

Alaskans depend on our resources for food,  
culture, fun, and making a living

Invasive Species are potential ecosystem  
disrupters and threaten the resources we depend  
on

House Resources Committee – May 2019

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Alien Species  
Control, LLC



Alaska Invasive  
Species Partnership





Defining  
the  
problem

= Harm



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*

- Can poison moose
- Less food for salmon
- Forms monocultures
- Public safety problem
- Native to northern Europe and Asia
- Cherries spread by birds.
- Vegetative reproduction by root and stem sprouts





# European bird cherry / Mayday / Chokecherry contributing to public safety concerns





**Fairbanks is  
drowning in  
BIRD VETCH!**



**Just say "No" to cracca!**

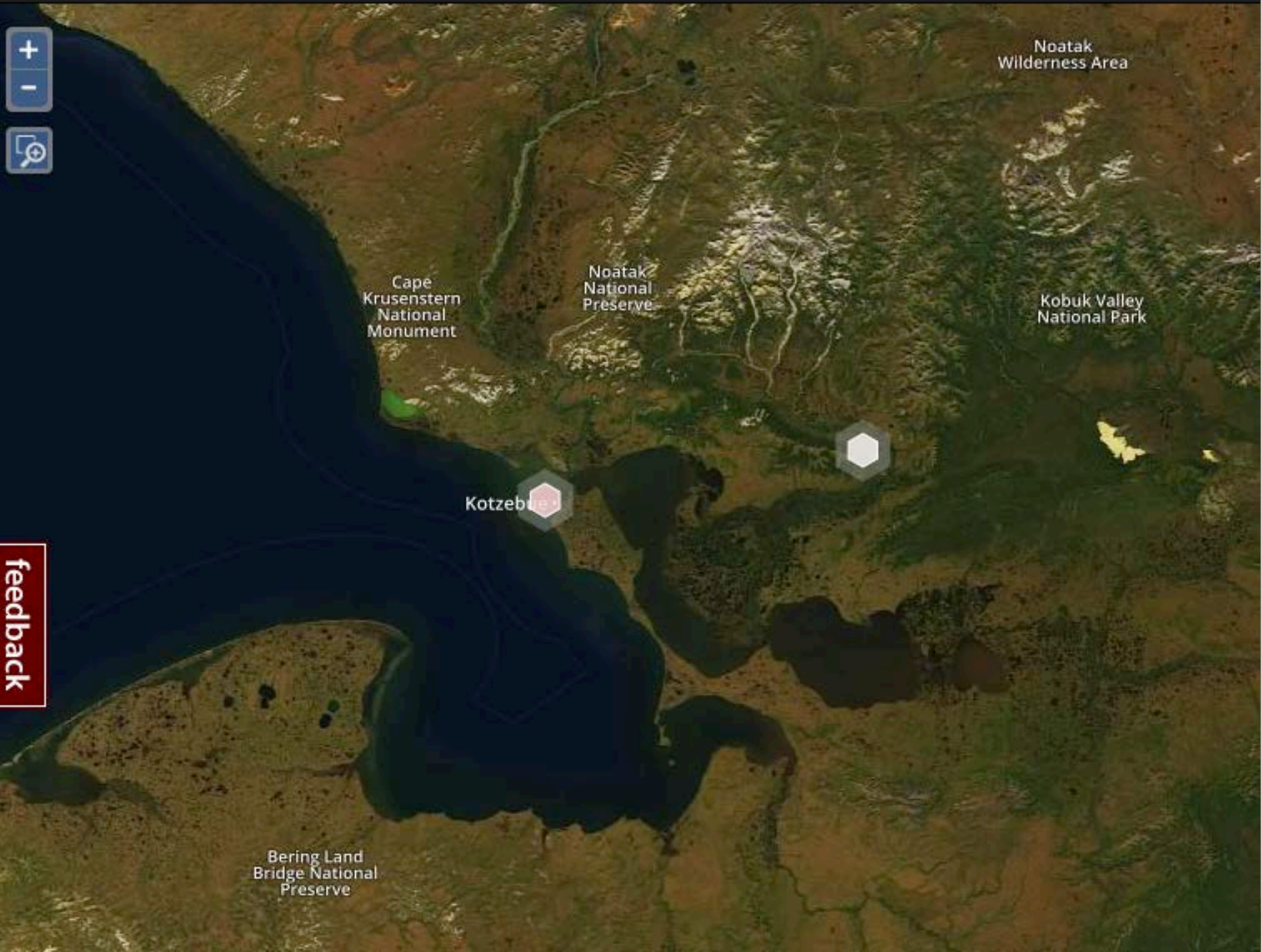




# ALASKA

Mark Kelly photo

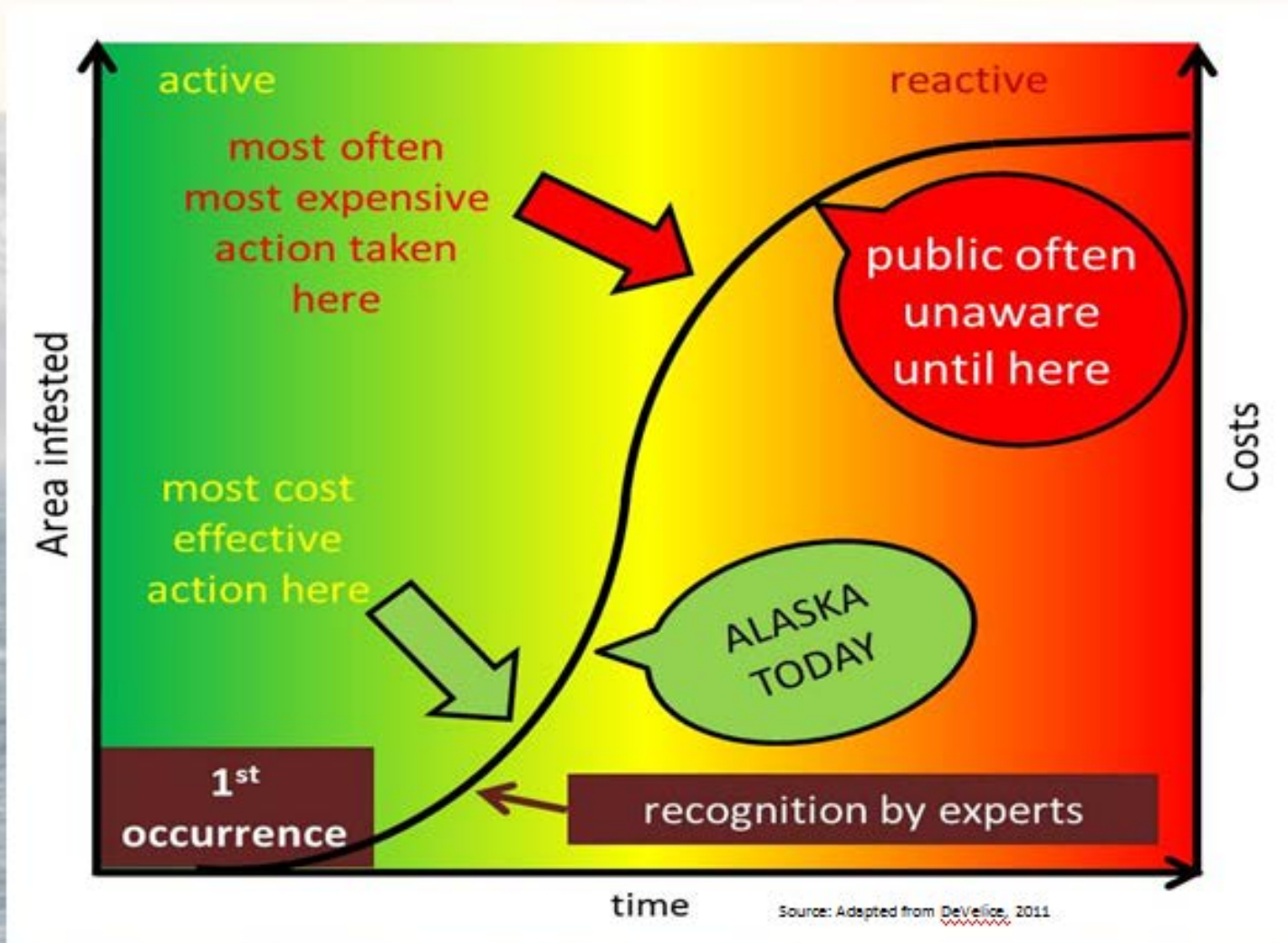




feedback



# As species establish, costs go up!



Invasive Species Curve – highlighting the 'Biological Wildfire'



# What can we do?

- Prevention
  - **Public education**
    - Engage the public to protect our resources
  - **Coordination**
    - Where are the problems, how can we prevent spread
  - **Smart Regulations**
    - Restrict harmful species
    - Inspections
- Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR)





# Alaska's approach to the invasive species biological wildfire?



- Piecemeal
- Grant funded
- Dependent on federal funds
- Dependent on non-profit partners
- Informal coordination



# What can Alaska do better



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!™**

Be A Good Steward.  
Clean. Drain. Dry.

[StopAquaticHitchhikers.org](http://StopAquaticHitchhikers.org)

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## Stop the Transport of Invasive Species:

- **CLEAN** boots, gear, boat, trailer & vehicle of plants, fish, animals & mud.
- **DRAIN** bilge, ballast, wells & buckets before you leave the area.
- **DRY** equipment before launching watercraft into another body of water.

- Authority to inspect watercraft and conveyances
- Classify and regulate the transport of invasive species
- Officially coordinate among state agencies, federal partners, and others
- Capacity to respond more rapidly
  - Prioritize IS response
  - Clearer authorities
  - Streamline permitting
  - Close infested waterbodies



# Alaska Resource Managing Agencies

- ADFG
  - Specific authorities needed to better prevent and respond to IS
- DNR
  - Update Noxious weeds list
- DEC
  - Rapid (?) Response to invasive species
- DOT
  - Manages vectors for invasive species spread





What will Alaska's parks, meadows, berry patches, lakes, and oceans look like in 20 years?



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