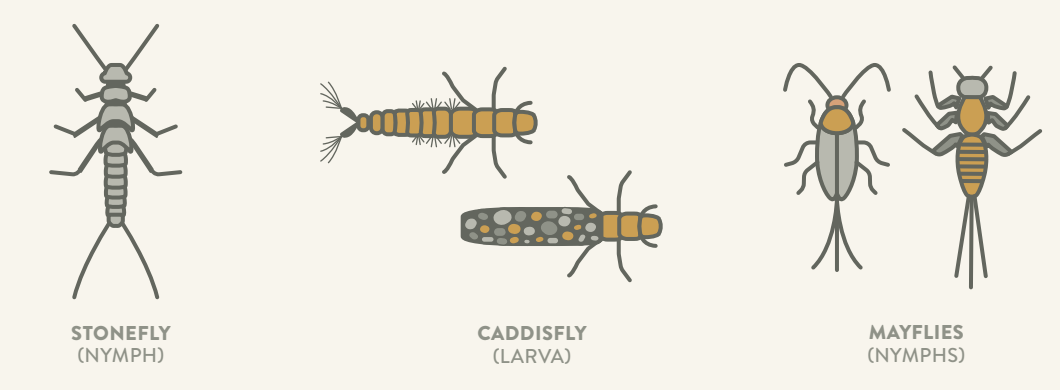

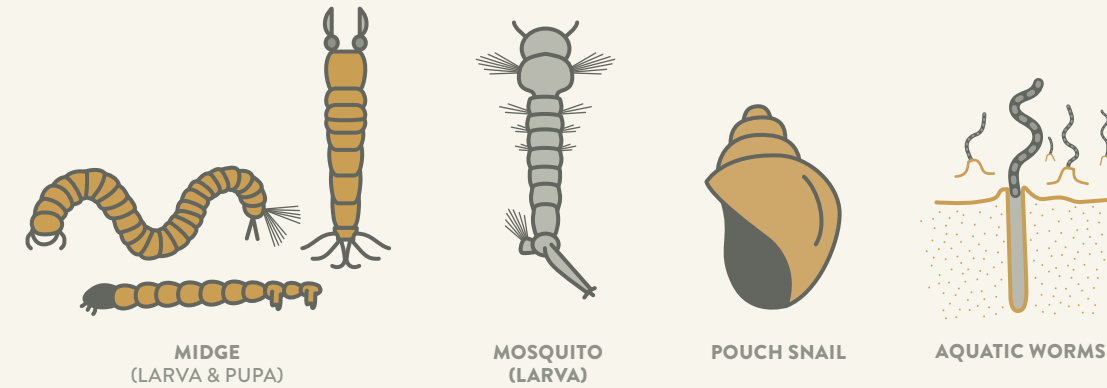


WARNING!

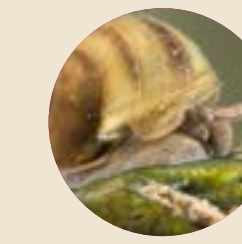
Aquatic bugs are a vital food source in Gore Creek—and they are a source of important information to humans. Macroinvertebrates depend on clean water and a healthy riparian habitat to survive. When water quality drops or they are exposed to pollutants, they begin to die off. They are living barometers that reveal changes in water quality.

WATER QUALITY	EXCELLENT These organisms cannot tolerate polluted water. Their presence signals good creek health.	GROUP 1  <p>STONEFLY (NYMPH) CADDISFLY (LARVA) MAYFLIES (NYMPHS)</p>
	GOOD This group can exist in a wide range of water quality conditions.	GROUP 2  <p>DRAGONFLY (NYMPH) CRANE FLY (LARVA) FILTERING CADDISFLY (LARVA) SCUD BLACKFLY (LARVA & PUPA) DOBSONFLY (LARVA)</p>
	POOR These organisms tolerate pollution. If they are the only ones present, water quality is low.	GROUP 3  <p>MIDGE (LARVA & PUPA) MOSQUITO (LARVA) POUCH SNAIL AQUATIC WORMS</p>

TOLERANCE

Some aquatic bugs can handle more pollution than others. When scientists find more pollution-tolerant species, and fewer species that don't tolerate pollution, they know a waterway is in trouble.

Macroinvertebrates that indicate healthy water



RIVER SNAIL



RIFLE BEETLE



MAYFLY

COURTESY JAN HAMBERT

WHAT WE WANT TO SEE

Every year, scientists count macroinvertebrates in the water to gauge the health of Gore Creek. The farther you travel downstream, the higher the numbers of pollution-tolerant bugs, showing the creek is more polluted in those areas.

Still, efforts to improve water quality work. Recent data shows small increases in macroinvertebrate populations. It will take all of us to restore the Gore to health.

COURTESY DAVID REES/STARBURLINE AQUATIC

