



Leadville National Fish Hatchery

August 2020

August remains busy with continued fish stocking, egg transfers, final toad release and keeping the young critters alive and growing. The greenback cutthroat eggs all hatched towards the end of July and have turned into feeding fry. This year we installed a heat exchanger allowing us to raise the water temperature on the fry to 51° F to get the fry to develop faster. It appears to have worked, since we are seeing our highest survival of the greenback cutthroats from eyed-egg to feeding fry to date.

The last of our 2019 Wyoming toad adults were released, along with 38 excess toadlets. We kept 60 toadlets to grow over winter so to have adult size toads in 2021 for research and eventual release.

Tourism is starting to slow a little with the start of "school" in many areas. On most days there still are 15 to 20+ vehicles of tourists visiting the hatchery and trails.

Stocking continued in August with fish being released in Twin Lakes, Turquoise, Hayden Meadows, Mt. Elbert Forebay and Clear Creek Reservoirs, along with Crystal and Emerald Lakes.



During August the greenback cutthroat fry went from sac fry to feeding fry.



Little brown bat – In August we completed our second bat count. Twice each summer we count the bats that emerge in the evening from the upper gable end vents of the hatchery building. In the earlier count we had around 769 bats fly out.



Paige Moran preparing the last of the eyed Hayden Creek cutthroat trout eggs for transport to the Roaring Judy State Fish Hatchery.



The last of this year's adult Wyoming toads were released in recovery sites outside of Laramie, Wyoming. Fifteen adults and 38 juveniles were set free this month. Ten of the 15 adults were fitted with radio transmitters allowing technicians to weekly locate the toads to monitor habitat use and survival for the rest of the summer until the toads hibernate. This is part of an ongoing research project between the University of Wyoming and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.



With the August fires in Western Colorado we experienced many days with poor air quality from the smoke. Pictured is Mt Elbert as seen from the road leading into the hatchery.



Every couple of years we need to remove the 10-micron screens from our Hydrotech water filters and recondition them. A total of 512 panels are removed, soaked overnight in a chlorine bath, pressure washed and reinstalled. Pictured is Bio Tech Ryan Maxwell taking his turn at the pressure washer.

August Hatchery Staff

Project Leader - Ed Stege

Fish Biologist - Paige Moran

Facility Operations Specialist – Vacant

Temp Biological Technicians:

Alyssa Capriotti

Michael Heckman

Ryan Maxwell

Summer volunteers: Jim and Linda Williams, Diane Larrabee