

"FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:"

Contact: Holly Thorson (holly@houstonwilderness.org)
[or Richard Torres - Richard.R.Torres@wellsfargo.com]

Houston Wilderness
550 Westcott Street, Suite 305
Houston, TX 77007
713-524-7330
Website: www.houstonwilderness.org

RE: Deborah January-Bevers joins *Houston Wilderness* as new President and CEO

Deborah January-Bevers was recently elected by the *Houston Wilderness* Board of Directors to be its President and CEO. Deborah brings 25 years of public policy experience to *Houston Wilderness* as the organization's third President and CEO, following founder Rosie Zamora and most recently Johnny Cronin. A native Houstonian, Deborah has been involved with public policy and civic projects in and around Houston and the State of Texas on issues ranging from urban streetscape design to water quality and land conservation. From 2001 – 2010, she served as a policy director at the Greater Houston Partnership, the *Quality of Life Coalition*, Scenic Houston and the Center for Houston's Future. As an environmental and regulatory lawyer, she more recently served as policy advisor to various civic non-profits in the Houston Region – concentrating on economic development, environmental conservation and recycling, land use, health care and urban infrastructure. Over the years, she has helped create, develop and implement a variety of policy initiatives to improve the Houston Region's quality of life, including: TxDOT's *Freeway Forestation Initiative*, the *Stop Trashing Houston Campaign*, the *Million Trees+Houston Campaign*, *Houston Streetscape Guide* and *Bayou Greenway Initiative*.

"The Board of Directors is very pleased to bring Deborah on board and we will be working closely with her to continue collaborative land and water conservation efforts with various stakeholder communities in the greater Houston region," said *Houston Wilderness* Board Chair, Richard Torres of Wells Fargo Bank.

Anne Olson, President of *Buffalo Bayou Partnership*, also commented that "As a Network Partner with *Houston Wilderness*, we are so pleased that Deborah has been selected for this critical role and we, along with other community stakeholders, are already collaborating closely with her and the other *Houston Wilderness* staff on a variety of environmental initiatives such as advocacy for additional land conservation, urban sustainability and eco-tourism and recreation."

Houston Wilderness is a broad-based alliance of business, environmental and government interests that act in concert to protect, preserve and promote the unique biodiversity of the region's precious remaining ecological capital – from bottomland hardwoods and prairie grasslands to pine forests and wetlands - while recognizing the importance of the region's natural assets to its cultural history, economic vitality and future well-being.

###