



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Evers Proclaims February 2 Wisconsin Wetlands Day

Governor Evers has issued an official proclamation recognizing February 2, 2020 as Wisconsin Wetlands Day. February 2nd is also World Wetlands Day, which commemorates the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971. The Convention is an agreement among 170 nations including the United States that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

As part of its mission, convention maintains a global list of Wetlands of International Importance designated by its member nations. Wisconsin currently has five wetlands that have been granted this designation including: Horicon Marsh, Kakagon/Bad River Sloughs, Door Peninsula Coastal Wetlands, Chiwaukee Illinois Beach Lake Plain, and the Upper Mississippi River Floodplain Wetlands. Designation of a sixth site is pending and will be announced soon.

“Wisconsin has so many wetlands that are worth exploring and appreciating,” said Wisconsin Wetlands Association Executive Director, Tracy Hames. *“February may seem like a strange time to celebrate wetlands, but actually they are great for exploring year-round.”*

Wisconsin has an estimated five million acres of wetlands that filter our surface and ground water and are increasingly used as solutions to flooding, water quality, and other water problems. Wetlands also provide critical habitat for fish, waterfowl, and wildlife.

“Wisconsin has lost half its original 10 million acres of wetlands, and this underscores the importance of restoring wetlands where we have lost them and protecting and caring for the five million acres of wetlands that remain,” said Hames.

Governor Evers’ Wisconsin Wetlands Day proclamation will be read at the Wisconsin Wetlands Association’s 25th annual Wetland Science Conference in Elkhart Lake February 18-20. The conference brings together diverse wetland professionals for a multi-day learning and networking event that has presentations, workshops, and field trips focusing on wetland science and management techniques. To learn more about the conference visit <http://www.conference.wisconsinwetlands.org/>.

The Wisconsin Wetlands Association is dedicated to the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education, and advocacy. Its more than 1500 members include wetland experts, natural resource professionals, conservationists, hunters and anglers, educators, concerned citizens, and local and regional organizations. For more information, visit WWA online at www.wisconsinwetlands.org.