



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:	910 Ranch – East Canyon Creek Corridor Cooperative Priority Weed Management Project
Location of the project:	Multiple ranch lands and Mormon Flats State Park near the Summit-Morgan County boundary, just outside Jeremy Ranch in the Snyderville Basin, including the 8,588-acre 910 Ranch.
Are you applying as an individual, or an organization? (Please list the name of the organization, if applicable)	Organization, Summit Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)
Project contact person:	Sara Jo Dickens
Project contact email address:	info@SummitCWMA.org ; jo@ecologybridge.com
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 type="checkbox"/> Transportation and transit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental protection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation stewardship <input type="checkbox"/> Economic sustainability
What is the project's expected start date?	June 2026
What is the project's expected completion date?	June 2027
What is the estimated total cost of the project?	\$40,000
How much are you requesting from the CWC?	\$20,000
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. Summit County approves and has provided a letter of support. Jess Kirby – Summit County Lands and Natural Resources Director
Does your project require any permits, and do you have those permits in-hand?	Weed spray contractors carry proper licensing.
Do you have the above-mentioned permits in-hand?	Yes.
Does your project require a NEPA?	No.
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.	X Yes

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?



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The 910 Ranch – East Canyon Creek Corridor Cooperative Priority Weed Management Project is a cross-county partnership led by Summit Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) and Summit County to address high-priority noxious weed infestations on the newly acquired 910 Ranch, an 8,588-acre public open space and future recreation area, along with Mormon Flats State Park and multiple rangeland properties between and adjacent to these areas. Since the county assumed management of the 910 Ranch, the Summit CWMA and Ecology Bridge, a local environmental consulting firm, has conducted inventories, developed a management plan, and initiated noxious weed treatment. Inventories discovered and mapped four state priority noxious weed, garlic mustard, myrtle spurge, phragmites, and yellow starthistle. Given the size and proximity of many of these weed populations to the creek and high levels of wild game activity, these weeds have likely spread to adjacent lands. With 910 Ranch trailhead construction plans underway and high potential for further noxious weed spread, this project focuses on proactively controlling invasive weeds before opening the ranch to public recreation, reducing the risk of rapid expansion associated with increased visitation and new transportation corridors.

The project prioritizes urgent treatment of garlic mustard, Myrtle spurge, Phragmites and yellow starthistle— invasive species that threaten livestock and wildlife forage, accelerate erosion, greatly reduce soil water availability and increase fire risk. While Summit County has only five known locations of yellow starthistle, most under 0.01 acres and nearly eradicated, the 910 Ranch populations have spread to over seven acres, representing one of the largest known infestations in Summit County and posing immediate risks to rangeland productivity, trail user safety, and ecosystem and watershed resilience. Yellow starthistle can deplete soil moisture by 15-25% of mean annual precipitation, creating drought conditions for adjacent plant species even during normal precipitation years. Early containment is critical to prevent spread into future trail systems and adjacent recreation corridors, as it can be easily spread by humans and dogs on trails. Phragmites populations within and adjacent to the ranch remain limited and potentially eradicable, offering an opportunity to protect East Canyon Creek riparian habitat, water quality, and downstream fisheries, including habitat for Bonneville cutthroat trout. Garlic mustard control is similarly time-sensitive, as the species spreads rapidly along waterways, and through wildlife and recreational use and increases tree mortality by suppressing critical soil fungi, degrading overall forest health and wildlife habitat. Aggressive treatment of these high-priority species is essential to prevent lasting ecological damage and improve long-term recreation and economic sustainability.

Summit CWMA will provide technical expertise, manage contractors, conduct public outreach and education, and facilitate cross-jurisdictional coordination through its Regional ArcGIS Field Maps App and integration with the state's invasive species database (EDDMaps) and provide matching grant funds. The project will also partner with the newly reestablished Morgan County Weed Control Board and the Morgan Soil Conservation District to expand inventory and treatment across the county line, prevent reinfestation, and strengthen long-term cooperative weed management capacity. Summit County will provide matching funds and additional coordination support. The Morgan Soil Conservation District will provide coordination support and herbicide for landowner implemented spraying. In summary, this project will protect watershed function, forest and riparian ecosystems, and working rangelands in Summit and Morgan Counties by preventing the establishment and spread of high-priority noxious weeds at a critical moment of transition to public access on the 910 Ranch and at a time when early detection and rapid response could result in prevention and eradication of these weeds within East Canyon Creek–Jeremy Ranch Road Corridor. By stabilizing ecological conditions before trail development and increased visitation, the project will support sustainable recreation, protect downstream fisheries and water quality, and help maintain the long-term economic value of outdoor recreation and working lands in the Central Wasatch.



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

Yes. In addition to protecting ecosystems within the East Canyon Creek–Jeremy Ranch Road Corridor and future recreation on the 910 Ranch and Mormon Flats, this project delivers important benefits to agricultural producers and rural communities in Summit County and Morgan County. Yellow starthistle poses a direct and growing threat to livestock and working lands, particularly for horse owners and grazing operators. Even small amounts of yellow starthistle accidentally bundled in hay can be extremely toxic, causing fatal “chewing disease” in horses, creating serious economic and animal welfare risks. At the landscape scale, this species can reduce rangeland carrying capacity by up to 50% while significantly depleting soil moisture, further stressing forage resources during drought years. Treating this infestation while it is still geographically contained helps protect agricultural viability and prevents a costly, long-term management burden for producers across county lines.

The project also provides direct benefits to additional Central Wasatch and downstream recreation users by improving waterway access, fisheries, and overall riparian function. Targeted reduction of Phragmites along East Canyon Creek will enhance habitat for native fish species, including Bonneville cutthroat trout, improving angler opportunity and access while reducing flammable biomass and obstructions along stream corridors. Healthier riparian areas also improve water quality and resilience downstream, benefiting both recreation and municipal water users. By addressing these emerging invasive species threats early, the project reduces future management costs, supports sustainable agriculture and recreation, and strengthens long-term economic resilience for communities that depend on healthy lands and waters.