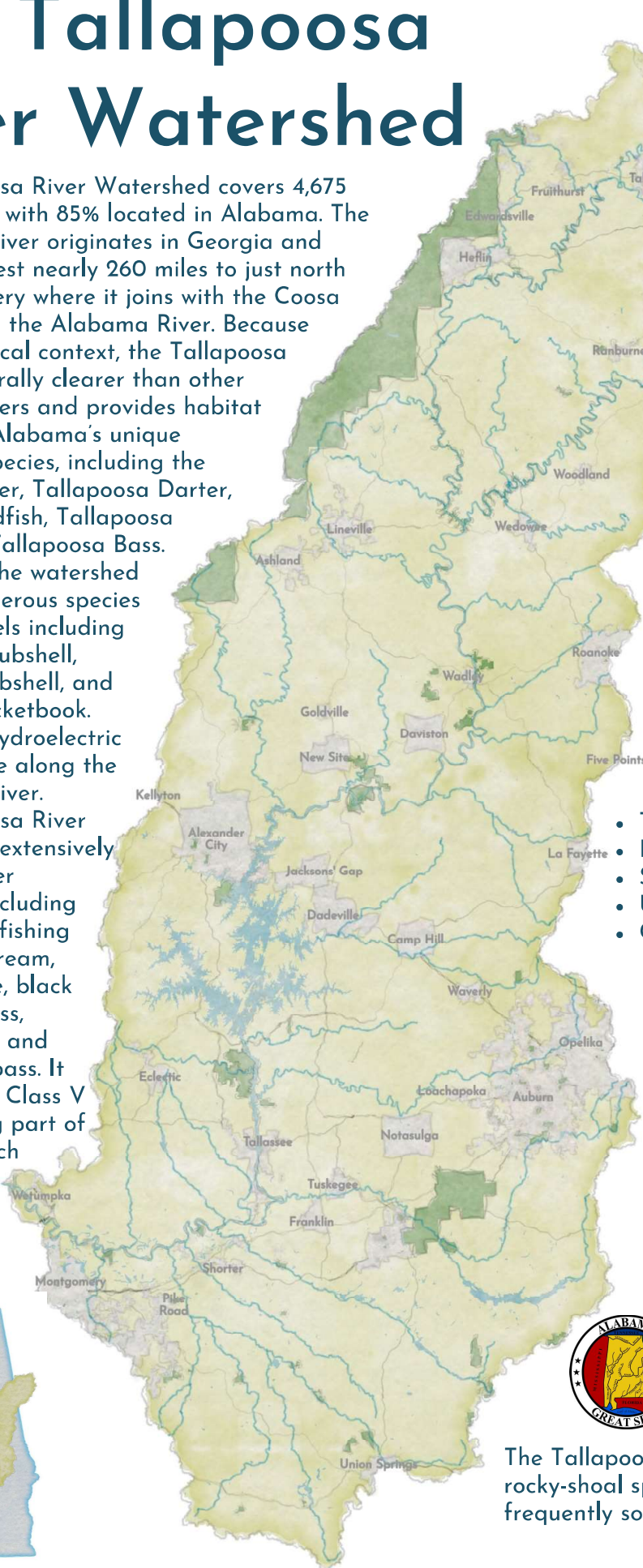
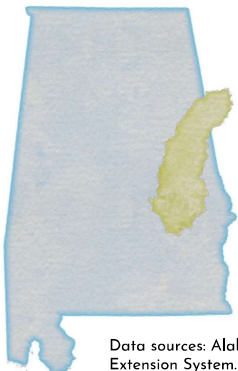


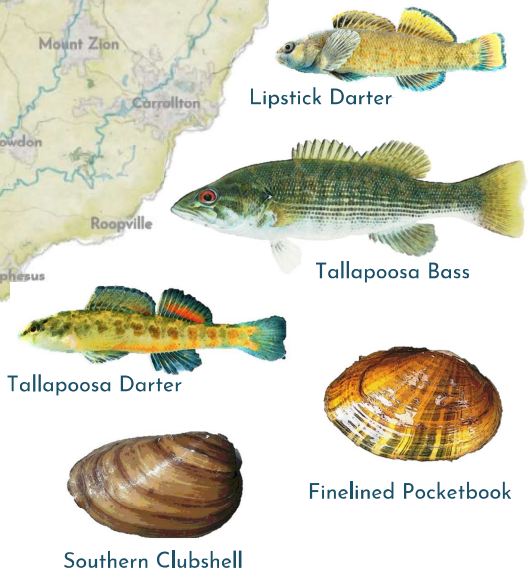
The Tallapoosa River Watershed

The Tallapoosa River Watershed covers 4,675 square miles, with 85% located in Alabama. The Tallapoosa River originates in Georgia and flows southwest nearly 260 miles to just north of Montgomery where it joins with the Coosa River to form the Alabama River. Because of its geological context, the Tallapoosa River is generally clearer than other Alabama Rivers and provides habitat for some of Alabama's unique freshwater species, including the Lipstick Darter, Tallapoosa Darter, Stippled Studfish, Tallapoosa Shiner, and Tallapoosa Bass. In addition, the watershed contains numerous species of rare mussels including the Ovate Clubshell, Southern Clubshell, and Finelined Pocketbook. Four major hydroelectric dams operate along the Tallapoosa River. The Tallapoosa River watershed is extensively used for water recreation, including boating and fishing for catfish, bream, white crappie, black and white bass, spotted bass, and largemouth bass. It also contains Class V rapids during part of the year, which make it a destination for seasoned kayakers.



- Protected Areas
- Cities
- Waterways
- Tallapoosa Watershed

Iconic Species



Primary Waterways and Reservoirs

- Tallapoosa River
- Little Tallapoosa River
- Sougahatchee Creek
- Uphapee Creek
- Cane Creek
- R.L. Harris Lake (Wedowee)
- Martin Lake
- Yates Lake
- Thurlow Lake

Major Threats

Major threats to the Tallapoosa watershed include impacts on water quality and habitat loss from hydropower production, high mercury levels from atmospheric deposition, organic enrichment, siltation, and pathogen pollution due to fecal contamination.

Fun Facts



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

The Tallapoosa River hosts breathtaking stands of rocky-shoal spider lilies (aka Cahaba Lily), which are frequently sought out by photographers each Spring

Data sources: Alabama Outdoors; Alabama Rivers: A Celebration and Challenge by William G. Deutsch; Alabama Water Watch; and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Iconic species imagery modified from georgiawildlife.com; Outdoor Alabama; Yellowhammer News; Southeastern Outdoors

