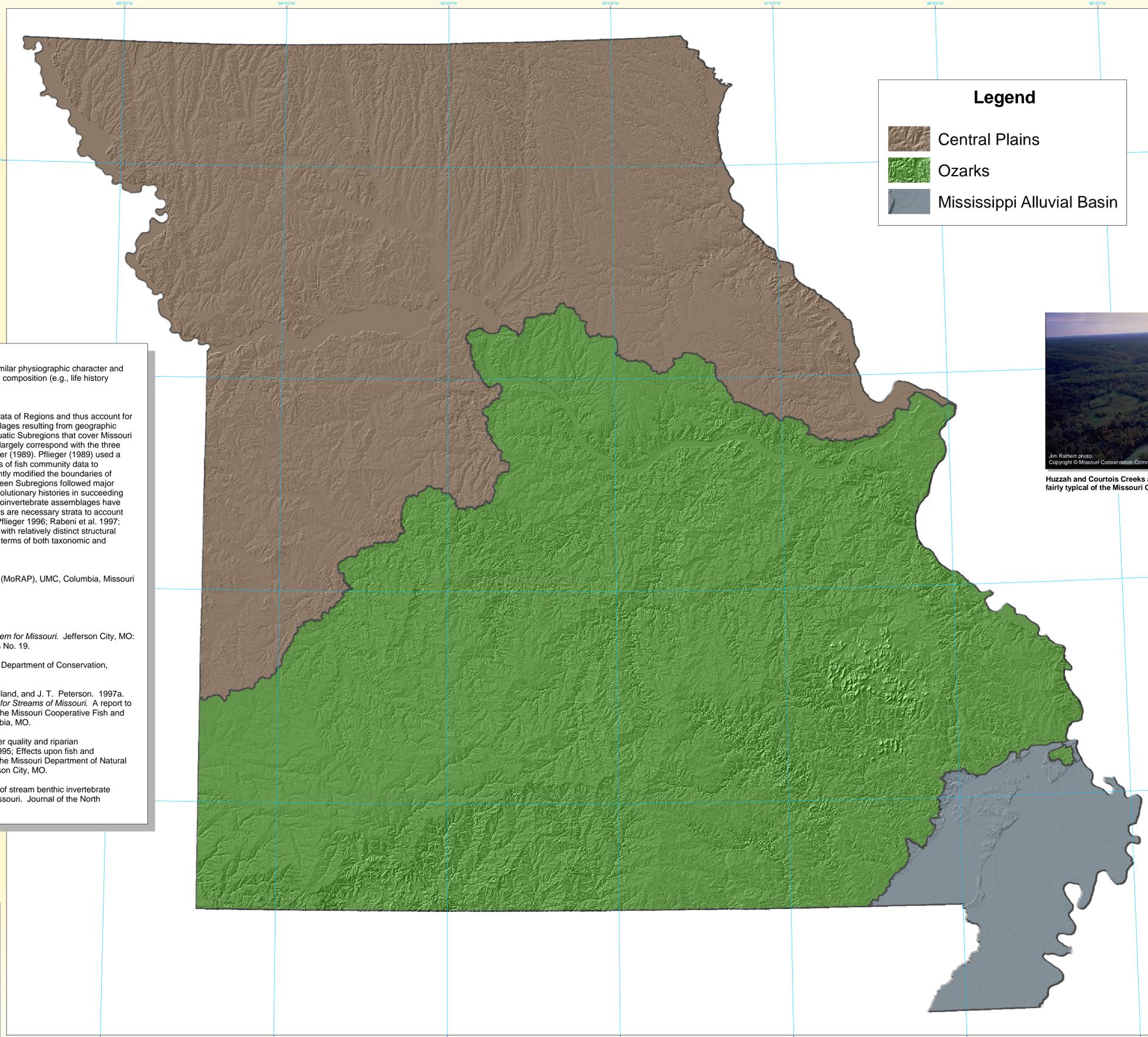


# Aquatic Subregions of Missouri



The Grand River is one of the larger rivers within the Central Plains Aquatic Subregion.



**Legend**

- Central Plains
- Ozarks
- Mississippi Alluvial Basin



Huzzah and Courtois Creeks and their surrounding landscape are fairly typical of the Missouri Ozarks.

**Objective**  
Identify groups of major drainages that drain regions with similar physiographic character and contain relatively similar assemblages in terms of ecological composition (e.g., life history strategies and physiological tolerances).

**General Description**  
Aquatic Subregions are physiographic or ecoregional substrata of Regions and thus account for differences in the ecological composition of riverine assemblages resulting from geographic variation in ecosystem structure and function. The three Aquatic Subregions that cover Missouri (i.e., Central Plains, Ozarks, and Mississippi Alluvial Basin) largely correspond with the three major aquatic faunal regions of Missouri described by Pflieger (1989). Pflieger (1989) used a species distributional limit analysis and multivariate analyses of fish community data to empirically define these three major faunal regions. We slightly modified the boundaries of Pflieger's faunal regions to ensure that the boundaries between Subregions followed major drainage divides in order to account for drainage-specific evolutionary histories in succeeding levels of the hierarchy. Subsequent studies examining macroinvertebrate assemblages have provided additional empirical evidence that these Subregions are necessary strata to account for biophysical variation in Missouri's riverine ecosystems (Pflieger 1996; Rabeni et al. 1997; Rabeni and Doisy 2000). Each Subregion contains streams with relatively distinct structural features, functional processes, and aquatic assemblages in terms of both taxonomic and ecological composition.

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Much of the Mississippi Alluvial Basin Aquatic Subregion originally consisted of vast swamps.



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Cartographer: Gust M. Annis

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