

News Release



Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two Idaho Snowflies Do Not Warrant Protection Under the Endangered Species Act

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced today that a petition seeking to protect the straight snowfly (*Capnia lineata*) and the Idaho snowfly (*Capnia zukeli*) under the Endangered Species Act (Act) does not contain substantial scientific information indicating the action is warranted.

The Service made this determination in response to a 2010 petition from the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and the Friends of the Clearwater seeking to add both snowflies to the federal list of threatened and endangered species, and to designate critical habitat for the species. The Service reviews all petitions to decide whether they contain substantial scientific information suggesting that listing may be warranted.

Today's decision is based on a review of the scientific information about the species provided in the petition and also information that exists in the agency's files. The Service reviewed this information and determined that a further analysis is not needed.

"We will not initiate a further status review of these snowflies at this time in response to this petition," said Brian Kelly, Idaho State Supervisor for the Service. "The Service may revisit this decision in the future if additional scientific information is presented that indicates protection under the Act may be warranted for either the straight snowfly or the Idaho snowfly."

The Service determined that information presented in the petition did not present evidence that either the straight snowfly or the Idaho snowfly has suffered a population decline or reduction in its distribution, or that their continuing existence is threatened. Information in the petition regarding the range, distribution, population size and status of the two stoneflies was more than 20 years old and limited in scope. Although the petition provided an inventory of various activities or elements that may pose potential threats to the species, data on the current population distribution, abundance and trend was lacking, thus there was no evidence to suggest that the threats identified were having a significant negative effect on either species to the extent that listing may be warranted.

Straight and Idaho snowflies, which are stoneflies in the order Plecoptera, are known to occur in Latah County, Idaho, within the Potlatch and Palouse River watersheds. Adults are often found crawling on snow and ice, which is how they came to be called “snowflies.” The Idaho snowfly was once considered to be the same species as the straight snowfly, but is now recognized as a separate species. Both snowflies are primarily associated with clean, cool running waters.

A copy of the finding about the snowflies was published in today’s *Federal Register* and is available on the Service’s Idaho website at www.fws.gov/idaho, or by contacting Steve Duke at the Service’s Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office, steve_duke@fws.gov, 208-378-5345, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, Idaho 83709.

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