



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE**

September 2008

**Item #15:** **Boating Infrastructure Grant Program**  
Funding of Projects for Federal Fiscal Year 2009

**Prepared By:** Marguerite Austin, Recreation Section Manager

**Presented By:** Marguerite Austin, Recreation Section Manager

**Approved by the  
Director:**

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**Proposed Action: Decision**

**Program Description**

The purpose of this program is to develop and renovate boating facilities that target recreational boats 26 feet and larger. Funds also may be used to provide information and to enhance boater education.

**Summary**

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) received two Tier 1 Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) project proposals and two Tier 2 BIG project proposals to review for federal fiscal year 2009 funding consideration. The requests total more than \$1.2 million.

At the September Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (Board) meeting, staff will ask the Board to approve the ranked list and funding for one Tier 1 project. Staff also will ask the Board to grant preliminary approval for one Tier 2 project recommended by the Boating Programs Advisory Committee for consideration in the national BIG competition and to delegate authority to the Director to determine if Washington State should submit a second Tier 2 project. If approved, staff will forward these projects to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



This memorandum highlights the process used to assess these applications, the evaluation results, and funding recommendation.

### Staff Recommendation

RCO staff recommends approval of the ranked list of Tier 1 projects shown in Table 1 and authorization to submit one Tier 2 project for the national competition. Staff also recommends delegation of authority to the Director to submit these projects to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for consideration and/or national competition.

Staff has provided Resolution #2008-050 for Board consideration.

### Program Policies

The U.S. Congress created the BIG Program under the Transportation Equity Act. The program, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), provides funds for developing and renovating boating facilities for recreational boats 26 feet and larger. Sponsors also may use funds to provide information and to enhance boater education. Facilities eligible for funding include transient moorage docks, breakwaters, buoys, etc.

The USFWS has established two “tiers” of grants.

- Tier 1 is for projects that request \$100,000 or less. Each year, Washington State may submit one Tier 1 application requesting up to \$100,000 on behalf of itself or an eligible sub-sponsor. Tier 1 applications are not guaranteed, but have a high probability of funding approval.
- Tier 2 is for projects that request \$100,001 or more. States may submit applications for any number of Tier 2 grants on behalf of itself or an eligible sub-sponsor. These projects are submitted for national competition with no assurances of success.

Rules governing Washington’s program are found in Manual #12, *Boating Infrastructure Grant Program: Policies and Project Selection*. Specific policies related to BIG are:

<b>Eligible Applicants</b>	Local governments, state agencies, port districts, tribal governments, and private marinas and nonprofit organizations with facilities open to the general public
<b>Eligible Projects</b>	Development, renovation, education, and information
<b>Match Requirements</b>	Grant recipients must provide at least 25% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions.
<b>Funding Limits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tier 1 – minimum grant request \$5,000, maximum \$95,000.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Tier 2 – minimum grant request \$100,001, there is no maximum.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Access</b>	Required for a minimum of 20 years
<b>Other Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects must be located on navigable waters.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Generally, the award for each state is \$100,000. The Board’s adopted a policy is to set aside \$5,000 for program administration.

<b>Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key priorities in the evaluative process include partnerships, percent of sponsor match, innovation, and state plan priorities</li> </ul>
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**BIG Allocation and Estimated Funds Available**

On August 11, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced that it would be accepting grant proposals for federal fiscal year 2009 funding. Although the Congressional budget has not yet been approved, the USFWS anticipates that about \$13 million dollars will be available nationwide to fund both Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects. Proposals are due to the USFWS by October 31, 2008.

**Evaluation Summary**

Using the evaluation criteria approved by the USFWS for this program, the Boating Programs Advisory Committee reviewed four BIG projects for federal fiscal year 2009 funding consideration. First, the committee evaluated and ranked two Tier 1 projects requesting a total of \$141,955. The advisory committee then reviewed two Tier 2 projects requesting a total of \$1,107,430 and discussed whether to recommend that these projects be submitted to the USFWS for the national competition.

The committee is composed of representatives from municipal governments, state agencies, and citizens who have expertise in boating and in managing boating access facilities. Members who reviewed BIG projects included:

<b>Evaluator</b>	<b>Position</b>
David Smith, Moses Lake, Columbia Basin Walleye Club	Citizen
Del Jacobs, Port Ludlow	Citizen
Glen Jurges, Bremerton, Kitsap Poggie Club	Citizen
Lorena Landon, Kirkland, Bellevue Sail and Power Squadron	Citizen
Martha Comfort, Seattle, Northwest Yacht Brokers Association	Citizen
Michael Branstetter, Seattle, Scan Marine	Citizen
Reed Waite, Seattle	Citizen
Steve Greaves, Seattle, WA Alliance for Mandatory Boater Education	Citizen
Douglas Strong, City of Richland	Local Agency
William Cumming, Friday Harbor, San Juan County Sheriffs	Local Agency
Blain Reeves, Department of Natural Resources	State Agency

The results of the Tier 1 evaluations are in Table 1 – *BIG Program Ranked List of Projects and Fund Recommendation, Federal Fiscal Year 2009.*

After review of the two Tier 2 grant requests, committee members came to these conclusions about the projects.

- The committee agreed that the City of Tacoma’s Foss Waterway North Moorage Float (08 – 1304D) project appears to be consistent with the purposes of the BIG

Program and recommended that it be submitted to the USFWS for the national competition.

- Committee members have several questions and concerns about the Captain's Landing Shaw Island Public Access (08 – 1893D) project. Some committee members do not think this project is ready for the national competition. Staff has sent a list of questions to the applicant, and will send the responses to the advisory committee for further consideration. Staff is asking the Board to delegate authority to the Director to determine if this project should be forwarded to the USFWS for the national competition.

## **Attachments**

Resolution #2008-050

*Table 1 – BIG Program Ranked List of Projects and Fund Recommendation, Federal Fiscal Year 2009*

- A. BIG Evaluation Criteria Summary
- B. BIG Evaluation Scoring Summary
- C. BIG Project Synopses in Ranked Order with Congressional Districts

**RESOLUTION #2008-050**

**Boating Infrastructure Grant Program  
Federal Fiscal Year 2009, Ranked List of Projects**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is accepting federal fiscal year 2009 grant applications for the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program, and

**WHEREAS**, the Boating Programs Advisory Committee assessed these projects using the evaluation criteria approved by the USFWS and Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (Board), and

**WHEREAS**, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting and the criteria include community involvement and support, thereby supporting the goal of the Board to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation and feedback, and its strategy to ensure that its work is conducted in a fair and open manner; and

**WHEREAS**, the projects meet the program requirements stipulated in Manual #12, *Boating Infrastructure Grant Program: Policies* and rules established in the *Code of Federal Regulations*, thus supporting the Board's strategy to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Boating Programs Advisory Committee supports the submission of one Tier 1 and one Tier 2 proposal for national completion, and will consider supporting a second Tier 2 proposal, subject to additional review and information;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Director be authorized to submit one Tier 1 and one Tier 2 application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for evaluation and funding consideration;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board delegates authority to the Director to determine if Washington State should submit a second Tier 2 project to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for evaluation and funding consideration;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board authorizes the Director to submit and execute any and all project agreements and amendments necessary to facilitate implementation of the approved projects.

*Resolution moved by:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Resolution seconded by:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)*

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Table 1**  
**Boating Infrastructure Grant - Tier 1**  
**Federal Fiscal Year 2009**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Sponsor</b>	<b>RCO Amount</b>	<b>Sponsor Amount</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative Amount</b>	<b>Staff Recommends</b>
1 of 2	54.333	08-1035D	Eden Harbor Dock Renovation Phase 1	Grand Coulee Dam Yacht Club	\$95,000	\$38,157	\$133,157	\$95,000	\$95,000
2 of 2	26.083	08-1902E	Clean Marina Washington	Puget Soundkeeper Alliance	\$46,955	\$45,000	\$91,955	\$141,955	
					<b>\$141,955</b>	<b>\$83,157</b>	<b>\$225,112</b>		

Note: Anticipated funds available \$95,000 for BIG Tier 1, pending Congressional budget approval.

**Project List**  
**Boating Infrastructure Grant - Tier 2**  
**Federal Fiscal Year 2009**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Sponsor</b>	<b>RCO Amount</b>	<b>Sponsor Amount</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>Staff Recommends</b>
08-1304D	Foss Waterway North Moorage Float	Tacoma, City of	\$750,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000	\$750,000	Submittal
08-1893D	Shaw Island Public Access	Captain's Landing	\$357,430	\$128,000	\$485,430	\$1,107,430	Director Decision
			<b>\$1,107,430</b>	<b>\$378,000</b>	<b>\$1,485,430</b>		

Note: Anticipated funds available for BIG Tier 2 unknown, actual funding is based on national competition and pending Congressional budget

**Attachment A: Boating Infrastructure Grant Program, Criteria Summary**

*The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program is a federally funded grant program administered by the IAC to assist in development and renovation of boating facilities for recreational boats 26 feet and larger. (50 CFR Part 86 BIG Program Final Rule)*

<b>BIG - CRITERIA ANALYSIS</b>			
<b>Score</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>
Team	1	Plan to Construct, Renovate, and Maintain Tie-Up Facilities <sup>1</sup>	15
Team	2	Provide for Public/Private and Public/Public Partnership	15
Team	3	Use Innovative Techniques	15
IAC Staff	4	Include Private, Local, or Other State Funds	15
Team	5	Cost Efficient	10
Team	6	Provide a Significant Link	10
Team	7	Provide Access	15
Team	8	Provide Significant Positive Economic Impacts	5
Team	9	Include Multi-State Efforts	5
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE: = 105			

**KEY TO PRECEDING TABLE**

The US Fish and Wildlife Service established these criteria

- Team = Criterion scored by the evaluation team
- IAC Staff = Criterion scored by IAC staff

<sup>1</sup> This question has not been used to evaluate proposals since federal fiscal year 2000.

Evaluation Criteria

1. **Plan to construct, renovate, and maintain tie-up facilities** for transient nontrailerable recreational vessels following priorities identified in your State's program plan that the Secretary of the Interior has approved under section 7404(c) of the Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act. <sup>2</sup>  
..... 15 points
  2. **Provide for public/private and public/public partnership** efforts to develop, renovate, and maintain tie-up facilities. These partners must be other than the Service and lead State agency:
    - a. One partner ..... 5 points
    - b. Two partners ..... 10 points
    - c. Three or more partners ..... 15 points
  3. **Use innovative techniques** to increase the availability of tie-up facilities for transient non-trailerable recreational vessels (includes education/information). ..... 0 – 15 points
  4. **Use innovative techniques** in addition to the non-Federal match described in Sec. 86.42: <sup>3</sup>
    - a. Twenty-six percent to thirty-five percent ..... 5 points
    - b. Between thirty-six and forty-nine percent ..... 10 points
    - c. Fifty percent and above ..... 15 points
  5. **Are cost efficient.** Proposals are cost efficient when the tie-up facility or access site's features add a high value compared with the funds from the proposal, for example, where you construct a small feature such as a transient mooring dock within an existing harbor that adds high value and opportunity to existing features (restrooms, utilities, etc.). A proposal that requires installing all of the above features would add less value for the cost.  
..... 0 – 10 points
  6. **Provide a significant link** to prominent destination way points such as those near metropolitan population centers, cultural or natural areas, or that provide safe harbors from storms.  
..... 0 – 10 points
  7. **Provide access** to recreational, historic, cultural, natural, or scenic opportunities of national, regional, or local significance. Projects that provide access to opportunities of national, regional, or local significance receive 5 points for each, for: .....Maximum of 15 points
  8. **Provide significant positive economic impacts** to a community. For example, a project that costs \$100,000 and attracts a number of boaters who altogether spend \$1 million a year in the community..  
..... 1 – 5 points
  9. **Include multi-State efforts** that result in coordinating location of tie-up facilities. .... 0 – 5 points
- Total possible points** ..... **105 points**

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<sup>2</sup> This question was not used to evaluate proposals in federal fiscal years 2000 – 2007. The RCO will notify applicants if it will be used in future grant grounds.

<sup>3</sup> This is Section 86:42, 50 CFR Part 86 Boating Infrastructure Grant Program Final Rule.

**Evaluation Summary  
Boating Infrastructure Grant Program  
2008 BIG Tier 1 Projects**

<b>Question #</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Name/Sponsor</b>	<b>Plan</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Innovative Techniques</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>Cost Efficient</b>	<b>Linkage</b>	<b>Access</b>	<b>Economic Impact</b>	<b>Multi State Efforts</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Eden Harbor Doc/Grand Co	-	12.083	9.083	0.000	7.250	8.583	12.917	4.000	0.417	54.333
2	Clean Marina Wa/Puget So	-	8.333	4.417	0.000	5.000	3.583	2.333	1.833	0.583	26.083

Note: Question 1 was not used to evaluate proposals during this grant round based on guidance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Boating Infrastructure Grant Program  
Federal Fiscal Year 2009**

**Project Synopses**

## BIG Tier 1

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Grand Coulee Dam Yacht Club</b>	<b>\$95,000</b>	<b>\$38,157</b>	<b>\$133,157</b>
<b>08-1035D Eden Harbor Dock Renovation Phase 1</b>			

The Grand Coulee Dam Yacht Club (GCDYC) is a non-profit boating organization chartered in 1940. As a Community Access Point for the National Park Service, the GCDYC Eden Harbor docks are the only public moorage facility for 30 miles of Lake Roosevelt. We have offered safe moorage to the boating public for 25 years. Our docks are at the end of their useful life. The cities of Grand Coulee, Electric City and Coulee Dam are the only full service communities for 100 miles of the lake. Eden Harbor may be the best protected harbor on the south end of Lake Roosevelt. The harbor provides easy access to Colville Tribal cultural attractions and to tourist attractions at Grand Coulee Dam. We offer ground transportation as needed.

The Phase 1 proposal will involve the removal of the existing docks and replacing with a modern and user friendly dock system. Phase 2 (scheduled for 2014) will be the addition of another 18 slip dock. In replacing the docks, we expect increased boater and tourist activity that benefits the community and the region.

Our goal is the timely completion of the new docks using innovative methods and materials that are cost effective, the use of skilled and unskilled volunteer labor will reduce costs where possible. We will garner financial support from local businesses. Congressional District:05

Rank (1 of 2)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Puget Soundkeeper Alliance</b>	<b>\$46,955</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>\$91,955</b>
<b>08-1902E Clean Marina Washington</b>			

Puget Sound Keeper Alliance (PSA) will use this grant to expand the clean boating education and outreach portion of the Clean Marina Washington program, which educates and involves marina managers and boaters in pollution prevention and stewardship activities throughout the state. Over 60,000 boats are currently moored at over 220 marina locations throughout the state. Most of these boats are over 26 feet in length.

Unfortunately many traditional boating practices are detrimental to water quality. PSA hopes to change that.. To accomplish this, PSA will implement a multi-tiered outreach program (Goal = 10,000 boaters over two years) to improve boaters' behavior regarding marine and wildlife encounters, accessing environmental services, and implementing consistent environmental best management practices while operating and mooring their boats. PSA will do this publishing a navigational guides and brochures which identify environmental resources for boaters, through implementing/expanding a peer-to-peer Dockwalker Outreach program, Clean Boating Seminars, publication and distribution of educational materials and spill prevention supplies. Targeted areas for improvement include boat sewage, oil and fuel spills, boat cleaning practices, boat maintenance debris, solid and hazardous waste management, and invasive species detection and response.

Congressional District : Statewide

Rank (2 of 2)

## **BIG Tier 2**

<b>Captain's Landing</b>	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>08-1893D Shaw Island Public Access</b>	<b>\$357,430</b>	<b>\$128,000</b>	<b>\$485,430</b>

In the heart of Washington's San Juan Islands, Shaw provides a unique prospective. The island, through careful land use planning has kept it's rural nature. One of the prettiest sandy beaches in the San Juan Islands is a mile walk away. The oldest continually used school in the state of Washington (the little red schoolhouse built in 1890) offers a glimpse back into the past. A great old fashioned grocery store near the marina offers a variety of groceries, local products and gifts for the boating public. Washington State Ferries provides access from Shaw to Victoria B.C., the mainland and all other San Juan Island attractions.

Blind Bay offers a favorite safe harbor for boaters, however there is currently no public access to the shore. Through a public/private partnership, this project will renovate the Captain's Landing dock to provide public moorage. The private marina operators are planning to redevelop the 30-year old facility and with San Juan County's encouragement have incorporated plans to provide accessible moorage slips for transient recreational boaters. The project cost has been prorated to reflect the portion dedicated to public use.

Congressional District: 02

<b>City of Tacoma</b>	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>08-1304D Foss Waterway North Moorage Float</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>

This request is to construct a float to service boats 26' and over in the Thea Foss Waterway where the waterway opens onto Commencement Bay and Puget Sound. The location is adjacent to Thea's Park and the Seaport Heritage Museum. Phase 2, the subject of this project, will construct 400 lineal feet of concrete float, with utilities, designated for transient moorage of boats over 26'. Tacoma currently has 36 slips and 100 lineal feet of float for all transient moorage. The city has installed temporary floats to the piers for the Tall Ships Festival but these will not last a large storm. The inventory of transient moorage is so poor that the City must turn boaters away during peak season. Phase I, which is underway, is adding 165 feet of float dedicated to boats under 26', however, moorage for larger ships is needed.

The long term goal is to make Tacoma a boating destination with all the amenities desirable for boaters. The site is within walking distance of the Museum District which includes the Museum of Glass, the Washington State History Museum and the Tacoma Art Museum. The Seaport Maritime Heritage Museum located within a historic dock warehouse building is adjacent to the moorage and will be providing public restrooms. Thea's Park, which is adjacent to the float, provides picnic tables and recreation area. Eventually the City will have 1200 feet for transient moorage. This is supported by the Foss Waterway Development Authority, Citizens for a Healthy Bay and Foss Waterway Seaport.

Congressional District: 09