

PS 58: Washington Slots 2019

Opening

Hello! Today's episode #58 of the Professor Slots podcast discusses what you need to know about the slot machine casino gambling environment in the state of Washington during 2019.

Thank you for joining me for the Professor Slots podcast show. I'm Jon Friedl and this is the podcast about slot machine casino gambling. It is where I provide knowledge, insights, and tools for helping you improve your slot machine gambling performance.

On Last Week's Episode...

In case you missed it, on my last episode I went over the annual financial report of International Game Technology PLC focusing on the careful thoughts the gaming experts at IGT think are risks to the gaming industry segments of their slots business.

I hope you enjoyed listening to my last episode as much as I enjoyed making it for you.

Call to Action #1 (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

Introduction

Today, I'm providing a brief overview of the current state of gambling in a U.S. state, territory, or federal district emphasizing, by far, anything of interest to slot machine casino gamblers.

This time, it's Washington slot machine casino gambling in 2019. Here goes!

Washington slot machine casino gambling consists of 29 tribal casinos with a unique type of video lottery terminal (VLT) slot machines. Along with many card rooms in the state, they also offer most Vegas-style table games.

All state-tribal compacts set a minimum payout return limit. However, no payout return statistics of actual gaming is available to the public.

Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in Washington

Washington Slots in 2019

The minimum legal gambling age in Washington depends upon the gambling activity:

- Land-Based Casinos: 21 or 18, depending on the casino
- Poker Rooms: 18
- Bingo: 18
- Lottery: 18
- Pari-Mutuel Wagering: 18

Washington slot machine casino gambling exists at tribal casinos based on the lottery's scratch ticket games in electronic form. This unique form of video lottery terminal (VLT) slot machines makes Washington slot machines unique in the U.S. All other U.S.-based VLTs are lottery draw games, not from lotteries other game: scratch tickets.

Each of the 29 federally recognized American Indian tribes negotiated state-tribal compacts with the state to offer gambling at tribal casinos. However, the state and these tribes could not agree on whether Vegas-style slot machines should be legal in Washington.

Scratch-based VLTs resulted from early negotiations of state-tribal gaming compacts. This impasse resolution led to creating a secondary lottery system for VLTs at tribal casinos. The state lottery was a model for the Tribal Lottery System (TLS).

Draw-based VLTs create tickets at the time of the bet using random number generators (RNGs). Scratch-based VLTs know in advance the result of each wager. Put another way, the outcome of each scratch-based VLT bet is pre-determined. Bets do not require an RNG.

Another technical difference between lottery draw tickets and scratch tickets is how many of them can exist. For example, there can be as many draw tickets as players are willing to buy. However, lotteries create only a limited number of scratch tickets but, hopefully, enough for a busy night at Washington tribal casinos.

All negotiated tribal-state compacts also have other legal restrictions for their scratch-based VLT-style slot machines. These limits have been expanding over time as part of this state's dynamic gaming industry. The requirements are:

- Allows replaying of credits won
- No handles
- No mechanical spinning wheels
- A minimum payout return (see below)
- \$5 maximum wager on 85% on VLTs
- \$20 maximum wager on 15% of VLTs
- Cap of 2,500 VLT machines per tribe

A small group, carousel, or bank of VLTs pull virtual scratch tickets from the same set. Each small group uses a different set. Given these tickets are of a finite number, running out of tickets in a set means only a few VLTs are out of them before switching to a new set of tickets. This switching should take place nearly instantaneously, likely not causing any small group of VLTs to shut down temporarily.

Slot Machine Private Ownership in Washington

Next up is a usually short statement about slot machine private ownership, which I have included in case you live in this U.S. state and are considering owning a slot machine. Here it is:

In Washington, it is legal to privately own a slot machine if it is 25 years old or older. However, it cannot have a gambling purpose. For example, it must be free to play.

Gaming Control Board in Washington

The gaming control board is the Washington State Gambling Commission. It provides licensing, regulation, and enforcement of certain aspects of the gaming industry in Washington. Their regulatory responsibilities primarily include testing and approving new electronic gaming machines.

Otherwise, each tribe with a casino in Washington has a tribal gaming agency (TGA). Agents of a TGA are the primary regulators at tribal casinos. At all times, at least one TGA agent must be on duty at a tribal casino.

Casinos in Washington

In this section, I'll discuss Washington gambling establishments.

There are 29 American Indian tribal casinos available in the state of Washington with more than 35,000 VLT-style slot machines.

The largest casino in Washington is the Muckleshoot Casino having more than 3,000 VLT slot machines and 75 table games.

The second largest casino is Tulalip Casino having more than 2,400 VLT slot machines and more than 35 table games.

Non-Tribal Casinos in Washington

The state of Washington has no non-tribal casinos with slot machines. However, Washington has many card rooms or "mini-casinos" with up to 15 tables each.

American Indian Casinos in Washington

The state of Washington has 29 tribal casinos. As usual when there are too many casinos to mention here, a complete list along with links to their websites, assuming they've set one up, is available on my website blog article for this state at professorslots.com/WA.

Other Gambling Establishments

As an alternative to enjoying Washington slot machine casino gambling, consider exploring casino options in a nearby state. Bordering Washington is:

- North: Canadian Province of British Columbia
- East: Idaho
- South: Oregon
- West: Pacific Ocean

To visit any of my articles on these U.S. states, visit ProfessorSlots.com followed by its two-letter postal designation. For example, my Idaho slots article is available at ProfessorSlots.com/ID.

Our Washington Slots Community Facebook Group

Are you interested in sharing and learning with other slots enthusiasts in Washington? If so, join our new slots community on Facebook at professorslots.com/FBWA. All you'll need is a Facebook profile to join this closed Facebook Group freely.

There, you'll be able to privately share your slots experiences as well as chat with players about slots gambling in or near Washington. Join us! Again, use this convenient link I've created to go directly to our Group on Facebook: professorslots.com/FBWA.

Besides myself, currently, we have 20 members in our Washington slots community. To welcome people, when they join I'll ask them to share with us their favorite casino. So far, Stewart likes Red Wind, Muckleshoot, and recently Emerald Queen. He also occasionally enjoys Lucky Eagle, Quinault, Tulalip, and Ilani. John also likes Ilani in Ridgefield. Chuck says one of their favorites is Angel of the Winds. They also like Tulalip when their rooms are on sale but most often goes to Silver Reef for convenience. He also mentioned they'd go to Nooksack more often, but it gets too smoky when busy. Allison likes to donate, as she puts it, to 12 Tribes Casino in Omak. Katherine's favorite casinos isn't in Washington, but in Utah: The Peppermill in Wendover. She also likes Ilani for special occasions. It's her birthday soon, so everybody wish Katherine a happy birthday! Patrick this it was a great idea to start this slots community (so do I, Patrick!) and likes Tulalip and Nevada and our southern states. Ran and her husband like Tulalip, Muckleshoot, and Angel of the Winds because it's a smaller casino. It also has great food

there, she says, and she also likes their Poker tournaments. Gina likes Tulalip. Carl likes Snoqualmie. I hope I pronounced the correctly, but I doubt it!

Lately, I've also taken to asking if anyone has been to a casino lately and did they have a trip report or photos to share? Members have been sharing which casinos they've been to most recently. It'll be interesting if they ever cross paths. I mean, knowingly cross paths. As often as some members go to the same casino, I wouldn't be surprised if they've sat next to one another at times. Right?

Payout Returns in Washington

The Tribal Lottery System (TLS) directly controls the results of Washington's unique VLT-style slot machines. A central computer system at the TLS provides the outcome of each bet made on each tribal casino's VLT at the time of the wager. This off-site control extends to any bonus rounds.

All tribal-state compacts in Washington established a minimum payout return percentage of 75% for their VLT slot machines. Further, no tribe in the state of Washington releases payout return statistics of actual results for slots.

I'm completely fascinated with Washington's idea of having the theoretical payout return for a slot machine directly available in its game theme menu. Want to know what it is? Just look it up.

No other U.S. state gaming commission offers this service to its residents. But the idea isn't entirely new. Consider video poker games. It's fairly-well known among poker players that the ratio between the return from a straight relative to a flush would impact the winning statistics among various versions of poker.

Even long-time video poker players think this phenomena translates from a card game to an electronic video poker game. They don't seem to realize it doesn't have to. It may, if the rest of odds generation on a group of video poker machines is identical.

This only happens if the one on the end of a row of video poker machines, the one that can be seen from a distance, hasn't been adjusted by the casino to win more often because of its location without any change in how much is won with a straight, a flush, or both. Because, you know, electronics.

If you'd like to know more about this topic, check out episode 42: Video Poker as Skill-Based Slots or my website article "Can You Win at Video Poker Using Slots Strategies?" Spoiler alert: Yes, you can.

Summary of Washington Slots in 2019

Washington slot machine casino gambling consists of 29 tribal casinos with scratch ticket VLT-style video slot machines. A central computer server at the Tribal Lottery System directly controls the results of each bet. Otherwise, all tribal casinos in the state of Washington offer Las Vegas-style table games.

Tribal-state compacts regulating Washington's tribal casinos set a minimum payout return of 75% for their unique VLT-style slots. No payout return statistics are available to the public.

Annual Progress in Washington Slot Machine Casino Gambling

Sometime within the last year, the Two Rivers Casino & Resort in Davenport located 60 miles west of Spokane began to no longer offer a casino alongside its RV park and marina.

Call to Action #2 (add sound effect afterward)

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On the Next Episode of Professor Slots

On the next episode of the Professor Slots podcast is West Virginia Slots 2019 with a few highlights from our growing slots community on Facebook.

To suggest a topic or ask a question which might end up as a blog article or on a podcast episode, email it to jon@professorslots.com where Jon is spelled J-O-N or by calling 702-90-SLOTS to leave a voicemail.

Closing (closing music)

That's the end of another great episode of the Professor Slots podcast. Thanks so much for listening!

Show notes for this episode are now available within most podcast Apps, but are also available on my website at professorslots.com/e58.

I plan to have the next episode come out very, very soon for you, where I'll have more amazing content for the show.

Until the next episode: Have fun, be safe, and make good choices! Bye.

320-Character Description

Washington slots 2019 discusses its 29 tribal casinos with virtual scratch ticket VLT slot machines. A tribal lottery system provides the results of each bet, state-wide. VLTs have a minimum payout return limit but no payout return statistics are available. I also share the favorite casinos of slots players in Washington.

156-Character Description

Washington slots 2019 consists of 29 tribal casinos with VLT-style slot machines. This state has a minimum payout return, but no statistics are available.