

# Clean Vessel Act 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 FY 2009.

**Funding Opportunity Number:** FWS-CVA-09

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:** 15.616

### Dates:

Proposals are due to the Regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) offices by January 30, 2009, 5:00 PM local time of the Regional Office. Electronic proposals must be received by Grants.gov on or before January 30, 2009, 11:59 pm local time of the Regional Office. Late proposals will not be considered. The announcement of awards is expected to be in April 2009.

### Additional information:

The Clean Vessel Act of 1992, Subtitle V(F) of P.L. 102-587, established the **Clean Vessel Act Grant Program** to provide funding to States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealths, and territories for the construction, renovation, operation, and the maintenance of pumpout stations and waste reception facilities for recreational boaters and also for educational programs that inform boaters of the importance of proper disposal of their sewage. The Act was signed November 4, 1992 (106 Stat. 5039) and 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 Clean Vessel Act Grant Program.

Additional information about the Clean Vessel Act Grant Program can be found at:

<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/CVA/CVA.htm>.

## **I. Funding Opportunity Description:**

Recreational boating is a popular activity in the United States. There are approximately 14 million registered boats in the United States, many of which have on-board toilets for boaters. Proper disposal of this sewage is important to maintain clean water in the country's aquatic ecosystems. The Clean Vessel Act Grant Program provides States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealths, and territories Federal grant funds to assist with their efforts in preventing aquatic pollution that could occur by disposing of recreational boaters' waste into public waterways and other ecosystems.

Eligible activities for funding from the Clean Vessel Act Grant Program depend upon whether the applicant is a coastal or inland State, the District of Columbia, Commonwealth, and territory. Eligible activities for all States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealths, and territories include:

- 1) Programs or projects to educate/inform recreational boaters about the environmental pollution problems resulting from sewage discharges from vessels and to inform them of the location of pumpout and dump stations.
- 2) Programs or projects to construct, renovate, and operate and maintain pumpout and dump stations, including floating restrooms used solely by boaters. Eligible grant activities also include any activity necessary to hold and transport boaters' sewage to treatment plants, such as holding tanks, piping, hauling costs, and any activity necessary to get sewage treatment plants to accept sewage, such as installing bleed-in facilities.

Eligible grant activities-coastal States:

- 1) Programs or projects that identify all operational pumpout and dump stations, and surveys of recreational vessels in coastal waters with holding tanks or portable toilets, and the areas where those vessels congregate in the coastal zone. In addition, eligible are costs of developing a list, including chart coordinates, of all operational pumpout and dump stations in the coastal zone of the State, for submission to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 2) Plans for construction and renovation of pumpout and dump stations in the coastal zone of the State necessary to ensure that these stations are adequate and reasonably available to meet the needs of recreational vessels using the coastal waters of the State. Completed State-funded plans may be submitted after the technical guidelines appear in the Federal Register.

Activities and projects that are ineligible for funding from the Clean Vessel Act Grant program include:

- 1) Activities that do not provide public benefits;
- 2) Enforcement activities;
- 3) Construction/renovation of upland restroom facilities; and

- 4) Construction, renovation, and operation and maintenance of on-site sewage treatment plants, such as package treatment plants and septic systems, and of municipal sewage treatment plants for primary and secondary treatment.

## **II. Award Information:**

There is an estimated \$14 million available for grants from the Clean Vessel Act Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2009. Grant awards typically range from \$30,000 (there is no specific minimum) to approximately \$1,000,000. Grant awards are expected to be announced in April 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 usually 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 non-Federal share. American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands are not required to provide a match.

### 3) Other

Although only State, the District of Columbia, Commonwealth, and territorial 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.

## 2) Submission Dates and Times:

Proposals must be received either electronically at [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov) or in hard copy at the Regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices by January 30, 2009.

## 3) Submit applications either electronically or by mail:

- a. Electronic Submission Instructions can be found at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).
- b. 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Regional Offices:

<b>States, Commonwealths, the District of Columbia, and territories by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region</b>	<b>Regional Contact Information</b>
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 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Portland, OR 97232-4181 503-231-6233 Tony Faast
California and Nevada	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program 2800 Cottage Way, W-1729 Sacramento, CA 95825 916-414-6558 Bart Prose
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 505-248-7476 Susan McMullin
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 612-713-5156 Julie Morin
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 Federal Assistance 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 324 Atlanta, GA 30345 404-679-7113 Scott White
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 413-253-8406 Al Ortiz
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 303-236-4414 Judson Spicer

Alaska	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program 1011 East Tudor Road Anchorage, AK 99503 907-786-3698 Al Havens
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#### 4) Intergovernmental Review

The Clean Vessel Act 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:

- a. Activities that do not provide public benefits;
- b. Enforcement activities;
- c. Construction/renovation of upland restroom facilities; and
- d. Construction, renovation, and operation and maintenance of on-site sewage treatment plants, such as package treatment plants and septic systems, and of municipal sewage treatment plants for primary and secondary treatment.

#### 6) Other Submission Requirements

Applicants must submit hard copy proposals to their Regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Regional Office listed previously in Part IV. Electronic proposals should be submitted through [www.Grants.gov](http://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 Clean Vessel Grant Program (50 CFR Part 85). For a detailed explanation of the criteria, look at Section 84.30 of the rule (<http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/get-cfr.cgi>). A brief summary of the ranking criteria follows:

**Survey/Plan:** This criterion applies only for coastal States. Specifically, has the State completed or have plans to complete a survey or plan?

**Construction with or without the plan:** Will the construction be completed according to a formal plan designed to ensure adequate number of pumpout facilities for recreational boaters?

**Partnership:** Will the proposal provide for public/private partnership efforts to develop and operate pumpout and dump stations?

**Innovative Approaches:** Will the proposal use innovative ways to increase the availability of use pumpout and dump stations?

**Education:** Does the proposal include an education/information component?

**Sensitive Area:** Will the proposal benefit waters that are most likely to be affected by the discharge of sewage from vessels?

**Low Pumpout Ratio:** Will the proposal be completed in areas with a high vessel to pumpout or dump station ratio?

## 2) Review and Selection Process

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

- **Proposal acceptance-** The Regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program 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, the District of Columbia, Commonwealth, and territory. 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Offices, the Regional Office sends the proposal to the National WSFR Office, which compiles all accepted proposals and coordinates an internal, inter-disciplinary review of all accepted proposals by a National Review Panel which includes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency.
- **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 April 2009. All applicants will receive a letter informing them whether their proposal was awarded funding.

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](http://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:

<b>Table 1. Federal Financial Administrative Guidance</b>	
<b>Categories of Recipients</b>	<b>Specific Rules and Guidance</b>
Individuals, private firms, and non-profits excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-122	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Federal Acquisition Subpart 31.2</li> <li>- 43 CFR 18 (New Restrictions on Lobbying)</li> <li>- 48 CFR 31 (Contracts with Commercial Organizations)</li> </ul>
Non-profit organizations covered under OMB Circular No. A-122	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 43 CFR 12 (Administrative and Audit Requirements and Cost principles for Assistance Programs)</li> <li>- 43 CFR 18 (New Restrictions on Lobbying)</li> <li>- OMB Circular No. A-110 (Administrative Requirements for Grants)</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- OMB Circular No. A-122 (Cost Principles)</li> <li>- OMB Circular No. A-133 (Audits)</li> </ul>
Educational Institutions (even if part of a State or local government)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CFR 12 (Administrative and Audit Requirements and Cost Principles for Assistance Programs)</li> <li>- 43 CFR 18 (New Restrictions on Lobbying)</li> <li>- OMB Circular No. A-21 (Cost Principles)</li> <li>- OMB Circular No. A-110 (Administrative Requirements for Grants)</li> <li>OMB Circular No. A-133 (Audits)</li> </ul>
States, local governments and Tribes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 43 CFR 12 (Administrative and Audit Requirements and Cost Principles for Assistance Programs)</li> <li>- 43 CFR 18 (New Restrictions on Lobbying)</li> <li>- OMB Circular No. A-87 (Cost Principles)</li> <li>- OMB Circular No. A-102 (Grants and Cooperative Agreements)</li> <li>- OMB Circular No. A-133 (Audits)</li> </ul>

### 3) Reporting

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

## VII. Agency Contacts:

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

Steve Jose  
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 Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Office (see the list under “Address to Request Application Package”).

### **VIII. Other Information:**

The DOI has established six conservation priorities and asked bureaus to cooperatively work with each other, along with partners, to address these priorities using established Federal financial assistance programs (to the degree allowable under policy, regulations, or law). DOI bureaus have embraced these priorities and to the degree partners see opportunities to address their own conservation priorities, additional funding sources, and synergistic support might be available using several DOI Federal financial assistance programs managed by the different bureaus. More information on the six DOI conservation goals and support opportunities for intra-bureau/partner initiatives is available at <http://www.doi.gov/ppa/>. Whenever feasible, priority will be given to grant proposals that integrate principles of cooperation among Federal agencies, State agencies, other public and private entities, and private landowners and that emphasize performance results and definable outcomes.