Nutria Eradication Project Updates

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Board Meeting
October 28, 2020

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Nutria Eradication Timeline

• March 2017: Discovery of first nutria

• March 2018: CDFW Incident Command System

• January 2019: Phase One grant executed

• July 2019: CDFW begins transition to dedicated Program

• April 2020: CDFW concludes external contract for field staff

• June 2020: Phase Two grant executed
Nutria Eradication Progress

Since implementing the response:

- More than 1 million acres assessed
- More than 3,500 landowner permits
- 2,938 camera stations
  - 19,706 camera checks
- Confirmed nutria in more than 400 [40-acre] cells
- 4,269 trap sets
  - 53,798 trap nights
- 1,901 nutria taken/accounted for
  - ME: 1,238; ST: 546; SJ: 103; MAR: 12; FR: 2; TUO +
  - Over 1,000 nutria taken in 2020
Locations of Nutria Taken or Detected (by 40-acre cell)
Judas Nutria

- Collared, sterilized nutria
  - Social behavior makes them valuable tool in seeking out other nutria
- 5 initial collars (first prototype)
- 9 surgeries = 4 releases (June 2020)
  - Poor collar performance
  - Low survival rate in nutria
- New collar prototype
- Stepwise elimination of stressors
- Next releases
Judas Nutria
Nutria Scat-Detection Dogs

• Dog teams/trainer, two visits to evaluate tool in CA
  • Visits scheduled in spring/fall 2020, delayed by COVID
  • Tentatively rescheduled for 2021
  • Funded by Phase One grant (exp. August 2021)

• Development of dog program
  • Contingent upon field trials/evaluation
  • Delayed due to COVID
  • Funded by Phase Two grant (exp. June 2023)
Next Steps

• Continued expansion of efforts
  • Staff, Judas nutria, detector dogs

• 2021: Insight into Program efficacy

• Current request for modification (Phase One)
  • Extend funding end date
  • Shift contractual funding to personnel

• Potential modification needs in future
  • COVID delays to dog evaluation/program development

• HR 3399 – Nutria Eradication and Control Act reauthorization