



## 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).

Name of the project:	Conservation (Education and Outreach) Program
Location of the project:	Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Service
Project contact person:	Grace Tyler, Development Director
Project contact email address:	<a href="mailto:grace@saveourcanyons.org">grace@saveourcanyons.org</a>
Project category (select any that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation and transit <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental protection <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation stewardship <input type="checkbox"/> Economic sustainability
Do you have community partners for this project? Please list your partners, if applicable:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Salt Lake Public Utilities</li><li>• USFS Salt Lake Ranger District</li><li>• Local Business (RoHa Brewing Project, Patagonia SLC, Black Diamond Equipment, etc.)</li></ul>
What is the estimated total cost of the project? How much will you request from the CWC?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$150,000 total cost of the project</li><li>• Save Our Canyons is requesting \$18,000 from the Central Wasatch Commission.</li></ul>
What is the expected starting date and completion date for the project?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fuels Reduction in Central Wasatch: March 2024- October 2024</li><li>• Educational Events: March 2024 - December 2024</li><li>• Advocating for a year-round public transportation system: March 2024 - December 2024</li><li>• Trail Maintenance: May 2024 - September 9th</li></ul>



**Name of Organization:**

Save Our Canyons

**Name listed on 501-(c)(3):**

Citizens Committee to Save Our Canyons

**Address:**

3690 E Fort Union Blvd STE 101  
Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121

**Email:**

Info@saveourcanyons.org

**Phone:**

801-363-7283

**Mission Statement:**

Dedicated to protecting the wildness and beauty of the Wasatch Mountains.

**Proposed Grant Request Amount:**

\$18,000

## **Introduction**

Save Our Canyons would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Central Wasatch Commission for helping to support the protection of the Wasatch Mountains since 2018. Without your support, the Wasatch Mountains would not be what it is today – thank you.

In 2023, Save Our Canyons was gifted \$8,000 from the Central Wasatch Commission to go towards our Conservation (Education and Outreach) Program. The overall program in 2023 cost about \$130,000.

### **2023 Highlights:**

- Save Our Canyons worked with over 100 volunteers, including an average of 8 individuals per project during our Wilderness Stewardship Projects and an average of 2 volunteers during each Advocacy and Grassroots events.
- During the 4 major cleanup events we had this season, each averaged 200 lb of garbage collected, making it nearly a total of 800 lb of garbage collected.
- During the 4 major weed pull events we hosted this season, each averaged 250 lb of weeds collected, making it nearly a total of 1,000 lb of weeds pulled and collected.
- During the 25 grassroots and advocacy events this season, Save Our Canyons shared its efforts and helped educate over 700 individuals on the importance of stewardship and active engagement within policy.
- Save Our Canyons worked with Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Salt Lake City Public Utilities, Salt Lake County, and other interagency partners on fuels mitigation, as part of the Central Wasatch Watershed Restoration (CWWR) project. We helped craft and implement a public outreach communications strategy, including drafting two press releases, publishing two social media posts, and a newsletter article about the project. We also assisted with fuels site visits for various interagency partners and presented at the 17th Annual Salt Lake County Watershed Symposium. Ultimately, fire personnel were able to treat 5,000 acres with prescribed fire.

### **2024 Program Overview:**

In 2024, Save Our Canyons plans to grow our Conservation (Education and Outreach) Program. We are expecting this program will cost about \$150,000 as Save Our Canyons is devoting more time to the Central Wasatch Watershed Restoration (CWWR) project as more fuels work needs to be done in 2024, and there is a significant amount of education that needs to be done around wildfires and fuels work. There is also an opportunity to conduct more trails works including but not limited to: trash cleanups in waterways, removing invasive weeds, and general trail maintenance. Along with providing additional education to the community through events, social media, and physical marketing around advocating for a year-round public transportation system, environmental protection, and beyond.

This year we plan to increase the frequency of opportunities to engage and number of participants in the program in the following areas:

- Wilderness Stewardship throughout the Central Wasatch
- Grassroots Advocacy and Education, both in-person events and online tools
- Fuel Management Practices located in the Central Wasatch

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 Mountains have become a prime example of the saying “death by a thousand cuts”. Between the proposal for the world’s longest gondola going up Little Cottonwood Canyon featuring 20 towers and 2 angle stations, ranging from 130 to 262 feet tall, to a 634-acre limestone quarry proposed for Parley’s Canyon that would drastically impact the quality of water and pollute the air, it’s become clear that unless people stop thinking of the Wasatch as divided county lines and start thinking about it as a connected ecosystem, development pressures will only increase. These are not isolated issues that happen to one community or another. These are proposals that would permanently alter the Wasatch Mountains, which provide water, solitude, and adventure for our communities, as well as the habitat for 1,200 plant and animal species. Clean air, clean water, and open spaces don’t come easy — we have to actively work to protect them.

Save Our Canyons’ Conservation (Education and Outreach) Program recognizes that many of those who love and visit the Wasatch lack a functional understanding of the critical importance of the Wasatch Mountain watershed and the sensitivity of this landscape to external pressures. As advocates who have worked to protect these mountains and canyons for over five decades, Save Our Canyons recognizes our responsibility to actively care for this landscape by also educating those who use it.

***It is our goal with financial help from the Central Wasatch Commission to:*** complete 60 hours of trail maintenance (removing illegal campfire rings, host trash cleanups, etc.), host invasive weed pulls partnered with Salt Lake Public Utilities, work with over 180 volunteers during the 2024 summer/fall trail season, attend and host different events to educate the community about the importance of protecting our watershed, continue advocating for a year-round public transportation system, and continue our fuel management practices including burning, thinning, pruning, chipping, and mechanically removing fuels to reduce the amount and continuity of burnable vegetation.

Currently, fuel management practices in partnership with USFS and other local municipalities have been focused in Lamb’s Canyon, Millcreek Canyon, and Big Cottonwood Canyon. In 2024, the entire Central Wasatch will be the focus area for fuels reduction, with Big Cottonwood Canyon as the main focus. It is incredibly important that the public is educated on fuel management practices and because of this, Save Our Canyons needs funding that can support a multi-level marketing campaign rooted in education and grassroots advocacy, to assist the USFS in its communications to the public.

Funding will go towards staff time to work with local artists to create marketing material (videos, physical and digital artwork, etc.) and purchase marketing materials (informational handouts, petition forms, and printing costs). The multi-level marketing campaign gives Save Our Canyons the ability to host grassroots events to educate the public about the importance of a year-round public transportation system, fuel management practices, and why protecting the watershed is vital to the success of a growing community.

We believe that if our Conservation (Education and Outreach) Program is gifted with \$18,000 from Central Wasatch Commission, we will be able to prevent and minimize future impacts to our watershed through education and on-the-ground work.

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

Our Conservation (Education and Outreach) Program comes from the recognition that the Central Wasatch is gradually being degraded by overuse and a lack of adequate resources to restore degraded ecosystems. The purpose of this project is to improve the overall quality and health of the Central Wasatch by performing trail maintenance, removing invasive weeds, attending and hosting different educational events focused on advocating for a year-round public transportation system, fuel management practices, and the importance of our watershed.

Without the ability to educate the community about the importance of keeping the watershed clean, discussing the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace, advocating for a year-round public transportation system, and fuel management practices — the issues we are facing will only amplify.

### ***Tangible outcomes of our Conservation (Education and Outreach) Program:***

- Cover over 60 hours of trail maintenance (removing illegal campfire rings, hosting trash cleanups, etc.).
- Host invasive weed pulls partnered with Salt Lake Public Utilities.
- Work with over 180 volunteers during the 2024 summer/fall trail season.
- Continue our involvement in fuel management practices including burning, thinning, pruning, chipping, and mechanically removing fuels to reduce the amount and continuity of burnable vegetation.
- Create marketing materials that help to educate the community about a year-round public transportation system, fuel management practices, and more.
- Host grassroots events using the videos created as part of the multi-level marketing campaign. With the purpose of improving the overall quality and health of the Central Wasatch.

### ***Summer 2024 Schedule***

***Save Our Canyons has confirmed these dates for the 2024 Volunteer Season (additional dates/locations are still being organized as the snow starts to melt):***

1. Wasatch Stewardship Program - May 24th
2. Wasatch Stewardship Program - Garlic Mustard Pull With SLCO - June 21st
3. Wasatch Stewardship Program - Garlic Mustard pull With Salt Lake Public Utilities - June 28th
4. Wasatch Stewardship Program - July 26th
5. Wasatch Stewardship Program - August 23rd
6. Wasatch Stewardship Program - September 13th
7. Wasatch Stewardship Program - September 27th

Save Our Canyons strives to host or attend 2-3 educational and advocacy events each month. We are currently building out our Summer 2024 events, advocacy, and education calendar. We would be happy to share the completed calendar with the CWC in the coming months.

It's incredibly important we have funding to educate the community about the importance of protecting the Wasatch Mountains because as users of the canyons, our actions have impacts on the watershed, over 1,200 different plants and animals, and so much more.

***Here is our upcoming advocacy and education events calendar:***

1. March 26: Fuel management meeting with the USFS
2. March 22: Tabling at Swaner Preserve & EcoCenter
3. March 28: Student Education Hike in Central Wasatch
4. April 2: PBS Utah focused on advocacy and education
5. April 5: Tabling at Swaner Preserve & EcoCenter
6. April 22: Westminster College, Earth Day Summit
7. May 1: Interactive GIS Map used for education around issues impacting the Central Wasatch
8. June 20th: Urban Lounge where music meets the mountains

We appreciate your time and everything you do for the community of Salt Lake City and surrounding areas. We are excited to continue this important partnership into the future. If you have any questions about this program or this grant, please contact our Development Director Grace Tyler at [grace@saveourcanyons.org](mailto:grace@saveourcanyons.org) or (435) 260. 2896. Thank You.