WHY BE CONCERNED?

Nutria:

- Burrow into levees
- Destroy wetlands
- Damage agricultural crops
- Rapidly reproduce
- Can disperse up to 50 miles



Burrowing damage from nutria in Oregon. (Photo by USFWS)

WHAT ARE NUTRIA?

- Large semi-aquatic rodents
- Considered highly invasive
- Also known as 'coypu'
- Found in CA's Central Valley since 2017



Report sightings:

(866) 440-9530



invasives@wildlife.ca.gov

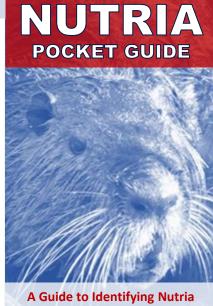
HOW TO HELP

For private landowners:

 Grant CDFW access to your property for nutria surveys

Learn more:

 Visit wildlife.ca.gov/nutria for the current distribution map, private access permits, and more information



and Other Aquatic Mammals

NUTRIA FEATURES

ADULT SIZE

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FEET AND TRACKS

Partially webbed rear feet

4 front toes show in tracks











with feet

swimming

Slender,

Black whiskers

Rapid side-to-side

tail motion when

White whiskers

elongated body

White whiskers Round, rat-like Tail still while **Bristly hairs** swimming; propels body

BODY AND TAILS



Thick with dense. fine fur

Dark colored ears, with lighter colored fur below

Blocky head, often with orange teeth



Hunched appearance on land Primarily active at night Cylindrical, 2-3" scats; may float in water Spanish word for otter is 'nutria'

1' body 9" tail 2-5 lbs

2' body

1' tail

10-20 lbs

>2' body >1' tail

10-25 lbs

>2' body 1' tail 40+ lbs

No webbing on feet

Often have pink nails

Fully webbed front and rear feet

Fully webbed

5 front toes

show in tracks

rear feet





Black whiskers Slap water with tail when disturbed

Oval-shaped, flat

OTTER **BEAVER**

NUTRIA

MUSKRAT



ADULT SIZE FEET AND TRACKS BODY AND TAILS NUTRIA FEATURES 2' body White whiskers Round, rat-like **Partially** Dark colored ears, with lighter NUTRIA webbed rear colored fur below Tail still while 1' tail **Bristly hairs** feet swimming: Blocky head, often with orange 10-20 lbs 4 front toes propels body teeth with feet show in tracks MUSKRAT No webbing 1' body Black whiskers Flattened on feet side-to-side Rapid side-to-side 9" tail (wedge tail motion when Often have 2-5 lbs shape) swimming pink nails >2' body Fully webbed White whiskers Thick with dense. OTTER front and fine fur >1' tail Slender, **Hunched appearance on land** rear feet elongated body 10-25 lbs Primarily active at night Cylindrical, 2-3" scats; >2' body Fully webbed Black whiskers Oval-shaped, **BEAVER** may float in water rear feet flat 1' tail Slap water with Spanish word for otter is 'nutria' tail when 5 front toes 40+ lbs show in tracks disturbed

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A Guide to Identifying Nutria

NUTRIA

POCKET GUIDE

and Other Aquatic Mammals