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State of Wyoming casino plans could impact proposed local casino

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(Allegan County, September 23, 2005, 2:05 p.m.) A development in the plans concerning a proposed casino in a western state could impact the future of a proposed casino in West Michigan.

The Department of Interior in the state of Wyoming has given an Indian tribe the authority to operate a class 3 casino without a compact with that state. The Wyoming tribe can now operate a full-blown casino without state approval.

That is important because it could affect the Gun Lake Band of Potawatomi Indian tribe's goal to build a full-blown casino along US-131 near Bradley in Allegan County.

The Gun Lake tribe has said the federal government could impose a compact on the state if it did not negotiate one. The opposition has always argued that has never happened, until now.

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