

Spirit Mountain management team to work on Kalispel casino contract

The Board of Directors of Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. have formed a new tribal corporation, Spirit Mountain Management and Consulting Inc., to carry out its contract to manage the Kalispel Tribe's new casino in eastern Washington.

The Kalispel contract is an important business opportunity for the Grand Ronde Tribe because it can generate \$20 million in new revenue for the Tribe over the next five years.

"It's an exciting opportunity for our Tribe to be able to help another tribe in this way, and is consistent with our tradition of giving something back to others," said Tribal Council Chair Kathryn Harrison. "We understand firsthand how a successful casino can help a Tribe work toward self-sufficiency and provide needed social programs."

"This move will allow us to provide top-quality management services to help the Kalispel Tribe develop an attractive and successful casino," said Mike Larsen, chair of the Spirit Mountain Board of Directors.

Bruce Thomas, Terry Contreras, Chuck Galford and Jeff Realander are handling the Kalispel contract as employees of Spirit Mountain Management and Consulting, having transferred to the company from their positions at Spirit Mountain Casino.

Robert J. Watson was named as interim president and CEO of Spirit Mountain Casino while the board conducts a national search. Watson will take a leave of absence from his post as chair of the Gaming Commission.

Watson, an enrolled tribal member, was head of the State of Oregon Department of Corrections from 1976 to 1986. He held a similar post for

the State of Delaware from 1987 until he retired in 1994. He also chairs the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority.

Watson is a graduate of Willamette University and has a bachelor of arts degree in sociology. He and his wife, Patricia Lois Watson, live in Lincoln City.

Larsen said the board will rely on the expertise of current casino employees to fulfill management re-

sponsibilities within their departments. "We are fortunate to have a wealth of management talent in-house," Larsen said.

Spirit Mountain recently signed a management agreement with the Kalispel Tribe that included approximately \$6 million in financing to begin construction of the Northern Quest Casino, to be built in Airway Heights, a suburb just north of Spokane.



Tribal member Bob Watson will act as interim president and CEO of Spirit Mountain Casino.

Photos by Tracy Dugan

IMPORTANT NEWS: Plans to put a proposal on the November ballot that would ban video poker in Oregon have been delayed by the group organizing the initiative, citing tribal opposition as one of the factors. The group will try again in 2002.



In celebration of a new partnership, Tribal Council Chair Kathryn Harrison presented the Kalispel Council with a Pendleton after the contract signing. Grand Ronde will oversee the development of Kalispel's new casino.

TRIBAL COMMUNITY MEETING DATES

March 20
TUALATIN
Sweetbrier Inn

March 23
EUGENE
Lane Community College

March 27
GRAND RONDE
Tribal Community Center

March 30
BEND
The Riverhouse Hotel

All meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.
Refreshments will be served.

SUGGESTION COUPON

Tribal Council is holding a series of Community Meetings in March. Council is interested in learning what issues the tribal membership would like to discuss at these meetings. Please take a few minutes to write down the top concerns you would like Tribal Council to discuss with you.

1 _____

 2 _____

 3 _____

Clip this ad and mail it to:
 Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Attention: Jackie Whisler
 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347
 Or, if you prefer, call Jackie Whisler at 1-800-422-0232, ext. 2320.