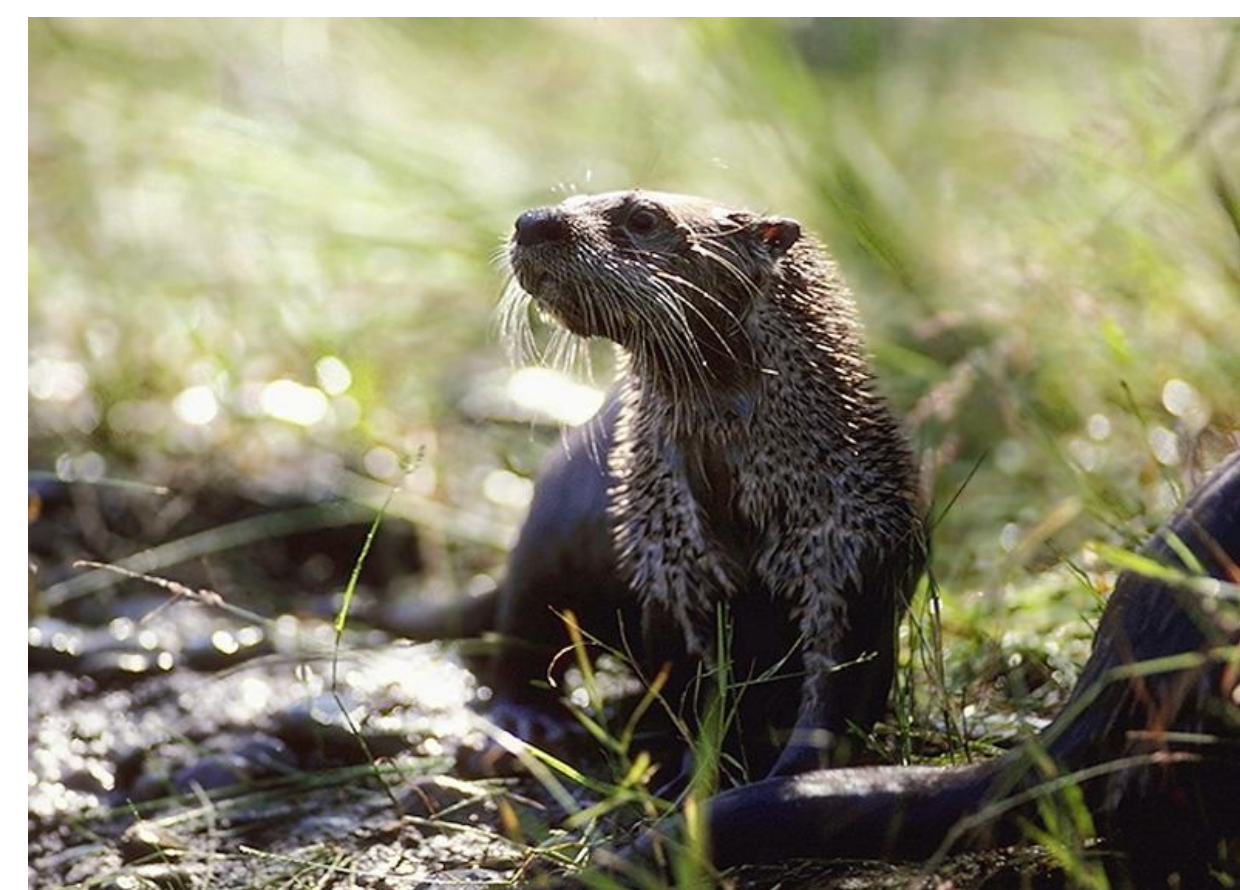
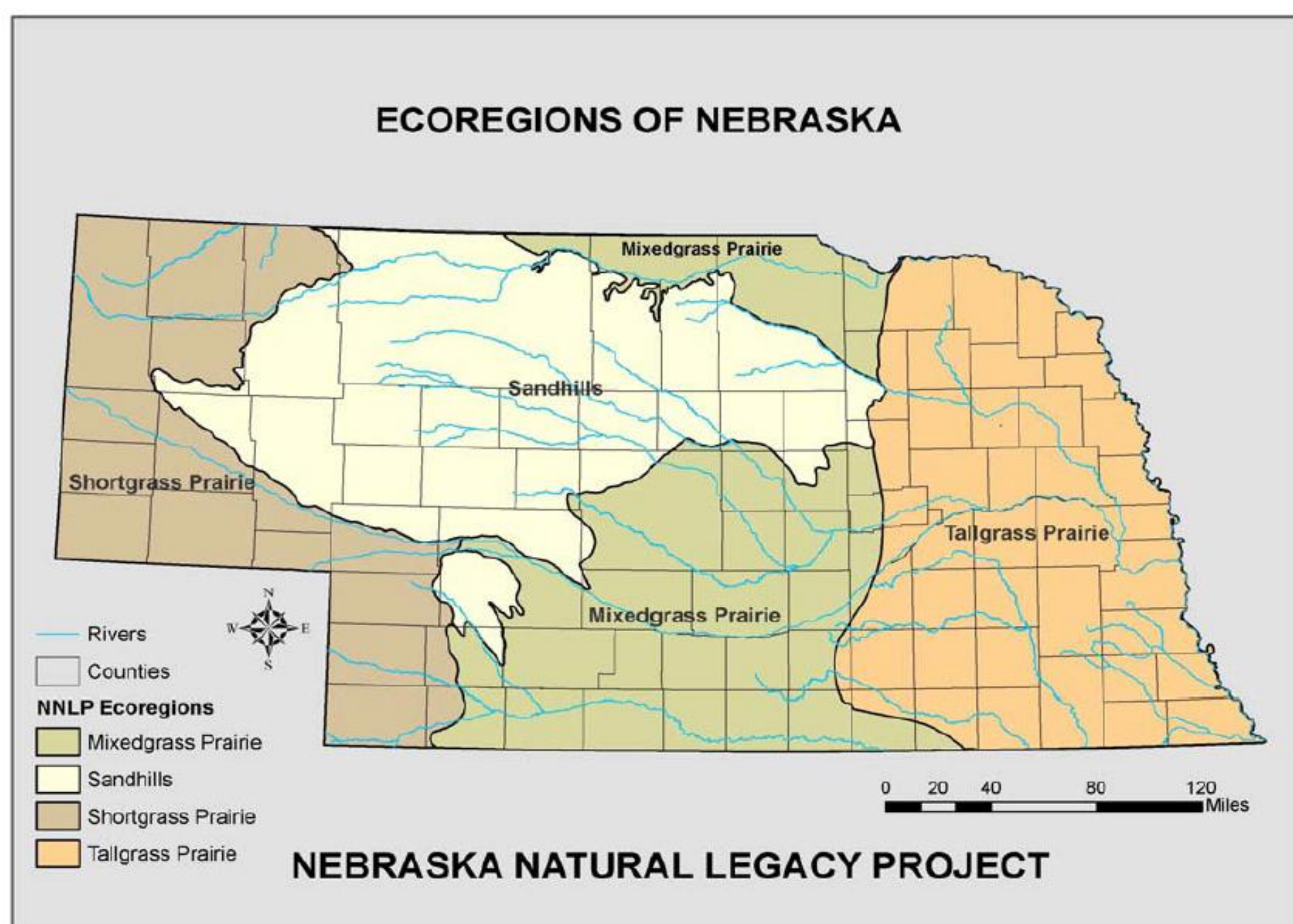


GO NATIVE!

Native species are species that originate in a specific area. Species like the North American river otter (right) are native to Nebraska. They vanished in the early 1900's, but have been reintroduced into Nebraska. Otters are now being tracked across Nebraska as part of the Nebraska River Otter Radio-Telemetry Project.



North American River Otter. Photo by www.otternet.com



Non-native species are species introduced to an area from where they did not originate. Global trade and travel have contributed to this problem, making plants and animals from all over the world available to Nebraskans. Some of these species are harmful to native ecosystems, and are known as invasive species. These species are likely to cause environmental or economic harm.

Emerald ash borer (right) is an Asian beetle, likely transported to the United States in wood packing materials. This invasive beetle has cost property owners and industry tens of millions of dollars due to ash tree damage. The emerald ash borer has not yet been found in Nebraska, but the risk is high.



Emerald Ash Borer. Photo by Howard Russell, Michigan State University



Feral Hog. Photo by Richard Bischof, formerly Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

Feral hogs (left) damage property, wildlife habitat, and have the ability to spread disease. They can be extremely costly to control, and are now found in Nebraska. This introduction poses a serious threat to the environment and agricultural production.