

# Elodea Identification and Reporting: where it is not is as important as where it is



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# Meet ***Elodea*** – Alaska's first invasive aquatic plant

- *E. nuttallii*, *E. canadensis*
- Popular aquarium plant (“oxygen weed”)
- Though native to much of North America, not native to Alaska
- Cold tolerant, survives freezing, fragments easily, can root at nodes
- Potentially devastating impacts to aquatic resources including fish habitat, recreation, and water quality



(C) Paul Skawinski, 2009



# Identification



- Top: forms dense mats with branches at nodes
- Right: leaves in whorls of three around node, sometimes whorls of two at base
- Far right: Nodes with leaves are spaced every 1-2 centimeters



(C) Paul Skawinski, 2009



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Photo from [www.bugwood.org](http://www.bugwood.org)



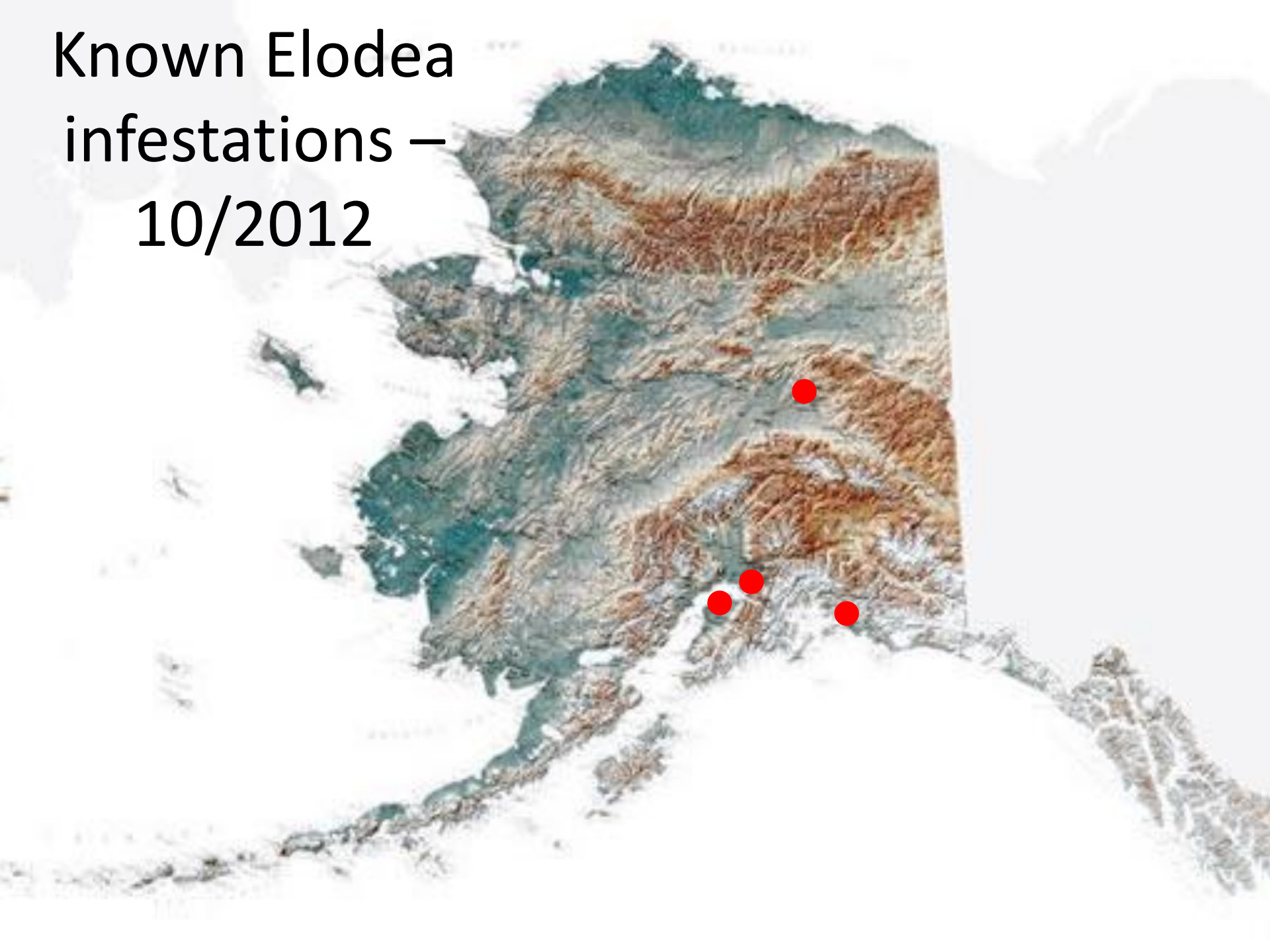
# Sometimes confused with

- Native mares tail  
*Hippuris* spp.
- Has whols of 4-12 not three
- Has spikes that emerge above the surface



Photo from [www.bugwood.org](http://www.bugwood.org)

# Known Elodea infestations – 10/2012



# Controlled with suction, raking, or herbicide



Photos courtesy Ryan Lane Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District



# Impacts

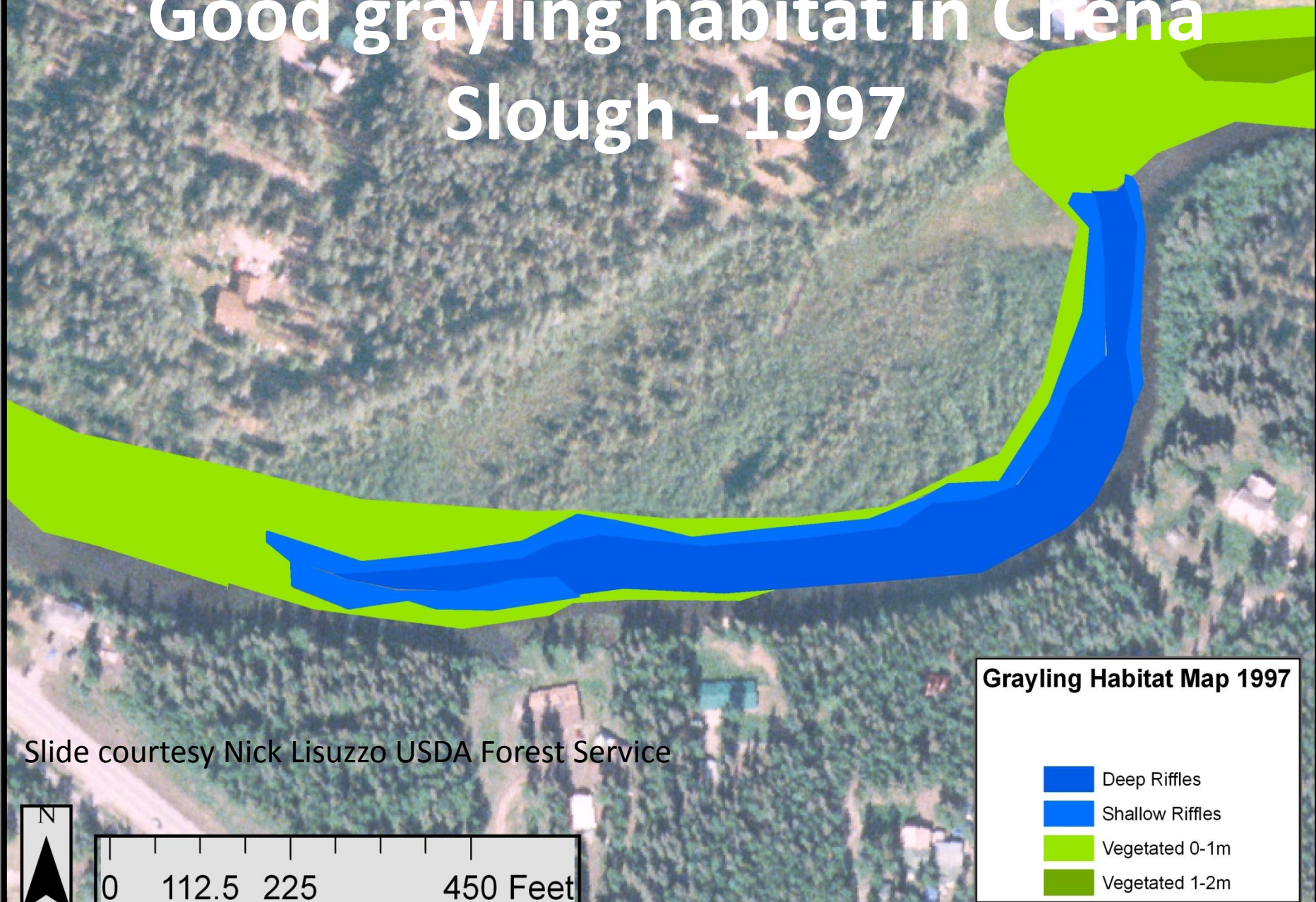
- Fishing opportunities
- Boat movement
- Float Planes



Photos courtesy Nick Lisuzzo, USDA Forest Service



# Good grayling habitat in Chena Slough - 1997



Slide courtesy Nick Lisuzzo USDA Forest Service



# Less quality grayling habitat in Chena Slough - 2011



Slide courtesy Nick Lisuzzo USDA Forest Service



## Grayling Habitat Map 2011

-  Deep Riffles
-  Shallow Riffles
-  Vegetated 0-1m
-  Vegetated 1-2m

# We need your observations!

- Take a look at your local lake or stream
- Report the location and
- Was there Elodea there?
- Was there not?
- Is there a notable increase in aquatic vegetation?
- Take pictures, but don't move the plants!



Photo courtesy Darcy Etcheverry, Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service