A black and white logo with mountains and sun

Description automatically generated 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@cwc.utah.gov*](mailto:samantha@cwc.utah.gov) *no later than* ***March 25, 2024.***

*For project criteria, visit cwc.utah.gov.*

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| --- | --- |
| Name of the project: | Trail Maintenance, Native Plant Restoration, and Control of Invasive Weeds in the Tri-Canyons |
| Location of the project: | Tri-Canyons and Wasatch Front |
| Project contact person: | Joanna Wheelton |
| Project contact email address: | jwheelton@cottonwoodcanyons.org |
| Project category (select any that apply) | Transportation and transit  Environmental protection  Recreation stewardship  Economic sustainability |
| Do you have community partners for this project? Please list your partners, if applicable: | Salt Lake Ranger District of the UWC NF  National Forest Foundation  Utah DNR Division of Outdoor Rec  Salt Lake Climbers Alliance  Alta Ski Area  Solitude Mountain Resort  Snowbird Resort  Brighton Resort  David Kelby Johnson Memorial Foundation  REI Co-op  Petzl Foundation  Wasatch Mountain Club  Cirque Series  Snowbird Play Forever  Alta Environmental Center  Wasatch Trail Run Series  Town of Brighton |
| What is the estimated total cost of the project? How much will you request from the CWC? | $20,000 |
| What is the expected starting date and completion date for the project? | Start May 1 2024  End November 30 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?

*As the recreation demand on the Central Wasatch increases, the only option for sustainable management of this demand is to commit to stewardship projects that preserve, protect, and sustain our natural environment.*

*The CCF plans to field a trail crew of 10 people from May through October to focus on the goal of maintaining a sustainable trail system amidst growing user demand. They will address issues of erosion, heavy use, improper drainage, and deferred maintenance through structural improvements, corridor improvements, and sustainably built new tread.*

*Work towards the goal of native plant restoration and mitigating the spread of invasive weeds will be done by a crew of 5 members from May through October. They will address issues of invasive non-native plant pressure and native plant community health through hand pulling, field surveying and monitoring, planting native seedlings, and tracking native communities.*

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

*Yes. Both CCF crews – Plants and Trails – will host volunteers throughout the season to encourage community participation in stewardship projects and build a conscientious community of responsible recreators. Interfacing with the public is essential to furthering the mission of CCF and contributes significantly to the accomplishments of the trail crew and plants crew. Not only does it give community members a way to steward their environment, but it also equips them with valuable skills and trail-building knowledge. The canyons, watersheds, and Forest Service land are all better protected with robust volunteer participation.*

*Both crews will also focus on teaching their crew members techniques to become skilled stewardship professionals.*

*When the sustainability of the Central Wasatch trail system improves, it will create an improved recreation experience for all users. Plant stewardship will improve soil health, biodiversity, and water quality. Both crews will work together towards the goal of stewarding these natural environments – the effects of which will benefit not only the local flora and fauna but all of us downstream who depend on a healthy watershed.*