

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District awarded \$283,000 for improvements to Bone and Moody Lakes

The [Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District](#) (CLFLWD) has an ambitious five-year project underway to breathe life back into Bone Lake, in northern Washington County, and Moody Lake, in southern Chisago County. The district's goal is to reduce phosphorus by 1600 pounds per year, equivalent to 800,000 pounds of algae, so that both lakes meet Minnesota's water quality standards by 2019. CLFLWD also hopes to improve fisheries in Bone and Moody Lakes by controlling rough fish populations and restoring native aquatic plant communities.

The district kicked off the first phase of their project during winter of 2010 when they harvested more than 23,000 pounds of carp from Bone Lake and 3,600 small bullheads from Moody Lake. Rough fish like carp and bullhead are a problem because they uproot native aquatic plants and stir up sediment on lake bottoms, muddying the water and releasing nutrients into the water column, which in turn causes algae to proliferate. Because carp are social and tend to aggregate in large schools during the winter, it is possible to harvest up to 95% of the carp in a lake during cold weather using large nets.

The district's next step is to construct three low-flow fish barriers to keep the rough fish from taking over Bone and Moody Lakes again. For this part of the project, CLFLWD received a \$283,000 Conservation Partners Legacy Grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, as part of the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund. Before the barriers are constructed next winter, the district will have two informational meetings for local landowners to ask questions and learn about the project. Although the barriers will keep fish out, they are designed to have no effect on water levels.

Currently, CLFLWD is in the process of getting state and local approval for the engineering design of the fish exclusion barriers. Once the barriers are in place in 2013, CLFLWD will begin chemical treatment to prevent the release of phosphorous already in the sediment at the bottoms of Bone and Moody Lakes and also to control invasive curly leaf pondweed. Most importantly, perhaps, the district will work with shoreline landowners and other people whose property drains to the lakes to install shoreline plantings and raingardens and repair gullies and other erosion problems to keep additional sediment and phosphorus from washing into Bone and Moody Lakes. The district will provide grants and free design assistance to interested landowners and can begin scheduling site visits as early as this spring.

For more information about the Bone and Moody Lake Projects, visit www.clflwd.org or contact Doug Thomas at doug.thomas@clflwd.org or (651) 209-9753.

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