



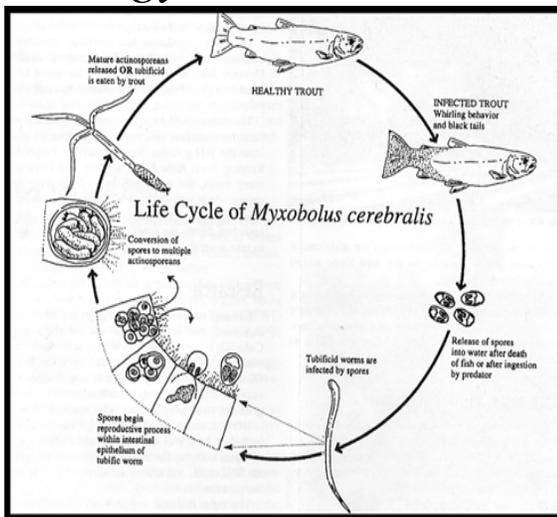
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Whirling Disease Cleanup at Leadville

National Fish Hatchery - *Leadership in Science and Technology*



Leadville NFH was found to be Whirling Disease (WD) positive in 1995. At that time, two lakes, two ponds and 13 raceways were used to produce 80,000 pounds of trout per year for mitigation and endangered species recovery efforts. The earthen bottom ponds and lakes are no longer used for fish production because of WD contamination. To offset the lost production space, eight additional concrete raceways were added in 2006. Fish production for 2008 is once again anticipated to be 80,000 pounds of trout.



The combination of filtering the water and treating it with ultra-violet radiation kills the infectious stage, triactinomyxon (actinosporeans in the diagram), of the WD life cycle. Fish from Leadville NFH have tested free of WD since 2005.



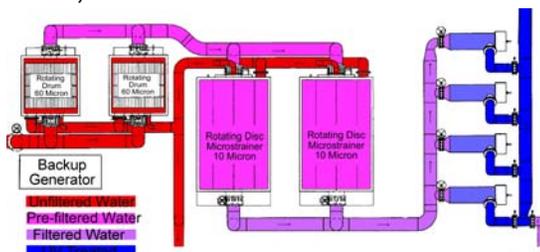
Pre-Cleanup Aerial Photo.

Trout stocked in mountain reservoirs in Colorado must be WD negative. In 2004 construction of a water treatment plant was completed. All source water is filtered and then processed in single-pass sealed reactor UV systems at a dose rate of 120,000 microwatts/cm².



Post Cleanup Aerial View (Red building houses treatment equipment)

Turquoise colored lakes were converted to wetlands. Yearly fish production will be a minimum of 170,000 10+-inch Snake River cutthroat and rainbow trout. Additionally, a greenback cutthroat trout broodstock program will be implemented producing 250,000 eggs annually.



Contact:
Ed Stege, Project Leader
Leadville NFH
719-486-0189
Ed_Stege@fws.gov