

For Immediate Release

January 12, 2022

Watershed District Wins \$625,500 in Water Quality Project Grants

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

The Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) has been awarded two Clean Water Fund grants totaling \$625,500 in fiscal year 2022 for projects to improve water quality in Forest Lake and Moody Lake. The first grant, which scored the highest and was ranked #1 out of 53 proposals received, is for the Washington Judicial Ditch 6 Wetland Restoration Project. This project, recommended to receive \$386,000 in grant funds, will restore a drained wetland resulting in a phosphorus load reduction of approximately 38 pounds per year to Forest Lake (comprising 40% the remaining load reductions needed for this subwatershed). This wetland restoration project will also improve native vegetation and habitat diversity. The second grant, ranked #16 of proposals received, is for Moody Lake Capstone Projects. These projects will address remaining phosphorus loading hotspots around Moody Lake for an estimated 45 lb/yr phosphorus reduction (final 5% of total reduction goal), ensuring Moody Lake meets long-term water quality goals and maintains its current clear water state. Excess phosphorus promotes algae growth in lakes. Both of these projects will result in clearer water and less algae in Forest Lake and Moody Lake, as well as downstream waterbodies such as Bone Lake and Comfort Lake.



Washington Judicial Ditch 6 south of Highway 97

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District has an excellent track record of obtaining Clean Water Fund grants to implement lake improvement projects. Since 2014, the Watershed District has been awarded a cumulative total of over \$4.5 million in Clean Water Fund grant dollars over the years, making it the #1 cumulative grant winner in the Projects and Practices category for the most recent 9-year period. Visit www.CLFLWD.org for more on the Watershed District's work protecting and improving local lakes and other water resources.

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