



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:	Fixed Anchor Maintenance: Wasatch Rock Climbing Routes
Location of the project:	Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest
Are you applying as an individual, or an organization? (Please list the name of the organization, if applicable)	Salt Lake Climbers Alliance
Project contact person:	Julia Geisler
Project contact email address:	Julia@SaltLakeClimbers.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 type="checkbox"/> Transportation and transit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental protection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation stewardship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic sustainability
What is the project's expected start date?	Spring 2026
What is the project's expected completion date?	January 2026
What is the estimated total cost of the project?	\$115,000
How much are you requesting from the CWC?	\$7,500
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. Renee Flanagan
Does your project require any permits, and do you have those permits in-hand?	Yes
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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes

Please use the space below to respond to the following questions:



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

The Salt Lake Climbers Alliance (SLCA) proposes continued support for its professional fixed anchor maintenance program to sustain safe, reliable climbing infrastructure in the Central Wasatch. Fixed anchors—bolts and related hardware that protect climbers and enable safe descent—are critical components of recreational infrastructure. Many anchors installed decades ago using non-stainless steel are now failing due to corrosion, age, and increased use. Without systematic maintenance, these failures pose serious safety risks and increase the likelihood of accidents requiring complex search-and-rescue responses, placing strain on emergency and transportation resources.

SLCA operates the nation's only professional fixed anchor maintenance program and is the sole organization providing systematic anchor replacement in the Wasatch. In 2025, SLCA maintained 1,232 anchors across 208 routes at 27+ crags, logging more than 1,600 field hours. Our team replaces outdated hardware with modern stainless steel anchors designed to last 50+ years, ensuring long-term reliability in heavily used recreation areas.

By investing in long-lived stainless steel hardware and regular inspection cycles, SLCA reduces the risk of anchor failure for all users. Reliable anchors are essential not only for individual climbers, but also for university outdoor programs, guiding services, and permitted outfitters that rely on standardized, well-maintained infrastructure to manage risk, meet insurance requirements, and operate responsibly on public lands. Proactive maintenance minimizes equipment failures that can trigger accidents and cascading safety impacts for other canyon users.

Anchor maintenance is an ongoing infrastructure responsibility. Recent 25% tariff increases on steel have raised material costs, increasing the need for stable funding partnerships. We request \$7,500 toward our \$115,000 annual anchor maintenance budget to continue this proven program previously supported by the Central Wasatch Commission—ensuring the Wasatch remains a safe, well-managed recreation resource.