



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:	Wilderness Stewardship Project and Save Our Canyons Kids
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)	Save Our Canyons
Project contact person:	Grace Tyler, Development Director
Project contact email address:	grace@saveourcanyons.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 type="checkbox"/> Economic sustainability
What is the project's expected start date?	January 1, 2026
What is the project's expected completion date?	December 31, 2026
What is the estimated total cost of the project?	\$85,000
How much are you requesting from the CWC?	\$20,000
Have you reviewed your project with the appropriate authorities as outlined in the <u>eligibility requirements</u> , and received their support or approval? If so, please list the name, agency, and position of each person you have spoken to.	<p>Yes, Save Our Canyons has been working with the USFS about our Wilderness Stewardship Project and Save Our Canyons Kids. <i>Chelsea Phillippe: chelsea.phillippe@usda.gov</i></p> <p>Yes, Save Our Canyons has been working with Salt Lake City Public Utilities around our Wilderness Stewardship Project and Save Our Canyons Kids. Nicole Smeeding - SLPW Watershed Ranger: <i>Nicole.Smeeding@slcgov.com</i></p>
Does your project require any permits, and do you have those permits in-hand?	No permits needed
Do you have the above-mentioned permits in-hand?	N/A
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.	Yes



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Name of Organization:

Save Our Canyons

Name listed on 501-(c)(3):

Citizens Committee to Save Our Canyons

Address:

3690 E Fort Union Blvd STE 101
Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121

Email:

Info@saveourcanyons.org

Phone:

801-363-7283

Mission Statement:

Dedicated to protecting the wildness and beauty of the Wasatch Mountains.

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?**

Save Our Canyons (SOC) respectfully requests \$20,000 in funding from the Central Wasatch Commission to support two core, interconnected programs: our Wilderness Stewardship Project (WSP) and Save Our Canyons Kids (SOCKids). Together, these programs build a culture of stewardship, reduce impacts to sensitive watershed ecosystems, improve recreational access, and advance long-term, sustainable transportation solutions in the Central Wasatch.



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Since 2018, the Central Wasatch Commission has been an essential partner in protecting the Wasatch Mountains, and we extend our sincere thanks for your continued leadership and support. The Wasatch is not only a treasured recreation destination—it is the primary water source for hundreds of thousands of residents. Protecting these ecosystems requires both hands-on stewardship and sustained public education, particularly as visitation and development pressures increase.

Wilderness Stewardship Project (WSP)

In 2026, SOC will continue and expand WSP activities throughout the Central Wasatch, with a focus on high-use canyon corridors and trail systems aligning with the Tri Canyon Trails Plan. This work directly protects watershed health by reducing erosion, removing trash from waterways, controlling invasive weeds, and maintaining trails to prevent user-created routes that damage sensitive habitats.

Through WSP, SOC will:

- Engage over 200 volunteers in hands-on stewardship projects
- Host 5–7 trail maintenance and Recreation area/Watershed cleanups
- 3–5 invasive weed pulls, including helping to eradicate the noxious Myrtle Spurge weed from areas along the Wasatch Front
- Remove trash and invasive species from riparian areas critical to water quality
- Track thousands of in-kind volunteer hours that directly support land managers

Well-maintained trails and clean waterways help sustain recreational access while protecting the ecological systems that originate in the Central Wasatch. These efforts also contribute to the long-term economic viability of the region by preserving the natural assets that support tourism, outdoor recreation, and quality of life.

In addition to on-the-ground work, SOC will continue to educate the public about year-round public transportation solutions. Through stewardship events and outreach, volunteers and recreationists learn how transit reduces traffic congestion, air pollution, and environmental degradation in canyon corridors—key threats to watershed health.

Save Our Canyons Kids (SOCKids)

SOCKids complements WSP by cultivating the next generation of Central Wasatch stewards. In 2026, SOCKids will provide hands-on, place-based environmental education for youth, connecting them directly to the landscapes that provide their drinking water and recreational opportunities.

SOCKids programming:

- Introduces students to watershed science, Leave No Trace ethics, and responsible recreation
- Builds early awareness of how transportation choices impact air quality, ecosystems, and access to public lands



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- Prioritizes inclusive, accessible programming for communities historically underrepresented in outdoor education

By engaging youth early, SOCKids helps ensure long-term stewardship of the Central Wasatch and fosters public support for sustainable land-use and transportation solutions well into the future.

Impact and Use of Funds

Funding from the Central Wasatch Commission will support:

- Staff coordination and planning for WSP and SOCKids programs
- Volunteer recruitment, training, and event management
- Educational materials and outreach related to watershed protection, recreation stewardship, and transit advocacy
- Hands-on youth programming that builds long-term conservation values

With a \$20,000 investment in 2026, the Central Wasatch Commission will directly support programs that protect critical watershed ecosystems, steward recreational access, educate both adults and youth, and advance sustainable transportation solutions—ensuring the Central Wasatch remains healthy, accessible, and resilient for generations to come.

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 the direct stewardship, education, and transportation benefits described above, this work creates meaningful long-term social, environmental, and community benefits for the Central Wasatch and the people who rely on it.

Through Save Our Canyons Kids (SOCKids), SOC brings watershed and public lands education directly into schools where students often do not have regular access to the Central Wasatch due to financial, transportation, or logistical barriers. Many of these schools are located on the West side of the Salt Lake Valley and surrounding communities, where families may not have the means, time, or equipment to recreate in the Wasatch on their own.

By meeting students where they are, both in the classroom and through supported outdoor experiences, SOCKids:

- Connects youth to the Central Wasatch as their public land and water source
- Builds environmental literacy around watersheds, recreation impacts, and conservation
- Introduces students to responsible recreation and stewardship values they may not otherwise encounter
- Expands who feel welcome, represented, and invested in the future of the Wasatch



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These benefits extend well beyond individual participants. When students understand where their drinking water comes from and how public lands function, they carry that knowledge back to their families and communities, broadening public awareness and support for watershed protection, sustainable recreation, and transportation solutions.

Over time, this work helps cultivate a more informed, diverse, and engaged user base—one that understands the importance of protecting the Central Wasatch even if they are not frequent visitors today. That broader sense of shared ownership strengthens long-term conservation outcomes, reduces user conflicts, and supports policies that protect ecosystem health while maintaining access for all.

By pairing hands-on wilderness stewardship with intentional youth education, this project not only addresses current impacts to the Central Wasatch but also invests in the next generation of stewards, advocates, and decision-makers—ensuring the Wasatch remains protected, relevant, and valued by the full region it serves.