

## FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL

### The Arapahoe Snowfly



Photo: Boris Kondratieff

#### A SENSITIVE STONEFLY

The Arapahoe Snowfly is found only at two locations in the world, both small, cool tributary streams to the Cache La Poudre River in Larimer County, northern Colorado. Both sites (Elkhorn Creek and Young Gulch) are at risk: a small lake was created in the headwaters of one tributary, and the other has heavy recreational use along its entire extent. While its range is tiny, threats are many: they include sedimentation from foot and mountain bike traffic; water contamination from pet waste and litter; streambed trampling from camping, hiking, and biking; erosion and runoff from development in the area; and the threat of total extinction given that its range is so narrow and populations so few. Without federal protection, we may lose the Arapahoe Snowfly forever.

#### PROTECTING WATER QUALITY

The Arapahoe Snowfly is a type of stonefly, and stoneflies' sensitivity to pollution makes them important indicators of water quality. If listed under the Endangered Species Act, the Arapahoe Snowfly should be given habitat protections that will not only ensure its survival for future generations, but would also protect and restore the Cache La Poudre River and co-existing species.

#### KNOW YOUR STONEFLY

- True to Its Name: the Arapahoe Snowfly loves cold weather, so adults emerge in late winter or early spring.
- Too Popular a Place: the human population is burgeoning within the Snowfly's narrow range, with resulting increases of pressure on its habitat.

#### CLIMATE CHAOS

Droughts and rising temperatures bring added pressure to this lover of cold water.

