



Alaska Community Forestry Program

2020 Grant Opportunity

***Prunus padus* & *Prunus virginiana* Control Grants**

The USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the DNR, Division of Forestry, Urban and Community Forestry Program (CFP) and Forest Health Program have grant monies available to local governments and non-profits to control invasive *Prunus padus*, commonly known as European bird cherry (EBC), chokecherry or mayday trees and *Prunus virginiana*, commonly known as Canadian red and chokecherry. The *Prunus padus* & *Prunus virginiana* Control Grants are 100% cost-reimbursable grants. Proposals are being accepted and funded until the grant funding is exhausted.

Introduced in Alaska as attractive ornamentals *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana* have been deemed invasive species, plants that can greatly affect native ecosystems.

Prunus padus is especially aggressive and is now rapidly invading riparian streams and natural forests in Southcentral Alaska and Fairbanks.

- *Prunus padus* can take over the understory of forests and forms thickets where native plants once grew.
- *Prunus* can be fatal to moose that graze on the bark, which contains naturally occurring cyanide.
- When compared to native streamside vegetation, EBC growing along Anchorage creeks has been shown to produce significantly less insect biomass. Insects falling into the creeks from streamside vegetation are known to be a critical food resource for juvenile salmonids. As EBC displaces native vegetation along Alaska's waterways, it may adversely affect salmon populations over time.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/303866087_Invasive_European_bird_cherry_Prunus_padus_reduces_terrestrial_prey_subsidies_to_urban_Alaskan_salmon_streams

Project Description

The USFS and the CFP will provide grant monies to local governments and non-profits to control the spread of *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana*.

Project goals include the documentation of prominent *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana* locations, training of additional certified Integrated Pest Management consultants and applicators, and the control/reduction of significant stands of *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana*. Grantees may use some combination of manual, mechanical, and/or chemical control methods to achieve management goals.

Early detection, rapid response, treatment and control of new or isolated locations of *Prunus* species is also a primary goal.

These funds will be granted to awardees who have knowledge and commitment to controlling *Prunus* species in their communities.

Eligible costs for grant monies:

- A. Using remote sensing methods such as Treeworks, iTree or other GIS methods to map areas of *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana*.
- B. Purchase of computer software which will aid in the mapping and reporting of the project.
- C. Conducting public outreach activities/events specifically geared toward educating the public about the invasiveness of these two species and alternative, non-invasive ornamental plants.
- D. Community education, multi-media, social media and public outreach material development.
- E. Training of staff necessary to complete the funded project (training must be specified in the grant proposal and agreement).
- F. Project management (planning, administration, and follow-up monitoring).
- G. Hiring crews or contracting work to control *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana* through Integrated Pest Management techniques.
- H. Purchase of materials and supplies for Integrated Pest Management.
- I. Equipment rental or lease (leases must be specified in the grant proposal and agreement).
- J. Organizing community volunteer weed pulls.
- K. Other items as determined by the grant review committee.

Grant applications that include partnerships between local governments and local or regional non-profits are encouraged. Grant applications that leverage additional work through in-kind services, volunteer labor, and cash are also encouraged.

Applicants may apply for up to **\$25,000**. Approximately **\$200,000** is available to fund projects.

Management of the grants will be conducted by the CFP. Grants will be awarded for up to three years. Grant awardees will be responsible for submitting a final report.

Mail or deliver proposal to:

Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
Community Forestry Program
550 W. Seventh Avenue, Suite 1450
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

OR

Email proposal to:

communityforestry@alaska.gov

For additional information contact:

Josh Hightower
Community Assistance Forester
josh.hightower@alaska.gov
907-269-8466

OR

Jim Renkert
Community Forestry Coordinator
jim.renkert@alaska.gov
907-269-8465

Mission of the Alaska Community Forestry Program:

Help communities build effective, self-sustaining community forestry programs with strong local support.

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