

Have nutria management programs been effective elsewhere?

In 2002, the CBNEP launched an ambitious campaign to eradicate nutria. Beginning at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Dorchester County, Maryland, wildlife specialists initiated a pilot project to develop effective nutria detection and removal methods and test the feasibility of eradicating nutria on a large scale. By 2006, the team had reduced nutria throughout southern Dorchester County to nearly undetectable levels, and has since prevented a reinvasion. Between 2007 and 2011, the team also removed nutria from the Choptank River, Nanticoke River, Ellis Bay, Deal Island Wildlife Management Area, and Deal Island. Since 2011, the team has been focused on determining the distribution of remaining populations throughout Delmarva by investigating sightings reported by natural resource managers and citizens, and by searching along navigable waterways connected to past infestations.

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