



# Alaska Community Forestry Program 2026 Grant Opportunities Invasive Tree Grants Round III



Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection  
550 W. Seventh Ave., Suite 1450, Anchorage, AK 99501 / 907-269-8466 / <http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/>

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## **1. Introduction**

The USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Fire Protection, Community Forestry Program (CFP), have Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) grant monies available to local governments, state agencies, tribal organizations, non-profits, and other non-federal entities for projects in Alaska communities.

Monies are available to control invasive *Prunus padus*, commonly known as European bird cherry, chokecherry or mayday trees and *Prunus virginiana*, commonly known as Canada red and chokecherry trees. These are 100% reimbursable grants and will be awarded on a competitive basis. No match funding is required. Grants will be awarded for up to 2 years. Applications must be received by May 29, 2026.

### **1.1 Background**

Introduced in Alaska as attractive ornamentals for yards and community parks *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana* have begun to spread into greenbelts and native forestlands. In many parts of the state, they are creating monocultures and displacing native Alaska trees, shrubs and forbs.

These species are aggressively invading riparian zones and native forests in Fairbanks, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Municipality of Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and Juneau.

- *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana* can take over the understory of forests and form thickets where native plants once grew.
- *Prunus* can be fatal to moose that graze on the bark, which contains naturally occurring cyanide.<sup>1</sup>
- When compared to native streamside vegetation, *Prunus padus* 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 *padus* displaces native vegetation along Alaska's waterways, it may adversely affect salmon populations over time.<sup>2</sup>

The purpose of these grants is to supplement local funds and resources to assist in the control of *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana* infestations in Alaska. Grantees may use a combination of manual, mechanical, and/or chemical control methods to achieve management goals.

Successful applicants will have knowledge of and commitment to controlling invasive *Prunus* species in their communities. Project goals include the documentation of prominent *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana* locations, training of additional Integrated Pest Management consultants and Certified Pesticide Applicators, and the control/reduction of significant stands of *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana*.

Early detection, rapid response, and control of new or isolated locations of *Prunus* species are also primary goals.

## **2. Eligibility Requirements**

- Eligible groups include all non-federal organizations, state agencies, local governments, cooperative weed management areas, soil and water conservation districts, registered non-profits, local communities, public and state-controlled institutions of higher education, Alaska Native organizations, federally recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations and villages, and Tribal organizations as defined in 25 USC 5304 (I).
- Eligible applicants may apply for funding for projects conducted on non-federal public lands, including state lands, university lands, borough lands, local government and municipal lands, Tribal/Alaska Native Corporation lands and land held in trust for Native American Tribes and individuals (includes Trust lands).
- Projects or activities on private property are permitted upon meeting specific requirements. If you are considering a project on private property, please contact CFP for details.
- Awardees will be responsible for submitting quarterly progress reports and a final report following project completion.
- Awardees will be required to report accomplishments for the periods ending June 30 and December 31 to the public facing Trees at Work reporting dashboard.
- Awardees will be required to provide a Universal Entity Identifier (UEI) system number. Instructions on how to find your organization's UEI, or register for a new UEI can be found at [sam.gov/content/duns-uei](https://sam.gov/content/duns-uei)

## **3. How can the grant be used?**

Grant funds must be used to control the spread of *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana* in Alaska.

- Minimum Grant Request: \$10,000  
*For grants under \$10,000, contact CFP.*
- Maximum Grant Request: \$40,000

### **3.1 Eligible Cost Examples**

The following outlines eligible activities and costs for both grant expenditures and cost share contributions.

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

### **3.2 Ineligible Costs**

- Activities not identified in the application and approved grant agreement (exceptions can be granted during the field season with approval from the CFP).
- Construction and capital improvements. Examples of ineligible construction costs include facilities, roads, new buildings, culverts, and boardwalks.

- Educational and research organizations proposing projects that do not show tangible, on-the ground benefit.
- Organizations seeking funding for litigation or advocacy.
- Organizations seeking general operating or programmatic support.
- Activities federal agencies are required to perform.
- Other items as determined by the grant review committee.
- Equipment purchase.

#### **4. Grant Selection Criteria**

Applications will be scored and evaluated by a grant review committee. Selection criteria will include project feasibility, demonstration of a well-organized plan and budget, anticipated benefits to ecosystem health, and location within an area of priority interest according to the 2020 Alaska State Forest Action Plan.

Grant applications that include partnerships between local governments and local or regional non-profits are encouraged.

Grants that take place in communities or areas considered “disadvantaged” or “distressed” as shown in the AK Disadvantaged Communities webmap or Denali Commission 2025 Distressed Communities Report will receive priority consideration.

[AK Disadvantaged Communities \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

[Denali Commission 2025 Distressed Communities Report](#)

Virtually all Alaska communities off the road system are classified as disadvantaged. All federally recognized Tribes, including Alaska Native villages, are designated as disadvantaged although they may not be within census tracts that are designated as such.

If you are unsure if a project in your community falls within a disadvantaged or distressed area, please contact our office.

#### **5. Application Process**

Complete the 4-page application. Proposals are **due no later than 11:59 p.m., on Friday, May 29, 2026**. Management of the grants will be conducted by the CFP. All completed proposals will be reviewed by a grant committee. The state and grantee will sign a grant agreement and funds will be paid to the grantee upon receipt of the final report.

##### **5.1 Project Details and Activities**

Please submit the following information as an attachment along with your application:

- Details regarding invasive tree surveys, treatment, and outreach plans. Be sure to include:
  - Location of infestations.
  - Locations of sloped terrain and erosion control methods.
  - Size of infestation (acres).
  - Control methods.
  - Required permitting from government agencies.
  - Plan for disposal of debris following tree removal operations.

- If proposing survey for presence of invasives include details on survey plan, areas of priority interest, and methodology.
- If proposing the use of herbicides provide proof of certification of field or professional training integrated Pest Management. List herbicide application methods and type of herbicides that will be used in the project as well as mitigation methods for environmental protection.

## **6. Target Dates**

The following dates are targets for each step in the selection process. After the proposal submittal, these dates may require adjustment.

Proposals due:	<b>May 29, 2026</b>
Grant review committee reviews proposals:	<b>June 1 – June 19</b>
Projects selected:	<b>June 22 – June 26</b>
Project timelines and grant agreement finalized:	<b>June 29 – July 20</b>

## **7. Resources**

- <sup>1</sup> Alaska Department of Fish and Game: Cyanide-poisoned Moose - Ornamental Chokecherry Tree a Devil in Disguise  
[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.view\\_article&articles\\_id=501](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.view_article&articles_id=501)
- <sup>2</sup> Invasive European bird cherry (*Prunus padus*) reduces terrestrial prey subsidies to urban Alaskan salmon streams  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/303866087\\_Invasive\\_European\\_bird\\_cherry\\_Prunus\\_padus\\_reduces\\_terrestrial\\_pre\\_subsidies\\_to\\_urban\\_Alaskan\\_salmon\\_streams](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/303866087_Invasive_European_bird_cherry_Prunus_padus_reduces_terrestrial_pre_subsidies_to_urban_Alaskan_salmon_streams)
- Plant a Tree – Alaska’s Guide to Tree Selection, Planting and Care  
<https://forestry.alaska.gov/community/publications>
- American Standard for Nursery Stock.  
<https://www.americanhort.org/education/american-nursery-stock-standards/>
- This Beauty is a Beast! *Prunus padus* brochure  
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/Assets/pdfs/community/publications/This%20Beauty%20is%20a%20Beast%20Prunus%20Padus.pdf>
- Species Biography: *Prunus padus*  
[https://accs.uaa.alaska.edu/wp-content/uploads/Prunus\\_padus\\_BIO\\_PRPA5.pdf](https://accs.uaa.alaska.edu/wp-content/uploads/Prunus_padus_BIO_PRPA5.pdf)
- Species Biography: *Prunus virginiana*  
[https://accs.uaa.alaska.edu/wp-content/uploads/Prunus\\_virginiana\\_BIO\\_PRVI.pdf](https://accs.uaa.alaska.edu/wp-content/uploads/Prunus_virginiana_BIO_PRVI.pdf)
- UAF Cooperative Extension Service: Control of Invasive Chokecherry Trees  
[Invasive Plant Issues: Control of Invasive Chokecherry Trees | Cooperative Extension Service](https://www.uaf.edu/extension/invasive-plant-issues-control-of-invasive-chokecherry-trees/)

## **8. Contact**

<b>Mail or deliver proposal to:</b>	<b>Email proposal to:</b>	<b>For additional information contact:</b>
Alaska Community Forestry Program	<a href="mailto:CommunityForestry@alaska.gov">CommunityForestry@alaska.gov</a>	Josh Hightower, Community Forestry Program Coordinator
550 W. 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Ste 1450		Josh.hightower@alaska.gov
Anchorage, AK 99501		907-269-8466

**Mission of the Alaska Community Forestry Program:**

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

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