

# Nutria

*Myocastor coypus*

USGS Nonindigenous  
Aquatic Species (NAS)  
Database



The nutria is a large, aquatic rodent that resembles the native beaver or muskrat, but this species was introduced from South America for its fur. This mammal has spread throughout the Eastern and Western U.S. and has been found in 29 states. It has a large appetite, and uses its big orange teeth to eat vegetation, sometimes clearing entire areas of aquatic plants!

## What is a non-native or invasive species?

If an organism is introduced to an area where it is not historically known to live, it is considered non-native. A species is considered invasive if it establishes a breeding population and causes harm to the native ecosystem, human health, or the economy.

