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\$2 Million in Boating Grants Awarded to Six Communities

OLYMPIA—Boating projects in six communities will receive funding totaling more than \$2 million, the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation announced today.

“Boating is a popular activity in Washington, with nearly 375,000 people participating,” said Laura Johnson, director of the Office of the Interagency Committee. “It’s an important part of our culture, recreation and economy. These grants help cities, counties and ports keep up with demand and provide good facilities for boaters.”

The Interagency Committee distributes Boating Facilities Program grants to local communities every other year. Projects in the following counties were awarded funding:

County	Grant Recipient	Grant Amount
Benton	Port of Kennewick	\$237,000
	Benton City	\$120,241
Cowlitz	Castle Rock	\$1 million
Skamania	Skamania County	\$150,000
Thurston	Port of Olympia	\$198,553
Wahkiakum	Port of Wahkiakum County #2	\$319,500
Total		\$2,025,294

This year, the Interagency Committee received 11 applications, requesting more than \$4 million in funding. The grant applications were reviewed and ranked in September by a nine-member evaluation team comprised of representatives of county and city park departments, state natural resource agencies, ports and recreational boaters.

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Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
Boating Grants
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“Competition is stiff for these grants,” Johnson said. “The evaluation committee looks at everything from need, to how well the project is designed to how the boating experience will be affected by the improvements. The tough criteria help ensure that the best of the best projects are being funded.”

In addition, grant recipients committed nearly \$1.7 million in matching value, making the total investment in boating projects more than \$3.7 million.

Created in 1964 by voter Initiative 215, the Boating Facilities Program offers grants to state and local governments to plan for, buy, develop and renovate boating facilities, including launch ramps, short-term moorage and other support facilities, for motorboats. The program is funded by a portion of the gasoline taxes paid by boaters.

A summary of the grant program is available at the Interagency Committee Web site at:
<http://www.iac.wa.gov/iac/grants/bfp.htm>.

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Boating Grants Awarded Boating Facilities Program – Local Agencies

Benton City **\$120,241**

Building Access to the Yakima River

Benton City will use this grant to build a single-lane boat launch area and park along the Yakima River in Benton County. Work will include realigning the entrance from the highway to the park and boat launch to improve safety, installing an entrance sign, planting plants to improve habitat and building a new grass picnic area with irrigation. Picnic tables, a drinking fountain and portable restrooms will be provided. Plans also include construction of natural surface trails and installation of area lighting. Benton City will contribute \$40,083. (06-2082D-FY07)

Castle Rock **\$1,000,000**

Building the North Recreation Boat Launch

Castle Rock will use this grant to build a two-lane boat launch on the Cowlitz River in Cowlitz County. The ramp will be constructed of concrete with 8-foot-wide boarding floats to create two distinct launch lanes. Work also will include paving a parking lot, building a restroom and adding lighting, signs, a picnic table and trash cans. The project also includes constructing roads and pathways, building a fish cleaning station, installing a pay station and making shoreline improvements. Castle Rock will contribute \$339,754, toward the project, most of which is donations of cash and labor. Castle Rock's application was the top ranked project of 11 competing for funding. (06-1656D-FY07)

Port of Kennewick **\$237,000**

Replacing the Clover Island Marina

The Port of Kennewick will use this grant to replace the guest moorage at the Clover Island Marina in Benton County. Work will include expanding the marina, improving safety and making it accessible to people with disabilities. The marina was built in 1954, and in 2003 the Port of Kennewick purchased it and developed a plan for major renovations. Located on Clover Island, the marina is the only publicly owned marina in the area. The Tri-Cities have more than 10,000 registered boats and guest moorage is limited. The Port of Kennewick will contribute \$965,826. (06-1885D-FY07)

Port of Olympia **\$198,553**

Designing and Building a Marina Plaza Visitors Dock

The Port of Olympia will use this grant to design and build a small visitors' dock in the east bay of Budd Inlet in Thurston County. The dock will be part of the Port's \$5.3 million South Marina project and will be comprised of 380 lineal feet of floating concrete floats with power and water hook-ups. The Port has seen a nearly 60 percent increase in guest boaters since 2003 and operates at capacity much of the boating season. There is a shortage of moorage for boats smaller than 26 feet in length. The new dock will add 450 "boat nights" monthly for a typical 24-foot-long boat. The project is supported by tourism and economic development associations. The Port of Olympia will contribute \$161,797. (06-1979D-FY07)



Boating Grants Awarded Boating Facilities Program – Local Agencies

Port of Wahkiakum County #2 **\$319,500** **Developing Svensen Park**

The Port of Wahkiakum County #2 will use this grant to develop a new public boat ramp and associated amenities at Svensen Park on the Lower Columbia River at Puget Island in Wahkiakum County. The new boat launch area will include a 120-foot-long boarding dock, restroom, day-use facilities and a 15-slot parking area. The Svensen Park boat ramp will address a shortage of public boat ramps on the Lower Columbia River. Community donations will assist with landscaping and the restroom preparation. The Port of Wahkiakum County #2 will contribute \$106,500 in cash, staff time and donations of labor and materials. (06-1717D-FY07)

Skamania County **\$150,000** **Designing Improvements to the Wind River Boat Ramp**

Skamania County will use this grant to develop construction-ready plans for improving the Wind River Boat ramp. The plans will create a coordinated traffic flow, reconfigure the boat launch to double its capacity and add a 112-space parking lot to reduce on-street parking hazards. The parking area will be designed with a porous surface to improve storm water quality. The plans also will detail the needed dredging. About 26,800 cubic yards of material will be dug up and placed as fill to create an upland area to accommodate the expanded parking area. The existing ramp serves more than 10,000 boats annually. The new ramp will have two boarding floats and a staging area. The restroom and day-use facilities also will be improved and landscaping will be incorporated in the plan. Skamania County will contribute \$50,000. (06-1679N-FY07)