#### **Jefferson River (77 River Miles)**

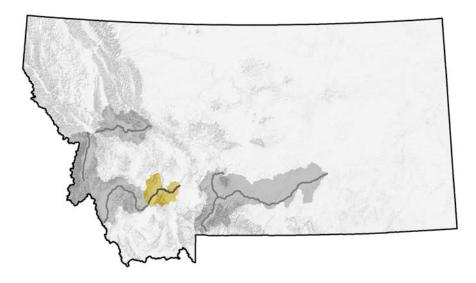


Figure 16. Jefferson River Focus Area

Lewis and Clark named this river after President Thomas Jefferson because it carried the greatest volume of water at that time compared to the nearby Madison and Gallatin rivers. The Jefferson River begins where the Big Hole and Beaverhead rivers intersect and flows north through agricultural areas and limestone cliffs, and into the cottonwood bottoms near Three Forks, where it meets the Madison and Gallatin rivers to form the Missouri River.

#### **Associated Habitats**

| Habitat Type                 | Habitat Tier | Acres | Miles |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------|-------|
| Intermountain Valley Rivers  | II           |       | 77    |
| Intermountain Valley Streams | II           |       | 1,377 |
| Lowland Lakes                | Ш            | 214   |       |
| Lowland Reservoirs           | Ш            | 715   |       |
| Mountain Lakes               | Ш            | 627   |       |
| Mountain Reservoirs          | III          | 609   |       |
| Mountain Streams             | I            |       | 1,091 |
|                              |              |       |       |

## **Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need (Tier I Species)**

There are a total of 20 aquatic species that are found within the Jefferson River Focus Area. Tier I species are listed below. All associations can be found in Table 22.

Invertebrates: Western Pearshell

**Fish:** Westslope Cutthroat Trout and Burbot

# **Conservation Concerns & Strategies**

| Conservation Concerns  | Conservation Strategies   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Culverts, dams, irrigation diversions, and other instream barriers that fully or partially impede fish movement and reduce habitat connectivity  | Removal or modification of barriers in a manner that restores fish passage  |  |
| Modification and degradation of stream channels caused by various construction or land management practices  | Restoration of stream channels or streambanks to a condition that simulates their natural form and function   |  |
| Riparian vegetation effected by range and forest management practices and streamside residential development (such activities destabilize streambanks, increase sediment inputs, reduced shading, and remove woody debris) | Support government and private conservation activities that encourage and support sustainable land management practices in riparian areas   |  |
|  | Modification of riparian management practices such that riparian vegetation is allowed to recover   |  |
|  | Develop statewide riparian best management principles   |  |
| Entrainment of juvenile and adult fishes by irrigation diversions or other water intakes   | Screening or modification of irrigation diversions or other water intakes in a manner that prevents entrainment of fishes   |  |
| Alterations of the quantity or timing of stream flows causing dewatering, temperature change or unnatural flow fluctuations that diminish the quantity or quality of essential habitats                                    | Implementation of various water conservation or flow management practices that restore essential habitats, help sustain lower temperatures, and simulate the natural hydrograph as well as protect instream flows |  |

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