

## **Executive Assistant Elizabeth Kluesner to leave DNR**

Elizabeth Kluesner, Executive Assistant, announced she will be leaving DNR at the end of January. Kluesner is a 12-year veteran of DNR.

Sec. Scott Hassett said, "Elizabeth has done one heck of a job for DNR -- in working to reach the agreement with the Public Service Commission on energy plant sitings, in developing constructive working relationships with lawmakers, and in negotiating the Jobs Creations Bill. She is smart, thinks strategically, is tough, works hard, and is a tremendous loss. I wish her only the best as she moves on in her professional career."

In an e-mail to the Department Leadership Team and bureau directors, Kluesner said, "It is with very mixed emotions that I announce I will be leaving the Department of Natural Resources on January 31<sup>st</sup>. For 12 years, DNR has been like a home. I have grown professionally here, and I have seen remarkable changes personally. I was working here when I married, and when I had my children Katherine and Teddy. I was honored to be able to negotiate regulatory streamlining initiatives, to work on behalf of DNR for legislation creating a brownfields program and protecting isolated wetlands, and to fund important projects like CWD management."

She noted her year as executive assistant has been rewarding and challenging, and she thanked Secretary Hassett and Deputy Secretary Bill Smith for their support. She noted she has had the opportunity to work with "many extraordinary DNR people on issues that have real impact and importance to the state's natural resources and environment," and said, " I am and always will be very proud of that."

"...the work of executive assistant has been very demanding at a time when my children are very young and are changing and growing quickly." She said she would be taking some time with her family and then exploring other professional opportunities.

"The hardest part of leaving will be missing all of you -- you've become part of my family and circle of friends, and I care deeply about your work and admire your enthusiasm. Your intense dedication to our mission is what makes DNR and Wisconsin a special place. I will keep in touch and as a private citizen will continue to advocate for you, your work, and our natural resources. Thanks for all you've done for me," she said.