

SAVE OUR CANYONS

Lone Peak Wilderness Wag Bag Kiosk Refill and Continuity Project” description:

The Lone Peak Wilderness Area is one of the most unique, high alpine regions of the Wasatch Mountains. Host to iconic granite walls and delicate high elevation meadows. This area is a beacon to people seeking refuge from the city heat below while they enjoy climbing, hiking and camping. In 2017, Save Our Canyons (SOC) became aware of the degradation to this area from human waste and lack of “Leave No Trace” ethics amongst visitors. To help address this problem SOC with our partners at Salt Lake Climbers Alliance, Draper City, and the U.S. Forest Service constructed and installed a “Wag Bag Kiosk” at the Jacob’s Ladder trailhead. The “Wag Bag Kiosk” was installed with educational signage to provide visitors with the information needed to protect our watershed, user experience and the habitat of this alpine area in the absence of toilet facilities.

COVID-19 has altered and impacted our daily lives and community connectivity. It will be critical to come out of the state mandated quarantine with the tools to educate public lands users about the processes to help steward these lands and conserve the wildness and beauty of the Wasatch Mountains.

Since implementation, this project has been extremely successful and while we don’t have data to express the improvement to water quality, we have seen a great reduction in rogue toiletries and human waste over the last three seasons. We request your support of \$1,000 to allow SOC to purchase a 2020 season supply of solid and liquid waste bags which we will stock this kiosk with for as long as the supplies last.

Project Work Plan and Timeline:

Thus far, the upkeep and refilling of the kiosk has been a joint effort. We have worked with the Gear Room SLC staff, Salt Lake Climbers Alliance staff and volunteer and Save Our Canyons staff and volunteers to monitor and refill the kiosk as needed.

Having the support of the Central Wasatch Commission will allow us to replenish our stocks at the SOC office where volunteers will be able to stop to pick up supplies on their way to the Lone Peak Wilderness Area. Last season, our refill schedule took place on a needs basis. We had open communication between all three parties as well as posting to SOC’s social media to ask for people to let us know when the kiosk needed to be refilled. This upcoming season our work plan will be to monitor the kiosk weekly, creating a shared document to catalogue when the kiosk was filled, by whom and how many bags were needed.

The kiosk capacity is 20 bags. We plan, though this is uncertain due to self-isolation and social distancing requirements, to begin to stock the kiosk on June 1 through the end of September. This 16-week work plan will require 320 bags at a weekly refill rate. Our request of \$1,000 dollars will allow us to have a stock of bags to ensure we can handle a higher demand that may occur.

Project Lead:

Alex Schmidt, Save Our Canyons Campaigns Coordinator

Project Budget:

Wag Bag cost per unit = \$2.51

Wag Bag units needed = 400

Wag Bag total cost = \$1,007.80

Breakdown:

20 units (\$50.20 per refill) at one refill per week for 16 weeks equals \$803.20

Additional order of 80 Wag Bags to subsidize higher demand equals \$1007.80

Total requested from Central Wasatch Commission:

\$1000.00

[\(<http://www.cleanwaste.com/shop/index.php?PageLayout=SHOW%20CART>\)](http://www.cleanwaste.com/shop/index.php?PageLayout=SHOW%20CART)

File Code: 2300
Date: April 22, 2020

Central Wasatch Commission
41 N Rio Grande Street, Suite 102
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

To the Central Wasatch Commission,

The Salt Lake Ranger District of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest supports the application of Save Our Canyons for their proposed Lone Peak Wilderness Wag Bag Kiosk Refill and Continuity Project.

This proposal provides for the continuation of a program valuable for its positive environmental impact, educational component, and support of a quality recreation experience. As more users are drawn to the striking backcountry destinations in our National Forest, an increased stewardship effort is desired to help ensure the stability of sensitive environments like the Lone Peak Wilderness. Unfortunately, the impact of human waste is an issue which is often overlooked.

Although many recreators may not be familiar with the use of wag-bags for human waste disposal, they are an important part of responsible recreation in high-use, sensitive environments. This program provides users with both an introduction to responsible human-waste management practices in the backcountry and the actual materials to implement those practices. The wag bag kiosk helps to present and normalize the idea of wag-bag usage and hopefully produces a greater comfort with the idea of responsibly packing-out human waste when recreating in sensitive areas. Protection of water quality, a reduced amount of exposed human waste, increased positive user experience, and maintenance of the wilderness experience are all anticipated outcomes of this proposal which are in line with the mission of the Salt Lake Ranger District and the stewardship of our National Forest.

We recommend this project be funded in full and would look forward to this project serving and educating another season of recreators.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hotze
District Ranger

