the industry. Purses, awards, track and state revenues are directly related to the amount of the parimutuel handle. (See Table 2)*