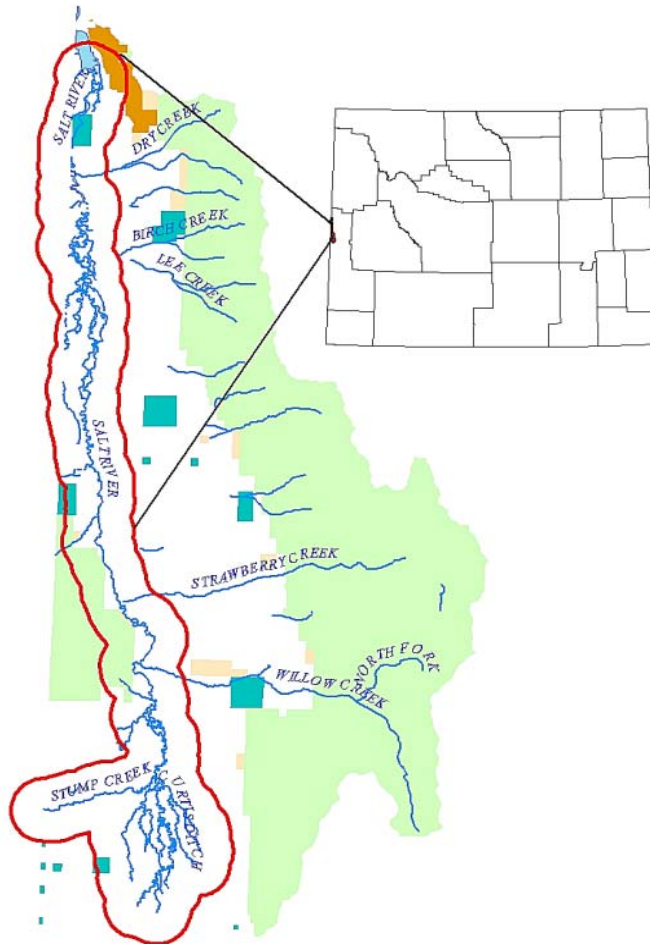


AQUATIC HABITAT PRIORITIES

REGION: Jackson
WATERSHED NAME: Salt River

PRIORITY: 1
HUC: 1704010501
1704010502
1704010503



LAND STATUS: 90%Private,
10%Public

SPECIES THAT COULD BENEFIT FROM ACTIVITY IN THIS WATERSHED:

Native fish: Snake River cutthroat, mountain whitefish, bluehead sucker, Utah sucker, mountain sucker, Paiute sculpin, redbside shiner, speckle dace, longnose dace

Sport fish: lake trout, brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, Kokanee, cutbow trout

Big Game: The area provides habitat for mule deer, elk, and moose

Other: Beaver, waterfowl, black bear, bald eagle, trumpeter swan, mountain lion

CURRENT HABITAT CONDITIONS/LIMITING FACTORS:

Native, sport, & Non-game fish– Agricultural and grazing practices have resulted in degraded riparian areas and stream dewatering. Removal of willows and other woody riparian vegetation has destabilized stream bank and resulted in erosion, high sediment stream loads degraded water quality and limiting spawning areas. Native riparian grasses are being converted to agricultural grasses. In addition, there is dewatering and channelization of streams due to diversions during the irrigation season.

***Beaver**-lack of dam building material (i.e. aspen and cottonwood) and forage (i.e. willow and sedges) within the riparian areas lower on the drainage, and dewatering affords no water storage.*

***T&E/Sensitive Species** – general habitat fragmentation due mostly to increased agricultural and recreational activities*

***Big Game** -Agricultural and grazing practices have resulted in degraded riparian areas recreational impacts within designated migratory corridors, winter, spring and fall ranges.*

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS/AGREEMENTS:

There is the potential for more conservation easements in areas where historically agricultural lands are being converted into housing developments is one way to address current and future needs. Star Valley is growing into a bedroom community to Jackson and recreational homes. Proactive measures to protect, enhance and preserve riparian areas now, will benefit wildlife in the future

CURRENT ACTIVITIES/PROPOSED PROJECTS:

Currently, the Salt River has an established CRM and several stream improvement projects planned for the future. In addition, whirling disease was documented in the Salt River in 1995, which has prompted many habitat and fishery studies.