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MEDIA CONTACT:
Melody Hudson 480-263-2339
Gila River Gaming Enterprises
melody.hudson@wingilariver.com

Gila River Casinos Names Tom Ruggiero Managing Director of Hotel Operations for Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino

PHOENIX, ARIZONA- September 9, 2011- Gila River Casinos, operators of Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino, Lone Butte Casino and Vee Quiva Casino have appointed Tom Ruggiero Managing Director of Hotel Operations for Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino. Mr. Ruggiero will oversee all aspects of the hotel at the AAA Four Diamond property located just east of Phoenix, Arizona.

Mr. Ruggiero has spent over 20 years in the hospitality industry where he has earned a solid reputation as a leader with hands-on experience at every level of the hotel and resort business. Ruggiero most recently worked with Pechanga Resort & Casino where participated in the opening of the property and managed several high profile projects. He was named project manager of the renovation of the Spa Pechanga, he oversaw the opening of the property's Journey Golf Course and he implemented the Pechanga Green Team, which established the properties first recycling program.

"Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino has quickly built a reputation of quality in the Phoenix market," said John J. James, CEO of Gila River Casinos. "We wanted to continue to meet these expectations and Tom's experience with high-end resort properties from around the country was a perfect fit. We are happy to welcome him to the team."

Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino was opened in October of 2009 and was the first Las Vegas style casino in the Arizona market. The property has won accolades from several industry leading ratings agencies and continues to boast the finest entertainment amenities in the area. With a 100,000 square foot gaming floor, a range of dining amenities, a high energy night club and a 1,400 seat showroom, the property offers an all inclusive destination.

"Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino is leading the way in the market," said Ruggiero. "I am happy to be a part or this team and I am excited to build on the progress that has been made."

About Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc.

Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. owns and operates three casinos within the Gila River Indian Community including *Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino*, *Lone Butte Casino*, and *Vee Quiva Casino*. All three casinos are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Additional information on these and other events are available by calling 1-800-946-4452, or on our website at www.wingilariver.com

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