



Short-Term Projects
2026-2027 Grant Cycle
FINALIST Project 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 no later than **April 1, 2026.**

For project criteria, visit cw.utah.gov.

Name of project:	Wilderness Stewardship Project and Save Our Canyons Kids
Funding questions: 1. What is the estimated total cost of the project? 2. How much are you requesting from the CWC? 3. How much funding are you or your organization committing to the project? 4. How much funding are you requesting from others?	 1. \$85,000 2. \$20,000 3. Save Our Canyons allocates \$45,000 from our budget to support our Wilderness Stewardship Project and Save Our Canyons Kids, which focuses on education and community outreach to protect the Wasatch Mountains. 4. An additional \$40,000 is secured through grants and foundation support, further strengthening our conservation efforts.
Please list your (non-funding) community partners for this project, including in-kind support, if any:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Salt Lake Public Utilities• Cottonwood Heights and Mayor Bennion• USFS Salt Lake Ranger District• Local Business (RoHa Brewing Project, Patagonia SLC, Black Diamond Equipment, etc.)
Please list your potential funding partners for this project, if any, including the amount of funding requested from each, and whether the funding has been secured:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maki Foundation: Waiting for 2026 Granting date, \$1,000• National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance Fall Granting Cycle, \$15,000

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard K. and Shirley S. Hemingway Foundation: \$30,000 Pending • Eccles Foundation: \$5,000, Gifted • Crocker Catalyst Foundation; \$12,500 Gifted
I have carefully reviewed this application for accuracy and completeness. I understand that late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.	Yes!

Use the space below to answer the following questions. *Please be as detailed as possible.*

- **Provide an outline, broken out by category, of how you plan to use the funds. Categories may include, but are not limited to: materials, labor, marketing/promotional materials, and transportation/fuel.**

Please see our Save Our Canyons FY 2025/2026 Program Budget attached. This document provides a detailed breakdown of how we plan to allocate the funds across various categories, including:

- Materials
- Labor
- Marketing & Promotional Materials
- Transportation & Fuel
- Other Project-Related Costs

Let us know if you need any additional details or clarification.

- **Provide a detailed timeline for your project. Be sure to include the anticipated start date, all important steps and milestones, and anticipated end date.**

Through the Wilderness Stewardship Project (WSP), Save Our Canyons engages volunteers from across the Wasatch to care for the mountains, trails, and watersheds that sustain Utah communities. This work supports the health of the entire Wasatch range, from the Central Wasatch to communities along the Wasatch Front, by connecting people directly with the landscapes they depend on.

Through WSP, SOC will:

- Engage more than 200 volunteers in hands-on stewardship projects throughout the Wasatch.

- Host 5–7 trail maintenance days and recreation area or watershed cleanups with staff and partners.
- Organize 3–5 invasive weed removal events across the Wasatch Front.
- Conduct targeted work to help eradicate the noxious Myrtle Spurge plant, which threatens native ecosystems and public safety. This year we plan to target areas in and around Cottonwood Heights in concert with Salt Lake Public Utilities and Cottonwood Heights.
- Remove trash and invasive species from riparian areas critical to protecting regional water quality.
- Track thousands of in-kind volunteer hours each year, directly supporting federal, state, and local land managers caring for heavily used public lands.
- Support the USFS in their implementation of the Tri-Canyon Trails Plan

Project Timeline: Wilderness Stewardship Project (WSP) and Education Programming

Project Start Date: January 1, 2026

Project End Date: December 31, 2026

Advocacy and Education Events (more to come)

- NHMU Climate Action Fair - March 7th
- ECOFlight with Community Partners - April 18th
- Stegner Public Lands Symposium - April 19th/20th
- Westminster Earth Day - April 23rd
- Springfest with West Valley City - April 25th
- Rowland Hall Spring Impact Summit - April 30th
- Spring Speaker Series - May

SOCKids Events(more to come)

- Civic Engagement Workshop with Salt Lake Center For Science Education - January 7th
- Guided Snowshoe Hike with Salt Lake Center For Science Education - March 7th
- Guided Photography Workshop 1 with Shiv Sondhi - May-July
- Guided Photography Workshop 2 with Shiv Sondhi - May-July

Upcoming Stewardship Events(more to come)

- Stewardship Event #1: Kickoff Myrtle Spurge Weedpull - April 11th
- Stewardship Event #2: Invasive Removal/Native Seeding - April 16th
- Stewardship Event #3: Myrtle Spurge Weedpull - April 17th
- Stewardship Event #4: Millcreek Campground Cleanup - May
- Stewardship Event #5: Garbage Cleanup - May
- Stewardship Event #6: Trail Maintenance with Service Learning Camps - June 19th
- Stewardship Event #7: Campground Cleanup - June
- Stewardship Event #8: Trail Maintenance with Kind Minds Club - July 18th

- Stewardship Event #9: Trail Maintenance with Pleasant Grove Rangers - August
- Stewardship Event #10: Campground Maintenance with Pleasant Grove Rangers - August
- Stewardship Event #11: Summit County Weedpull - September

While Save Our Canyons operates on a fiscal year of July 1–June 30, the Wilderness Stewardship Project (WSP) timeline follows a calendar year (January–December) due to the structure and timing of program funding and the seasonal nature of stewardship work in the Wasatch.

January–March 2026 | Program Planning and Early Education

Beginning January 1, SOC staff initiated planning and coordination for the 2026 WSP season. This includes identifying priority stewardship sites with land managers, coordinating permits, building partnerships with community organizations, and scheduling volunteer stewardship events across the Wasatch Mountains. In March 2026, SOC hosted an early-season SOCKids educational program focused on snow science and winter watershed education for K–12 students, helping participants understand how winter snowpack directly connects to watershed health and Utah’s water supply.

Spring 2026 (April–May) | Volunteer Recruitment and Event Preparation

During the spring months, SOC will recruit volunteers, finalize stewardship project locations with land management partners, and coordinate logistics for upcoming events. Staff will also expand outreach to schools, community groups, and volunteers to build participation in both WSP stewardship projects and SOCKids educational programming.

Summer 2026 (June–August) | Stewardship Project Implementation

SOC will launch the primary WSP volunteer season, with the first stewardship event scheduled for April 11th and 17th for a Myrtle Spurge weed pull with SLPU. Throughout the summer, SOC will host 3–5 trail maintenance and watershed cleanup events and 3–5 invasive weed removal projects. These projects will focus on improving heavily used recreation areas, removing trash from sensitive watershed zones, and controlling invasive species such as Myrtle Spurge. Volunteer events will also include education about watershed protection, responsible recreation, and sustainable transportation. We foresee engaging 200+ total volunteers across all of these platforms throughout the Wasatch Front.

Fall 2026 (September–November) | Continued Stewardship and Education Expansion

Stewardship events will continue through the fall season as conditions allow. At the same time, SOC will expand SOCKids programming into classrooms and community spaces, focusing on watershed science, environmental stewardship, and responsible recreation. SOC will also host community outreach events to strengthen engagement and recruit new volunteers.

December 2026 | Program Evaluation and Planning

In December, SOC staff will complete program evaluation and reporting, including tracking volunteer participation, stewardship outcomes, and in-kind volunteer hours that support land managers. Staff will also begin planning for the 2027 WSP season, identifying priority stewardship projects and strengthening partnerships that support long-term conservation across the Wasatch Mountains.

Project Completion Milestone: December 31, 2026 — Completion of annual stewardship programming and evaluation cycle.

Is there anything else you'd like us to know about your project?

For over 50 years, Save Our Canyons has worked to protect the Wasatch Mountains; advocating for clean water, responsible recreation, and thoughtful land management that protects these landscapes for future generations. Throughout that time, our mission has remained rooted in the understanding that the Wasatch is not only a place of recreation, but also the source of drinking water for hundreds of thousands of people along the Wasatch Front.

In 2018, SOC launched the Wilderness Stewardship Project (WSP) and expanded SOCKids programming to help fill an important gap between advocacy, education, and on-the-ground stewardship. While policy and planning are critical to protecting public lands, the Wasatch also needs people actively caring for these landscapes. These programs were created to give community members the opportunity to do exactly that—protect the places they love through direct action.

As avid users of the Wasatch ourselves, we believe it is both a privilege and a responsibility to give back to the mountains that provide so much to our communities. Through volunteer stewardship events, trail work, invasive weed removal, and watershed cleanups, WSP puts boots on the ground where they are needed most. These projects support land managers who face increasing visitation and limited resources, while also building a stronger culture of stewardship among the people who recreate in the Wasatch every day.

At the same time, SOCKids ensures the next generation understands why these landscapes matter. By connecting students with watershed science, snowpack education, and responsible recreation principles, we are helping cultivate lifelong stewards of the Wasatch.

Together, these programs reflect SOC's belief that lasting conservation requires both strong advocacy and active stewardship. Protecting the Wasatch is not just about policy decisions, it is about community members showing up, learning about the land, and taking part in caring for it. Through these efforts, SOC continues to build a broader, more engaged community committed to the long-term protection of the Wasatch Mountains.