

The Black Warrior River Watershed

The Black Warrior River Watershed covers 6,276 square miles of Alabama, draining portions of 17 counties. It contains more than 16,000 miles of streams, including the second- and third-longest free-flowing streams in the state (the Locust Fork and the Mulberry Fork, respectively). The Black Warrior River Watershed provides habitat for 127 freshwater fish species, 33 crayfish species, 15 turtle species, and other aquatic species. Many of these are unique to Alabama, including the Watercress, Vermillion, and Rush Darters, the Black Warrior Waterdog, the Flattened Musk Turtle, and the Zebra Crayfish. The Black Warrior River watershed contains naturally occurring Class III-V rapids making it a destination for water recreation activities such as kayaking. The world angling record for landlocked Striped Bass is held by a fish caught in the Black Warrior River watershed.

Iconic Species



Zebra Crayfish



Watercress Darter



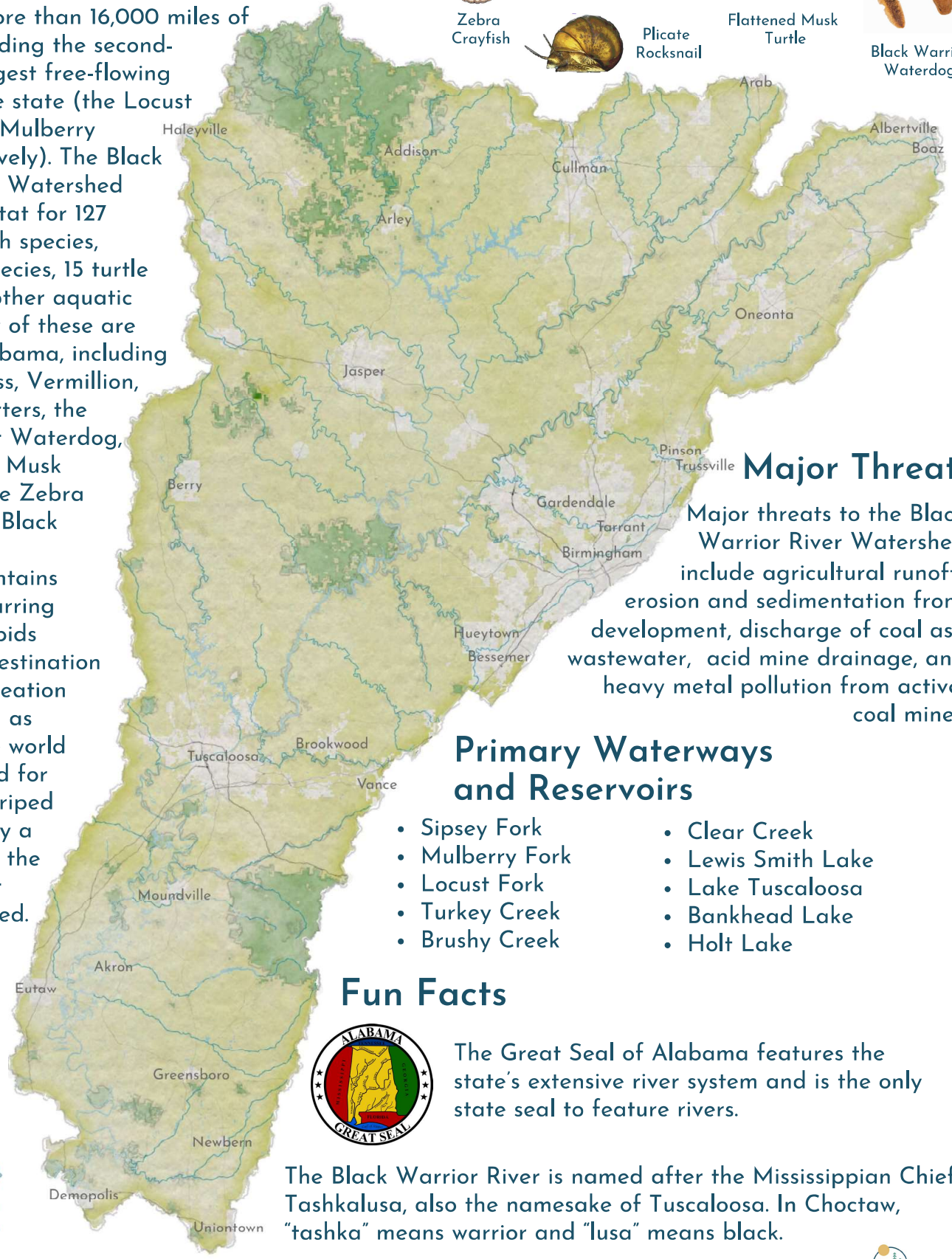
Flattened Musk Turtle



Black Warrior Waterdog



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Major Threats

Major threats to the Black Warrior River Watershed include agricultural runoff, erosion and sedimentation from development, discharge of coal ash wastewater, acid mine drainage, and heavy metal pollution from active coal mines.

Primary Waterways and Reservoirs

- Sipsey Fork
- Mulberry Fork
- Locust Fork
- Turkey Creek
- Brushy Creek
- Clear Creek
- Lewis Smith Lake
- Lake Tuscaloosa
- Bankhead Lake
- Holt Lake

Fun Facts



The Great Seal of Alabama features the state's extensive river system and is the only state seal to feature rivers.

The Black Warrior River is named after the Mississippian Chief Tashkalusa, also the namesake of Tuscaloosa. In Choctaw, "tashka" means warrior and "lusa" means black.

- Protected Areas
- Cities
- Waterways

