

FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL

The Mist Forestfly



Photo: Joe Giersch

A FLY ON THE EDGE

The Mist Forestfly, or Meltwater Lednian Stonefly, occurs in a few glacier-fed streams and alpine springs in the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park in Montana and Alberta. It may also occur in the Bob Marshall Wilderness in Montana. This minute creature's fate is tied to the awesome glaciers and alpine areas that furnish its habitat. Due to warming temperatures, scientists predict that Glacier National Park will lose its glaciers by 2030, which spells serious trouble for the Mist Forestfly. Federal protection for this tiny creature could provide one more tool in the toolbox for fighting the climate crisis.

PROTECTING GLACIERS & ALPINE HABITATS

The Mist Forestfly will not survive coming decades unless the U.S. and other nations take immediate, bold, and effective steps to address the climate crisis. At less than an inch in size, this fly may be our smallest beacon (at least on land) of the dangers of climate change. Glaciers are prime indicators of climate change, as they respond directly to altered precipitation, temperature, and cloud cover, which are key elements of climate change. Because natural systems in Glacier and Waterton National Parks are unmodified, they further provide an important early warning system.

KNOW YOUR FORESTFLY

- Watery home: the Mist Forestfly lives in alpine springs and streams fed by glaciers.
- Unusual: until recently, the Mist Forestfly was the sole known member of its genus, but two new species have since been discovered.
- Heritage: this species is a type of stonefly, which can indicate the vitality of aquatic habitats.
- Awe-inspiring landscape: the area designated as Glacier National Park has been nicknamed by admiring observers as the "backbone of the world," "little Switzerland of America," and "crown of the continent."

CLIMATE CHAOS

Loss of glaciers and alpine habitat resulting from climate change are the primary threats to this insect.



The Mist Forestfly's Range

The Mist Forestfly is found only in a few locations in Glacier and Waterton National Parks.

