



222 S. Hamilton St. #1 Madison, WI 53703
Phone 608-250-9971 Fax 08-287-1179
www.wisconsinwetlands.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Mary Linton, WWA Board Chair, 920-650-2610

**WISCONSIN WETLANDS ASSOCIATION HIRES
TRACY HAMES AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

MADISON, WI. The Wisconsin Wetlands Association has hired Mr. Tracy Hames as the organization's new Executive Director.

Hames is a waterfowl biologist who has worked for the past twenty years planning, funding, implementing, and monitoring a large-scale floodplain restoration project in eastern Washington state for the Yakama Nation. The project has restored more than 21,000 acres of wetland, riparian, and grassland habitats in an intensely agricultural portion of the Yakama Reservation to maximize the cultural and natural resource benefits of the land for the Yakama People.

"Tracy's scientific understanding of wetland ecology and restoration is impressive," said Mary Linton, Wisconsin Wetlands Association Board Chair who led the Board's search for a new Executive Director. "The Hiring Team was also impressed with his respectful relationships with people holding widely divergent views about wetlands."

Originally from Minnesota, Hames has a Bachelors degree in Biology and Environmental Studies from Macalester College in St. Paul and a Masters of Science degree in Natural Resources from UW-Stevens Point.

"I have loved my work for the Yakama Nation, but I never lost my original love of Wisconsin," said Hames. "Through all of the years, I maintained my Wisconsin identity, even keeping a cheese head in my office to put the fear of the Packers into the local Seahawks fans."

"I look forward to providing leadership, enthusiasm, stability, and a sense of wonder to Wisconsin Wetlands Association's membership, Board, staff, and partners," said Hames, whose work with Wisconsin Wetlands Association will start November 21, 2011.

"Wetlands face tremendous challenges today, but at the same time, Wisconsin's strong conservation ethic and our many collaborations and partnerships offer exciting opportunities for improving wetland protection and restoration in the state," said Linton. "We had an outstanding pool of candidates for this position, and Tracy rose above them all. We're confident he has the skills and experience to lead our efforts to protect, restore, and enjoy wetlands."

Wisconsin Wetlands Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection, restoration and enjoyment of wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education and advocacy. WWA is the first and oldest statewide organization focused exclusively on wetland protection. More than 1400 members include wetland scientists, conservationists, sportsmen, educators, concerned citizens, and local and regional organizations.

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Preserving Wisconsin's Wetland Heritage