

## **GAMBLING COMMISSION**

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### **SUMMARY**

Of the 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington State, 28 have Compacts for Class III gaming and 22 of the Tribes operate 28 casino. In 2012, the Tribes had over \$2.1 billion in net receipts or the amount wagered less prizes paid.

This report highlights some of the activities and changes that the Gambling Commission has implemented to better enhance the co-regulatory relationship between the State and Tribal Gaming Agencies and to support our agency's mission to protect the public by ensuring gambling is legal and honest.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Our regulatory information is available to the Tribal Gaming Agencies in many different ways. We share new equipment approval information through our agency website so that Tribes are aware of any regulatory requirements associated with the use of gambling equipment. We also share information about those vendors no longer actively licensed in the state. In 2012, we began sending a bi-monthly newsletter to the Tribal Gaming Agency Directors to update them on current issues and trends in Tribal Lottery Systems and other electronic gambling equipment in Washington State. We also provide notification on the most recently approved proprietary Class III games.

### **COOPERATIVE ROLES**

The agency's Tribal Gaming Unit continued working with each Tribe's Tribal Gaming Agency staff to set casino review parameters based on an assessment of each respective Tribal Gaming Operation. Once the joint assessment was completed, staff from both agencies determined the best ways to complete the review. Some Tribes request the review to be spread out over the entire year, others request a short 1-2 month schedule, while others wanted the review completed in 2-3 smaller reviews. In addition, the Tribal Gaming Agency had the option to have their staff work with our staff to improve the reviews through better communication and increased efficiency.

As provided for in Tribal-State Compact Appendix X2, at the request of a Tribe, through good faith negotiations, regulatory fees may be set by agreement between the Tribe and the State. In 2012, we reached new agreements with two tribes to set regulatory fees. With these agreements we have now reached agreements with eight tribes.

In the fall of 2012, our staff worked with the Squaxin Island Tribal Museum Director Charlene Krise to jointly provide a Tribal History course to state and Tribal regulators at the Squaxin Island Casino. Courses that provide unique Tribal perspectives assist our non tribal regulators understand the culture and history of Washington Tribes.

During 2012, we jointly agreed to 17 clarifications to the Compact Appendices through Appendix A revisions and Appendix X2 revisions, and concurred with 350 internal control and games rule submissions.

## **TRIBAL CERTIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY**

Since 2007, we have progressed from one certification process and fee for the Tribes operating casinos under Compact to having a different certification process and fee for each Tribe. These different processes and fees are based on the amount of information provided by the Tribe during the application process. We continue to explore new processes for efficiencies with Tribes and have implemented on-line renewals for Tribal employees.

The specific improvements made in consultation with our Tribal regulatory partners in 2012 include: organized, led, and provided updates and training for two Tribal Gaming Agency and State Gaming Agency Licensing meetings for 56 attendees representing 14 Tribes; continually communicated with Tribes when vendors made ownership changes so that those required by Compact to be licensed were licensed properly; posted information on our website that was previously only available to Tribes once staff emailed the information like Department of Justice letters; in consultation with Tribes, we made changes to certification renewal applications to ensure information was clear; and shared updated fingerprint cards with Tribes that included the Federal Privacy Act information.

## **STAFF CONTACT**

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