



NUTRIA:

The Triple Threat to California's Future

**A-RATED AGRICULTURAL PEST • DESTROYS WETLANDS
WEAKENS WATER INFRASTRUCTURE**



HOW LANDOWNERS CAN HELP

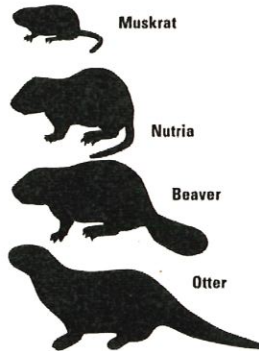
Private landowners can join the fight to protect California's agricultural economy, water resources and precious wetlands. In fact, landowner cooperation is critical to the success of CDFW's nutria eradication efforts. Landowners can obtain free assistance protecting their property from this destructive rodent by granting CDFW permission to access their property. For more information, call (866) 440-9530 or e-mail invasives@wildlife.ca.gov.

A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Often confused with beaver and muskrat, nutria have the following distinguishing characteristics:

- White whiskers
- Round, rat-like tail
- Dark black ears with lighter-colored fur below
- Large blocky head, often with orange teeth
- Body length up to 24 inches
- Weighs up to 22 pounds
- Partially webbed hind feet

Different bodies



Different tails

MUSKRAT TAIL



BEAVER TAIL



NUTRIA TAIL



Report nutria sightings, request free CDFW assistance at (866) 440-9530 or invasives@wildlife.ca.gov. Visit wildlife.ca.gov/nutria for more information.

Identifying Nutria (*Myocastor coypus*)



Nutria *Invasive*

Beaver *Native*

Muskrat *Native*

Whiskers/ head



Photos courtesy of Tony Northrup and Joyce Gross

Photos courtesy of Alaska DFG and Cheryl Reynolds

Photos courtesy of N. Carolina State Parks and Merle Ann Loman

Tail

- Conspicuous white whiskers
- Muzzle often white

- Black whiskers

- Fine, black whiskers
- Muzzle may be white



Drawings courtesy of Danielle M. Crosier

- Tail rounded, rat-like, and sparsely covered in coarse hair
- Tail still while swimming; body propelled by feet

- Tail broad and flat.
- Tail flattened top-to-bottom
- Slap water with tail when disturbed

- Tail flattened side-to-side
- Tail used for swimming with rapid side-to-side serpentine motion

Body



Silhouettes courtesy of USFWS

- Adult size: 10-20 pounds; body length to 2 feet, with 1 foot tail
- Juveniles similar in size to muskrats
- Hunched appearance on land

- Adult size averages 40 pounds
- Length to over 3 feet, including tail

- Adult size: 2-5 pounds; body length up to 1 foot

Hind feet



Photo courtesy of M. Enos



Photo courtesy of Anh Vinh Nguyen



Photo courtesy of USFWS

- Partially webbed; one free toe

- Fully webbed

- No webbing

Tracks

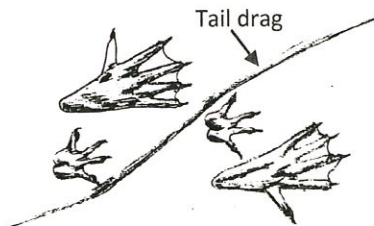


Photo courtesy of Peggy A. Duhon



Photo courtesy of Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife



Photo courtesy of WDFW

- 5 front toes; 4 visible in tracks
- Rear track to 6 inches in length
- Narrow tail drag may accompany tracks

- 5 visible toes on front track
- Rear track to 6 inches in length
- Tracks may be accompanied by a broad tail drag

- Rear track is 2-3 inches in length

If nutria are found in CA, immediately contact the CDFW Invasive Species Program to report your sighting at Invasives@wildlife.ca.gov or by calling (866) 440-9530