

Southwest Association of Freshwater Invertebrate Taxonomists (SAFIT)

The mission of the Southwest Association of Freshwater Invertebrate Taxonomists (SAFIT) is to promote a better understanding of the taxonomy and systematics of macroinvertebrates in support of assessment of biotic condition in inland aquatic ecosystems of the southwest United States. Fundamental to this mission is the standardization of identification and reporting of taxa. SAFIT fosters scientific research, education, training and professional development of the environmental sciences, as they pertain to inland aquatic macroinvertebrates. This mission will be accomplished through the following goals:

1. Establish standard taxonomic and diagnostic practices and procedures for inland aquatic macroinvertebrate identification throughout the southwest. This should contribute to establishing the standardization of taxonomic and diagnostic practices of inland aquatic macroinvertebrate identification throughout the western United States;
2. Provide and maintain a standard taxonomic effort document that will recommend taxonomic reporting levels for the bioassessment community;
3. Facilitate information exchange between macroinvertebrate systematists, freshwater biologists and other environmental scientists by disseminating information on freshwater macroinvertebrate taxonomy, hosting workshops and other meetings on freshwater macroinvertebrate issues;
4. Improve the integrity of macroinvertebrate data by developing and fostering recommendations for appropriate laboratory and taxonomic QA/QC methods;
5. Promote scientific and educational programs related to the study of inland aquatic macroinvertebrates.