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"We have a few cases like that," said Medeiros. "Records can be lost through adoption or death. Sometimes a parent just disappears and we can't track them down."

Even if they must take such instances on a case-by-case basis, Medeiros still believes the

Tribe should make exceptions for some applicants. But that requires making amendments to the Enrollment Ordinance, which means going to Council with a proposal.

"Obviously, changing the rules is a major undertaking," she said. "But if there's a problem

we can fix it."

Due to the sensitivity of their duties, Enrollment Board members can, like the Election Board, go into Executive Session. ■

## Fish & Wildlife Committee

**BACKGROUND:** December 22, 1986 was also the day Tribal Council approved the passing of the Fish & Wildlife Ordinance. With that ordinance came the establishment of the Fish & Wildlife Committee.

**PEOPLE INVOLVED:** This particular committee consists of seven (7) members, with Tribal member Lonnie Leno serving as Chair. The staff meets the second Tuesday of every month, with an annual retreat with Natural Resources. Members are paid on an hourly basis, and are supposed to serve terms, though details about that are still in the works. Pre-requisites matter with this committee, as members are expected to be well versed in state and Tribal hunting laws, and well as the geography of the Tribal hunting and fishing area. Applicants are rejected if they've been proven guilty of violating a hunting or fishing law within two (2) years prior to their appointment.

**MEMBERS:** Sara Daniels (*Secretary*), Tim Holmes, Dale Langley (*Vice Chair*), Lonnie Leno (*Chair*), Rick McKnight, Cory Meneley, and Matt Thomas.

**FUNCTION:** While serving as an advisory panel to Tribal Council, the Fish & Wildlife Committee runs the gauntlet of issues, dealing with planning, environmental and ecological concerns, and legal matters. Plus they help distribute salmon, and through the State of Oregon, fishing and hunting licenses.

"Our main thing is helping put together a Ten-Year Plan with Natural Resources on how to manage the Rez (Reservation)," said Leno. "We have to do that in conjunction with the Timber Committee."



**Lonnie Leno**  
Chair

**Committee:** Fish & Wildlife  
**Meeting day:** 2nd Monday  
**Location:** Natural Resources  
**Time:** 5 p.m.

In fact the Fish & Wildlife Committee not only works with numerous other groups and individuals, ranging from state representatives to biologists, but anything major that happens on the Reservation almost never occurs without their input. Looking out for the interests of the fauna is really their specialty.

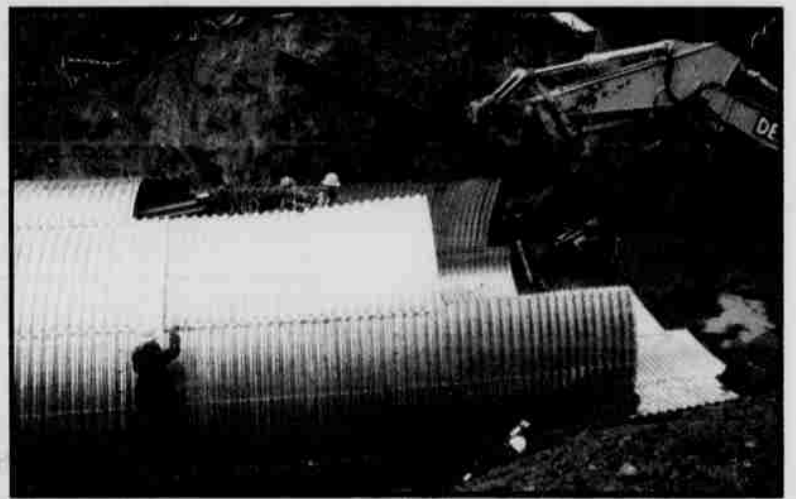
"When Timber sales happen, we oversee them," Leno added. "We help with the wildlife, look at how big to leave the buffers, look at streams and whether they're fish-bearing or not. We check the erosions in the creeks."

They attend conferences, especially those pertaining to animals.

They've even done studies on notable species like the silver salmon, the spotted owl, and the marbled murrelet. Quite often the committee seeks the advice of Tribal Environmental Specialist and Tribal member Kathleen Feehan or Fish & Wildlife Coordinator Kelly Deorkson.

In recent times the committee has begun to look at alternative uses of the Reservation. Or in other words, uses besides logging like recreation for example. It is one industry with possibilities—hiking trails could be developed, campsites built. Outdoor enthusiasts would have a 10,000-acre playground. The notion has potential, especially in light of that many Tribal members already hit the Reservation for leisure, from hunting to swimming to barbecuing.

But that too, like most committee ideas, is one in the works. ■



**New Culvert** — The Fish & Wildlife Committee works closely with the Tribe's Natural Resources department to get projects like replacing this culvert accomplished.

## Grand Ronde Gaming Commission

**BACKGROUND:** Long before Tribal Council passed the Gaming Ordinance, there was the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988. That piece of legislation made gaming on Indian Reservations possible for Tribes nationwide, in addition to setting up the National Indian Gaming Commission. Tribal members should know that, because without the approval of NIGC, council would have been unable to pass the Gaming Ordinance on May 12, 1993.

**PEOPLE INVOLVED:** Unlike other committees and boards, the Grand Ronde Gaming Commission features two divisions. One consists of the actual commissioners themselves, five (5) in total, three of which must be Tribal Members. Commissioners are appointed by Tribal Council, needing a majority vote, and serve three-year terms. They are paid a minimal amount and meet every other Friday. Lynn Hillman serves as the Chair.

The second division consists of a full-time workforce that functions under the supervision of an executive director, who in turn works with a very specialized staff. Eric Reiss is the present director.

**MEMBERS:** Gene Davidson, Leonette Galligher (*Vice Chair*), Lynn Hillman (*Chair*), Pat Mercier, and Mary Mode (*Secretary*).

**FUNCTION:** Gaming is an issue of legality, where a miscue here or a misstep there, an oversight, a spelling error, or even a missed phone call can upon up a Pandora's box of troubles. Keeping that box locked up and safely tucked away is the goal of the Gaming Commission.

Much of what goes on within Spirit Mountain Casino is all due to licensing and compact (contract) agreements the Tribe has with the federal and state government. Even bringing in new slot machines requires all manners of

*Gaming continued on next page*



**Lynn Hillman**  
Chair

**Committee:** Gaming  
**Meeting day:** 3rd Friday  
**Location:** SMC Human Resources  
**Time:** 1 p.m.

▼ A look at the Spirit Mountain Casino from the Tribe's Communication Tower.

