



Short-Term Projects 2026-2027 Grant Cycle Project Idea Worksheet

Please **thoroughly** review the project criteria at cwc.utah.gov before submitting your application. Then complete this worksheet and the questions found at the bottom of this page (and letter of support, if applicable) and send to Sam Kilpack at samantha@cwc.utah.gov no later than **February 10, 2026.**

Name of the project:	Advocacy and Education Program
Location of the project:	Salt Lake County Cache County Areas around the Great Salt Lake
Are you applying as an individual, or an organization? (Please list the name of the organization, if applicable)	Utah Wildlife Federation
Project contact person:	Isobel Lingenfelter
Project contact email address:	isobel@utahwildlifefederation.org
Project category (check all that apply) <i>*Please note your project is not required to encompass more than one category and will not be evaluated based on number of boxes checked</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation and transit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental protection <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation stewardship <input type="checkbox"/> Economic sustainability
What is the project's expected start date?	Jan 1, 2026
What is the project's expected completion date?	Dec 31, 2026
What is the estimated total cost of the project?	\$67,000
How much are you requesting from the CWC?	\$15,000
Have you reviewed your project with the appropriate authorities as outlined in the eligibility requirements , and received their support or approval? If so, please list the name, agency, and position of each person you have spoken to.	Yes, but we do not need approval
Does your project require any permits, and do you have those permits in-hand?	N/A
Do you have the above-mentioned permits in-hand?	N/A
Does your project require a NEPA?	N/A
IF YES: Has the NEPA been completed already, or can the NEPA and the project both be completed by June 2026?	
I have carefully reviewed this application for accuracy and completeness. I understand that late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.	Yes



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Please use the space below to respond 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, and/or sustain the economic viability of the project area?**

The Utah Wildlife Federation (UWF) respectfully requests \$15,000 from the Central Wasatch Commission to advance comprehensive wildlife education and community engagement through our Advocacy and Education Program. This work strengthens public understanding of the interconnected relationship between wildlife, water, transportation, and recreation, with a particular focus on the Central Wasatch and the Great Salt Lake Sentinel Landscape—both essential to Utah’s ecological health and economic vitality.

UWF’s approach is grounded in the belief that effective conservation begins with informed and empowered communities. Our Advocacy and Education Program connects youth, outdoor recreationists, educators, and local leaders with practical knowledge about wildlife conservation, water stewardship, and science-based land-use and transportation planning. Through education and civic engagement, we empower communities to support solutions that protect the ecosystems originating in the Central Wasatch, steward recreational access, and sustain the long-term economic and ecological viability of the region.

A core focus of this work is education around transportation and wildlife connectivity. The Central Wasatch serves as a critical corridor for wildlife movement, yet increasing traffic and development have led to dangerous wildlife-vehicle collisions that threaten both public safety and ecosystem health. UWF engages communities in understanding wildlife crossings as a proven transportation solution—one that reduces collisions, improves driver safety, protects habitat connectivity, and supports more efficient transportation systems. By building public awareness and support for these solutions, UWF helps advance infrastructure planning that benefits wildlife, recreationists, and commuters alike.

A key component of this project is the Kids For Conservation Photo Camp, an environmental education program designed to connect youth with Utah’s water-dependent ecosystems through hands-on learning and creative storytelling. The camp introduces participants to rivers, wetlands, and landscapes connected to the Central Wasatch and Great Salt Lake while teaching the fundamentals of water conservation, wildlife habitat protection, recreation impacts, and civic engagement. Through photography, youth learn to observe their surroundings closely, tell meaningful stories, and communicate conservation values to their families and communities—strengthening public understanding across generations.

The camp will take place on Wednesday evenings in June (June 3, 10, 17, and 24) from 5:30–9:30 p.m. Planning is actively underway, including securing instructors, identifying accessible field sites, coordinating transportation, and developing curriculum that integrates science education with



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creative expression. Funding at this stage is critical to ensure the program is well-resourced, inclusive, and able to remove barriers to participation before the camp begins.

This project directly advances UWF's commitment to equity and justice by expanding access to nature for youth who may not otherwise have opportunities to engage with Utah's public lands and waterways. In Utah, access to outdoor spaces is not equitable: many communities lack reliable public transportation to public lands, and the cost of equipment, transportation, and time presents significant barriers for families. These challenges disproportionately affect youth from lower-income households and communities historically excluded from environmental decision-making. By providing structured transportation, photography equipment, mentorship, and low-cost participation, the Kids For Conservation Photo Camp creates an accessible entry point for young people to build environmental literacy, develop leadership skills, and see themselves as part of Utah's conservation future.

Grant funding will also support complementary education and engagement efforts, including community listening sessions, interactive workshops using visual tools, online advocacy resources, and training for Community Ambassadors. Together, these efforts broaden participation in Central Wasatch planning conversations, create opportunities for new partnerships beyond the Cottonwood Canyons, and introduce wildlife conservation to a growing and more diverse membership base.

Collectively, this project supports smarter transportation solutions, protects critical ecosystems, expands equitable access to recreation, and builds long-term conservation leadership across the Central Wasatch region.

2. Does this idea result in other benefits to the Central Wasatch and its users beyond what you have described above?

Together, these efforts broaden participation in Central Wasatch planning conversations by intentionally engaging audiences and landscapes that are not traditionally reached through Central Wasatch Commission (CWC) processes. Many of UWF's education and engagement programs take place in areas where participants are first introduced to the role of the CWC and its work in protecting the Central Wasatch. From there, conversations naturally transition to the broader National Conservation Recreation Area (NCRA) vision—helping community members understand how local decisions connect to regional conservation, transportation, and recreation outcomes.

UWF's membership base differs significantly from that of the CWC and its typical stakeholder groups. While Central Wasatch planning often engages backcountry skiers, climbers, and other high-use canyon recreationists, UWF primarily works with hunters, anglers, rural communities, and wildlife advocates who may value the Wasatch deeply but do not always see themselves reflected in formal planning processes. As a result, there are often limited opportunities for these communities to engage directly in Central Wasatch conversations, despite being directly impacted by transportation decisions, wildlife connectivity, and watershed health.



Short-Term Projects 2026-2027 Grant Cycle Project Idea Worksheet

UWF serves as a trusted bridge between these communities. Our members care deeply about the Wasatch, but they also understand wildlife and water as part of a connected system that extends far beyond canyon boundaries. Through education and storytelling, we help participants build a relationship with Central Wasatch landscapes—even when physical access is limited due to distance, cost, transportation barriers, or fragmented habitat connectivity. By connecting wildlife movement, water systems, and community well-being, UWF ensures that conservation planning reflects the lived experiences of people who depend on healthy landscapes but may not recreate in the Central Wasatch regularly.

In addition, UWF's partnerships extend beyond the CWC's immediate network. We work closely with elected officials, including leaders such as Representative Walt Chew, who may not formally participate in Central Wasatch Commission processes but are strong champions for wildlife crossings and science-based transportation solutions. These relationships allow UWF to amplify support for wildlife connectivity and public safety across legislative, community, and agency audiences—strengthening alignment between Central Wasatch planning, regional transportation efforts, and statewide conservation priorities.

By engaging new audiences, building cross-sector partnerships, and connecting wildlife conservation to both accessible and inaccessible landscapes, UWF expands the reach and impact of Central Wasatch planning. Together, these efforts create a more inclusive, informed, and collaborative conservation community—one that reflects the full diversity of people who care about wildlife, water, and the future of Utah's connected landscapes.