Dragonfly Mercury Project

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Calvert County Natural Resources is participating in a large, landscape-level project underway studying mercury in dragonfly larvae. The Dragonfly Mercury Project, started in 2011, is a partnership between the National Park Service (NPS), USGS and University of Maine.

Benefits of Participation

- Contributing to the broader understanding of mercury deposition and contamination across the entire landscape
- Actively engaging the local community/school groups in a place-based citizen science project
- Realizing efficiencies through participation in a long-standing project with over 60 units of the National Park System
- Utilizing the act of data collection as well as project results for educational opportunities regarding science, role of citizen science and the impacts of mercury contamination on human and ecosystem health

VOLUNTEER DUTIES

This is a team project. Volunteers will meet at designated locations and complete duties together. Tasks include:

- Assisting with **a monitoring team** *2-3 times per year*. Includes:
    - Completing provided training on dragonfly monitoring protocol
    - Transporting and carrying sampling supplies to and from sites
    - Assisting the naturalist to identify, measure, and bag dragonflies
    - Assisting to record and analyze data

REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

Volunteers may:

- Hike across uneven and overgrown terrain to get to sampling locations
- Bend and stoop repeatedly for catching
- Work in water up to waist deep
- Be exposed to ticks, chiggers, mosquitoes, bees/wasps, poison ivy, bad weather, and other wildlife

Project Dates

Specific dates for each season will be selected by the project leaders, then emailed to volunteers in advance. All activities are completed as a team.

Spring: Monitoring teams get training and date assignments

June - August: Assist naturalist with catching, identifying, and processing dragonfly nymphs