



## Alaska Community Forestry Program

### 2021 Grant Opportunity

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

### Phase II

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. Applications must be returned by April 9, 2021.

Introduced in Alaska as attractive ornamentals for yards and community park lands *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana* have begun to reproduce on their own and spread to greenbelts and forestlands. They are creating monocultures in some areas that are impacting and displacing native Alaska trees, shrubs and forbs.

*Prunus padus* is especially aggressive and is now rapidly invading riparian streams and natural forests in Fairbanks, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Municipality of Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and Juneau.

- *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\\_preyn\\_subsidies\\_to\\_urban\\_Alaskan\\_salmon\\_streams](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/303866087_Invasive_European_bird_cherry_Prunus_padus_reduces_terrestrial_preyn_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 **\$100,000** 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.

**NOTE:** *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana* are not currently listed as noxious weeds and are not regulated or prohibited under the Alaska Administrative Code. The Division of Forestry will assist cooperators who wish to remove and/or replace these trees on a voluntary basis.

**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](mailto:communityforestry@alaska.gov)

**For additional information contact:**

Josh Hightower  
Community Assistance Forester  
[josh.hightower@alaska.gov](mailto:josh.hightower@alaska.gov)  
907-269-8466

OR

Jim Renkert  
Community Forestry Coordinator  
[jim.renkert@alaska.gov](mailto: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.***

Grant funds provided to the State of Alaska Division of Forestry from the USDA Forest Service.

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