

# Alaska Community Forestry Program

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

### Phase III

Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry  
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#### **1. Introduction**

The USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, 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 Canada red and chokecherry trees. The *Prunus padus* & *Prunus virginiana* Control Grants are 100% cost-reimbursable grants. Applications must be returned by March 11, 2022.

#### **1.1. Background**

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.<sup>1</sup>
- 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.<sup>2</sup>

**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.

#### **2. 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, and Alaska Native organizations.
- Applicants may apply for up to \$25,000.00. Approximately \$100,000.00 is available to fund projects.

- Grants will be awarded for up to two years. Projects selected in 2022 must be completed, and completion reports submitted by December 31, 2023.
- Awardees will be responsible for submitting a final report.
- Herbicide application must be performed by DEC Certified Pesticide Applicators.
- All tree material (branches, trunk, stumps) will be properly disposed to prevent sprouting and regeneration.
- Trees must be planted on non-federal public land and have a three-year maintenance plan.

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

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

#### **3.1. Eligible Cost Examples**

- Using remote sensing methods such as Treeworks, iTree or other GIS methods to map areas of *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana*.
- Purchase of computer software which will aid in the mapping and reporting of the project.
- Conducting public outreach activities/events specifically geared toward educating the public about the invasiveness of these two species and 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 for Integrated Pest Management.
- 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 proposed grant expenditures or cost share application (exceptions can be granted during the field season with approval from the CFP).
- 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.

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

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*. 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.

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.

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

Complete the 4-page application. Proposals are due no later than **March 11, 2022**. 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.

#### **6. Target Dates**

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

- Proposals due: **March 11, 2022**
- Grant review committee reviews proposals: **March 14 – April 1, 2022**
- Projects selected: **April 13, 2022**
- Project timelines and grant agreement finalized: **April 27, 2022**

#### **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\\_p\\_adus\\_reduces\\_terrestrial\\_pre\\_y\\_subsidies\\_to\\_urban\\_Alaskan\\_salmon\\_streams](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/303866087_Invasive_European_bird_cherry_Prunus_p_adus_reduces_terrestrial_pre_y_subsidies_to_urban_Alaskan_salmon_streams)
- Plant a Tree – Alaska’s Guide to Tree Selection, Planting and Care.  
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/Assets/pdfs/community/publications/plant%20a%20tree%20web.pdf>
- 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  
[http://cespubs.uaf.edu/index.php/download\\_file/1544/](http://cespubs.uaf.edu/index.php/download_file/1544/)

## **8. Contact**

**Mail or deliver proposal to:** Alaska Community Forestry Program  
550 W. Seventh Avenue, Suite 1450  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

**Email proposal to:** [communityforestry@alaska.gov](mailto:communityforestry@alaska.gov)

**For additional information contact:** Jim Renkert, Community Forestry Program Coordinator  
[jim.renkert@alaska.gov](mailto:jim.renkert@alaska.gov)  
907-269-8465

OR

Josh Hightower, Community Assistance Forester  
[josh.hightower@alaska.gov](mailto:josh.hightower@alaska.gov)  
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**Mission of the Alaska Community Forestry Program:**

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

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