

Boating Infrastructure Grant Program

FY 2009

Notice of Availability of Federal Assistance

Program Overview Information

Federal Agency Name:

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Announcement Type:

Announcement of availability of grants for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009.

Funding Opportunity Number: FWS-BIG-09

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:

15.622

Dates: Proposals are due to the Regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) offices by October 31, 2009, 5:00 PM local time of the Regional Office. Electronic proposals must be received by Grants.gov on or before October 31, 2008, 11:59 pm local time of the Regional Office. Late proposals will not be considered. The announcement of awards is expected to be in January 2009.

Additional information:

The Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-178) established the **Boating Infrastructure Grant Program** to provide funding to States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealths, and territories for the development and maintenance of facilities for transient nontrailerable recreational vessels. The Act amended the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (Wallop-Breaux Act; 16 U.S.C. 777). Subsequent reauthorizations of the Act have allowed for the continuation of the Boating Infrastructure Grant program. In FY 2008, more than \$13.5 million in competitive grants were awarded to 15 states ranging from California to Rhode Island for 19 boating infrastructure projects. Approximately \$3.7 million was awarded to 38 States that participated in the Tier I portion of the program in FY 2008. We anticipate a similar amount of funding and number of grants awarded for FY 2009.

The final rule establishing the requirements for participation in the Boating Infrastructure Grant program was published in the Federal Register on January 18, 2001 (66 FR 5282) Additional information about the Boating Infrastructure Grant program is on the web at <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/BIG/BIG.htm>.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Recreational boating is a popular activity in the U.S. There are approximately 13 million registered boats in the United States. Of this total, an estimated 600,000 of the registered boats are 26 feet or more in length and are considered “nontrailerable”. Moreover, the overall average boat size is increasing as manufacturers respond to the demands of the boating public. This is creating problems for marinas and other facilities that provide docking facilities for boats because in many instances their current infrastructure is not designed for the larger vessels. The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program provides Federal grant funds to States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealths, and territories to assist with their efforts in developing and maintaining facilities for these larger, nontrailerable recreational boats.

Specifically, the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program provides funding for all States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealths, and territories that construct, renovate, and maintain either publicly or privately owned boating infrastructure tie-up facilities for transient, nontrailerable recreational vessels. Facilities must provide public access to the federally funded facilities. Some examples of potentially eligible activities include:

- (a) Mooring buoys (permanently anchored floats designed to tie up nontrailerable recreational vessels);
- (b) Day-docks (tie-up facilities that do not allow overnight use);
- (c) Navigational aids (*e.g.*, channel markers, buoys, and directional information);
- (d) Transient slips (slips that boaters with nontrailerable recreational vessels occupy for no more than 10 consecutive days);
- (e) Safe harbors (facilities protected from waves, wind, tides, ice, currents, etc., that provide a temporary safe anchorage point or harbor of refuge during storms);
- (f) Floating docks and fixed piers;
- (g) Floating and fixed breakwaters;
- (h) Dinghy docks (floating or fixed platforms that boaters with nontrailerable recreational vessels use for a temporary tie-up of their small boats to reach the shore);
- (i) Restrooms;
- (j) Retaining walls;
- (k) Bulkheads;
- (l) Dockside utilities;
- (m) Pumpout stations;
- (n) Recycling and trash receptacles;
- (o) Dockside electric service;
- (p) Dockside water supplies;
- (q) Dockside pay telephones;
- (r) Debris deflection booms; and
- (s) Marine fueling stations.

Additional information on the public access requirement is found in the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program rules (50 CFR Part 86.30)

The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program includes both a non-competitive portion (Tier I) and Tier II (national competition). Each State may receive up to \$100,000 in each fiscal year for eligible projects through the Tier I portion of the program. All remaining program funds are then made available for the national competitive portion of the program (Tier II). Based on States' funding requests in previous years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service anticipate that States will request approximately \$4 million for Tier I proposals in the current fiscal year. An estimated \$9 million is expected for the Tier II portion of the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program.

Ranking decisions for the Tier II portion of the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program are made based on criteria in the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program rules (50 CFR Part 86.61). See "V. Application Review Information, 1. Criteria." of this document.

II. Award Information:

There is an estimated \$13 million available for grants from the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program. Grant awards typically range from \$30,000 (there is no specific minimum or maximum) to \$1,500,000. Grant awards are expected to be announced in January 2009.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include any agency or agencies designated by the governor of a State, the District of Columbia, Commonwealth, and territory. The designated agency is often times a State natural resource or fish and wildlife agency.

2. Cost-Sharing or Matching

The cost share for this program is 75 percent Federal/ 25 percent State share. The following insular areas, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands are not required to provide a match. The overall project Federal cost share percentage, however, is a factor used in ranking Tier Two proposals and applicants are encouraged to provide more than the minimum cost share required.

3. Other

Although only State agencies can apply for and receive grants under this program, the program does encourage partnering with local governments, private marinas and others.

IV. Application and Submission Instructions

1. A complete Grant Application package needs to include the following:

- SF 424 Application for Federal Assistance – signed by an authorized representative of the agency.
- One of the following depending on the type of project conducted:
 - SF 424B Standard Assurances – Non-Construction Projects; or
 - SF 424D Standard Assurances – Construction Projects.
- Project Narrative that identifies and describes:
 - The need for the proposed project(s) within the purpose of the Act;
 - Discrete, quantifiable, and verifiable objectives to be accomplished during a specific time period;
 - Expected results or benefits from accomplishing the objectives;
 - The approach to be used in meeting the objectives, including specific procedures, schedules, key personnel, and cooperators;
 - Description of the activity, so the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff are able to determine compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 7 of Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA); and
 - Project location – Maps or other geographic aids may be attached.
- Budget Narrative:
 - Estimated costs to attain the objectives – The various activities or components of each project should be broken down by cost and by cooperator; and
- Optional Supplemental Forms can include:
 - SF 424A Budget Information – Non-Construction Projects; or
 - SF 424C Budget Information – Construction Projects.

Proposals should be on 8.5” X 11” paper, with 1” margins at the top, bottom, and both sides. Forms should be arranged starting with the SF 424, followed by the SF 424 A or C, the SF 424 B or D, the project statement, and then letters of financial or programmatic commitment by partners. In accepting Federal funds, applicants must comply with all applicable Federal laws, regulations, and policies. Evidence of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and other Federal laws will need to be provided if the proposal is selected for funding.

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2. Submission Dates and Times:

Proposals must be received either electronically at Grants.gov or in hard copy at the Regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices by October 31, 2008.

3. Submit applications either electronically or by mail:

- Electronic Submission Instructions:
 - Go to www.grants.gov
 - Click the “Apply for Grants” tab and read the instructions provided by grants.gov.
 - The following are things that need to be done before a grant application package can be submitted electronically through grants.gov:
 - Applicants must register as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and have a user id and password. The applicant can register on the web at http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp;
 - Applicants must have Adobe Acrobat Reader to view files on the web. You can download Adobe Acrobat Reader at: http://www07.grants.gov/resources/download_software.jsp#adobe811
 - Standard forms such as SF 424, SF 424A, SF 424B, SF 424 C, and SF 424D are fillable forms on grants.gov. The project narrative and budget narrative must be attachments in of the following formats: MS Word, Adobe PDF, or MS Excel.
 - All forms and attachments mentioned above must be submitted with the grant application package.

- Instruction on submitting applications by mail:
 - Applicants can obtain forms, in PDF fillable/printable formats, from the WSFR Toolkit at <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/ToolkitFiles/toolkit.pdf>
 - The completed grant application package must be mailed to the FWS Regional Offices:

States, Commonwealths, the District of Columbia, and territories by U.S Fish and Wildlife Service Region	Regional Contact Information
American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Eastside Federal Complex 911 NE 11 th Avenue Portland, OR 97232-4181 503-231-6128 r1fa_grants@fws.gov

California and Nevada	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program 2800 Cottage Way, W-1729 Sacramento, CA 95825 916-414-6509 Laura_valoppi@fws.gov
Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program P.O. Box 1306 500 Gold Avenue, SW Albuquerque, NM 87103 505-248-7450 Stephen_Robertson@fws.gov
Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building 1 Federal Drive Fort Snelling, MN 55111 612-713-5130 R3fedaid@fws.gov
Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, and the U.S. Virgin Islands	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 324 Atlanta, GA 30345 404-679-4159 fws-r4federalassistance@fws.gov
Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program 300 Westgate Center Drive Hadley, MA 01035 413-253-8508 fw5fareports@fws.gov
Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program 134 Union Blvd., P.O. Box 25486 Denver, Colorado 80225 303-236-5420 David_McGillivray@fws.gov
Alaska	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program 1011 East Tudor Road Anchorage, AK 99503 907-786-3545 AK_FA@fws.gov

4. Intergovernmental Review

The Boating Infrastructure Grant program is subject to EO 12372 “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs”. States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealths, and territories that choose to participate in the Executive Order process should establish Single Points of Contact (SPOCs). Applicants from jurisdictions that choose to participate do not take any action regarding E.O. 12372. All other applicants should alert their SPOCs early in the application process. If you as an applicant are required to submit materials to a SPOC, indicate the date of this submittal (or the date of contact if no submittal is required) on the Standard Form 424.

5. Funding Restrictions

Ineligible activities include projects that propose to:

- (a) Complete a project that does not provide public benefits, for instance, a project that is not open to the public for use;
- (b) Involve law enforcement activities;
- (c) Significantly degrade or destroy valuable natural resources or alter the cultural or historic nature of the area;
- (d) Structures not expected to last at least 20 years;
- (e) Do maintenance dredging;
- (f) Fund operations or routine, custodial, and janitorial maintenance of the facility;
- (g) Construct, renovate, or maintain boating infrastructure tie-up facilities for nontrailerable vessels, for example the following:
 - (1) Tie-up slips available for occupancy for more than 10 consecutive days by a single party;
 - (2) Dryland storage;
 - (3) Haul-out features; and
 - (4) Boating features for trailerable or “car-top” boats (boats less than 26 feet in length), such as launch ramps and carry-down walkways.
- (h) Develop a State program plan to construct, renovate, and maintain boating infrastructure tie-up facilities; and
- (i) Conduct surveys to determine boating access needs.

6. Other Submission Requirements

Applicants must submit hard copy proposals to their Regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office listed previously in Part IV. Electronic proposals should be submitted through www.Grants.gov. For further information or questions on hard copy or electronic submission, contact your Regional Office.

V. Application Review Information

1. Criteria

Criteria for reviewing and ranking Tier II projects are in the final rule for administering the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (50 CFR Part 86.60). A brief summary of the ranking criteria follows:

- **Survey/Plan.** Specifically, has the State completed or have plans to complete a survey or plan to determine the boating infrastructure needs? (Note- this requirement is currently waived due to difficulties with receiving approval from OMB on a nationwide survey instrument and sampling design.)
- **Provide for public/private and public/public partnerships.** Will the project be completed with partners contributing to the overall project?
- **Use of innovative techniques.** Does the project use innovative techniques to increase the availability of tie-up facilities for transient nontrailerable boats?
- **Project cost share percentage.** Does the project include private, local or other State funds that reduce the overall federal percentage participation in the project? If so, identify the percentage.
- **Cost efficient.** Does the proposal add on to an existing facility or require the installation of most needed amenities?
- **Significant link to prominent destinations.** Does the project provide a significant link to prominent way points, such as metropolitan population centers, cultural or natural areas, or safe harbors?
- **Provide access to recreational, historic, cultural, natural, or scenic opportunities of national, regional, or local significance.** Does the project provide access to opportunities of national, regional, or local significance?
- **Provide significant economic benefits to a community.** Is the addition of the project expected to provide significant positive impacts to a community?
- **Multi-state efforts.** Does the overall project involve multi-state efforts to coordinate the location of tie-up facilities?

2. Review and Selection Process

Project selection is a three-step process: proposal acceptance, proposal ranking, and proposal selection.

- **Proposal acceptance-** The Regional WSFR Offices decide whether a proposal should be accepted for consideration by determining if the proposal is complete, substantial, and contains activities that are eligible. Proposals that are not eligible are immediately returned to the State. Revisions and resubmission of returned proposals is allowable up until the identified deadline for proposal submittals.
- **Proposal ranking-** Once a proposal is accepted by the Regional WSFR Office, the Regional Office sends the proposal to the National WSFR Office, which compiles all accepted proposals and coordinates the review/ranking of all accepted proposals. The review and ranking is completed by a panel of U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service employees and also by a panel identified by the Department of Interior's Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council. Collectively, these two review groups comprise the National Review Panel.

- Proposal selection- The National Review Panel scores and ranks all accepted proposals and provides the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with a list of recommended projects. The final list of projects awarded funding is determined by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

The grant awards are expected to be announced in January 2009. Applicants whose proposals are selected for funding will also be notified regarding the amount of the award.

VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices

All successful applicants will receive a letter informing them that their proposal was awarded funding. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will also publish a press release announcing the awards.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Compliance with environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act, and applicable Executive Orders must be satisfied before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can approve a grant proposal for a project.

A new rule requires organizations to obtain a DUNS number, a unique identifying number. On June 27, 2003, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published a Federal Register notice (68 FR 38402) that announced its final policy on the use of a universal identifier by financial assistance applicants. The policy requires applicants applying for Federal grants or cooperative agreements to obtain a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number. Only private individual landowners are exempted. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling a DUNS number request line at 1-866-706-5711 or on-line at www.dnb.com.

All financial assistance awards are subject to Federal financial administration requirements. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office that administers financial assistance in each Region will work with you to ensure that all financial arrangements comply with these requirements. To find out more about the rules:

Table 1. Federal Financial Administrative Guidance	
<u>Categories of Recipients</u>	<u>Specific Rules and Guidance</u>
Individuals, private firms, and non-profits excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-122	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Federal Acquisition Subpart 31.2 - 43 CFR 18 (New Restrictions on Lobbying) - 48 CFR 31 (Contracts with Commercial Organizations)
Non-profit organizations covered under OMB Circular No. A-122	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 43 CFR 12 (Administrative and Audit Requirements and Cost principles for Assistance Programs) - 43 CFR 18 (New Restrictions on Lobbying) - OMB Circular No. A-110 (Administrative Requirements for Grants) - OMB Circular No. A-122 (Cost Principles) - OMB Circular No. A-133 (Audits)
Educational Institutions (even if part of a State or local government)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CFR 12 (Administrative and Audit Requirements and Cost Principles for Assistance Programs) - 43 CFR 18 (New Restrictions on Lobbying) - OMB Circular No. A-21 (Cost Principles) - OMB Circular No. A-110 (Administrative Requirements for Grants) OMB Circular No. A-133 (Audits)
States, local governments and Tribes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 43 CFR 12 (Administrative and Audit Requirements and Cost Principles for Assistance Programs) - 43 CFR 18 (New Restrictions on Lobbying) - OMB Circular No. A-87 (Cost Principles) - OMB Circular No. A-102 (Grants and Cooperative Agreements) - OMB Circular No. A-133 (Audits)

3. Reporting

Reporting requirements include retention and access requirements are specified in 43 CFR. 12.82.

VII. Agency Contacts

The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additional program information can be obtained by contacting:

Joyce Johnson
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program
Mailstop WSFR-4020
4401 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203
703-358-2156

Alternatively, contact your Regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office (see the list under “Address to Request Application Package”).)

VIII. Other Information

The Federal government is not bound to financially support any project until an official U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service financial officer has signed off on the grant proposal.