



News Release

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Nearly \$1 Million in Grants Awarded in Southwest Region to Support Recreational Boating and Clean Water

A total of \$16.6 million in grants will be awarded to 21 states under the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today. Four of these grants will be awarded in the Southwest Region – one each in Arizona and Oklahoma and two in Texas.

Since the first CVA awards were made in 1993, the Service has awarded more than \$200 million to states to fund construction, replacement, renovation and maintenance of facilities that assist recreational boaters in properly disposing of on-board septic waste.

“Clean water is a fundamental need for both people and wildlife, and a perfect example of how the fates of both are intertwined,” said Service Director Dan Ashe. “Clean Vessel Act grants not only help ensure that clean drinking water, sustainable ecosystems and healthy recreational areas are accessible to the American people, they also provide a substantial economic benefit for local communities. These grants are another fine example of the Fish and Wildlife Service’s commitment to ensuring our natural resources are conserved and protected for future generations.”

In the Southwest Region four grants totaling \$929,904 will be awarded.

Arizona will receive an inland grant of \$160,000. The Arizona Game and Fish Department will use this grant to ensure continued functional disposal facilities at waterways needed by the boating public. This grant will be used to upgrade an existing pump out facility at a major Arizona lake, construct a new dump station and pump out station at Lake Havasu, and acquire a new pump out boat for a major Arizona lake. Remaining funds will be used to maintain existing pump out stations at major central Arizona lakes.

Oklahoma will be awarded an inland grant of \$304,904. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality plans to install three pump out facilities to protect and restore water quality on Oklahoma’s lakes and navigable waters. Burnt Cabin Marina on Lake Tenkiller will install floating restrooms and a pump out station; Cross Timbers Marina on Skiatook Lake will install a pump out station; and Newberry Creek Resort and Marina, Ltd. on Lake Texoma will install a pump out facility.

Two grants will be awarded to **Texas**, a coastal grant of \$240,000 and an inland grant of \$225,000. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will use the grants to enhance the infrastructure

of their pump outs throughout the state by installing seven coastal and nine inland pump out facilities. Additionally, TPWD will provide maintenance funds to keep existing pump outs operational and continue their boater education program by developing and distributing educational materials related to CVA and conducting workshops throughout Texas.

Funds for the CVA program are provided annually from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, which is maintained through the collection of fishing tackle manufacturer excise taxes and boat and fishing import duties, as well as motorboat and small engine fuel taxes.

“As one of the many programs supported by the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, CVA-funded pump-outs help boaters fulfill our commitment to clean water. After all, our 520,000 BoatU.S. members are not only on the water, their families often swim in it and eat fish from it. Most importantly, widely available, accessible and working pump-out facilities make it easier to deal with a basic need and get back to enjoying time on the water,” said BoatU.S. President Margaret Bonds Podlich.

For more information on the 2014 grant awards made today visit:

<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/CVA/CVA2014Funding.pdf>

For more information on the CVA program visit:

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

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