

Mayday, Mayday – Alien trees are invading Alaska's forests

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Alien Species Control, LLC (Contractors for Anchorage Park Foundation)

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Executive Order 13112 defines invasive species as "...an alien (or non-native) species whose introduction does, or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health".

Only a small proportion of introduced species are invasive

European bird cherry

Prunus padus

- Native to northern Europe and Asia
- Introduced as an ornamental tree - No longer planted by MOA nor by informed citizens
- Produces sour cherries that are spread by birds.
- Vegetative reproduction by root and stem sprouts





October 14, 2014

Mayday: Highly invasive in Alaska

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Chokecherry trees are deadly treats for 3 Anchorage moose

TOXIC: Cyanide gas can kill calf in as little as 20 minutes.


By CASEY GROVE
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Three moose have died this year in Anchorage due to cyanide poisoning after eating from the European bird cherry tree, also known as Mayday and chokecherry, wildlife officials say.



The Alaska Department of Fish and Game says two calves died in January and a third in February after eating recently frozen buds, branches and berries from the trees. The third moose also ate Japanese yew.

The scientific name for the



enlarge
JIM LAVRAKAS / Anchorage Daily News file photo
European bird cherry trees, commonly called Maydays, overhang the Chester Creek Trail near Valley of The Moon Park in Anchorage.

Related Stories

- Ornamental plants suspected in death of moose calf (Feb. 18, 2006)

Wildlife features and coverage

Wildlife photo gallery

Extensive collection of images of Alaska animals roaming the wilderness and, in many cases, our own backyard.

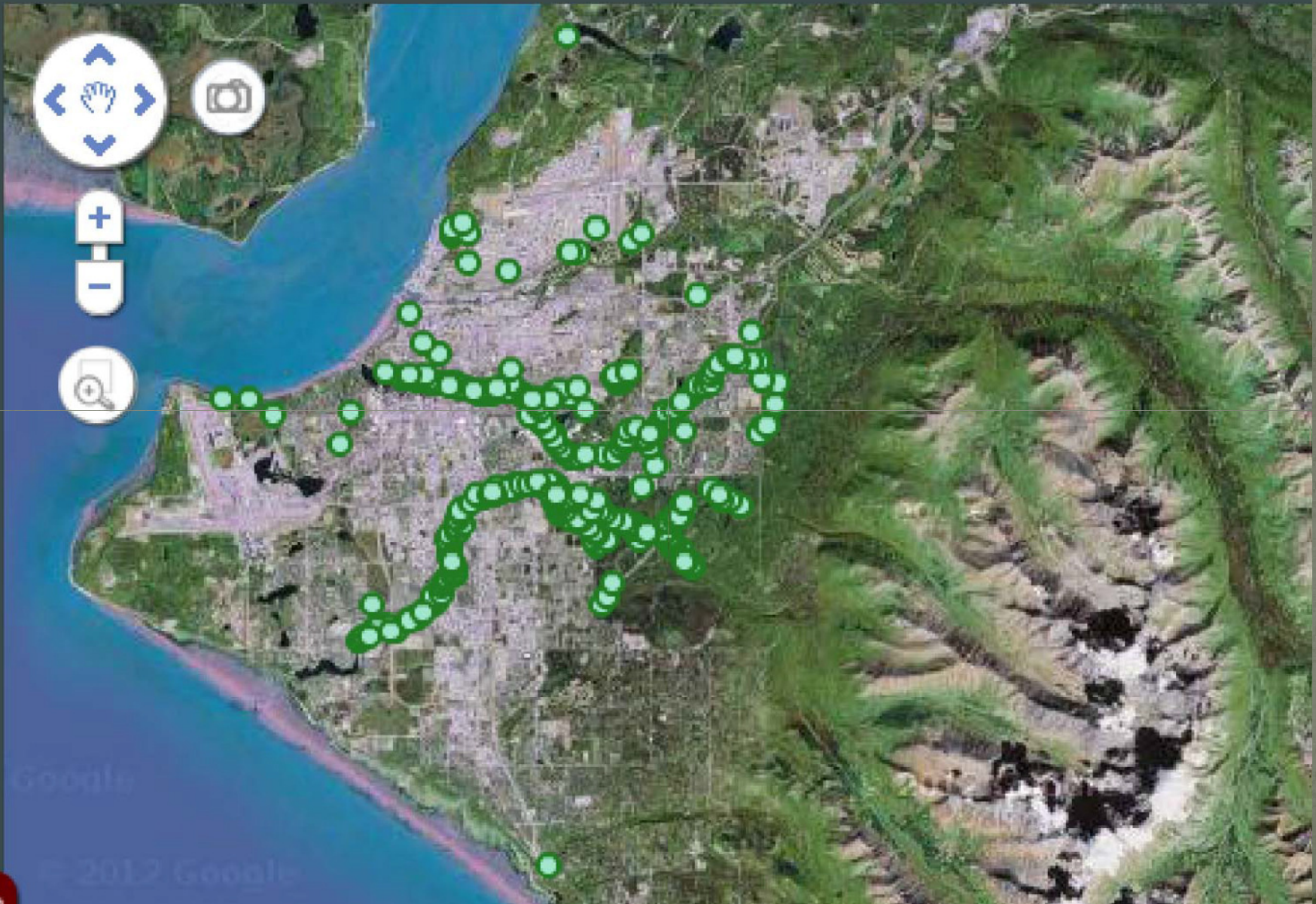
- Ranked 76 out of 100
- Crowds out native plants and forms dense monocultures
- Threatens food for moose and salmon
- In rare situations, can poison moose

AKEPIC Data Portal

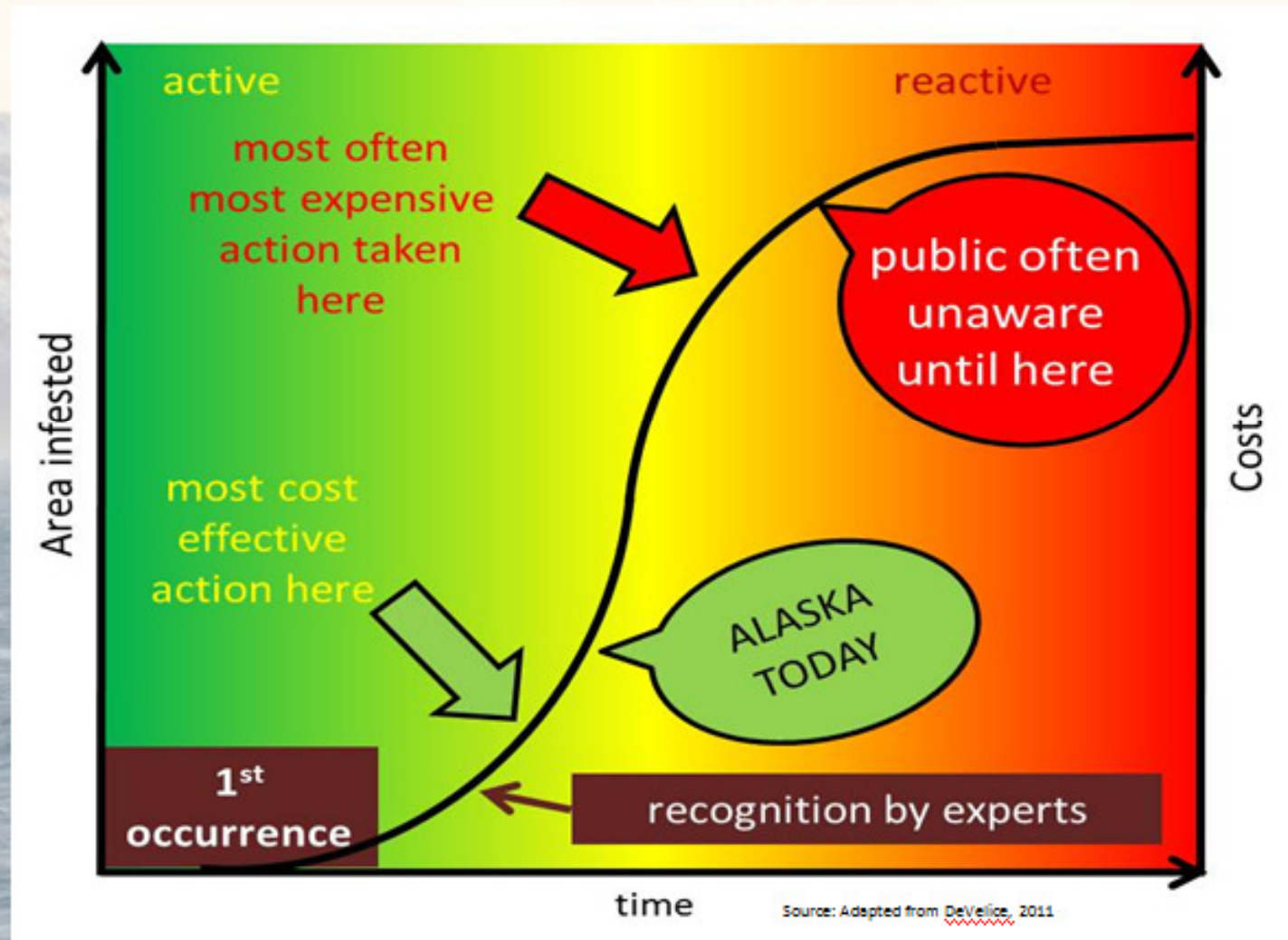


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As species establish, costs go up!



Taking over a forest near you



What can we do? The IPM Options:

- Prevention
 - Best approach, but challenging to implement
 - Discourage sale
- Manual removal
- Mechanical
- Chemical





Manual Removal



Effective on
smaller trees,
new infestations

Mechanical Control

- Counter productive
 - stimulates additional growth
- Stumps sprout
- Roots sucker
- Cut branches left behind can sprout new trees



Herbicide Control



- Only effective option for mature trees because it kills the roots
 - Cost and labor efficient
 - Very low risk options, applied directly to target plants
 - Garlon 4 Ultra (triclopyr) – very effective on woody brush – diluted with vegetable oil
-
- 2010 UAA Alaska Natural Heritage Program study recommended management begin with control of mature, fruit producing trees with DEC approved herbicides.

Proposed 2015 project for Chester GB

- Direct herbicide treatments to mature target trees by Tim Stallard and staff while trail is closed.
- Manual removal and spruce seedling planting w/ community volunteers.



2015 Rogers Park – bird cherry control

Chester Creek Greenbelt - forested area south of trail



Where do we go from here?

- Questions
- Comments
- Resolution

