Grants Available to Tackle Derelict Vessels at Local Level

New program makes funds available to help local law enforcement support state’s efforts to remove sunken or neglected watercraft

Derelict or abandoned vessels put public safety and the health of our marine and fresh waters at risk. DNR’s Derelict Vessel Removal Program (DVRP) is the state’s key mechanism for addressing the problem of derelict or abandoned vessels in Washington’s waters, and has been cited as a model for other jurisdictions seeking to deal with the problem of sunken or neglected watercraft. For more information on the DVRP, please visit the program website at: http://dnr.wa.gov/derelict-vessels

The Department of Natural Resources has funding available in the 2021-2023 biennium for three grants, in the amount of $50,000 each, to local law enforcement to support the Washington State Derelict Vessel Removal Program (DVRP). These grants are intended as a pilot program to assist in enforcing statutes related to the DVRP. This program, if successful, may be expanded in future biennia. The relevant statutes include:

- Vessel registration statutes under RCW 88.02.550 and RCW 88.02.550
- Anchorage (abandoned/derelict vessels) statute RCW 79.100.110 (1) and (2)
- Trespass statutes RCW 79.02.300, RCW 9A.52.070 and RCW 9A.52.080

Eligible Applicants

Local law enforcement agencies, including but not limited to:

- City Police Departments with marine units
- County Sheriffs’ Offices with marine units
- Fire Departments with ticketing authority and marine capabilities
- Harbor Police
How to Apply

Interested parties can complete the attached application and submit to the DVRP at dvrp@dnr.wa.gov by March 1, 2022.

Grants will be awarded by April 1, 2022 and funds provided on July 1, 2022.

Eligible Activities

- The grants may be used to compensate law enforcement agencies for time and equipment needed to:
  - Enforce vessel registration
  - Enforce aquatic laws as related to the derelict vessel program
  - Issue civil penalties
- Equipment costs must be in direct support of this grant and not exceed 25% of the grant.
- Authorized public entities (APEs) may use grant funds to cover the 10% of expenses required for participation in the DVRP.
- Using grant funds for staff overtime, while allowed, is discouraged.

Ineligible Activities

Grants may NOT be used to:

- Routine maintenance of vessels, docks, or buoys.
- Equipment not in direct support of the grant.

Evaluation Criteria

- Applicant demonstrates a clear understanding of the DVRP.
- Applicant demonstrates a clear need in their jurisdiction for enforcement assistance.
- Applicant presents a clear and cost-effective plan for the use of grant funding.

Timeline

January 24, 2022 – request for proposals sent out and posted on DNR website

March 11, 2022 – applications due

April 6, 2022 – applicants notified of decision

April 20, 2022 – draft statements of work due

May 9, 2022 – contract process begins

July 1, 2022 – funds awarded
Derelict Vessel Local Enforcement Grant Application

Grant funds are provided by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Derelict Vessel Removal Program (DVRP).

Address and Contact Information for the Organization Applying for the Grant

Applicant/Organization Name: __________________________________________________.

Contact Information                                                                                                                                          

City _______________State ____________ Zip Code _______________

Applicant Contact Person _______________ E-mail Address __________________

Title/Role with Organization _______________ Phone number _______________

Geographic Area of Responsibility _____________________________________________________________

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

1. Describe the derelict vessel situation in your area. Are there any unique circumstances or problem areas?

2. What do you hope to accomplish with this funding?

3. What resources would you be able to leverage to make the most efficient use of these funds?

4. Will these funds be used for staff overtime? If so, what percentage of funds will be used for overtime?

5. Tell us how you have access to the waters in your jurisdiction?

6. What equipment do you have available?
7. Do you plan on purchasing more equipment? If so, what equipment?

8. Are your marine units seasonal, or do they function year-round?

DELIVERABLES

1. Provide a list of deliverables and associated completion dates. Deliverables should include, at minimum:

   a. A plan for pre- and post-enforcement vessel survey. Surveys may be conducted from shore as long as the applicant can identify and locate all vessels in the survey area.
      i. Both surveys should include the number/type of vessels as well as their violations. When possible, provide WN numbers or other identifying markings for cited vessels. Survey information will be contrasted with other grant metrics for grant effectiveness evaluations.

   b. A final report on actions completed with the grant funding, including:
      i. Detailed explanation of the patrol area and date/times of patrols.
      ii. Receipts for equipment purchased.
         1. Consumable items such as fuel is not considered equipment but should be accounted for when providing patrol records.
      iii. Accounting of all employee hours paid and number of personnel used.
         1. Overtime reimbursement, while allowed, will greatly diminish the cost effectiveness of the grant.
      iv. Type and number of violations encountered both cited and uncited.
      v. Total number of vessels encountered in patrols.
      vi. Number and type of any violations passed onto a neighboring jurisdiction or other agency.

2. To help identify roadblocks to the prevention of abandoned or derelict vessels in the agency's jurisdiction, identify how you will track outcomes after the issuance of a citation.