

Boating Infrastructure Grant Program

FY 2008

Notice of Availability of Federal Assistance

Program Overview Information

Federal Agency Name:

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Federal Assistance

Announcement Type:

Announcement of availability of grants for Fiscal Year (FY)2008.

Funding Opportunity Number: FWS-BIG-08

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:

15.622

Dates: Proposals are due to the Regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Assistance offices by October 31, 2007, 5:00 pm local time of the Regional Office. Electronic proposals must be received by Grants.gov on or before October 31, 2007, 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 2008.

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 and Territories for the development and maintenance of facilities for transient nontrailerable recreational vessels. The Act amended the Federal Aid in 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 2007, more than \$9.4 million were awarded to nine States for Tier Two proposals. Approximately \$3.7 million was awarded to 38 States that participated in the Tier One portion of the program in FY 2007.

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 Clean Vessel Act Grant Program is on the web at <http://federalasst.fws.gov/Big/big.html>.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Recreational boating is a popular activity in the U.S. There are approximately 13 million registered boats in the U.S. 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 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 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 One) and Tier Two (national competition). Each State may receive up to \$100,000 in each fiscal year for eligible projects through the Tier One portion of the program. All remaining program funds are then made available for the national competitive portion of the program (Tier Two). Based on States' funding requests in previous years, the Fish and Wildlife Service anticipates that States will request approximately \$4 million for Tier One proposals in the current fiscal year. An estimated \$9 million is expected for the Tier Two portion of the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program.

Ranking decisions for the Tier Two 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 2008.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include any agency or agencies designated by the governor of a State or 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 Information

1. Address to Request Application Package

Potential applicants can receive application forms and other material necessary to apply for this program by contacting one of the Fish and Wildlife Service's regional offices. The following is a list of regional offices and contact personnel:

States and Territories by 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 Division of Federal Assistance Eastside Federal Complex 911 NE 11 th Avenue Portland, OR 97232-4181 503-231-6128 Attn: Jerry Novotny
California, Nevada	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance 2800 Cottage Way Sacramento, CA 95825 916-414-6464 Attn: Lia McLaughlin
Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance P.O. Box 1306 500 Gold Avenue, SW Albuquerque, NM 87103 505-248-7450 Attn: Susan MacMullin
Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building 1 Federal Drive Fort Snelling, MN 55111 612-713-5130 Attn: Julie Morin
Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virgin Islands	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 324 Atlanta, GA 30345 404-679-4159 Attn: Scott White

Connecticut, Delaware, 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 Division of Federal Assistance 300 Westgate Center Drive Hadley, MA 01035 413-253-8508 Attn: Al Ortiz
Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 134 Union Blvd., P.O. Box 25486 Denver, Colorado 80225 303-236-5420 Attn: Eddie Bennett
Alaska	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance 1011 East Tudor Road Anchorage, AK 99503 907-786-3545 Attn: Al Havens

2. Content and Form of Application

Grant proposals submitted for funding from the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program must include:

- 1) Standard Form 424 series as prescribed by the Office of Management and Budget. This includes the Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424), Budget Information- Non-Construction Programs (SF 424A), Assurances – Non-Construction Programs (SF 424B), Budget Information- Construction Programs (SF 424C), and Assurances- Construction Programs (SF-424D).
- 2) A narrative that identifies and describes the following:
 - (a) The need for the proposal within the purposes of the Act ;
 - (b) Discrete objective(s) to be accomplished during a specified time period that address the need(s);
 - (c) Expected results or benefits from accomplishing the objectives, including the numbers of recreational vessels and people served;
 - (d) The approach to be used in meeting the objectives, including specific procedures, schedules, key personnel, cooperators, grant location, innovative approaches, public/private partnerships, public access, and estimated costs; and,
 - (e) Amount and source of matching funds.

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.

3. Submission Dates and Times

Proposals must be received either electronically at Grants.gov or in hard copy at the Regional Service offices by October 31, 2007.

4. Intergovernmental Review

The Clean Vessel Act Grant Program is subject to EO 12372 “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs”. States and Territories that have chosen to participate in the Executive Order process have established Single Points of Contact (SPOCs). Applicants from jurisdictions that have not chosen to participate do not need to 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 Two 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 Federal Assistance 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 Federal Assistance Office, the Regional Office sends the proposal to the National Federal Assistance 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 Fish and Wildlife Service with a list of recommended projects. The final list of projects awarded funding is determined by the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

The grant awards are expected to be announced in January 2008. 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 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 Service can approve a grant agreement 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 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:

Brian Bohnsack, PhD.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Federal Assistance
Mailstop FA-4020
4401 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203
703-358-1801
brian_bohnsack@fws.gov

Or 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 Service financial officer has signed off on the grant agreement.