

Short-Term Projects  
2024-2025 Grant Cycle  
Project Idea Worksheet

*Please complete this worksheet and the questions found at the bottom of this page and send to Sam Kilpack at [samantha@cw.utah.gov](mailto:samantha@cw.utah.gov) no later than **March 25, 2024.***

*For project criteria, visit [cw.utah.gov](http://cw.utah.gov).*

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|--|---|
| Name of the project:   | Fixed Anchor Maintenance: Wasatch Rock Climbing Routes  |
| Location of the project:   | Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest - including BCC,LCC   |
| Project contact person:  | Julia Geisler   |
| Project contact email address:   | Julia@SaltLakeClimbers.org  |
| Project category (select any that apply)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation and transit<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental protection<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation stewardship<br><input type="checkbox"/> Economic sustainability |
| Do you have community partners for this project? Please list your partners, if applicable: | Recreational Trails Program<br>Division of Outdoor Recreation Grant<br>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints<br>SLCA Fundraising Events, Donors, Members  |
| What is the estimated total cost of the project? How much will you request from the CWC?   | \$110,000 total project cost<br>\$10,000 CWC request  |
| What is the expected starting date and completion date for the project?                    | Spring 2024 - January 31,2024   |

Please attach your answers to the following questions:

1. Briefly describe your idea. How will it implement transportation and transit solutions, protect the ecosystems that originate in the Central Wasatch, steward recreational access, or sustain the economic viability of the project area?

The Wasatch has world-class rock climbing; the future of which depends on restoration of the vertical infrastructure. The Salt Lake Climbers Alliance's goal is to replace antiquated fixed anchors with sustainable hardware on highly trafficked climbing routes with professional work at height climbing technicians. The SLCA is the only professional

anchor maintenance crew in the nation. We are also the leading experts providing training and resources to other climbing organizations and agencies across the nation and have been guest presenters at the Utah Trails Forum and other outdoor recreation conferences.

Climbing area infrastructure includes camping areas, parking, restrooms, trails, and vertical routes. Fixed anchors, crucial for climbing, were installed in the Wasatch since the 1960s, often using non-stainless steel hardware prone to corrosion and failure.

Our crew sets the gold standard, having replaced and maintained 1,300+ anchors on 265+ routes with 2,600+ hours of labor in two years. Beyond maintenance, we promote responsible climbing. We organize a New Router Symposium at Petzl to discuss best practices, etiquette, and ethics. We offer anchor clinics at climbing festivals and crag coffee events, educating the public and advising other climbing organizations. We also provide statewide mentorship by working with Uintah County and the Outdoor Recreation Planning Assistance Program.

Partnering with public and private land managers, our work spans climbing areas in Maple Canyon, Little Cottonwood Canyon, Big Cottonwood Canyon, American Fork, Rock Canyon, the Uintas, and more.

We require \$110k for a year of professional labor and materials. The SLCA is the sole entity maintaining and replacing aging bolts in the Wasatch. This grant, combined with our fundraising, ensures access to well-managed, sustainable climbing areas for the public and future generations.

2. Does this idea result in other benefits to the Central Wasatch and its users?

Rock climbing is experiencing nationwide growth, with an estimated nine million participants in 2017. The American Alpine Club values climbing at \$12.5 billion, primarily from travel to climbing destinations. With USA Climbing headquarters now in Salt Lake City and multiple world-class indoor climbing gyms, interest has surged. Quick access to outdoor climbing hinges on maintaining its vertical infrastructure. Local outfitters, universities, and nonprofits rely on fixed anchors for safe climbing experiences. This effort will ensure that the public will have safe access to high quality climbing areas for the next 50+ years. Our expertise extends to training other climbing groups nationwide.