

**2014 - 2015 Secure Rural Schools  
Public Law 110-343  
Title II Project Submission Form  
USDA Forest Service**

**Name of Resource Advisory Committee:**  
**Project Number** (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):\_  
**Funding Fiscal Year(s):**

<b>2. Project Name: Protecting our ecosystems - Chugach Cooperative Invasive Weed Management</b>	<b>3a. State: AK</b> <b>3b. County(s): Anchorage and Kenai Boroughs</b>
<b>4. Project Submitted By:</b> Matt Steffy (Homer Soil and Water Conservation District) Tim Stallard (Anchorage Cooperative Weed Management Area) Betty Charnon (US Forest Service)	<b>5. Date: June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016</b> <b>Revised November 3, 2016</b>
<b>6. Contact Phone Number:</b> Steffy 235-8177 x117 Stallard 347-2214 Charnon 754-2326	<b>7. Contact E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:matt@homerswcd.org">matt@homerswcd.org</a> <a href="mailto:weeds.free.ak@gmail.com">weeds.free.ak@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:bcharnon@fs.fed.us">bcharnon@fs.fed.us</a>

<b>8. Project Location: Chugach State Park to Kenai Peninsula (see site list)</b>	
a. National Forest(s): Chugach National Forest	b. Forest Service District: Glacier and Seward Ranger District(s)
c. Location (Township-Range-Section): Anchorage and Kenai Boroughs	

<b>9. Project Goals and Objectives:</b>
<p>Background: Harmful invasive species can cause environmental and/or economic damage. Collectively they are one of the greatest threats to global biodiversity and stable ecosystems today. Highly invasive plants are defined by their ability to invade and disrupt native ecosystems.</p> <p>Alaska is in a unique position due to our millions of acres of intact ecosystems. Invasive plants are relatively rare outside of urban areas and transportation corridors (see overview map); however, invasive plants are beginning to explode in urban areas and increasingly show up in our frontcountry areas. Invasive species have been likened to a biological wildfire. It's crucial that we promote prevention efforts and address the small 'spot fires' that are showing up at our trailheads, campgrounds, rights of way through public lands, and other front country sites and any backcountry invasive populations. Taking steps to contain the invasives to the urban areas and prevent further spread to frontcountry and backcountry public lands are also critical.</p> <p>Goal:</p> <p>Protect Chugach National Forest and Southcentral Alaskan ecosystems from harmful invasive species by supporting the eradication of highly invasive species from backcountry areas and containing invasive species to the front country areas and transportation corridors.</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>Foster partnerships between agencies, local communities, non-profits, and citizens to implement</p>

cooperative invasive species control efforts.

This project will fund the coordination and implementation of regional invasive weed management efforts by the Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) and Anchorage CWMA in order to protect natural areas of the Chugach National Forest and Kenai Peninsula.

The goals and objectives for this project are to continue fostering and creating new partnerships with various land owners, land managers, communities, and local organizations in the effort to contain or eradicate invasive plant populations and reintroduce native species

### 10. Project Description:

a. Brief: (*in one sentence*) This project will foster partnerships between agencies, local communities, non-profits, and citizens to implement cooperative invasive species control efforts protect the Chugach National Forest and Southcentral Alaska's ecosystems from harmful invasive species and allow native species to rebound.

b. Detailed: With this proposal, the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District will continue previous partnership efforts with the Forest Service to build upon successful cooperative weed management programs in Girdwood, Hope, Seward, Cooper Landing and other communities neighboring the Chugach National Forest. A collaborative effort with multiple partners is critical in this project since many high priority infestations occur across multiple land owners. This proposal is occurring at a crucial time because funding has decreased due to lack of capacity. This project contains the following components to ensure success:

- a. **Control of high priority infestations:** control work would be conducted on high priority invasive plant species that have been identified by the FS and their partners (list of species and map of treatment areas attached). The most appropriate and cost-effective means of mitigation, based on sound Invasive Plant Management practices will be utilized depending on the species and extent of infestation. Sites will be re-vegetated as needed in order to restore native plants to the area. In order to maximize funds, some volunteer work crews would be used, including the American Hiking Society, Alaska Geographic society, and local volunteers. In past years, over 100 volunteers per season participated in community weed pulls in dozens of high priority infestation areas. Funds would go towards supplies/materials (bags, trowels, gloves etc.), local project coordinator, and contracted control work. Priority sites include eradicating invasive European bird cherry (mayday) trees in Hope, recently discovered infestations of orange hawkweed, other high priority invasive species on the Kenai Peninsula as shown in the attached map.
- b. **Native species revegetation:** Native plant seeds will be collected and areas receiving control work will be re-vegetated with native species.

### 11. Types of Lands Involved?

State/Private/Other lands involved?  Yes  No

**Land Status: Multiple owners**

If Yes, specify: State land, Municipality land, private land, and NFS land

### 12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)

Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.

X Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.
X Restores and improves land health.
Restores water quality

<b>13. Project Type</b>	
a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)	
Road Maintenance	Trail Maintenance
Road Decommission/Obliteration	Trail Obliteration
Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):	
Soil Productivity Improvement	Forest Health Improvement
Watershed Restoration & Maintenance	Wildlife Habitat Restoration
Fish Habitat Restoration	X Control of Noxious Weeds
X Reestablish Native Species	Fuels Management/Fire Prevention
Implement CWPP Project	Other Project Type (specify):
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1): Control of Noxious Weeds	

<b>14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish</b>
Miles of road maintained:
Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:
Number of structures maintained/improved:
Acres of soil productivity improved:
Miles of stream/river restored/improved: <b>1/4 mile</b>
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:
Acres of native species reestablished: <b>2</b>
Acres of hazardous fuel treatment
Miles of trail maintained:
Miles of trail obliterated:
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved:
Acres of noxious weeds controlled: <b>15</b>
Timber volume generated (mbf):
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks: <b>0.3 FTE</b>
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention): <b>250 directly</b>
Direct economic activity benefit:
Other:

<b>15. Estimated Project Start Date: 01/15/17</b>	<b>16. Estimated Project Completion Date: 12/31/18</b>
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**17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.**  
Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area, Alaska Native Plant Society, Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, Anchorage Cooperative Weed Management Area, Girdwood Parks and Recreation, Alyeska Resort, Seward Parks and Recreation, Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, Kenai Watershed Forum, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District, Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, State DOT, Alaska State Parks, UAF Cooperative Extension Service, UAA Center of Environmental Stewardship, Alaska Sealife Center, Four Valleys Community School, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Municipality of Anchorage, Kenai Fjords National Park, Girdwood School, Cooper Landing School, Hope School, Hope, Inc., Hope Historical Society, Moose Pass School, Seward Schools, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Citizens Against Noxious Weeds Invading the North (CANWIN) and concerned citizens.

**18. Identify benefits to communities.**

Invasive plants can harm agriculture, property values, and natural resources (salmon, berries, scenery, etc.) that Alaskan’s rely on for food, fun, and work. While harmful species are exploding in Anchorage, relatively few invasive plants exist in the Chugach National Forest and adjacent communities. Early detection of invasive plants and a rapid response allow us the opportunity to eradicate these harmful non-native species before they can become widespread and degrade our relatively pristine natural resources that are important to local communities.

Too often, the harm these species cause and associated problems are not widely recognized until its too late. Partnerships developed through this project will help inform and engage Alaskans in this region of the importance of and how to protect our pristine areas from harmful invasive species.

This project will support ongoing local community efforts in Hope and Girdwood and help revive community efforts in Seward and Cooper Landing to control harmful invasive weeds in Chugach NF frontcountry communities.

**19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?**

This project will protect federal lands and resources from harmful invasive plant species by eradicating high priority infestations, addressing vectors for spread, and engaging local communities in invasive weed prevention, identification, and eradication.

Improved forest health contributes to improved fish and wildlife resources, which are critical to this region’s economy. Through the strong leadership of a local Invasive Plant Coordinator, these citizens and land managers will continue to actively contribute to the education and removal of invasive plants. The benefits of maintaining forest health by the removal of invasive plants has been repeatedly proven. Most non-natives do not invade readily into areas where native plants are already well established (Bradley, 1997). The Chugach National Forest currently has an ecological balance that must be protected by keeping the native plant communities intact for wildlife, locals and visitors.

<b>20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment?</b> (check at least 1)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/> Americorps	<input type="checkbox"/> YCC/CCC Crews
<input type="checkbox"/> Job Corps	<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Contract
<input type="checkbox"/> Merchantable Timber Pilot	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):

**21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Timber?** Yes  No

<b>22. Anticipated Project Costs</b>
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$15,000
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:**

**24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)**

- c. a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this

project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.

d. b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:

c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):

**25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.**

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

X Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.

Other, please explain:

**Project Recommended By:**

*/s/ (INSERT Signature)*

**Chairperson**

Resource Advisory Committee

**Project Approved By:**

*/s/ (INSERT Signature)*

**Forest Supervisor**

National Forest

# Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

## Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

Item	Column A Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution	Column B Requested Title II Contribution	Column C Other Contributions	Column D Total Available Funds
a. Field Work & Site Surveys				
b. NEPA/CEQA				
c. ESA Consultation				
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering				
f. Contract/Grant Preparation				
g. Contract/Grant Administration	\$1000	\$1,500		\$2,500
h. Contract/Grant Cost		\$13,500		\$13,500
i. Salaries	\$6,500		\$10,000	\$16,500
j. Materials & Supplies	\$500		\$500	\$1,000
k. Monitoring	\$2,000		\$2,000	\$4,000
l. Other			\$20,760	\$20,760
1.				
2, Partner Indirect Cost				
m. Project Sub-Total	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$32,260	\$67,260
n. FS Indirect Costs				
<b>Total Cost Estimate</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$32,260</b>	<b>\$67,260</b>

### NOTES:

- a. Pre-NEPA Costs
- g. Includes Contracting/Grant Officer Representative (COR) costs. Excludes Contracting/Grant Officer costs.
- i. Cost of implementing project
- l. Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.
- n. Forest Service indirect costs, including contracting/grant officer costs if needed.

Detailed description of cost estimates included in the RAC proposal for Chugach Cooperative Invasive Weed Management:

- g. Column A – USFS administration costs. Column B - Homer Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD) administration costs.
- h. Contract Cost: \$9,000 for local coordinator to be hired through HSWCD, \$400 for travel and supplies for that position, \$1,500 for partner administration cost, \$4,100 for an invasive plants contractor to follow up with support for community-based control efforts of European bird cherry in Hope.
- i. Salaries - Column A - USFS staff time working on related / associated projects. Column C HSWCD or Kenai CWMA partners working on related / associated projects. This includes Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Chugach State Park, Kenai Fjords National Park, Alaska State Parks, Kenai Watershed Forum, Cooperative Extension Service, and KSWCD. Estimation is conservative, actual expenditures by these entities will most likely far exceed \$10,000.
- j. Supplies - includes garbage bags, hand tools, gas for weed wackers, personal protective equipment, etc.
- k. Column A - FS, Column C - HSWCD / Kenai CWMA partner monitoring.
- l. Other – includes known funded partner projects such as \$4,900 in work to be performed by Girdwood Parks and Recreation department on invasive weeds, \$5,000 in right-of-way work that will be performed by HSWCD on the upper Kenai Peninsula and \$10,860 in volunteer time based on previous seasons