Casino offers answers to questions most often asked about new casino proposal

15 Often-asked Questions
About the Warm Springs Tribe's Casino Proposal
1. Q: Is Casino gaming the best way to take care of the
Warm Springs people's future?

A: The Warm Springs reservation is relatively isolated location. In the past, the forest and hydroelectric power resources of the Reservation have provide revenues to support Tribal Government and provide a permanent homeland and livelihood for Tribal members. However, revenues from timber harvest and forest products manufacturing have greatly declined and revenues from hydroelectric power generation will decline in the near future.

The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation seeks additional revenue sources to replace these declining revenues and to relieve the pressure on those natural resources. The Tribe has considered any viable alternative for achieving this objective. However, the Reservation is distant from markets and has transportation disadvantages, limiting the revenue potential from non-resource based sources.

Gaming has proved a viable economic source for many Indian nations across the U.S. The Tribe's existing Indian Head Casino at Kah-Nee-Ta is profitable, but has very limited earning potential because of it's remote location. Casino profits support the Tribal Nation's governmental services and programs and Tribal Members. Tribal government services to it's people include education, pre-school programs and scholarships, health and wellness, elderly care, housing, roads, police, fire and emergency services and the judicial system.

2. Q: What positive impact can a casino have on the Tribe's heritage?

A: Economic self-sufficiency is critical to the preservation of the Tribe's government, culture, heritage, way-of-life and maintain the Warm Springs Reservation as a permanent homeland for Tribal Members. As a source of revenue to support tribal government and programs, gaming can assure self-sufficiency of the Tribes and it's members. With this comes sustained Tribal language, culture and traditional values

3. Q: Will any casino by wholly owned and managed by the Tribe?

A: Yes. The Tribe's existing Indian Head Casino has always been wholly owned and managed by the Tribe, and there has never been a management contract which provides for sharing the profits with any other entity.

4. Q: How would a casino change the quality of life in Hood River?

A: The tribes believes it can improve the quality of life formany in the county. A casino would create jobs, expand and enhance the tourism economy, increase the purchase of local goods and services, and bring added corporate support to community enterprises.

5. Q: What positive economic impacts can be expected locally from a casino?

A: The Tribes' have commissioned an economic impact study by an independent consulting firm to evaluate the economic benefits to the local area if a casino as proposed is developed. Results are expected by early November, 1998, and will be made available then.

Based on national data and the Tribe's previous experience, it's reasonable to project that a casino of the size being considered would cost between \$15-million and \$18 million

to build, creating 76-150 (peak) construction jobs. Some 70% of casino revenues would come from outside the Columbia River Gorge area. A positive economic impact of dollars spent in the local area by casino patrons and employees can be expected to accrue to local service stations, hotels, restaurants, food outlets, shops and other entertainment and recreational facilities.

6. Q: What are the employment and wages potentials in the casino?

A: There is significant potential for employment of local residents. Between 290 and 375 full-time jobs would be created. Total payroll is estimated to well exceed \$5.5 million annually.

A range of salaries from minimum wage for entry jobs to \$16/hr. for trained and skilled workers with seniority is expected. Tips and gratuities are typically available to many hourly workers in the casino business, bringing average hourly compensation to \$9/hr. or more for about two-thirds of casino jobs, such as table game dealers, poker dealers, waiters and waitresses.

The gaming industry is competitive with other large businesses in providing benefits to employees. Typically these include major medical coverage, prescription, vision, dental coverage, life insurance, child care services, paid holidays, vacation pay, awards compensation for outstanding achievement.

7. Q: What percent of casino employees would be from the local area?

A: A large percent of the jobs would be available to local residents. Less than 10% would be expected to be held by Tribal members. Of all the jobs the casino would offer, 85% to 88% are positions that are readily trainable.

8. Q: What financial and economic support is the Tribe prepared to commit to benefit communities in Hood River county?

A: The Tribe will be a good corporate citizen in Hood River County and contribute to the improvement of the community. Specific terms would be developed in discussions between the Tribe and the host area and incorporated in a compact between the State of Oregon and the Tribe.

9. Q: Will the Tribe pay for increased local services required as a result of casino development?

A: The Tribe understands the impact on a community of added police and fire protection, water and sewer services, road improvements and other services. The Tribe will certainly pay for it's fair share. It is a cost of doing business. The Tribe would work with various local agencies to define the needs and the costs.

10. Q: How would housing and schools be impacted in our area?

A: The Tribe understands housing, especially low-income housing, is scarce in the Hood River area. We are examining ways to work with the community on this issue, particularly if the casino development were to cause housing displacement. Regarding schools, if the lion's share of jobs at the casino were to go to local residents, the Tribes assumes there would be limited impact on schools. Education is of great importance to the Tribe, and a key opportunity area for potential community contributions.

11. Q: What about gambling addiction? What does the Tribe propose to do about it in the Hood River area?

A: The Tribe recognizes its responsibility as a casino

operator to assist local and state programs for those individuals who are afflicted with gambling addiction. We have had such a program in place since the opening of Indian Head Casino at Kah-Nee-Ta. The Tribe contributes to the agencies that address this problem and also believe it's important to take preventive measures, especially by helping to educate youth about the pitfalls of gambling and by being alert to any problem gamblers in our facility.

12. Q: How would a casino affect the local crime rate? A: The Tribe does not believe building a casino in the Hood River County area would increase the local crime rate. We have not experienced crime increases related to operation of the Indian Head Casino. The Oregon State Police report that other communities in Oregon have not experienced any significant increase in general crime as a result of the presence of Indian casinos.

The Tribe is gathering studies on the subject from other sources in Oregon and nationally, and will talk with local law enforcement officials about concerns about increased crime off the casino site.

Casino employees and vendors are subjected to extensive scrutiny and licensing, including criminal background and credit checks involving federal, state and tribal regulatory agencies, thereby ensuring that the casino does not introduce a criminal element into the community.

At the proposed casino, the Tribe would maintain its own security force, and under Compact with the State, work closely with the Oregon State Police. Indian gaming is one of the most tightly regulated industries for security purposes in the country, under terms of federal law.

13. Q: If the Tribes wants to draw patrons from the Portland metro area, why don't they build their casino there?

A: The Tribes has no land ties to the Portland area. Hood River County is part of the Tribe's aboriginal territory, ceded to the United States in 1855. Tribal members can date their ancestry to the Hood River area back 10,000 years. The Tribe currently owns land in trust near the city of Hood River, which is eligible for gaming pursuant to federal laws.

14. Q: If the casino is not built on property newly acquired by the Tribes for that purpose, will it be built on the Tribe's trust land east of Hood River?

A: The Tribe has not made a specific decision on a location for any new casino. Under the Tribe's Constitution, the Tribal Council, as the elected governing body, is bound by the terms of a referendum of the tribal voters. Thus, any final decision by the Tribe will depend upon a vote of the tribal membership.

15.Q: Will the Tribe be responsive to public opinion in reaching it's decision on whether or not to proceed with a casino in Hood River County?

A: Representatives of the Tribe are actively seeking public opinion on their proposal. To date, we have heard both strong opposition and support from a variety of citizens across the County. The Tribes plans to continue to provide information and receive comments and opinions in an effort to reach residents in all areas and walks of life in the Columbia River Gorge area.

These opinions are important to the Tribe in making a decision to develop a firm proposal and begin discussions with State officials about a compact for a new casino, and with federal officials if a newly acquired site is involved.

ONILISIA Comprehensive Plan Community Conference Monday, November 9, 1998 Agency Longhouse Warm Springs, Oregon 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. Session 1 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Session 2 (repeat of session 1) "We teach our children mutual respect for each other and each tribe," The People's Voice '98" HS EE Come and play "Reservation Monopoly," Family Fued, and give your ideas before the adoption of the Comp Plan in 588 December. Come early. The first 75 people for each session will get to WELLON use the electronic voting equipment to give your ideas. There will be door prizes and prizes for the games. Fun for the whole family. 1000

Tribal Council explains proposal in progress

As many of you have no doubt heard and read, the tribal gaming enterprise is considering expansion into the Hood River area. The Tribes own a 40-acre parcel of land just east of the city of Hood River and that is the proposed site for a casino development. The Tribes have also taken an option on approximately 12 acres on the west end of Hood River. This parcel is outside the city limits, but inside the urban growth boundary and was chosen because of its proximity to Interstate 84.

We are currently engaged in informal discussions with county and city government officials (and civic groups) to answer questions about such things as payment in lieu of taxes, a community fund, gambling addiction, infrastructure needs, enforcement and employment. City and county officials are planning a country-wide referendum or survey to determine what the feelings of the residents are concerning gaming. We have just recently received an economic impact study that was commissioned

by Indian Head Gaming, and we will share the results of that study with tribal members and the Hood River community as soon as possible.

Tribal members will recall the gaming was an ominous prospect just four years ago when it was first proposed here. Many predicted dire social and financial consequences for our people if gaming were permitted on the reservation. The city and county of Hood River are now dealing with the same concerns.

The Hood River gaming proposal (and please keep in mind that it is only a proposal) has spawned a vigorous and outspoken opposition group who call themselves No CasiNo! This group is well-organized and is bombarding Oregon politicians with anticasino postcards. We expected this and we have tried to keep the lines of communications open to answer questions and address their concerns.

Tribal members may wonder why this proposal is being put forward at this time. The answer is quite simple: Revenue. As we move into the month of November, we are all aware that the process of budget meetings will commence, wherein we debate the relative merits of various projects and programs. This year, Tribal Council has posted a deficit budge of \$739,071.

During the next month, we will have to trim that amount from the list of new initiatives and maintenance of services to achieve a balanced budget. Many worthwhile initiatives will fall in the budget balancing process.

Now, consider this: A casino in Hood River County could potentially produce gross revenue of \$52 million, or net income of \$15-18 million a year.

Please bear with us as we proceed with this proposal. We are not being secretive nor are we trying to circumvent any processes. We are trying to do what is in the best long-term interests of Tribal Members.

Olney Patt, Jr. Tribal Council Chairman